



The BCC Connection

January
2023

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 a.m.

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

A Prayer to Keep God First This New Year

By Debbie McDaniel

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” -
[2 Cor. 5:17](#)

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 will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would 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 would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, 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'd 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.



From Your Favorite Pastor

Jude 11-13

We've been seeing how there is a fight afoot for Christians and our beliefs within the church. This fight is happening because many churches in America have ceased to follow what Scripture teaches about many things. With this happening, we have been looking at Jude and what God instructed him to share with the first century church. We are studying it because it gives us much of what we need to fight this fight today as well as whether we should take this fight on. We saw in our November look at this how the Bible is to inform and influence our view of the world. We are to see everything in our life through what Joel Rosenberg calls the "third lens of Scripture." This time we see Jude continue his fight against heretics after showing us what they teach and the falsehoods in their mouths. What does he say? Jude goes on to rip them apart (v.11-13).

To do this, Jude turns to the OT-this time for a triad of examples. Because of their coming judgment, he pronounces "woe" on the false teachers as Jesus did on the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23:13, 15:16, 23, 25, 27, 29). Jude says that the false teachers have "taken the way of Cain." Cain's way was the religion of his own works without faith (Hebrews 11:4) and that way led to the hatred and murder of his brother (1John 3:12-13). Like Cain, these men belong to the evil one, they manufacture religion, they kill the souls of men by their error, and they have "abandoned themselves to Balaam's error." Balaam was the prototype of all greedy religionists who lead God's people into false religion and immorality (Numbers 31:16-19). The combination that Jude uses indicates that the false teachers were wholly consumed by their love of money, just as Balaam was. Finally, "They have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion." Numbers 16:1-35 tells of the drastic punishment inflicted on Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 other rebels against Moses' authority. The words used by Jude give us a striking way of saying that their doom is certain and settled; the judgment brought upon these teachers is settled in God's mind and will not change.

Now Jude angrily piles figure upon figure, six of them in all, to describe the heretics. The false teachers are "blemishes at your love feasts." The "love feasts" were communal meals in which the early church ate together and observed the Lord's Supper, so Jude is showing that they tarnished these events. They also shockingly did this "Without the slightest qualm" (literally "without fear") which means that the false teachers do not recognize the terror of the Lord against those who mock his Son's death shown in the Supper (1Corinthians 11:27-32; Hebrews 10:26-31). Jude goes on to depict the false teachers as "shepherds who feed only themselves"-a figure that points to all the biblical warnings against the false shepherds who care nothing for the flock (e.g., Ezekiel 34:8; John 10:12-13). They are like clouds that promise rain but are "blown along by the wind" and "without rain" (literally "waterless"). Thus, the false teachers are wind or breeze devoid of refreshment, promise, and performance. They are, Jude says, like fruit trees in late autumn, long past the harvest, bearing no fruit. Furthermore, they are trees not only fruitless but also uprooted or "twice dead." Next is the metaphor of the restless sea (v. 13). One commentator put it this way, "For modern man, the sea is often a thing of beauty; to ancient man, less able to cope with the sea's fury, it was a terror." The heretics are busy, restless, untamed, and their product is like the foam or scum at the seashore. The final metaphor ("wandering star") is astronomical. The ancients called the planets "wandering stars" because of their movements. An unpredictable star would provide no guidance for navigation and so false teachers are useless and untrustworthy. He is saying that their doom is the eternal darkness that is reserved for them (2 Peter 2:4) and that any teaching they give directs you nowhere but away from the True Star (God Almighty) that guides our lives. (Continues on the next page)

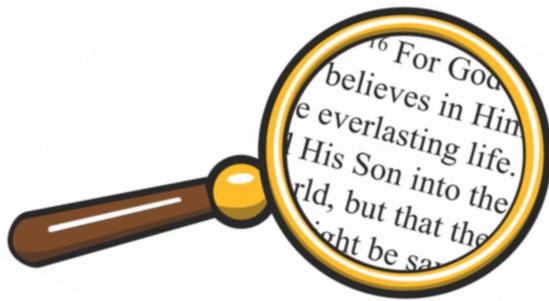
Jude is spending these verses giving us two warnings to pay attention to. First, he warns the heretics what awaits them and what they are like. Second, he is warning believers away from these people so that they aren't taken down the same path. There are tens of thousands of churches in the United States that teach heresies "without the slightest qualm (fear)" of God and His judgment. They have surrendered the Truth to accommodate the secular culture. As Erwin Lutzer puts in his book *The Church in Babylon*, this is going to increase as the true Church settles in to being the minority in America and the secular culture seeps into more churches.

I encourage you to check what people teach, the authors you read, the preachers you listen to, and everyone you go to for religious teaching. Check what they say against the Word amidst the full context of Scripture. And don't fear speaking the truth to those around you and fighting falsehoods, but don't forget to do it as Peter instructed us (1 Peter 3:15).

Next month we'll continue our look at Jude and what he is warning and finish this look in March with Jude's take on our duty to fight for God's truth.

This month's Scripture work: Jude, 1 Peter 3:15-16, Matthew 15:16-29, Hebrews 11

Be blessed & be a blessing!



Apologetics



Can Something Be True For You And Not For Me?

"It's all relative." "That's true for you but not for me." "That's just your reality." "Who are you to impose your values on others?" The relativist believes truth functions more like opinion or perspective and that truth depends upon your culture, context, or even personal choices. Thus, evil actions by Nazis or terrorists are explained away ("We don't like it, but they have their reasons"). Relativism, however, is seriously flawed.

Relativism cannot escape proclaiming a truth that corresponds to reality. "The moon is made of cheese" is false because it does not match up with the way things are, with what is the case. As Christians, we claim the biblical story is true because it conforms to the actualities of God's existence and His dealings with human beings. Truth is a relationship—a match-up with what is real or actual. An idea is false when it does not. But what of those making such claims as "Reality is like a wet lump of clay—we can shape it any way we want" (a relativistic idea known as anti-realism)? We can rightly call such statements into question. After all, these persons believe that their view corresponds to the way things are. If you disagree with them, they believe you are wrong. Notice, too, that they believe there is at least one thing that is not subject to human manipulation—namely, the unshakable reality that reality is like a wet lump of clay that we can shape any way we want to! So, we can ask: "Is that lump-of-clay idea something you made up?" If it applies to everyone, then the statement is incoherent. If it doesn't, then it's nothing more than one's perspective. Why take it seriously? And if there's no objective truth or reality, how do we know that our beliefs are not delusional?

THE EXODUS WORD SEARCH



Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal,
forward or backward, and may overlap.

F S C M Z T D N A T S P M A L
M J T M T A R R E V O S S A P
I W H X T B P T N A N E V O C
R A D J E E N S A G U Q L K S
I Z C A D R I E B S E X U X T
A N H O Y N A I K U D Q T U E
M C H Z K A T R C F S A S A L
Z P L E I C R P L G A T R A B
E G Q A O L U A N R N K M H A
V Y N W K E C I O E A D W M T
K I C R N N R N M S A N C I Y
S X O N E E Q D E E L U N K Z
K X C D F D N U R S O I H A D
X L L F S A S B X R N M A H M
G O O E M V W E H Q B E P U D
G B S M T E C T A O N P C P Q
P O O B H L E O G W Z S G N O
M C E S M J R S A B B A T H I

AARON

ARK

COMMANDMENTS

COVENANT

CURTAIN

EPHOD

GOLDEN CALF

INCENSE

JETHRO

LAMPSTAND

MANNA

MOSES

OFFERINGS

PASSOVER

PRIEST

QUAIL

RED SEA

SABBATH

SHEWBREAD

SINAI

TABERNACLE

TABLETS

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				



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 February 2023

Service	5th	12th	19th	26th
Greeter	Brian Reed	Walt Reed	Sally Labadie	Lee Habermehl
Greeter	Karla Reed	Marion Reed	Jr. Love	Cyndy Habermehl
Nursery	Cathy Taber	Brian Reed	Jenny Habermehl	Tracie Zander
Nursery	Laurie Valade	Karla Reed	Paula Wahl	Patty Hewitt
Sound	Matt Post	Jade Evans	Jazz Evans	Matt Post
Computer	Kaylee Siddens	Sarah Bias	Aaron Zander	Maddie Bias
Call to Worship & Prayer	Layne Valade	James Huguelet	Brian Reed	Carl Cooke
Prayer Elder	Carl Cooke	Layne Valade	James Huguelet	Brian Reed
Jr. Church Teacher	Sharon Lewis	Charlotte Adolf	Becky Durling	Paula Wahl
Jr. Church Helper	Amber Bias	Cevin Valade	Cathy Taber	Jenny Habermehl
Scripture Reader Message Prayer	Dan Bryant Revelation 8:6-12	Jordan Owens Revelation 8:13	Sandy Braid Revelation 11:1-5	Carl Cooke Revelation 12:1-3
Benediction	Pastor	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	Layne Valade
Financial Team	Lee Habermehl	Carl Cooke	James Huguelet	Dan Bryant
Financial Team	Brian Reed	Matt Post	Gary Hammond	Layne Valade
Communion	Layne Valade			

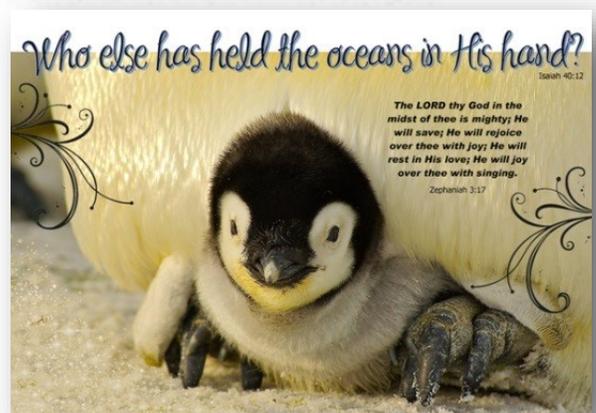
January

Delighting In The Word

Day 1: Matthew 4:4
Day 2: Psalm 119:130
Day 3: James 1:22
Day 4: Isaiah 40:8
Day 5: Proverbs 2:6
Day 6: Job 23:12
Day 7: Psalm 1:1-2
Day 8: John 1:14
Day 9: 2 Samuel 22:31
Day 10: Colossians 3:16
Day 11: Psalm 130:5
Day 12: Hebrews 4:12
Day 13: Deuteronomy 8:3
Day 14: John 15:7
Day 15: Romans 10:17
Day 16: Psalm 119:105

Day 17: 1 Thessalonians 2:13
Day 18: Jeremiah 15:16
Day 19: 1 Peter 1:24-25
Day 20: John 1:1-5
Day 21: Romans 15:4
Day 22: Psalm 119:11
Day 23: James 1:21
Day 24: Acts 17:11
Day 25: Psalm 33:4
Day 26: John 7:16
Day 27: Isaiah 55:11
Day 28: 2 Timothy 3:16
Day 29: Deuteronomy 8:3
Day 30: John 5:39
Day 31: Psalm 16:11

Pastor's suggested readings for this month:
***Jude, 1 Peter 3:15-16, Matthew 15:16-29,
Hebrews 11***

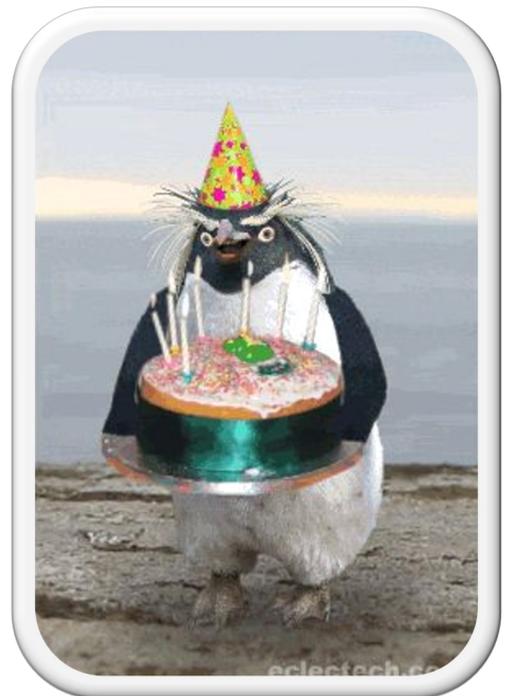
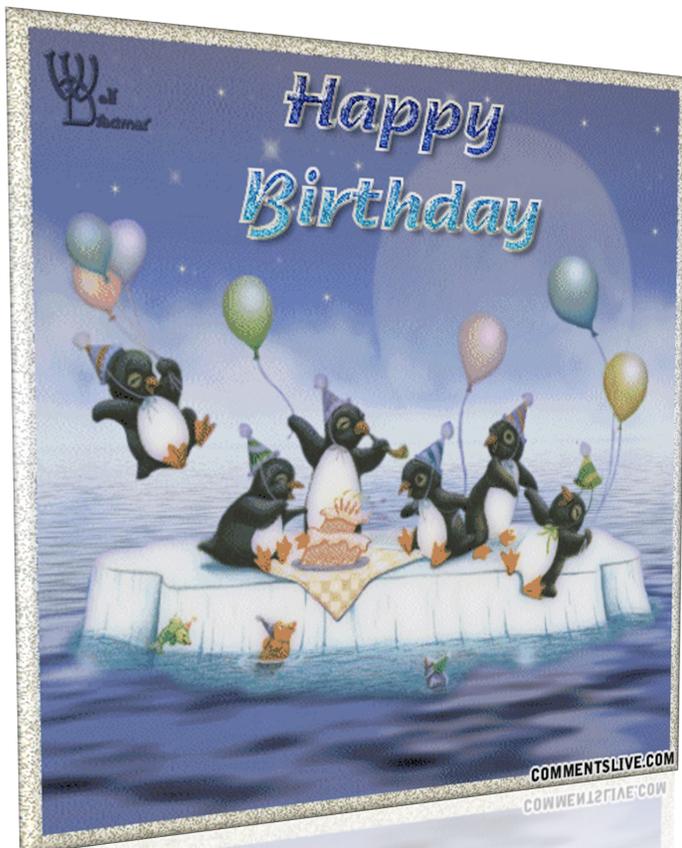


This Month's Cause for Celebration!



- 3rd *Elijah Johnson
- 12th *Noah Johnson
- 20th Gary Hammond
- 22nd Jade Evans
- 24th Beth Rumery
- 29th Jenny Cooke

* = missionary children



Kids Corner



Family Fun Calendar

1 Go on a walk	2 Color together	3 Movie Night	4 Play a game	5 Nature Hunt
6 Sidewalk Chalk	7 Bake something	8 Dance Party	9 Ice Cream Sundaes	10 Plant something
11 Food Taste Test	12 Face Time Family	13 Make your own pizza	14 Talent Show	15 3 Color Challenge
16 Screen Free Day	17 Lego Competition	18 Look at old photos	19 Play Charades	20 Make puppets
21 Scavenger Hunt	22 Magic Tricks	23 Stargazing	24 Create Something	25 Do a puzzle
26 Formal Dinner Night	27 Read together	28 Camp Out	29 Pajama Day and Breakfast for Dinner	30 Create a family motto

Mission News!

let your
faith
BE BIGGER
than your fear.

A report from H.E.A.R.T.S.

This past year H.E.A.R.T.S. sent seven balikbayan boxes to the Philippines. That amounts to about 700-800 pounds of materials. Most of those pounds consisted of gospel apron materials, church choir music and choir robes (which came from the Congregational church in Roscommon, MI). Some of those materials have begun to arrive in Manila. It takes 3-4 months by ocean freighter. All of the choir music and robes will be going to Baptist churches in Bacolod. Here is what Carlos had to say about the last shipment he received:

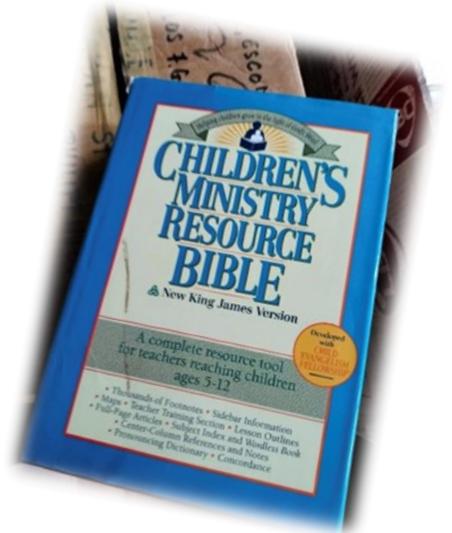
From Carlos in the Philippines [11-17-22]:

*I opened the three boxes that we receive the other day. Two boxes are filled with gospel aprons and materials that are needed in using these as evangelism tools. I thank God for H. E. A. R. T. S. through the leadership of Diane. Last year the ministry provided a big amount of money for the production of the aprons. We hired women in Pandacan to sew the aprons and paid some people to cut the "objects" that were represented by the colors. **1,300⁺⁺ gospel aprons were produced.***

We sent more than 900 aprons to the church planters. Praise God. With what was left from the previous training, and what we received recently, we have enough aprons for all church planting scholars.

*I thank God for the people from **Bancroft Congregation Church in Michigan** who helped prepare these resources.*

The third box contains dozens of Children's Ministry Bibles. I will use these as gifts for the church planters in each group who are celebrating their birthdays nearest to the schedule of each quarter's training.



A note from Diane: Just think of the salvations that may come from those 1,300 aprons! Let's say each apron has 15 yr. life cycle. If the apron produces only 4 salvations per year that would equal a minimum of 78,000 salvations for all 1,300 aprons! So many more aprons were provided to people from Micronesia to the Philippines, to Mexico and the U.S. That's not to mention the aprons that Carlos introduced to church planters in Vietnam, China and other countries around the world! The salvations are incalculable!

Thank you for supporting Missions! You are responsible for these salvations too!

Grandma's Kitchen



Three-ingredient Berry Cobbler

- One box of yellow cake mix – Betty Crocker Yellow Cake Mix is pictured
- 4-cups (or so) of frozen berries of your choice
- One stick of unsalted butter (equal to ½ cup of unsalted butter,)
- 13 x 9 baking pan
- for a glass pan as shown in the photos, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. For a metal pan, use the back of the cake box to determine how hot it should be.
- Place the 4-cups of berries in the bottom of the pan. (You can also just cover the bottom of the pan with the berries, and not even worry about measuring it, really!)
- Microwave the butter (in a microwave-safe dish) for 20-seconds on high. Note that not all the butter may melt
- Using your clean hands, pour the cake mix on top of the butter and mix thoroughly.
- The cake mix may seem crumbly and not really moist. That's OK. That's how it's supposed to be.
- Pour the cake mixture on top of the berries in the pan, and spread over the berries.
- Place the dish in the oven (middle rack) and bake for at least 28-minutes or until lightly browned on top.
- Let the cobbler cool for at least 5-minutes before serving. Vanilla ice cream would be a good 'go along'! (The cobbler is good cold too!)

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup dried onion flakes
- 3 tablespoons beef bouillon ground
- 1 tablespoon parsley flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/8 teaspoon celery salt
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt

Instructions

Combine the onion flakes, powdered beef bouillon, parsley, onion powder, garlic powder, celery salt, paprika, black pepper and salt in a small mixing bowl and combine.

Use as you would a package of store bought onion soup mix. This recipe makes the equivalent of 4 packages.

Follow this guideline for using:

There are about **3 tablespoons in a Lipton onion soup packet**, give or take a smidge. In most recipes, you can eyeball the amount and use a little more or a little less without worry of ruining the recipe.

The only thing to be mindful of is salt content. If the recipe calls for additional salt, add the soup mix and then season with salt accordingly. Adding both could make it too salty. Same goes for recipes using broth, opt for a low-sodium broth so you can control the saltiness.

Editor's note: I have made both of these recipes and they are not only easy, but tasty too.

Pastor Todd Evans
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 PO Box 98
 Bancroft, MI 48414



Bancroft Church Phone Number:
 989-634-5724
Secretary: Diane Lepior
Office Hours: 9-2 daily
Call ahead please,
most days the office works offsite
Tuesdays by appointment
Please use the church phone or Facebook
to contact the office during office hours.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 	9 Mission 10 am CE—7pm	10	11 Elder's—7pm	12	13	14  Men's Prayer Breakfast 8am
15 Youth Group 6-7:30 pm	16	17	18	19	20	21 10am-Noon Food Pantry 
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Young Adults 5-7 pm	30	31				

Weekly activities: Wednesdays 10am Adult Bible Study
 Wednesdays: 6:30pm Adult Small Group
 Thursdays: Karate

"One kind word can warm
three winter months."

- Japanese proverb



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