



Ceresco Baptist Church
The Ceresco Messenger
August 2021

Devotion: "Every Summer has a Story."

"Every summer has a story." -Unknown

Dear summer,
I love you.

You have given me weekends at the lake, endless dinners on the grill, pool dates with friends, scattered flip flops everywhere, bonfires, sticky s'mores, and so much more. You have nursed my broken heart more than once through the years with gifts of sunshine and ice cream. Each year, you come back again to help me write another incredible story.

Thank you. xoxo, Sarah

P.S. You're my favorite, but don't tell the other seasons.

As I look back at past summers, I see a trail of beautiful and bittersweet memories. There have been summers that overflowed with joy and summers filled with deep sadness and pain. The common thread is that every summer was unique and had its own tale to tell.

Just as every natural summer has a story, so does every spiritual summer. We will each walk through the spiritual seasons many times. Autumn is a time of change. Winter is a time of barrenness and preparation. Spring is a time of rebirth. And summer is a time for bearing fruit and embracing the abundant life that surrounds us.

The key to embracing our spiritual summer, no matter what time of year it is in the natural, is to remember to seize the joy of the season. This is a time to feel the heavenly warmth on our face and revel in the beauty that surrounds us. Relax, have fun, celebrate, and abide in gratitude for the blessings that surround. Fall and winter will come, but don't let thoughts of the unknown rob you of the joy of the moment.

Summer is a season known for cultivating and bearing good fruit. Oh goodness, there is just nothing like a sweet, sun-ripened, summer strawberry. It is like a taste of heaven on earth! Our spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control must also be cultivated and ripened so it can taste even sweeter than the best summer strawberry. There is one sure way to do this, and that is to remember who our spiritual gardener is and to remain in him always.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NIV)

"The seasons may change, but our good and loving Father does not." Let's celebrate our summers, both the natural and the spiritual, and embrace every story being written, because God's hand is in each one.

Lord, thank you for the gift of summer. Thank you for ice cream cones, backyard barbecues, and sun-drenched memories. May we seize each moment of joy and remember that you are the true cultivator of our harvest and author of our stories. Amen.

Scripture for Reflection

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV)

(continued on next page)

Every Summer Has A Story (concluded)

Reach for More

This week's challenge is to seize the joy of the season. Embrace the summer and all of its goodness. Start each day with a prayer of gratitude to our Father, and then go and enjoy the sunshine! Go to the beach, savor an ice cream cone, run through a sprinkler, tend to your garden-whatever brings you summer joy. If you want to take this challenge even further, see how you can incorporate the fruits of the spirit into your summer activities. Maybe share the joy and invite friends over for the afternoon. Practice patience with your children as they call your name for the millionth time. Exhibit self-control when you are offered your tenth s'more. Offer peace when there is fighting over the last slice of watermelon. Show yourself an extra dose of kindness to yourself when you slip on your bathing suit after eating those nine s'mores, knowing priceless memories are being made.

Dear friends, we can do this. Be courageous, and let's be brave enough to defend our joy with an ice cream cone in one hand and God's Word in the other! ~ Sarah Lundgren

JULY QUIZ QUESTION:

How can you have victory over temptation?

ANSWER: Remember the acronym "HALT." Don't let yourself become too hungry, angry, lonely or tired. Most importantly, fix your attention on the Lord and draw strength from Him through prayer. (Answer provided by June 15, 2021 devotional from Dr. Stanley)



AUGUST QUIZ QUESTION:

Does God want us to come to Him about everything?

Mark your calendar!

Plans are underway for Pastor Mary's Installation Service!

Sunday, September 19, 2021 during our Sunday Worship Service

More details to come!

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” ~ John Wesley

Martha Circle Meeting - Minutes July 14, 2021

Gretchen opened the meeting with devotions based on 2 Cor 12:9, "My Grace Is Sufficient for Thee"

Present: Marcy, Veronica, Joanne, Donna, Gretchen, Sharon, Dawn, Vi, Ruth, Joyce, Pastor Mary, and Joy. Secretary/Treasurer report was given by Joy.

Sunshine - Joanne: Cards sent to Reginald, get well, card to Rick & Dawn, Hainsley, Dick Schlee, Margie Cole, and Sally Beltz.

Old Business - Anniversary & Birthday dates of our missionaries - need to get those! Wayne & Katherine Niles, Rick & Anita Gutierrez, Jon & Amanda Good.

Treasure Sale is set for August 21st - Sharon Hadley. Martha Circle meets one week before the sale, August 11th. If people need to bring things early, place them in the Fellowship Hall on the south wall, starting Sunday, August 8th. Aug. 14th we will be collecting donations, 9 am to noon. Sunday, Aug. 15th before & after church. Tuesday, Aug. 17th after Bible Study setup tables. Aug. 18th accept donations 2-5 pm, and do more setup. Aug. 20th Friday, donations & organize & setup from 10 am until done, probably by noon. Money collection by Gretchen. Treasure Sale is 9am-3pm on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Need to decide who part of the sale proceeds will go to.

We would like to start the Baked Good Sales up again in October! Need to decide what to do with that money since the roof project is done and paid for! Fellowship Sundays will resume in September - the last Sunday of the month.

Hostess schedule - repeat info, add Sept/Joy, Dec/Viviana.

NEW BUSINESS - October Meeting will be a "Pack a Shoebox Party" to pack - Motion by Sharon Hadley that we purchase 25 boxes, and pay the \$9 processing fee on them for OCC this year. Second by Veronica, motion passed. Joy will get information out in advance to see if the congregation wants to participate.

Joanne turned in \$6 for RADA sales, and Donna turned in \$20 for RADA sales.

Collections: Love Gift \$28.68 Devotion \$ 23.21

Scripture: Psalm 91 - Donna read the passage, and then we had discussion. Meeting closed in prayer. We then enjoyed refreshments and made two fleece blankets.

Annual Church Treasure Sale Saturday, August 21, 2021, 9am-3pm

Come find your "Treasure" at our Annual Treasure Sale!
All pricing is by your donation – you decide what you want to donate for your 'treasures'!

We are accepting good, clean, usable items for the sale at the following dates/times:

August 8th before & after church

Aug. 14th 9 am to noon.

Aug. 15th before & after church.

Aug. 18th 2-5 pm

Aug. 20th 10 am - noon.





Aug	1	Sharon Hadley
Aug	5	Christy Phelps
Aug	10	Kaleb Collins
Aug	12	Veronica Anthony
Aug	13	Allison Biljum
Aug	16	Joy Sommers
Aug	19	Reginald Matthews Sr
Aug	21	Russ Skinner
Aug	22	Jack Biljum
Aug	25	Rick Bonney
Aug	25	David Hadley
Aug	26	Whitney Ivey
Aug	28	Kristen Sommers
Aug	29	Brynlee Collette Rogers
Aug	30	Scott Boysen
Sep	2	Ted Finch
Sep	5	Ken MacInnis
Sep	8	Matthew Ivey
Sep	10	Sierra Phelps
Sep	12	Art Ruthruff
Sep	14	Mary Ivey
Sep	20	Jason Ivey
Sep	20	Robin Johnston
Sep	20	Michele Babcock
Sep	22	Justin Casey
Sep	25	Kay Davis
Sep	30	Ellie Daevy

Aug	11	James & Darlene Anthony
Aug	19	Reginald & Mary Matthews
Aug	24	Bud & Vi Halder #75
Sep	3	Michele & Jody Babcock
Sep	9	Stephen & Christy Phelps
Sep	10	Andrew & Kristen Sommers
Sep	14	Danny & Rayna Sommers
Sep	18	Bob & Deb Beltz
Sep	19	Alex & Stacey Goodman
Sep	27	Don & Ruth St. John
Sep	30	Jayme & Diane Biljum



Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter celebrated their 75th Anniversary on July 7, 2021.

Bud & Vi Halder will have been married 75 years on August 24, 2021.

It's too late to send the Carters a card, but it's NOT too late to congratulate the Halder's on 75 years of marriage!

Picture from 1998, Plains, Georgia

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Communion Sunday Rev. Roxie Perry, guest pastor		Bible Study 10 am				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Bible Study 10 am	Martha Circle Meeting 6 pm	Worship Ministry Team Meeting 4 pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Calhoun County Fair Week >>>		Bible Study 10 am				Annual Treasure Sale 9am-3pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Bible Study 10 am	Information for September Messenger due by noon			
29	30	31	Sept 1	Sept 2	Sept 3	Sept 4
		Bible Study 10 am				

Ceresco Baptist Church

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Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews

(313) 303-3301

The Martha Circle is still collecting items for the **Haven of Rest Ministries**. They need: men's socks, paper face masks, cloth face masks, large size disposable gloves, sanitizing wipes, paper towels, cleaner (Bleach or disinfectant based), toilet paper, face shields, hygiene needs (shampoo, body soap, deodorant, etc), bath towels, washcloths, laundry soap, diapers for babies and toddlers. These they use for the women's shelter that have their babies with them. Items can be left at the church in the entryway. Thank you for helping with this ongoing local missions project!

The Haven of Rest Ministries • 11 Green St. Battle Creek, MI 49014
Phone: (269)965-1148 • Fax: (269)966-4155

THE
Haven
Giving hope to the homeless since 1956

Our Mission

To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ so that all may experience God's love. Clothe, feed, and shelter the homeless in the name of Christ. Disciple individuals to become spiritually, physically, and emotionally functional, and able to live optimally within God's kingdom and the community.