

# Ceresco Baptist Church ~ The Ceresco Messenger

April 2022 - He is Risen!

## A Broken Chrysalis

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

It's truly amazing what a girl will do for love.

My wife, Jean, and I lived next door to each other for ten years before we were married. My sophomore interest in high school biology had sparked a live caterpillar collection. Their home was a shoe box, covered with screen wire. When I went on vacation, Jean fed them faithfully with leaves from her willow tree. She hated it.

Finally the caterpillars stopped their incessant crawling and chewing, attached their tails firmly to a stick and lay still, sheathed with a shiny leather-like case. For weeks they seemed to be dead, unmoving in their tiny gray wrappings. I removed the screen and waited.

One by one, the gray cases began to twist and turn violently, and suddenly split open. A beautiful butterfly emerged. It stood for hours gently moving its wings, pumping fluids into them to extend them fully. Then the butterfly soared gracefully away on the breezes of summer, leaving nothing behind but a broken chrysalis to indicate its former bondage.

The chrysalis and butterfly suggest the empty graveclothes of our risen Lord. When Peter and John heard the news that the Lord's body was gone from the garden tomb, they ran all the way from their lodging. Peter entered the tomb and "he saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen" (John 20:6-7, NIV). The graveclothes once wrapped continuously around the body now lay collapsed, mute testimony that the corpse they had once shrouded had now emerged in life.

The bondage of death is broken. Christ is risen! We can face tomorrow with the assurance that Jesus is in fact alive to help us, to guide us, to give us hope for the future. And since He is living, our problems are not insolvable. The broken chrysalis of His graveclothes proclaims that Christ is Victor even over death. Because He lives, nothing is impossible.

*Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*  
—Matthew 11:28-29

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies." —John 11:25*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. - John 12:23-25

## The Church Bell (part 2)

Our church bell at Ceresco Baptist has been ringing since 1878. Our church history records indicate that in 1876 J.W. Pankhurst was called to the ministry at Ceresco and ordained by the church May 3, 1876. During that time of his service the belfry was repaired and a 600-pound bell installed. I cannot help but wonder why the belfry needed repairing since there had been no bell previously. Perhaps it was damaged by weather or small mischievous critters.

Reverend Pankhurst left in 1878. I do not think it possible that he left because of his salary. After all, his salary was about \$400.00 a year. He returned to the pulpit at Ceresco in 1886 but was there for less than a year when he died January 1887.

Our "church bell" has been ringing for 144 years. When you hear the bell ring on Sunday mornings, think of how blessed those attending church that Sunday morning were when they heard the bell ring for the first time.

\*\*\*\*\*To be continued\*\*\*\*\*

## The U in JesUs

Before U were thought of or time had begun, God even stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true, You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name, For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died. It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand, He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew, and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true, That I love them all - Just like I love U."

So many great people are spelled with a U, Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do, He'd like them to know, But it all starts with yoU, will yoU pass it on?

Martha Circle Minutes, March 9, 2022

The first meeting of this year was held March 9. Present was Pastor Mary, Sarah Collins, Joanne Henley, Marcy Bonney, Dawn Frey, Sharon Hadley, Gretchen King, Anthony's, Joy Sommers.

DEVOTIONS - Given by Joy S. - "God Whispers His Word" and "Willing to Wait"

TREASURER/SECRETARY - reported by Joy S. Current available balance is \$307.94. Circle to reimburse Joy for arrangement sent to Linda Chisholm for the passing of Ron. Need to locate and turn in receipt.

SUNSHINE REPORT - reported by Joanne of the cards that were sent to those who needed them to let them know we are thinking of them.

MISSIONS - Joy read an update from Wayne and Katherine Niles. It was suggested by Dawn to start collecting items for SAFE Place instead of Haven of Rest missions. They are in need of bed pillows. When people leave they give them their pillows so there is always a need for them. Also, we have cloth backpacks and will fill them at the next meeting with items such as activity books, poppet toys, etc. We will then deliver them to SAFE Place. It is open to the congregation to donate items. Motion made by Sharon to have a pillow drive for the month of April and second by Joanne. The bake sale is up and going again on Fellowship Sundays with the money going to the Martha Circle to build up the funds.

NEW BUSINESS - Two blanket requests from Joy and Darlene for persons they know suffering with cancer. Mother and Daughter (niece-sister-aunt) potluck will be on Saturday May 7 with a "Hat/Tea Party" theme. Starting at 11:30 and eat at noon. Those attending bring a salad dish or dessert. Martha Circle will provide luncheon meat/cheese/bread and condiments. It was suggested someone do a history on hats - - - - perhaps Sarah Collins?

CORRESPONDENCE - Darlene read a thank you card from Linda Chisholm. Joy read a thank you card from Pam Lutz and family.

NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS: President - Dawn Frey: Vice President - Gretchen King: Secretary - Sharon Hadley: Treasurer - Joy Sommers: Sunshine - Sarah Collins:

Scholarship - Circle members: Missions - Marcy Bonney

COLLECTIONS. - Love gift - \$28.24. Devotional - \$24.51

SCRIPTURE STUDY - Luke 21:34 and 22:6 with good discussion following



Refreshments were then shared by all attending.

Next Business Meeting: April 13 @ 6:00



Hostess: Darlene Anthony



 Ladies! You're invited to join us for our Mother/Daughter luncheon. 

 It will be held on Saturday May 7th at 11:30 am, and we will be eating at noon. Please bring a dish to pass of a salad or dessert. 

 The Martha circle will supply sandwiches. Our theme is hats. So plan to wear your Easter hat or a Kentucky durby style hat. Something fun. 

 Bring your Mothers, daughter's, aunts, sisters, cousins. All are welcome! 



**H O L Y W E E K**

# April 2022

Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat	
										1		2	
Joann picking hymns this month													
<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>	
Communion Sunday, Deacon Offering Fund Sunday		Boy Scouts											
<b>10</b>		<b>11</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Palm Sunday</b> Brunch after the Worship Service West Area Palm Sunday Service - virtually		Boy Scouts				Martha Circle Meeting, 6 pm		Worship Ministry Team Meeting, 4 pm		<b>Good Friday Service, 6 pm</b>			
<b>17</b>		<b>18</b>		<b>19</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>22</b>		<b>23</b>	
<b>Easter Sunday</b> Son-Rise Svc 8 am, Regular Svc 9:45 am		Boy Scouts				Family Night Potluck, 6 pm						Celebration of Life for Ron Chisholm	
<b>24</b>		<b>25</b>		<b>26</b>		<b>27</b>		<b>28</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>30</b>	
Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale! Contemporary Sing at 6 pm		Boy Scouts											

## Built Together to Serve

He makes the whole body fit together perfectly.

Ephesians 4:16 NLT

In rural Amish culture, the building of a barn is a social event. It would take months for a single farmer and his family to construct a barn, but the Amish, doing it together, make quick work of it. Lumber is stocked ahead of time; tools are prepped. On the designated day, the entire Amish community gathers early, divvies up tasks, and together pitches in to raise a barn—sometimes in a single day.

This is a good picture of God’s vision for the church and our role in it. The Bible says, “All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT). God has equipped each of us differently and divvied up tasks in which we each do our “own special work” as part of a body “fit together perfectly” (Ephesians 4:16 NLT). In community, we’re encouraged to “carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).

Yet too often we go it alone. We keep our needs to ourselves, wanting control of our circumstance. Or we fail to reach out and help shoulder the weight of someone else’s need. But God longs for us to connect with others. He knows beautiful things happen when we ask for others’ help and pray for others’ needs.

Only by depending on one another can we experience what God has for us and accomplish His amazing plan for our lives—like building a barn in a day.

By: Kenneth Petersen

## Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth, To show us how to live, How to put others first, How to love and how to give. Then He set about His work, That God sent Him to do; He took our punishment on Himself; He made us clean and new. He could have saved Himself, Calling angels from above, But He chose to pay our price for sin; He paid it out of love. Our Lord died on Good Friday, But the cross did not destroy His resurrection on Easter morn, That fills our hearts with joy. Now we know our earthly death, Like His, is just a rest. We'll be forever with Him. In heaven, where life is best. So we live our lives for Jesus, Think of Him in all we do. Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord. Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs



## **Easter Means Eternal Life**

A perfect God demands a perfect justice;  
He cannot let us get away with sin.

We used God's gift of our free will to trespass,  
So heaven's gates were closed; we couldn't get in.

Our sin required our blood, a sacrifice,  
To atone for all the wrongs that we had done.

"But I love them!" cried our Father, filled with sorrow;  
"I'll send my only Son to be the one."

Good Friday marks the slaying of our Jesus,  
The unblemished lamb, the perfect sacrifice.

He took our guilt and blame upon Himself,  
So we could be with Him in paradise.

On Easter morning, he came back from death;  
He vanished from the tomb, the empty grave.

His resurrection means eternal life  
For us, the ones he came to earth to save.

This summarizes all the Easter story  
And because of it, we'll be with Him in glory.

*By Joanna Fuchs*





- Apr 1 Emily Biljum
- Apr 6 Zane Ivey
- Apr 10 Jenny Markos
- Apr 13 Ruth Paschen
- Apr 14 Reed Goodman
- Apr 16 Darlene Anthony
- Apr 16 Charity Gary
- Apr 19 Don St. John
- Apr 24 Stacey Goodman
- Apr 30 Katherine (Anthony) Rogers
  
- May 3 Valerie Kibby
- May 3 Stephen Phelps
- May 5 Jayme Biljum
- May 5 Alex Finch
- May 6 Jared Babcock
- May 15 Marcy Bonney
- May 19 Heather Casey
- May 24 Patricia Ivey
- May 25 Diane Biljum
- May 25 Melissa Boysen
- May 26 Shawn Skinner

- Apr 4 Rick & Dawn Frey
- Apr 5 Roger & Joy Sommers
  
- May 2 Scott & Melissa Boysen
- May 6 Craig & Nicole Thomas
- May 21 Jason & Emily Ivey

**Flower Sign-Up**  
4/3 - Open  
4/10 - Sommers  
4/17 - Pastor Mary  
4/24 - Open

**Children's Time Sign-Up**  
4/3 - Sommers  
4/10 - Hadley  
4/17 - Pastor Mary  
4/24 - Bonney



**Ceresco Baptist Church**

230 C Drive North, PO Box 35

Ceresco, MI 49033

(269) 964-9669

[www.cerescobaptist.org](http://www.cerescobaptist.org)

**Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews**

**(313) 303-3301**

