



The BCC Connection

February
2024

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 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

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





It is the third Friday of Lent, and the faithful parishioner stumbles through pouring rain past hamburger huts and steak houses into the monastery at Mount Angel and requests shelter. He's just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips he's ever had. After dinner, he goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. He's met by two brothers, "Hello, I'm Brother Michael, and this is Brother Francis." "I'm very pleased to meet you. I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever tasted. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?" Brother Michael replies, "Well, I'm the fish friar." The man turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be..." "Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk."

A lot of people give up things during the Lenten season, like red meat. I've given up things before, such as pop, coffee, sugar, etc... But as many people do this, we miss something. As we look back into Scripture we see that Jesus changed the entire idea behind it, just as He changed what was sin from only sinning if you do it, to sinning if you *desire* to do it.

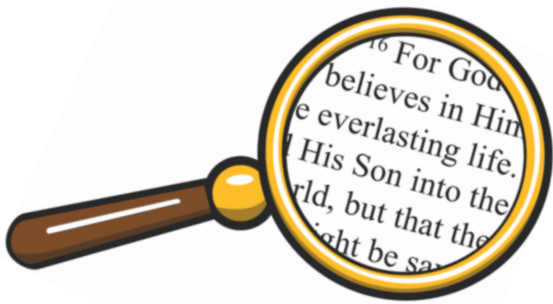
Traditional Jewish fasting was based around atonement and would be very apparent to those around. Someone fasting would wear sackcloth or tear their clothes, put ashes on their head, and go barefoot. All of it to show others that they were fasting.

But Christ changed all of this. In Matthew 6:16-18 He says, "*And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*" Christ was telling us that it was to be for a change of character and purpose of knowing Him more deeply, not for others to see us as righteous. Smith's dictionary puts it this way, "The sacrifice of the personal will...gives...fasting all its value."

As you consider possibly giving something up for Lent, remember that it is something between you and God. Also remember that it is something that is to bring you closer to Him, as we want everything in our lives to point people to Him. Then He will reward you as only He can!
Study Matthew 6:5-18 as we head into the Easter season.

Be blessed & be a blessing,

PT



Apologetics

What Do Buddhists Believe?

By Jason Carlson

Apologetics Bible pg. 1310

Buddhism originated in Southeast Asia and is rapidly growing in popularity today. Many are drawn to Buddhism due to the perception that it is a peaceful and tolerant religion. Others are attracted to the inner peace the Buddhist meditation techniques promise. However, Buddhism is ultimately a philosophy that offers a system of human works that cannot save anybody.

There are several leading schools of Buddhist thought. The most prominent are Theravada, Mahayana, and Tantric Buddhism. There are vast differences between these. However, despite the diversity within Buddhism, all Buddhists adhere to a basic core of beliefs. Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism and the original Buddha (meaning “enlightened one”), explained basic Buddhist philosophy through the teaching of what are known as the Four Noble Truths:

Life is suffering.

Suffering is caused by desire – our attachment to a world of illusion.

Freedom from suffering comes by eliminating our desire.

Desire can be eliminated by following the Eightfold Path – eight ways of living (attitudes and actions) that help a person eliminate suffering and free himself from the cycle of death and reincarnation that traps us in the world of illusion.

Millions of people have attempted to find peace by following the teaching of the Buddha, but right attitudes and actions cannot save us from the real source of human suffering: sin against God. Apart from a personal relationship with Jesus, true peace and salvation cannot be found (John 14:6) Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5-6).

This truth is probably best summed up in the testimony of my friend Lou. Lou grew up in Thailand and was a Buddhist for 20 years until he became a follower of Jesus. When Lou shares his testimony, he tells the following story that describes the real peace he found in Jesus:

When I was a Buddhist, I felt like I was in the middle of a large lake. I was drowning and I didn’t know how to swim. As I struggled to keep my head above water, I looked toward the shore and saw Buddha walk up the edge of the lake. Buddha began shouting instructions to me, telling me how to swim. He shouted, “Kick your legs and paddle your arms.” But then Buddha said, “Lou, you must make it to shore by yourself.” As I struggled to follow Buddha’s instructions, I looked toward the shore again. This time I saw Jesus walk up to the lake. Unlike Buddha, Jesus didn’t stop at the shoreline. Instead, He dove into the lake and swam out to rescue me! Once He had brought me safely to shore, He taught me how to swim so I could go back and rescue others!

This powerfully describes the difference between Buddhism and Christianity. Buddhism says your problem is bad karma, not a broken relationship with holy God, and it’s up to you to save yourself. Christianity defines our problem differently from the outset and teaches that rather than leaving us to save ourselves, God sent Jesus to do it for us. Paul wrote that God “has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace” (2 Timothy 1:9).



No Greater Love

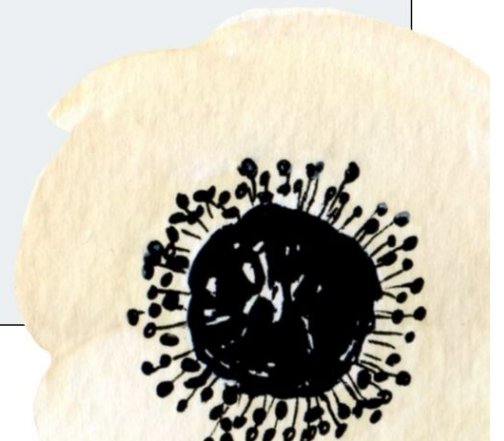
February



- Day 1: John 3:16
- Day 2: John 15:13
- Day 3: 1 John 4:18
- Day 4: 1 John 4:19
- Day 5: Romans 5:8
- Day 6: Ephesians 2:4-5
- Day 7: Romans 8:35
- Day 8: Romans 8:37-38
- Day 9: Psalm 86:15
- Day 10: Psalm 136:26
- Day 11: Deuteronomy 7:9
- Day 12: Zephaniah 3:17
- Day 13: Jeremiah 31:3
- Day 14: Proverbs 10:12
- Day 15: 1 Chronicles 16:34
- Day 16: Luke 6:35
- Day 17: 2 Corinthians 5:14
- Day 18: Ephesians 4:2
- Day 19: Proverbs 17:17
- Day 20: Romans 12:9-10
- Day 21: Colossians 3:12-13
- Day 22: Colossians 3:14
- Day 23: 1 Corinthians 16:14
- Day 24: 1 Peter 4:8
- Day 25: 1 Corinthians 13:4
- Day 26: 1 Corinthians 13:5
- Day 27: 1 Corinthians 13:6
- Day 28: 1 Corinthians 13:7
- Day 29: Nehemiah 9:17

Pastor's suggested readings: Study Matthew 6:5-18

Kingdom Bloggers



Weekly Service Schedule for February 2024

Service	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th
Greeter	Chris Adolf	Walt Reed	Tom Wahl	Lee Habermehl
Greeter	Charlotte Adolf	Marion Reed	Paula Wahl	Cyndy Habermehl
Nursery	Tracie Zander	Layne Valade	Cathy Taber	Jenny Habermehl
Nursery	Patty Hewitt	Daphne Valade	Laurie Valade	Paula Habermehl
Sound	Isaac Zander	Maddie Bias	Matt Post	Jazz Evans
Computer	Vaeh Cooke	Sarah Bias	Isaac Zander	Aaron Zander
Call to Worship & Prayer	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	Layne Valade	James Huguelet
Prayer Elder	Matt Post	Lee Habermehl	Carl Cooke	Brian Reed
Jr. Church Teacher	Amber Bias	Jenny Habermehl	Charlotte Adolf	Becky Durling
Jr. Church Helper	Sharon Lewis	Paula Wahl	Cevin Valade	Cathy Taber
Scripture Reader Message Prayer	Laurie Valade TBD	Sharon Lewis TBD	Layne Valade TBD	Maddie Bias 2 John 4-6
Benediction	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	Layne Valade
Financial Team	Dan Bryant	Brian Reed	Matt Post	Dan Bryant
Financial Team	Lee Habermehl	Carl Cooke	James Huguelet	Layne Valade
Communion	Layne Valade			

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!



Child Protection Classes

CE will be hosting two different Sundays from which you may choose to be recertified.

Sunday, February 25th

Sunday March 10th

If you are interested in becoming a new worker in our CE department, please contact Diane. She will make arrangements with you to become certified.

LANDS OF THE BIBLE

1. Ephesus
2. Bethsaida
3. Jerusalem
4. Caesarea
5. Beersheba
6. Joppa
7. Caesarea Philippi
8. Bethlehem
9. Laodicea
10. Capernaum

LANDS OF THE BIBLE

Match the town to the description.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| A. BEERSHEBA | F. CAPERNAUM |
| B. BETHLEHEM | G. EPHESUS |
| C. BETHSAIDA | H. JERUSALEM |
| D. CAESAREA | I. JOPPA |
| E. CAESAREA PHILIPPI | J. LAODICEA |

- ___ 1. In this city, Paul's messages led to a riot because the Artemis shrine makers said Paul was hurting their business.
- ___ 2. This was the hometown of Peter, Philip, and Andrew.
- ___ 3. When David's commander Joab attacked this city, he entered it through its water source.
- ___ 4. This town, named after a Roman leader, was where Peter met the centurion Cornelius.
- ___ 5. According to Genesis 26:23-25, Isaac built an altar in this town.
- ___ 6. When Jonah left for Tarshish, he got on a boat in this city.
- ___ 7. When Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do people say I am?" they were at the foot of Mount Herman at this town.
- ___ 8. In Micah 5:2, this town was described as "small among the clans of Judah," but out of it would come "one who will be ruler over Israel."
- ___ 9. In Revelation 3, Jesus called the people of this city "lukewarm."
- ___ 10. According to Matthew 4:13-14, Jesus lived in this town after he left His hometown of Nazareth.

Answers on page 5

This Month's Cause for Celebration!



MCDONALD,	MANDY	1-Feb
DURLING,	BECKY	2-Feb
VALADE,	LAYNE	7-Feb
DURLING,	STEVE	13-Feb
EVANS	TODD	21-Feb
LOVE,	JON	24-Feb
VALADE,	LAURIE	25-Feb

Let us
LOVE
One another
for love
is from
GOD

1 John 4:7
(Lynn Pinnis)



Anniversaries

20 Carl & Jenny Cooke

Kids Corner

Valentine's Day Activities



Day 1. Read I Corinthians 13.

Talk about what love is and how we can love others in our everyday lives. Use some of the words in I Corinthians 13 to play [word search](#). Then play [valentine's bingo](#) (with chocolate, of course)

Day 2. Demonstrate Love.

Read Romans 5:8 and talk about how God demonstrated His love. What verb is used in Romans 5:8? (GAVE). We are going to demonstrate love by [giving](#). Do [Secret Cupid](#) activity as a family.

Day 3. Give a Heart Attack.

For this, each family member cuts out 2 hearts for the other family members. On the hearts write and fill in the blank, "I love you because..." Then tape the hearts to each family member's door. Give them a heart attack... the good kind!

Variation: Instead of putting hearts on the doors, create [love trees](#) to put the hearts on.

Day 4. Read the story of St. Valentine.

Discuss over hot chocolate with [heart-mellows](#).

Day 5. Love a stranger.

Read the parable of the [Good Samaritan](#).

Brainstorm all the ways we can love strangers. Pick one thing to do today (open a door, carry groceries, let someone go first.) **Look for opportunities to love strangers** and have everyone share how it went at end of day.

Day 6. Discover Love's mission.

Did you know that God's love has a mission? [What did Jesus come to do?](#) Talk about what a "mission" is and how God accomplishes His purposes. What role does love play? For today's Valentine's Day activity, **you are going on a love mission! Go on a Scavenger Hunt. Tips for planning a scavenger hunt here.**

Day 7. Let Love cast out fear.

Read [I John 4:18](#). Talk about fears and how understanding God's love can alleviate them. Play the [Trust Toss game](#).

Day 8. Love themed Movie Night.

Make pink popcorn. Watch a movie such as [Fireproof](#) or [No Greater Love](#) or my personal favorite, [North & South](#) (but it's long!)

Day 9. Love is patient.

Talk about times when it is difficult to be patient with others. Then introduce today's activity by saying, "One of the characteristics of love is patience. Today we are going to make a game together. It will take some time to make and play. During the process, we're going to practice loving each other by being patient with one another." **Make and play Valentine Yahtzee.** {Note: I could not get her printables to download so made my own version based on her ideas!}

Day 10. Love an enemy.

Who is someone you don't like, or who is it that doesn't like you? Who mistreats you? What does the Bible say about this? **Read Luke 6:27-28.** As a family, **spend some time praying** for the people you mentioned. Think of ways you can love and bless them. Choose one thing to do this week to bless an enemy.

Day 11. Love a Friend.

Read the story of [Jonathan and David](#). Talk about friendship and what it means to be a friend. **Then, for today's Valentine's Day activity, write a letter to a friend.**

Day 12. Love is kind.

When do you just need a word or act of kindness from someone? Choose someone in your family to be kind to and **make them a coupon book.** [Here are more printable coupons.](#)

Day 13. Love shares.

Invite friends or neighbors over for your Minute to Win It Valentines party tomorrow. Get everything set up and ready for your guests.

Day 14. It's Valentines Day! Have a pink party and serve chocolate fondue. **Play Minute to Win It games** and discuss how you have grown in love this month. Links to games: The [Candy Game](#), several Minute to Win It games from [Makoodle](#), [Stacks of love](#),

Mission News!

NEW FOR THIS YEAR - We have had several requests to also support Youth Haven boxes. So, this year the Mission Committee has made a decision to send materials for gift boxes to Youth Haven located in Rives Junction, Michigan. Youth Haven has hosted camps for underprivileged girls and boys without any State or Federal Funding. We feel this is a very worthy organization to help support. We will still be doing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with Samaritans Purse. But at this time, it is our desire to divide our resources between the two organizations. Youth Haven hosts several camps throughout the year for hurting and foster children to teach them about Jesus. If you have any questions, you may ask anyone on the Missions Committee.

PLANS FOR A GARAGE SALE IN MAY – Last year we hosted a garage sale to help with postage for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. We feel the garage sale was very successful. We made over \$2,000 dollars that more than covered our postage expense for all the “OCC” shoeboxes we sent out. This year proceeds from the garage sale will help with expense for items for Youth Haven boxes and “OCC” postage for the shoeboxes. If you have items you planned to donate someplace, would you consider bringing them to the garage sale we plan to host in May? Please talk with Sandy Braid at #989-277-0566 if you have any questions. It is a great way to get rid of items that are just taking up room around your home and the income can be put to good use. Last year I put several large items on the sale and all of them were sold! But we also sold lots of smaller items also.

OUR MISSION JAR – Thank you for your continued support of our Missionary Jar. This jar is located by our mailboxes. Tom Wahl is our Mission s treasurer and has told me he is happy to take, coins, paper bills of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 or more and checks. We collect all year so we will be able to send all our Missionaries a check in early November, as a Christmas gift to them.

We invite everyone at our church to be a part of our Missions Committee. Come see the things God is doing through our giving from this church. Our next meeting will be Monday, February 12th at 10:00 am. We will be discussing our Easter Breakfast that will be coming up before we know it. **COME JOIN US!**



Grandma's Kitchen

LEAN & GREEN

NO-FUSS SALMON BURGERS WITH CUCUMBER SALAD

YIELD: 2 SERVINGS

PER SERVING: 1 LEAN | 3 GREEN | 3 CONDIMENTS | ½ SNACK

TOTAL TIME: 25 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS:

SALMON BURGERS

- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 ½ Tbsp light mayo
- ½ tsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp minced onion
- ¼ tsp dried parsley
- Dash of pepper
- 1, 5-oz. can drained skinless and boneless pink salmon, packed in water
- 1 packet Multigrain Crackers, crushed
- Cooking spray

CUCUMBER SALAD

- 1, 5.3-oz container low-fat plain Greek yogurt
- 2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp fresh dill (or ½ tsp dried)
- Dash of salt and pepper
- 3 cups peeled, thinly sliced cucumber

DIRECTIONS:

1. In a small bowl whisk together the egg, mayo, lemon juice, onion, parsley, and pepper. Gently fold in salmon and crushed crackers. Divide mixture in half, and shape into two patties. Cook on a lightly greased skillet over medium-high heat until golden brown on both sides, about 5 minutes per side.
2. Meanwhile, whisk together the yogurt, vinegar, dill, salt and pepper. Pour over cucumber slices, and stir to mix in. Chill until ready to serve.



Cheeseburger Casserole

Makes 1 Serving

Ingredients:

- 3.12 oz. 85% Lean Ground Beef or 2.5 oz. cooked
- 3 oz. 2% Plain Greek Yogurt
- 1 oz. Low Fat Shredded Cheese
- 1 Small Spaghetti Squash or 8.19 oz. cooked
- 1/2 Tsp. Onion Powder
- 1/2 Tsp. Garlic Powder
- 1/2 Tsp. Tomato Paste
- 1/4 Tsp. Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 oz. Dill pickle slices or chopped

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400*

Pierce spaghetti squash a few times with a knife. Place in microwave on high for 3-5 min. (depending on the size), and continue to microwave until softened to the touch, let it cool completely. Once cooled, cut in half and scrape the spaghetti squash and place in a greased baking dish add the squash forming a "crust" pressing down with your fingers and set aside.

In a skillet add the ground beef, onion powder and garlic powder and cook completely (8-10 min), once cooked; drain and set aside.

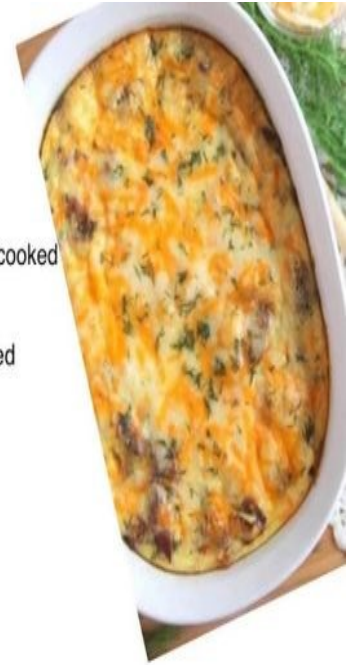
In a medium sized bowl add the Greek yogurt, tomato paste and Worcestershire sauce and whisk until well combined.

Stir ground beef into the mixture. Pour "pie filling" over the squash "crust" and top off with the shredded cheese. Bake at 400 degrees for 40 minutes.

Enjoy!!

Per Health Plan 1 Serving Yields:

1 Lean | 3 Greens | 3 Condiments | 1 Optional Snack



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 Bancroft, MI 48414



Bancroft Church Phone Number:
 989-634-5724
Secretary: Diane Lepior
Office Hours: 9-2 daily
Call ahead please,
most days Diane 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	9	10 8 am  Men's Prayer Breakfast
11 Young Adults 5pm Valade's	12 Missions—10 am CE—6 pm	13	14 Ladies Fellowship— 10 am Elders—7 pm 	15	16	17 Food Pantry 10– Noon 
18 Awana Youth Group 6-7:30 pm	19	20	21	22	23	24
25  Child Protection class after church today.	26	27	28	29		

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

DOES NOT REJOICE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS
IS PATIENT
IS KIND
DOES NOT BRAG
DOES NOT ACT UNBECOMINGLY
REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH
IS NOT JEALOUS
IS NOT ARROGANT
DOES NOT TALK INTO ACCOUNT A WRONG
DOES NOT SEEK IT'S OWN
DOES NOT TALK INTO ACCOUNT A WRONG SUFFER

LOVE

BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS,
HOPES ALL THINGS, ENDURES ALL THINGS.

Love never fails
design Eric Novak



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