

Ceresco Baptist Church ~ The Ceresco Messenger

January 2022 - "A New Year, A New You"

A Prayer to Keep God First This New Year

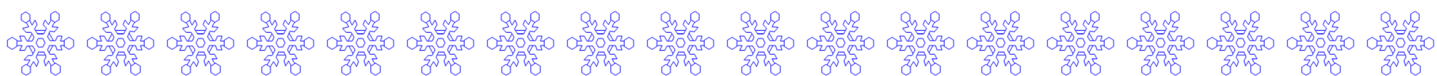
Dear God, Thank You that You make all things new. Thank You for all that You've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need You and rely on Your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for Your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that You will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire You above all else. We ask that You will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that You would help us release our grip on the things to which You've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue You first, above every dream and desire You've put within our hearts.

We ask for Your wisdom, for Your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray You would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let Your gifts flow freely through us, so that You would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to You. We pray that You'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That You would whisper in our ear when we need to run and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for Your protection over our families and friends. We ask for Your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy; that You would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in Your hands. We pray that You would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand Your will, hear Your voice, and know Your ways.

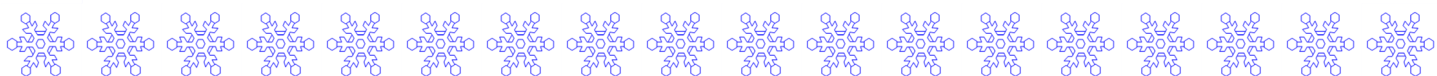
Amen. - Debbie McDaniel



New Year's Prayer of Confession

Father, I seek You today because You are my power source. It is not enough for me to declare Your words over my day. Empower me to align my actions with what I confess. I reject all unbelief in the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus I command my mind and my heart to come into agreement with what You are saying about my life and future. I break every mental barrier that would keep me from accepting Your truth. I decree and declare that I will be known by the good fruit You choose for me to bring forth.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Bible Verses for the New Year

Isaiah 43:18-19 - "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Psalms 34:8 - Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Romans 13:11-13 - Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

2 Peter 1:3-10 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love...

Contemporary Sing!

3rd Sunday of Each Month

We have started something new, and it is for
ALL of God's children!

At 6 pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month, we
play videos of favorite hymns or contempo-
rary Christian, or Christian children's music.
We have been having fun!

Come check it out this month!

Jan. 16th, 6 pm.



DECEMBER QUIZ QUESTION:

Why was Jesus really born?

A: John 3:17 and 1 John 4:10

Flower Sign-Up

January 2022

1/2 - Open

1/9 - Joy

1/16 - Open

1/23 - Open

1/30 - Open

Children's Time Sign-Up for December:

1/2 - Joy

1/9 - Joy

1/16 - Open

1/23 - Open

1/30 - Open

This Book Is Worth Your Time

While searching through used books at the Tekonsha Labor Day Yard sales last year, I came across a book that is touching my heart and I'd like to share a tiny bit of what I've found so far. The book titled "*God Came Near*" by Max Lucado reminds us that the Creator of everything came to earth in human form. Christians know this and everyone around the world celebrates Christmas. Some even remember it's a celebration of God's human birth. But is it simply surface knowledge? In Lucado's book, he truly brings Jesus' human existence into personal reality.

For instance, God chose the common name Jesus for His human form. In Lucado's book one of the chapters is titled, "Just Call Me Jesus." In that chapter, one of the paragraphs reads, "He was touchable, approachable, reachable, And, what's more, he was ordinary. If He were here today you probably wouldn't notice Him as He walked through a shopping mall. He wouldn't turn heads by the cloths He wore or the jewelry He flashed. 'Just call me Jesus,' you can almost hear Him say."

Lucado admits in his book that some may think it sacrilegious to humanize God. However, God became human just like each of us. In one chapter titled "When God Sighed", Mark 7:31-37 is quoted. Most of us have no doubt passed right over that little word, "sigh." But Jesus sighed. Haven't we sighed many times but to even give thought to the fact that Jesus did, wow.

Have you ever thought about the fact that Jesus left the carpentry shop for you? Max Lucado brings to life the possibility of Jesus standing in the doorway of His earthly father's carpentry shop one last time and what He might have been thinking as He turned and walked away.

Now, I haven't finished reading the book. It's one that I'm not willing to squeeze in during commercials on a TV program. Or, while other distractions interfere. This is a book, similar to the Bible, that deserves uninterrupted focus. Don't get me wrong, it's not anywhere near as important as the Word of God, the Bible, but the scripture references in Lucado's book have a way of coming to life in an everyday personal level.

The chapters are short and it isn't a big book. Hopefully, you will pick it up at the library or book store. I think it will be well worth your time.

~ Mary Ivey

January 2022

Sunday		Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Saturday	
26		27	28	29	30	31	1	New Year's Day
<i>Hymn Selection for the Month of January: Mary Ivey</i>								
2		3	4	5	6	7	8	
Communion Sunday, Deacon Offering Sunday								
9		10	11	12	13	14	15	
Congregational Vote on Proposed Budget & Slate of Officers for 2022, take down Christmas decorations								
16		17	18	19	20	21	22	
Contemporary Sing at 6 pm - all welcome		Martin L. King Day						
23		24	25	26	27	28	29	
				Articles for the Feb 2022 Messenger are due by noon!				
30		31	1	Feb-22	2	3	4	5
Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale!								



*Thank
you*



Jan 1 Michael Meng
 Jan 4 Avery Goodman
 Jan 13 Bob Beltz
 Jan 18 Brian Gary
 Jan 25 Emily Ivey
 Jan 28 Harlynn Casey

Feb 4 Nicole Thomas
 Feb 17 Carlton Anthony
 Feb 18 Glen Cary
 Feb 25 Kelcie Collins
 Feb 26 Gretchen King



Jan 3 John & Ruth Paschen, 1959

Annual Reports for 2021 are due to the Church Clerk by January 30, 2022.

If you were the chair of a ministry team, please submit your information by then to

cerescobaptist@gmail.com

Thank you!

Just a note of thanks to each of you for the wonderful gifts you shared with us this Christmas season. I appreciate everything you do. It is a privilege and honor to serve such a wonderful congregation. I look forward to the New Year and all the wonderful things that we can do together for the body of Christ. - Pastor Mary

I want to thank the Lord and want to thank ALL those who sent cards & lifted me up in prayer while I had Covid. I know those prayers are what helped to bring me back out of that sickness and they meant SO much to me. I love you all and missed you. I am happy to say I'm back in church now! Sincerely, Joanne Henley

"Thank you to everyone for your encouragement and remembrance. It is a pleasure to serve our Lord on Sunday mornings at the organ. Your kind words have been appreciated as well. Also, thank you to Pastor Mary for the Christmas gift. As we walk with our Lord and Savior, may everyone have a Blest 2022." Thank you. - Mary Ivey

Thank you to the Church Family & Pastor Mary for the monetary gift and Christmas gift. I really enjoy helping out with the worship service each week! Also, thank you to Veronica Anthony for filling in for me when needed, and to Darlene Anthony for recording the Sunday sermons for me. May God Bless You in 2022! - Joy Sommers

Thank you to the Church family for the Christmas remembrance. It was very thoughtful. We enjoy being able to help out with the Sunday worship services. - Darlene & Veronica Anthony

I want to Praise the Lord, and thank everyone who sent cards & prayed for me while I had Covid. I wasn't sure I was going to make it, and I know I would not have, if not for your prayers! I love my Church family and I have missed you. - Gretchen King

Ceresco Baptist Church

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Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews

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May the faith of God
be with you this year.
May the peace of God
surround you,
and may you be blessed
each day!

Happy New Year