



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Serving the Community Since 1813

5916 Kentucky Springs Road
Mineral, VA 23117

elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org

January 2023



From the Pastor's Study...

One thing many of us *don't* look forward to this time of year is the cold. As I write this, temperatures outside are plunging and the wind is howling. It makes the month seem a lot longer than its 31 days. I don't know about you, but I wish it would just go away. But wishes are what we call things over which we have no control. We might know how we want things to turn out, but the truth is they could go good or bad, up or down. We just have to wait and see.



There's nothing wrong with having a wish list. If I was pushed, I might admit to having one, too; but I recognize there's not much I could do to have those wishes fulfilled.

But hope? That's something different. We can have hope, and be certain in our hope that we are loved by God, and that when we commit ourselves to his will, in the end our lives are blessed.

That doesn't mean all our wishes come true, but no matter how bad life seems, we can rest assured God is with us—Immanuel.

Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome that through their suffering they would develop endurance, their endurance would produce character, and as people of character they would have hope. *"Hope does not disappoint..."*

I hope that each one of us continues to develop in our Christian faith, and that we truly become, each day, more and more like Christ. That means this coming year, if hope is a part of your resolutions, you will become more loving, more kind, more generous, more gentle, more accepting. If you join me in that, you might want to begin by asking God to reveal areas where you most need to improve.

I also hope we become more devoted to seeking truth in our lives. Too often we think we have our minds made up—or let somebody else make them up for us—instead of doing the difficult work of listening to the facts and looking into the difficulties and the implications of our beliefs. God asks us to dedicate everything to him, and that includes our minds. This isn't a wish list, but a hope. It's based on the certainty that if we dedicate ourselves to the things God desires for us, and if we are committed to seeing them through, we will accomplish them, not through strength, but through the power of his Spirit as it works in us. That is a resolution that's worth working on for more than a few weeks.

Mickey

Reflections of Advent and Christmas

Decorating the tree and singing Christmas carols at the Louisa Health and Rehab Center



Delivering Christmas Joy to friends



Women's Fellowship lunch at Jones' house. (Thank you, Steve, for your "service".)



Men's Breakfast at the church



Lighting the Advent Wreath and Christmas Eve Service



It's Time for the 2nd Elk Creek Blood Drive

January 19th from noon to 6:00 pm

Volunteers are needed to help with the drive.

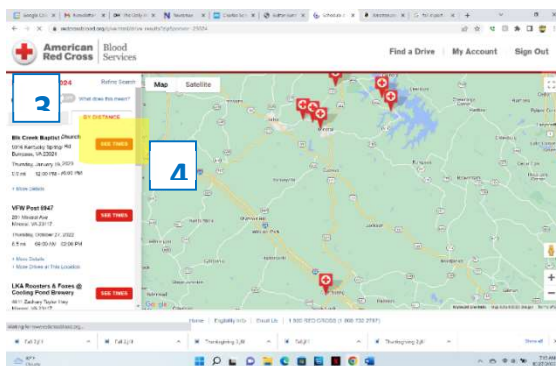
At last count, 36 people have signed up to donate blood; but, we still need volunteers to assist the Red Cross team.

Note: If you are a regular donor, there is a 60 day wait time between donations so please plan accordingly.

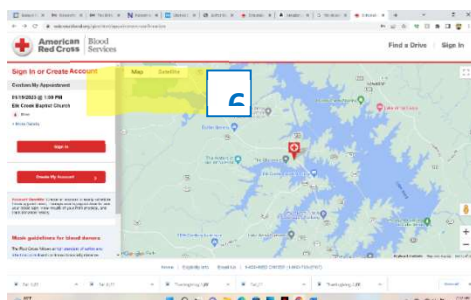
If you have questions, need assistance, or want information regarding platelet donation, contact Beth Larson at u2skyhag@gmail.com

STEPS for signing up:

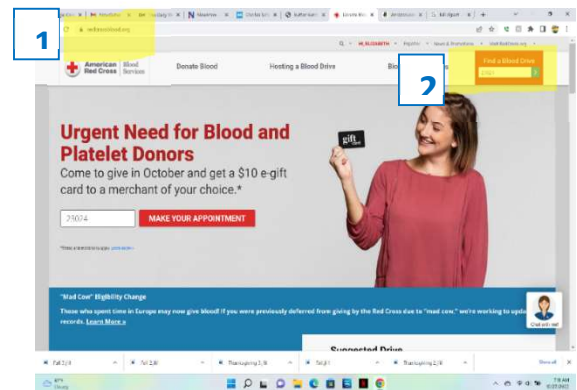
1. Go to redcrossblood.org
2. Enter 23024 in "find a blood drive". Click blue arrow
3. Select "By Distance" tab



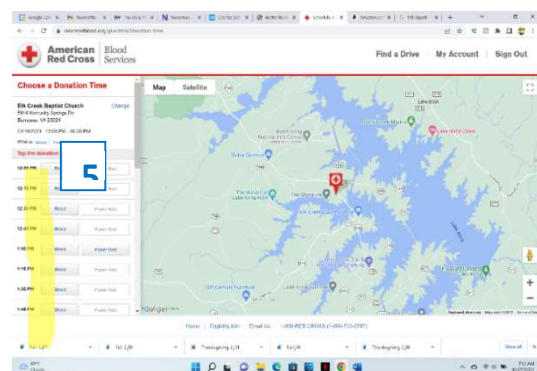
5. Choose your time. "Blood" is a traditional donation. "Power Red" is similar to a whole blood donation, except a special machine is used to allow you to safely donate two units of red blood cells during one donation while returning your plasma and platelets to you. It takes about 30 minutes longer than a normal donation.



6. Then you either sign in, or create an account if you haven't done this before. The steps are straight forward.



4. Select "See Times" next to Elk Creek Baptist Church



Christmas (season) isn't over yet! There are still the "12 days of Christmas".

All singing aside, there actually *is* a historical basis for the traditional Christmas carol we all know and love. Christians have historically celebrated a period of 12 days surrounding Christmas. The nearly two-week time period starts and ends with two pretty significant holidays: Christmas on Dec. 25, and the Epiphany on Jan. 6.

Meaning of Each Gifts



A Partridge in a Pear Tree - Jesus, the Son of God. (Note: A mother partridge is the only bird that will die to protect its young.

Two Turtledoves - the Old and New Testaments, the complete story of the Christian faith and God's plan for the world.

Three French Hens - faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter)

Four Calling Birds - the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Five Gold Rings - the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Pentateuch.

Six Geese a-Laying - the first story found in the Bible; each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was "hatched" or formed by God.

Seven Swans a-Swimming - the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for the spiritual gifts.

Eight Maids-a-Milking - Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Nine Ladies Dancing - the fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Ten Lords a-leaping - As lords were judges and in charge of the law, these stood for the Ten Commandments

Eleven Pipers Piping - the disciples, excluding Judas who betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, leaving eleven men who carried out the gospel message.

Twelve Drummers Drumming - the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.



Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of King Herod, wise men in Jerusalem from the east and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Matthew 2: 1-2

Goings and Comings



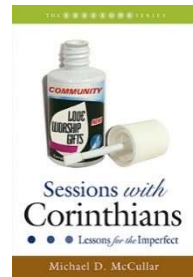
Welcome to Rick Perks who became a member of our church family on Sunday, December 18th.

Lake Anna Beautification Friends continue to sponsor periodic road clean ups along Kentucky Springs Road. If you would like to help, please contact Jody Korman, 804-502-1128, or Carol DeZorzi, 703-582-5446.

New Book Study – The **Wednesday Night Book Study** is beginning a discussion of **Sessions with Corinthians**, by Michael D. McCullar. Everyone is responsible for ordering their own hard cover, paperback or Kindle copy from Amazon (Smile) or the Helwys website:

<https://www.helwys.com/sh-books/sessions-with-corinthians/>

Or call directly - 478-757-0564. If you need assistance, please contact Peter Hoffman, 540-454-1949.



The Book Study meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.



The **Woodchuckers** have been busy cutting, stacking and delivering wood to families who need it.



This is not just a Christmas thing...

If ordering anything from Amazon, AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Elk Creek Baptist Church every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. You get the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the church. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are all the same.



How to use AmazonSmile on a web browser:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
 2. Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com
 3. Select your charity
 4. Start shopping! Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for your chosen charity.
- Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at smile.amazon.com.

How to use AmazonSmile using the Amazon app on your mobile phone:

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app
2. Navigate to the main menu (☰)
3. Tap on Settings and then select "AmazonSmile"
4. Select your charity and then follow the on-screen instructions to turn ON AmazonSmile in the mobile app
5. Once AmazonSmile has been activated in your app, future eligible app purchases will generate a donation for the charity you have selected.



From the Treasurer's Desk:

There is no monthly missions project for January to give everyone a break to recoup after Christmas. With February just around the corner, our monthly mission drive will be for Goshen Woman's Missionary Union of Goshen (WMU). While the WMU supports many causes, our designation is usually specifically for supporting Chaplain K. Willett at the Goochland Women's Correctional Center both financially and with needed supplies. In early March, I will disburse a check for all the funds collected in February for that cause. Over the past two years, we have raised approximately \$700 each year; for 2023, our goal is \$750."

The deacons will set the goals for March and the next quarter at their upcoming meeting.

A Special Note from the Treasurer

To conserve time and money, I will be emailing your 2022 giving statements as PDF attachments. If you need me to mail a copy, please email me with your current address and I will send it to you via snail mail.

Happy New Year!
Mike



Volunteer Opportunities

- **Food providers for Sunday morning fellowship** after the 8:30 service. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall, or call Coral Losinski, 571-366-9500, or Bunnie Wyckoff, 202-286-8954, for more information.
- **Wednesday Book Study Snack and Study Leader(s)** to facilitate discussion of the current book on specific Wednesdays. Contact Tony Wilson, 540-748-1159, wilsontony540@gmail.com, for more details.
- **The ECBC Woodchucks** who provide firewood to families in need can always use an extra pair of hands. If you have any questions about this ministry or would like to get involved, contact Rick Perks, 301-704-2743.
- **RuraLove Ministry**, an outreach of Goshen Association, welcomes volunteers. Contact the Ministry Center for more information, 540-894-8440. (Or Coral Losinski, 571-366-9500)
- **Young Life of Louisa can always use your help.** Contact Susan and Dane Swenson, 703-863-9972, susanswenson466@gmail.com.

Mission Opportunities through Baptist Goshen Association (BGAV)

- **Four-Part Mission Team to Armenia set for August 2023.** The Goshen Missions Committee is in the process of planning a Mission Trip to Sisian, Armenia for the dates of August 17-29, 2023. The Team will be working with one of our three church planters, Pastor Vardan and his wife Lusine. We are planning to have four parts to the team: part 1 will be working with children and youth in a Vacation Bible School setting; part 2 will be made up of ladies who will have classes for the local women while the VBS is going on; part 3 will be made up of pastors/ teachers to hold classes for the pastors in the area and doing some outreach around our construction project; and the fourth part will be the construction team to work on a project TBD. The cost of the trip is estimated at \$1800-2000 depending on the cost of airline tickets. Additional funds would be needed for any souvenirs or shopping. The team will be staying in a hotel. There are no special shots required for entry into the country. You will need a current passport. If you would like more information or are

interested in being on one of the four parts of this team, please contact the Goshen Ministry Center at 540.894.8440. Please pray the Lord would build this team and Goshen people would be receptive to His calling.

- **Disaster Response Baby Boxes** – Part of the BGAV's new disaster response program for supply distribution, Goshen is collecting supplies to fill 240 baby boxes so families can have the essentials to care for their baby during a crisis. This is a brand new idea and Goshen is the first to put together these needed supplies. Plans are to pack boxes in the spring (depending on donations) to be prepared for hurricane season 2023. The boxes (will be provided) are to contain: a tube of Desitin (4 -ounce), 1 pacifier (in packaging), 1 bottle (8-ounce in packaging), 1 blanket, 1 sm. box of disposable diaper sacks or 4 gal trash bags, 3 packs of unscented wipes (50-100 count each), 2 packs of name brand diapers (25-35 depending on size). For any questions, contact the Goshen Ministry Center and Tammy will return your call. 540-894-8440.
- **Hope for Appalachia** (<http://hfavateam.com>) - make "Hope Boxes" for students age 4-18 to be given out with salvation message at schools in Kentucky in the spring and fall. Needs: Hats & Mittens (due by October 1st yearly). Also, fleece blankets (new-if making, should be two 1 1/2 yard pieces tied), clean current style prom dresses (new or used), and Hope Boxes (all due by Feb. 1st each year). See website for more info on any of the above ministries or how you could be a mission team.
- **Mission Stitchers** - All are invited on Sat, January 12th, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m at the Goshen Ministry Center, 587 Mica Rd, Mineral. Bring a lunch or about \$10 for lunch. Bring your machine and tools or fabric scissors to cut out the patterns. Needs: Flannel by the yard (new), flannel bed sheets and pillowcases (new or gently used), 100% cotton quilt batting or 80% cotton/20% polyester quilt batting, cotton pillowcases (new or used-no stains, no microfiber), cotton fabric by the yard (new), girls underwear sizes 14, 16 & 18 (new), modern white wedding dresses (gently used). For more information on this ministry contact Terry Graham, 540-661-6268 or email mrsjrg@aol.com.
- ***Old prescription eye glasses and men's neckties** being collected for a missionary in Guatemala.
- ***Old prescription bottles and non-prescription bottles (aspirin, vitamins, etc.) for Doctor's Without Borders.** Note: Bottles should be rinsed and labels removed.

*Note: Donations may be left in the box in the Fellowship Hall.



I know not when He sends the word
That tells me fervent prayer is heard.
I know it cometh soon or late;
My part is but to pray and wait.
I know not if the blessing sought
Will come in just the guise I sought.
I leave all care with Him above
Whose will is always one of love.

Unknown

DATES TO REMEMBER

January

- 1st New Year's Day, services at 8:30 and 11:00 am
- 6th Epiphany
- 8th Deacon's Meeting
- 11th Book Study. 6:45 – 8:00 pm, at the church. New book - *Sessions with Corinthians*
- 12th Women's Fellowship, 9:00 am, Jo Canova's house
- 15th Quarterly Business Meeting 1st Quarter
- 16th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 19th ECBC 2nd Annual Blood Drive, 12:00 – 6:00 pm
- 20th Deadline for articles for newsletter
- 25th Book Study. 6:45 – 8:00 pm

February

- Mission Project: Grace Inside Offering
- TBD Men's Breakfast
- TBD Women's Fellowship
- 8th Book Study. 6:45 – 8:00 pm, at the church
- 11th Valentine's Dinner 4:30 pm
- 14th Valentine's Day
- 20th Presidents' Day
- 20th Deadline for articles for newsletter
- 22nd Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday service, 5:00 pm
- 22nd Book Study. 6:45 – 8:00 pm, at the church



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSERIES

January

Linda Wilson	5
Robin Bass	6
Kristin Barmoy	6
Wayne Webb	7
Veronica Schnippel	7
Lee Morrell	7
Sarah Tyler	11
Christina Vaughan	13
James Duerson	14
Karen Wood	19
Andrew Lunsford	21
Tony Wilson	24
Cindy Bock	29

February

Larry Croce	1
Adam Lunsford	3
Bunnie Wyckoff	16
Wayne Frazier	26
Woody & Penny Jenkins	28



Families in crisis, The people of Ukraine, Jason Koenig, Kelly Pitcher, Jonelle Borseth, Kim Ridley, Julie Ann Love, Darcy Hammell, Justine Borseth, Louisa County Sheriff's Office, Jennifer Robertson, Jody Robertson, Kelsey Cullen, Sandy Roberts, Mark Franklin, James Duerson, Sherri Martin, Pam Robertson, Erin Robertson Weekley, Linda & Phil Mason, Samantha Nolan, Barclay Seale, Carolyn Brown, Frank Hammond, Terri Myers, Nick Murphy, Marie Snyder, John Murphy, Cindy & Lee Morrell, Betty Jones, Greg Laurent, Kim Ridley, Chris Ashwood, Ronnie Robertson, John Pixley, Ray Hart, Doug & Ellen Hewitt, Rick Clore, Joyce Myers, Krista Seltzer, Cheyenne Bungay, John Pescatori, John Fuggett, Rosalyn Cook, Diane Eakin, Jacob Reeves, Jerry & Emma Kay Talley, Mark Robertson, Mike Fleck, Butch Weaver, Mya Thompson, Lyla Christie, Dennis McFarlane, Doug McFarlane, Alfred Sletton, Catherine Proffitt.



POTLUCK!! Here is a cure all for a cold or flu, or whatever else that ails you. Or just feeling cold when the temperatures are in the 30's or below.

RUSSIAN TEA

Ingredients: 1 ½ pts orange juice, 1 c. sugar, 2-3 Tbsp whole cloves, 5 cups water, 2 tea bags

You need 3 containers for this recipe, One large pot and 2 quart size containers.

In the large pot, begin warming:

1 1/2 pints of orange juice (The original recipe called for 1 sm. can of frozen juice mixed with 3 cups of water, but I haven't been able to find these lately.)

In a quart size pot, combine:

1 cup sugar

2 cups water

1/3 can of whole cloves (approx. 2-3 Tbsp)

Boil hard for 2 minutes then strain and discard cloves. Add clove water to orange juice.

In a second quart size pot, boil 3 cups of water. Add 2 Lipton's tea bags and steep for 5 minutes. Add tea to orange juice.

Serve hot. This mixture can be kept warm on the back of the stove for a while. It will keep in the refrigerator for about a week, and can be heated one cup at a time or the whole mixture at once.

An alternative that is good (but not as good as the real thing) if you can still find Tang, and more mobile:

INSTANT RUSSIAN TEA

Printed from COOKS.COM

1 (1 lb. 2 oz.) jar Tang

1/2 tsp. ground cloves (I tend to add an extra dash.)

1 tbsp. cinnamon

3/4 c. instant tea

1 1/4 c. sugar

Dash of salt

To prepare mix, combine Tang, sugar, tea, spices and salt. Store in tightly covered container. Makes 4 cups mix or enough for 12 quarts of tea. For 1 quart of Russian Tea, combine 1/2 cup mix with 1 quart of water. (I found 4-6 heaping tsp. makes a nice single cup of tea.)

STAY TUNED (IN)....

- **If your contact information changes**, please remember to notify the church. Send changes to your address, phone number and/or email address to Mindy Ward, dm3ward@gmail.com, 301-335-8315, so we can update our directory.
- **If you cannot come in person**, tune into the 11:00 am service on Mixlr app. Download the app on your mobile phone or computer, select “Listen” and search for ECBC-5916.
- **Visit our website** – elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org – and like us on Facebook page.
- **Need access to our secure online directory?** Email the webmaster, web@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org, for access to the secure directory.
- **Check out the Goshen Baptist Association website** – www.goshenassociation.com

*Together in Christ. Mindy and Doug Ward, Beth Larson,
Alana and Wayne Frazier*

