



The BCC Connection

October
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.



Halloween Outreach



Be a part of this wonderful outreach to our community!

*Your candy donations will be collected now through October 22nd
Bring your candy into the office any weekday and Sunday.*

*We have a collection tote setting out so you can simply drop in your candy donations.
We will be packing all the candy on a day yet to be determined.*





From your Favorite Pastor

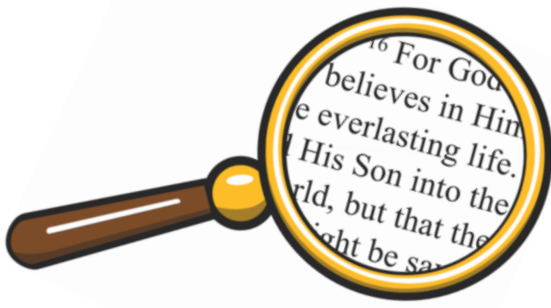
I wanted to take this opportunity to elaborate on a recent message given at BCC, where we discussed total devotion to Jesus Christ. In thinking about this, I also see this impacting the upcoming elections just a year away. I believe the next election cycle could be called the most important we've had in nearly 50 years as it will most likely determine the end of the story for the good ole USA. We've reached the point where every election seems to be the most important one, and I believe we have come to this place because American Christians are no longer fully devoted to Christ. Before we go further, let's define this "devotion."

Most recently we saw this in John 8:12, *"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"* We're specifically looking at the word "follows." It's the idea of someone who gives himself completely to the person being followed. There were no half-hearted followers that existed in Jesus' mind. He followed this with statements about that devotion in Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 22:37-39, Mark 12:29-31, and others where we are expected to surrender everything to Christ when we choose Him. This is not a feel-good emotional thing, this is complete surrender and devotion to the life that Christ calls us to, an often times difficult one. Many American Christians think this looks like going to church each week, being involved in a Bible study, and maybe giving money above and beyond tithe. While these are good things in and of themselves and they are part of our devotion, they are not what "following" Christ looks like. It looks like the person willing to share Christ as they provide something for someone they see in need. It looks like the missionary in Africa who won't leave their post because it gets dangerous in the middle of ethnic cleansing. It looks like the house church in China being imprisoned because they met outside of the Chinese Communist Party approved church. It looks like living out James 1 where our actions line up with our mouth. It looks like someone who isn't afraid of being "canceled" by culture or family/friends by sharing truth with the world. Eric Metaxas recently said that when we live like we never die because of our eternity in Christ, then we are truly free in our work for Christ. If they take our lives, we get our eternity with Christ (Philippians 1:21).

The church in 1930's Germany wasn't willing to speak up and stand up to the Nazi machine. Hitler was determined to eliminate the church as a threat, and he started by going after the pastors. Over 80% of the pastors in Germany chose their paycheck (it was given to them by the government) over Biblical truth and action. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wasn't one of them, and he died trying to stop Hitler. The church in America is in the same position because most "Christians" choose comfort over Christ, this includes pastors/churches who choose to go along to get along for their comfort and acceptance by society, and I think it includes the pastors/churches stating that "we need to focus on the Gospel and nothing else." But this can change and I think it must change if we are to protect our families, the freedom of the church, and our ability to share the Gospel anywhere and everywhere.

(Continued on page 5)





Apologetics

How Do I Know God's Will for My Life?

Sean McDowell

Apologetics Bible pg. 655

"I know God's will for your life."

When I say this to my students, they typically think I've received a special word from God and that I'm about to reveal to them who they should invite to the prom, where they should go to college, or whether or not they should take AP History. While God does care about these issues, the Bible has something different in mind when it discusses the will of God.

Consider a few things we know about God's will for us:

That we be saved (2 Peter 3:9)

That we be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

That we be pure (1Thessalonians 5:22)

That we submit to the proper authorities (1Peter 2:18)

That we suffer for doing what is right (1 Peter 3:17)

Knowing the will of God begins internally. Are you following the five principles above? If you have truly followed them, then you are free to make choices based on your desires. And if you are living a godly life, God will give you the right desires. This is why Psalm 37:4 says, "Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you your heart's desires."

You see, God's will is not so much about what you do but about who you are. God's will is not so much about what college you choose but about the type of student you are. God's will is not so much about who you take to the prom but about the way you treat people. God has dignified you with the freedom of making choices and He calls you to make them wisely (Proverbs 16:16)

You may still be wondering about God's specific will for your life. Should you look for open doors, listen for a "soft whisper" (1 Kings 19:12), or put out a fleece like Gideon (Judges 6:33-40)? The problem with such approaches is that the Bible never suggests them as models for decision making. Paul viewed open doors as opportunities that he had the choice to act on or ignore rather than a revelation of God's will (2 Corinthians 2:12-13). The "soft whisper" through which God spoke to Elijah was not an inward feeling or impression but an audible voice. Gideon's prayer for a sign – the fleece – actually showed his lack of faith, for God had already revealed what He wanted him to do.

While God does sometimes give personalized guidance, such instances are rare and unmistakable (1 Corinthians 14:7-9). So, if God doesn't give a clearly supernatural message, how are we to make decisions in life? The Bible teaches that we are to seek wisdom. Wisdom comes from Scripture (2 Timothy 4:16), God (James 1:5), research (Proverbs 8:13), counsel (Proverbs 15:22), and life experiences (Psalm 90:12). Wisdom is so important that we are commanded to seek it with all we have: "Get wisdom – how much better it is than gold! And get understanding – it is preferable to silver" (Proverbs 16:16).

Overcoming Fear

October



- Day 1: Isaiah 43:1-2
- Day 2: Isaiah 35:4
- Day 3: Joshua 1:9
- Day 4: Zephaniah 3:16-17
- Day 5: Deuteronomy 3:22
- Day 6: Isaiah 41:13
- Day 7: Psalm 23:4
- Day 8: Psalm 34:4
- Day 9: Psalm 27:14
- Day 10: Psalm 56:3-4
- Day 11: Mark 4:39-40
- Day 12: Mark 5:35-36
- Day 13: John 14:27
- Day 14: Romans 8:31
- Day 15: Romans 8:38-39
- Day 16: 1 Peter 3:13-14
- Day 17: 1 Peter 5:6-7
- Day 18: Philippians 4:6-7
- Day 19: Philippians 4:13
- Day 20: 2 Timothy 1:7
- Day 21: 1 John 4:17-18
- Day 22: Psalm 19:14
- Day 23: Psalm 91:1-2
- Day 24: Psalm 55:22
- Day 25: Psalm 118:6-7
- Day 26: Proverbs 14:26-27
- Day 27: Proverbs 1:7
- Day 28: Proverbs 15:33
- Day 29: Proverbs 19:23
- Day 30: Psalm 128:1-2
- Day 31: Psalm 128:3-4

Pastor's Bible work suggestions for this month: Mark 12:29-31, James 1 & especially Philippians 1:18-30.

Kingdom Bloggers



Weekly Service Schedule for

Service	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Greeter	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Walt Reed	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed
Greeter	Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed	Marion Reed	Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed
Nursery	Cathy Taber	Jenny Habermehl	Brian Reed	Tracie Zander	Layne Valade
Nursery	Laurie Valade	Paula Wahl	Karla Reed	Patty Hewitt	Daphne Valade
Sound	Sarah Bias	Jazz Evans	Matt Post	Isaac Zander	Sarah Bias
Computer	Matt Post	Aaron Zander	Maddie Bias	Vaeh Cooke	Matt Post
Call to Worship & Pray-	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	James Huguelet	Carl Cooke
Prayer Elder	Lee Habermehl	Carl Cooke	James Huguelet	Layne Valade	Brian Reed
Jr. Church Teacher	Amber Bias	Becky Durling	Charlotte Adolf	Paula Wahl	Amber Bias
Jr. Church Helper	Sharon Lewis	Cathy Taber	Cevin Valde	Jenny Habermehl	Sharon Lewis
Scripture Reader	Carl Cooke	Laurie Valade	Vaeh Cooke	Layne Valade	Carl Cooke
Message Prayer	John 11:4-6	John 12	TBD	John 13	1 John 1
Benediction	Pastor	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	Layne Valade	James Huguelet
Financial Team	Tom Wahl	Lee Habermehl	Dan Bryant	James Huguelet	Tom Wahl
Financial Team	Layne Valade	Matt Post	Brian Reed	Layne Valade	Lee Habermehl
Communion	Lee Habermehl				

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!

I'll finish with a question that leads to the solution: Are you fully devoted? Does Christ and the full counsel of the Bible influence your every decision of every day? If not, I encourage you to change that radically.

Next month we'll look at what's coming, and I don't mean the holidays. I also add that if you don't, please pray for pastors/elders- any that you know or respect. We all need it more than you know as we have never served in times like these and can accomplish nothing without God leading our path.

In the meantime, here's your Bible work this month.
Mark 12:29-31, James 1, & especially Philipians 1:18-30.

I also encourage you to read a couple of books.
When a Nation Forgets God by Erwin Lutzer
Letter to the American Church by Eric Metaxas
We Will Not Be Silenced by Erwin Lutzer

Be blessed & be a blessing

Adel G. Souza

PT



BIBLE NUMBERS

Match the event with the number.

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------|------------------|
| A. THREE | E. TWELVE | I. THREE HUNDRED |
| B. SEVEN | F. THIRTY-THREE | J. NINE HUNDRED |
| C. EIGHT | G. FORTY | SIXTY-NINE |
| D. NINE | H. ONE HUNDRED FIFTY | |

- ___ 1. Approximate earthly age of Jesus when He died.
- ___ 2. The number of people Jesus raised from the dead in the New Testament narrative.
- ___ 3. The Israelites marched around Jericho this many times on the seventh day before it fell.
- ___ 4. When Jesus fed the 5,000, the disciples picked up this many baskets full of leftovers.
- ___ 5. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness this many years before they crossed into the Promised Land.
- ___ 6. The number of days old a Jewish boy was to be when he was circumcised.
- ___ 7. When Gideon finally had to go to battle with the Midianites, he had this many soldiers.
- ___ 8. In Noah's time, the earth was covered with water once the rain stopped after the flood for this many days.
- ___ 9. Noah's grandfather Methuselah lived this many years before he died.
- ___ 10. When Jesus healed the ten lepers, this many men did not return to say thank you.

Answers are on the calendar page.

This Month's Cause for Celebration!



REED,	BRIAN	2-Oct
RANCOUR	GRACE	3-Oct
MCDONALD,	MICHAEL	7-Oct
TABER,	CATHY	7-Oct
CURITS	KATHY	9-Oct
HOPPE	DOTTIE	10-Oct
LOVE,	GAIL	12-Oct
HABERMEHL,	LEE	14-Oct
WITTERS,	JOYCE	14-Oct
ZANDER	TRACIE	18-Oct
HEIPLE,	KAREN	31-Oct

Speak to one another in
psalms, hymns, and songs;
sing and make music from
your heart to the Lord;
giving thanks always for all
things unto God.

Ephesians 5:19-20



9	John & Beth	Rumery
12	Lee & Cyndy	Habermehl

Kids Corner



Cloud Dough

MATERIALS

- 1/2 cup lotion regular lotion or baby lotion
- 1 cup cornstarch also called corn flour

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add 1/2 cup of lotion to a bowl. Add 1-2 drops of the food coloring (if using concentrated gel; if using regular food coloring you'll need more drops to color) and mix.



2. Mix the lotion and food coloring until combined.



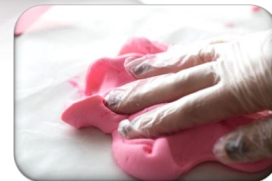
3. Add 1 cup of cornstarch and mix.



4. Mix until combined.



- 5.



Then take out the dough and place it on some wax paper. Knead with your hands (you may want gloves so your hands don't stain). Keep kneading until it forms a dough-like consistency. If it's still too sticky add another tablespoon of cornstarch. Once your cloud dough is finished, use cookie cutters and rolling pins to play with it!

To store: simply put the playdough in plastic wrap and store it in an airtight container to help it last longer. If the dough dries out, add a few extra squirts of lotion to it and knead back in.

Mission News!

As I write this, October is almost here. Where has our summer gone? The children have already been in school for about a month now and with the temperatures dropping it is a sure indication that fall is here! Missions will be winding down several ministries that we work on most of the year, so we can help spread the financial part of the giving over several months. “Operation Christmas Child” shoeboxes, our “Missionary Christmas Jar” that is located by our mailboxes and **new** this month we will be collecting candy for our Halloween outreach that we host the end of October. OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC) – We are still in need of Stuffed animals (small and medium size), small filler items such as checker games, UNO card games, jump ropes, balls, wash cloths, back packs, purses, hairbrushes, foam ball or footballs, calculators, zippered cases, and socks for boys and girls (medium sizes). If you took an “OCC” box to fill at home, please have them back to the church by Sunday, October 15th, thank you. We need to purchase postage and finish getting them ready for delivery to Owosso.

HALLOWEEN OUTREACH – Once again we will be doing a Halloween outreach in our community of Bancroft. We will have zip lock bags of candy with a tract in every bag and we plan to be serving hot cider, probably cold cider too, along with hot chocolate and donut holes. Please be watching for more information that will be coming in the church bulletins.

MISSIONARY CHRISTMAS – As in the years in the past we hope to be able to send all of our missionaries \$100 in early November to help make their Christmas a little more enjoyable. This jar continues to set on the counter in the bell tower area by all our mailboxes. We thank you for putting your change, dollars and checks to support our Missionaries, thank you.

More information will be coming in our church bulletins regarding a Christmas Card Bulletin board. For those who want to take part you will be able to bring in one Christmas Card wishing everyone in our Church a Merry Christmas, rather than preparing one for every mailbox. Be watching your bulletins and the newsletters, thank you.



***HAPPY FALL EVERYONE
AND THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MANY OUTREACHES WE
TAKE PART IN AT THIS CHURCH. WE CAN ONLY DO THESE MANY
OUTREACHES WITH YOUR HELP!***



Grandma's Kitchen



Healthier Green Bean Casserole

Ingredients:

1. ¼ C. Reduced Fat Shredded Cheddar Cheese (1/4 Lean)
2. 9.52 oz. Green Beans, (you can use Frozen) (2 greens)
3. 5.5 oz. White Button Mushrooms sliced, (optional) (1 green)
4. 4 Tbsp. Reduced Fat Sour Cream (1 condiment)
5. 1 Tsp. Fresh Minced Garlic (1/2 condiment)
6. 3 Tbsp. Non-Fat Plain Greek Yogurt (1/2 condiment)
7. 2 Tbsp. Grated Parmesan Cheese (1 condiment)
8. Cooking Spray (healthy fat)

Instructions:

- *Preheat oven to 350.
- *Microwave green beans according to package directions and let them cool.
- *In a lightly greased skillet at medium heat cook the mushrooms and garlic until tender or brownish (about 3-5 minutes) once cooked let them cool.
- *Meanwhile, combine Greek yogurt and light sour cream in a small bowl.
- *Toss gently the cooled vegetables with the mixture until evenly coated. Add the cheddar cheese and toss again until well combined.
- *Spread veggies into a lightly greased baking dish, top with parmesan cheese and bake until topping is golden brown (30-35 minutes).

Enjoy!!!

Serves: 2

Crustless Winter Squash Cheesecake

Makes 4 servings

Per serving: 1 vegetable, ¾ protein serving, 2 condiments

Ingredients

- 2 cups kabocha squash puree
- 2 cups soft low fat soft goat cheese or ricotta
- 4 packets Stevia
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp clove
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp freshly grated nutmeg
- 3 eggs

Directions

Preheat your oven to 300 degrees F

Place all filling ingredients (except the eggs) in a food processor, and blend until a smooth and creamy consistency.

Add the eggs and continue to blend until the entire mixture is blended and creamy. Pour filling mixture into a pie pan. Bake in the oven for about 1 hour and 10 minutes, or until set.

Remove from oven, place pan on a cooling rack and let cool completely for at least 4 hours.



Pastor Todd Evans
Bancroft Congregational Church
 217 S. Shiawassee St.,
 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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Young Adults 5 pm	9 Mission Mtg 10 am C.E. Mtg 6 pm	10	11 7 PM Ladies Fellowship Elders Mtg	12	13	14 8 am  <i>Men's Prayer Breakfast</i>
15 Annual Meeting and Potluck Awana & YG 6 PM	16	17	18	19	20	21 10 am to Noon 
22 Young Adults 5 pm	23	24	25	26	27	28 Game Night 6 pm
29	30	31 Halloween Outreach Ministry 5 pm (?)				

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

Bible Numbers answers -4

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. C |
| 2. A | 7. I |
| 3. B | 8. H |
| 4. E | 9. J |
| 5. G | 10. D |



Bancroft Congregational Church
217 S. Shiawassee St. P.O. Box 98
Bancroft, MI 48414