

Ceresco Baptist Church ~ The Ceresco Messenger

April 2023 ~ Easter Blessings!

Remaining Disciplined and Devoted to God

PRAY OVER THIS

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1)

PONDER THIS

Have you ever said to God, “I am here. You can have all there is of me. I present myself as a sacrifice. All my plans, my goals, my so-called possessions—I sacrifice them to you Lord”? Does that seem strange to you? If we are honest with ourselves, there are so many of us that want to take Christianity and tack it onto our regular lives. We want to hold onto our lives, our rights.

A sacrifice in the Old Testament was killed; it had no more plans of its own. On the altar, they had two hooks and those hooks would be put into that sacrifice that was to be burned to hold it on the altar. Do you know what will hold you on the altar? Discipline and devotion will hold you there as a living sacrifice, but most of us don't want those flesh hooks.

Many will say, “I don't want to get bound down. I would teach a class, join a church, and make a pledge to the love offering, but I don't want to get bound down. I want to be free.” No. This is a sacrifice. And what happened to an Old Testament sacrifice was this—it was consumed; it was burnt up. You do not truly worship God until you are consumed.

If you are honest with yourself, what are the things you aren't willing to give up to follow Jesus?

Do discipline and devotion to Jesus have a prominent place in your life? Why or why not?

PRACTICE THIS

Speak to a person you know who has sacrificed a lot to follow Jesus. Ask that person to share insights about discipline, devotion, and living sacrificially.

From “**Love Worth Finding** – Daily Heartbeat”

Flower Sign-Up

4/2/23 - Sommers

4/9/23 - OPEN

4/16/23 - OPEN

4/23/23 - OPEN

4/30/23 - OPEN

Children's Time Sign-Up

4/2/23 - Hadley

4/9/23 - Sommers

4/16/23 - OPEN

4/23/23 - Sommers

4/30/23 - OPEN

Fellowship Refreshments April 30 - Anthony & Sommers

JESUS LOVES US ALL SO MUCH

Jesus loves us all so much
That He would bleed and die
He took upon His beaten back
The cross that saw Him crucified

Yes, He loved us all so much
That He was scorned and scoffed
He took it all upon Himself
For it was the will of God

God knew it was the only way,
The final sacrifice
Jesus Christ, a sinless man,
Would need to give His life

And even in the gift He gave
We still have not yet known
The fullness of His mighty love
And the grace so freely shown

All He asks is that we all
Repent and follow Him,
For He has made the way for us,
Free from hurt and sin

Yes, God loved us all so much
And yes, He loves us still
He longs for us to trust in Him
And do the Fathers will. © By M.S.Lowndes

SAVING GRACE

Lord, you are so wonderful
And deserve our love and praise
I cannot express just how I feel
When I think of your saving grace

To think of what you went through
That day upon the cross
And in the moments leading up to it
When soldiers spat and scoffed

And beat you with no mercy,
Making sport and having fun
You said not a word in your defence
Even though you were God's Son

You bore it all out of your love
For the lost and dying souls,
To give us a hope we can hold on to
For a future yet to unfold

It's such a beautiful description, Lord,
Of what your grace can do,
For no one's exempt from your saving
grace,
But it's a gift freely given from you

© By M.S.Lowndes

MACS is running low on the following items: Cereal, Ramen Noodles, Jelly and Jams, Dry Milk, Evaporated Milk, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Spaghetti Sauce, Jello and Pudding Mix. A box and envelope will be placed in the Church Foyer for those that would like to donate. If a money donation would like to be made in place of the food items: Check/cash to be made out to MACS with note for FOOD and your address so MACS can mail a receipt. Marcy Bonney will collect and deliver to MACS as necessary. Last date of collection will be April 30th. Thank you for any help!

Ceresco Baptist Church - Administrative Council
Minutes - March 11, 2023
Quarterly Meeting

Devotion – given by Rick Frey “Jesus is Lord” 103 names given to Jesus. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we have everything. Mary Ivey opened the meeting in prayer.

Financial Secretary - Dawn Frey

General Fund Receipts: Jan-Feb 2022 \$ 13,720.00 Jan-Feb 2023 \$ 11,415.00

Treasurer's Report - Mary Ivey

Reports presented & accepted.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Mary submitted

Zoom Bible Study completed March 9th

Feedback received, will have more sessions throughout the year – Spring Apr 6-May 11

American Baptist West Area Palm Sunday Gathering is in person this year, April 2 at Galilee Baptist Church in Kalamazoo. Ceresco will provide a scripture and song. Asking for \$100 donation from each church for the Turkey/Syria earthquake victims. Motion by Mary Ivey, second by Marcy Bonney to donate the \$100. Motion passed.

4. Fellowship with sister churches: met with Pastor Pebley of Newton UMC; First Baptist Marshall; Salvation Army Pastors will share with us on April 23rd.

Worship Ministry Team – Mary Ivey:

Hymn selection for March/April is Joy

Palm Sunday – Sharon Hadley is ordering palm leaves

Palm Sunday – West Area program at Galilee Baptist in Kalamazoo at 4 pm.

Maundy Thursday Service, April 6 at 5:30 pm, will have foot/hand washing (voluntary).

Good Friday Service is April 7th at 5:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9th. Services at 8 am & 9:45 am, with sweet rolls between the services

Next meeting is April 12th at 5 pm

Property Management Ministry Team - Bob Beltz

January – hung a picture in the music room

February – Roger's Glass replaced window and closure and door stop, fellowship exit door

Need to purchase a defibrillator for the church and/or have several of us trained for CPR. Mary will check with Church Mutual Insurance Company to see what our options are. Sarah Collins will find out about CPR training.

Need to fix the lock on the front entrance door, not turning properly

Deacon Ministry Team – Roger Sommers

Next Deacon Fund Offering will be April 2, 2023

April 2nd is Palm Sunday – Deacons will provide the annual Palm Sunday brunch

Helping Pastor Mary as needed.

Educational Ministry Team – Sarah Collins

New Sunday School materials for children worked well.

March 15th Family Night – wear green and bring an Irish dish. Roger will be preparing the corned beef, cabbage, carrots & potatoes.

April 19th Family Night – planning an Easter Egg hunt. Asking for donations of candy to fill the eggs.

May 17th Family Night – Bring a picture of your mom

VBS planned for July 19th

Next meeting is June 2nd at 10 am.

MACS/CBC - Marcy Bonney:

Food Pantry needs donations. Will be collecting during March & April here at the church.

If we know of needs in our community, we should let MACS know.

Some of the churches in Marshall have appointments for people to get food.

Boy Scouts:

1. Meeting on Monday nights.

New Business/Open Items:

Family Fare grocery receipts program ended, new program is “Direct Your Labels” – supposed to be going on throughout the year. For every 500 UPC “Our Family” labels turned in we receive \$25.

Annual Reports for 2022 – any changes? Motion by Mary Ivey, second by Dawn Frey to accept as corrected. Motion carried.

May look into getting an elevator, maybe an “open elevator” – Mary Ivey will look into them and get information for the PMMT.

Next quarterly meeting is Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 9 am.

Meeting closed in prayer by Rick at 9:48 am.

Viviana Anthony is attending the **Michigan Youth Challenge Academy** through June. She is allowed to have letters or cards sent to her (NO CARE Packages):

Michigan Youth Challenge Academy
Attn: Anthony, Viviana, 1st Platoon
5500 Armstrong Rd, Bldg 13
Battle Creek, MI 49037-7193

There are pre-addressed, stamped envelopes available at the church if you'd like to write her a letter. She would appreciate the encouragement! Thank you!



Save the Date! May 6, 2023 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Spring Craft Show

Happy Easter! He is Risen!



- 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 15 Chrissy Wilkens
- May 17 Kalab Gary
- May 19 Heather Casey
- May 24 Patricia "Trish" Ivey
- May 25 Diane Biljum
- May 25 Melissa Boysen
- May 26 Shawn Skinner
- May 27 Oak D Wasielewski #1

Our Family Night Potluck
is always the third Wednesday of
the month at 6 pm.

For April, we are having an Easter
Egg Hunt for the kids! Please
wear a bright color or flower shirt.

Bring your own table service and a
passing dish. Please feel free to
invite family and friends even if
they don't attend church.

This is a great time of fellowship
and always lots of good food!



- 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

Men's Breakfasts!

The first Saturday of every month at 8 am is "The Men's Breakfast" prepared by Rick Frey and Roger Sommers. Most always you'll find farm fresh eggs, biscuits and gravy, and whatever else they may throw in the skillet. The conversation is contributed by all the guys and just like the food ——— there is plenty!
See ya there the first Saturday of each month!

Present: Dawn Frey-Gretchen King-Joy Sommers-Darlene Anthony-Veronica Anthony-Sharon Hadley-Joanne Henley-Pastor Mary-Joyce Cary-Sarah Collins-Marcy Bonney-Kelcie Collins-Linda Chisholm

Devotions: Given by Sarah: "Precious Moments of Celebration". Start each day fresh with the renewing of your faith.

Secretary: Given by Sharon: None was given for the month of November. Had Christmas Party for December meeting and exchanged "white elephant" gifts. Next Meeting will be 2nd Wednesday in March.

Treasurer: Given by Joy: Beginning balance from Nov. 2022 meeting: \$1,305.14; Nov. love gift 23.08, Love gift check written -23.08, Devotional 20.64, Heifer International -215.00, Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser proceeds 423.30, Reimbursement for Flowers 133.91, Samaritan Purse shoebox mailing -350.00, Kalamazoo Gospel Mission Meals -52.08, December Bake Sale 46.00, Devotional 3.20, TOTAL: \$1,315.11. Turned into Joy at the March meeting: January Bake Sale 12.00, February Bake sale 58.00, Craft show space's (6) 150.00, Total \$1,535.11

Missions: Given by Marcy: Amanda and Jon Good support a Ukrainian family and hold Bible studies. Teaching conversational English for 1st to 8th graders and after school students join in youth groups. Samaritan's Purse: Still working on homes after Hurricane Ian and also in Kentucky and Louisiana from tornado and Hurricane Ida and ongoing work in Ukraine.

Sunshine: Given by Sarah: Cards of support were sent out and also thank you cards to those who helped with the Christmas party.

Old Business: Craft show responses are being turned in including one Tupperware Dealer. Suggestion was made to reach out to Leigh Harold who does Ceramics. There will be no bake sale due to not wanting to take a chance on Legal issues. Joy will take care of the advertising in the Shopper's and the Advisor. Discussion was brought up on what to do with the Bake Sale Money. And maybe a possibility of an elevator being installed. Also, new glass was installed in the door leading outside from the Fellowship room. A Mother and Daughter potluc will be held on May 13. Details will be discussed at the April meeting.

Scripture study: Given by Dawn: Based on Romans 12: 1-8. We are all parts of the body of Christ and we all have an important part to be responsible for.

New Business: We will be having the Treasure Sale again on August 19 from 9-3. Hostess schedule for 2023: April-Darlene, May-Dawn, June-picnic, July-Joy, August-Veronica, September-Joanne, October-Sharon, November-Marcy, December-Christmas party. Electoral positions will be the same except Gretchen stepped down as Vice President and Darlene will be on as the vice president. Joy to give Cricut & supplies she purchased at the Treasure Sale to Sarah for the church to use for Sunday School, etc.

Collections: Love gift: \$21.50. Devotion: \$17.20

Closing prayer given by Dawn and then refreshments. Next meeting: April 12 - Hostess: Darlene

**Give thanks for the cross
And rejoice in the resurrection...**

As you reflect on Christ's sacrifice,
May He fill your heart with grateful praise
And surround you with His redeeming love
That reconciled you to the Father —
So, you can live in Christ's resurrection,
Knowing death could not consume Him,
For when He arose victoriously,
He sealed eternity for you.

Have a Blessed Easter!

He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes, we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. - Isaiah 53:3-7 (NKJV)

April 2023

Sunday		Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Saturday
2		3	4	5	6	7	8
Palm Sunday Deacon & Communion Sunday			Relay for Life Meeting 6:30 pm	Bible Study 10 am	Ford Meeting for Ceresco 4 pm Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm	EMT Meeting 10:00 am	Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
9		10	11	12	13	14	15
Easter! Son Rise 8 am, Regular Svc 9:45		Boy Scouts		Bible Study 10 am Worship Minis- try Team 5 pm Martha Circle 6:00 pm			
16		17	18	19	20	21	22
Church Brunch after Worship Service		Boy Scouts	Relay for Life Meeting 6:30 pm	Bible Study 10 am Family Night Potluck 6 pm			
23		24	25	26	27	28	29
		Boy Scouts		Bible Study 10 am	Articles for the May 2023 Messenger are due by noon!		
30		5/1	5/2	5/3	5/4	5/5	5/6
Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale!		Boy Scouts	Relay for Life Meeting 6:30 pm	Bible Study 10 am			Men's Breakfast 8 am

Ceresco Baptist Church

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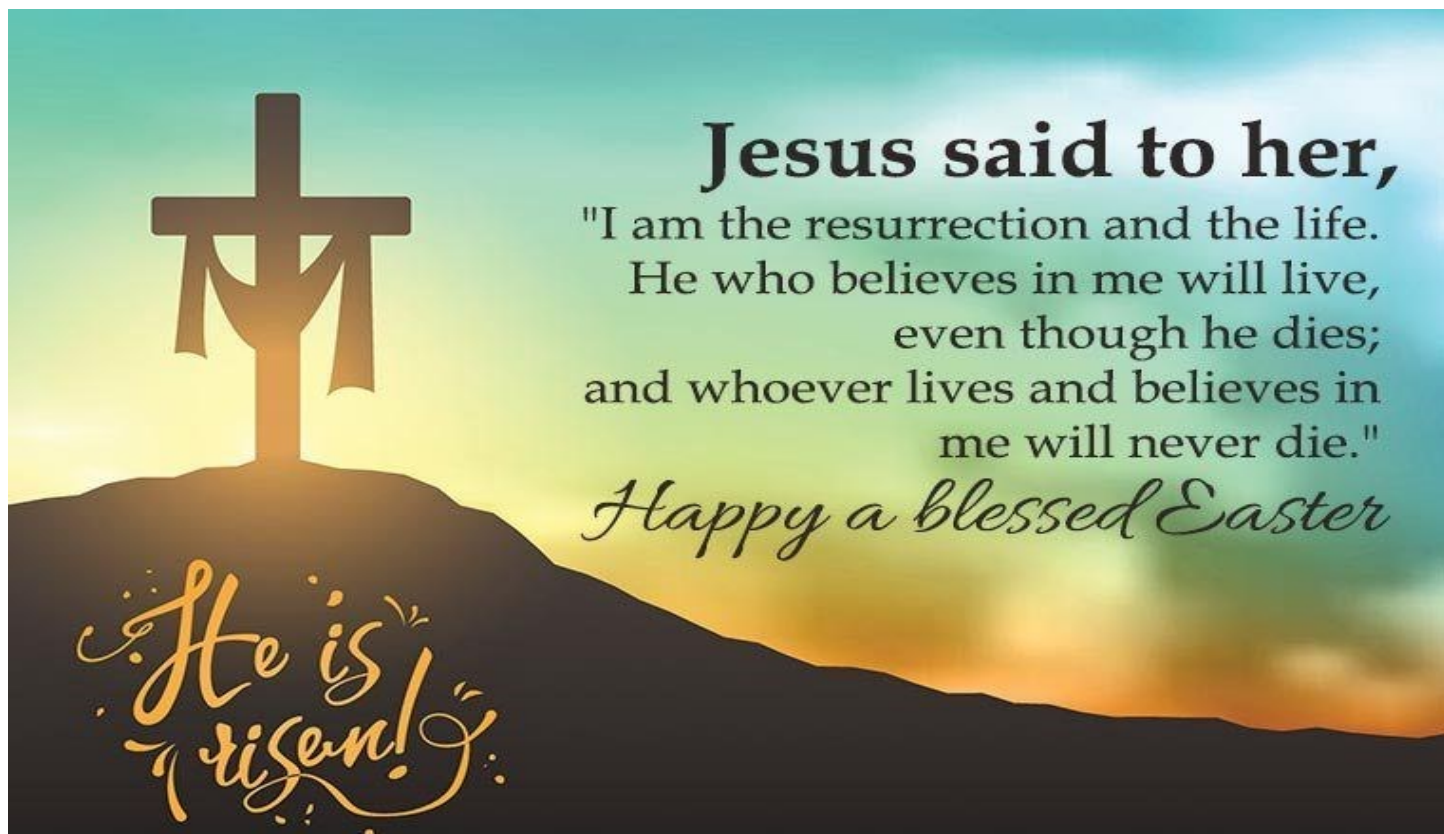
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Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews

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Jesus said to her,

"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in me will live,
even though he dies;
and whoever lives and believes in
me will never die."

Happy a blessed Easter