



The BCC Connection

January
2026

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.

FOR GOD HAS NOT
GIVEN US a spirit of fear
BUT OF POWER AND
of LOVE
and of a SOUND MIND

2 TIMOTHY 1:7, NKJV



From your Favorite Pastor



Ever since 2020, a year that most will remember for the rest of their lives, we have seemingly experienced what Joel Rosenberg refers to as a shaking. What has been exposed since then is a great deal of discord within our country and the church in America. I believe it has been a shaking of the foundation of Christ's Church, to bring us back to our first love and expose those who truly love Him. But I also believe that this has all been just the beginning of greater struggles ahead, which goes with the idea that there is always a struggle going on somewhere in our lives.

When we look at James 1:2-4, we see how we will face trials and struggles in our lives. *“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.”* (NLT) As I said, most of us feel as though we want to forget the last 5 years or are looking at a year that we don't want to face. In the midst of that I encourage you to remember what James tells us, which he was writing in the midst of massive persecution of Christians. I love the way the NLT puts it *“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, **consider it an opportunity for great joy.**”* He is writing that to people who were facing possible death for their beliefs. People who had also most likely lost everything in their life short of death. New believers would face being ostracized from their families, losing jobs, kicked out of the Synagogue or temple, and being completely on their own. You want to talk about a struggle! In the midst of that, they are told to see joy in it, to seek it out, to see it as a way to grow their faith. In his book *Letters to the Church*, Francis Chan discusses how many in the underground Chinese church continually ask God to send them to dangerous places to share their faith. These are people who face life imprisonment for participating in a church not endorsed by the Chinese Communist Party, and yet they are seeing struggle and danger in evangelism as a blessing.

Most of us will never face that, but we will face our own difficult times, struggles and persecutions. As we come to the start of a new year that for many brings the possibility of new beginnings, remember that the struggles that come are a chance to learn, have, and show great joy. With that also comes the chance to show God's amazing grace for us all to a world desperately in need.

May the Spirit give you what you need to be able to “consider it PURE JOY”!

Be blessed & be a blessing



Twisted Scripture



Does the Bible Contain Errors



“Why do you believe the Bible? It is an ancient book full of errors and contradictions.” We have all heard this many times. However, most conservative evangelical Christians disagree with this claim. They hold to a doctrine called the inerrancy of Scripture.

The place to start our discussion is with a definition of inerrancy and error. By inerrancy, we mean that when all the facts are known, the Bible—in its original manuscripts and properly interpreted—will be shown to be true and never false in all that it affirms, whether related to doctrine, ethics, or the social, physical, or life sciences. Three matters in this definition are noteworthy. First, there is the recognition that we do not possess all the information to demonstrate the truth of the Bible. Much data has been lost due to the passing of time. It simply no longer exists. Other data await archaeological excavation. Second, inerrancy is defined in terms of truth that most philosophers today take to be a property of sentences, not words. This means that all the indicative sentences, or statements, of the Bible are true. Therefore, on this definition, an error in the Bible would require that it made a false statement. Finally, all information in the Bible, whatever the subject, is true. That is, it accurately records events and conversations, including the lies of men and Satan. It teaches truly about God, the human condition, and heaven and hell.

31-Day Scripture Writing Challenge

January



God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day this month to write down the following Scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the Scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 1 | Revelation 21:5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 17 | Psalms 46:1-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 2 | Isaiah 65:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 18 | Isaiah 26:3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 3 | Psalms 33:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 19 | Habakkuk 3:19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 4 | Col. 3:9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 20 | Psalms 119:114 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 5 | Lam. 3:22-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 21 | Proverbs 18:10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 6 | Ecc. 3:1-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 22 | Psalms 29:11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 7 | Ezekiel 11:19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 23 | Phil. 4:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 8 | Romans 6:6-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 24 | Isaiah 40:29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 9 | 2 Corinth. 5:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 25 | Eph. 3:16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 10 | Isaiah 42:9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 26 | Psalms 34:8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 11 | Eph. 4:22-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 27 | Joshua 10:25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 12 | Psalms 40:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 28 | Phil. 3:10-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 13 | Isaiah 43:19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 29 | Zechariah 4:6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 14 | Deut. 31:6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 30 | Exodus 15:2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 15 | Jeremiah 29:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 31 | Romans 8:31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 16 | Isaiah 41:10 | | |

Weekly Service Schedule for January 2026

Service	4th	11th	18th	25th
Music Team	Beth Rumery	Beth Rumery Jenny Cooke	Alex Malloy Jenny Cooke	Alex Malloy Wes Canute
Greeter	Walt Reed	Tom Wahl	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed
Greeter	Marion Reed		Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed
Nursery	Cathy Taber	Patty Hewitt	Volunteer Needed	Jenny Habermehl
Nursery	Karla Reed	Shana Post	Volunteer Needed	Paula Wahl
Sound	Maddie Bias	Aaron Zander	Cait Crego	Volunteer Needed
Computer	Sarah Bias	Matthew Zander	Wyatt Crego	Volunteer Needed
Call to Worship & Prayer	Matt Post	James Huguelet	Layne Valade	Brian Reed
Prayer Elder	James Huguelet	Brian Reed	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl
Jr. Church Teacher	Amber Bias	Paula Wahl	Becky Durling	Diane Lepior
Jr. Church Helper	Shana Post	Jenny Habermehl	Cathy Taber	Maggie Lewis Amber Evans
Scripture Reader	Carl Cooke	Layne Valade	Maddie Bias	Dan Bryant
Benediction	Pastor Todd	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	James Huguelet
Financial Team	Carl Cooke	Tom Wahl	James Huguelet	Layne Valade
Financial Team	Dan Bryant	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	Brian Reed
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!

*Did you know we have a Ladies Bible study on Wednesday mornings? We do!
Contact any of the ladies pictured here for more information
on how you can join!*



MATTHEW 1-14 CROSSWORD

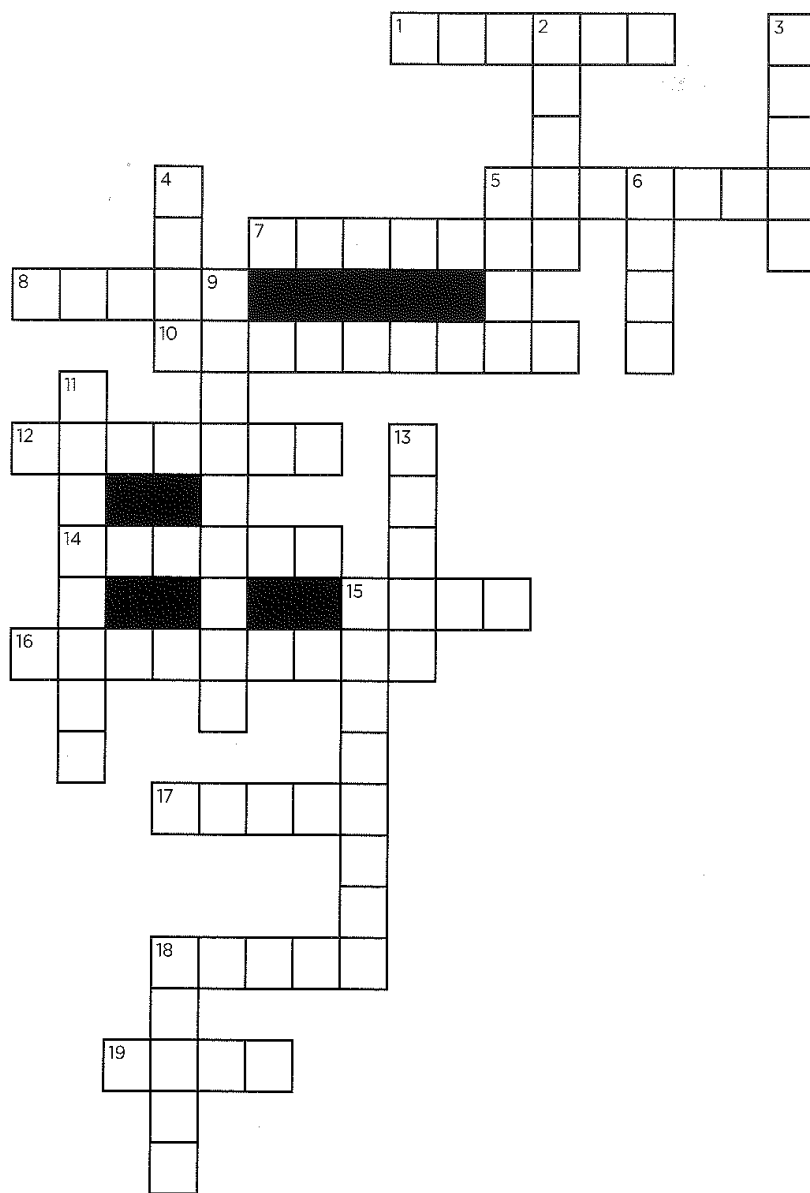
"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'" —Matthew 28:18

Across

1. Where John baptized people.
5. John said he was unworthy to carry these of Jesus.
7. First patriarch mentioned in Matthew's genealogy.
8. The physical problem of Peter's mother-in-law that Jesus healed.
10. They asked Jesus: "Why do you speak . . . in parables?"
12. What Herod told the Magi he wanted to do regarding Jesus.
14. In one word, the message of John the Baptist.
15. Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the ____."
16. Jesus said of this leader: "I have not found anyone . . . with such great faith."
17. Where Joseph and Mary were to escape with the baby.
18. Days Jesus fasted before facing Satan's temptation.
19. In the Gadarenes, Jesus sent demons into these.

Down

2. How the Magi discovered not to go back to Herod.
3. When Jesus walked on water, the disciples thought they saw one of these.
4. In the genealogy he was the son of Ruth and grandfather of David.
5. Joseph was to name the baby "Jesus," for He would ____ the people from their sins.
6. At Jesus's baptism, the Spirit descended like one of these.
9. Joseph is referred to as a ____ man.
11. The genealogy lists three sets of this many generations.
13. Jesus harvested this on the Sabbath which upset the Pharisees.
15. When Jesus heard of John the Baptist's death, He went to a ____ place.
18. Jesus said to the woman who was healed after touching His hem, "Your ____ has healed you."



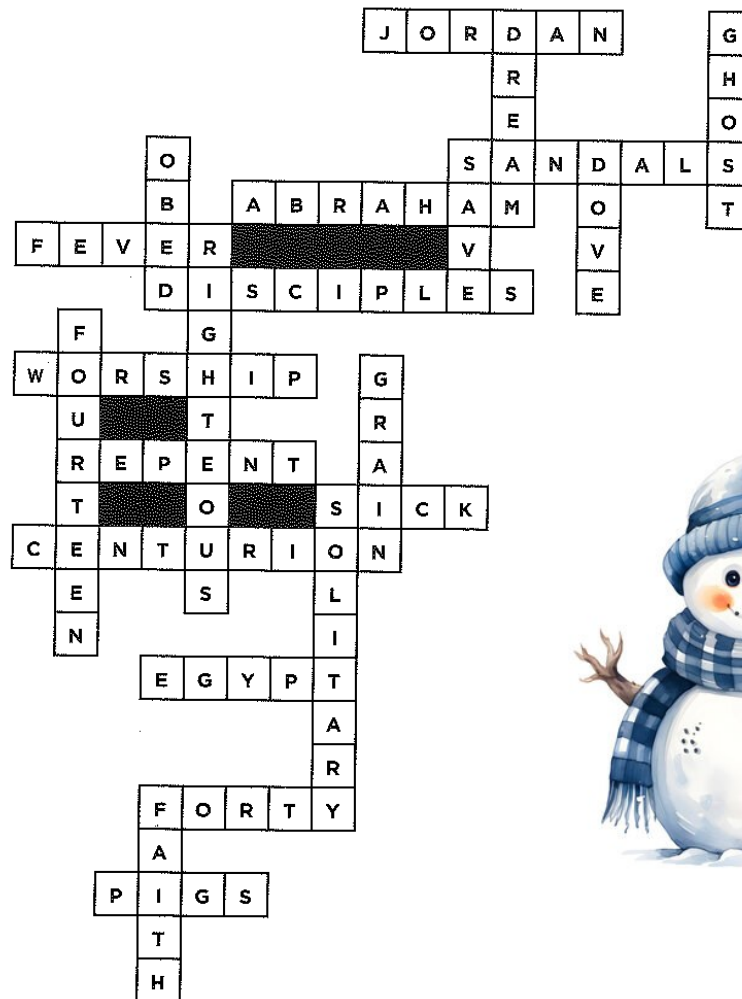
Answers on page 7

This Month's Cause for Celebration!



JOHNSON	ELIJAH	3-Jan
JOHNSON	NOAH	12-Jan
HAMMOND,	GARY	20-Jan
EVANS	JADE	22-Jan
RUMERY,	BETH	24-Jan
COOKE	JENNY	29-Jan

MATTHEW 1-14 CROSSWORD



Kids Corner



Gingerbread Man Play Dough Ingredients:

This recipe is easy to make, and very similar to store bought [Play Doh](#).

- ✦ 1 cup Flour
- ✦ 1/4 cup Salt
- 2 tsp [Cream of Tartar](#)
- ✦ 1 – 2 tsp ground Cinnamon
- ✦ 1- 2 tsp ground Ginger
- ✦ 1 tsp ground Nutmeg
- ✦ 1 tsp ground Cloves
- ✦ 1 cup Water
- ✦ 1 1/2 or 2 TBSP Vegetable Oil ~ both measurements have been used successfully in making the dough soft and pliable.

Feel free to play with the quantity of spices that you add.

Easy Play Dough Directions:

- ✦ Mix all ingredients in a saucepan ~ mix all the dry ingredients first, then add the wet ingredients separately.
 - ✦ Stir until your mixture resembles cake batter. It may still have a few lumps in it at this point.
 - ✦ Cook slowly over medium heat, stirring constantly.
 - ✦ It shouldn't take too long for the mixture to thicken...continue stirring.
 - ✦ Once the mixture forms one large "clump"
Simply remove the dough from the heat and knead by hand until smooth.

Caution...let cool before you let little fingers touch it. It will be very hot at this point.

This recipe makes about 2 cups of Gingerbread Play Dough.

NOTE: Make sure to remind your kiddos that even though it smells wonderful, it is not meant for eating.



Mission News!



Matthew preaching in Cuba.

Please pray for our missionaries Matthew and Jennifer Johnson!

Matthew returned from a week in Cuba on Saturday where he spoke at a conference for 100 Cuban pastors.

1. Pray for lasting fruit in Cuba:

Two highlights from Matt's time in Cuba were getting to teach through the book of Habakkuk, and ministering alongside his cousin who led sessions in the area of soul care. Please pray that God would continue to impress His Word on the heart of these Cuban pastors as they lead their churches.

2. Pray for Pastors Dennis and Isaac

Please pray for Pastor Dennis as he ministers in a community marked by crime and addiction, seeking to rescue young people with the hope of the gospel. Also, pray for Pastor Isaac as he plants two more churches near Havana and develops agricultural projects to support believers and serve the poor.

3. Pray for Matt's health needs

Matt's doctor referred him to a rheumatologist regarding ongoing health concerns. Please pray God opens the door for an appointment soon despite long wait times in our area.

News From Dottie Hoppe!

In Dottie Hoppe's last letter to us, she said they have the entire New Testament except for the book of Revelation translated now. Along with portions of the Old Testament! Please continue to pray for someone to help Jimmy with translation work.

All our missionaries need prayer regularly! Please pray for Carlos Novisteros, Debbie Price, Dottie Hoppe Kathy Coon, Youth Haven, Kathy Curtis, Issac and Lexi Zander, Matt and Jennifer Johnson, and Diane Lepior. If you would like to write to our missionaries to send letters or cards or words of encouragement, please contact Karla Reed for the updated addresses.



Grandma's Kitchen



Pizza Soup for a cold winter day!

Ingredients:

- 1 Tbls. Butter
- 1 lb. Extra-lean ground Chicken Italian Sausage
- 2 Cloves minced Garlic
- ½ Cup chopped Green Onion
- 1 Cup Bell Pepper, cut into ½ to 1-inch chunks
- 1 Cup Mushrooms, quartered
- 2 Cups Chicken or Vegetable Broth
- 28 oz. can (3 ½ Cups) crushed Tomatoes
- 1 tsp. Italian Seasoning
- ¼ tsp. Salt
- ¼ tsp. Pepper
- 2.8 oz. Turkey Pepperoni slices, cut into quarters
- 20 Small Black Olives, sliced
- 1 ⅓ Cups shredded reduced-fat part-skim mozzarella cheese

Directions:

1. In a nonstick frying pan, melt ½ Tbls. butter and scramble the chicken sausage until cooked through. Set aside.
2. In a large saucepan or pot, melt the remaining ½ Tbls. butter, sauté garlic, green onion, bell pepper, and mushrooms until tender.
3. Add broth, tomatoes, and seasonings. Stir to combine and bring just to boiling.
4. Reduce heat to simmer.
5. Add cooked sausage, pepperoni, and olives.
6. Stir and simmer for about 5 more minutes, until heated through, vegetables are soft, and flavors are combined.
7. Ladle soup into 4 bowls (about 1 ½ cups of soup per serving).
8. Top each with ⅓ Cup Mozzarella Cheese and serve.

Makes 4 Servings
 Each serving provides a full Lean and Green meal with required healthy fats and 1 ⅔ condiments.



Cauliflower Garlic Bread

(Makes 12 servings) **Each serving provides:** ½ green
 1 healthy fat, 3 condiments

Ingredients:

- 3 cups cauliflower rice
- 6 eggs
- 1 ¼ cups almond flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 tablespoon thyme
- 1 tablespoon parsley

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350. and line 9x5 loaf pan with parchment paper. Lightly spray the parchment paper with nonstick spray.
- In a bowl microwave cauliflower for 3-4 minutes or till soft. Let cool. when its cooled transfer a tea towel and wring out all the water.
- In a mixing bowl, beat egg whites till stiff peaks form. set aside.
- In a medium bowl, whisk together almond flour, baking powder, salt, egg yolks, melted butter, garlic, and 1/4 of your whipped egg whites.
- Stir till well combined, then stir in microwaved cauliflower. Fold in the remaining egg whites till all are incorporated. Be gentle for the mixture should remain fluffy. Fold in thyme and parsley.
- Transfer batter to the lined loaf pan and bake till the top is golden, approximately 45-50 minutes. Let cool completely before slicing.

If you catch yourself being tempted to eat too much when making the loaf. Do it this way then it's all divided out in 12: spray muffin tins with a little nonstick spray or you could use muffin liners and omit the spray. Cook time this way is about 18 minutes at 350. Freeze after completely cooled then you can pull one out when you want it. Just like you do with a cake insert a toothpick or knife in the middle to see if it comes out clean; then you know it's done.
 [Secretary's note: I would not complain if someone made this recipe and gifted it to me! LOL]

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 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	9	10 8 am  Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 pm 
11	12 Missions Mtg 10 am CE mtg 6 pm	13	14 Ladies Fellowship 10 am Elders mtg 7 pm	15	16	17  10 am to Noon
18 Awana Youth Group 6-7:30 pm	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

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



January Verse of the Month

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9–11

ESV



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