

The Ceresco Messenger

January 2024

New to Me Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

It is Christmas morning and I hear the sound of heavy footsteps banging down the stairs. No, I never get tired of that sound. Out of the 3 kids one walks softly, one has heavy footsteps and one I believe sees how many steps he can skip every time. He comes around the corner and loudly says "Mom, What's that smell?", to his surprise I replied, "Well Merry Christmas!". He smiles and says, "Oh, yes Merry Christmas Mother, BUT what IS cooking???" I hand him a small sample of a cinnamon roll, ask him to gather his siblings for breakfast so we can all sit down for breakfast.

Fast forward a few hours and we are sitting with the rest of our family opening our Christmas gifts and enjoying the day. Grandma opens a gift of a treasured glassware that she collects which we luckily found at a garage sale this summer and held on tightly for this day! To our surprise she did not have one like it yet! My brother, meanwhile, in Texas, was opening up metal signs that he collects that my mom and I found at sales this summer - our "treasures".

As I woke early this morning and began thinking about the New Year to quickly approach us, I thought about how even though the items we sometimes exchange are not actually "new", they are "new" to us. It is not necessarily to save money, although that definitely helps but it is about the gift, it is about the thought that went into it. We were so excited to give that glass dish to grandma and we know she would cherish it. My oldest brother is awaiting a kidney, no it will not be a "new" kidney, but it will be "new" to him, and he will cherish it. We have the gift of life, eternal life, cherish it, pass it along. How can you pass it along? When you give a gift think about it - does it HAVE to be new? I heard someone say yesterday that "thrifting is the new norm".

- Submitted by Jennie Markos

New Years Prayer

Dear Lord, In the new year, we pray that You will guide us each new day in paths that are pleasing to You. Lord, the new year gives us another chance to rededicate our lives to You, to study Your Word so that we know right from wrong and to act in accordance with Your commands. Thank You for the sense of direction, purpose and peace we get from aligning our lives with Your Holy will. We pray for the strength and the will to obey You each and every day of the new year, and when we fail, we pray for Your mercy, Your compassion, Your grace and Your love. Help us in the new year to be Your faithful servants.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

By Joanna Fuchs



**Merry
Christmas
from
Gretchen
King
and
family!**

A Prayer for Endings and Beginnings

Dear Father,
I thank You that throughout the season of life, there are endings and new beginnings. I bless Your Word that reminds us that there is a time for every purpose under heaven. So, I thank You for the things that have ended in my life and I bless you for new beginnings.
In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

—Ecclesiastes 3:1

A Prayer for Faith

Eternal God,
You gave us the greatest gift: the gift of life. In the coming year, help us use it wisely. May we grow in generosity, kindness and forgiveness, hope, faith and love.
Amen.

—Rabbi Evan Moffic

Are You Ready for Our First Zoom Bible Studies Series of 2024?

Ceresco's Winter Zoom Bible Study Series entitled Revelation: The Ultimate Hope in Christ begins Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 6:00 PM. There will be 12 sessions which will conclude on April 18.

This study is written by Dr. David Jeremiah. The Book of Revelation written by John, the Apostle, details the prophetic events to come when Jesus returns to judge the world. Revelation is a reminder to believers in every age that Jesus is the Lord of all, that He will one day destroy the devil, and that those who remain faithful to Him will be able to join in His triumph and receive the rewards of eternal life.

Join Zoom Meeting using the information below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82719197314?pwd=tvPra4rl4fQFlaQi4aVCHNWaJWJKkE.1>

Meeting ID: 827 1919 7314 Passcode: 162780

Lessons are:

Lesson 1: A Vision in Exile - (Revelation 1:1-20)

Lesson 2: Letters to Seven Churches - (Revelation 2:1 - 3:22)

Lesson 3: A Glimpse of Heaven - (Revelation 4:1 - 5:14)

Lesson 4: The Seal Judgments - (Revelation 6:1 - 7:17)

Lesson 5: The Trumpet Judgments - (Revelation 8:1 - 9:21)

Lesson 6: The Two Witnesses - (Revelation 10:1 - 11:19)

Lesson 7: The Unholy Trinity - (Revelation 12:1 - 13:18)

Lesson 8: Angelic Announcements - (Revelation 14:1-20)

Lesson 9: The Bowl Judgments - (Revelation 15:1 - 16:21)

Lesson 10: Babylon Falls - (Revelation 17:1 - 18:24)

Lesson 11: Satan Is Defeated - (Revelation 19:1 - 20:15)

Lesson 12: The New World - (Revelation 21:1 - 22:21)

Please feel free to share the Zoom link with friends and families. I am looking forward to sharing and learning together. See you there.

Pastor Mary



Joanne Henley

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This is my 17th great grandchild.❤️ I will have my 18th in late February or early March. And just found out yesterday that I will be havening my 19th in August. I am so very blessed.🙏❤️



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

"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 2024." 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 2024! ~ 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'd like to thank Pastor Mary for the very nice Christmas basket with all the many goodies. It was so thoughtful and I appreciate all she does for us.— Joanne Henley

Martha Circle Christmas Party - December 6, 2023

It was a very fun time with twelve of us there. Everybody brought a snack, a casserole, or a salad and there was lots to eat. Everyone also brought a "white elephant" gift bag to be placed under the tree. Each of us had a number and took a gift bag when it was our turn. We all shared what was in our chosen bag but - - - there were no "white elephants" to be seen. We did discuss how our Bake Sale is having a more positive effect since we are pledging the donations to Isaiah 117 House. The donations from our November sale totaled \$59.00. Our next meeting will be next March with Dawn as our hostess.

OFFICERS for 2024

Lay Moderator	Roger Sommers
Assistant Lay Moderator	Rick Frey
Clerk	Joy Sommers
Treasurer	Mary Ivey
Assistant Treasurer	Ruth St. John
Financial Secretary	Dawn Frey
Assistant Financial Secretary	Marcy Bonney
Membership at Large	Linda Chisholm
Membership at Large	Sarah Collins

Deacon Ministry Team	Roger Sommers Dave Hadley Darlene Anthony Bob Beltz Dawn Frey
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2024 MINISTRY TEAM INFORMATION

Property Management Ministry Team Members
Bob Beltz, Rick Frey, Roger Sommers, David Hadley
Sarah Collins, & other volunteers appreciated

Educational Ministry Team Members
Veronica Anthony, Marcy Bonney, Sarah Collins, and Kay Davis
Dawn Frey, Sharon Hadley, Joy Sommers

Worship Ministry Team Members
Mary Ivey, Veronica Anthony, Sharon Hadley, and Joy Sommers

CERESCO BAPTIST CHURCH	
BUDGET FOR 2024	
PASTOR'S SALARY	\$33,000.00
CONVENTION	\$1,000.00
CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$800.00
HOSPITALITY	\$100.00
BOOKS AND MISC EXPENSES	\$500.00
M&M RETIREMENT	\$800.00
PULPIT SUPPLY	\$1,050.00
MISSIONS (ABC ABOVE SPEC GIVING)	\$2,400.00
FOOD BANK OF S CENTRAL MI	\$200.00
CHARITABLE UNION	\$200.00
MACS	\$200.00
CAMP LAEL	\$125.00
LAKE LOUISE CAMP	\$125.00
WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM	\$125.00
BULLETINS & OFFICE EXPENSES	\$500.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$1,500.00
MAINTENANCE/EQUIP REPLACE/REPAIR	\$2,000.00
CUSTODIAL	\$5,400.00
KITCHEN & BATHROOM SUPPLIES	\$250.00
INSURANCE & WORKSMAN'S COMP	\$5,000.00
UTILITIES (CONSUMERS TELEPHONE, REFUSE)	\$6,000.00
INTERNET (LINE, WEBSITE, & DOMAIN)	\$1,200.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$650.00
DUES AND LICENSES	\$1,300.00
BUDGET FOR 2024	\$64,425.00
\$1,239.00 NEEDED FOR PER WEEK TO MEET BUDGET IN 2024	

"Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine, so to shine as to be a light to others."
 — Mother Teresa



Jan 1 Michael Meng
Jan 2 Elise Rae Lopshire
Jan 2 Josh Lopshire
Jan 2 Alexandria Hamaker
Jan 4 Avery Goodman
Jan 7 Olivia Farmer
Jan 13 Bob Beltz
Jan 18 Brian Gary
Jan 25 Emily Ivey
Jan 28 Harlynn Casey
Jan 29 Steve Wilkens

Feb 2 Cruz Garcia-Wilkens
Feb 4 Nicole Thomas
Feb 17 Carlton Anthony
Feb 18 Glen Cary
Feb 25 Kelcie Collins
Feb 26 Gretchen King 1939

Jan 3 John & Ruth Paschen, 1959

Children's Time Sign-Up

1/7/24 - Sommers

1/14/24 - OPEN

1/21/24 - Sommers

1/28/24 - OPEN

Flower Sign-Up

1/7/24 - Sommers

1/14/24 - OPEN

1/21/24 - OPEN

1/28/24 - OPEN

Theme for February Worship Services "Love Worth Finding"

Forgiveness, Grace, Repentance
& Love

Be sure to join us!

Annual Reports for 2023 are due to the Church Clerk by 1/28/24.

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

cerescobaptist@gmail.com

Thank you!

ISAIAH 40:31



...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

January 2024

Sunday		Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Saturday	
12/31		1	2	3	4	5	6	
		New Year's Day		Bible Study 10 am			Men's Breakfast 8:00 am	
7		8	9	10	11	12	13	
Communion Sunday		Boy Scouts 7 pm		Bible Study 10 am Martha Circle Meeting 6 pm			Church in Use	
14		15	16	17	18	19	20	
		Boy Scouts 7 pm		Bible Study 10 am Family Night Potluck 6 pm				
21		22	23	24	25	26	27	
		Boy Scouts 7 pm		Bible Study 10 am	Information for February Messenger due at Noon			
28		29	30	31	2/1	2/2	2/3	
Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale		Boy Scouts 7 pm		Bible Study 10 am			Men's Breakfast 8:00 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

