



The BCC Connection

August
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 NO Summer CE classes

Worship Service 10:30 a.m. (summer worship time)

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

2022 Community Hands Outreach





By the time you read this, I will have preached a message on standing by God's truth and the fight that we are to take on within the church. This article will be a bit of a summary of that message and will continue what we've been looking at over the last several months.

This direction seemed more needed after the reactions we have seen in the wake of the SCOTUS Dobbs case overturning Roe v. Wade. I'm not just referencing the reactions of non-Believers in our country who want to see abortion legal even after birth, but I'm also referencing what we have seen from many within the Church. These reactions haven't surprised me but have definitely been disappointing. They have ranged from disagreement to outright hatred for anyone who disagrees. Some have said that if you disagree with them that you can't be friends and to get out of their lives! This is from people who claim to be Christians. Where does this sort of reaction come from?

I firmly believe that people have reacted this way because of many of the things we have been looking at over these last few months. In particular, I believe a major factor is their lack of truth and understanding it. It becomes imperative that we not only know the truth, know what the truth is, but that we also are able to fight and defend it. I'm focusing on defending it here, and if you would like to see more about truth itself take a look at last month's article.

God's truth needs to be defended because many in the pulpits in America have abandoned it so they can be popular or liked. They have gone "woke" and have bought into Critical Race Theory and other philosophies that go against the Gospel. I have been surprised to see who some of those pastors have been, such as David Platt and Andy Stanley. This isn't including those like Rob Bell, Brian Maclaren, and Tony Campolo who are some of the main voices for the emerging church (read previous articles for more info). This fight needs to be had because truth cannot change. If truth can change, then we don't have salvation through Christ and the Gospel becomes mute. We are also told in Scripture that we are to fight for it, which is one of Paul's main messages to Timothy in both of his letters. He says it multiple times like he does in 2 Timothy 1:13-14, *"Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me- a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you."* That pattern referenced by Paul is God's Word- our blueprint for life and our walk with Christ- which is to be guarded, fought for. By referencing this multiple times in both letters, I believe Paul is pleading with us to fight for the truth of the Gospel. The first place we fight that fight is within the church- and yes, this is a fight worth fighting.

Jude spends much of his letter to Believers telling them to fight for the truth of the Gospel. He even changed the purpose of his letter because this had become such a big issue, Jude 3-4 *"Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to His holy people. I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."* Clearly the fight is within the church for the message of the church. We are to push back against these heretical teachings (again, look to previous articles for what those teachings are) so that people hear the true message of hope that we have through Jesus Christ. (see also 1 Timothy 1:3, 18-19) Now we come to the hard part, how we do it.

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This is where most people get in trouble because we get all fired up and start getting agitated, even angry. But we see in our defense that we are to go about it without fear and with love. We can't take the stand in love if we have fear in our hearts, so we rely on God and His promises to always be with us. Paul knows this and brings it up to Timothy so that the young preacher will have the courage and attitude necessary, 2 Timothy 1:6-8 *"This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News."* No matter what we face in this, we know God is with us and never leaves us; Isaiah 41:10 *"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."* (see also Matthew 28:20) When we have conquered the fear, we can do it how Scripture tells us to, in love.

The Bible is pretty clear that we are to defend the truth of Christ in love. I won't write them all out here so you can look them up, but these are just a couple of the many: 1 Peter 3:15-16; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Jude 22-23. It is important to do it in love so that those we interact with are brought back to the Church and the faith, not pushed away from it. It has been said that no one has ever been argued to Christ or the Church. Our desire is to have all those that God seeks to be in His kingdom.

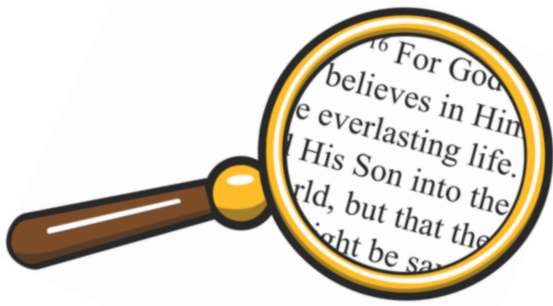
Over the next couple of months we will look at the battles that will come with the world over God's truth and the weapons of war that God has given us. Until then, keep going over the Scripture given here, look for more, and you can watch our live stream from July 17 as I will have gone into more detail on many of the things touched on here.

Scripture work this month: 2 Timothy 1; Jude 3-4; 1 Timothy 1; 2 Timothy; Jude 22-23; 1 Peter 3:15-16

Be blessed & be a blessing

Model G. Jones





Apologetics

How Can We Know Anything At All?

Surely knowledge is crucial in our day-to-day lives. We don't trust a dentist who believes he can perform a needed tooth extraction, no matter how sincere his belief; we go to a dentist who knows he can. We don't rely on a friend's hunch when wondering whether to take an umbrella; we listen to a meteorologist who has good reasons for his prediction. The prosecuting attorney (ideally) doesn't try to get the jury to feel angry with the defendant; she wants to establish the truth of his guilt.

Similarly, in matters of religion, what should matter is knowledge, not merely sincere belief; good reasons for faith, not hunches; truth, not feelings. Christianity is more than ritual or mythology or emotions; it is a knowledge tradition. Christianity claims certain things can be known.

Kinds of knowledge. We use knowledge (and the verb to know) in at least three different senses. It refers to (1) propositional knowledge—knowing facts; (2) knowledge by acquaintance—knowing something or someone directly; and (3) skill knowledge—know-how. Here are some examples. A sports fan may know many facts about last year's MVP, or a historian may know all about ancient Rome, and yet neither person's propositional knowledge constitutes the direct knowledge by acquaintance that the player's teammates or Julius Caesar possessed. Someone may have the know-how to ride a bike or play pool without having any propositional knowledge about force, inertia, or angular momentum.

Christianity involves all three types of knowledge. Eternal life, Jesus said, is knowing God (John 17:3). This is knowledge by acquaintance and is more than knowledge of Bible facts or systematic theology. (Sadly, it is possible for someone to know a lot about the Bible, or a lot about theology, and yet not know God.) Jesus went on to say that eternal life is knowing "the One You have sent—Jesus Christ." This involves knowing certain facts about Jesus of Nazareth and about His mission as Savior. So, both knowledge by acquaintance and propositional knowledge are involved.

What about skill knowledge? Since salvation is not by works, no skill is involved in becoming a Christian. But growing in our faith involves learning certain skills: how to study the Bible, how to think as Christians about decision making, how to pray, how to share our faith, and so on.

Propositional knowledge. All three senses of knowledge are important, but propositional knowledge demands careful consideration. For the vast bulk of what we know is propositional and does not come by direct acquaintance or know-how. Propositional knowledge may be defined roughly as justified true belief.

(Continued on page 6)



The blessing of Community

August

- Day 1: Psalm 133:1
- Day 2: Matthew 7:12
- Day 3: Matthew 18:19-20
- Day 4: Matthew 22:37-39
- Day 5: John 13:34-35
- Day 6: Proverbs 17:17
- Day 7: Proverbs 27:10
- Day 8: Proverbs 27:17
- Day 9: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
- Day 10: Leviticus 19:18
- Day 11: Acts 2:44-45
- Day 12: Acts 2:46-47
- Day 13: Romans 12:3
- Day 14: Romans 12:4-5
- Day 15: Romans 12:15
- Day 16: 1 Corinthians 1:10
- Day 17: Colossians 3:12-13
- Day 18: Colossians 3:14-15
- Day 19: Galatians 6:2
- Day 20: 1 John 1:7
- Day 21: 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- Day 22: 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15
- Day 23: James 5:14-15
- Day 24: James 5:16
- Day 25: John 15:12-13
- Day 26: Hebrews 10:24-25
- Day 27: 1 Corinthians 12:12
- Day 28: 1 Corinthians 12:13-14
- Day 29: 1 Corinthians 12:20-22
- Day 30: 1 Corinthians 12:23-24
- Day 31: 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

Pastor's scripture recommendations: 2 Timothy 1; Jude 3-4; 1 Timothy 1;
2 Timothy; Jude 22-23; 1 Peter 3:15-16

News from the Bancroft Congregational Church Women's Fellowship



The ladies of BCC enjoy their time together on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. During our time together our priority is to read scripture to see what it is saying to us and to spend time in prayer. Without this time our ministry to the church would be useless.

The Women's Fellowship financially supports the ministry of Camp Barakel, which is the first place a portion of the finances goes each month. It is a blessing to be able to support those at Camp Barakel who bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to young people, families and many others.

The women are always ready to support the church and any activities of the church however we can. Much of this support involves food. Doesn't that sound like a good ministry?! There are many times food is needed for those of our church family: illness in the home, meals after a funeral, assistance at a wedding, lunch for Community Hands Outreach workers, as well as any other times a request for food support might be received.

Another part of this ministry is the church kitchen: organizing the kitchen cabinets and shelves and cleaning everything about every 6 months. The ladies also are usually the first to find something that might need repair in the kitchen. When we do, this is reported to the appropriate person in the church. The Women's Fellowship will support the repair with financial resources if appropriate and any other way we can. This assistance is more important than you might realize.

This is a group within BCC that exists to serve God first, and then the needs of the church and the church family. We would enjoy seeing you at our gatherings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

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First, obviously, you can't know something if you don't believe it. Second, the proposition you believe must be true if it is to count as knowledge. Sincere (but false) beliefs, even useful (but false) beliefs, are not knowledge.

Third, a true belief must be justified; that is to say that you must have the right kinds of reasons for the belief. Even true beliefs do not count as knowledge if they are the result of a lucky guess, a hunch, or a passionate wish that things be so. The right kinds of reasons are those making it probable that the proposition you believe is true. They are truth indicators.

What counts as the right kinds of reasons depends on the nature of the proposition. I believe the sun is shining because I can see it and feel its warmth. I believe I had cereal for breakfast because I clearly remember it. I believe my wife loves me because she tells me so, she shows me in many ways, and she has stuck with me for a number of years. And I believe Tiglath-pileser was a mighty king of Assyria who invaded Israel in 743 B.C. because I read about him in the Bible (2 Kings 15–16) and in reliable histories of Assyria. In all these cases the reasons why I believe what I do are truth indicators. They are the right kinds of reasons to justify those beliefs.

Can we know anything without using our senses? In the examples above, the justifying reasons involved the senses—even beliefs based on memory, for the memories were formed through sensory experiences. It is clear that beliefs based on our senses can be justified (provided, of course, that we are not too tired, the lighting is adequate, our sense organs are functioning properly, and so on). Knowledge based on the senses is called empirical knowledge.

The Enlightenment doctrine of empiricism holds that all knowledge of the world is empirical. Today, the spectacular successes of the natural sciences have enshrined empirical investigation as by far the best—and for most people, the only—way to know. But what about things we can't sense? Is nonempirical knowledge possible? The question is crucial, for a great many important things can't be known through our senses—things such as whether we have a soul and whether God exists.

Is empiricism true? No. Notice first that the claim "All knowledge of the world is empirical" is itself not an empirical statement. How could we know that through our senses? The claim is self-refuting. But beyond that, there are good reasons to think that at least some knowledge of the world is nonempirical (a doctrine called moderate rationalism). Beliefs that certain things exist that cannot be directly observed may be inferred from empirical observations. This is how we justify belief in such things as electrons, gravitational fields, beauty, or love. And similarly for belief in God. Further, the analogy between sensory experience and religious experience provides good reasons for the justification of religious beliefs based on religious experience.

Finally, we can know some things without using our senses at all. For example, we can know much about ourselves through introspection (a nonempirical process). We can know that we have minds that think, believe, hope, fear, and so on, and that we are not identical to our bodies. Many ethicists claim that moral knowledge is accessible through intuition or conscience or pure reason. Following St. Anselm, many scholars have thought that the ontological proof—a non-empirical argument—establishes God's necessary existence. Moreover, we have non-empirical as well as empirical evidence of God's existence (Romans 1:19-20), what has been called the *sensus divinitatis*. And since our belief in God's existence is justified, we also are justified in believing what He has revealed to us. For all these examples, we can point to the right kinds of reasons that justify nonempirical beliefs.

Weekly Service Schedule for August 2022

Service	7th	14th	21st	28th
Greeter	Sally Labadie	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Walt Reed
Greeter	Jr. Love	Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed	Marion Reed
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
Welcome/Call to Worship	Brian Reed	Layne Valade	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl
Prayer Elder	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	Layne Valade
Jr. Church Teacher	Charlotte Adolf	Paula Wahl	Becky Durling	Diane Lepior
Jr. Church Helper	Lee Habermehl	Jenny Habermehl	Cathy Taber	Shana Post
Scripture Reader Message Prayer	Laurie Valade Job 1:1-5	Vaeh Cooke Job 1:6-22	Layne Valade Job 2:1-13	Jade Evans TBD
Benediction	Pastor	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed
Financial Team	Tom Wahl	Matt Post	Brian Reed	Gary Hammond
Financial Team	Lee Habermehl	James Huguelet	Carl Cooke	Dan Bryant
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!

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Service	4th	11th	18th	25th
Greeter	Sally Labadie	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Walt Reed
Greeter	Jr. Love	Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed	Marion Reed
Nursery	Layne Valade	Cathy Taber	Jenny Habermehl	Brian Reed
Nursery	Daphne Valade	Laurie Valade	Paula Wahl	Karla Reed
Sound	Isaac Zander	Matt Post	Jade Evans	Jazz Evans
Computer	Vaeh Cooke	Kaylee Siddens	Sarah Bias	Aaron Zander
Welcome/Call to Worship	Matt Post	Layne Valade	Brian Reed	Carl Cooke
Prayer Elder	Brian Reed	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post
Jr. Church Teacher	Charlotte Adolf	Paula Wahl	Diane Lepior	Becky Durling
Jr. Church Helper	Lee Habermehl	Jenny Habermehl	Shana Post	Cathy Taber
Scripture Reader Message Prayer	No reader needed	Maddie Bias Job 42	Dan Bryant John 1:35-51	Jordan Owens TBD
Benediction	Pastor	Matt Post	Brian Reed	Layne Valade
Financial Team	Layne Valade	Lee Habermehl	Carl Cook	James Huguelet
Financial Team	Dan Bryant	Brian Reed	Matt Post	Gary Hammond
Communion	Matt Post			

This Month's Cause for Celebration!



5 th	Wes Canute
7 th	Dan Bryant
9 th	Wanda Evans
20 th	Matt Post Aaron Zander
21 st	Vicki Zieba
26 th	Doug Leithauser
27 th	Sean Siddens
30 th	Daphne Valade

“Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Ephesians 5:18b-20



1st	Mike & Jackie McDonald
5th	Jon & Gail Love
6th	David & Tracie Zander
7th	Dennis & Linda Malloy
11th	Cevin & Laurie Valade James & Karen Huguelet



Kids Corner

SPONGE WATER BOMBS



Materials:



Sponges, rubber bands and scissors.

Directions:



Cut each sponge into fourths



Stack them...



Pinched the center together and
Wrap a rubber band as tightly as you can
around the middle.
Soak them in a bucket of water and
Enjoy a game of 'dodge the sponge'!

Pop Bottle Firefly



Equipment

Glue Gun
Scissors

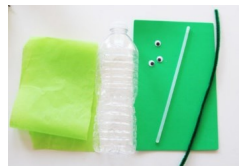
Materials:

1 water bottle or pop bottle (**CLEAR**); 1 glow stick (**ANY COLOR**); 1 foam sheet (**ANY COLOR**); 4 pipe cleaners (**ANY COLOR**); 1 pair googly eyes; 1 sheet tissue paper; 1 bottle Mod Podge; 1 foam brush

Instructions

1. Cut a sheet of tissue paper into 1 inch strips. 2. Brush a layer of Mod Podge onto the center of your bottle. 3. Stick the tissue paper strips onto the Mod Podge, wrapping it around the bottle. 4. Brush another layer of Mod Podge on top of the tissue strips. 5. Once dry, wrap three pipe cleaners around the center of the bottle, on top of the tissue strips. Twist each one around the bottom to form the legs. 6. Cut 2 wing shapes out of a foam sheet. Using a glue gun, attach them to the top of the bottle. 7. Place your glow stick inside the bottle. 8. Glue on a pair of googly eyes onto the bottle cap then twist another pipe cleaner around the neck of the bottle to form the antenna. 9. Your pop bottle firefly is complete!

1.



2.



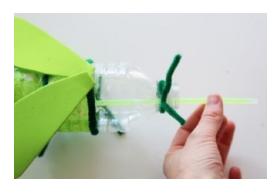
3. & 4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Enjoy!

Mission News!

A Big Thank You!

We want to say 'Thanks' to Karla for her years of service as chairman of the Missions Committee. Karla will be stepping down as chairman as of August 1st. A new chairman will be announced soon. Thanks Karla for all your hard work covering so many aspects of our church missions.



Operation Christmas Child

We're looking for school supplies for August and September. Now is a great time to find them on sale! You may bring in your donations and leave them in the box in front of the office window.

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." Proverbs 19:17

Gifts to Show God's Love

"Did you want something, sir?" asked the youngest shepherd boy in a rather grown-up tone. "Why did you stop here?" Yusif (an OCC volunteer) explained that God wanted him to give a gift and a small book about His Son, Jesus Christ, to these two brothers, ages 5 and 7. "Why in the world do you want to give me this box?" the younger one inquired again. Though just 5, he talked—and rode his donkey—like an adult. "This is just a gift for you from God, who loves you and wants to show His love through this gift," Yusif said. The boy took the shoebox gift, pressed it to his chest, and turned to look toward his older brother who was tending the flock a distance away. Yusif noticed his concerned glance and assured him that there was a gift for his brother, too. The boy then called to his sibling who quickly came riding toward them.

Bringing Joy to Those Working Hard to Survive

Yusif grabbed a shoebox gift and a copy of The Greatest Gift and went to meet the older brother. Opening the booklet, he started reading to the boy and explained that the Lord created the world—including mankind—because of His great love. Yusif gave him the shoebox gift and said, "This gift is a sign of His affection to you—He loves you." The older boy took the box and held it tight, much like his younger brother had done with his. Then, the younger one began to read the booklet as he sat atop his donkey. "The boys got excited because no one ever gave them gifts," Yusif said. "In this region, even young boys have to work hard to survive." He explained that parents expect much of their children, entrusting the care of large flocks to them, despite the threat of wild animals and people with evil intent. "The Lord sent us into their reality to say that He loves them," Yusif said. The team prayed over these boys as they left. Later, they prayed again that a seed was planted that would grow in the hearts of the young shepherds. Now, Yusif continues to pray that he will see the boys when he goes that way again, and he also asks God to help him drive slower so he will notice more people like them.



Grandma's Kitchen

Pretzel Strawberry Jell-o Salad



Ingredients

pretzel crust

- 2 cups crushed pretzels
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup butter – melted
- 3 tablespoons sugar

creamy filling

- ◆ 8 ounces cream cheese – softened
- ◆ $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- ◆ 8 ounces Cool Whip - defrosted

strawberry topping

- * 6 ounces strawberry Jell-o
- * 2 cups boiling water
- * 4 cups sliced strawberries

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Combine crushed pretzels, butter, and sugar in a bowl and press into the bottom of a 9x13 pan. Bake 10 minutes and cool completely.
3. In a medium bowl, mix cream cheese and sugar with a hand mixer on medium until fluffy. Gently fold in Cool Whip. Spread mixture evenly over the cooled crust and refrigerate at least 1 hour.
4. In a large mixing bowl combine Jell-O and boiling water until Jell-O is dissolved. Allow mixture to sit at room temperature until completely cooled.
5. Place sliced strawberries over the cream cheese mixture. Pour cooled Jell-O otop.
6. Refrigerate until firmly set, at least 4-6 hours or overnight.

POKE CAKE Combinations

			STRAWBERRY & CREAM 
			RED WHITE BLUE 
			CINNAMON ROLL 
			DEATH BY CHOCOLATE 
			BUTTERFINGER 
			RED VELVET 
			JELL-O 

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 Bancroft, MI 48414



Bancroft Church Phone Number:
 989-634-5724
 Secretary: Diane Lepior
 Office Hours: 9-2 daily
 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 Missions 10 am	9	10 7 pm - Ladies Fellowship Elders	11	12	13 8 am 
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 10 am—Noon 
21  Potluck at church; Baptism, fun and fellowship at Hammond Pond.	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Annual Church Picnic

We will have a potluck in our fellowship room after the worship service on the 21st. After the potluck, we will go out to Hammond's Pond for fun and fellowship along with a baptism. Please bring your own chairs, drinks and perhaps a snack to share.

*"Be strong and
courageous. Do not be
frightened, and do not be
dismayed, for the Lord
your God is with you
wherever you go."*

-Joshua 1:9



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