



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Serving the Community Since 1813

5916 Kentucky Springs Road

Mineral, VA 23117

540-967-8004

elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org

January 2024



What's in a New Year

I had a good friend whose favorite word was, "potential." His favorite TV show was "American Pickers" because he was one himself. And what a collection he had. He saw potential for repurposing in every rusty thing of great patina that he brought home. His creations and restorations were amazing. And, of course, when he passed there were many unfinished projects lying around.

A new year has potential. It is a gift of time, a gift of life from the Lord for all those unfinished projects or bucket list events waiting to happen. Is God's will included?

As you look forward to the new year know that God has a plan for your life, and it is good. He has created within you potential.

Ephesians 2:10 (NASB) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. For 2024, may God's plan impact your life.

The book of James also has a challenging message about an attitude toward time. James 4:13-15 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

It is my prayer that 2024 will be a year dedicated to living out God's plan of good works for your life. May there be joy in living out our potential as we serve the Lord together!

Blessings in the New Year,

Pastor Mike



January Sermons - Walking with Jesus

7th One Sure Step at a Time 1 John 2:3-6

14th The Master's Way Ephesians 2:8-10

21st Following the Spirit Galatians 5:16, 25

28th Waking in Jesus Steps 1 Peter 2:21-25

Remembering Linda Proffitt Mason
November 28, 1952 – December 24, 2023



A trusted friend, loving daughter, sister, wife, and mother, Linda battled Leukemia and then a Stem Cell Transplant with dignity and the strength of her faith.

She dedicated herself to the service of others, including her card ministry; she never failed to remember a birthday or anniversary. As a Sunday school teacher and Bible study leader, she enjoyed encouraging others to find Christ. She had the distinction of being the first Woman Deacon at our church.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society [@GIVENOW.LLS.ORG](https://www.givenow.org) or Cancer Society [@CANCER.ORG](https://www.cancer.org). For donation notification, list epmason4732@gmail.com.



Thank you to the Building and Grounds Team for the Nativity Set that decorated the church lawn during Advent and Christmas.



Reflections of Advent and Christmas

We celebrated the first Sunday of Advent (which coincided with Pastor Mike's first Sunday) with communion,



fellowship, and a bountiful breakfast.





We caroled through the halls of the Louisa Health and Rehabilitation Center,



packed baskets of goodies to share the joy of the season with others,



and delivered gifts and food to our four “adopted” families.



The Advent Wreath was lit and carols were sung led by the band.



culminating in the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service where the children helped light the Christ candle.



Women!! You have an opportunity for an extraordinary worship experience. Sign up by February 28th to get a discount on the registration.

The Extraordinary Women 2024 event is October 4th & 5th, Lynchburg, VA. I have reserved 15 tickets at the discounted price of \$59.00. In order to take advantage of the discount, you need to register with our group - **Elk Creek with Grace** - and pay for your ticket no later than February 28th.

To sign up, follow these directions.

1. Click (or copy and paste onto the URL line) this link to register for the event with our group. If needed, the passcode **HeLives**.

<https://brushfire.com/ewomen/conferences/563788/register?group=c74a9dc0-0b87-467b-89bf-d1168b353583>

You should see a blue line with the words - **Registering as a part of: Elk Creek with Grace** - and the words **Your Group** next to the **Basic Group On-Site** ticket price of \$59.00.

3. Add the number of tickets you would like and click **Continue**. (With the fee, the total will be \$64.00 at checkout.)

4. Enter your name and email address. Verify in the bottom left corner the number of tickets you ordered and click **Continue**.

5. Provide your contact information, create a password and enter your credit card information, then click **Place Order**.

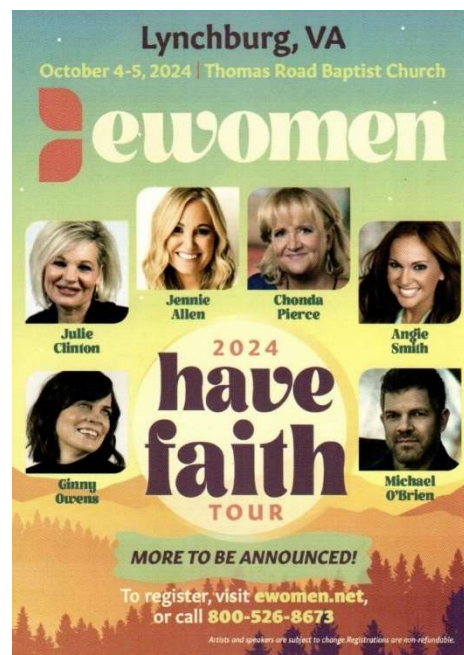
Let me know when you have registered and I will make sure you are assigned to our group.

I am going to try to reserve some hotel rooms now. The rooms we had before were approximately \$200 each. Let me know if you would consider sharing a room with up to four other women save money.

Feel free to pass this along to others.

If you have questions or need help registering, please call or text me, 301-335-8315

Mindy Ward



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Comings and Goings –



The **Caring Community Team** gathers monthly on the first Tuesday, 6:45 pm at the church, to coordinate the needs of our church family and pray over those on our prayer list. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb 6th. The meeting and vigil is open to anyone who would like to come. Questions? Call Alana Frazier, 703-282-2393.



The monthly **Women's GRACE Fellowship** met at the home of Anna Jones for a fun holiday lunch made extra special with the help of a certain elf. The next gathering will be Thursday, January 11th, 9:00 am at the church; please bring a breakfast dish to share.

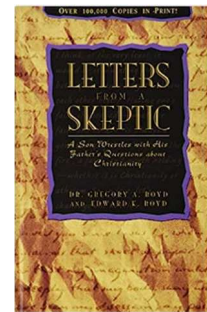


The **Bunco group** was on hiatus in December, but will meet January 17th at 6:30 pm at the church. Boys and girls of all ages are welcome. RSVP to Jay Canova, 703-624-9802, so he knows how many tables to set up.



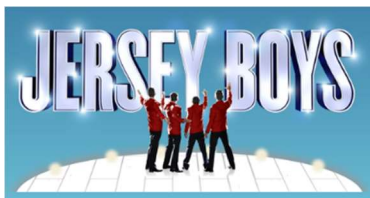
Book Study continues on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:45 pm. Our next session, January 10th, will be used as a summary discussion and review of our current book. We invite you to read any forwarding chapters wish, but we will end our discussions on the 10th.

It is time to pick the next book/video series. Your suggestion(s) are welcome. Contact Peter Hoffman with any suggestions promptly so they be included in the discussions on the 14th.



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Please note, it was agreed to keep refreshments to one or two simple snack/dessert items (cookies, cake, peanuts, etc).



We have an extra day this year with it being a Leap Year. So, on Leap Year day don't miss your chance to see **"The Jersey Boys"** at 5:30 p.m. on **Thursday, February 29th** at the **Riverside Center for the Performing Arts** in Fredericksburg. We do get a group rate of **\$81.00**. Your ticket includes: show, dinner, tax and gratuity. Feel free to invite anyone else to join our group.

Please RSVP by January 9, or as quickly as possible. (It is going to be a popular show so we need early RSVPs!) and send check Anna and Steve Jones, 39 Deep Creek Circle, Bumpass, VA 23024 or **Venmo@stevej840**.



From the Buildings and Grounds Team

Should you see something that needs to be repaired, or would like to lend a hand, please contact Jay Canova, 703-624-9802.

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.
- **LouisaClean** – Contact Jody Korman, 804-502-1128, Jody@Jodyshomes.com, to be notified when a road cleanup is scheduled. Remember to bring gloves, wear long pants, and boots, if available. Grabbers, security vests, and hats will be given out while supply lasts. Group photos are requested to share with Keep Virginia Green.



DATES TO REMEMBER

January

Mission Project: None

Mon 1 st	Happy New Year!
Tue 2 nd	Caring Community Team, 6:45 pm at the church
Sun 7 th	Epiphany Sunday/Communion
Sun 7 th	Celebration of Life for Linda Mason, 1:00 pm at the church
Sun 7 th	Sign up for Jersey Boys, contact Anna Jones
Mon 9 th	Pack up Christmas decorations 9:00 am
Wed 10 th	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 11 th	Women's GRACE Fellowship, 9:00 am at the church
Sun 14 th	Deacon's Meeting rescheduled
Wed 17 th	Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church
Tue 16 th	Men's Bi-monthly Breakfast, 8:00 am at the church
Sat 20 th	Deadline for newsletter articles and photos
Sun 21 st	Quarterly Business Meeting rescheduled
Wed 24 th	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church

February

Mission Project: Grace Inside Offering

TBD	Women's GRACE Fellowship
Sun 4 th	Communion
Tue 6 th	Caring Community Team 1 st Tue each month
Sat 10 th	Valentine's Dinner
Wed 14 th	Lent begins – Ash Wednesday
Wed 14 th	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Wed 21 st	Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church
Sat 20 th	Deadline for newsletter articles and photos
Wed 28 th	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 29 th	Riverside Dinner Theatre Group, Jersey Boys, 5:30 pm



Mark your calendar now –

Palm Sunday is March 24th

Easter Sunday is March 31st

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSERIES

January

Linda Wilson	5
Kristin Barmoy	6
Wayne Webb	7
Veronica Schnippel	7
Lee Morrell	7
Sarah Tyler	11
James Duerson	14
Mike Gray	15
Tessie Fugett	18
Karen Wood	19
Tony Wilson	24
Kristen & Matt Huffman	27
Cindy Bock	29

February

Larry Croce	1
Earl Eck	3
Bunnie Wyckoff	16
Wayne Frazier	26
Barry Hash	28
Penny & Woody Jenkins	28



Those affected by the war in Israel and Ukraine, the Koenig family, Robert Belk, Pat Welty, Brian Rapp, David Herring, Linda Lacy, Noah, Brenda Parsons & Johnathon Smoot, Teri Kulakowski, Henry Henderson, Mya Thompson, Rick Perks, Terry Graham, Hugh Iwanicki, Joan Canan, Linda Sheid, John Fugett, Janice Horton, James Herrick, Maureen O'Hara, Bishop Aubrey Bougher, Maureen Bougher, Frida Kim.



Do you know someone who needs counseling?

BGAV offers Christian Counseling Daystar Pastoral Counseling, Samantha J. Reynolds, BS, MSW, PAC, LCSW. Reasonable fees. For appointment availability call 540.308.7500 or Email: DaystarPastoralCounseling@gmail.com

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 (and 8:30 am when indoors) 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.
- **Need access to our secure online directory?** Email the webmaster, web@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org, for access to the secure directory.
- **Are you getting the GBA newsletter each month?** If not, email Larry Edmonds, lynnandlarrye@aol.com. There's lots of information and opportunities to put your talents to work locally, around the country and the world.



Together in Christ,

Mindy and Doug Ward, Beth Larson, Alana and Wayne Frazier

elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com