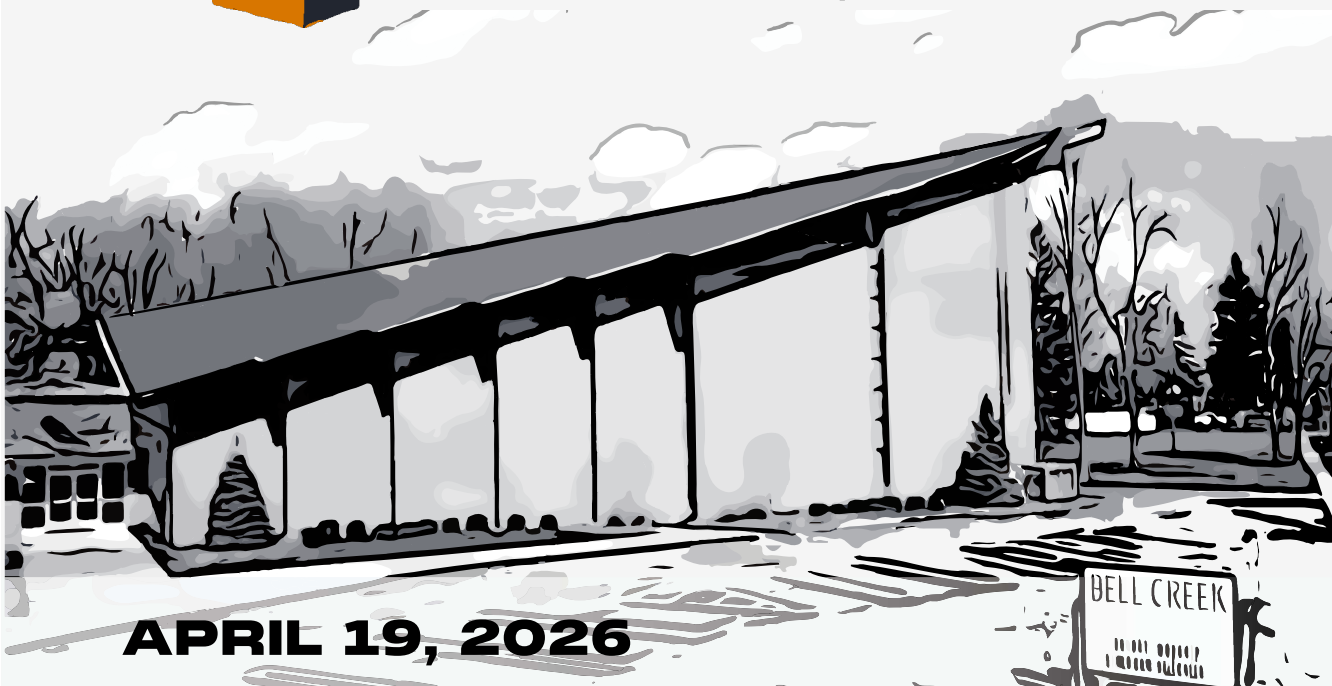


WELCOME TO



# BELL CREEK

Community Church



**APRIL 19, 2026**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF JUDGES  
JUDGES 2:16–18**

**SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT**

**CURRENT SERMON SERIES:  
JUDGES—THE GOD WHO DELIVERS**

# INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF JUDGES

## JUDGES 2:16–18

**A STORY OF RELENTLESS FAITHFULNESS**

**A STORY OF FAILURE AND GRACE**

**THE BOOK OF JUDGES IS OUR STORY TOO**

**FOR NEXT WEEK**

Read Judges 1:1-2:5.

**DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL  
BIBLE READING**

APRIL 19: 1 SAMUEL 28-31; PSALM 18;  
1 CHRONICLES 10  
APRIL 20: PSALM 121, 123-125, 128-130  
APRIL 21: 2 SAMUEL 1-4  
APRIL 22: PSALM 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19 & 21  
APRIL 23: 1 CHRONICLES 3-5  
APRIL 24: PSALM 43-45, 49, 84-85 & 87  
APRIL 25: 1 CHRONICLES 3-5

# UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

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## **APOLOGETICS CLASS**

Join Pastor Dylan in the Prayer Room at 11:00 AM for the beginning of an Apologetics Class. If you have questions, please email [dylan@bellcreek.org](mailto:dylan@bellcreek.org).

## **MEET & EAT**

Our next Meet & Eat will be Sunday, April 26 following both services. This is held in the gym and is a great opportunity for fellowship with others at Bell Creek, we hope to see you there! Visitors enjoy a complimentary meal, otherwise \$5 a person or \$20 per family donation please. Cash or check can be made out to Bell Creek Community Church accepted the day of. If you prefer to pay online, you can do so at [www.bellcreek.org/give](http://www.bellcreek.org/give) and select the "Meet & Eat" option from the pull down menu.

## **YOUNG ADULT BOWLING**

Our Young Adult's Group is going bowling on Sunday, April 26, from 2:00-4:00 PM. The cost is \$15 per person, which includes 2 hours of bowling and shoe rental. Attend the second service, enjoy the Meet & Eat lunch after church, and then head to Plaza Lanes (42001 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth 48170). Register at [www.bellcreek.org](http://www.bellcreek.org). If you have any questions, please reach out to Gretchen or Becky D. Please register by tonight.

## **AS THEY GO PRAYER MEETING**

Join our group of parents of adult children to pray together in the Prayer Room from 9:00-10:00 AM on Saturday, May 10. We will continue to meet every month on the 2nd Saturday of the month moving forward. Join us as we cry out to God in praise for the amazing gift our children are and cry out for guidance and mercy as they navigate life as adults. Please reach out with any questions to Kelly Salter ([ksalter1122@gmail.com](mailto:ksalter1122@gmail.com)).

## **VERTICAL MARRIAGE WORKSHOP**

Mike & Mary King and Alex & Elyse Quint are hosting a 2-day Marriage Workshop on Friday, June 5 from 6:30-9:00 PM and Saturday, June 6 from 9:00 AM-12:30 PM at Bell Creek. "Vertical Marriage" by Dave and Ann Wilson provides a series of videos, small group discussions, and a couples' workbook. Registration is required, so if you would like to participate, please visit [www.bellcreek.org](http://www.bellcreek.org). If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Dylan ([dylan@bellcreek.org](mailto:dylan@bellcreek.org)) or Elyse Quint ([elyse@bellcreek.org](mailto:elyse@bellcreek.org)) No food is provided, but we will have coffee, tea, and water. Childcare is available upon request.

# 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**

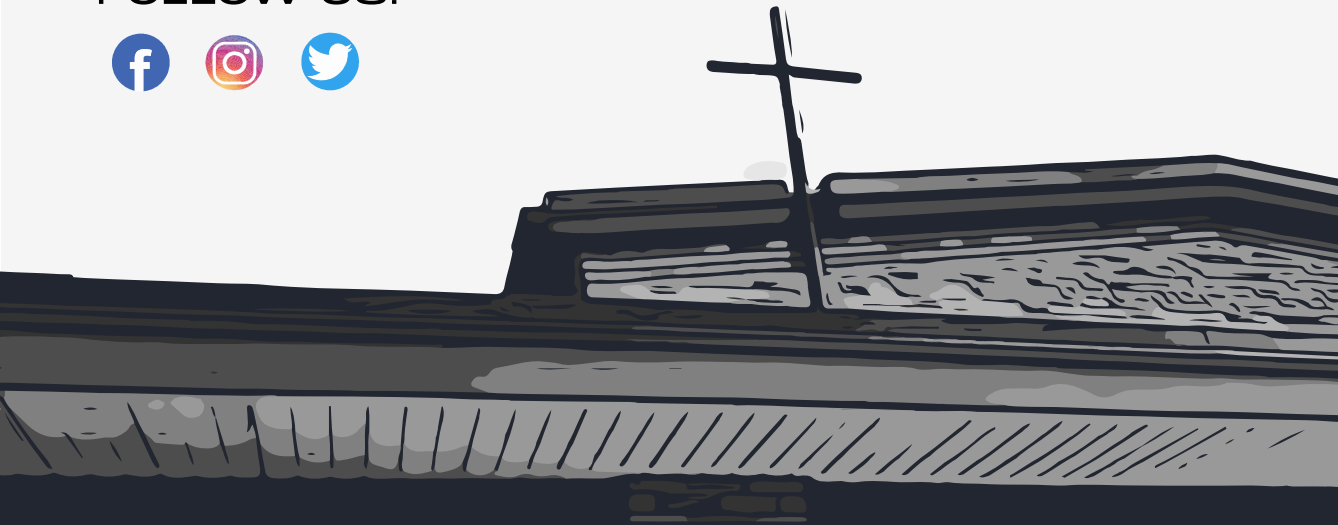
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

# 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

# Judges: The God Who Delivers

## Sermon 1: Introduction to the Book of Judges

Scripture: Judges 2:16–18

04.19.2026

**There is a gap between who God calls us to be and who we actually are. Israel's story in the Book of Judges is our story too.**

### A Story of Relentless Faithfulness

**“The Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus”**

**Creation:** God makes a beautiful sinless world and a people to bear his image and enjoy his presence

**Fall:** Adam and Eve sin, our relationship with God fractures, exile follows, death reigns. The world God made for his glory is now in rebellion against him

**Flood:** Human wickedness reaches its apex. Violence covers the earth. God judges the world with a Global flood that destroys all human beings, but preserves a remnant through Noah and his family. T is Grace in the midst of judgment

**Tower of Babel:** Disobeying God's command to fill the earth, humanity unites in proud self-exaltation. They build a massive tower to reach heaven on their own terms and give themselves a new name. God scatters them by confusing their language and forms the nations.

**Abraham:** Out of scattered, broken humanity God calls one man, Abraham. God makes a surprising, unconditional promise to him: He says follow Me and I will give you a people, a land, a future, and through his family bless all nations.

**Isaac:** The promise nearly dies before it begins, but God provides. The son of promise is preserved.

**Jacob:** A deceiver and a schemer, yet God is relentlessly faithful to his promise despite the man who carries it.

**Joseph:** Betrayed, enslaved, imprisoned, yet God is working through every reversal. The family of promise ends up in Egypt, preserved from famine.

**Egypt:** The family becomes a nation and then becomes slaves. Four hundred years of bondage. The promise seems buried.

**Exodus:** God raises up Moses as a deliverer and intervenes dramatically and decisively, not because Israel deserved it, but because He is faithful to his Word. He brings them out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

**Sinai:** God's rescued people are formed into a covenant nation. He will be their God; they will be his people. But they cower outside the promised land and must wander forty years.

**Joshua:** Forty years of wilderness testing, then finally, they enter the land. The promise given to Abraham is materializing before their eyes.

At the opening of the Book of Judges, Israel stands at the high-water mark of her history. At every point where the promise could have died, the flood, Babel, barrenness, famine, slavery, God was faithful. He has been faithful at every turn. Then Joshua dies.

## A Story of Failure and Grace

### Here, I read Joshua Chapter 23.

Joshua dies, and almost immediately the wheels come off! The tribes of Israel fail to drive out the Canaanites from the land. Instead of possessing the land, they enslaved the Canaanites or coexisted with them. This disobedience leads to serious compromise! Just as Joshua warned, they begin worshipping the gods of the nations around them. They break the covenant almost as soon as Joshua is buried.

Their oppressors move in. The land that was supposed to be theirs slips through their fingers. The central question the Book of Judges forces on us is, "Why?" After all they had seen God do for them, why didn't Israel obey God and possess the land He promised them?" The answer is their persistent, deepening covenant unfaithfulness. The cycle of sin they embrace is a downward spiral!

Yet Israel survives! Not because they deserve it, but by the grace of God.

**"Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so. Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them." (Judges 2:16-18, ESV)**

They weren't faithful to their covenant between them and God, but God was. "The Lord was moved to pity by their groaning"

**Question:** If the story of Judges shows that even God's people cannot save themselves, what are you trusting in to make you right with God and will you turn to Jesus, the true and better Savior and King, today?

## The Book of Judges is Our Story Too

**"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 17:6, ESV)**

From the chaos of Judges, the story moves forward. God raises up kings. First Saul, then David, and Solomon. God establishes a kingdom and promises David an eternal throne. Yet even at its height, the kingdom fractures, declines, and falls into exile because of persistent sin.

But God does not abandon his promise. Through the prophets he declares a coming King, a new covenant, and a restored people. In the fullness of time, Jesus Christ comes: the true and better Judge, the perfect King, the faithful Son of God and Son of Man who succeeds where every leader and every generation

failed. Through his life, death, and resurrection, he secures redemption and begins gathering a people from every nation.

The story continues in the Church, as the Gospel goes to the ends of the earth, and it moves toward its final day, when Christ will return to judge, to save, and to make all things new.

And here we are! Living in that same story, between His first coming and his return! Like the people of Israel in the Book of Judges, we are still prone to wander. But we are held fast by relentless grace of God.

So, the Book of Judges records a time of spiritual confusion, repeated decline, and deepening human failure. Its figures are occasionally heroic, but more often they are exposed as broken instruments through whom a patient and faithful God continues to work. As we will see, there is only one true Hero in this book. Judges tells the story as it really happened. It does not sanitize or endorse the sin and violence of God's people or their leaders.

As we work our way through Judges, we will see the consequences of rejecting the Lord, God's relentless grace, and how the failures of the judges point to the true Savior!

Join us for this unsettling, exciting, and incredibly relevant series!

“The book of Judges is about faithless people and a faithful God. The story of the Israelites in the period of the judges is our story too.” — Dr. Barry G. Webb

**Question:** Where are you currently “doing what is right in your own eyes” instead of submitting to Christ as your King and what would repentance actually look like this week?

**Question:** In the midst of your troubles right now, do you believe that God is still moved with compassion toward you? Do you believe that He hears you, and will be “moved to pity” by your groaning? What if the cause of your troubles is your own sin? Tell Him you are sorry for you sins. Trust in Jesus! He came to pay for your sins on the cross so that you can be forgiven and live with Him forever. He does hear you, and He will help you. Tell Him all about your troubles, and ask Him to help. Wait, and watch, and you will see His grace, provision, and love meet you in your hour of need.