

The Ceresco Messenger - January 2026

A Message from Pastor Mary . . .

Happy New Year!!

I am so grateful and thankful that the Lord has allowed me to see 2026. I'm even more thankful to be back home in Michigan after four months away. In some ways, four months is a short period of time in other ways it is a long time. But I'm grateful that the Lord allowed me to rest my body and spirit and take some time to just be reflective and think about His goodness. I was reminded daily of how good He is to all of us. He is faithful to us all, no matter the situation we find ourselves in.

I want to say a huge thank you to the entire Ceresco family for the commitment they had to ensure that service continued in a significant way while I was away.

Thank you to the Deacons who continued to lead service and communion. It is harder than you think to step out of your comfort zone to take on something different. I pray God continues to bless each of them for their commitment to Him.

Thank you to the Worship Ministry Team, Educational Ministry Team and Martha Circle for going above and beyond to make certain that plans and commitments were met in a manner that was pleasing to God.

And finally, thank you to each of you for continuing to support your brothers and sisters in Christ. You demonstrated what it means to be the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12-17. It says that the church is just like a physical body and that everyone must do their part for the whole body to function properly. It also stresses that all members belong to each other and must care for one another.

That is exactly what you have done.

I also appreciate Pastor Roxie Perry and Reverend Ed Owens more than I can say.

Thank you all! I pray God's blessing over this year, the work of our hands and all the things He has in store for us.

Pastor Mary

Ceresco Baptist Church - Administrative Council Minutes - December 13, 2025 Quarterly Meeting

Devotion – Joy Sommers – “A Prayer for Peace When Holidays Feel Heavy”

Clerk's Report – Joy Sommers

Annual Reports due to Joy by end of January 2026.

Treasurer's Report - Mary Ivey. Reports were distributed.

We support two missionaries each year. We give each \$200/month for 4 months, and the rest of the year, the money goes to general missions. One of our missionaries, Tim & Patti Long have retired. Made motion, seconded by Bob to change to John & Amanda Good for May-August each year. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report – Dawn Frey. Everything is going well, no issues.

Educational Ministry Team – Sarah Collins Christmas Party was last Saturday. Next meeting is Feb. 7th at 10 am.

Worship Ministry Team – Mary Ivey: Taking down Christmas Decorations on Saturday, January 3, 2026 at 10 am. Having a potluck for Pastor Mary on Sunday, 1/4/26 after worship service. Joy will get a cake to welcome her back.

Property Management Ministry Team - Bob Beltz

Bill from John Carr for the parking lot has not been received yet. Bob & Deb removed all the floor tiles in the kitchen before the flooring was replaced. Replaced the lights in the hallway. Sprayed for bees in the back door. Kitchen floor was replaced. Larger downspouts put on outside. Removed the cement parking blocks so parking lot could be done, and then put them back after the parking lot was done. Cleaned up the overflow parking lot. Landscaped on the west side of the church, and now the downspouts run under the ground past the old church sign. Sprayed front of church to clean off the mold. Needs to be pressure washed, maybe in the spring. Need to put a water spigot at the church so we don't have to use the one from the rental house. Raked the parking lot, and trees, and helped the neighbor. Trimmed the trees in front of the church, and trimmed trees in the parking lot. We need replace the library window blinds. Need to have the projector repositioned, and lights repositioned in sanctuary. Snow plowing & sidewalk clearing – sidewalks need to be cleaned at the same time the parking lot is plowed. On Sundays, try to have plowing done by 7-8 am. Roger will talk with Mykl.

Deacon Ministry Team – Deacons have been visiting some of the shut-ins.

MACS/CBC - Joy Sommers Christmas Basket distribution a success. Had over 160 general applications, and 85 at Marshall House.

New Business/Open Items:

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2026 – Rick. Jennie Markos will replace Linda Chisholm as member at large. Roger will be Assistant Lay Moderator, Rick will be Lay Moderator. Motion by Mary Ivey, seconded by Dawn Frey to accept the proposed slate of officers. Will be put in the bulletin for the next two Sundays, and will let people know that if they see something they would like to do, to let council know.

Boy Scouts are no longer meeting at CBC. Need to get the key back from the Scout Master.

Greg from MDOT showed Roger what the Michigan Avenue project, but it wasn't correct, so waiting for a new map. Michigan Avenue from Eden Street to Firekeeper's Casino won't be worked on until 2027.

Next quarterly meeting is Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 9 am.

Congregational Vote - Sunday December 28th 2025

At 10:39 a.m. on 12/28/25, Rick Frey asked for any volunteers from the congregation for the 2026 Slate of Officers. There were no volunteers. Rick then proposed the Slate of Officers and the Budget for 2026. Motion by Dawn Frey to accept the Slate of Officers and the Budget for 2026 as written. Supported by Kim Dayton. Voted for Slate of Officers by raising of hands, approved. Voted for Budget by raising of hands, approved. Rick then thanked everyone for their vote.

CERESCO BAPTIST CHURCH APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2026	
PASTOR'S SALARY	\$33,990.00
CONVENTION	\$500.00
CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$600.00
HOSPITALITY	\$100.00
BOOKS AND MISC EXPENSES	\$250.00
M&M RETIREMENT	\$600.00
PULPIT SUPPLY	\$1,050.00
MISSIONS (ABC ABOVE SPEC GIVING)	\$2,400.00
FOOD BANK OF S CENTRAL MI	\$200.00
CHARITABLE UNION	\$200.00
MACS	\$200.00
CAMP LAEL	\$125.00
LAKE LOUISE CAMP	\$125.00
WORSHIP SERVICE COMMITTEE	\$125.00
BULLETINS & OFFICE EXPENSES	\$300.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$1,200.00
MAINTENANCE/EQUIP REPLACE/REPAIR	\$2,000.00
CUSTODIAL	\$5,400.00
KITCHEN & BATHROOM SUPPLIES	\$300.00
INSURANCE & WORKSMAN'S COMP	\$8,000.00
UTILITIES (CONSUMERS TELE REFUSE)	\$8,000.00
INTERNET (LINE, WEBSITE, DOMAIN)	\$1,600.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$650.00
DUES AND LICENSES	\$1,300.00
BUDGET FOR 2026	\$67,215.00
 \$1,292.60 NEEDED PER WEEK TO MEET PROPOSED BUDGET IN 2026	

2026 Approved Slate of Officers

Ceresco Baptist Church

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Lay Moderator	Rick Frey
Assistant Lay Moderator	2026
Clerk	Roger Sommers
Treasurer	2026
Assistant Treasurer	Joy Sommers
Financial Secretary	2026
Assistant Financial Secretary	Mary Ivey
Membership at Large	Ruth St. John
Membership at Large	2026
Membership at Large	2026
Deacon Ministry Team	Dawn Frey
	2026
	Marcy Bonney
	2026
	Jennifer Markos
	2026
	Sarah Collins
	2026
	Dave Hadley
	2028
	Roger Sommers
	2027
	Bob Beltz
	2026
	Dawn Frey
	2026

Fellowship Sunday Refreshments, 1/25/2026 - Educational Ministry Team

Date	Worship Flowers	Special Music	Junior Church	Children's Time
1/4/2026	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
1/11/2026	Sommers	OPEN	OPEN	Sommers
1/18/2026	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
1/25/2026	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Sommers

A Prayer to Keep God First This New Year

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good and the hard things that have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you open the doors that need to be opened and close the ones that need to be shut tight. We ask that you help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, strength, and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you will make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, and let your gifts flow freely through us so that you would be honored by our lives and others would be drawn to you. We pray that you'll keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the enemy's evil intent; that you would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in your hands. We pray that you will give us discernment and insight beyond our years to understand Your will, hear Your voice, and know Your ways. Amen.

- Debbie McDaniel

A Prayer to Trust in God's Plan

Father God, I come before You today with a heart full of questions and uncertainties about the path that lies ahead. I recognize that I don't always understand Your plan, but I trust in Your wisdom and goodness.

I pray for the grace to find peace in Your plan, knowing that You are always with me, guiding me, and providing for me. Strengthen my faith, and help me to walk in confidence and assurance that You are working all things together for my good. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Bible Verses for the New Year

Isaiah 43:18-19

- “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Psalm 34:8 - Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.



Jan	1	Michael Meng
Jan	2	Elise Rae Lopshire
Jan	2	Josh Lopshire
Jan	2	Alexandria Hamaker
Jan	4	Avery Goodman
Jan	7	Olivia Farmer
Jan	13	Bob Beltz
Jan	15	Jeff Walker
Jan	18	Brian Gary
Jan	25	Emily Ivey
Jan	28	Harlynn Casey
Jan	29	Steve Wilkens
Feb	2	Cruz Garcia-Wilkens
Feb	4	Nicole Thomas
Feb	13	Allan Walker
Feb	17	Carlton Anthony
Feb	18	Glen Cary
Feb	25	Kelcie Collins
Feb	26	Gretchen King 1939

Happy Anniversary

Jan 3 John & Ruth Paschen, 1959



January 2026

Sunday	Mon.		Tue.		Wed.		Thu.		Fri.		Saturday
							1		2		3
							HAPPY NEW YEAR!				8 am Men's Breakfast, 10 am take down Christmas decorations
4		5		6		7		8		9	
Communion Sunday & Pastor Mary's Return Home			Epiphany		Bible Study 10 AM						
11		12		13		14		15		16	
					Bible Study 10 AM		ZOOM Bible Study 6 PM				
18		19		20		21		22		23	
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day				Bible Study 10 AM		ZOOM Bible Study 6 PM				
					Family Night Potluck 6 PM						
25		26		27		28		29		30	
Fellowship (EMT) Sunday & Bake Sale!					Bible Study 10 AM		ZOOM Bible Study 6 PM				Ministry Team Annual Reports due to Church Clerk
					Information for Feb Messenger due by noon						

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Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews
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Prayer for Hope After a Difficult Year

Dear God, Thank You for helping us to make it through this difficult year. Thank You that You've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need You, Your grace, Your strength, and Your power working through even the toughest days.

Fill us with Your joy and the peace of Your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards You. Thank You for Your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, You're still with us. For You never leave us. Thank You for Your daily powerful Presence in our lives. We can be assured Your heart is towards us, Your eyes are over us, and Your ears are open to our prayers. Thank You for surrounding us with favor and a shield, and we are safe in Your care.

We choose to press in close to You today and keep You first in our hearts and lives. Without You, we would surely fail, but with You, there is great hope. Thank You for Your healing power. Thank You for bringing us into this new season ahead. We look forward to all that You still have in store. In Jesus' Name, Amen. *- Debbie McDaniel*