

# The Ceresco Messenger

## June 2024

### PLANTING SEEDS OF FAITH

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 1 Corinthians 3:6-8 These words are rich with meaning for the Christian, a follower of Christ. They remind us of the privilege and responsibility we have to plant seeds of faith in the lives of the people we meet as well as the people in our own homes and families.

However, what happens with those seeds is not in our control. God controls that. Paul says here, “God makes the seeds grow.” That takes some of the load off our shoulders, but we still have the responsibility of planting and watering those seeds.

I recently planted some zinnia seeds around the base of a crabapple tree in the backyard. I broke up the soil, pulled the weeds, drew lines in the soil with my finger, dropped the seeds carefully into those ruts in the soil, and then gently covered the seeds with the fine soil I had just tilled. Was my work done? No, of course not. As you may have guessed, after preparing the way for the seeds and planting them, I watered the ground where the seeds were planted. And every day I have watered and watched, waiting to see some sprouts. Today, after about 10 days, I am finally seeing those little seedlings popping out of the ground. It takes time and patience. It takes effort.

Here’s another scenario. Last summer, I planted snapdragons, lots of them, in the pots on my patio. At the end of the season, as they died off, instead of just plucking the dried plants out of the soil and tossing them, I first sprinkled the seeds from inside the blossoms onto the soil in each pot. Fall came and then winter, which brought along with it some snow, and then the spring sunshine and the rains followed. Guess what I see popping up in all of my pots? Loads and loads of little seedling snapdragons. Are you getting the point here? Without planting, there is no harvest. Think about that in terms of the kids in your home or your church or family members or even your neighbors. When kids see us reading our Bible or hear us praying, that’s planting seeds. When you invite your child or friend to grab his or her Bible and read with you, that’s watering what you have already planted. When your family members or neighbors hear you give God credit for His provision, that’s planting seeds. When you, in turn, provide for your neighbors or family members’ needs, that’s watering what you have already planted. We don’t know what God has planned for any of these people, but we do know that He promises that He will grow the seeds that we plant.

That’s why it is so important to keep planting and keep watering seeds of faith in the people we know and love. It matters! It matters in the lives of those people and it matters to God’s kingdom. Planting seeds of faith perpetuates the growth of God’s kingdom, as people become followers of Jesus. It perpetuates lifestyles that honor and obey God. It perpetuates goodness, kindness, and love in our homes, our neighborhoods, and the world.

My father-in-law painted a picture of an overturned wire milk crate that was tossed aside in his garden. Straining to grow through the small wire openings on the top of the crate were four tulips in full bloom, reaching for the sun’s warm rays. I believe people are reaching – more now than ever before – for God’s warm, loving embrace.

We can be planting and watering seeds of faith that God will grow into beautiful blossoms or maybe even tall towering oaks of righteousness for His glory (referencing Isaiah 61:3b). So, each time you see a flower bloom, let it be a sweet reminder of the tremendous privilege and responsibility we have to plant seeds of faith in the lives of people we know. Why? Because it matters! Eternally.

- Roxanne Drury

**Father's Day** is the day that is dedicated to honoring Fathers for their role in the family. It is unfortunate that in today's world, fathers are not celebrated and honored the way they should. The reasons are many but our prayer is that the Lord will restore fathers back to their rightful position in the family and in the community. To celebrate and encourage our fathers, we will use the acronym F-A-T-H-E-R. (Based on Ephesians 5:21 – 6:4)

**F Faith:** Faith can be otherwise defined as belief or trust. A father must be a man of strong faith. Abraham was described as the father of faith and a friend of God because of his exceptional trust in God. God called Abraham the father of many nations and he believed God even though he was childless. In Romans 4:18-20 the Bible says *"Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;* In a world where there are no moral absolutes, a Christian father must put his faith in God and God alone.

**A: Anointing:** Anointing is the unction or empowerment provided by God for our life's assignment. A Father must be anointed in order to perform his roles in the home and in the society. There are different types of anointing on the father. One of them is the Priestly anointing. As a priest, a father is required to represent his family before God and represent God before his family. He should establish and maintain a spiritual environment in the home conducive for the honor of God. Another anointing is that of a leader. Fathers are leaders and they have been divinely equipped by God for this role. A father is a servant-leader and he must lead by the example of Godliness in all things.

**T: Trainer:** A father is a trainer and a teacher. As a teacher, he provides instruction to his children and as a trainer; he models his teaching by showing positive example. Prov. 22:6 says *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* One of the problems of our society today is that children are not receiving the training they need from their fathers. God's plan is for children to be trained by parents, not fathers alone and not mothers alone.

**H: Husband:** A father should also be a good husband. A father's role as a husband is to love his wife and his children. Eph. 5:25-29 says *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:* It is possible to be a father without being a husband but God's idea is that children should be born within the confines of marriage. A man should be a husband first before being a father and he should cherish and nourish his wife and love her unconditionally.

**E: Excellence:** Another characteristic of a good father is excellence. Excellence is going above and beyond. It means to be distinguished. Our God is an excellent God and we are created in His likeness. Fathers need to demonstrate the example of excellence to their family and to the world.

**R: Righteousness:** To be righteous means to be holy or godly. God expects fathers to lead a righteous and sanctified life and show to the world that Christian fathers are called to be light of the world and the salt of the earth. We wish all fathers a happy Father's Day.

Psalms 103:13 - *As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.*

Proverbs 3:11-12 - *My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Ceresco Baptist Church sends a check each month to our Region office. What you may not know is why a check is sent to the Region office each month.

The check is part of the mission of Ceresco Baptist Church, when you give money directed to special offerings. We have five special offerings each year: America for Christ (March); ABC-MI Region (April); One Great Hour of Sharing (May and June); World Mission Offering (September-October) and Retired Ministers and Missionaries (December).

Another portion of the monthly check to the Region office is a budget expense which comes from money you give each Sunday that is not for a specified use. Each month the check to the Region contains \$200. From January through April that money is specified for Missionaries - Anita and Rick Gutierrez; May through August it is specified for Missionaries - Tim and Patty Long; September through December for United Mission Basics.

Additionally, the Church annual budget is set to support the two American Baptist Camps - Camp Lael and Higher Ground (Lake Louise). Once a year \$125.00 is included in a monthly check for each of these two camps to assist with expenses to maintain and operate the camps.

Finally, at each meeting of the Martha Circle the ladies give to the Love Gift. When those funds are forwarded to the Church, they are in turn included in a check to the Region for American Baptist Women's Ministry Love Gift.

Hopefully, this information helps you realize that some of the money you give supports missions which is a major purpose of the Church. If you have questions about anything in this article, Church Treasurer Mary Ivey will be happy to help with clarification.

Following is a listing of the checks sent to the Region so far in 2024:

January: \$200 - Missionaries Anita and Rick Gutierrez; \$80 - Retired Ministers and Missionaries

February: \$200 - Missionaries Anita and Rick Gutierrez; \$80 - America for Christ

March: \$200 - Missionaries Anita and Rick Gutierrez; \$200 America for Christ

April: \$200 - Missionaries Anita and Rick Gutierrez; \$80 - Region; \$20 - America for Christ; \$125 Camp Lael; \$125 Higher Ground (Lake Louise); \$16.65 - Love Gift

May: \$200 - Missionaries Tim and Patty Long;

## **Class of 2024**

**Graduates will be honored on Sunday, June 9th**

**This year we are honoring:**

**Laya Rodriguez Cabrero**

**Kamren Dale Collins**

**Brittany Nichole Hall**

**Devin Phelps**

**Katherine Skinner**

**Congratulations Graduates!**

# One Great HOUR OF SHARING

We are collecting for our annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during May & June. We do a Mother's Day and Father's Day bulletin insert honoring/ remembering our mothers/grandmothers and fathers/ grandfathers. For those that want to have people listed on the inserts, we ask that you make a donation to this offering. There are special envelopes available at the church for this offering.

## MARTHA CIRCLE MINUTES, May 8, 2024 - Hostess: Sarah Collins

Present: Dawn Frey, Sarah Collins, Sharon Hadley, Joy Sommers, Pastor Mary, Marcy Bonney, Linda Chisolm, Veronica Anthony, Ruth St. John, Vi Halder

Devotions: Given by Sarah: Taken from Romans 8: 1-3. His love has set us free from the slavery of sin. We don't have to earn His love but we must allow the scriptures to lead us in life.

Collections: Devotions: \$10.00. Love: \$13.63 Sunshine: No report

Secretary: Given by Sharon: Brief summary of last meeting.

Treasure Report: Given by Joy: April balance: \$2183.73. Dawn gave a report on craft show expenses and profit. Total profit for the day was \$262.62. It was a beautiful day for weather and fellowship.

Missions: Given by Marcy: International Ministry: May 21st celebrates 210 years of global ministry. Haiti: A project for young women to attend a four year nursing program to help improve health in their villages. Jon and Amanda Good: They will be visiting Italy in June to make preparations for their new ministry there.

Old Business: Mother and Daughter luncheon to be Saturday, May 18. 11:30 for visiting and 12:00 for lunch. It's a pot luck so bring passing dish and chicken croissants to be made by Rick Frey. Veronica will make key chains for favors. Marcy will do a presentation on "seeds of faith" and also demonstrate on making "napkin flowers" and we all will follow her demonstration and make our own. Marcy will pick up seed packets, York mints and what is necessary to make punch.

New Business: We will have our picnic in June and no meeting will be held. Ruth will be July hostess. Motion made by Joy to give \$25 to One Great Hour of Sharing. Seconded by Veronica.

Meeting dismisses with prayer by Dawn and refreshments and conversation followed.  
Next meeting: June 12 - Picnic

Plans are underway for our  
**170th Church Anniversary Celebration.**  
Be sure to 'save the dates' - August 3-4, 2024



# HAPPY Anniversary

Jun 1 Ronald D Stewart  
 Jun 2 Santiago Johnston  
 Jun 3 Reginald Matthews Jr  
 Jun 4 Linda Chisholm  
 June 7 Garrett Gary  
 Jun 9 Ed Kirkland  
 Jun 9 Christoph Johnston  
 Jun 10 Bud Halder  
 Jun 12 Joshua Ivey  
 Jun 15 Krista Lopshire  
 Jun 17 Kyle Gary  
 Jun 17 Sally Beltz  
 Jun 17 Barbara Gary  
 Jun 18 Sally Slayton  
 Jun 21 Angela Sommers  
 Jun 22 Gannon Gary  
 Jun 25 Dan Johnston  
 Jun 26 James Anthony  
 Jun 28 Hailey Shepherd

Jul 2 Payton Angelina  
 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

Jun 22 Ed & Pam Kirkland  
 Jun 26 Justin & Heather Casey

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

## Children's Time Sign-Up

**6/2/24 - Sommers**

**6/9/24 - Sommers**

**6/16/24 - Sommers**

**6/23/24 - OPEN**

**6/30/24 - Sommers**

## Flower Sign-Up

**6/2/24 - OPEN**

**6/9/24 - OPEN**

**6/16/24 - OPEN**

**6/23/24 - OPEN**

**6/30/24 - Sommers**

## **A Father's Day Prayer to Our Heavenly Father**

Heavenly Father, oh how I love You. Thank You for adopting me into Your family and making me Your child. Thank You for being my heavenly parent who loves me unconditionally, cares for me unendingly and provides for all my needs. I'm so blessed to be Your child. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

(Sharon Jaynes)

# Relay for Life of Calhoun County, MI

## Information for Our 2024 Relay!

Whether you're participating on a team, or coming to Relay on your own, please read through this important information.

Relay starts at 3 pm Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Our Opening Ceremony starts at 6 pm. George Youngdahl of Marshall will be singing the National Anthem. The Survivor/Caregiver Lap starts around 6:10 pm.

There will be a tram available for anyone that would rather not walk the lap.

We will have **The Veteran Band** performing from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm, except during the Luminaria Ceremony from 9:30-10 pm (including the silent candle-light lap).

Several teams will be selling raffle tickets for a variety of raffle prizes (40), with values from \$25 to \$400. Tickets are just \$1 each, and you determine which prize drawing you want your ticket entered in. If you plan to purchase raffle tickets, it would be a good idea to bring address labels, so you don't have to write your name and address out. The Raffle Drawings are at noon on Saturday, and you do not have to be present to win.

The event is open to the general public. Admission & parking are free. Please note there are some rules: **no pets (except properly vested service animals), no alcohol, no vaping, no marijuana, no smoking, no weapons.** From 3 pm Fri to 3 pm Sat, no vehicles, skateboards, roller-skates or bikes are allowed on the walking area. Strollers and wagons are allowed on the walking area.

There will be Food Trucks available at Relay! Wingity Anns will be there Friday 3-8 pm and Saturday 12-3 pm. St Samuel's will be there Friday 4-7 pm and Saturday 8-11 am. The GLFC Ice Cream Truck will be there on Friday from 5-11 pm.

Another one of our fundraisers is selling Luminaria Bags that are then decorated "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" those that have survived cancer or that we have lost to cancer. Cost is \$10 each. Bags will be available at the Information Tent and at team sites. At dusk we light candles in the bags to have them lit during the Luminaria Ceremony, and then on through the night.

For Survivors, Schuler's is again providing breakfast for the Survivors and immediate family on Saturday, 8:30-9:30 am. On Friday evening, before the opening ceremony, there will be survivor meals available at the Merchant's Building for the first 50 registered survivors and one caregiver per survivor. Boxed Meals were donated by Chick-fil-A (50) and Firekeepers (50).

During the Relay, we will have two PowerPoint presentations being shown in the Merchant's Building. One is the "In Memory Of" for those that had cancer and are no longer with us, and the other is the "In Honor Of" our cancer survivors. Take time to watch these presentations. If you have names that you would like to have added, please stop by the Team S.O.S. site (across from the Merchant's Building) and fill out the information you would like to have in next year's presentation. Please be sure to leave your phone number so we can check with you next year to make sure we have your loved one's name in the correct presentation. If you see an error in this year's presentations, please let us know right away so we can fix it!

Relay for Life is open to everyone!

If you've never been to a Relay event, please consider checking out the event this year!

### 2024 Relay for Life Raffle (License #R74888)

has 40 prizes valued from \$25 to \$400. If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket(s), please contact Joy Sommers at 269-420-0614. Tickets are just \$1 each, and you decide what prize your ticket goes to. Thank you!



# June 2024

Sunday	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Saturday
						<div>1</div> <div>Men's Breakfast 8 am</div>
<div>2</div> <div>Communion Sunday</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Relay for Life Planning Meeting 6:30 pm</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Bible Study 10 am</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Zoom Bible Study, 6 pm</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9 am Admin Council Mtg</div> <div>Bud Halder's 100th Birthday Celebration 2-4 pm</div>
<div>9</div> <div>Graduate Sunday</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Bible Study 10 am</div> <div>Family Night Potluck 6 pm</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Zoom Bible Study, 6 pm</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div>
<div>16</div> <div>Father's Day</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Relay for Life Planning Meeting 6:30 pm</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Bible Study 10 am</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Zoom Bible Study, 6 pm</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Bible Study 10 am</div> <div>Information for July Messenger due at Noon</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Zoom Bible Study, 6 pm</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>
<div>30</div> <div>Fellowship Sunday &amp; Bake Sale</div>						

**Ceresco Baptist Church**

230 C Drive North, PO Box 35

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



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
**RELAY FOR LIFE**  
**Calhoun County**

**June 21-22**  
**3pm-3pm**

---

**Calhoun County**  
**Fairgrounds**

