



The BCC Connection

December
2022

*Bancroft Congregational Church
Pastor Todd Evans*

217 S. Shiawassee St., P.O. Box 98, Bancroft, MI 48414 989-634-5724

Sunday Worship Hours

Christian Education Hour 9:45 am

Worship Service 10:30 am a.m.

There are Nursery and Jr. church programs available for children during our worship service.



Chris is the vice-president, director, and scriptwriter for all GHH original material. He oversees many of the creative components of the yearly live program series which includes scriptwriting, orchestration, film production and directing as well as many in-office coordinating duties.

Amber is our main puppet designer. She spends countless hours building and reconstructing puppets for each year of our live programs and for all of our multimedia. Amber has spent a lot of time learning her craft while finding new ways to make each character vibrantly come to life. Ambers' most important job is raising her and Chris' four girls, Kylie, Elliana, Gwen and Claire who spend a lot of time in the office and on the road learning alongside their parents and friends.

God's Helping Hands

God's Helping Hands puppet ministry will be with us again this year on December 11th. Their presentations are always uplifting, thoughtful and honoring to God. Please invite your friends, neighbors, relatives etc. What a wonderful, fun way for our friends and loved ones to hear a fun Christmas program and also hear the Gospel!

There will be a potluck after the program in our the fellowship room.



Juliana Carlson is a key part of our team here at GHH. As the ministry's business manager, she coordinates and maintains financial and office duties. Juliana wears many hats in and out of the office as she applies her many creative and analytical skills. Some of her weekly duties include bill paying, tracking financials, scheduling with churches and organizations, answering phone calls, coordinating posters, newsletters, mailings and curriculum and keeping everyone on track.

Nicole applies her artistic talents as our visual designer. Nicole designs and paints all the stunning scenic pieces for live programs, multimedia films and many other applications. She also oversees the design and production of the props which further bring our presentations to life.





From Your Favorite Pastor

Here we are at yet another Christmas, with most of us watching our calendars fill up faster than we can write it in. I have to check every day to make sure I'm not forgetting something! Then we get home, turn on the TV and see commercial after commercial about the latest, greatest gadgets and gifts for us to buy for someone, or even for ourselves.

It is also the time of year where we get moved by stories of those who put others first. One of those stories is about a boy you may have seen in the news. He found a \$20 bill in the parking lot of a restaurant and got very excited. He was going to buy a video game with it, until he saw a soldier walk in. He tells how it reminded him of his own dad, who died in Iraq 5 weeks after he was born. So, he wrote a note and put it with the \$20 bill to give it to the soldier for his dinner. That soldier used it to help someone else. People heard the story of this boy and decided to send him \$20 bills to replace the one he gave away. Instead, they give all that money to Snowball Express- a charity that helps kids who lost parents at war. In the first few years they raised over \$250,000, continuing to this day! All because a 4th grade boy put someone else first.

But it raises the question, why does it take Christmas or our hearts being choked up for us to possibly be motivated to do something ourselves? Why can't we find ways to do it year-round?

Christ tells us throughout Scripture that we are to give to others. He tells us to take care of poor, children, orphans, fatherless. He tells us to give according to what we have been given. And all we have been given comes from the One who wants us to give, but to do it with a cheerful heart. We see all of it in I Corinthians 8,9; I Chronicles 29; Luke 14; James 1; Numbers 18, and on and on.

The challenge as we try to fulfill our mission as believers and as a church, is to find ways to do all of this all year long. And the best way to be successful at it is to remember the beginning part, which will give us that cheerful heart in all that we do for Him. *"Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important; love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-38*

I pray you all have a spectacular Christmas and that God will give you lots of opportunities to serve Him. In those chances, remember that we are storing up treasures in heaven, which we will have for eternity!

Merry Christmas to all from your favorite pastor!

PT



Advent is a time of expectation and hope. “Advent” means “arrival” or “coming,” and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas. Traditions vary by country, but common ways of commemorating Jesus’ birth are through Advent calendars, wreaths, and candles. Ideally, any Advent tradition should involve families in a fun activity each day of December, helping them remember why we celebrate Christmas.

What Is the Advent Wreath?

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God’s unending love and the eternal life He makes possible.

Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Further detail on the purpose and meaning behind each advent candle appears below. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus’ sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding his blood for our sins. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection

Meaning & Symbolism of the Advent Candles

Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world. The candles are often set in a circular Advent wreath. In Scandinavia, Lutheran churches light a candle each day of December; by Christmas, they have twenty-four candles burning.

The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles around the wreath. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored. A fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet’s Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah’s arrival.

The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem’s Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

The **third candle (pink)** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd’s Candle." To the shepherd’s great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy.

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel’s Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

The **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called "Christ’s candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Eve (unless Christmas falls on Sunday or when being celebrated in your home).

The Birth of Jesus

DECEMBER READING PLAN



"A baby....who sang the stars into existence...will be born. And Now I'll sing him to sleep" -Mary at the birth of Jesus; quote from 'The Fifth Seal' by Broke and Bodie Theone

Day 1: Isaiah 7

Day 2: Isaiah 9

Day 3: Isaiah 11

Day 4: Isaiah 32

Day 5: Isaiah 35

Day 6: Isaiah 49

Day 7: Isaiah 54

Day 8: Isaiah 56

Day 9: Isaiah 60

Day 10: Isaiah 63

Day 11: Isaiah 66

Day 12: Jeremiah 23

Day 13: Micah 5

Day 14: Zechariah 9

Day 15: Psalm 48

Day 16: Psalm 61

Day 17: Psalm 67

Day 18: Psalm 70

Day 19: Psalm 82

Day 20: Psalm 96

Day 21: Matthew 1

Day 22: Matthew 2

Day 23: Luke 1:1-38

Day 24: Luke 1:39-80

Day 25: Luke 2:1-20

Day 26: Luke 2:21-51

Day 27: Galatians 4

Day 28: Psalm 145

Day 29: Psalm 146

Day 30: Psalm 147

Day 31: Psalm 150

Commit to spending 30 minutes every day to pause, reflect, and rejuvenate in God's presence.

Journal a passage from each days reading and study it inductively.

1. What does the passage say?
2. What does the passage mean?
3. How does it apply to your everyday life?



WHOLEMAGAZINE.ORG

How Do We Know Jesus Was Born of a Virgin?

By Doug Powell

Page 698 Apologetics Bible



The virgin birth is one of the most commonly attacked miracles associated with Jesus' life. The attacks generally fall into two categories: They either attack the idea of the virgin birth or the translation of the word *virgin*.

To many modern people, being born of a virgin sounds like the origin of a superhero. They think it is just a legend. But the idea sounded just as bizarre to Mary. Luke 1:34 tells us that when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son

of God, she replied, "How can this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?" The fact that Luke calls her a virgin twice in verse 27 helps set the stage for Mary's skeptical reaction. And Matthew 1:18 tells us the same thing: Mary had not had the kind of relationship that would leave her pregnant.

However, Gabriel's response to Mary is very telling: "For nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). In other words, Mary's pregnancy will be a miracle. People who reject the virgin birth do so because they don't think miracles are possible. They see Jesus as a good teacher, not divine. But evidence for Jesus' resurrection and the arguments for God's existence give us excellent reasons to think that miracles are possible and that Jesus was God incarnate. And if there are excellent reasons to think God exists then miracles are certainly possible. To reject the possibility of miracles is simply an anti-supernatural bias that presupposes atheism.

The other way of attacking the virgin birth is to attack the translation of the word *virgin*. Matthew 1:22 claims the virgin birth took place to fulfill the prophecy found in Isaiah 7:14. And in verse 23, Matthew quotes the prophecy as saying, "the virgin will become pregnant." The question is: Did the Hebrew word Isaiah used mean "virgin"? Hebrew has a specific word for *virgin*, but Isaiah didn't use it. Instead he used a word meaning "young woman." Virginity is often a part of what this word means, but not necessarily. Critics thus argue that Matthew made Isaiah say something he didn't mean, but this argument fails, because Matthew is quoting from the Greek translation of the Old Testament, and the word used there specifically means virgin. The Greek translation was made by Jewish scholars about 250 years before Jesus was born. They knew what tradition said Isaiah meant by the term he used in Isaiah 7:14 and translated it to 'virgin'. Matthew's use of virgin is thus an accurate translation.

Lastly, the virgin birth provides a way for us to connect some dots. If Jesus came to die for the sins of His people (Matthew 1:21), He could have to be sinless. To be a proper sacrifice He would also have to be fully human to fulfill the law perfectly. And to be able to pay for sin, He would have to be fully divine. The virgin birth provides a way for a divine Jesus to be born fully human, but without inheriting a sinful nature from Adam's fall.

BIRTH OF JESUS FILL-IN

Fill in the blank.

1. God sent the angel _____ to tell Mary that she was going to be Jesus's mother.
2. One of the things the angel told Mary was that her Son would be given the throne of "his father _____."
3. Mary protested upon hearing that she was going to have a baby, saying, "How can this be, since I am a _____?" (Luke 1:34)
4. After finding out that Mary was pregnant, Joseph was thinking about ending his relationship with her until an _____ appeared to him.
5. Joseph was told what to name the baby, and he was told that Jesus would _____ the people from their _____.
6. Late in Mary's pregnancy, she and Joseph had to travel from _____ to _____ because Joseph had to go to the town of his family to be registered.
7. After the shepherds saw Jesus lying in a manger, they went and told other people, who were _____ by what they heard.
8. When Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple for purification, there was man there who had been told he would not die until he saw the Messiah. When he did see Him, _____ took Him in his arms and praised God.
9. When Herod found out about the baby Jesus, he met with the _____ and told them to report back to him after they found Jesus.
10. An angel told Joseph that Herod was searching for Jesus, so he told the family of Jesus to escape to _____ to avoid the king.

Weekly Service Schedule for December 2022

Service	4 th	11 th God's Helping Hands	18 th	25 th
Greeter	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Walt Reed	Sally Labadie
Greeter	Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed	Marion Reed	Jr. Love
Nursery	Paula Wahl	**	Tracie Zander	Layne Valade
Nursery	Jenny Habermehl	**	Patty Hewitt	Daphne Valade
Sound	Jazz Evans	**	Matt Post	Isaac Zander
Computer	Aaron Zander	**	Maddie Bias	Vaeh Cooke
Call to Worship & Prayer	Matt Post	Pastor	Layne Valade	James Huguelet
Prayer Elder	Lee Habermehl	**	Matt Post	Carl Cooke
Jr. Church Teacher	Charlotte Adolf	**	Paula Wahl	**
Jr. Church Helper	Cevin Valade	**	Jenny Habermehl	**
Scripture Reader Message Prayer	Sandy Braid TBD	**	Carl Cooke TBD	Laurie Valade TBD
Benediction	Pastor	Pastor	Brian Reed	Carl Cooke
Financial Team	Gary Hammond	Tom Wahl	Carl Cooke	James Huguelet
Financial Team	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Matt Post	Dan Bryant
Communion	Tom Wahl			

Please remember if for any reason you are unable to meet your scheduled obligation, **please contact someone from your team to take your place as soon as you know you are unable to fulfill your obligation.**

The changes however, will not be printed in the bulletin.

Thank you for your service to our church!

Weekly Service Schedule for January 2023

Service	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Greeter	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Walt Reed	Sally Labadie	Lee Habermehl
Greeter	Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed	Marion Reed	Jr. Love	Cyndy Habermehl
Nursery	Cathy Taber	Jenny Habermehl	Brian Reed	Tracie Zander	Layne Valade
Nursery	Laurie Valade	Paula Wahl	Karla Reed	Patty Hewitt	Daphne Valade
Sound	Matt Post	Jade Evans	Jazz Evans	Matt Post	Isaac Zander
Computer	Kaylee Siddons	Sarah Bias	Aaron Zander	Maddie Bias	Vaeh Cooke
Call to Worship & Prayer	Brian Reed	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl	Layne Valade	Matt Post
Prayer Elder	James Huguelet	Brian Reed	Layne Valade	Matt Post	Lee Habermehl
Jr. Church Teacher	Sharon Lewis	Charlotte Adolf	Paula Wahl	Becky Durling	Diane Lepior
Jr. Church Helper	Amber Bias	Cevin Valade	Jenny Habermehl	Cathy Taber	Shana Post
Scripture Reader Message Prayer	Vaeh Cooke TBD	Layne Valade Revelation 4:1-2	Jade Evans Revelation 5:1-5	Sharon Lewis Revelation 6:15-17	Maddie Bias Revelation 7:1-4
Benediction	Pastor	Lee Habermehl	Layne Valade	Matt Post	James Huguelet
Financial Team	Layne Valade	Lee Habermehl	Carl Cooke	James Huguelet	Tom Wahl
Financial Team	Dan Bryant	Brian Reed	Matt Post	Gary Hammond	Dan Bryant
Communion	Carl Cooke				

This Month's Cause for Celebration!



1-Dec

BRAID,

SANDY

COTTENHAM,

VIRGINIA

8-Dec

ZANDER,

SEAN

10-Dec

VAN NEW KIRK,

EDNA

14-Dec

TABER,

SKIP

VALADE,

CALEB

16-Dec

LEWIS,

SHARON

REED,

MARION

19-Dec

MAHAR,

KEN

21-Dec

DEERING

LISA

26-Dec

POST,

SHANA

27-Dec

DEERING

SUMMER

28-Dec

WAHL,

PAULA

30-Dec

SIDDENS

JILL

16th Steve & Becky Durling
17th Dan & Rose Bryant



Kids Corner



Peppermint Bath Salts

INGREDIENTS

- * 3 cups Epsom Salts
- * 2 Tbls of your choice of one of the following: jojoba oil, rose hip oil or fractionated coconut oil
- * 25 drops (1/4 tsp) of peppermint essential oil
- * 2 Tbls. Red sugar sprinkles.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Pour the Epsom Salts into a large mixing bowl.
2. Add the oils and mix well.
3. Fold in the colored sugar sprinkles until they are evenly distributed.
4. Scoop the peppermint bath salts into jars and seal to maintain fragrance.

TO USE:

Pour a cup of the salts into a warm bath as the water is filling. Soak in the bath for at least 10-15 minutes to get the benefits of it.

Constant Compliments



A collection of sweet sentiments—each wrapped around a chocolate candy—makes a delectable present for that someone you just can't say enough good things about!

What You'll Need: A quart-size canning jar (to hold about 52 mini chocolate bars), chocolates wrapped with heartfelt notes. On the back of strips of decorative paper (the ones pictured are 2 3/4 by 1 3/8 inches), write a special message for the recipient, such as "I love your smile!" or "You make learning fun." Wrap the strips around mini candy bars (the ones pictured used Hershey's Miniatures) and secure them with tape.

What To Do: Embellish the lid with washi tape and decorative paper secured with glue, as shown. Use ribbon to attach a card stock tag labeled "Complimentary Chocolates."



Hand-Painted Art Jars

A bit of glass paint transforms thrift-store and recycling-bin finds into one-of-a-kind treasures. First, collect glass jars, bottles, and vases. Draw designs on them with glass paint markers (Pebeo Vitrea 160 markers). Set the paint according to the package instructions. To add a knob, paint a wood cabinet knob with acrylic paint. When it's dry, glue it to the lid with an epoxy suitable for glass (an adult's job).

Mission

News!



This year for our Halloween Outreach we were falling a little behind in our need for candy one week before the event. We made our plea for candy and all of you really came through. We received more candy than we have ever had in that as a result. You are so generous. We filled 250 sandwich size Zip lock bags with 19 pieces of candy in

each bag plus a Halloween tract directed at children. The Elders handed out tracts directed to the adults. On Halloween night we passed out 232 bags of candy, plus other goodies like doughnut holes, cider, hot chocolate and coffee. It was a good night of community outreach!

Our shoebox ministry by Samaritan's Purse's "Operation Christmas Child" successful packed over one hundred boxes this year. We thank you and praise God for the opportunity to serve in this way. Our efforts are going literally around the world. Some of you brought in items to put in our collection box to pack in the shoeboxes, some brought in partially filled shoeboxes and asked us to make sure the essential items were included and some generously gave financially. Whatever you did, we appreciate it and we were able to pack 127 boxes that have been delivered to the collection site. I want to mention if you stay in a motel/hotel, please bring the mini soaps and put them in our collection box. We include 2 or 3 bars of mini soap in each shoebox and it saves us having to purchase soap. Also, next year we plan to have a garage sale like we did 2 years ago designating all proceeds to "OCC". So please be saving items you need to get rid of. Please talk to myself (Sandy Braid) or Karla Reed (raise your hand Karla



Also we send out checks to our Missionaries for Christmas. We started this program several years ago so we could bless our missionaries with an extra gift for Christmas. However, we have found our

funds a little short this year. We send out \$100 to ten missionaries making a total of \$1,000. We fell short by \$425.32 this year. So, with that news, once again we come before the people of our church asking for your help. Fortunately, we do have just a little excess in our mission fund, so in faith we mailed the checks out. But this does cause our mission fund to go extremely low. If you are able, please consider an extra gift to missions. And could I ask all of you to be praying for us.

You are the best and we Thank You.

Consider this verse as it applies to our missionaries:

1 Timothy 5:17-19

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."



Grandma's Kitchen

Old Fashioned Christmas Potato Candy

- * 1 small potato
- * 1# confection sugar
- * 1 large bag of chocolate chips
- * nuts or fruit or both

1. Mash the warm potato,
2. stir in confection sugar,
3. add nuts or fruit
4. roll into balls
5. dip in melted chocolate
6. Store in the refrigerator

PEPPERMINT KISSED FUDGE



INGREDIENTS

- 10 oz. bag of Peppermint flavored Hershey Kisses
- 16 oz. container of Betty Crocker vanilla icing

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Unwrap the kisses and place them in a microwavable bowl. In 30-second intervals heat the kisses.
2. Microwave the frosting for about 15 seconds or until it's warmed through.
3. Pour the icing into the kisses and mix well, pat into a wax paper-lined square pan, and refrigerate until set, about an hour. Store in the freezer.

Eat individual pieces straight from the freezer, it's a bit sticky when it warms up, and really is there anything better than cold fudge?



No Bake Coconut Snowballs



These cookies only take about five minutes to make and taste just like candy when covered in melted chocolate. They're lovely to make for family gatherings or to fill in tins for cookie exchanges!

Ingredients

- 1 3/4 cup shredded coconut
- 3 tsp coconut oil
- 3 tbsp maple syrup
- 2 tbsp unsweetened coconut milk
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/8 tsp salt
- organic dark chocolate

Instructions

Place 1 cup shredded coconut and 3 tsp coconut oil into the bowl of a food processor. Process on high speed, scraping down the sides every once in a while, until it reaches a butter consistency.

Add the maple syrup, coconut milk, vanilla extract, and salt and process on high speed until all of the ingredients have combined.

Add 3/4 cup of additional shredded coconut and process on high speed until all of the ingredients have combined and formed a batter.

Shape the coconut mixture into 1" balls and coat with chocolate and the additional shredded coconut. Refrigerate for at least an hour or up to a week.

Bring to room temperature before servings

DIY Edible Glitter

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon food coloring

Mix and bake for 10 minutes at 350°



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 Tuesdays by appointment



Bancroft Church Phone Number:
 989-634-5724
 Secretary: Diane Lepior
 Office Hours: 9-2 daily
 Please use the church phone or
 Facebook to contact the office during
 office hours.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Ladies Fellowship Christmas Luncheon Noon Bring a passing dish. All Welcome
4  Y.G 6-7:30 pm Y.A. 5-7 pm Valade's/ Christmas	5	6	7	8	9	10  8 am
11 God's Helping Hands puppet Ministry 10:30 am Potluck to follow	12 Missions 10am CE 6:30 pm	13	14 Ladies Fellowship 7 pm Elder's 7pm	15	16	17  FOOD PANTRY 10-Noon
18 Youth Group Christmas Party 5-8pm	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 
25 Worship Regular time of 10:30 	26	27	28	29	30	31

Weekly activities: Wednesday: 10am Adult Bible Study
 Wednesday: 6:30pm Adult Small Group
 Thursday: 6:00pm Karate

Birth of Jesus Fill-in

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Gabriel | 6. Nazareth to Bethlehem |
| 2. David | 7. amazed |
| 3. virgin | 8. Simeon |
| 4. angel | 9. Magi |
| 5. save, sins | 10. Egypt |



“Who can add to Christmas?

THE PERFECT MOTIVE IS THAT GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD.

THE PERFECT GIFT IS THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON.

THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS TO BELIEVE IN HIM.

THE REWARD OF FAITH IS THAT YOU SHALL HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.”

-CORRIE TEN BOOM-



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