

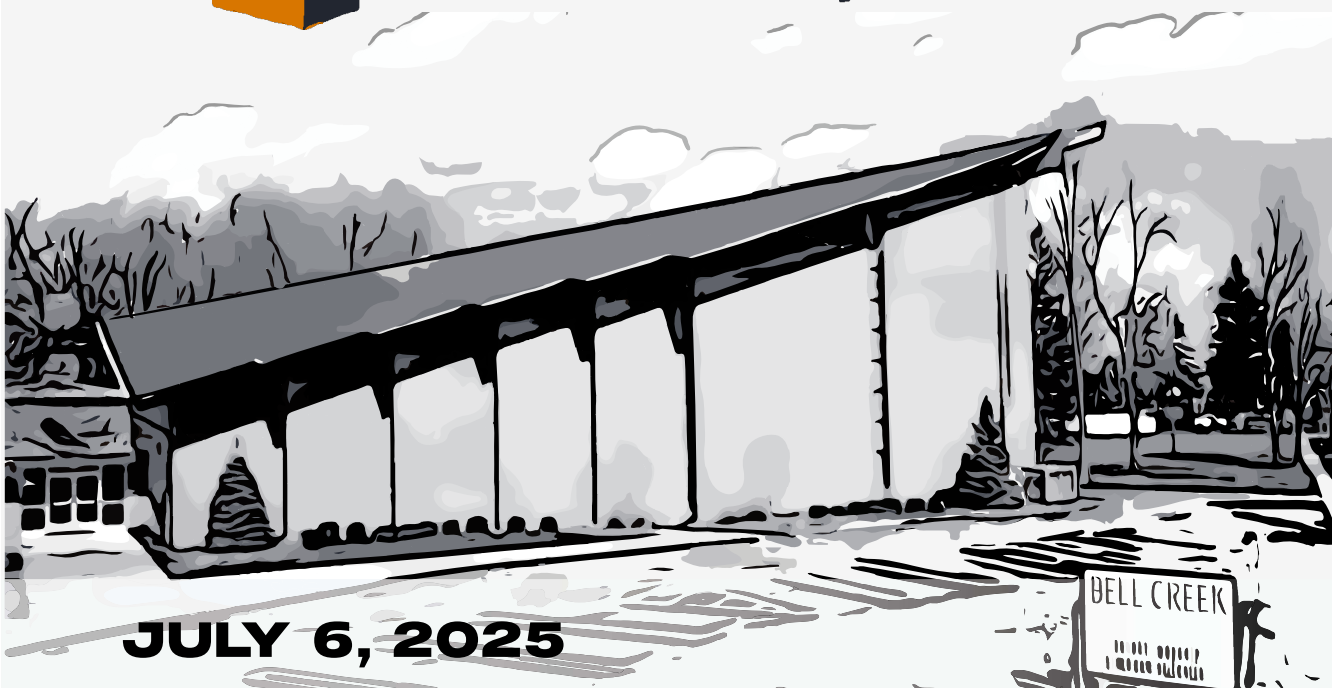
WELCOME TO



# BELL CREEK

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## Community Church



**JULY 6, 2025**

**OUR ADVOCATE**  
**SERMON TEXT: 1 JOHN 2:1-6**

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT  
CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

# **OUR ADVOCATE**

## **SERMON TEXT: 1 JOHN 2:1–6**

**Help for Sinners**

**Our Advocate with the Father**

**How do We Know that We Love Him?**

**Abide in Him and Walk with Him**

### **FOR NEXT WEEK**

For next week read the book of 1st John.  
You can do it! It only takes about 12  
minutes!

### **DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING**

JULY 6: 2 KINGS 14 & 2 CHRONICLES 25

JULY 7: JONAH 1-4

JULY 8: 2 KINGS 15 & 2 CHRONICLES 26

JULY 9: ISAIAH 1-4

JULY 10: ISAIAH 5-8

JULY 11: AMOS 1-5

JULY 12: AMOS 6-9

# UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

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## 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 3 meet ups this summer. We will meet July 9, 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](mailto:elyse@bellcreek.org) or [rachel@bellcreek.org](mailto:rachel@bellcreek.org).

## AS THEY GROW PRAYER TIME

Join us as we gather to pray for our adult children on Saturday, July 12 from 9:00-10:00 AM. Please contact Kelly Salter ([ksalter1122@gmail.com](mailto:ksalter1122@gmail.com)) for more information.

## GAME NIGHT AT BELL CREEK

All are invited to the Student Room on July 12 from 5:30-8:00 PM and play Hearts at Bell Creek's Game Night! Bring a dish to pass so we can enjoy food and fellowship before the game begins. Please RSVP Dawnie Owens ([dawniedelight1@gmail.com](mailto:dawniedelight1@gmail.com)).

## 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](mailto:dylan@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

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](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**

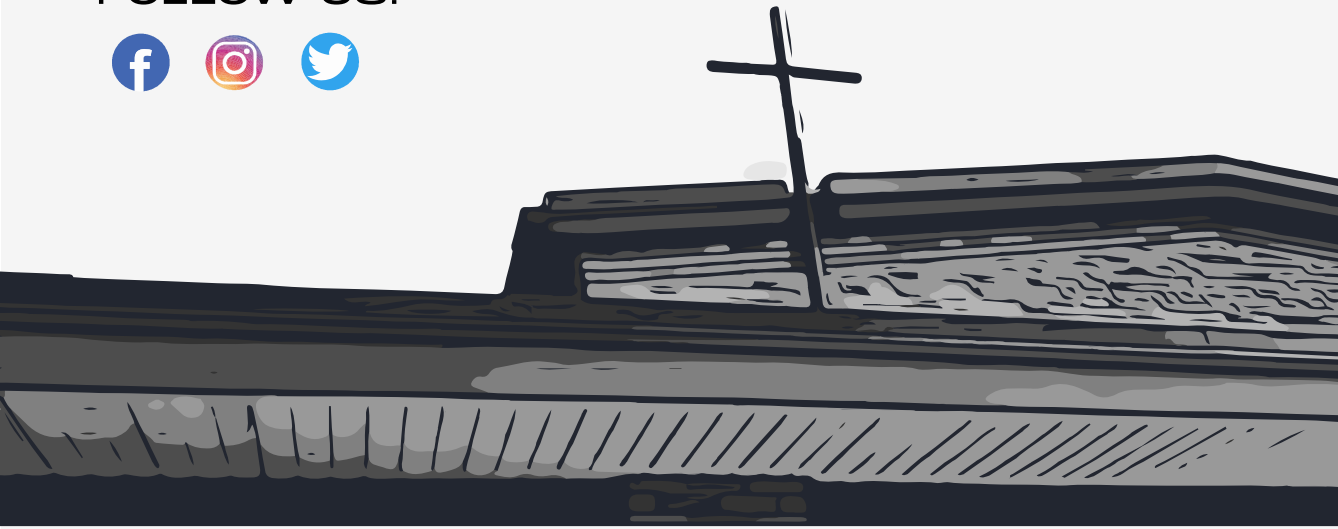
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

# 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 for 07.06.2025

## “Our Advocate”

### Sermon Text: 1 John 2:1-6

#### Help for Sinners

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.” (1 John 2:1, ESV)

First, note that John calls his readers “My little children.” A term of endearment and likely a reference to the fact that many are young in their walk with Christ.

He says he is “writing these things to you so that you may not sin.”

It is important to remember that in 1 John, the way John talks about sin, darkness, and walking suggests a distinction between:

1. Ongoing, willful, unrepentant sin (characteristic of unbelief).
2. A believer’s struggle with sin (marked by conviction, confession, repentance, and walking in the light).

Remember the context? The Gnostics said that, “it’s only my flesh that sins, but my spirit is pure.” John emphasizes that a believer in Christ will be marked by a struggle against sin, not surrender to it.

So, what things did John write earlier that help us in our struggle against sin?

He assures us that Jesus is REAL! (1 John 1:1-4)

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5)

If we say we have fellowship with Him but walk in darkness, we lie and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:6)

If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another and with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (1 John 1:7)

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves (1 John 1:8–10)

If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive our sins AND to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

#### Our Advocate with the Father

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:1–2, ESV)

## 1. What is an advocate? We could also say “mediator.”

A mediator stands between two parties in conflict to bring reconciliation. In biblical theology, Christ mediates between a holy God and sinful humanity. He bridges this divide through His incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension.

## 2. How Does Christ Mediate?

### a. He reveals God to man

- 2 Corinthians 5:19 – “In Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself.”
- Hebrews 1:3 – “He is the radiance of the glory of God...”
- John 14:9 – “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

### b. He represents man to God

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – “Made Him to be sin...”
- 1 John 2:1 – “We have an advocate with the Father...”
- Hebrews 7:25 – “He always lives to make intercession for them.”

### c. He accomplishes reconciliation

- Romans 5:10 – “We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.”
- Hebrews 9:15 – “He is the mediator of a new covenant...”
- Ephesians 2:13–16 – “He Himself is our peace...”

## 3. For Whom Is Christ a Mediator?

Jesus Offers Himself to the whole world. Those who are guilty and spiritually dead in sin, enemies of God, and under the power of Satan. He offers Himself fully to those who despise Him and revile Him and think they do not need Him. He offers Himself to those who would crucify Him again if they could. He offers Himself to the liars, the murderers, the adulterers, as well as the lost, the bewildered, the deceived, and the despairing. He has come to rescue anyone who will cry out to Him for forgiveness and salvation.

- 1 Timothy 2:5–6 – “...one mediator... who gave Himself as a ransom for all.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:19 – “...reconciling the world to Himself...”

Only some accept Him as their Mediator / Savior:

- Hebrews 9:15 – “...those who are called...”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “If anyone is in Christ...”

## John Adams – Advocate for British Soldiers Accused of Murder:

After the Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770, in which British soldiers shot and killed five American colonists, the city was enraged and demanded justice. The soldiers were despised. But John Adams, a respected colonial lawyer and future president, chose to defend them in court — a move that shocked many.

Adams served as an advocate for those deemed guilty and without hope, even at personal cost. While Adams couldn't remove guilt, he sought to ensure justice was rightly applied, not twisted by anger. Adams modeled moral courage and integrity, walking not by public approval, but by principled conviction. Adams's deep belief in law, truth, and moral duty reflected a conscience shaped by justice, a biblical worldview, and a Godly wife (who was a pastor's daughter) named Abigail.

#### 4. Christ's Threefold Mediating Role: He is our Prophet, Priest, and King

Prophet	Reveals God's nature, purposes, and Word to us	Deut. 18:15; Heb. 1:1-2
Priest	He offers Himself as a sacrifice, intercedes	Heb. 7:23-27; 1 John 2:1
King	He subdues enemies, governs the church	Eph. 1:20-23; Rev. 1:5

#### 5. Good Time to Pause Here: This ought to change the way we worship Jesus and pray to Him.

This should change how we pray: "Lord Jesus, thank you for revealing who God is. If I want to know what God is like, I look at you. And thank you for living the life that I could never live. You lived a life of perfect righteousness. You paid for my sins on the cross, and you gave me your record of righteousness. Now, you bring before the throne of God forgiven, spotless, not a slave to the Enemy anymore, but a child of God, a citizen of Your kingdom. Thank you for ruling and reigning over everything and for subduing all our enemies, and you promise to bring me and all your people safely home to you. Lord, reveal more of who God is to me – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Reveal yourself to me, and to my family, and everyone I know. Help me to be grateful and full of joy for the salvation you have given me, and help me to love others as you have loved me. Help me to forgive as I have been forgiven. Give me strong confidence and hope for today and the days to come because you are the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, and you rule now and are returning soon."

## How do We Know that We Love Him?

"And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him," (1 John 2:3-4, ESV)

We don't earn salvation by keeping His commandments. That's impossible. We keep His commandments because we have been saved. Those who place their trust in Christ for forgiveness are born again. They are new creations. They have a new nature. It's not a perfect nature yet, but it's a new nature that's heading Godward. Their new nature desires to keep the Lord's commandments. The commandments of the Lord are a delight to them. Not easy. But delightful, and full of life. It is one of the signs of a believer that they acknowledge that the commands of the Lord are good, and they desire to keep them.

## Abide in Him and Walk with Him

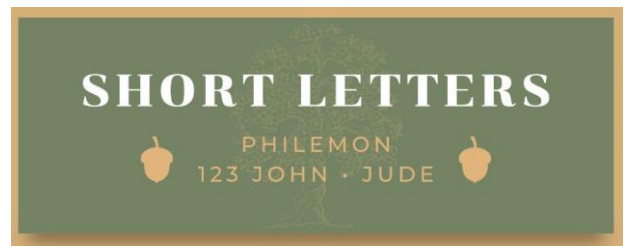
"but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked." (1 John 2:5-6, ESV)

When we “keep His word” we demonstrate that we love God, but we also learn, by obeying God, that He loves us because ALL his commands are for our good. They are the path of life and health and peace.

As we grow in Christ and learn His ways, and begin to keep His word, we become like Him. And that is the goal. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit want us to be like Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. We slowly but surely begin to think like He does, feel like He does, and act like He does.

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## Help for Sinners

1. What did you think of the sermon "Help for Sinners"?

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2. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is your advocate with the Father? Does this affect how you view sin in your own life?

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3. John states in verse three, "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments." What commandments of Jesus do you struggle to keep? How can you work toward obedience in this area?

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4. How do you respond to the contrast between "saying" you know God and "living" like you do? Can you identify inconsistency with this in your own life?

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5. John tells us that we ought to walk in the same way as Jesus walked. What does this look like in your life? As a believer and follower of Christ, have you begun to walk, think, feel and act more like He does?
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