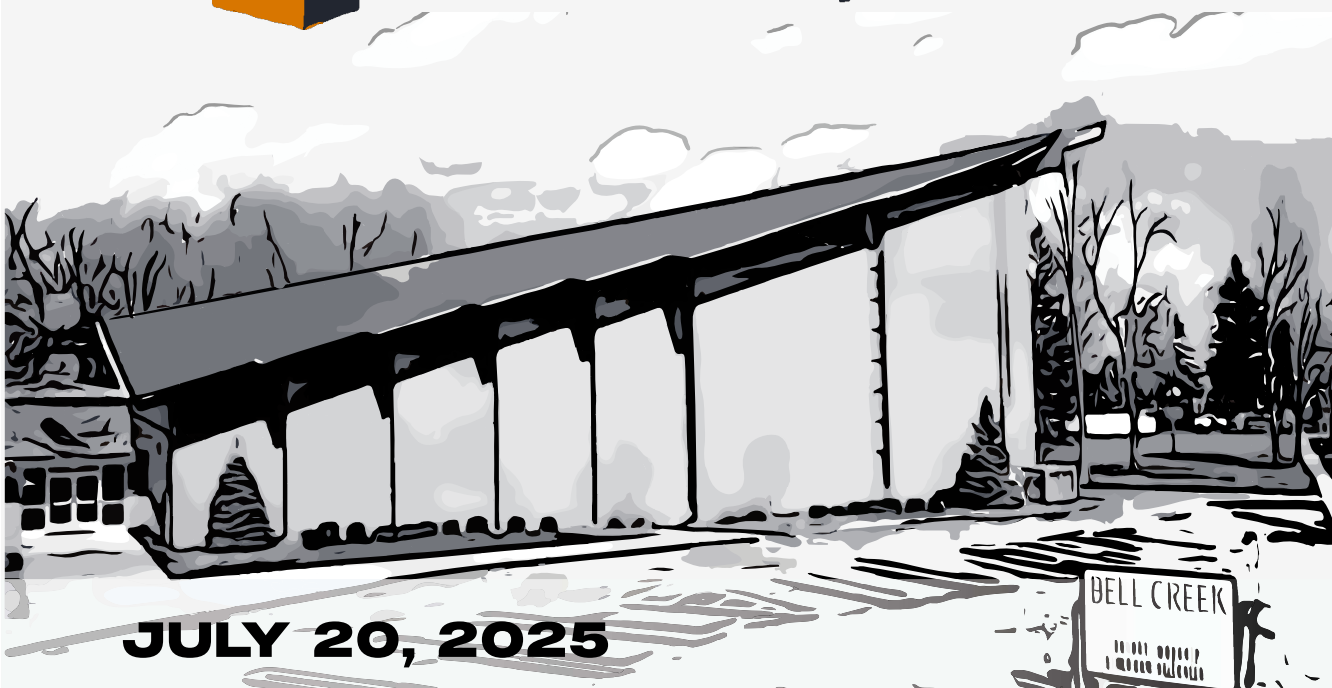


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



JULY 20, 2025

YOU HAVE BEEN ANOINTED BY THE HOLY ONE
1 JOHN 2:18–29

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

YOU HAVE BEEN ANOINTED BY THE HOLY ONE

1 JOHN 2:18–29

It is the Last Hour

You Have Been Anointed by the Holy One

Abide in Him

Confidence at His Return

FOR NEXT WEEK

For Next Week read the book of 1 John again! It will take you about 15 minutes!

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

JULY 20: HOSEA 1-7
JULY 21: HOSEA 8-14
JULY 22: ISAIAH 28-30
JULY 23: ISAIAH 31-34
JULY 24: ISAIAH 35-36
JULY 25: ISAIAH 37-39 & PSALM 76
JULY 26: ISAIAH 40-43

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

KIDS' CREEK MIDWEEK MEET UPS

Are you missing Awana on Wednesdays, or are you a parent eager to make it to a prayer meeting... No fear Kids' Creek Midweek is here! Drop off your children ages 4-4th grade in the large group room at church 6:30-7:30 any of the remaining 2 meet ups this summer. We will meet July 30, and August 13.

Kids will get to enjoy bible stories, activities, worship and games together! No sign up is needed this year, unless you want to stay and volunteer, a background check is required for all volunteers working with our children. Any questions or to volunteer, please reach out to elyse@bellcreek.org or rachel@bellcreek.org.

BELL CREEK COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

Save the date for our Bell Creek Block Party on Saturday, August 9 from 1:00-4:00 PM in Bell Creek's parking lot! This event is an outreach to our neighbors and community, and a follow-up to the Christmas Caroling Outreach. We will have a bounce house, games, men grilling meats, shaved ice, big wheel races, and music! To make the event successful, we are asking for donations. To donate directly to cover the costs, visit our Bell Creek Giving page, and select the Block Party 2025 option from the pull down menu.

We are also in need of volunteers to serve during the event. This is a great opportunity to invite neighbors, colleagues, and family members who don't know Jesus. If you would like to serve or have any questions, please contact Annie (248-225-8754). In the meantime, please help us spread the word!

BETWEEN TWO TREES BOOK STUDY

Our Between Two Trees study will continue through *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, the third book in the *Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. We will not meet in July, but will do so in August. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org).

AWANA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Awana Director, Gretchen Schick, is looking for volunteers to serve on Wednesday nights for Awana. If you are interested in serving, please contact Gretchen at 734-751-0006 or awana@bellcreek.org.

AWANA REGISTRATION

Registration for Awana 2025-2026 is now open! Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 5 and will meet weekly from 6:30-7:45 PM. If your child would like to join, please visit www.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

2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS

AFTER WORSHIP

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

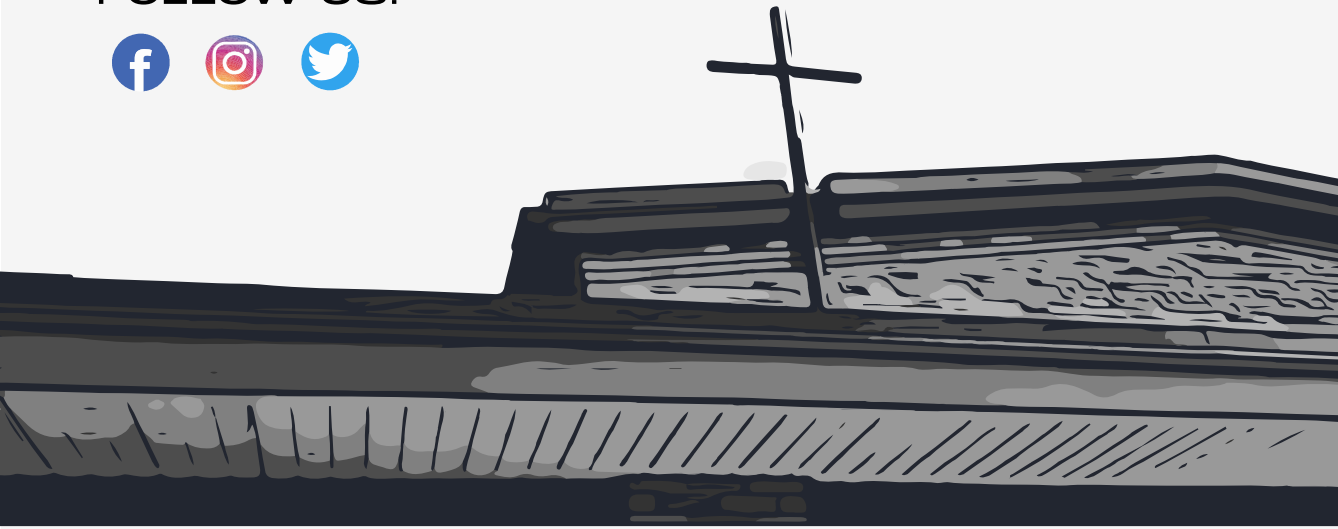
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

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

SERMON ON 1 JOHN 2:18-29

07.20.2025

You Have Been Anointed by the Holy One

It is the Last Hour

“Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.” (1 John 2:18, ESV)

What does John mean by “the Antichrist?”

Definition of Antichrist: Antichrist — First, the Antichrist is a future singular figure who will embody ultimate rebellion against God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13). However, when John says “many antichrists have come,” he means the work of many persons or spirits who oppose, deny, or seek to oppose or replace Jesus Christ by deceit, false teaching, or claiming divine authority. The evil work of these lesser antichrists is still present and will culminate in the appearing of the singular “man of lawlessness.”

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

Matthew 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Antichrists oppose the Person, purposes, and people of Jesus.

Antichrists oppose the people of Jesus: They sow lies, false teachings, temptations, doubt, despair, divisions, slander, accusations, sickness, and death. He wants to ruin our Christian witness by shipwrecking our lives. His desire is to kill, steal, and destroy.

Antichrists oppose the purposes of Jesus: They attempt to snatch away the truth of the Word of God when it is read, taught, or preached. He’s likely trying to do it right now with us. He opposes the proclamation of the Gospel, discipleship, Christian love and fellowship, and desires the destruction of the Church and the shepherds Jesus has appointed.

Antichrists oppose the person of Jesus. And THAT is their fatal error. For our Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Man of war against all our enemies.

“O God, break the teeth in their mouths; tear out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD!” (Psalm 58:6, ESV)

When we trust in our own strength, our enemies run roughshod over us. When we call on the name of Jesus, they flee in terror.

“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.” (1 John 2:19, ESV)

There were false teachers among the churches of Asia Minor. And some people were deceived and followed them. They left the church. It turns out, they were not God’s people after all. The Gospel of John talks about this...

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)” (John 6:63–64, ESV)

But sometimes, even God’s people can wander back into the enemy’s camp. We can be deceived for a time and be led by the enemy into saying and doing things that are evil. It’s awful, but we can be deceived into opposing the Person, purposes, and people of God and go to war against our own brothers and sisters. Do you know the story of David in 1 Samuel 27

For those who have embraced the Gospel, it’s a different story. If we wander into bad places, God pulls us back because He loves us and is utterly committed to us.

And what is the Gospel again? The Gospel is the good news that God, in His love, sent His Son Jesus Christ to save sinners. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again from the dead, defeating sin and death. Through faith in Him, by trusting in Him, by saying, “Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God, the Savior, please forgive me of my sins. Come into my life as you promise you will for any who ask!” When we trust Him in that way, we are forgiven, made right with God, and given eternal life. This salvation is a free gift of grace, not earned by our good works, but received by trusting in Jesus alone.

You Have Been Anointed by the Holy One

“But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.” (1 John 2:20–21, ESV)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” (John 16:13, ESV)

“Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.” (1 John 2:22–23, ESV)

Abide in Him

“Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.” (1 John 2:24–25, ESV)

“I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.” (1 John 2:26–27, ESV)

What does it mean to “abide” in Christ?

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:4–5, ESV)

Abiding in Christ is, above all, relational. The Scriptures describe abiding in Jesus as a mutual indwelling (John 15:4–5; 1 John 3:24), empowered by the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:13), rooted in love (John 15:9–10), expressed in obedience and love for others (1 John 4:12), fueled and sustained by remaining in His word (John 8:31), talking to Him in prayer, and its result is fellowship with the Father, and the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit (2 John 9).

Confidence at His Return

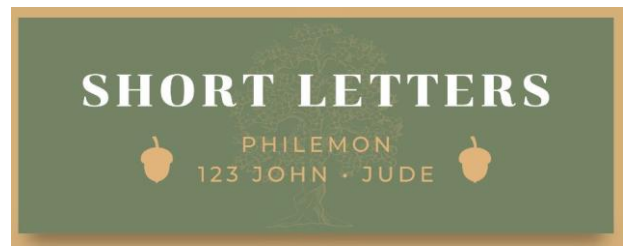
“And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.” (1 John 2:28–29, ESV)

When He comes on that Day, it is not the strong, the powerful, or those who think they are perfect that will be able to face Him confidently. No, it’s the weak, the meek, those who know they need a Savior and know they have a Savior in Jesus. Those who are abiding and trusting in Him like a little child are looking forward to His return because they have nothing to fear from Him.

“It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”” (Isaiah 25:9, ESV)

BENEDICTION

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” (Jude 24–25, ESV)



You Have Been Anointed by the Holy One

1. What did you think of the sermon "You Have Been Anointed by the Holy One"?

2. John warns that "many antichrists have come." In what ways do you think spiritual deception shows up in the world today? How can we be more alert to false messages?

3. John says believers are anointed by the Holy One and have knowledge. What do you believe this "anointing" represents? How might it help you stay grounded in what's true?

4. Some people left the community of faith, showing they never truly belonged. What does this tell you about what it means to be part of a genuine Christian community?

5. John urges believers to "abide in Him" so they can be confident when Christ returns. What does it look like for you personally to stay close to Jesus every day? Where are you being called to deepen that connection?

