

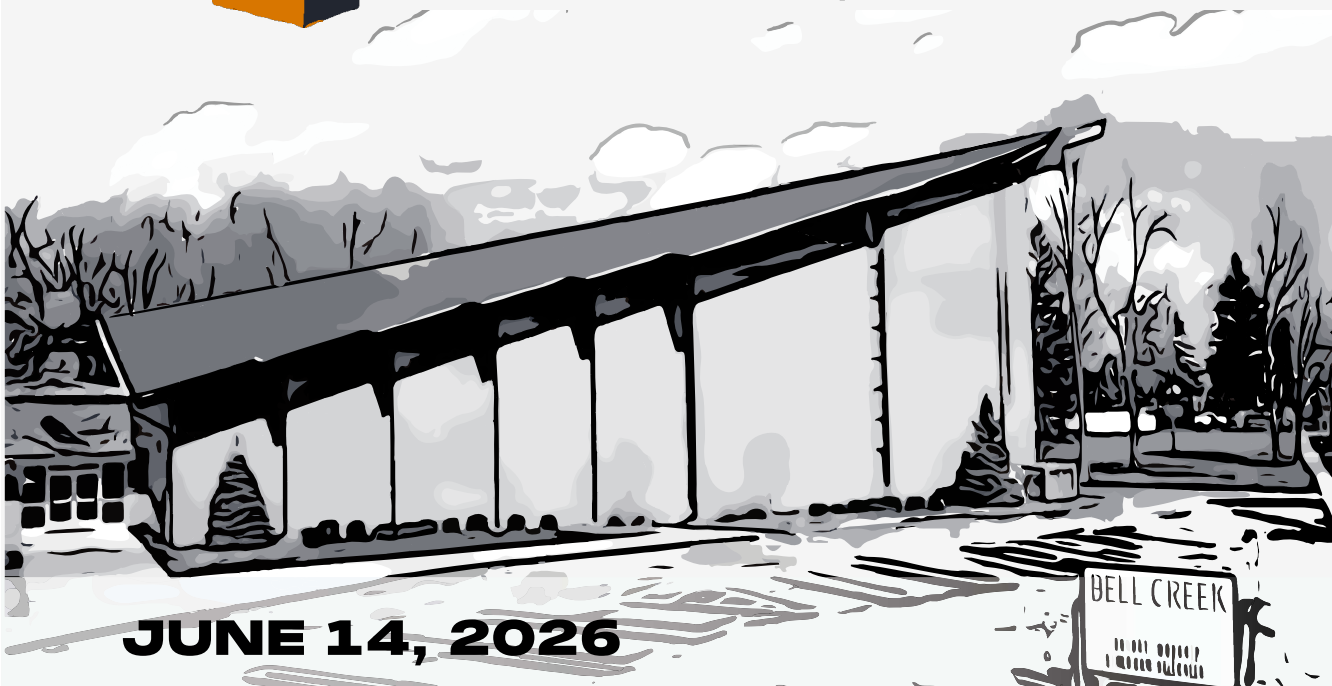
WELCOME TO



# BELL CREEK

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## Community Church



**JUNE 14, 2026**

**THE LORD IS PEACE**  
JUDGES 6:1–40

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:  
JUDGES—THE GOD WHO DELIVERS

# **THE LORD IS PEACE**

## **JUDGES 6:1–40**

**The LORD Graciously Confronts His People Before Delivering Them**

**The LORD Calls the Weak by Promising His Presence**

**The LORD Claims His Servants for Himself**

### **FOR NEXT WEEK**

Next Sunday is Father's Day!  
Read Psalm 112 and Psalm 128.

### **DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING**

JUNE 14: 2 Chron. 6-7; Ps. 136

JUNE 15: Psalm 134, 146-150

JUNE 16: 1 Kings 9; 2 Chronicles 8

JUNE 17: Proverbs 25-26

JUNE 18: Proverbs 27-29

JUNE 19: Ecclesiastes 1-6

JUNE 20: Ecclesiastes 7-12

# UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

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## CHURCH MEMBERS' MEETING

All Bell Creek members are invited to a meeting in the Sanctuary today from 12:30-1:30 PM to discuss Bell Creek's Constitution with the elders. If you are unsure if you are a member, please contact Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org).

## DINOSAURS & DRAGONS CLASS

Join Bill Durkee on Sunday, June 14 to learn about the connection between dinosaurs and dragons. The class will meet in the Prayer Room during both services.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Our Young Adult group is now open for adults 18-30 years old! Our next gathering is today after second service in the Prayer Room. Join us for lunch, fellowship, games, and encouragement in our faith. Other gatherings and outings will be planned for various times throughout the year. Join us as we gather and build friendships with other young people in a fun and laid-back environment!

## WESTSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

Westside Christian Academy is partnering with us to find an opportunity for our students and their parents to serve the community! We are going to help the school "love their neighbor" by clearing out the fence line around their property. We will be serving on June 16 and 17 from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Please contact Pastor Adam (adam@bellcreek.org) for more information.

## GAMES, GRUB & GATHERING

Games Grub & Gathering, with a big emphasis on the Gathering! We'll have some Euchre tables going. We will meet at church June 20th from 6-9pm. This is an opportunity to meet new friends, build relationships and have fun. Come on your own, bring a friend or your whole family and don't forget a dish to pass. You don't like games?? You are invited too! No game play required. Sign up after the service in the gym or just show up.

## BAPTISM

If you are interested in being baptized, our next celebration will be on Sunday, June 28. If you are interested in baptism, please reach out to Pastor Adam (adam@bellcreek.org).

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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## 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](http://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](http://WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US)

FOLLOW US!



**BELL CREEK**  
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.  
LIVONIA, MI 48154

# Sermon Series | Judges – The God Who Delivers

## Sunday, June 14, 2026 | The LORD is Peace

### Judges 6:1–40

#### The LORD Graciously Confronts His People Before Delivering Them

“The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey. For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in. And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD.” (Judges 6:1–6, ESV)

They had been warned by God that if they abandoned Him and served other God that this would happen! Read this! “Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat any of it. Your donkey shall be seized before your face, but shall not be restored to you. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be no one to help you.” (Deuteronomy 28:31, ESV)

Judges 6:1–6 God’s people are in misery: seven years under Midian’s “clean-earth” raids; covenant curses realized (see Deut. 28:29, and 31); Israel finally cries out!

“When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of the Midianites, the LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery. And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. And I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed my voice.” (Judges 6:7–10, ESV)

Judges 6:7–10 A strange answer: Israel asks for a deliverer, God sends a preacher!

Dale Ralph Davis: “This is like having your car break down and calling a garage and getting a prophet). Israel needs deliverance and Yahweh sends a prophet; Israel asks for an act of God’s power and he sends them a proclaimer of his word who rehearses Yahweh’s grace (Judges 6:8–9), repeats Yahweh’s demand (Judges 6:10), and levels Yahweh’s accusation (Judges 6:10).

“Sometimes we may need understanding more than relief; sometimes God must give us insight before he dare grant safety. Understanding God’s way of holiness is more important than absence of pain. We may want out of a bind, whereas God wants us to see our idolatry. God means to instruct us, not pacify us. We should not miss the kindness of God in all this. One of the kindest things God does for us is to bring us under the criticism of his word to expose the reasons for our helplessness and misery. He does this by the preaching, counsel, or reading of his word.” Dale Ralph Davis, *Judges: Such a Great Salvation*, Focus on the Bible Commentary (Ross-shire, Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 2000), 92.

Hidden mercy: the prophet's sermon stops at accusation. Note that there's no "therefore" of judgment that follows (contrast Jer. 11:9–11; 25:1–11). When God ought to destroy, He prepares to save (Eph. 2:1–4).

Question for those who don't yet know Christ: Israel deserved a "therefore" of judgment, and instead God came to save. The same is true at the cross — "But God, who is rich in mercy" (Eph. 2:4) sent His Son for people who had not listened to His voice. What is keeping you from abandoning the altar you've been propping up and coming to the God who is ready to receive you today?

## The LORD Calls the Weak by Promising His Presence

"Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.'" (Judges 6:11–13, ESV)

Judges 6:11–13 The Angel of Yahweh meets Gideon hiding in a winepress; Gideon's protest: "If Yahweh is with us, why...?"

"And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.'" (Judges 6:14–16, ESV)

Judges 6:14–16 Gideon's inadequacy (weakest clan, youngest son) answered by God's adequacy: "But I will be with you." This is the treasure of a covenant with God – He is WITH us!

God "with us" in the Pentateuch

Gen 26:3 "Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you" (to Isaac)

Gen 26:24 "Fear not, for I am with you" (to Isaac)

Gen 28:15 "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go" (to Jacob)

Gen 31:3 "Return to the land of your fathers... and I will be with you" (to Jacob)

Gen 46:4 "I myself will go down with you to Egypt" (to Jacob)

Ex 3:12 "But I will be with you" (to Moses)

Ex 4:12 "I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak"

Ex 33:14 "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest"

Deut 31:23 "Be strong and courageous... I will be with you" (to Joshua)

God "with us" in the Historical Books  
Josh 1:5 "Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you"

Josh 1:9 "The LORD your God is with you wherever you go"

Josh 3:7 "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you"

Judg 6:12 "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor" (Angel of the LORD to Gideon)

Judg 6:16 "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man"

2 Sam 7:9 "I have been with you wherever you went" (to David, via Nathan)  
 1 Kgs 11:38 "I will be with you and will build you a sure house" (to Jeroboam)  
 2 Chr 20:17 "Do not be afraid... the LORD will be with you" (oracle through Jahaziel)

God "with us" in the Prophets

Isa 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God"  
 Isa 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you"  
 Isa 43:5 "Fear not, for I am with you"  
 Jer 1:8 "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you"  
 Jer 1:19 "For I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you"  
 Jer 15:20 "For I am with you to save you and deliver you"  
 Jer 30:11 "For I am with you to save you, declares the LORD"  
 Jer 42:11 "For I am with you, to save you and to deliver you"  
 Jer 46:28 "Fear not, O Jacob my servant... for I am with you"

Hag 1:13 "I am with you, declares the LORD"

Hag 2:4-5 "Work, for I am with you... My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not."

God "with us" in the New Testament

Matt 1:23 "They shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)" (angel of the Lord, citing Isa 7:14)  
 Matt 18:20 "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them"  
 Matt 28:20 "Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"  
 John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you"  
 Acts 18:10 "Do not be afraid... for I am with you" (the Lord to Paul in Corinth)  
 Heb 13:5 "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (cited as God's own word)  
 Rev 21:3 "'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

We don't always get the when, how, or why, but we know WHO is with us.

"And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return." So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites." (Judges 6:17-24, ESV)

Judges 6:17-24 The sign and the terror: the assurance Gideon sought nearly undoes him (see verse 22). Grace is only amazing where God's holiness and power are revered. Yahweh-Shalom: only God can speak peace to the trembling.

Question for those suffering pain, grief, or loss: Gideon asked “If Yahweh is with us, why has all this happened?” and God didn’t rebuke the question. Will you let God meet you in your suffering with His presence, even before He explains it or removes it trusting that “I will be with you” is not His way of avoiding your pain but His answer to it (Ps. 23:4)?

## The LORD Will not Share His Servants with Idols

“That night the LORD said to him, “Take your father’s bull, and the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it and build an altar to the LORD your God on the top of the stronghold here, with stones laid in due order. Then take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down.” So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had told him. But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night. When the men of the town rose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah beside it was cut down, and the second bull was offered on the altar that had been built. And they said to one another, “Who has done this thing?” And after they had searched and inquired, they said, “Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing.” Then the men of the town said to Joash, “Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has broken down the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah beside it.” But Joash said to all who stood against him, “Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? Whoever contends for him shall be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because his altar has been broken down.” Therefore on that day Gideon was called Jerubbaal, that is to say, “Let Baal contend against him,” because he broke down his altar.” (Judges 6:25–32, ESV)

Judges 6:25–32 The demand: tear down Baal’s altar before fighting Midian. You ever notice that the Pagan gods are fine being together? Baal, Molech, Ashtaroath, Zeus, Apollo, Poseidon can all have altars and temples near each other. Not our God. He is a JEALOUS GOD. His altar and Baal’s altar cannot coexist (1 Kings 18:21; Matt. 6:24). So, God cleans the wound before the bandage. In Verse 27, we see that Gideon obeys by night (obedience is essential, heroism is optional). Note Joash’s devastating remarks in verse 31: a god who needs defending is no god!

“Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they too were called out to follow him. And he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.” (Judges 6:33–35, ESV)

Judges 6:33–35 The Spirit clothes Himself with Gideon; the inadequate man becomes the rallying point.

“Then Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.” And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. Then Gideon said to God, “Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be

dew.” And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.” (Judges 6:36–40, ESV)

Judges 6:36–40 The fleece: This is not flat-out unbelief, but fearful faith. And God is so gracious that he stoops to steady Gideon’s fragile trust. In the Words of our Lord, it only takes a mustard seed of faith to move a mountain. And we have more reason to believe, trust and obey, than Gideon. God has given us His Word, His Holy Spirit, His people, a cross, an empty tomb, and the communion table (the bread, and the cup) to remember it all in place of a fleece.

Challenge for those of us who know Jesus: God answered Gideon’s inadequacy with one promise — “I will be with you” — and Christ has spoken the same word to you (Matt. 28:20). Where in your life are you living as though God’s presence weren’t enough — and what “second altar” is He calling you to tear down so you can follow Him with an undivided heart?



## The LORD is Peace

1. What did you think of the sermon "The LORD is Peace?"

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2. In Judges 6, God addressed Israel's disobedience before saving them from the Midianites. Why did He do this? What has God confronted you with before answering your prayers to change something in your life?

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3. God repeats His promises to Gideon that He will be with him. In your life, when facing tough circumstances, do you focus on your own inadequacy, or God's adequacy? How should we react to uncertainty or fear knowing God is with us (His people)?

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4. Gideon had to tear down Baal's altar. What are some modern "altars" that compete for your devotion? It is hard to remove these idols even though we know it is a rebellion against God. Why?

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5. God shows incredible patience with Gideon. How can we transition from needing constant reassurance toward trusting God's Word, His Spirit, and His promises even when we feel fear, weakness or uncertainty?

