

WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



NOVEMBER 16, 2025

INTRODUCTION TO JUDE

JUDE 1-4

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

INTRODUCTION TO JUDE

JUDE 1–4

Called, Beloved, Kept

Covenant Blessings Multiplied

Contend for the Faith

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Book of Jude as many times as you can!
It's only 25 verses!

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

NOVEMBER 16: ACTS 1-3
NOVEMBER 17: ACTS 4-6
NOVEMBER 18: ACTS 7-8
NOVEMBER 19: ACTS 9-10
NOVEMBER 20: ACTS 11-12
NOVEMBER 21: ACTS 13-14
NOVEMBER 22: JAMES

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

BOXES OF LOVE

Bell Creek will be providing boxes of ingredients, as well as certificates for turkeys for local families in need for Thanksgiving. Due to needs of the communities, we are hoping to deliver 150 boxes by Wednesday, November 19 this year. Boxes, shopping lists and instructions for returning them will be available in the back of the gym. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Rice (amanda@bellcreek.org).

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 for our Ethics Seminar on Sundays during the 11:00 AM service to learn more!

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CLASS

Pastor Dylan's New Testament Theology Class meets on Sundays at 6:00 in the Prayer Room. We will continue our study in the book of Hebrews.

CHRISTMAS CAROLLING AND DINNER EVENT

Bell Creek's 3rd Annual Christmas Caroling Outreach & Dinner is Saturday, December 6th. We'll meet at Bell Creek at 4 PM and return from caroling about 6 PM, with dinner (soups) served at 6:30 PM in the gym with some kid's crafts/activities too. We hope you can join us in some way for this wonderful event! Sign up after service in the gym or online by 11/30 for caroling or volunteering. Any questions see Audrey Rodgers.

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).

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!

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FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sermon for Sunday 11.16.2025

Sermon Title: Introduction to Jude

Jude 1-4

SCRIPTURE READING

“But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” (Isaiah 43:1–2, ESV)

When Was Jude Written? Most likely: AD 60–80. The majority of conservative and mainstream scholars place Jude between AD 60 and 80. Jude appears to know 2 Peter, or 2 Peter knew Jude. Most scholars think 2 Peter used Jude, meaning Jude is earlier. 2 Peter is usually dated to the late 60s. Jude speaks of the apostles in the past, as if many had already died (Jude 17). The church structure implied is still early, without later offices or councils fitting a mid-1st-century date.

Called, Beloved, Kept

“Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:” (Jude 1, ESV)

“Called”: κλητοῖς (klētois) Meaning: Literally “those who have been called, invited, summoned.” Not a general invitation, but a decisive, effectual summons from God. In Jude, “the called” are the people whom God has personally summoned into fellowship with Christ.

“Beloved”: ἠγαπημένοις (ēgapēmenois) Meaning: “Those who are loved” with the verb agapaō: covenantal, committed, faithful love. The form is perfect tense, meaning “loved in the past with continuing effects.”

“Kept”: τετηρημένοις (tetērēmenois) Meaning: “Guarded, watched over, preserved.” Perfect tense again: “kept once for all and continually kept.”

Application: If God has truly called you, permanently loved you, and is actively keeping you in Christ, then what area of your life is He inviting you to trust Him with today?

If the God who summoned you out of darkness is the same God who has set His unchanging love upon you and now guards your soul every moment for the Day of Christ, then where is fear still ruling you? Where are you still holding back obedience? What burden, habit, relationship, or hidden struggle needs to be fully surrendered to the One who has already promised to keep you? And what step of faith, however small, would demonstrate that you genuinely believe you are called, beloved, and kept?

Covenant Blessings Multiplied

“May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.” (Jude 2, ESV)

“Mercy”: ἔλεος (eleos) Meaning: Compassion, pity, help for the helpless, covenant mercy. Often used of God’s saving action toward sinners.

“Peace”: εἰρήνη (eirēnē) Meaning: Wholeness, harmony, well-being. More than lack of conflict: a restored relationship with God. It echoes the Hebrew shalom.

“Love”: ἀγάπη (agapē) Meaning: Covenant love, faithful commitment, sacrificial affection.

“Be multiplied”: πληθυνθείη (plēthynthēiē) Meaning: “To increase greatly, to overflow, to abound more and more.” Jude is not asking for a small portion. He is praying that God would continually pour out mercy, peace, and love in increasing measure, especially because the church is about to face severe trials.

Application Question (for those who do not yet know Christ): If God is offering you overflowing mercy, lasting peace, and a love deeper than anything you have ever known, what keeps you from receiving Him today?

What burden, regret, or fear stands between you and the God who invites you to be forgiven, made whole, and embraced? And what would it look like for you to take even the first honest step toward the mercy, peace, and love He desires to multiply in your life?

Contend for the Faith

“Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 3, ESV)

Contend, ἐπαγωνίζομαι (epagōnizomai) carries the sense of struggling, fighting, or striving earnestly with intense effort and determination—especially in defense of something valuable.

To contend means to actively, earnestly, and persistently fight for, defend, or stand firm for something valuable. It is not done passively or casually, but with focused, intentional effort, like an athlete or a soldier. In Jude, it refers explicitly to defending, preserving, and remaining faithful to the Gospel given to God’s people.

Question: Where might the enemy quietly be slipping compromise, false ideas, or spiritual apathy into your life or home? What would it mean for you to “contend for the faith” in that very place with renewed seriousness and conviction?

“For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” (Jude 4, ESV)

Jude, the brother of James

“Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.” (Jude 1, ESV)

James is the half-brother of Jesus! What would it have been like to grow up with Jesus?

A typical day for a carpenter's family in Nazareth started before sunrise in their small, single-room stone house. Mary might have lit an oil lamp, begun grinding grain for bread, and taken care of morning chores while the children helped with animals or fetched water from the village spring. The family recited the Shema at daybreak ("Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One) and ate a simple breakfast of bread, olives, and water. Joseph, a tekton—a builder (carpenter) skilled in wood, stone, and plaster, either worked locally in Nazareth or walked the hour-long path to nearby Sepphoris, which was undergoing major construction during Jesus' childhood. Meanwhile, Mary managed the household: preparing meals, spinning and weaving, tending a small garden, baking bread, and teaching the younger children. Jesus, depending on his age, spent part of the morning learning Scripture at the village synagogue and part of the day helping Joseph with tools or carrying materials.

The family's main meal came at midday - bread, lentil stew, olives, or fish - eaten at home or on the worksite if Joseph was away. Afternoon labor continued until sunset, with Joseph building beams, yokes, doors, stonework, or household structures using simple iron chisels, mallets, and saws. At the same time, Mary wove cloth, cleaned the home, and prepared the evening meal. As the sun set, Joseph returned, and the family gathered around a small lamp for bread, leftovers, and quiet conversation. Evenings were filled with psalms, Torah teaching, and stories of Israel's history, often on the flat roof in warm months. The day ended with the evening Shema and sleep on woven mats. Their life was one of hard physical work, deep faith, and strong family and village bonds, with Sabbath as the weekly anchor that shaped everything else.

Jesus lived the ordinary, intimate, often difficult life of a real family member. As a boy and young man, He obeyed His mother and His earthly father, honoring them perfectly in every season (Luke 2:51). He loved His brothers and sisters as neighbors, fulfilling the very command He later taught, "to love your neighbor as yourself." In the life of His own household, He came "not to be served but to serve," and part of the work the Father entrusted to Him included the daily tasks, responsibilities, and acts of service assigned by Mary and Joseph. In every way that matters, He was the son, brother, helper, and family member that God's law requires and our hearts long to be.

Jesus is not only our Savior but also our great High Priest who understands exactly what it is like to live in a family. He comprehends sibling tension, the demands of household chores, the burden of obedience, and the difficulty of loving imperfect people. Yet He lived with perfect righteousness, without sin, in the very situations where we often struggle most. Now, in grace, He gives us His perfect record as the genuinely righteous Son and Brother. He covers our failures, heals our brokenness, and shares His obedience with us as a gift of pure mercy.

But He does more than just forgive. He helps us now through His Spirit. The same Spirit who strengthened Him in that small home in Nazareth strengthens us today. He empowers us to love difficult family members, to obey God in secret places, to serve without complaining, and to live out the righteousness that Jesus has already secured for us. Jesus fully understands family life. He lived it without sin. He credits His obedience to us, and through His Spirit, He teaches us to walk in the same love and faithfulness He showed.

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)