

The Ceresco Messenger - March 2025

ASH WEDNESDAY

JOEL 2:12: *"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."*

Today, the first day of Lent, is called Ash Wednesday. Many people celebrate this beginning by going to church and receiving ashes, usually in the form of a cross, on their foreheads.

These ashes are a sign of being sorry for our sins. They are a sign that we want to be in communion with Jesus, who carried His cross because He loves us. God loves each of us and made us for life with Him. But that happy life with God doesn't just happen. We can say yes to it-or we can say no. We can grow and learn in ways that bring our hearts closer to Him-or farther away. Lent is a time when people all over the world, young and old, take up their crosses and let Jesus lead them closer to the Father as they pray, sacrifice and help others more.

That is our path, the one we are learning to walk on.



GROWING TOGETHER

For the rest of this week, think and talk about some good habits of praying, fasting and giving that you can try to develop during Lent, individually and as a

There are bad habits to turn from and good habits to embrace. We are not alone on this journey. We are with each other; we are with Jesus.

Disclaimer: This devotional is taken from the devotional entitled, "With Your Whole Heart" by Amy Welborn.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 5, 2025

LET'S GET READY.

Pray Together: Jesus, we are on our way, bringing hearts to you. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY

Get ready for our 2025 Zoom Bible Study. Our focus will be the Book of Proverbs. The study will be "Everlasting Wisdom for Everyday Life" by Vance Pitman

Study will begin on Thursday, March 6th @ 6:00 pm. Please join us and bring a friend or 2. We will focus on the necessity of having wisdom in our lives as believers.

Every day, all people face situations that invite them to choose from one of two options, wisdom or foolishness. You might not have ever thought about it that way, but it's true. In every time and culture, marriage, parenting, friendship, work, and relationships have presented opportunities for unwise thoughts, words and behaviors. Add the continual redefining of those relationships in our day and time and those opportunities increase exponentially.

The problem is, we don't often know what is the wise thing to think, say, or do. We may think we know. Have you ever thought you knew the right thing to say or do only to later discover you were wrong? We have all been there! It happens in every area of our lives. We need wisdom for our thoughts, words, earthly relationships, decision making, life in the world and walk with the Lord.

Ephesians 5:15-17 says *¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.* It is not only life experience that shows us we need wisdom. God himself speaks that truth into our lives. Gratefully, though, God does not only tell us to walk in wisdom, He has given us His Word to teach us how.

The book of Proverbs, specifically, offers everlasting wisdom for everyday life. It helps us see life from God's perspective. It aims to help us acquire and apply God's wisdom to the decisions and activities of everyday life at every stage of life.

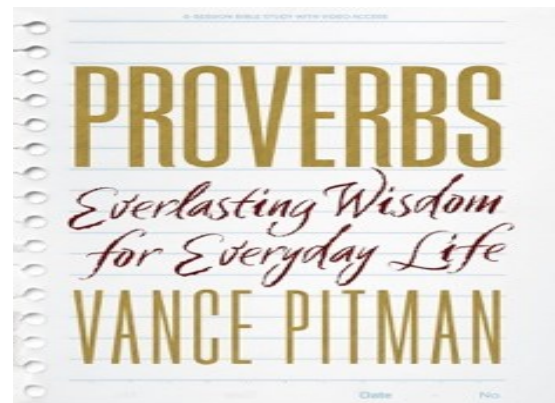
Topic: Ceresco Baptist Church Zoom Bible Study; Proverbs Series
Time: March 6, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time
Every week on Thursday, until Dec 25, 2025

JOIN ZOOM MEETING: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87408631485?pwd=BhoAQeabtleMVntYCirPi11RzaPNYS.1>

Meeting ID: 874 0863 1485
Passcode: 741312

MOBILE

+1-312-626-6799 (Chicago)
+1-646-558-8656 - (New York)
Meeting ID: 874 0863 1485
Passcode: 741312



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2025

GRACE UPON *Grace*

"BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU."

EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)

Carry on the legacy of good works with your giving!

For over 50 years, generous giving to the America for Christ (AFC) Offering has enabled ABHMS to provide financial support to American Baptist churches and affiliated organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico each year. Some examples of the positive impact your dollars have had on our beloved communities:

Funding direct assistance to the residents of Youngstown, Ohio, that included food boxes, meals for children, clothing banks and distribution of commodities such as diapers, school supplies, clothing, and housewares.

Funding youth education and enrichment programs as well as senior services that delivered lunches, health education and socialization opportunities, and groceries in bulk through a food pantry, among other things, to communities in and around Kansas City, Kansas.

Funding Rainbow Acres, a faith-based residential community with a wide range of programs for developmentally disabled adults from more than 15 states and representing an array of faith backgrounds including American Baptists.

These are just a few of the ways your dollars provide aid and comfort to those in need; there are many more. Please help us continue to bring healing and hope to communities, families, children, and Jesus' disciples in 2025 by giving to the America for Christ Offering.

We are collecting the America for Christ Offering during the month of March. There are special envelopes at the church.

CBC Movers

Worship & Workout

Contact information:

Jennie Markos - Made 4 More

jenmarkos0410@gmail.com

Phone: 269-329-9620

Facebook: Made 4 More <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/14vP7Q3q5v/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Classes are held in the fellowship hall.

CBC Movers - Let's welcome Spring with fast feet!

Dates for March are as follows:

Saturday, March 1 - 9am

Saturday, March 15 - 9am

Saturday, March 22 - 9 am

Saturday, March 29 - 9am

Looking forward to seeing you all and fellowshipping!
Jennie

Martha Circle will start back up March 12th at 6:00pm.

All the ladies of the church are welcome to attend. Bring a snack to share with the group. See what we have planned for the upcoming year.

Sneak peek May 3rd will be our 3rd annual craft/vendor show. Registration forms can be picked up at the church. Or contact Dawn at 269-209-7427 or rdfrey1@comcast.net to get your copy.

May 10th will be our ladies luncheon. Join us for the planning of this event.

Martha Circle President, Dawn Frey

Upcoming Lenten Season Activities

March 30th, 5th Sunday of the month is Testimony Sunday

April 12th, 3-5 pm, Ceresco Community Open House/Easter Theme

April 13th, Palm Sunday. Brunch by the Deacons after the worship service.

April 13th West Area Palm Sunday Program, 5 pm, First Baptist Church in Battle Creek.

Easter Services: Maundy Thursday - Ecumenical Service - 4/17 at First Presbyterian Pennfield with First Pres - BC & Pennfield; Second Baptist // Good Friday, 4/18, service at Ceresco, with FB Marshall; Newton UMC, etc. // Easter Sunday, Son Rise Service at 8:30 am, Regular Service at 9:45 am. Snacks between the two services.



PRAYER SUMMIT

LEADERS: DR. JOHN PIIPPO AND
PASTOR AARON J. ROBINSON

APRIL 5TH 2025 AT 10 AM-2 PM

West Highland Baptist Church
1116 S Hickory Ridge Rd,
Milford, MI 48380

LUNCH PROVIDED

The people of ABC-MI churches will gather for the
purpose of praying for the movement of God among &
through us.



REGISTRY FOR
EVENT



WWW.ABC-MI.ORG

ROMANS 12:12

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer"



CHILDCARE
REGISTRY

*******REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 26TH*******



During February, Pastor Mary's sermons were based on Love.
This is no coincidence that she left these tire tracks
in the church parking lot!
Photo credit to Heather Casey.

Heavenly Father, during
this Lenten season, give me
a new and expanded vision for
my life. Help me to live full of
faith. Teach me to find hope
in the face of adversity.



Mar 4 Garrett Skinner
 Mar 9 Bonnie Eckhart
 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

Apr 1 Emily Biljum
 Apr 6 Zane Ivey
 Apr 10 Jenny Markos
 Apr 13 Ruth Paschen
 Apr 14 Reed Goodman
 Apr 16 Darlene Anthony
 Apr 16 Charity Gary
 Apr 19 Don St. John
 Apr 24 Stacey Goodman
 Apr 30 Katherine Rogers

We restarted our **Junior Church!** Right after Children's Time, the kids will go to the Fellowship Hall for the rest of the worship service. Veronica Anthony is heading this up. Volunteers to assist are much appreciated. We will have Junior Church regardless of the number of kids (even if only 1)

The sign-up sheet is by the bulletins. Please help once in awhile if you can. Thank you!

Mar 11 Michael Meng & Angela Sommers
 Apr 4 Rick & Dawn Frey
 Apr 5 Roger & Joy Sommers

Children's Time Sign-Up

3/2/2025 - Sommers
 3/9/2025 - OPEN
 3/16/2025 - Sommers
 3/23/2025 - OPEN
 3/30/2025 - Sommers

Flower Sign-Up

3/2/2025 - OPEN
 3/9/2025 - OPEN
 3/16/2025 - Sommers
 3/23/2025 - OPEN
 3/30/2025 - OPEN

Junior Church Sign-Up

3/2/2025 - Veronica
 3/9/2025 - OPEN
 3/16/2025 - OPEN
 3/23/2025 - OPEN
 3/30/2025 - OPEN

March Fellowship Refreshments - Steve & Becky Wilkens

March 2025

Sunday	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Saturday
						01 Men's Breakfast 8 am, CBC Movers, Exercise Class 9 am, EMT 10
2 Communion Sunday	3	4 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30 pm	5 Bible Study 10 am Ash Wednesday, 1st day of Lent	6	7	8 ADMIN COUNCIL MEETING 9 am Spring Clocks AHEAD ONE HOUR before you go to bed!
9 1st Sunday of Lent	10	11	12 Bible Study 10 am Martha Circle 6 pm	13	14	15 CBC Movers, Exercise Class 9 am
16 2nd Sunday of Lent	17	18 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30 pm	19 Bible Study 10 am	20	21	22 CBC Movers, Exercise Class 9 am
23 3rd Sunday of Lent 30 Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale, Testimony Service	24 31	25	26 Bible Study 10 am	27 Information for April Messenger due at Noon	28	29 CBC Movers, Exercise Class 9 am

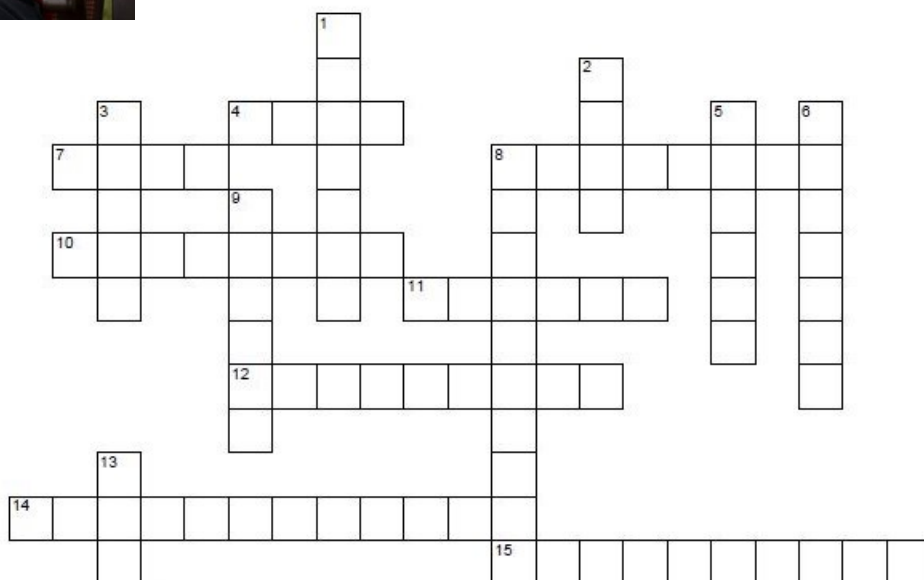


♥️ Happy Valentines Day to Calhoun County's oldest couple, Bud & Vi Halder. ♥️

They were married in August of 1946 after Bud returned from the war. Bud will be 101 years old and Vi will be 100 this year and they will have been married for 79 years in August!



Lenten Crossword



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ACROSS

- 4 Catholics don't eat this on Fridays during Lent.
- 7 The Last Supper was on ____ Thursday
- 8 We don't say or sing this during Lent in the church.
- 10 ____ of the Cross
- 11 Jesus prayed for 40 days here
- 12 This sacrament started during the Last Supper
- 14 We spend Lent preparing for Jesus' death and ____.
- 15 The day Jesus died (two words)

DOWN

- 1 During Lent, we should spend more time doing this.
- 2 A week before Easter is ____ Sunday.
- 3 There are ____ days in Lent.
- 5 Palm ____
- 6 When you go without food
- 8 During Lent, we give to the poor.
- 9 The Liturgical color of Lent
- 13 ____ Wednesday

God, I pray for my prayer life to become vibrant and strong in this season of Lent.

I pray that Your voice, even though a whisper, would ring loud and true in my life.

I pray for the courage and boldness to follow wherever You lead, to love and to serve whomever and however You invite me.

Ceresco Baptist Church

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Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews

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(313) 303-3301

