

WELCOME TO



**BELL CREEK**  
Community Church



**DECEMBER 7, 2025**

**ANCHORED IN GOD'S PEACE UNTIL THE LORD RETURNS**

**JUDE 17-23**

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

## **ANCHORED IN GOD'S PEACE UNTIL THE LORD RETURNS**

**JUDE 17-23**

### **We Remember the Words of the Apostles**

### **We Remain in the Love of God**

### **We Rescue the Wandering**

#### **FOR NEXT WEEK**

Read the Letter of Jude, and read 2 Peter 2.  
Do it as many times as you can!

#### **DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING**

DECEMBER 7: ACTS 20:1-3 & ROMANS 1-3  
DECEMBER 8: ROMANS 4-7  
DECEMBER 9: ROMANS 8-10  
DECEMBER 10: ROMANS 11-13  
DECEMBER 11: ROMANS 14-16  
DECEMBER 12: ACTS 20:4-23:35  
DECEMBER 13: ACTS 24-26

# UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

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## ETHICS SEMINAR

Have you ever wondered what the Bible has to say about tough issues like war, abortion, sexuality, politics, and more? Are you interested in learning how to apply Scripture to our daily lives and think biblically about tough issues? Ethics touches on every aspect of our lives, and it is essential that we as Christians learn how to apply Scripture to today's world. Join Pastor Dylan in the Prayer Room for our Ethics seminar on Sundays during the 11:00 service to learn more!

## NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CLASS

Pastor Dylan's New Testament Theology Class will meet tonight in the Prayer Room at 6:00 PM.

## HOMESCHOOL MEET UP

If you homeschool, are interested in homeschooling, or once homeschooled, you are invited to a Homeschool Meetup on December 10 from 10:00-11:30 AM in the gym! Come for support, curriculum help/swap/sale, or to encourage other homeschoolers that attend Bell Creek. Of course, children are welcome, please no food for this event. For more information, please contact Rachel Nash: [rachel@bellcreek.org](mailto:rachel@bellcreek.org)

## BETWEEN TWO TREES BOOK STUDY

Our Between Two Trees study will meet Sunday, December 14 at 9:15 AM in the Prayer Room to discuss *The Horse and His Boy* by C.S. Lewis. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dylan ([dylan@bellcreek.org](mailto:dylan@bellcreek.org)).

## UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Worship Night: December 19 from 7:00-8:30 PM

Christmas Celebration Service: December 21 at 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve Service: December 24 at 5:30 PM

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Take control of your money with Financial Peace University! This nine-week class uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and invest for your future! Please see Meg Watkins or call 734-778-3272 to sign up. Class starts on January 10.

# 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

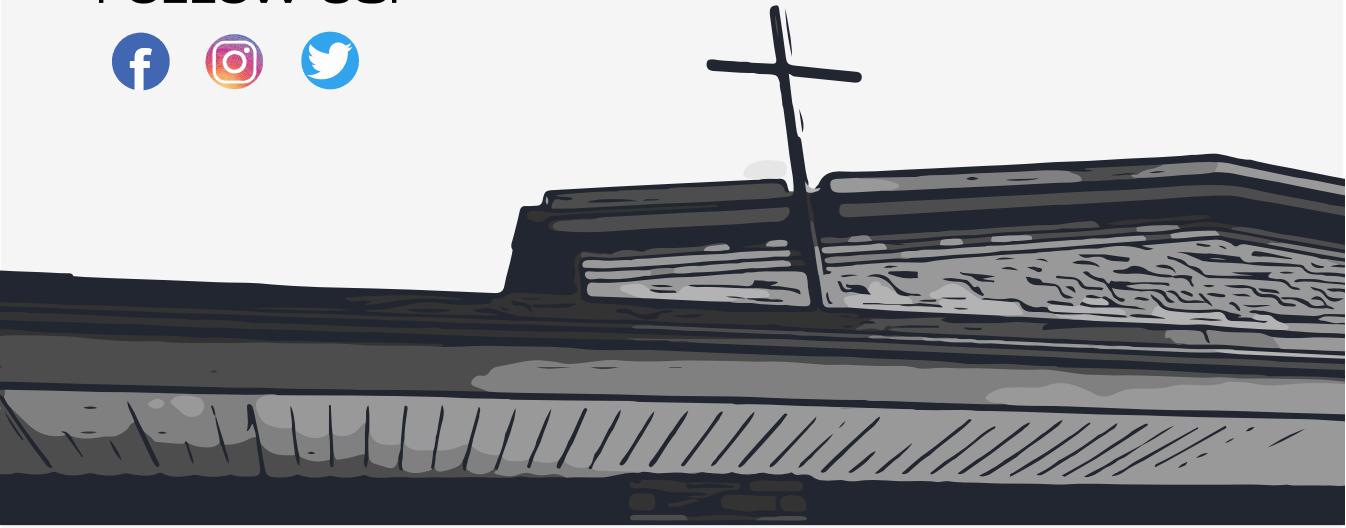
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

## 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

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LIVONIA, MI 48154

## 12.07.2025 Sermon Notes

Sermon Title: Anchored in God's Peace Until the Lord Returns

Sermon Text: Jude 17-23

### Scripture Reading

"Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him." (Malachi 3:16-18, ESV)

### We Remember the Words of the Apostles

"But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions."" (Jude 17-18, ESV)

"It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit." (Jude 19, ESV)

This is the parallel passage from 2 Peter: "that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires." (2 Peter 3:2-3, ESV)

The Apostles considered it a loving, apostolic duty to warn us of these things ahead of time: "I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things." (2 Peter 1:13-15, ESV)

Out of love, the Lord Jesus warned us beforehand as well: "For false christ and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand." (Matthew 24:24-25, ESV)

How is it loving that our Lord and the Apostles warned us beforehand? Being warned beforehand is profoundly loving because warnings are acts of mercy. When God tells us what's coming, He is not ambushing us but preparing us. He is giving us an opportunity to repent, strengthen our faith, and walk wisely. God deals with us as a Father who equips us rather than as an adversary who surprises us.

Warnings steady our hearts by removing the shock of surprise that can topple us. Some of the spiritual harm we suffer comes not from hardship itself but from the unexpectedness of it. When Jesus and His Apostles say, "See, I have told you beforehand," He anchors us so that when trouble arrives, we do not panic or doubt His goodness. In that moment, the crisis becomes a confirmation!

We realize this is exactly what Jesus said would happen, and therefore He is still in control. When what Jesus said beforehand comes to pass, it reinforces confidence in every other promise He has made.

Warnings give believers the ability to interpret reality through Scripture instead of emotion. Without a prior word from God, we tend to misread our circumstances, assuming that God is absent, that suffering is out of the Lord's control. We may think trials mean spiritual failure, or that false teachers promising an easier path may be right. But when God has already spoken, His Word gloriously shines as the truth through which we understand what is happening. This brings us hope and strength.

Being forewarned exposes deceivers before they appear. This is Jude's main point: the apostolic predictions remove the element of surprise, unmask false teachers, and embolden the church to reject them. When you already know how the enemy operates, you cannot be easily manipulated.

Being forewarned cultivates preparation, endurance, and vigilance. Knowing in advance that trials and opposition are not only likely, but required in the life of God's people strengthens us to persevere. A forewarned Christian trains differently, endures differently, and hopes differently.

Being forewarned brings peace. Peace is not the absence of threats but confidence in the presence of Jesus. A warned disciple is a prepared disciple, and a prepared disciple becomes a peaceful disciple. This is why Jesus said, "See, I have told you beforehand," and it is why Jude urges believers to remember the predictions of the apostles.

**Application:** Where in your life right now is Jesus lovingly preparing you - through His warnings and His promises - to trust His goodness rather than your fears, and how can remembering His Word anchor you in His peace until He comes?"

## We Remain in the Love of God

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life." (Jude 20-21, ESV)

Jude gives us four powerful instructions:

1. Build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Hang on to the Gospel, the good news that Jesus is our One and Only Savior. He is our hope. Read, watch, listen to, and talk about things that will strengthen your trust in Him.
2. Pray in the Holy Spirit: If you trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Talk to God. Pour out your heart to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you pray. Trust God with every little thing.
3. Keep yourselves in God's love: God never stops loving us. We might ignore or rebel against His love, but He never ceases to love us.

4. Wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, which leads to eternal life. We all hope for many things, but there is a certain hope - receiving all the riches of God's love and forgiveness when Jesus returns.

Application: As we wait for 'the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life,' will you trust the Holy Spirit to help you experience God's steadfast love amid your trials? Will you allow Him to enter into your suffering so that it becomes a place where His power sustains you and attracts others to Jesus?

## We Rescue the Wandering

"And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh." (Jude 22–23, ESV)

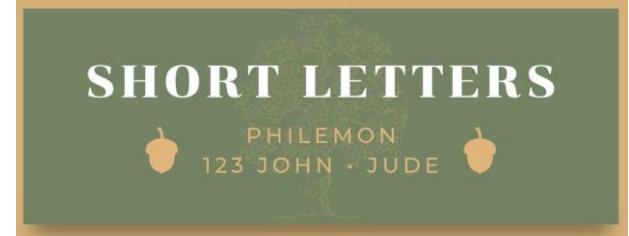
There is a progression here:

1. First, we must patiently and persistently pray for and seek out those who doubt the truth of the Gospel.
2. Next, some are perishing, and we must act quickly. This will require us to get closer to the destructive lives of those who reject Jesus.
3. However, some individuals commit such dangerous sins that we must approach them with the utmost caution and wisdom. We must not fall into their sins while trying to share the Gospel with them.

Application: If God warns us before He judges us, not to terrify us but to wake us up so that we turn to Him for rescue, do you see how Jude's words are His mercy to you today? Jesus is inviting you to trust Him as the only Savior. He alone can rescue us from the fire that destroys us. Will you not trust Him to save you rather than trusting yourself to withstand it?

## 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)



## Anchored in God's Peace Until the Lord Returns

1. What did you think of the sermon "Intolerable"?

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2. Why is it loving that Jesus and the apostles warned us ahead of time about scoffers, trials, and spiritual danger? How does being "forewarned" change the way we face hardship today?

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3. Jude says to "build yourselves up," "pray in the Spirit," "keep yourselves in God's love," and "wait for the mercy of Jesus." Which of these four practices is most needed in your life right now, and why?

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4. Jude describes three kinds of people, those who doubt, those who are in danger, and those trapped in destructive sin. What does it look like to show mercy, rescue others, and yet remain spiritually wise and cautious?

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5. Where is Jesus lovingly preparing you right now—through His warnings or His promises—to trust His goodness rather than your fears? How can remembering His Word anchor you in peace this week?

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