

America, the Beautiful

The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them. Psalm 89:11

In 1892, the United States observed the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.

As part of the celebration, the city of Chicago sponsored a World's Fair which carried over to the next year. It was in the early summer of 1893, that a group of professors from Wellesley College visited the Exposition on their way to teach summer school in Colorado. The women later compared the wonders of the man-made Fair with the glory of God's handiwork in the Rockies.

At the close of school, the teachers decided to visit Pike's Peak, elevation 14,000 feet. One of them, Katharine Lee Bates, later wrote, "We hired a prairie wagon. Near the top We had to leave the wagon and go the rest of the way on mules. I was very tired. But when I saw the view, I felt great joy. All the wonder of America seemed displayed there, with the sea-like expanse...

It was then and there, as I was looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies, that the opening lines of the hymn floated into my mind. When we left Colorado Springs the four stanzas were penciled in my notebook. ... The Wellesley work soon absorbed time and attention again, the notebook was laid aside, and I do not remember paying heed to these verses until the second summer following, when I copied them out and sent them to *The Congregationalist*, where they first appeared in print July 4, 1895. The hymn attracted an unexpected amount of attention... In 1904, I rewrote it, trying to make the phraseology more simple and direct.

The new version first appeared in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, November 19, 1904.

There are two stories about the melody MATERNA, which was written by Samuel A. Ward, originally for a hymn entitled, "O Mother Dear, Jerusalem." Ward's son-in-law said that the tune was composed in memory of Ward's oldest daughter. One of the employees at Ward's music store in Newark insisted that he composed the tune in 1882 while crossing New York harbor after spending the day at Coney Island. The notes came to him so quickly he jotted them on the cuff of his shirt. Perhaps both stories are true.

**CERESCO BAPTIST CHURCH
230 MARSHALL ST/C DRIVE NORTH**

TREASURE SALE

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025
FROM 9AM-3PM**



PRICING BY YOUR DONATION!

It's "Purge Time" - have some things you've been meaning to donate? Why not donate to this?

Martha Circle will soon be accepting donations of good, clean, usable items for our **Annual Treasure Sale**! More information will be coming soon - look for it in the weekly bulletins.

Sale leftovers are donated to **There's Enough** in Marshall, and the **Charitable Union** in Battle Creek.

Ceresco Baptist Church - Administrative Council Minutes, Jun 14, 2025 Quarterly Meeting

Devotion – Joy Sommers – A Prayer to Honor What Our Nation's Flag Represents – by Lynette Kittle

Clerk's Report – Joy Sommers
Any correspondence needed? None

Treasurer's Report - Mary Ivey
Reports
We have a CD that has matured. The interest rates are higher for shorter term CD's. 27 month is 3.75%, 13-month is 4.0% and a 7-month is 4.2%. Motion by Bob Beltz that we do the 13-month, second by Dawn Frey to do the 13-month CD. Motion carried.. Current amount is \$32,793.67 that will be rolled into the 13-month CD.

Financial Secretary's Report – Dawn Frey
Gloria Kennedy Memorial, Darlene Anthony Memorial, and Parking Lot Fund have been created.
Motion by Dawn, seconded by Mary Ivey to move the Souder Fund money to the Parking Lot Fund. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Mary
Virtual Bible Study started 3/6/2025 "Everlasting Wisdom for Everyday Life", continues.
ABC Events – July 3-6 Upcoming Biennial Mission Summit, Omaha, Nebraska;
One Great Hour of Sharing development site – we should try to utilize this.
Upcoming Services – 6/21 Community Event, 6/29 Testimony Service, 9/17 Family Night Potluck
Membership – Jennie Markos rejoined on 5/11/2025 (by Christian Experience)

Educational Ministry Team – Sarah Collins
Community Event, June 21st, 3-5 pm – fun & games – open to community and church.
Asking the congregation for donations toward expenses. Received \$25 towards it so far.
Family Night Potlucks will resume in September.

Worship Ministry Team – Mary Ivey:
July & August – Joanne will be selecting the hymns, will also be pick-a-hymn months. Joy will put box & sheets out.
Testimony Sunday is June 29th. Also Patriotic Sunday (songs & the Pledges), Joanne/Mary duet
Pastor Mary will give WMT her sermon theme for July in advance so we can maybe get special music to go along with the sermons. Our next meeting is August 13th at 5:30 pm.
Not going to replace the CD system at this time, will just use portable CD's for special music.

Property Management Ministry Team - Bob Beltz
Put a grate over the chimney to keep birds from getting inside it.
Gutters have been replaced, seem to be working well.
Kitchen floor replacement – getting quotes but need to decide what kind of floor before businesses will give estimates.
Commercial poured flooring, or plank flooring. PMMT will do more work on this.
Rick Frey has contacted a surveyor to find out exactly where our property lines are before we redo the parking lot.
Need to contact Miss Dig to flag the gas line.
Health Department wants a nitrate sample taken directly from the water tank.

Deacon Ministry Team –
No report.

MACS/CBC - Joy Sommers
Next event is the Back to School Backpacks/School Supplies
Next meeting is July 10th.

New Business/Open Items:
None

Motion by Mary Ivey, second by Bob Beltz to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting closed in prayer by Roger at 10 am.

Next quarterly meeting is Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 9 am.

God Bless America

GOD shed HIS blessings on us all... by letting us live "Free."
Other countries live in fear... no freedoms do they see.
Despite the many problems that we must deal with every day...
We'll stand our ground together... and as... one Nation... pray;
Be with us LORD in all we do... to protect ourselves from harm...
Lest we forget our enemies... and fail to sound alarm.
Evil times surround us... as our freedoms are encroached.
Silent enemies from within withdraw as they're approached.
Seek them out for all to see... lest our freedoms here be broached.
America was founded on GODLY precepts in YOUR book.
Many of us realize... but some don't even look.
Eroding rights we fought to gain... are threatened once again.
Regenerate our hearts Dear LORD... this battle we must win.
It's not too late to change our ways... and dig in for this fight.
Conform us LORD... renew our love... help us to do what's right.
AMERICA the land I love... it's truly our delight.

C.C. ©May 21, 2006

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

God Bless Our Native Land

God bless our native land, Land of the newly free,
 Oh may she ever stand for truth and liberty.
 God bless our native land, where sleep our kindred dead,
 Let peace at Thy command above their graves be shed.
 God help our native land, bring surcease to her strife,
 And shower from Thy hand a more abundant life.
 God bless our native land, her homes and children bless,
 Oh may she ever stand for truth and righteousness.

~ Frances E.W. Harper



June Community Open House Success

Sarah did a great job on the community open house event. There were games in the basement for all ages. Outside water toys and a couple of wading pools. It was very supported by the church family. Everyone had a great time. We did have a few youth from the community. - Dawn





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 10 Ben Markos
 Jul 10 Maeley Rumduol Sophekatra #1
 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

Aug 1 Sharon Hadley
 Aug 2 C.L. Miller/Wilkens
 Aug 5 Christy Phelps
 Aug 10 Kaleb Collins
 Aug 10 Zachary M Hamilton
 Aug 10 Katherine Skinner
 Aug 11 Louis Jesda Sophekatra
 Aug 12 Veronica Anthony
 Aug 13 Allison Biljum
 Aug 16 Joy Sommers
 Aug 17 Mortimer Hamaker
 Aug 17 Gideon Hamaker
 Aug 19 Reginald Matthews Sr
 Aug 21 Russ Skinner
 Aug 22 Jack Biljum
 Aug 25 Rick Bonney
 Aug 25 David Hadley
 Aug 26 Whitney Ivey
 Aug 28 Kristen Sommers
 Aug 29 Brynlee Collette Rogers
 Aug 30 Scott Boysen

Happy Wedding Anniversary

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

Aug 19 Reginald & Mary Matthews
 Aug 24 Bud & Vi Halder



Birthday Blessings

Instead of counting candles, Or tallying the years,
 Contemplate your blessings now, As your birthday nears.
 Consider special people Who love you, and who care,
 And others who've enriched your life Just by being there.
 Think about the memories Passing years can never mar,
 Experiences great and small That have made you who you are.
 Another year is a happy gift, So cut your cake, and say,
 "Instead of counting birthdays, I count blessings every day!"

By Joanna Fuchs

July 2025

Sunday		Mon.		Tue.		Wed.		Thu.		Fri.		Saturday	
29	June	30	June	1		2		3		4		5	
Testimony Sunday						Bible Study 10 am				Happy Independence Day!		Men's Breakfast 8 am	
6		7		8		9		10		11		12	
Communion Sunday, Deacon Fund Offering						Bible Study 10 Martha Circle Meeting 6 pm		Zoom Bible Study 6 pm					
13		14		15		16		17		18		19	
				Relay for Life Wrap Up Meeting 6:30 pm		Bible Study 10 am		Zoom Bible Study 6 pm					
20		21		22		23		24		25		26	
						Bible Study 10 am		Zoom Bible Study 6 pm					
27		28		29		30		31		1	August	2	
Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale						Bible Study 10 am Information for August Messenger due at Noon		Zoom Bible Study 6 pm					

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**“FOR AN EXTREME MAKEOVER,
TRY A FAITH LIFT!”**

*“Jesus didn’t just say He loved the world;
His nail-scarred palms proved it.”*

IN THE WORDS OF DAVID JEREMIAH