

# The Ceresco Messenger

February 2024



## Do You Struggle to Believe God?

By Adrian Rogers

**PRAY OVER THIS:** “For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.” (Romans 4:3-4 NKJV)

**PONDER THIS:** Grace is the unmerited favor and kindness of God shown to one who does not deserve it and can never earn it. You will be saved by grace, or you won’t be saved at all. Sometimes when I speak, people introduce me and say nice things about me. But suppose someone said, “There’s one thing about Adrian—you just can’t believe him.” No matter how many nice things you might say about me, if you say, “You can’t believe him,” you’ve just cut off the root of my character. The greatest thing you can do to glorify God is believe God. Faith pleases God because it glorifies God, and because faith pleases God, God rewards faith.

What is faith? Faith is not saying, “God prove it to me, and then I’ll believe it.” No, faith is a response to the nature and character of God. Faith believes God, not for what God has done, but for who God is. When my eye is right, my eye responds to light. When my ear is right, my ear responds to sound. When my heart is right, my heart responds to God. That response is faith, and that faith glorifies God. If a man could be saved by works, God would not get the glory. But when a man is justified by faith, God gets the glory.

- When do you struggle most to believe God?
- When have you been happy that you believed God? What happened when you trusted Him?

### **PRACTICE THIS:**

Take a step of faith and believe God in an area in which you have been struggling.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.



**Matthew 22:37-39**

Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' (NKJV)



**God's Valentine Gift**

God's Valentine gift of love to us  
Was not a bunch of flowers;  
It wasn't candy, or a book  
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,  
So He could freely give  
His sacrificial love for us,  
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and  
Instruction, good and true--  
To love our friends and enemies  
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,  
Let's thank our Lord and King;  
The reason we have love to give  
Is that He gave everything.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

**What Valentine Can I Give Him?**

What can I give to Jesus  
On this special Valentine's Day?  
How can I tell Him I'll love Him,  
And follow Him, come what may?

How can I show I need Him?  
Should I send a red heart, with lace?  
How can I thank Him enough  
For his sacrifice, love and grace?

What Valentine can I give Him,  
My adoration to impart?  
I'll give to Him what He wants most;  
I'll yield to Him my heart.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

## **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

## Ceresco Baptist Church - **Administrative Council Minutes** - December 9, 2023, Quarterly Meeting

Attendance: Bob & Deb Beltz, Joanne Henley, Joyce Cary, Mary Ivey, Dave & Sharon Hadley, Rick & Dawn Frey, Pastor Mary, Veronica Anthony, Darlene Anthony, Linda Chisholm, Roger & Joy Sommers.

Devotion – Rick Frey – “Move Closer to the Light” – the purpose of a lantern is to shine. God’s word is a light unto our feet and a lamp unto our path. We are to be lights in this world, as a steady light, because we have been touched and transformed by Christ. Then opened the meeting with prayer.

Clerk’s Report – Joy Sommers

1. September Minutes were in Messenger; 2. Any correspondence needed? Send thank you note to Trey Casey for mowing this past season.

Treasurer's Report - Mary Ivey

1. Reports were distributed and discussed.; 2. Two of our CD’s matured last month, so made decision to combine them into one CD at a higher interest rate (4.65% - matures in 2026 – but we can withdraw money if needed without an early withdrawal penalty).; 3. We get a better interest rate on the Checking Account (0.40%) than on the Savings Account (0.15%) –Motion by Dawn Frey to move \$30,000 from Savings to Checking, second by Roger Sommers for the better interest rate. Motion carried.; 4. Motion by Dawn Frey, move Margie Cole Memorial into the General Memorial, \$370, second by Mary Ivey. Motion carried.; 5. Motion by Linda Chisholm, second by Dawn Frey to move the Ron Chisholm Memorial, \$545 to the General Memorial. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Mary

1. Virtual Bible Study – completed Fall session on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Working on topic for upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> session; 2. American Baptist – Great Lakes Leadership Retreat, Cedar Lake Ministries, Cedar Lake, IN, April 23-25, 2024; coming together of American Baptist Regions of IN, KY, Great Rivers, MI & OH. An opportunity for church leaders to be equipped in the foundational skills necessary to develop mission-central congregations today. Pastor not sure if attending yet.; 3. Open Leadership Positions: Bible Study Teachers, Deacons

Deacon Ministry Team – Roger Sommers

1. Deacon Positions – Add Darlene Anthony, Dawn Frey & Bob Beltz, also need to add Dave Hadley to the vote for 2024.; 2. Going to start up new!

Worship Ministry Team – Mary Ivey:

1. December 24 - Christmas Eve Service will be incorporated in the morning Worship Service; 2. January 7 - Christmas decorations put-away following Worship Service; 3. Worship Services are still be recorded, and cd’s shared with shut-ins; 4. Next WMT meeting is Wednesday.

Property Management Ministry Team - Bob Beltz

1. Things done in 2023: Hung picture in music room, Roger’s Glass replaced window and closure in door, oiled front door, weed whacking, spraying weeds, removal of stump, replaced bulb in chandelier, sprayed vegetation killer in extra parking lot, clearing area on east side of church: sprayed area with weed killer, blocked up 2 basement windows, laid fabric, placed new edging, filled in with stone, replaced drains, leveled lawn with new fill/seeded/topped with straw, moved Church Rock to side of porch; 2. Rick - fixed problem with gas stove – pilot was out.; 3. Parking Lot gates need to be stored for the winter; 4. Trees out in front – move to back end of the parking lot on the property line? Need to look into the cost of doing it.; 5. BC Sound – Sound System Upgrade Quote / Discussion. Motion by Mary Ivey to have PMMT & Joy meet with BC Sound, voicing what we want, and get new proposals, including going wireless. Second by Dawn Frey. Motion carried.

## **Administrative Council Minutes continued (12/9/23)**

Educational Ministry Team – Veronica Anthony: 1. Happy Birthday Jesus Party, had 8 kids in attendance, everyone had a fun time! 2. Banner for August 170<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary – Sarah/Joy get pricing.

MACS/CBC - Joy Sommers

1. Meeting tomorrow afternoon at Trinity Episcopal to get setup for Christmas Basket week; 2. Dave Hadley & Rick Frey have signed up to help.

ANNUAL MEETING:

1. Proposed Budget for 2024 – presented for discussion. Motion by Roger Sommers, seconded by Mary Ivey to accept the budget as printed. Motion carried.; 2. Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024 – Motion by Mary Ivey, seconded by Dave Hadley to accept the proposed slate of officers, after changing term for Darlene Anthony to 2025. Motion carried.

Next quarterly meeting is Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 9 am. / Meeting closed in prayer by Pastor Mary at 10:00 am.

## **MINUTES from SPECIAL MEETING, 12/24/2023**

Congregational Vote on the 2024 Proposed Budget and 2024 Proposed Slate of Officers. Meeting called to order by Rick Frey. There was no discussion on either proposal, and both passed by unanimous vote following the worship service.

### **Viewing Others (and Ourselves) as God's Creation Motivates Love**

As a Christian you should love your neighbor because your neighbor is a creature of God made in the image of God; because God loves your neighbor; and because Christ died for your neighbor. Following the example of our Lord, you should love everyone, even as Christ did. You should devote your life to helping others experience His love and forgiveness.

Jesus also said:

*There is a saying, "Love your friends and hate your enemies." But I say: Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way you will be acting as true sons of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust too. If you are friendly only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even the heathen do that.*

When Christians begin to act like Christians and love God, their neighbors, their enemies and especially their Christian brothers -- regardless of color, race or class -- we will see in our time, as in the first century, a great transformation in the whole of society. People will marvel when they observe our love in the same way people marveled when they observed those first century believers saying, "How they love one another."

God's kind of love is a unifying force among Christians! Paul admonishes us to "put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity" that our "hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love." Only God's universal love can break through the troublesome barriers that are created by human differences. Only a common devotion to Christ -- the source of love -- can relieve tension, ease mistrust, encourage openness, bring out the best in people, and enable them to serve Christ together in a more fruitful way.

By Bill Bright - from "5 Truths about Love: You Are Commanded to Love" - Campus Crusades for Christ.



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

Mar 11 Michael Meng & Angela Sommers

**Children's Time Sign-Up**

**2/4/24 - Sommers**

**2/11/24 - OPEN**

**2/18/24 - Sommers**

**2/25/24 - OPEN**

Mar 4 Garrett Skinner  
 Mar 11 Ruth St. John  
 Mar 13 Lucas Finch  
 Mar 15 Vi Halder  
 Mar 15 Joanne Henley  
 Mar 18 Pam Kirkland  
 Mar 20 Deb Beltz  
 Mar 22 Danny Sommers  
 Mar 22 Stacy Sommers  
 Mar 24 Patrick Douglas  
 Mar 27 Sarah Collins  
 Mar 29 Hainsley Casey  
 Mar 29 Kenzie Babcock

**Flower Sign-Up**

**2/4/24 - OPEN**

**2/11/24 - OPEN**

**2/18/24 - OPEN**

**2/25/24 - Sommers**

**Theme for February Worship Services**

**“For the Love of God”**

Love, Grace, Forgiveness & Repentance

Be sure to join us!

LOVE  
 LIKE  
 Jesus

God  
 IS  
 Love

1 JOHN 4:16

# February 2024

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



## Ceresco Baptist Church

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**Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews**

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### We are on Facebook and YouTube!

Our weekly worship service videos are posted on these pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/CerescoBaptist>

<https://www.youtube.com/@cerescobaptistchurch4145>

Have you checked out our website lately? [cerescobaptist.org](http://cerescobaptist.org)

cerescobaptist.org



# Ceresco Baptist Church

God loves you and so do we!

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