



# *The BCC Connection*

May  
2025

*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.*

# ATHENS

*Paul's Dangerous Journey  
to Share the Truth*



**Mark your calendars!  
Monday—Thursday  
June 16 through 26th  
6 pm to 8:30 pm**



From Your Favorite Pastor



The 5<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry, "Duryée's Zouaves," was one of the most renowned fighting regiments of the American Civil War. Their colorful Zouave uniform, precise maneuvers, effectiveness in combat and steady bearing under fire, won them universal respect and recognition. "I doubt whether it had an equal," General George Sykes said of the 5<sup>th</sup> New York.

On the afternoon of August 30, 1862, the third day of the Second Battle of Manassas, John Bell Hood's famed "Texas Brigade" launched a massive attack. There were few Union troops to meet the onslaught, among those, were two Zouave regiments: the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> New York. In less than 10 minutes, 85 lives of approximately 525 men of the 5th New York were lost.

Brevet Brigadier General Hiram Duryea, former commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> New York, would later comment on that fateful day in a Memorial Day tribute at Manassas in 1907, on land he had purchased for the erection of a monument to his beloved Zouaves: *"We stand on holy ground! For this field was the altar of God. The Master said, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' Here, our comrades laid down their lives for love of country, for human right, for the love and service of man. We sorrow at their loss, but we rejoice at their glorious death and achievements. God grant that the fruits of their sacrifice be preserved to our country."*

As we approach Memorial Day, we remember and celebrate the sacrifice of the over 1.3 million deaths and over 38,000 missing soldiers that have served to protect this nation. That sacrifice gave us the freedom to worship God in this amazing country, and we are to honor that sacrifice.

We honor that as believers in Christ by doing what Jesus called us to. Brigadier General Duryea quoted John 15:13 above. But when we look at the context of that passage in v.9-17, we see that Jesus was calling us to something specific with that. First, He tells us that we are His friends when we follow Him and do what He calls us to. As friends, He gave the ultimate sacrifice for us by dying on the cross. (v.13-14) Then in v.16 He goes on to tell us how we honor that sacrifice, "...go and produce lasting fruit..." That fruit is sharing the message of hope that only Jesus gives, the hope of salvation through Him alone. Jesus finishes the passage with the command that will help us accomplish that: "love each other." (v.17) Love people sacrificially through serving them, helping them, giving generously, and standing by them through the trials of life.

This Memorial Day pray for the families of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, pray for the salvation of all those serving now, and go love others to Christ- fulfilling His command. Read John 15:1-17 this month, and pray about what He says to you there.

Happy summer!!

In Christ's love,



# Twisted Scripture

## Matthew 14:6-12

This passage leads Jehovah's Witnesses and some Christian holiness groups to believe it is wrong to celebrate birthdays or holidays. Are birthday celebrations pagan simply because Herod killed John the Baptist at such an event? The only way to draw this conclusion from Matthew 14:6-12 is to read it into the text. The most we can say from this passage is that it's unwise to make rash promises when caught up in the emotion of a celebration event, as happened to Herod (vs. 7,9). Nothing in the context says birthday celebrations are wrong. The same is true of secular holidays. In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul went so far as to say that eating meat offered to idols was not immoral as long as choosing to do so did not cause another Christian to stumble. Using this as a general principle, we see that the Bible allows Christians the freedom to participate in such events as birthday parties and holiday festivities as long as no harm is done to others (Colossians 2:16).

## Matthew 18:19-20

Some Christians take this verse to mean that the Spirit of Jesus comes around only if two or three Christians are gathered together. However, context indicates that this is a mistaken conclusion. The topic of Matthew 18 is church discipline, where an errant Christian is confronted about his or her ongoing sin. Jesus promised in verse 17 that He would be present whenever the church leaders met together to resolve difficult situations such as these (also see 1 Corinthians 5:4). Later, Jesus told His disciples that He would be with them always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20). He did not say it would take two or more of them to make this a reality. If Matthew 18:19-20 really did say that two or three believers are needed for Christ to be present, by implication we should never read our Bibles alone or pray by ourselves. Yet Jesus emphasized the importance of privately coming to God (Matthew 6:6), and so we know He is present with us even when we are alone.

# Learning to Trust

## May



- Day 1: Proverbs 3:5-6
- Day 2: Psalm 9:9-10
- Day 3: Psalm 20:7-8
- Day 4: Psalm 112:7
- Day 5: Psalm 28:7
- Day 6: Proverbs 29:25
- Day 7: Proverbs 15:20
- Day 8: Joshua 1:9
- Day 9: Jeremiah 17:5-6
- Day 10: Jeremiah 17:7-8
- Day 11: Psalm 31:1-2
- Day 12: Psalm 37:3-4
- Day 13: Psalm 37:5
- Day 14: Psalm 55:22
- Day 15: Isaiah 26:3-4
- Day 16: Isaiah 40:28-29
- Day 17: Isaiah 40:30-31
- Day 18: Isaiah 41:10
- Day 19: Isaiah 41:13
- Day 20: Psalm 118:8-9
- Day 21: Psalm 91:1-2
- Day 22: Psalm 32:10-11
- Day 23: Psalm 56:3-4
- Day 24: John 10:27-28
- Day 25: John 14:1
- Day 26: John 16:33
- Day 27: Luke 8:48
- Day 28: Luke 11:9-10
- Day 29: Philippians 4:6-7
- Day 30: Romans 8:28
- Day 31: 1 John 5:14-15

Kingdom Bloggers





## Weekly Service Schedule for May 2025

Service	4th	11th	18th	25th
<b>Greeter</b>	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Walt Reed	Tom Wahl
<b>Greeter</b>	Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed	Marion Reed	
<b>Nursery</b>	Patty Hewitt	Jenny Habermehl	Daphne Valade	Cathy Taber
<b>Nursery</b>	Shana Post	Paula Wahl	Layne Valade	Laurie Valade
<b>Sound</b>	Aaron Zander	Katie	Sarah Bias	Aaron Zander
<b>Computer</b>	Matt Post	Wyatt Creigo	Maddie Bias	Matt Post
<b>Call to Worship &amp; Prayer</b>	Brian Reed	Matt Post	James Huguelet	Layne Valade
<b>Prayer Elder</b>	Layne Valade	James Huguelet	Matt Post	Layne Valade
<b>Jr. Church Teacher</b>	Amber Bias	Becky Durling	Paula Wahl	Becky Durling
<b>Jr. Church Helper</b>	Shana Post	Cathy Taber	Jenny Habermehl	Cathy Taber
<b>Scripture Reader Message Prayer</b>	Dan Bryant Exodus 20:19	Sandy Braid Exodus 21:12-14	Carl Cooke Exodus 22:30	Layne Valade Exodus 23:1-3
<b>Benediction</b>	Pastor	Layne Valade	James Huguelet	Brian Reed
<b>Financial Team</b>	Tom Wahl	James Huguelet	Carl Cooke	Matt Post
<b>Financial Team</b>	Layne Valade	Dan Bryant	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed
<b>Communion</b>	Matt Post			



## I'VE JUST SEEN JESUS: POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

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*Provide the answers for  
these post-resurrection appearances.*

1. The first of Jesus's friends to see Him alive again.
2. The first to reach the tomb and look inside.
3. The second to reach the tomb and look inside.
4. What the disciples thought they saw when Jesus first appeared to them.
5. The town the two disciples were going to when Jesus joined their walk.
6. The disciple who was not with the Twelve when Jesus appeared after passing through locked doors.
7. Jesus showed Thomas this to erase his doubts about Jesus.
8. What Jesus was making for the disciples when they came in from fishing.
9. The largest number of people who saw Jesus at once after the resurrection (according to Bible accounts).
10. This was where Jesus and His followers were when He ascended to heaven.

Answers on Page 11

# This Month's Cause for Celebration!



BIAS,	MADDIE	4-May
MALLOY	ALEX	6-May
BIAS,	AL	8-May
WAHL,	TOM	13-May
LEWIS,	CLYDE	14-May
CANUTE	SUE	15-May
EVANS	AMBER	18-May
EVANS	JAZZ	18-May
LEPIOR,	DIANE	19-May
VALADE,	CHRISTIAN	21-May
ZANDER	DAVID	29-May
ZANDER,	MATTHEW	30-May



2 Tom & Paula Wahl



# Kids Corner



# Mission News!

## Thank you

Thank you for everyone who came to the Easter Breakfast! We appreciate all food donations for the Easter breakfast and money donations to help support the food pantry. Thank you. We collected \$307 for a very active ministry in our church, the food pantry.



## New Meeting Date



We will start meeting every second Tuesday, starting May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. We invite you to join us!

## Camp Barakel

Our mission team is sending \$500 to Camp Barakel to help with their ice storm damage cleanup and repair.

## Missionary News

*Isaac Zander and Lexi*

Isaac Zander serves as Resident Missionary Staff at Camp Barakel. Isaac is getting married this summer, and he and Alexis Ray {Lexi} need to raise more support to meet their needs as they serve as a team.

### **Here's an excerpt from letters from Camp Barakel:**

About Lexi—"The work ethic she has shown while serving on our Seasonal Staff is exemplary, and her willingness to do what needs to be done is great. Whether she is preparing the place for our guests through cleaning and maintenance or actively hosting guests by running an activity during a weekend retreat, she will be contributing to making this ministry possible. She will be a valuable addition to our resident staff."

"Although Barakel provides for several physical needs for our resident missionary staff families, we do not pay wages. None of our campers' fees go toward a payroll, which makes camp affordable for more families. Camp does provide housing and utilities, so our Board of Trustees has determined that if Lexi raises \$1200 per month, and this is added to Isaac's support, they will be fully financially supported."

"We invite you to consider being a part of her support team. We are very grateful if you can help her financially- and donations sent to Barakel for her are tax-deductible. We are even more grateful for your prayers. If all we have is money, all we get is what money can do. When we, through prayer, 'splice our limp wire to the lightning bolt of heaven, we get what God can accomplish!"



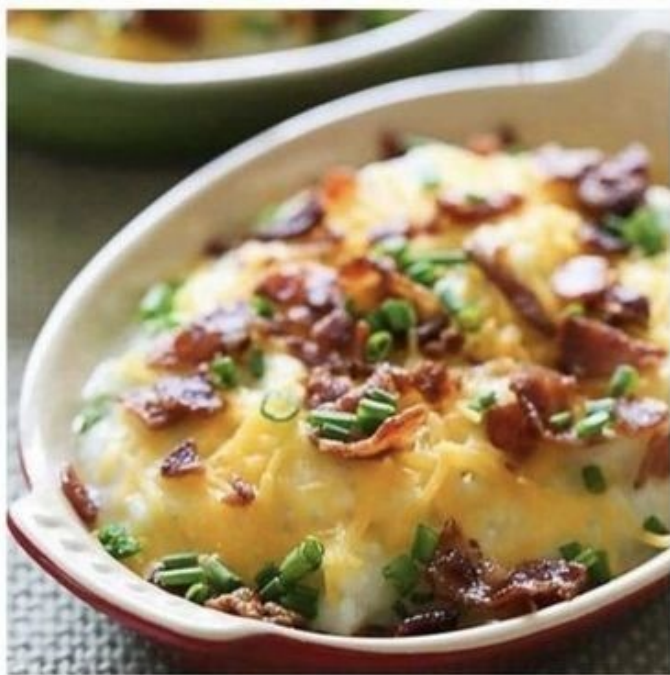
## Food Pantry News

Thank you for your support for the Bancroft Food Pantry! Thank you for all the workers who come and help distribute food.

Last month we helped over 34 families. We usually go through about 1000 pounds of food a month.

We're very fortunate to have the Lansing Food Bank support for our pantry. We are very excited that the Food Bank helped us out in April and gave us a grant for \$750! It's for infrastructure improvements; from their infrastructure program. It's only to be used for 'Infrastructure improvements' necessary for the effective distribution of foods. It's not to buy our food, but to help with our distribution. Some ideas that we have already come up with are some new carts and or a dolly; which will help us move the food around. Food is heavy to move around. It will be a big help. We need to spend it by June 13<sup>th</sup>. This was exciting news for our pantry team!

# Grandma's Kitchen



## Loaded Cauliflower "Mash" Bake

**YIELD:** 4 servings

**PER SERVING:** ¼ oz lean, 3 greens, 3 condiments, ¼ healthy fat

### INGREDIENTS:

4 slices Jennie-O Extra Lean Turkey bacon  
6 cups cauliflower florets  
3 cloves crushed garlic  
1/3 cup 1% buttermilk  
1 tbsp whipped butter  
¾ tsp salt  
½ tsp black pepper  
2 tbsp minced fresh chives, divided  
¼ cup shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese

### DIRECTIONS:

Cook the turkey bacon in a skillet until crisp; set aside on a paper towel then crumble. Fill a large pot with water, bring to a boil and add cauliflower and garlic. Boil until the cauliflower is soft, about 15-20 minutes. Drain, and return to the pot. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Add the buttermilk, butter, salt, and pepper to the cauliflower and purée with a hand blender. If you don't own a hand blender, a regular blender would work fine as well. Mix in 1 Tbsp of the chives and transfer to 4 individual casseroles (¾ cups each) or one 8 x 8 casserole dish and top with cheddar and crumbled bacon. Bake in the oven until the cheese melts, about 5 minutes then top with remaining chives.



## Healthy Chicken Parmesan

**YIELD:** 3 Serving

**PER SERVING:** 1 Leaner, 1 Green, 1 Healthy Fat & 3 Condiments

### INGREDIENTS:

2 tsp olive oil  
1 tsp chopped thyme  
1 tsp chopped rosemary  
1 tsp chopped Italian parsley  
3 chicken cutlets (about 4 ounces cooked each)  
¼ tsp salt  
½ tsp pepper  
¾ cup Rao's marinara sauce  
1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella  
8 tsp grated reduced-fat parmesan  
½ Tbsp unsalted butter, cut into pieces

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 500°F. In a bowl, stir oil, thyme, rosemary, and parsley. Brush both sides of chicken w/herb oil and sprinkle w/salt and pepper. Heat a large, heavy ovenproof skillet over high heat. Add chicken cook just until browned, 1 minute per side. Remove from the heat. Spoon marinara sauce over and around the cutlets. Sprinkle w/mozzarella, 2.6 tsp of Parmesan. Dot tops w/butter pieces bake until cheese melts and chicken is cooked 5 minutes.

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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	9	10 
11 	12 CE 6 pm	13 Missions 10 am	14 Ladies Fellowship 10 am Elders 7 pm	15	16	17 
18 Awana Youth Group 6-7:30 pm	19	20 	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day 	27	28	29	30	31

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

**I'VE JUST SEEN JESUS:**

**POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES**

1. Mary Magdalene
2. John
3. Peter
4. a ghost
5. Emmaus
6. Thomas
7. hands and side
8. breakfast
9. 500
10. Mount of Olives



*Delight*  
yourself also in  
the **Lord** and  
**He** shall give you  
the *desires* of  
your heart.

Psalm 37:4

NATURAL LIVING FAMILY



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