

Ceresco Baptist Church

The Ceresco Messenger - June 2023

2023 ABC-USA BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

It was a privilege and honor to represent American Baptist Churches of Michigan and Ceresco Baptist Church at the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit in Puerto Rico. It was an opportunity to fellowship with over 1200 fellow American Baptists from all around the United States. We coalesced around our challenges which include in a decline in the number of full-time clergy, mission giving and church attendance, as well as polarization and apathy in the denomination. We asked ourselves, “what is the role of American Baptists in the US mental health crisis; world hunger; women in ministry; the wars in Syria and Ukraine; social justice; gun violence; pay disparities, human trafficking and so much more. There is a growing sense that people are perishing.

We also came together in hope as we reimagined Christ’s mission and considered what it means for us to love one another and how we express that love. We found hope in the fact seven in 10 (71%) say their view of Jesus is positive. Of all U.S. teens and adults, 63 percent say they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today. Seventy percent of Millennials say their commitment to Jesus is still important to them. That is encouragement enough to continue the mission. In the coming days, we should receive an overview of ABC-USA’s commitment and priorities for us to consider.

Below is a short overview of a few of the sessions attended:

The National Black Caucus’ position is that public policy advocacy is a spiritual discipline and is a form of praying. Praying is a first step but the second step is moving our feet. We should pray for a robust theological imagination that helps us to chart the path going forward.

The MMBB Member Luncheon and Address spoke to current challenges of the faith such as ongoing church decline, polarization, and apathy. There was a call to embrace our ability to dream and love one another. In addition there was an acknowledgment that we have hope when we have love, compassion, openness to change, children, inclusion, and diversity.

Intergenerational Connection for Such a Time means working together and not just adding a youth ministry or a senior ministry. It is creating an opportunity for groups to come together in all aspects. It is not telling youth how they fit into the worship but asking them.

Mission Summit Conversations centered the potential mission focus of ABC USA for the next 2 years. While there were more than 20 entries, the following are the top 7 priority areas:

- Empowering Young Adults and Youth
- Peacemaking in a Culture of Violence
- Mental Health
- Creation Care
- Building the Beloved Community through Collaboration
- Discipleship and Disciple Making
- Claim, Distinguish, and Proclaim the Markers of American Baptists

In Business Meeting, we elected the 2024 - 2026 ABC-USA President from Michigan - Nikita McAlister

Worshipful Work: We received reports from various ministries: International Ministries; American Baptist Home Mission Societies and American Baptist Churches USA

First Things First: Soul Care and Self Care

Soul Care is:

- Centering yourself in God daily.
- Intentional time for prayer and reflection - taking the time needed.
- Pausing to consider how your action and inaction reflects God.
- Awareness and reaction to sin.
- Asking God to enable us to repent and to forgive.

Soul Care is: (continued)

- Holy Spirit inspired awareness of good and bad triggers.
- Knowing habits and patterns that limit or prevent self-care.
- Surrendering motivations to the Holy Spirit.
- Inviting God to change us and meaning it.

Self-Care is:

- Regular physical checkups
- Accountability partners
- Eating well and paying attention to what your body needs
- Mental check in and check ups
- Pausing to rest and reflect and check in with yourself
- Daily affirmations
- Pausing to rest
- Respecting boundaries
- Checking your motivation

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the summit. It was such a blessing and so are you.
Pastor Mary



Flower Sign-Up

- 7/2 - OPEN
- 7/9 - Sommers
- 7/16 - OPEN
- 7/23 - OPEN
- 7/30 - OPEN

Children's Time Sign-Up

- 7/2 - OPEN
- 7/9 - Sommers
- 7/16 - OPEN
- 7/23 - Sommers
- 7/30 - OPEN

Nathan Markos will be headed off to Nashville, TN on July 8th and return on July 13th. He will be attending "Camp Electric". This camp's mission statement is to creatively inspire, in an entertaining cutting-edge environment, the next generation of students to use their talents/gifts to glorify God. Thus, training students to become servants who worship the Creator more than the creation. Every day while at camp they will be taught and inspired by various artists from bands such as Casting Crowns and TobyMac. Also, Battle Creek native Tauren Wells will be there. Each day they will have devotions, worship and a message. There will be a lot of time to work on guitar skills and just "jamming for Jesus" with other teens! When he returns he will share some memories and experiences!



One Day Vacation Bible School

For kids 3-15 years old

Ceresco Baptist Church

230 C Drive North, Ceresco, MI 49033

“Goliath - Overcoming Your Giants”

July 19, 2023, 10:30am-2pm

There will be crafts, a skit, and lunch will be provided!

Please leave a message at 269-213-7052 with how many kids will be attending, and their ages. Also, if there are any food allergies, be sure to let us know that too!

Please call by July 9, 2023

Thank you!

Marshall Area Community Services is doing their Annual Back to School Backpacks. The distribution dates have been set for August 7th, 8th and 9th.

There is now a wish list for this project on Amazon. If you would like to help out, scan this QR code!



Before all else, we seek, upon our common labor as a nation, the blessings of Almighty God. And the hopes in our hearts fashion the deepest prayers of our whole people. May we pursue the right--without self-righteousness. May we know unity--without conformity. May we grow in strength--without pride in self. May we, in our dealings with all peoples of the earth, ever speak truth and serve justice. May the light of freedom, coming to all darkened lands, flame brightly--until at last the darkness is no more. May the turbulence of our age yield to a true time of peace, when men and nations shall share a life that honors the dignity of each, the brotherhood of all.

~ Dwight D Eisenhower, 1/21/1957



- Jul 2 Payton Angelina #1
- Jul 2 Jennifer Douglas
- Jul 3 Becky Wilkens
- Jul 5 Kevin Sommers
- Jul 5 Stephanie Wasielewski
- Jul 10 Joyce Cary
- Jul 15 Andrew Sommers

- Jul 21 Ryder Goodman
- Jul 21 Bradley Thomas
- Jul 22 Elijah Ivey
- Jul 22 Weston Wasielewski
- Jul 25 Madeleine Johnston
- Jul 26 Rick Frey
- Jul 30 Gracie Douglas

- Aug 1 Sharon Hadley
- Aug 2 C.L. Miller/Wilkens
- Aug 5 Christy Phelps
- Aug 10 Kaleb Collins
- Aug 10 Zachary M Hamilton #1
- Aug 10 Katherine Skinner
- Aug 11 Louis Jesda Sophekatra #1
- Aug 12 Veronica Anthony
- Aug 13 Allison Biljum
- Aug 16 Joy Sommers
- Aug 17 Mortimer Hamaker
- Aug 17 Gideon Hamaker
- 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



- Jul 19 Glen & Joyce Cary
- Jul 20 Terry & Trish Ivey
- Jul 23 Ted & Lora Finch
- Jul 28 Joshua & Candi Ivey

- Aug 11 James & Darlene Anthony
- Aug 19 Reginald & Mary Matthews
- Aug 24 Bud & Vi Halder

**HUSBAND.
DAD.
GRANDPA.
70 YEAR
OLD
LEGEND.**

Come celebrate Rick Frey's 70th birthday with yard games- card games and great conversations. July 28th at 5:00 pm. 244 Marshall street, Ceresco.



July 2023

| Sunday | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Saturday |
|--|-----------|--|--|--|-----------|----------------------------|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Communion, Deacon Sunday, & Independence Sunday | | | | Zoom Bible Study 6 pm | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | | | Bible Study 10 am Martha Circle Meeting 6 pm | Zoom Bible Study 6 pm | | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| Church in use for private party after church | | Relay for Life Wrap-Up Meet- ing 6:30 pm | VBS DAY 10:30-2 Family Night Potluck 6 pm | Zoom Bible Study 6 pm | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | | | Bible Study 10 am | Articles for the Aug 2023 Mes- senger are due by noon | | |
| 30 | 31 | 8/1 | 8/2 | 8/3 | 8/4 | 8/5 |
| Fellowship Sunday | | | Pastor's Office Hours: Fridays 9am-4:30pm Saturdays 9am-Noon | | | Men's Breakfast 8 am |

Ceresco Baptist Church

230 C Drive North, PO Box 35

Ceresco, MI 49033

(269) 964-9669

www.cerescobaptist.org

Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews

mary.fairmatthews@yahoo.com

(313) 303-3301

