

## Ceresco Baptist Church

### The Ceresco Messenger - November 2023

#### There Shall Be Showers of Blessing, 1883

*"I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing. Ezekiel 34:26*

"There Shall Be Showers of Blessing" by Major Daniel Whittle is one of those songs which, if learned in childhood, is never forgotten. Based on Ezekiel 34:26, it uplifts us with the happy assurance of God's unceasing blessing on our lives, even during our worst days.

When Howard Rutledge's plane was shot down over Vietnam, he parachuted into a little village and was immediately attacked and imprisoned. For the next seven years he endured brutal treatment. His food was little more than a bowl of pig fat. He was frequently cold, alone, and often tortured. How did he keep his sanity?

In his book, *In the Presence of Mine Enemies*, Rutledge wrote, "I wanted to talk about God and Christ and the Church. But in Heartbreak (his concentration camp), there was no pastor, no Sunday school picture, no Bible, no hymnbook . . . I had completely neglected the spiritual dimension of my life. It took prison to show me how empty life is without God, and so I had to go back in my memory to those Sunday school days in Tulsa, Oklahoma. If I couldn't have a Bible and hymnbook, I would try to rebuild them in my mind.

"I tried desperately to recall . . . Gospel choruses from childhood, and hymns we sang in church. The first three dozen songs were relatively easy. Every day I'd try to recall another verse or a new song. One night there was a huge thunderstorm—it was the season of the monsoon rains—and a bolt of lightning knocked out the lights and plunged the entire prison into darkness. I had been going over hymn tunes in my mind and stopped to lie down and sleep when the rains began to fall. The darkened prison echoed with wave after wave of water. Suddenly, I was humming my thirty-seventh song, one I had entirely forgotten since childhood...

*"Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need! Mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead."*

"The enemy knew that the best way to break a man's resistance was to crush his spirit in a lonely cell," Howard wrote. "In other words, some of our POW's after solitary confinement lay down in a fetal position and died. All this talk of Scripture and hymns may seem boring to some, but it was the way we conquered our enemy and overcame the power of death around us."

# Veterans Day

Honoring All Who Served



Nehemiah

Obadiah

Verily, verily, I say unto you.

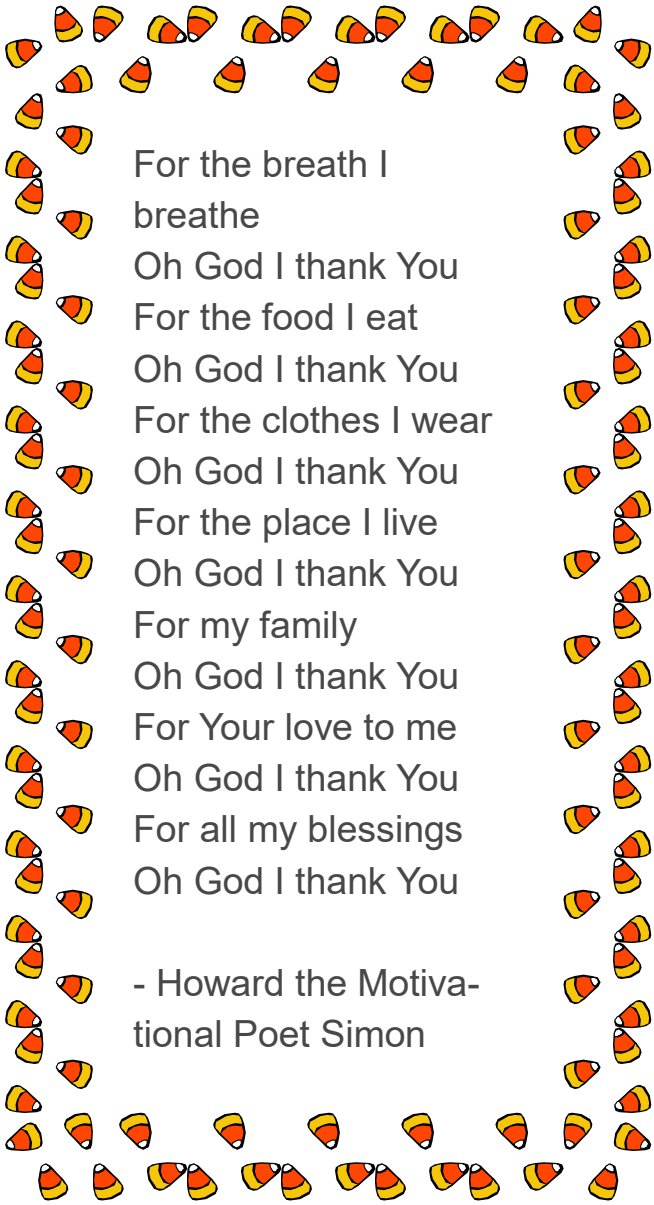
Every knee shall bow

Moses

Blessed

Everlasting love

Revelation



For the breath I  
breathe  
Oh God I thank You  
For the food I eat  
Oh God I thank You  
For the clothes I wear  
Oh God I thank You  
For the place I live  
Oh God I thank You  
For my family  
Oh God I thank You  
For Your love to me  
Oh God I thank You  
For all my blessings  
Oh God I thank You

- Howard the Motiva-  
tional Poet Simon

## National Thanksgiving Proclamation

October 3, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln

“I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.”

## **Martha Circle Minutes - October 11, 2023 - Hostess**

Present: Dawn Frey, Sharon Hadley, Sarah Collins, Marcy Bonney, Joanne Henley, Veronica Anthony, Darlene Anthony, Pastor Mary, Joyce Cary, Ruth St. John

Devotions: Given by Sharon: "Just As I Am" - Read the reason and the event that took place of why the author wrote the song. - Charlotte Elliott

Collections: Love Gift: \$17.73. Devotions: \$14.00

Secretary Report: Given by Sharon: Nine present at September meeting. Positions given for Women's Sunday were filled. - Final plans for Spaghetti Supper were discussed. - Ordering T-shirts can be for anyone. - ABWM Fall Fling finalized - Meeting time will change to 5:30 for fall months. - Will discuss filling Christmas Shoe Boxes next meeting.

Treasurer Report: Given by Dawn in Joy's absence. Beginning balance-\$2,159.79, Ending balance \$2,292.34

Missions: Given by Marcy: Samaritan's Purse: Responded to wildfire on Maui, - Hurricane Idalia as well as Disaster Relief Units to section of Florida and Georgia. The US disaster relief ministry has responded to tornados in 9 states, floods in four states, and wildfire in Washington. - MACS - Will be doing Christmas Baskets December 11 -14. A helping hand is open to anyone.

Sunshine: Sarah: Five cards sent out. A card will be sent out to Donna and Art Ruthruff "Thinking of You".

Old Business: (1) 26 T-shirts were ordered and she will be working on them beginning of November. (2) Bake Sale money collection to be given to Isaiah 1:17 (3) Spaghetti Dinner: need volunteers-Ruth and Don will be in charge of drinks and salads-table cleaners: Darlene and Carl, Kelcie. Will add sheet cake dessert. Pastor Mary in charge. Cash box; Becky and Veronica. (4) Heather Rocco donated several boxes of items for the Christmas Shoe Box project. (5) On November 14 Isaiah 1:17 will hold a luncheon from 1:00 to 2:00 for information on the project. Held at the Journey Church on 24th street. Will need tickets which can be gotten from Pastor Mary. (6) A follow up on the ABWM Fall Fling has been requested since the speakers would like more time. Will be discussed for the spring.

New Business: (1) Pennfield Presbyterian Church has reached out to Pastor Mary to fellowship with our church. Will invite them to hear the Helmsman singers and also to the Spaghetti Supper.

Dismissed in prayer by Dawn and after refreshments went through the boxes that Heather Rocco donated for the shoebox project.

Next Meeting: November 8 - Hostess Marcy Bonney

## **We Thank Thee**

**For flowers that bloom about our feet; For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;**

**For song of bird, and hum of bee; For all things fair we hear or see,**

**Father in heaven, we thank Thee. For blue of stream and blue of sky;**

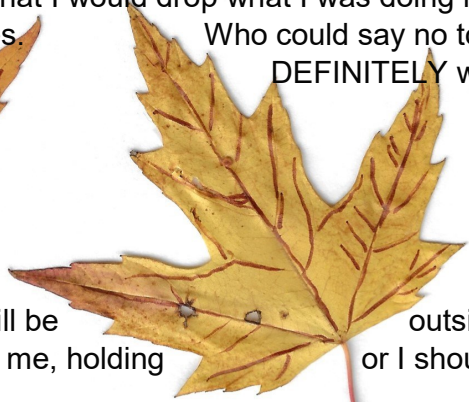
**For pleasant shade of branches high; For fragrant air and cooling breeze;**

**For beauty of the blooming trees, Father in heaven, we thank Thee.**

**~~Ralph Waldo Emerson**

The leaves are falling! The leaves are falling! Nathan came running into the house with a huge smile on his face hoping, just and help him rake a (huge) pile Well, I guess the dishes can

are falling! Nathan came running into the house with a huge smile on his face hoping, just and help him rake a (huge) pile Well, I guess the dishes can hoping that I would drop what I was doing in the kitchen of leaves. Who could say no to this request? DEFINITELY wait, right?



I grab my warm flannel shirt, holler to Nathan out the door. He is already 10 feet ahead of me, holding me a rake.

Ben that we will be 10 feet ahead of me, holding

outside and chase or I should say, hand-

Once the pile is done, he enjoys a few jumps and loud giggles into the pile of leaves. I still remember helping to rake leaves at Ron and Linda Chisholm's house one Fall with the neighbor kids. I am sure they enjoyed the help but not as much as we enjoyed playing in the leaves!! There aren't a lot of leaves to usually rake in the country so when the chance is there -take it!

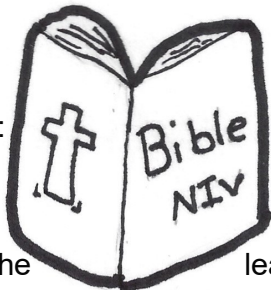
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When Nathan was FINALLY done with jumping we sat and just talked for a bit and looked at all the different leaves - the colors, the shapes - what splendor! I started to notice the tiny little veins in each leaf and it reminded me of how even though we may stray, not once, not twice, but throughout our lives, we have a clear path to God. Once we have accepted Jesus Christ as our LORD and Savior, that path is there and can't be broken. The edges of the leaves may get broken on their voyage down from the tree to the ground but the stem stays in tact. Even if we stray into the furthest and smallest point of that leaf or what may be a very far place or dark place, GOD will NEVER leave us. GOD will never give us more than we can handle.

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Psalms 37:24: Though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with His hand.



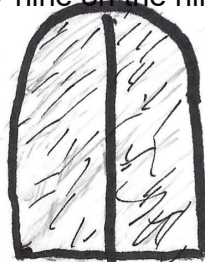
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Matthew 18:12: What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?

What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?

How do I, like the leaf, make sure that my foundation? Take Jesus Christ as my LORD and Savior faith, read the Bible daily and be in church with other like

If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? stem is strong, firm but to believers. continue to grow in



Illustrations by Nathan Markos

Writing by Jennifer Markos



IF YOUR RELATIONSHIP IS LIKE THIS WHEEL, IT'S TIME TO TURN TOWARD SAFETY

# break the cycle

Domestic violence is not about someone losing their temper. It is a learned behavior that is caused by one partner's need for power and control in the relationship. The Power and Control Wheel helps link the different behaviors that together form a pattern of violence. It shows the relationship as a whole—and how each seemingly unrelated behavior is an important part in an overall effort to control someone.



A SAFE Place representative was at our October Family Night. Here is some of the information that was shared with us!

**S.A.F.E. PLACE**  
secure area family environment

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secure area family environment

24 HOUR HOTLINE  
(269) 965-7233  
(888) 664-9832

**BUSINESS LINE**  
(269) 965-6093

SAFEPLACESHELTER.ORG

S.A.F.E. Place exists to provide safety to, empower and advocate for victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking and their families.

24 HOUR  
269.965.SA  
888

**HOW TO HELP**

Let go of any expectations you have that there is a "quick fix" to domestic violence or the obstacles the victim faces.

Understand the victim's "inaction" may very well be the safest strategy at any given time.

**DO:**

- Ask
- Express concern
- Listen and validate
- Offer help
- Support their decisions

**DONT:**

- Wait for them to come to you
- Judge or blame
- Put pressure on them
- Give advice
- Place conditions on your support

**SERVICES**  
All services are free and confidential.

- Emergency Shelter
- 24/7 Crisis Line
- Counseling and Support Groups
- Survivor and Children Advocacy
- Legal Advocacy
- Prevention Education

Proudly serving all survivors.

**esafepalceshelter.org**  
**info@safepalceshelter.org**  
**safepalceshelter.org**

To Donate:  
Text  
SAFEBC  
to 44-321

P.O. Box 199, Battle Creek, MI 49016

**OUR ADVOCATES ARE HERE TO HELP EMPOWER YOU TO NAVIGATE CHANGES AND**

# turn things around

The cycle of power and control that feeds abusive relationships can cloud the vision of its victims. The Healthy Relationships Wheel helps demonstrate clearly the components of what a safe and balanced relationship should look like. **Because domestic violence has no place in a healthy relationship.**

**healthy relationships WHEEL**

- shared responsibility & accountability
- economic partnership
- responsible parenting
- trust & support

**S.A.F.E. PLACE**  
secure area family environment

**safepalceshelter.org**  
follow us on [f](#) safepalceshelter.org

**stars**

We will be honoring our **Veterans on Sunday, Nov. 12th.** If you have a **living veteran** in your family, let us know by **Nov. 9th!** Thank you!

**stars**



Nov 2 Barry Vavrina  
Nov 3 Alex Goodman  
Nov 5 Lora Finch  
Nov 6 Devin Phelps  
Nov 10 Jean King  
Nov 10 Lourenco Johnston  
Nov 12 Tyler Thomas  
Nov 13 Brad Gary  
Nov 17 Lisa Cavinder  
Nov 17 Jody Babcock  
Nov 26 Roger Sommers  
Nov 28 Andrew Douglas

Dec 2 Niko Holmes  
Dec 17 Laia Wasielewskit  
Dec 18 Ryan Boysen  
Dec 21 Rayna Sommers  
Dec 27 John Paschen, 1939  
Dec 28 Donna Ruthruff  
Dec 28 Candace Ivey  
Dec 30 Viviana Anthony

Nov 12 Rick & Marcy Bonney  
Dec 23 Ken & Kay Davis

### Children's Time Sign-Up

11/5 - Sommers

11/12 - OPEN

11/19 - Sommers

11/26 - OPEN

### Flower Time Sign-Up

11/5 - Sommers

11/12 -

11/19 -

11/26 - Ivey

Fellowship Sunday Refreshments  
11/26 - Deacon Ministry Team

### Find the Verse:

Finally, \_\_\_\_\_ and sisters, rejoice!  
Strive for full restoration, encourage  
one \_\_\_\_\_, be of one mind, live  
in \_\_\_\_\_. And the God of  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will be with  
you. 2 Corinthians 13: \_\_\_\_\_



# November 2023

Sunday		Mon.		Tue.		Wed.		Thu.		Fri.		Saturday	
29		30		31		1		2		3		4	
						Bible Study 10 am		EMT 4:30 pm ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 6 pm				Men's Breakfast 8:00 am	
												Move clocks back 1 hour!	
5		6		7		8		9		10		11	
Communion Sunday, Pastor Roxie Perry		Boy Scouts 7 pm				Martha Circle Meeting/Pack OCC Shoe- boxes 5:30 pm		ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 6 pm				Veteran's Day	
12		13		14		15		16		17		18	
		OCC Shoebox Collection Week>>>				Bible Study 10 am		ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 6 pm					
Veteran's Sunday		Boy Scouts 7 pm				Thanksgiving Family Night Potluck 6 pm							
19		20		21		22		23		24		25	
		Boy Scouts 7 pm				Bible Study 10 am							
						Thanksgiving Eve Service 5:30 pm		<i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>					
26		27		28		29		30		12/1		12/2	
Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale		Boy Scouts 7 pm				Bible Study 10 am		Information for November Messenger due at Noon				Men's Breakfast 8 am	
Hanging of the Greens								ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 6 pm				Youth Christmas Party 11-1	

**Ceresco Baptist Church**

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Ceresco, MI 49033

(269) 964-9669

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

**Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews**

[mary.fairmatthews@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.fairmatthews@yahoo.com)

(313) 303-3301



Daylight  
Savings  
Time ends  
at 2 am on  
Sunday,  
November  
5th!