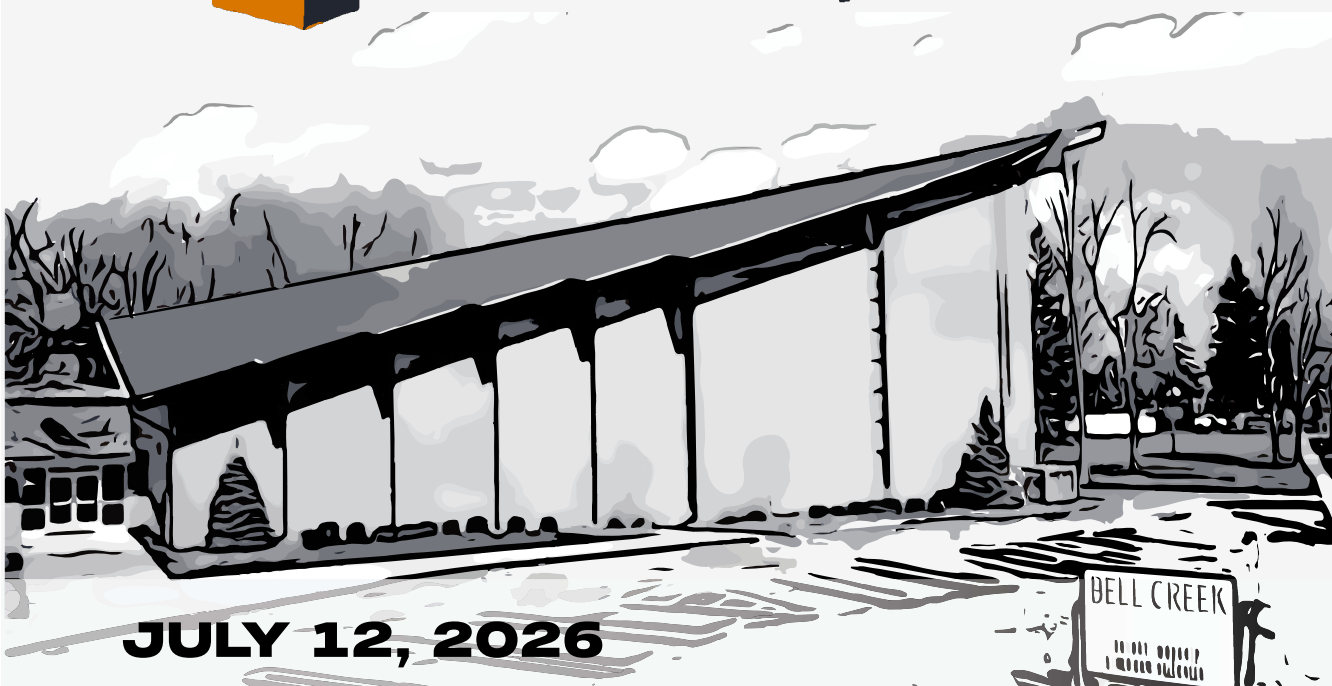


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



JULY 12, 2026

"WITH A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE" – A SERMON MARKING 250 YEARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ACTS 17:24–31, AND JEREMIAH 18:7–10

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:
JUDGES—THE GOD WHO DELIVERS

"WITH A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE" – A SERMON MARKING 250 YEARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ACTS 17:24–31, AND JEREMIAH 18:7–10

God's Purpose for Our Nation

God's Providence and Blessings On Our Nation

God's Command to Our Nation

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Judges Chapter 9.

**DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL
BIBLE READING**

JULY 12: AMOS 6-9

JULY 13: 2 CHRON. 27; ISAIAH 9-12

JULY 14: MICAH

JULY 15: 2 CHRON. 28; 2 KINGS 16-17

JULY 16: ISAIAH 13-17

JULY 17: ISAIAH 18-22

JULY 18: ISAIAH 23-27

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

MEET & EAT

Join us today, for a Meet & Eat after both services. The cost is \$5 per person with a \$20 max per family. Guest are free. We hope to see you there for food and fellowship!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Our Young Adult Group for adults 18-30 years old meets today after 2nd service in the Prayer Room. Join us for lunch, fellowship, games, and encouragement in our faith. Join us as we gather and build friendships with other young people in a fun and laid-back environment.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Bell Creek Financial Team will give a financial update on Sunday, July 26, following both services.

KIDS' CREEK MIDWEEK

Children ages 4 through 4th Grade are invited to the Large Group Room to enjoy Bible Lessons, discussion, activities, worship, and games on Wednesday, August 5 from 6:30-7:45 PM. Please register your child at www.bellcreek.org/calendar to join us for the class. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rachel Nash (rachel@bellcreek.org) or Elyse Quint (elyse@bellcreek.org).

AWANA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in serving, our AWANA Ministry is in need of volunteers to serve beginning in September. Please reach out to our AWANA Director, Gretchen Schick (awana@bellcreek.org) for more information.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

2ND SERVICE

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

With a Firm Reliance On the Protection of Divine Providence

A Sermon Marking 250 Years of the United States of America
Bell Creek Community Church

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Introduction: Two Hundred Fifty Years!

Last Saturday, this nation celebrated 250 years, or a quarter of a millennium of independence! That is worth marveling at. Across five thousand years of recorded history, thousands of nations, kingdoms, and empires have come and gone. Today, would you believe that fewer than two hundred remain on the earth. The United States is the world's oldest continuously operating constitutional republic governed under a single written national constitution. Fireworks and cookouts are fitting! But the child of God asks a deeper question at such a milestone.

Not just "what do we celebrate?" but, why does any nation exist at all? Who raises them up, who sustains them, and what are they for? If we can answer that, we will know both how to give thanks for 250 years and what those years were given for. Scripture answers these questions!

Paul stood in Athens and told that proud, ancient city exactly why nations exist.

God's Purpose for Our Nation (Acts 17:24–31)

Paul, preaching to Athenians, declares the God who made and governs all peoples. Read Acts 17-24-31

What is God's Purpose for Every Nation, including the United States? "That they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him" (Acts 17:27) "for He is not far from any of us." This is the reason a nation exists at all: that its people would seek the Lord, feel their way towards Him and find Him.

God appoints every nation's times and boundaries so its people would seek Him, and perhaps find Him. Look at what He appointed and provided for this nation. Look at the evidence of His hand in our history.

God's Providence and Blessings On Our Nation

What is Providence?

Divine providence is God's sovereign and wise governance, by which He upholds, directs, and orchestrates all things in the universe according to His perfect wisdom, power, and love. This doctrine teaches that God is not a distant observer but actively and continually involved in every aspect of creation. God's providence extends to every realm: the entire universe, the natural world, the affairs of nations, the course of individuals' lives, individual success and failure, and the protection and care of His people. (Psalm 103:19, Matthew 5:45, Psalm 66:7, Galatians 1:15, Luke 1:52, Psalm 4:8) The doctrine of divine providence stands in direct opposition to the belief that the universe is governed by chance, fate, or impersonal forces. Instead, it affirms that every event, great or small, is under the purposeful control of a personal, loving, and sovereign God, who works all things according to the counsel of His will. Ephesians 1:11

God formed this nation (the first settlers and Pilgrims)

They crossed an ocean to seek God. The Pilgrims (Plymouth, 1620) and the larger body of Puritans who followed came to worship and order their common life under God's Word the Acts 17 purpose enacted at the founding. The Mayflower Compact framed their undertaking "for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith."

Their theology and Godliness shaped the nation.

They had deep flaws, like every other human beings. The same people who sought freedom of conscience often denied it to others! They displaced and mistreated Native peoples (Richard Baxter wrote to them from England and said "What are you doing?"). The banishment of dissenters (Roger Williams, Anne Hutchinson), persecution of Quakers, and the Salem witch trials. God's use of them does not sanctify all they did.

God graciously preserved this nation

Washington spared in battle (1755). At the Monongahela, horses were shot from under him and bullets pierced his coat, yet he was not hit. He himself credited "Providence" for this.

By the grace of God, there is incredible wisdom in our founding documents: All men are created equal, Unalienable rights endowed by the Creator, Firm reliance on divine Providence, Consent of the governed, Right to alter or abolish unjust government, Self-evident truths as the moral foundation, Separation of powers, Checks and balances, Bill of Rights, Amendment process (Article V), Rule of law over rule of men, Peaceful transfer of power, Brevity and adaptability of the text, Republic with representative government, Protection of minority rights against majority tyranny, Religious liberty and freedom of conscience, Freedom of speech and press, Right to trial by jury, Due process of law, Private property rights, Government by written, public covenant rather than secret decree, Self-correcting mechanism for its own injustices (e.g., abolition of slavery via amendment)

The Civil War which could have destroyed the Republic for good (1861–65)

The Great Depression (1930s). The republic endured catastrophic collapse without the descent into dictatorship or revolution the same decade produced in Germany, Italy, and Russia.

World War II (the Battle of Midway - June 1942). A heavily outmatched American force, aided by broken codes and a string of timely turns in the battle, sank four Japanese carriers and reversed the Pacific war.

The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) and the fall of the Iron Curtain (1989–91). This might be the closest the world came to nuclear war! And decades after Khrushchev's threat that the Russians would bury us, the Soviet bloc collapsed.

God has graciously blessed this nation in:

Medicine, doctors, nurses, specialists, hospitals!

Science and discovery: Transportation, flight, electricity, computing, the moon. God has graciously given us the ability to discover the order He built into creation, and allowed this nation to be a primary leader in all these things.

Agriculture: By God's grace the U.S. has the capacity to feed not only this nation but the world. One author credited the United States with sparing perhaps a billion from famine.

Education: Some of the best universities in the world are here in the U.S.

Arts and letters. Literature, music, sculpture, paintings, weavings. God has given this nation the people of this nation the ability to communicate His beauty, and He gave it here in abundance!

God has graciously revived this nation spiritually several times

The First Great Awakening (1730s–40s). God uses Jonathan Edwards at Northampton to break through formalism across the colonies.

The Second Great Awakening (1790s–1830s). A severe post-Revolution decline reversed when many thought American Christianity was dying; it fed abolition of slavery and other reforms.

The 1857–58 Prayer Revival. Jeremiah Lanphier, a layman, began a noon prayer meeting on Fulton Street amid the Panic of 1857. A handful came the first week; within weeks, hundreds; then daily meetings spreading city to city — prayer-driven, not preacher-driven. (Hold this; it returns at the close.)

God has graciously corrected this nation

The abolition of slavery, the Civil War, and the recognition of civil rights in the 60s which removed segregation.

God has graciously provided for His church here:

Freedom to Worship

Theologians and Seminaries

Missions and Missionaries. The American church became one of the great sending forces in the history of missions, a conduit of blessing to the nations, directly serving God's purposes and glory.

Bible translation. The American Bible Society (1816) and, above all, the modern translation movement — Cameron Townsend and Wycliffe Bible Translators helps carry God's Word into thousands of the world's languages. Few gifts God gave through this nation will outlast this one!!

Churches everywhere!

Pastors and the preached Word.

Christian literature and hymns and worship songs.

God's Command to Our Nation

First, He commands us to give thanks!

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,” (Psalm 103:1–2, ESV)

And What are Just Some of Our Blessings?

We have Religious liberty: Freedom to gather, preach, publish, and worship

We have Political liberty and the rule of law.

We have Security (bought at a high price)

The ordinary mercies we stop seeing: Clean water from the tap, electricity, abundant and safe food, paved roads, sanitation, police, fire departments, hospitals, ambulances. A phone call brings help to the door; the lights come on. Most of humanity across history never had these, and much of the world is still without them.

Care for the weak: It's not perfect, but we have provision for the poor, the elderly, the sick, and the disabled. A nation that makes some provision for those who cannot provide for themselves reflects God's own heart.

Blessings once reserved for royalty, now open to all: National parks! Yellowstone, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon! We see the glory of creation held in common by all of us, and open to an ordinary family! We have public libraries, public education to the highest level, and the real possibility that our status at birth need not determine the whole destiny of one's life!

Our Nation is A refuge: A place where waves of the persecuted and poor have found shelter.

Capacity for generosity overflowing to the world: God has given our nation prosperity that has funded missions, relief, and charity across the globe. God has given us a system of government that other nations took as a pattern. Two centuries ago Europe was a continent of kings. Today it is a continent of parliaments, and the model that helped turn thrones into representative governments was substantially an American Constitution. So, God's gift to this nation became a gift to the nations.

BUT we must remember Deuteronomy 8, and never say, "My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:17)!!

Second Part of God's Command to Our Nation: We Must Repent and Turn to Him.

We must be grateful, AND we must repent of the sins of this nation, for they are terrible:

Pride, Idolatry, Greed and Consumerism, Abortion, Sexual immorality, Violence – just to name a few.

Our Responsibility: The Body of Christ in America Today in 2026!

Humility before God.

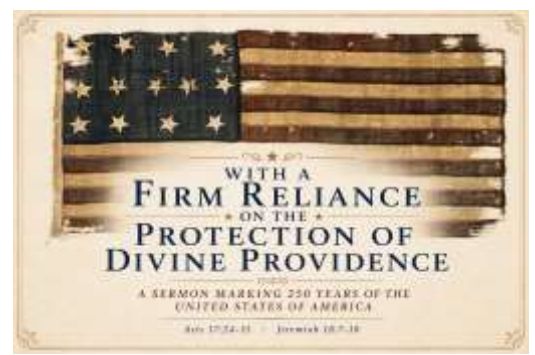
Gratitude to God.

Repentance.

Prayers for revival: for ourselves, for our churches, for our nation.

The Example of Jeremiah Lanphier: in 1857, One man, on his knees alone at noon on Fulton Street Church in New York praying. He started a prayer meeting in downtown New York to "give merchants, mechanics, clerks, strangers and businessmen generally an opportunity to stop and call on God amid the perplexities incident to their respective avocations." It turned into a massive spiritual revival, and God moved our nation. Revival has begun with prayer like this before, and could again.

What is the hope of the United States as we move forward? Our nation's only hope is God responding to a humble grateful, repentant, praying church.



With a Firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence - A Sermon Marking 250 Years of the United States of America

1. What did you think of today's sermon?

2. In the sermon there were many examples of God's providence and of His blessings on our nation. Which stood out to you the most, and why?

3. Why is prosperity spiritually dangerous (see Deuteronomy chapter 8), and where are you personally tempted to forget the Giver while enjoying His gifts?

4. What does Jeremiah 18:7-10 teach us about how Christians should respond to the sins of their nation?

5. What is one specific way you can respond this week through gratitude, repentance, prayer, and seeking the welfare of the place good of this country where God has placed us?

