



# The Creek Courier

Weekly Update January 22, 2021

*Loving God*

*Learning Together*

*Leading Others to Christ*

Dear Church,

On December 17, 1927 U.S. Navy submarine USS-S4 was accidentally rammed and sunk by a U.S. Coast Guard destroyer. Although every effort was made to rescue the crew, the rescue operation ultimately failed. A Navy diver who was doing everything he could to rescue the crew reported that he heard tapping on the wall of the sunken sub. Placing his helmet against the side of the vessel, he realized the tapping was Morse Code.

Carefully listening to the tapping from the vessel, the diver was able to decipher the message being tapped from within: *'Is . . . there . . . any . . . hope?'*

Pastor and author Chuck Swindoll wrote these words: *We can live several weeks without food, days without water, and only minutes without oxygen, but without hope—forget it.*

Pandemic, lockdowns and quarantine have become the new normal. We are a divided country, with protests and riots on an almost daily basis. There is a lot of anger from coast to coast. No doubt many are searching for hope.

But is there any hope for the future? As believers shouldn't we always be able to answer that question in the affirmative? Lest there be any doubt, here is one of the Lord's great promises revealed through Jeremiah:

***"For I know the plans I have for you," this is the Lord's declaration, "plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11***

Those words were written during the time Jerusalem was under siege by the Babylonians. All the Israelites could see on the horizon was hopeless disaster. Had God's covenant promises become null and void? He directed Jeremiah to speak to the people on His behalf and let them know that He had a hopeful future in mind for them.

Granted we don't see invading Babylonians approaching, but perhaps we do see things which might appear to be just as hopeless. In such times we can cling to the Lord's promise to Israel because it is a reflection of His character. He *is* the God of hope and the future.

Daily we are faced with decisions on how we will respond to the challenging conditions around us. We can say, *"I don't like it, I would rather be where I was five years ago. How can I be expected to accept what I don't like? I don't like being in this situation where it seems I have no hope and no future."*

Or we can say, *"I commit to do my best with what I have and where I am. Far more important than the pandemic, the lockdowns, the quarantine and all the division in this place is the God of this place. What we are currently experiencing is allowed by Him and He has a purpose in it. Therefore I will trust Him with it as He guides me through it."*

Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m.

In-person

Face Coverings Required

Drive-In

FM 107.5

Facebook Live

[New Sandy Creek](#)

Yes, our God is still the God of hope and the future. Paul tells us that He ***is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think.*** Ephesians 3:20

We are called in times like this to ***trust in the Lord with all [our] heart, and not rely on [our] own understanding; in all [our] ways know him, and he will make [our] paths straight.*** Proverbs 3:5-6

The same God who had a plan for Israel has one for us!

- Bruce

**January Sermon Series  
Actions For 2021**

**Newcomers Class**

Continues Sunday morning with Pastor Tim in the Family Life Center from 9:30 to 10:15.

**Believers' Baptism and Lord's Supper**  
**We will be celebrating Believers' Baptism and the Lord's Supper on January 31.**

Pastors Tim and Josh and your deacons are available to help with any needs you might have.

On-call deacon for the next week is Donald Hoyle.

Donald can be reached at 252-432-7754.

Pastor Tim can be reached at 252-432-6780.

Pastor Josh can be reached at 919-606-0537.

**Churchwide LifeGroup**  
**Sunday mornings 9:30–10:15**  
**In-person in the sanctuary**  
**or Facebook livestream.**

**Wednesday Night Activities**

**6:15 Student Ministry**

**6:30 Children's Ministries**

**Adult Bible Study**

**Face coverings required.**