



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Serving the Community Since 1813

5916 Kentucky Springs Road
Mineral, VA 23117

elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org

April 2023



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:30 and 11:00 am
Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am

Good Friday Observance in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service at the Waterfront at 6:45 am
followed by a Potluck Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
No 8:30 am Worship or 10:00 am Sunday School

Easter Worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00 am

HE IS RISEN INDEED!!

THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

Soon we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. It is the greatest story ever told. Easter Sunday is the most significant day on the Christian calendar. It represents the fulfillment of God's promise to conquer death itself through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God promises everlasting life for those of us who accept and believe. It is the most powerful example of God's grace. Instead of delivering us for the punishment we deserve as sinners, through his grace He gives us **SALVATION** and everlasting life through Jesus. It's not only the good news. It's the **BEST NEWS** there possibly is!!

Right now, we are entering a new chapter. It is **imperative that we remain unified as the body of Christ**. God's grace has provided us with a spirit of peace in our church body. We need to embrace it and pray earnestly for God's protective hedge around our fellowship.

We are thankful for a steady supply of relief pastors to preach the Word each Sunday. It has been like a revival hearing the outstanding messages that these pastors bring to us. Thanks to each of you who do so much to support our church, including the band and the singers. Many of you support the church in ways that are not necessarily obvious, like cleaning the church, maintaining the grounds, preparing the weekly bulletins, supporting the snacks [that's Important] and in many other ways.

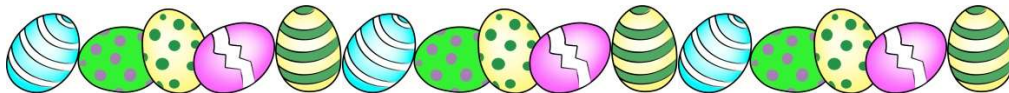
Finally, in the search for our new pastor, the Search Committee is working together, with the support of the Goshen Association, preparing materials to get us to a place in the process where we can offer the position and receive resumes. Somewhere out there is a pastor looking for a church just like Elk Creek Baptist Church. We are working to prepare our hearts to be led to the pastor that God has chosen for our church. In God's time, He will lead us to match our need with the right pastor. The search committee will continue to work towards that day. Please wrap our church and the search committee in your prayers. I'm excited to see who God will bring us!!

A lot of moving pieces. We must continue to be led by the Holy Spirit and avoid relying on our fallen natures to guide us. Pray for the church and each other.

God bless you.

Peter Hoffman

Deacon and member of the Pastor Search committee



We are very appreciative of the relief pastors who continue to lead our worship services. The month of March included Pastors Brent Vickery (and wife, Terry), David Bailey and Kevin James (shown at right).



Save the Date...



Phillip and Linda Mason
request your presence as they celebrate their 52nd Anniversary
on Saturday, April 22nd, 2023
from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
to be held at Elk Creek Baptist Church Waterfront Worship Area



Stan Polonsky and Crew will be grilling! YUM !!

Music provided by the Elk Creek Band and friends, Jim Hailey and Charlie Magruder

Bring your sports chairs and /or cushions for sitting on benches.

There will be introductions and photo opportunities.

Please RSVP by signing the sign-up sheet in the social hall by April 12th, 2023.

In case of rain, the pavilion will be used.



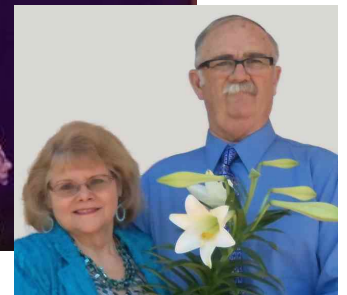
The Rest of the Story...

This anniversary celebration is very special, to include celebrating the successful blood stem cell transplant thanks to the cells donated by our daughter, Samantha.

A year ago on April 10th, we spent our 51st anniversary, in the emergency room where Linda received a diagnosis of Ph+ Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. She was transported to VCU Oncology and Hematology Critical Care Hospital and enrolled in a clinical trial study for the Ph+ Leukemia. The study drug did not remove the cancer-mutated gene, so four cycles of chemo were needed to reach remission.

A bone marrow transplant took place on January 10th of this year with discharge home on February 10th. Recovery has been slow; daily visits to the outpatient transplant center were required for the first week for lab work and to check for any IV fluids needed along with any symptoms needing attention. Thankfully, the bone marrow biopsies done on day 63 post-transplant revealed that there is no cancer; the mutated gene that started this saga was successfully irradiated by the full body radiation received the day prior to the transplant. (However, the radiation also wiped out all immunizations.) Close to day 100 post-transplant, there will be more bone biopsies (4 tests) to check again. Immunizations will begin slowly and take two years to complete.

The waterfront worship area is perfect for Linda to enjoy the festivities from a safe distance (on a boat) and still enjoy seeing our guests. Our church family has been so supportive this past year and we are grateful. We want this to be a fun celebration for everyone attending. Many of our church family are assisting to help make this celebration special. Please come and join us for a meal, fully provided, good music and fellowship. Stay as long as you wish, but please, no gifts.



There will be information on The Leukemia Society and the opportunity to make donations in memory of Amy, the Polonsky's daughter, and Liz, Linda's aunt, who both had Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

Comings and Goings



Thank you from Samaritan's Purse

a special note

from an Operation Christmas Child volunteer

*Dear Mary Virginia, and church families,
We wanted to thank you for all of your shopping, packing and delivering of OCC shoeboxes this year. But most of all we want to thank you for your prayers for the children and families that will hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ because of the shoeboxes you filled. Please continue to pray. Pray for the teachers of THE GREATEST JOURNEY and that MANY will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Thank you*

"Declare His glory among the nations" Psalm 96:3

Church Relations Team-Charlottesville Area



Thank you to the Buildings and Grounds Team for their conscientious stewardship of our church. This month they...

- Re-painted the lettering on our granite sign
- Replaced the broken timer that kept the outside of the church in darkness for two weeks
- Power-washed the white sign and the sidewalk leading to the Fellowship Hall
- built new benches for the lakefront
- remulched and treated weeds at the lakefront, and applied chemicals to church lawn.

The **Quarterly Men's Breakfast** was held at the church on March 14th where those present were treated to Eggs Benedict. The next breakfast is tentatively scheduled for some time in June.



The monthly **Women's Fellowship** met at Susan Croce's house on March 18th. The next gathering will be held at the church on Saturday, April 15th at 9:00 am.



Book Study – The 2nd and 4th Wednesday Night Book Study continues a discussion of **Sessions with Corinthians**, by Michael D. McCullar. Everyone is responsible for ordering their own hard cover, paperback or Kindle copy.



The **Woodchuckers** have delivered wood to 11 recipients so far this year. They've taken a break until after Easter, but usually meet on Tuesdays and Fridays to gather, chop and stack wood in preparation for next season.

RuraLove is in need of: twin & full-sized mattress sets, bed frames (metal or wood in all sizes), toasters & microwaves electric stoves, refrigerators & washing machines.

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 Woodchuckers** 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.



IF

If all lips spoke the truth,
All pride was cast aside,
Greed was packed and stored away,
And jealousy subside.
If love could rule the universe,
Kindness was shown to every race,
Then one could glance into the mirror
And view God in his face....
-written by a 16 year old girl on the street



Mission Opportunities through Baptist Goshen Association (BGAV)

- **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. 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** – Meet the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 am-2:00 pm 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. 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 baskets in the Fellowship Hall.



Did you know that tradition of Easter eggs has a Biblical reference?

Well, maybe not directly but according to one source that references John 11:25, the boiling of the egg symbolizes the sealing of the tomb where Jesus was laid. And the cracking of the egg is a symbol of Jesus's resurrection, bursting forth in victory over death.

Decorating them is just *icing on the cake*, so to speak....

Get Involved in Stewardship. Contact Donna Duerson Evans (buglady8@yahoo.com) and let her know you want to get involved in the life of the church.

Worship – Mindy Ward, chair - reviews and evaluates the worship services with a view to enhancing and strengthening them; includes - services, bulletins, music, communion, and decorations/flowers.

Pastor-Staff-Church Relations – works with the pastor in keeping the covenant between the pastor and church up-to-date and abiding by the guidelines adopted for the relationship as noted in the covenant agreement. Serves in support of the pastor, and staff for the needs of the church.

Spiritual Education – coordinates Sunday School teachers, Bible Study leaders and Pastor-led studies, for the understanding of the Bible and spiritual growth.

Audio-Visual – volunteers with the knowledge and assistance of the audio/visual equipment. Responsible for seeing to the maintenance, security and use of any audio/visual equipment owned by the church for the enhancement and broadcasting of services as appropriate.

Building and Grounds – Jay Canova, chair - Responsible for the cleanliness, maintenance, security and beautification of the church's building and grounds including the Lakefront Worship area. Periodically, inspects the facilities for possible repairs and upgrading as well as scheduling work days for the purpose of maintaining the building and grounds. Major areas of focus are: Electricity, HVAC, General Maintenance, Facility Protection, and Cleaning Teams.

Communications and Publicity – Donna Duerson Evans, chair - Liaison between the church and the media to include: Website, Facebook, Twitter, newsletter, directory, newspapers, television, radio, etc. Updates posted information to include planned special events, services and ministries. Maintains the email distribution list of active attendees used by the pastor and those who provide information to the congregation on behalf of church leadership.

Missions and Community Outreach – Plans and promotes mission ministries with Goshen Baptist Association, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and other agencies as appropriate through special emphases or direct hands-on involvement; includes coordinating and promoting the annual mission offerings, and promoting a ministry to contact and share the message of Christ and our church with the Lake Anna Community.

Hospitality– Coral Losinski, chair – Ensures kitchen has adequate supplies. Plans and coordinates church dinners and special events such as church's Anniversary/Homecoming, Valentine Fellowship, special concerts, and programs.

Caring Community – Alana Frazier, chair – Coordinates Prayer Ministry, Card Ministry, and meal coordination, when needed. Provides assistance with the selection of gifts as needed for special occasions. I.e, graduation, recognition of special accomplishments.

Finance– Mike Bridges, chair - The Treasurer is an elected officer in the church who is responsible for church finances and other related duties. An assistant and others can assist as approved by the deacons under the direction of the Treasurer.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April

Mission Project: TBD

- 1st Spring Clean-Up 9:00 AM at the church and waterfront
- 2nd Palm Sunday
- 2nd Deadline to order Easter Lilies
- 5th Passover/Last Supper
- 7th Good Friday Observance 6:00 pm at the church
- 9th Easter Sunrise Service 6:45 am at the Waterfront followed by potluck breakfast
- 15th Women's Fellowship 9:00 am at the church
- 16th Deacons Meeting
- 20th Deadline for articles & pictures for newsletter (elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com)
- 22nd Mason 52nd Anniversary and Celebration of Life, 11:30 am at the Waterfront
- 23rd Quarterly Business Meeting 2nd Quarter

May

Missions Project: Goshen Missions Offering (GMO)

- TBD Women's Fellowship
- TBD Woodchuckers Ministry
- 7th Lake Front Services Begins
- 14th Mother's Day
- 28th Memorial Day Celebration

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April

Paula Brewer	1
Larry Edmonds	4
Rodney Wood	7
Kathy Tyler	9
Phillip & Linda Mason	10
Lori Koslow	11
Norman & Lee Stahl	13
Michele DiFranco	13
Sonny and Cherry Hill	20
Lesia Norwood	22
Sharon Anderson	25
J.B. Vaughan	29
Sandra Wilson	30
Rita Jones	30
Andy Seelinger	30

May

Pam Paine	03
Mary Virginia Polonsky	07
Robert Brown	09
Randy Bock	09
Martin & Phoebe Koenig	11
Bill & Janice Powers	11
Jamie Eder	14
Mickey & Pam Robertson	19
Steve O'Connor	19
Matthew DiFranco	21
Jeff & Jean Martin	22
John & Beth Larsen	22
Tom & Kelly Pitcher	25
Marc Vancampen	31

****Did you remember to order your Easter Lilies?****

POTLUCK!! It's what for breakfast! This recipe was served by Jo (or Jay?) Canova at a recent Women's Fellowship. By request, here is her (their)

EGG AND HASHBROWN CASSEROLE

Prep Time: 30 Minutes

Cooking Time: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Additional Time: 15 Minutes

Total Time: 2 Hours 15 Minutes

Ingredients:

40 ounces Hashbrowns
10 Eggs
1 ½ cups Half & Half
1 stick of Unsalted Butter
1 small Sweet Onion
2 tablespoons of Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO)
1 pat of Butter
1 pound Breakfast Sausage
¼ cup Maple Syrup
16 ounces Mexican Style Shredded Cheddar Jack Cheese
3 teaspoons Salt
1 teaspoon Pepper



Directions:

Step 1: Sauté onions with EVOO and pat of butter, set aside.

Step 2: Cook sausage. As sausage browns, crumble into bite sized pieces. Stir syrup and onions into sausage. Continue to cook for 1-2 minutes before removing from heat, set aside.

Step 3: Combine uncooked hashbrowns and 8 ounces cheese in large bowl, stir.

Step 4: Add sausage mixture to hashbrown mixture, stir.

Step 5: Melt butter. Add butter to hashbrown/sausage mixture, stir.

Step 6: Combine eggs, half & half, salt and pepper in medium bowl, whisk.

Step 7: Spray 13 x 9 baking dish with PAM. Place hashbrown/sausage mixture into dish. Pour egg mixture over hashbrown/sausage mixture.

Step 8: Cover baking dish tightly with aluminum foil. Bake immediately or refrigerate overnight.

Step 9: Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Place covered dish into oven. Bake for 1 hour.

Step 10: Remove dish from oven. Uncover. Top casserole with remaining cheese. Return to oven. Bake for approximately 30 minutes.

Step 11: Remove from oven. Cool for 15 minutes before serving.



Families in crisis, The people of Ukraine, Syria and Turkey, People suffering loss from the recent tornadoes, Carol Cipura, Michael Wright, B.M. Seal, Barbara (K.Tyler), Jonelle Borseth, John Fugett, Pastor Search Committee, Al Roberts (Popeye), Cheryl Jenkins, Martin Koenig, Jacob Fifer, Paula Barwick, Sherri Martin, Grace Grecco, Ashlie Pack, James Duerson, Donna Duerson, Teri Kulakowski, Butch Weaver, Shirley Griffith, Terry Graham, Jenn Kerr, Lori Gunter, Kelly Pitcher, Kim Ridley, Julie Ann Love, Darcy Hummell, Justine Borseth, Kelsey Cullen, Sandy Roberts, Mark Franklin, Pam Robertson, Linda & Phil Mason, Carolyn Brown, Frank Hammond, Terri Myers, John Murphy, Cindy & Lee Morrell, Betty Jones, Greg Laurent, Ronnie Robertson, Ray Hart, Doug & Ellen Hewitt, Joyce Myers, Cheyenne Bungay, John Pescatori, Rosalyn Cook, Jerry & Emma Kay Talley, Mike Fleck, Mya Thompson, Lyla Christie, Dennis McFarlane, Doug McFarlane, Alfred Sletton, Catherine Proffitt.

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 our 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
elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com

P.S.

If you have not submitted your **Pastor Survey** yet, it is still being submitted. The search committee would like to hear from church members and non-members, alike. Please complete the attached survey and either leave it in the folder at the back of the sanctuary or email it to Kathy Tyler, ktyler0011@comcast.net.