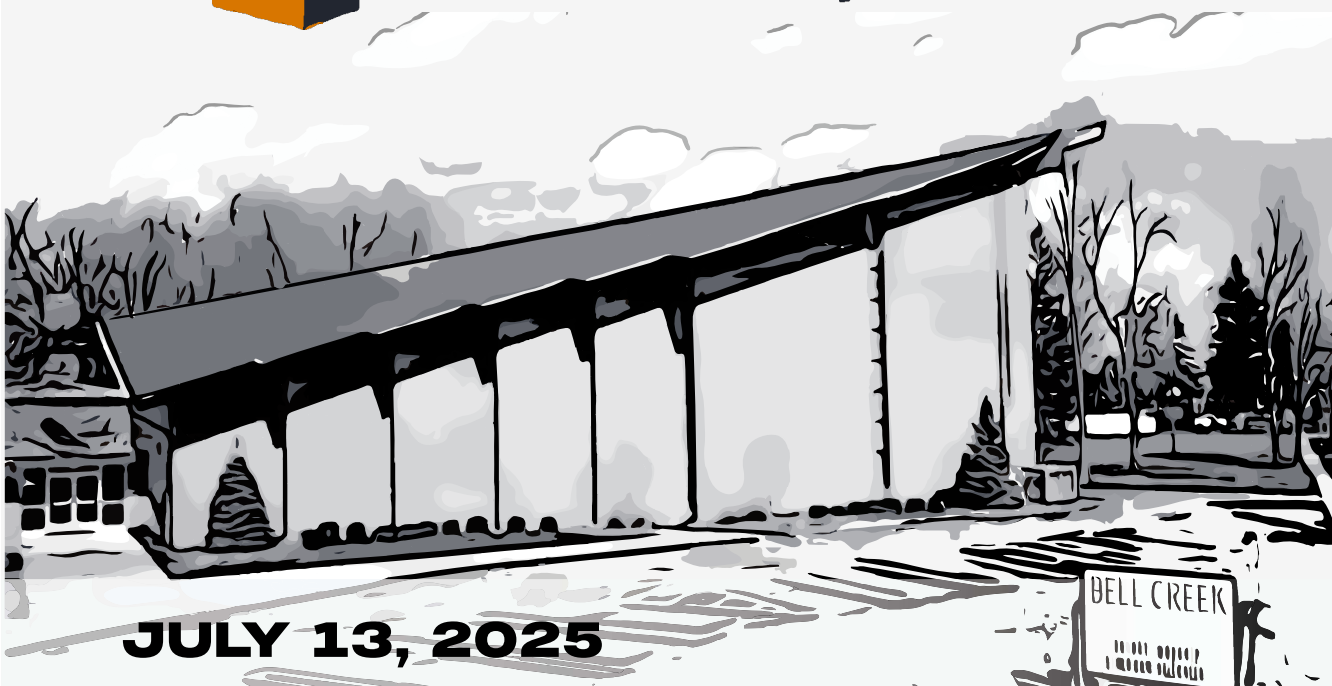


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



JULY 13, 2025

**WHOEVER LOVES HIS BROTHER ABIDES IN
THE LIGHT
1 JOHN 2:7-17**

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

WHOEVER LOVES HIS BROTHER ABIDES IN THE LIGHT 1 JOHN 2:7-17

A New Commandment

I Am Writing to You

Whoever Does the Will of God Abides Forever

FOR NEXT WEEK

For Next Week, Read the Entire Book of 1 John Again. It will only take you 12-15 Minutes!

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

JULY 13: 2 CHRONICLES 27; ISAIAH 9-12

JULY 14: MICAH 1-7

JULY 15: 2 CHRONICLES 28; 2 KINGS 16-17

JULY 16: ISAIAH 13-17

JULY 17: ISAIAH 18-22

JULY 18: ISAIAH 23-27

JULY 19: 2 KINGS 18:1-8; 2 CHRONICLES 29-31;
PSALM 48

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

LADIES CHAT BREAKFAST

All women are invited for our July Ladies CHAT Breakfast on Saturday, July 19 at 9:30 AM. We will meet at the Livonia Breakfast Club on Farmington and 6 Mile. Please RSVP to Joyce (248-756-5672) or Annie (248-235-8754) to save your seat. There is no agenda, just a time of food and fellowship!

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).

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

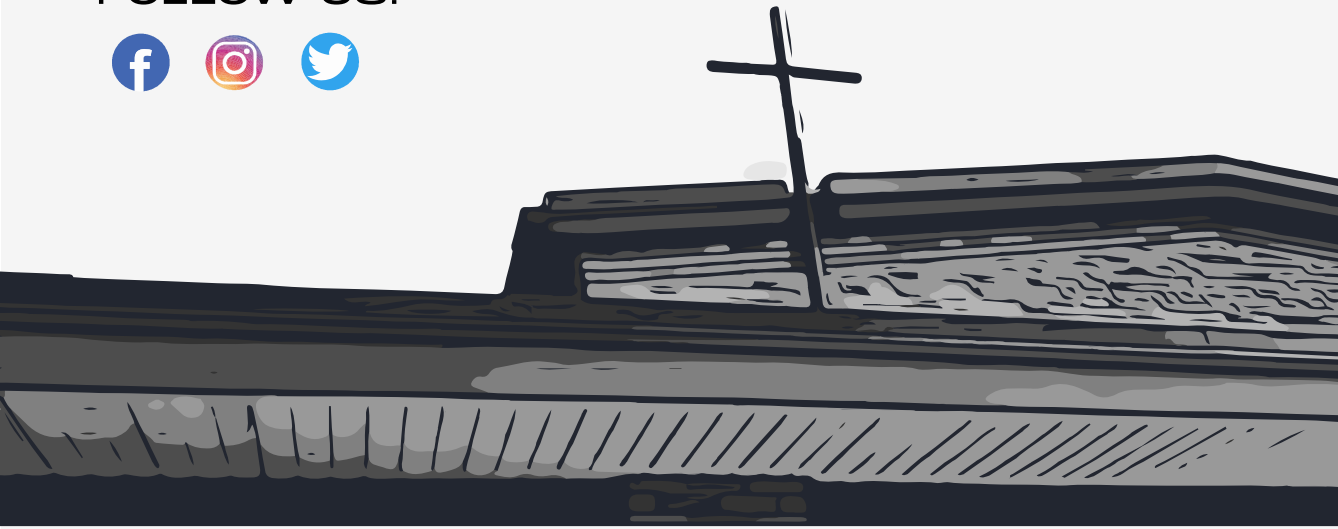
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

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 SERIES: SHORT LETTERS

Sunday 07.13.2025 1 John 2:7-17

Scripture Reading

"Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works." (Psalm 73:25-28, ESV)

A New Commandment

"Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining." (1 John 2:7-8, ESV)

John 14:21 (ESV) 21Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

John 14:23 (ESV) 23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Hate, according to Scripture, is a willful rejection of another's good, often expressed through indifference, hostility, or harm. It flows from a heart opposed to God's nature, disregards His commands, and is marked by feelings of malice, contempt, or the absence of compassion.

Love, according to Scripture, is a feeling of deep affection and compassion for another. It is a self-giving and sacrificial commitment to seek the highest good of another. It flows from the very nature of God, who is love. It is modeled perfectly in Christ, and is expressed through action, in obedience to God's commands, even toward the undeserving (maybe especially toward the undeserving).

""Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."" (Matthew 22:36-40, ESV)

John 13:34-35 (ESV) 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;" (1 Peter 1:22-23, ESV)

Loving others is an issue of the heart. Without the love of God in our hearts, we cannot love others. We must experience the love of God in order to share it. Just doing our duty is not bad in and of itself, but there

is something better. When our actions are motivated by the love in our hearts, it is real, discernible, and powerful.

John Piper gives the following example to illustrate the difference between acting out of duty versus acting out of love and delight:

“Suppose I take flowers to my wife. I ring the doorbell. She looks at me, and I say, ‘Happy anniversary, Noël.’”

If she responds with delight and gratitude, and I answer, “I brought you these flowers because it’s my duty as a husband to bring my wife flowers,” the gesture falls flat. The absence of heartfelt affection makes the act feel cold and mechanical.

But suppose instead I say, “Honey, I couldn’t help myself! In fact, I’ve got a plan for the evening, because there’s nothing I’d rather do than spend the evening with you!” That response—flowing from genuine delight—brings her joy and honors her far more deeply.

Piper uses this story to emphasize a central point of his teaching: God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. True love and worship are not merely acts of obligation, but of joy and desire. Our love is most authentic when it flows from the heart, not just from a sense of duty.

What do you do if you don’t love others? We ask God for help. He is in the business of taking “hearts of stone” and turning them into “hearts of flesh.”

I Am Writing to You

1 John 2:12-14

“I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name’s sake.

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”

“Children” are everyone in the churches who are hearing and receiving this letter. “Fathers” are leaders who are older men in the churches, many of whom were alive when Christ walked on the earth. Some may have seen Him, or knew those who did (just as they knew the Apostle John). “Young men” are leaders in the church as well. They are the next generation, and John commends them for “overcoming the evil one.” Most likely, this means overcoming the false teaching that was trying to infiltrate the churches of Asia Minor.

Whoever Does the Will of God Abides Forever

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 John 2:15, ESV)

“For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.” (1 John 2:16, ESV)

"And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever." (1 John 2:17, ESV)

Matthew 6:19–21

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Romans 8:18

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

2 Corinthians 4:17–18

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

Colossians 3:1–2

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

Philippians 3:20–21

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body..."

Hebrews 11:10

"For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God."

Hebrews 13:14

"For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come."

So far, in the Book of 1 John we have seen some tests we can give ourselves to diagnose how our faith in Christ is doing:

Walking in the light vs. walking in darkness

"If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie..." — 1 John 1:6–7

Confessing sin and acknowledging the truth

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us..." — 1 John 1:8–10

Obeying God's commandments

"By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments." — 1 John 2:3–6

Loving your brother

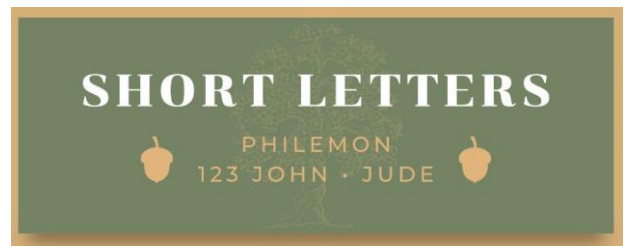
"Whoever loves his brother abides in the light..." — 1 John 2:9–11

Not loving the world

"If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." — 1 John 2:15–17

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)



A New Commandment

1. What did you think of the sermon "A New Commandment"?

2. Why do you think John emphasizes the "oldness" of the command to love? In what ways might you have grown numb to this familiar calling—and how can you rekindle a fresh passion to love as Christ does?

3. Does your love—or lack of love—for others reveal whether you are walking in the light or in darkness? Are there specific relationships that might be uncovering blind spots in your spiritual walk?

4. Why do you think John addresses different groups at various stages of faith? As you read his words, what part speaks most personally to you right now—and what might God be saying to you through that?

5. What desires or distractions of the world most compete for your heart right now? How can you discern whether something is drawing you closer to God's will—or subtly pulling you away from it?

