



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Serving the Community Since 1813

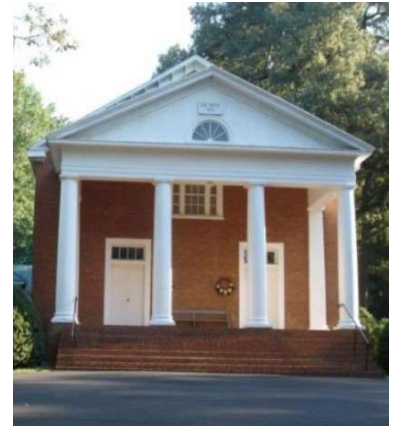
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Mineral, VA 23117

540-967-8032

elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org

November 2024



Thanksgiving Changes Your Life

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

I needed those words. How about you?

In the conclusion of a letter to a church where the main theme is "encouragement to be faithful," you find three short verses that challenge every Christian to live better every day. In the midst of a busy life and circumstances that seem to shout to command your attention, you hear from these verses the call to live joyfully, prayerfully and thankfully.

To live joyfully, prayerfully and thankfully changes your perspective on everything. It changes the way you sense God's presence, how you see life events, and the way you interact with people, as you do God's will.



I am thankful for many things, as are many of you. I am thankful for Christ my Savior and the congregation at Elk Creek. Another thing I am thankful for is God's Word that reminds every believer to not leave joy, prayer and thanks out of your daily living. It makes you a better person, better to be around, a better witness, and better in doing God's will.

May this season of Thanksgiving remind you to give thanks every day of the year for the grace and goodness of God. That is a Biblical challenge for the whole year.

If you are not used to looking for the positive, finding good in small things, and speaking encouraging words to people, the Thanksgiving season is a great time to start, personally and congregationally. Let us give Praise to the Lord!

With Gratefulness,

Pastor Mike

November: "Be Thankful"

03 Guest Pastor – Rev Kevin James

10 *Christian Kindness* Ephesians 4:32-5:2

17 *Generosity on Steroids* 2 Corinthians 8:1-1

24 *Faithful Encouragement* Hebrews 10:24-25

28 *An Attitude of Gratitude* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Join Us....

Veteran's Day Observance Sunday November 10th -

Worship at 8:30 am; short graveside observance at 11:00 am

In the early Worship, veterans will be recognized. At 11:00, a short service of honor and memory will be held in the Church Cemetery. New flags and medallions will be pre-placed on each Veteran's grave.

Thanksgiving Eve Service Wednesday November 27, 6:30 pm

Join in a time of praise and thanksgiving as a congregation. It will be time to reflect and worship the Lord in gratitude together.



The **Quarterly Business Meeting** was held October 13th in which the various Stewardship leaders gave a report of their input to the budget for the upcoming year. It was noted that the monthly fund drives that are monetary donations have been incorporated into the budget so will no longer appear as a monthly "Mission Project". Persons interested in giving to a particular mission may designate such at any time and it will be included as an offering.

The highlight of the meeting was the election of four new deacons – (l-r) Wayne Frazier, Clorese Vaughan, Bobby Jones, and Tony Wilson. With their election, begins classes of deacons who will serve for three years, then rotate out for a period of at least one year before being eligible for re-nomination as a deacon. To better serve the congregation, the deacons will be focusing primarily on pastoral care. Over time, with congregational input and approval, an administrative council of elected leaders will be established to deal with the business needs of the church.



Buildings and Grounds provided an update on the upgrades of the church. Sealing of the remaining outer walls of the church has taken place and the outdoor sanctuary parking area has been asphalted and lined.



On October 3rd, the Women's GRACE Fellowship sponsored a potluck dinner for the whole church hosted by Doug and Kristin Barmoy at their home. Everyone got to enjoy a beautiful sunset in addition to the good food and fellowship. The next meeting is women only on Thursday, November 7th at the church. No need to bring anything; we are in for a special treat.



The **Extraordinary Women Event**, October 4th and 5th in Lynchburg, was a phenomenal worship experience for the 16 women in our group. After a send-off lunch including Pastor Mike and family members, we joined 5000 women gathered at Thomas Road Baptist Church to praise God starting with a concert by Micah Tyler. Chondra Pierce and Amy Grant were two of the many national speakers who shared their experiences and faith with us. Several religious groups were present as well, including Samaritan's Purse and Compassion International.

We have already reserved 20 spaces for next year's event, October 11-12. If you would like to attend (This event will sell out by March.), contact Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315, dm3ward@gmail.com.



A **Celebration Brunch** to honor Gerry Wyckoff (stepping down from audio-visual support and band), Larry Edmonds (retiring deacon), and Rick Teller (our drummer who is moving to Troutville). Thank you to each one for their support of our worship and church family.





Louisa Resource Council Bagging Teams – Remember when we supplied “bagging teams” for the Food Pantry? Well, the need is back. On October 18th, our “test team” proved in two hours, we could pack 11 bins of bagged canned and dry goods for the food pantry to distribute. Our church will now be put on a schedule (of not more than once a month) to assist the food pantry. Teams consist of 10-12 people with varying jobs as runners, baggers, and even box crushers. If you would like to join a team, contact Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315.



Christmas is coming!



Christmas Joy planning meeting, Tuesday, November 12th, 9:00 am at the church. Contact Bunny Wyckoff, 202-286-8954.

Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan’s Purse)

The shoeboxes are available in Duerson Hall. This is a great opportunity to bless a child who hears the gospel as part of receiving their box. Our goal this year is 100 boxes. Return filled boxes by Sunday, November 17th.



This month we are also gathering greeting cards to donate to the Goochland Woman’s Correctional Center (GWCC). Cards may be left in the basket in Duerson Hall.

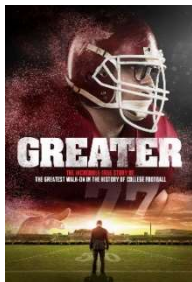


Our church hosted the **Goshen Baptist Association Annual Meeting on October 29th**.

The theme was The Hands of Christ: growing, serving, cooperating. Following the business part of the meeting, the Elk Creek Band sang two songs. And in recognition of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, refreshments took on a grateful theme.



At the Movies



The **5th Wednesday Movie Night** goers enjoyed a first – streaming movies at church. If you missed it, *Greater*, the true story of the faith and hurdles overcome by a standout football player at the University of Arkansas, it is available online.

Coming in November & December - \$5 Movie Tuesdays at the EVO Theater in Fredericksburg – If you are interested, contact Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315.



Bonhoeffer
Best Christmas Pageant Ever



Comings and Goings –

The **Bunco group** played this month. There were lots of last-minute wins resulting in raucous laughter and cries of surprise.. As always, even the losers were winners.

No Bunco in November and December. To join the fun on Monday, January 20th, RSVP to Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315.



The **Caring Community's Prayer and Card Ministry** is meeting at Alana Frazier's house (133 Boxwood Road, Bumpass) this month due to the church being used as voting location on Tuesday, November 5th. Meet at Alana's at 9:00 am. The meeting is open to anyone; come celebrate lives with a birthday card and pray for those on our prayer list. Questions? Call Alana Frazier, 703-282-2393.

The **Pastor's Bible Study** continues on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:45 pm at the church. The current study is 1 & 2 Peter - *Living in the End Times*.

The apostle Peter's relevant words to a church under the stress of persecution are still valid for the stress of our times. Words of truth and encouragement provide the basis for navigating end times living.

The **Wednesday Book Study** continues on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 6:45 pm at the church. The book, *Experiencing God*, was thoroughly updated in 2021 with seven new chapters and dozens of additional stories, so make sure to get the new edition (available at Amazon and the Christian Bookstore). For further details, contact Tony Wilson, 540-748-1159, wilsontony540@gmail.com.



Looking Ahead:

Christmas Open House



Invitation to an **Open House, December 8th, 3:00 pm–6:00 pm**, hosted by Jo and Jay Canova, at their home, 138 Wolftrap Court, Bumpass. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Red Cross Blood Drive January 10, 2025 at the church. Mark your calendar now. Sign up on the sheet at the rear of the sanctuary to donate and/or to volunteer to help. (Instructions for scheduling a time online are posted at the end of this newsletter.)



Note: In case you donate blood elsewhere, the Red Cross recommends only giving blood every 56 days (up to 6 times a year).

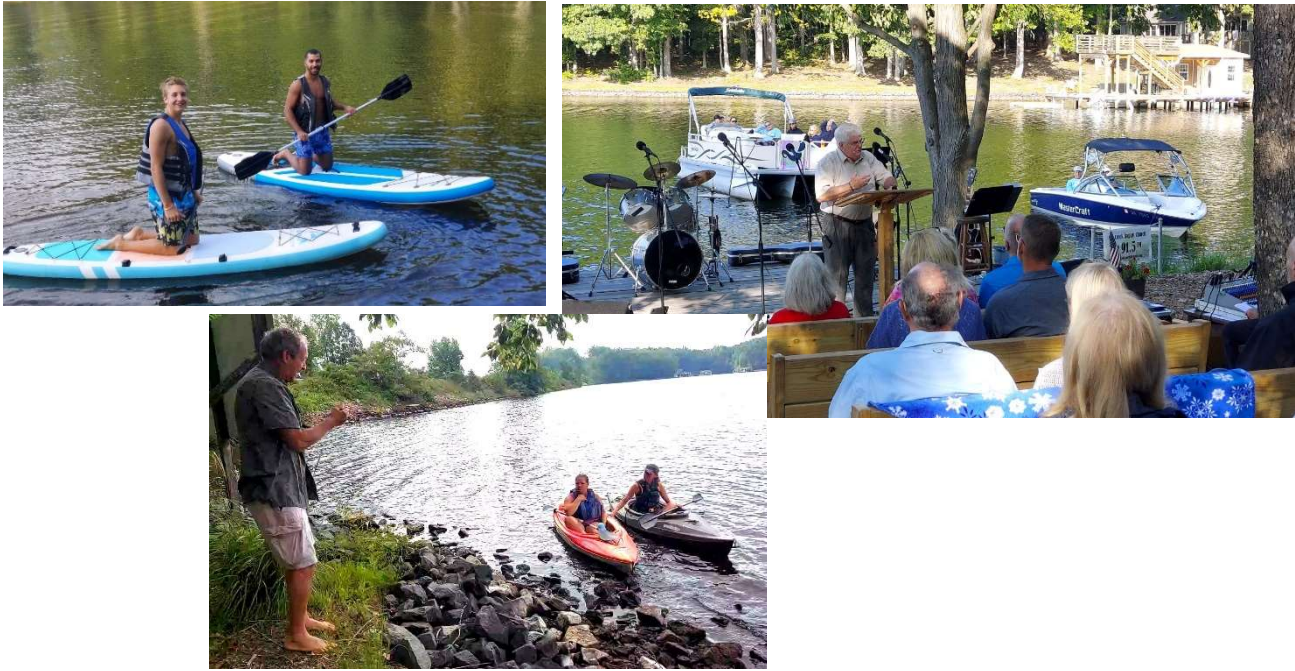


Opportunities to get involved in the life of our church.....

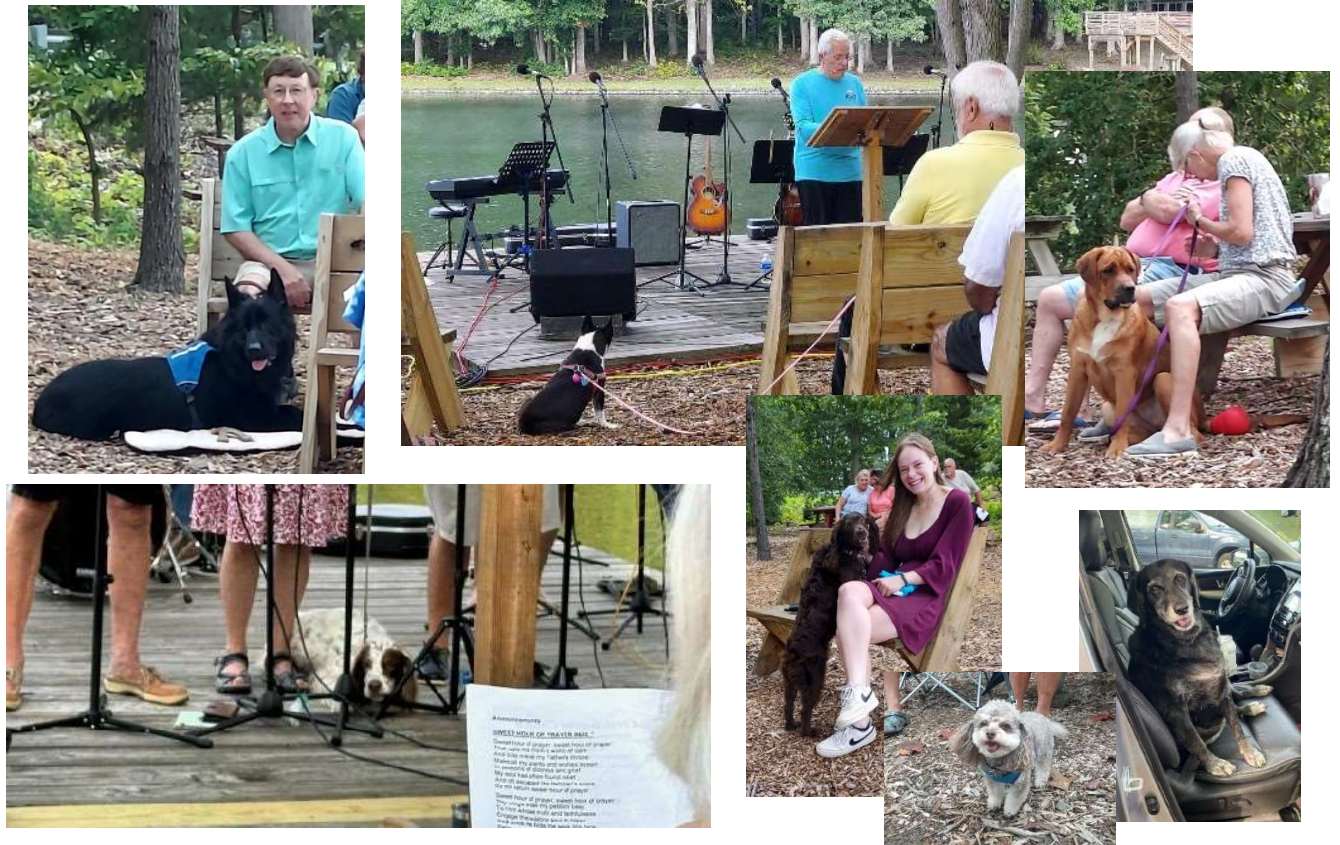
- **Church Cleaning Teams.** Contact Linda Bridges, lindasbridges@gmail.com.
- **Food providers for Sunday morning fellowship** after the 8:30 am service. Sign up in Duerson Hall, or call Coral Losinski, 571-366-9500, or Bunnie Wyckoff, 202-286-8954.
- **Wednesday Book Study Snack and Study Leader(s)** to facilitate discussion of the current book on specific Wednesdays. Contact Tony Wilson, 540-748-1159, wilsontony540@gmail.com.
- **Bagging food for the Louisa Resource Council Food Pantry** no more than once a month. Contact Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315, to join the team.
- **Louisa Clean** has cleanups scheduled Friday mornings through December, weather permitting. Volunteers should wear work gloves, heavy boots or shoes, long pants and sleeves. Orange trash bags, hats and vests are provided, as well as grabbers. Contact Jody Korman, 804-502-1128, jody@jodyshomes.com.



Reflections on another successful summer of unique outdoor worship, where people came not only by car, but also by boat, jet ski, paddleboard and kayak.



And where “all dogs go to heaven”, but they come to church first!



DATES TO REMEMBER

November

- Sun 3rd Daylight Savings Time ends
Tue 5th National Election Day
Tue 5th Caring Community Prayer and Card Ministry, 9:00 am at Alana Frazier's house, 133 Boxwood Road, Bumpass
Wed 6th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 7th Women's GRACE Fellowship, 9:00 am at the church
(No need to bring any food)
Thu 7th Deacon's Meeting, 7:00 pm at the church
Sun 10th Communion 8:30 am, Graveside Veteran's Day Service, 11:00 am
Tue 12th Christmas Joy Planning Meeting, 9:00 am at the church
Wed 13th Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Sun 17th Deadline to return Operation Christmas Child (Shoe boxes) to the church
Mon 18th No Bunco (returning in January)
Tue 19th Men's Bi-monthly Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 am at the church
Wed 20th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Wed 20th Deadline for newsletter articles and photos, elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com
Wed 27th Thanksgiving Service, 6:30 pm at the church (No Book Study)
Fri 29th Decorating the church for Christmas, 6:30 pm

December

- TBD Tree Decorating and Caroling at the Louisa Health & Rehab Center
TBD \$5 Tuesday Movie – The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
Sun 1st Advent begins, Communion
Tue 3rd Caring Community Prayer and Card Ministry, 9:00 am at the church
Wed 4th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 5th Deacon's Meeting, 7:00 pm at the church
Sun 8th Open House hosted by Jay and Jo Canova, 138 Wolftrap Ct, Bumpass
Tue 10th Christmas Joy Outreach, 9:00 am at the church
Thu 12th Women's GRACE Fellowship, 11:30 am luncheon, Anna Jones' house, 39 Deep Creek Cl, Bumpass
Wed 13th Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Mon 16th No Bunco (returning in January)
Wed 18th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Tue 19th \$5 Tuesday Movie – Bonhoeffer, EVO Theater, 2:10 pm
Wed 20th Deadline for newsletter articles and photos, elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com
Tue 24th Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 pm in the sanctuary
Wed 25th Merry Christmas!!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

November

Jody Korman	5	Matt Huffman	15
Joan Webb	5	Katrina & Adam Northcraft	18
Beth Larson	7	Jay Canova	19
Richie Hurst	8	Jerry Whitehouse	20
Alvin Brewer	9	Anna Jones	22
Rusty Brown	9	Cathy Gray	24
Cindy & Randy Brock	10	Woody Jenkins	25
Jason Koenig	10	Rob Johnson	28
Scott Hale	13	Joan & Wayne Webb	30
Tom Pitcher	15	Bobby Jones	30

December

Adam Northcraft	3	Jean & Dan Brannon	18
Mary Faccione	4	Phillip Mason	18
Sandra & Tony Wilson	4	Troy Sullivan	18
Elizabeth Estep	7	Catherine Brown	19
Kemper "Butch" Weaver	11	Cathy & Mike Gray	20
Daniel Kimbal	12	Cecilia Hoffman	23
Bernie & Jeffrey Marsh	15	Grayson Hoffman	23
Jean Brannon	18	Cecilia & Peter Hoffman	28



Election officials, the presidential candidates, our country, the Koenig family, Mary-Margaret Ward, Joey Vaughan, Mary Giddens, Anna, Jerry Whitehouse, Joe Karyn, Charlotte Dye, Christina Fagan, Time Holmes, Stephanie & Paul Yi, Vee & Elizabeth Sansone, Jacquie McLellan, Maureen O'Hara, Maureen Bougher, Marc Perks, Ed Carnahan, Karen Andrews, Wyatt Teller, Walter Day, Sam Butler, Barbara Donathan, Sherri Martin, Robert Shafer, Eric Morgan, Jim McCoy, Jerry & Emma Kay Talley, Doris Sharpe, Charles Anderson, Charles Bell, Bob Moore, Gary Muller, Joe Karyn, Dennis McFarlane, Daniel Rubin, Scott McAlexander, Jerry Hopkins, Alvin Wood, Sharon Brown, Mike Yanizeski, Hazel Gray

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 directories.
- **If you cannot attend in person**, tune at 8:30 am on Mixlr app. Download the app on your mobile phone or computer, select “Listen” and search for ECBC-5916.
- **For those attending the outdoor service by boat**, tune into FM 91.5 to hear the service.
- **Visit our website** – elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org –
 - Check out the archived church newsletters.
 - Make an online donation.
 - Email the webmaster, web@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org, for access to the secure directories.
 - Check out the monthly Goshen Baptist Association newsletter for lots of information and opportunities to put your talents to work locally, around the country and the world.
- **Like us on Facebook.**



Together in Christ,

Mindy and Doug Ward, Alana and Wayne Frazier, Steve and Anna Jones

elkcreeknnewsletter@gmail.com

4th Elk Creek Blood Drive: 14 Jan 12:00 to 6:00 PM

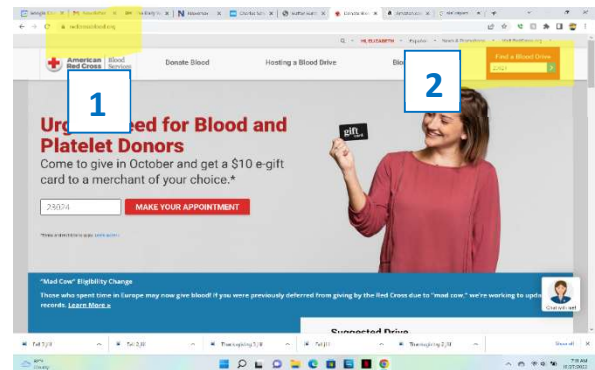
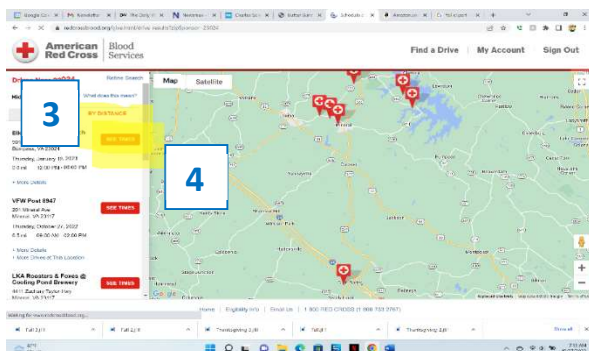
Our 4th blood drive is around the corner. To date, we've donated 94 units, with 24% of those donations being first time donors. If you are a regular donor, there is a 60 day wait time between donations, so please plan accordingly.

Red cross is always in need of blood with a critical need now for O, A and B negative blood types. Your donation saves countless lives with a typical unit of blood impacting a three people. Our drive provides an opportunity to donate blood, or red blood cells (a power red donation). More info on that below.

If you have questions, or need assistance 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
4. Select "See Times" next to Elk Creek Baptist Church



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 and you must weigh more than 150 lbs.

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

