



Ceresco Baptist Church

Messenger May 2026

Mother Dearest

You Are My Mother and I Will Listen to You

You are my Mother—and I will listen to you.

When you changed my diapers and spoke softly, saying “coo—coo,” You were my Mother—and I listened to you.

When you fed me with a spoon, offering that mushy, mushy food, you were my Mother—and I listened to you.

When I wanted to ride my bike down the big BIG hill to Grandma’s house, you were my Mother—and I listened to you.

When I started school, getting ready to climb aboard the big yellow bus, you were my Mother—and I listened to you.

When I reached high school and began to veer off track, you were my Mother—and I listened to you.

When adult life hit hard and I called you for advice, you were my Mother—and I listened to you.

The sound of your voice—full of comfort, wisdom, and love—was always guiding me. You were my Mother...

*** and I DID listen to you. ***

I accepted Jesus as my LORD and Savior. Now I am God’s child –and YOU can listen to me. Thank you, MOTHER, for showing me the way to life everlasting through Jesus Christ.

387 Just As I Am, Without One Plea

"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"

Bud Halder's favorite song

This song was written by Charlotte Elliott of Brighton, England in 1836. She was a very bitter woman, hardened by bad health and a disability. Her thoughts were "If God loved me, He would not have treated me this way". In 1922, a minister visited the family and had hopes of helping Charlotte, but Charlotte lost her temper and cursed God and her family. The visiting minister confronted her with how she was, by her own choice, clinging to her hate and anger and making her sour, bitter, and resentful. Charlotte asked if he had a cure for this. He explained to her it was faith that she was trying to despise.

Charlotte listened to the minister as he was sharing the wonders of faith to her. Charlotte asked him, "If I wanted to become a Christian and to share the peace and joy you possess, what would I do"? His answer, "you would give yourself to God just as you are now". She asked "I would come to God just as I am? Is that right?". Charlotte's heart and life changed that day as she did give her life and bitterness to the Lord. Charlotte lived to the age of 82 and wrote about 150 hymns.

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy blood was
2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my soul of
3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - ya con - flict,
4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es, heal - ing
5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come, par - don,

shed for me, And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O
one dark blot, To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O
man - ya doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out, O
of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee I find, O
cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be - lieve, O

Coda (after last stanza)

Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Lamb of God, I come! I come! O Lamb of God, I come. A - men.

Church Calendar

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Craft Show Set Up 4-6 PM	2 Craft Show 9AM—3PM
3 Communion Sunday	4	5 Relay 6:30 PM	6 Bible Study 10 AM The Chosen 6 pm	7 Zoom Bible Study 6 PM	8	9 CBC Movers Drumming 9AM
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13 Bible Study 10 AM Martha Circle 6 PM	14 Zoom Bible Study 6 PM	15	16 Ladies Luncheon 11AM – 1PM
17	18	19 Relay 6:30 PM	20 Bible Study 10 AM Family Night 6pm PM	21 Zoom Bible Study 6 PM	22	23
24 Pentecost	25 Memorial Day	26	27 Bible Study 10 AM	28 Zoom Bible Study 6 PM	29	30 EMT Meeting 9 AM
31 Fellowship Sunday and Bake Sale						

Fellowship Sunday and Bake Sale

Every 4th Sunday of the month we have Fellowship Sunday and Bake Sale. Is this because we are Baptist and we love a good potluck? Is this because Ron gets his "For Ron only" muffins once a month?

Well that is only part of the reason. Yes, we are Baptist and we love a good potluck and we do fellowship! But this gives us time set aside to sit and talk with each other without any other distractions.

Also, the bake sale! Anyone can bring items for the bake sale! ALL of the bake sale donations go DIRECTLY to the Isaiah 117 house. What is the Isaiah 117 house you ask? Well, it is sort of like an in between where a child can go when they are taken from their home for various reasons before being placed in foster care. Ceresco Baptist Church has been supporting Isaiah 117 House in Calhoun County before they broke ground, and they just had their ribbon cutting.

Our next Fellowship Sunday and bake sale will be on **May 31st**.



Isaiah 117
changing the way foster care begins

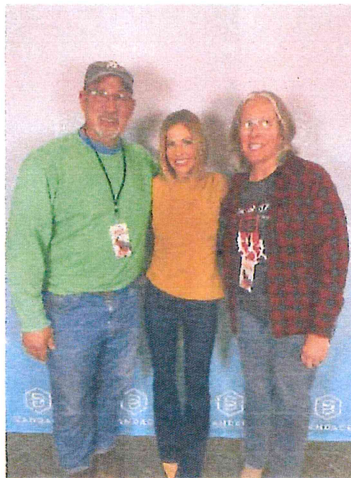
Isaiah 1:17 says, "defend the cause of the fatherless." Founder and Executive Director, Ronda Paulson

America Reads the Bible and Candace Cameron Bure

Last fall Rick and I had the opportunity to see Candace Cameron Bure on tour live! What was so spectacular about this was not the fact that she makes some of my favorite detective movies but that she stands firm in her faith even though the lights of Hollywood shine bright. Those lights never shine brighter than the eternity that our JESUS has for us. Candace left Hallmark (I know, there were some great movies there) because she would NOT sacrifice her beliefs).

Well, let me tell you, Candace did NOT disappoint. She spoke on stage, but about Jesus, not about fame and fortune and her success as an actress. Well, she did mention the Full House series some but, brought it all around her LORD and savior! We were even given a Bible to take home! She mentioned during her tour that during the year of 2026, America, our GREAT country, turns 250 years!!! During this yearlong celebration, Candace, alongside many others, will be reading chapters of the Bible all the way from Genesis through Exodus! Can you imagine? In times like this, our nation is coming together to read the Bible line by line, word by word, page by page, beginning to end! Praise the LORD!

So, this event has already taken place and was livestreamed on Pure Flix but, you can still watch the replay! You can create a FREE account on Pure Flix and watch some amazing movies that do not sacrifice faith for a good movie! [America Reads the Bible on Great American Pure Flix](#)



We were made for a person and a place. Jesus is the person Heaven is the place. God promises that all his children – whoever places their faith in Jesus to rescue them from sin and eternal death – will live forever with him in heaven (Luke 24:23-24; John 1:12; 3:16)

Martha Circle Meeting Minutes April 8, 2026

Hostess was Jennie Markos. Present:(6) Dawn Frey, Sharon Hadley, Jennie Markos, Shannon Hamilton, Joy Somers, Becky Wilson. Devotions: "Rise up in Life". Based on when the woman met Jesus at the well. He asked her for a cup of water. He then offered her "living water".

Collections: Love: \$22.00. Devotions: \$18.00. Secretary: Gave dates of upcoming events and highlights of March meeting. Sunshine: Sarah sent out several cards of concern.

Missions: Kathy and Wayne Niles are in the Dominican Republic doing service for the Lord.

Treasurer: Available funds at end of meeting. \$3,355.51. March bake sale: \$94.00.

Old Business: Craft Show: At this time there are eleven indoors and seven outdoor spaces secured with several more pending. The Shopper is running the advertisement under "Church Happenings" and will remain in there through the event. Sharon and Jennie will make signs.

Ladies Luncheon: May 16-Becky will do the theme presentation. Shannon will do games (3) and door prizes (3). Jennie will give a gift for each individual present. Martha Circle will furnish sandwiches (chicken salad croissants by Rick Frey) and drinks. All those attending are asked to bring a side dish.

New Business: It was discussed that Missions report be only on the missionaries we support. Discussed the license fee required to cook in kitchen to serve the public (\$500). A one-time fee for an event can be purchased (\$174) and this will be done for spaghetti supper. A license is not needed for Craft Show luncheon since Rick will be doing hot dogs outside.

Dismissed in prayer by Dawn: May hostess: Becky

Martha Circle Meeting Minutes March 11, 2026

Hostess: Sarah Collins Present: (10) Dawn Frey, Sarah Collins, Sharon Hadley, Jennie Markos, Shannon Hamilton, Pastor Mary, Marcy Bonney, Joy Summers, Veronica Anthony, Kathy Wright. Devotions: Based on "Wisdom of Prayer" to grow on and using Godly wisdom. When making a decision, seek guidance and direction from God. Eve did not use Godly wisdom when she bit the apple. She did not recognize the difference between evil vs wise choices.

Collections: Love: \$17.00. Devotions: \$12.00. Future "Love Gift" offerings will be put into the collection plate the following Sunday. Secretary report: A successful past year with our missions and our projects. We added two new members, Becky Wilson and Jennifer Markos. At tonight's meeting we had two more new ones, Kathy Wright and Shannon Hamilton. Sunshine report: Birthday cards were sent out to: Gretchen King, Joanne Henley, and Vi Halder. Missions report: ABWM prayer retreat March 20-22 at Maryville Retreat Center, Holly, Michigan. Theme: Pausing and Praying in the Footsteps of Jesus. June 5-7: Christian Women's Conference @ St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt. June 13-20: Mission trip to Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico. If interested Marcy has more information. Amanda and Jon Good: Florence Italy. They have to carry many forms of ID to say where they belong, what they are permitted to do and how long they are allowed to stay. Yet, as followers of Jesus, Jon says, their identity is in belonging to Jesus. Treasurer report: Available funds as of Nov.12: \$2,687.69. Ending balance at meeting: \$3138.76. Bake sales: Feb.1 \$67.00, Feb.22 \$98.00. Craft show applications have brought in \$80 so far.

Old Business: A potluck was given on January 4th to welcome back Pastor Mary. For Isaiah House, we are supporting a project called "Bin Buddies". We are in charge of two Bins. One is for hair care (no shampoo or conditioner), and one for sport bras of all sizes.

New Business: Our annual craft show will be May 2, 9-3 with the 1/4 lb hot dogs being offered for lunch. We need to set prices and have it posted. Ladies luncheon will be May 16 with chicken salad croissants. We will decide on a theme at the April meeting. June 10th will be our family picnic. The annual Treasure sale will be August 15. Jennie will put in Shopper. Sharon will make signs for corners. Again, no shoes or clothes. Will set times to accept donations at future date. October 9th will be our annual spaghetti supper. October 11th is Pastor Appreciation Sunday, and we need to decide how we want to serve on that Sunday. Our extra fun Christmas party will be on December 2nd. We chose a month to do Fellowship Sunday and Sarah suggested we do July. Suggested by Joy to give \$25 to America for Christ. Seconded by Marcy.

Dismissed in prayer by Dawn: April hostess: Jennie

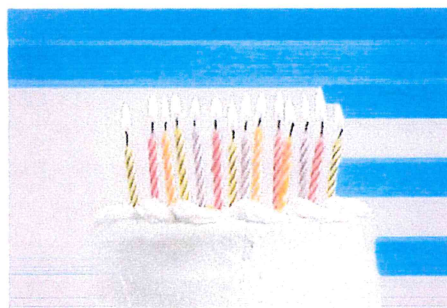
May Birthdays and Anniversaries

May Birthdays

May 3 Valerie Kibby
May 3 Stephen Phelps
May 5 Jayme Biljum
May 5 Alex Finch
May 6 Jared Babcock
May 7 Kim Dayton
May 15 Marcy Bonney
May 15 Chrissy Wilkens
May 17 Kalab Gary
May 19 Heather Casey
May 24 Patricia "Trish" Ivey
May 25 Diane Biljum
May 25 Melissa Boysen
May 26 Shawn Skinner
May 27 Oak D Wasielewski

May Anniversaries

May 2 Scott and Melissa Boysen
May 6 Craig and Nicole Thomas
May 6 Alex and Olivia Farmer
May 7 Brad and Charity Gary
May 21 Jason and Emily Ivey



“Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him” Psalm 127:3

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

June Birthdays

June 1 Ron Stewart
June 2 Santiago Johnston
June 3 Reginald Matthews Jr
June 4 Linda Chisholm
June 7 Garrett Gary
June 9 Ed Kirkland
June 9 Chrstoph Johnston
June 12 Joshua Ivey
June 15 Krista Lopshire
June 17 Kyle Gary
June 17 Sally Beltz
June 17 Barbara Gary
June 18 Sally Slayton
June 21 Angela Sommers
June 22 Ken Yoder
June 22 Gannon Gary ?
June 25 Dan Johnston
June 26 James Anthony
June 27 Brittani Ivey
June 28 Hailey ~~Shepherd~~ Sommers
June 29 Brianna Markos

June Anniversaries

June 22 Ed and Pam Kirkland
June 26 Justin and Heather Casey



Pastor's Report

March 14, 2026

2025- 2026 Virtual Bible Study

- Everlasting Wisdom for Everyday Life by Vance Pitman continues.

ABC Events

- Great Lakes Leadership Retreat, April 20-22 at Cedar Lake Ministries in Cedar Lake, Indiana. Speaker: Dr. J.R. Briggs, founder of Kairos Partnerships. All church leaders are invited.

Upcoming Services & Invitations

- February 18 - April 1: SMBC - Lenten Luncheon Series begins at noon each Wednesday. Theme: We are living and walking by faith - 2 Cor 5:7. Ceresco led service on March 4.
- Annual HBCU Choir Community Event: First Presbyterian Church - Battle Creek. Saturday, March 14, 2026 @ 6:00 pm.
- Easter Services
 - o ABC-MI West Area Palm Sunday Service: March 29, 2026 @ 5:00 pm, Second Baptist. Each church provides a song, scripture and a \$100 donation to West Area.
 - o Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service: First Presbyterian Church - Battle Creek @ 7:00 pm
 - o Good Friday Service: April 3, 2026 @ 5:30 pm.
Invites: FBC-Marshall, Newton United Methodist Church, Second Baptist, First Presbyterial - Pennfield.
 - o Sunrise Service: April 5, 2026 @ 8:00 am
- Thank you to the congregation for their commitment and faithfulness during my Sabbatical. A special thank you to WMT and Deacons for leading in an exceptional manner.

Ceresco Baptist Church - Administrative Council Minutes March 14, 2026

Devotion – Rick Frey, “Have a Good Day, Unless”... you’ve made other plans, like expecting the worst to happen, or do other things that affect our day. Our attitude for the day, etc. We need to determine to live each day to live close to God, to walk with Him and talk with Him. Each day is a special gift from God, a miracle. Scriptures referenced: Matthew 6:7, Job 3:25, Psalm 51:10-13, Matthew 5.

Clerk’s Report – Joy Sommers

1. 2025 Annual Reports Package was emailed to council for review. Motion by Mary Ivey, seconded by Dawn Frey to accept the report as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report - Mary Ivey

1. Reports were distributed.
2. One of the CD’s matured, and closed it out, made a new 13-month CD that matures March 2027. Getting 3.6% on the new one. Getting 3.75% on the one that will mature in June 2026. These CD’s can be closed out at any time without penalty.

Financial Secretary’s Report – Dawn Frey: General Contributions for Jan-Feb 2026:

- a. Envelopes \$10,950.00, Open Plate \$557.00, Sunday School \$83.00 Total \$11,590.00

Educational Ministry Team – Sarah Collins

1. Family Night Feb 18th, wear pink/red; Family Night Mar 18th, wear green, will be our St Patrick’s Dinner, church providing the corned beef, Roger will make potatoes, carrots & cabbage, corned beef.
2. No Sunday School on Palm & Easter Sundays.
3. Family Night Apr 15th we will play an Easter-themed Left/Right Game and have goody bags for kids.
4. July 18th – Summer Party
5. Next meeting is April 11th at 9 am

Worship Ministry Team – Mary Ivey:

1. Hymn selection for Mar/Apr is Joy.
2. Palm Sunday is March 29th
3. Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm at First Presbyterian Church, downtown BC
4. West Area Palm Sunday Service, 5 pm at Second Missionary Baptist Church, Veronica & Joy singing
5. Lenten Lunch series – Pastor Mary did a great job on March 4th. They are Wednesdays at noon.
6. Good Friday Service, 5:30 pm at Ceresco Baptist
7. Easter Sunday Services: Sunrise at 8 am, Regular Service at 9:45 am, refreshments between services
8. Sharon will get Easter lilies for the sanctuary windows
9. Collection Plates are back by the doors instead of being passed around.
10. Mother’s Day is May 10th
11. Next Meeting is April 8th at 5:30 pm.

Property Management Ministry Team -

1. Front porch area – chipmunks are causing problems with the cement.
2. Still need to install water spigot out front.
3. Need to rent something to get the overhead projector centered on the screen, and replace the light bulb at the same time, and dust it off.

Deacon Ministry Team – Roger & Dawn

1. Deacon’s will be providing Palm Sunday Brunch after the worship service March 29th.
2. Deacon’s fund is well funded, so if anyone knows of someone that needs help, let them know.
3. Deacon’s have been visiting the shut-ins.
4. Deacon’s can provide small amount of funds as a bridge until they can get to MACS or another food pantry.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Mary - Report handed out; Have had a few new people coming to church

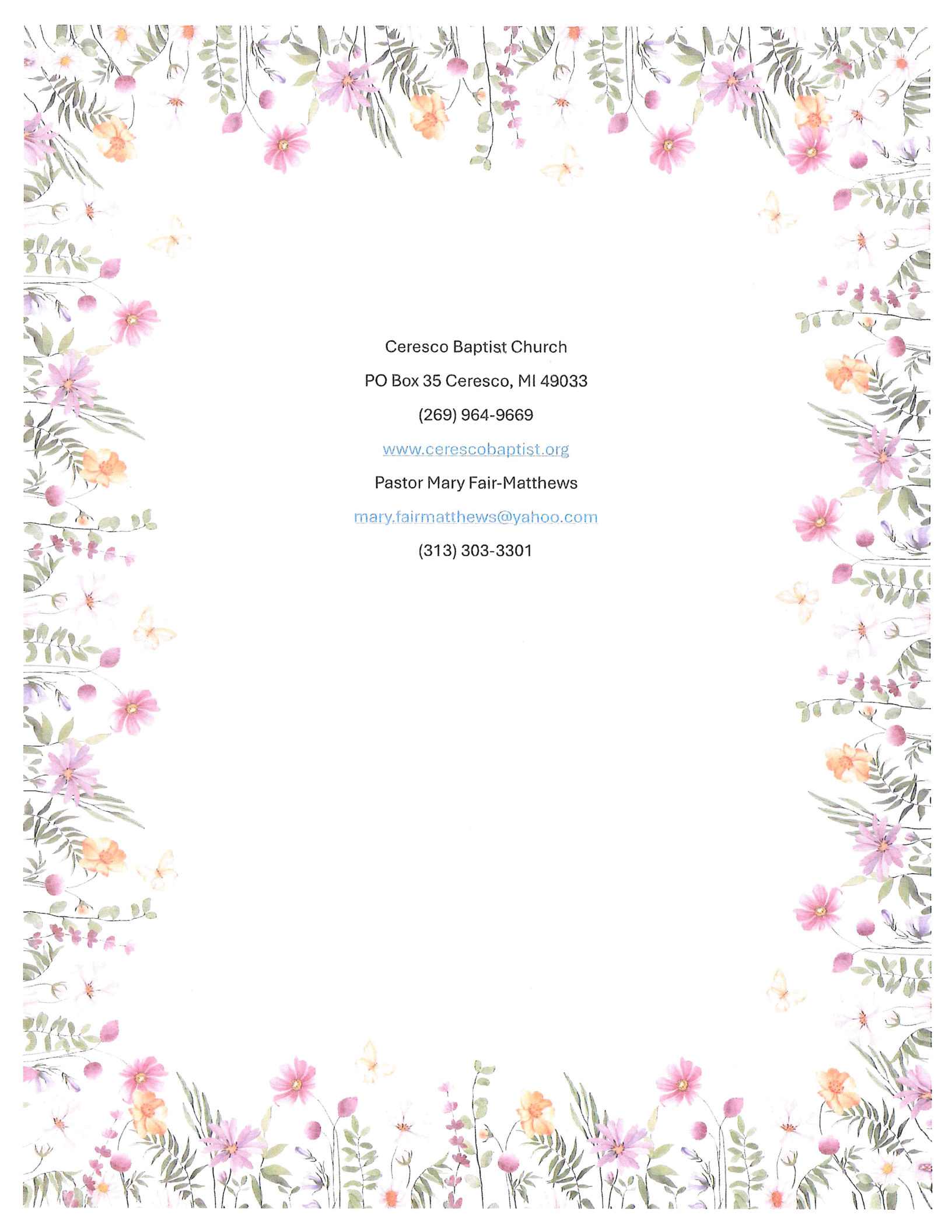
MACS/CBC - Joy Sommers Meetings have resumed

New Business/Open Items:

1. Long time ago we approved selling the 186 Water Street property to Casey’s, but a selling price has not been set. Casey’s have been doing the lawn care on that property all along. Roger will contact a realtor to see what the value of Casey’s property would be with and without it, and determine a price from there.

Next quarterly meeting is Saturday, June 13, 2026 at 9 am.

Pastor closed the meeting in prayer at 9:38 am.



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