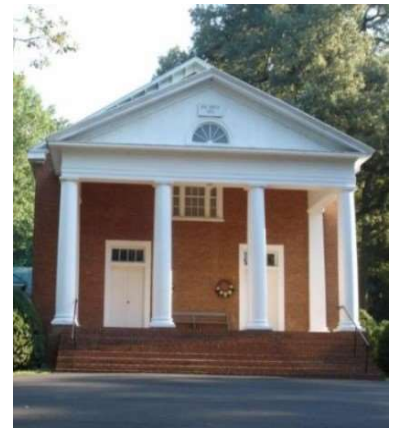




ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Serving the Community Since 1813

5916 Kentucky Springs Road
 Mineral, VA 23117
 540-967-8032
elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org

December 2024



Merry Christmas, Elk Creek Baptist Church!

Why so Merry? Because the Birth of the Savior is Good News!

What about Christmas? It is the worship of Christ, who was born of a virgin from the tribe of Judah in Bethlehem, fully man and fully God. He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Immanuel, God with Us. Jesus came as the Savior for all the people!



Elk Creek Baptist: A congregation from many backgrounds making up one family of faith, practicing in Baptist tradition as those who appreciate and love one another. In unity, we glorify the name of Jesus! The season is shared together because of

Jesus. God in His love sent His Son. The babe of the manger whom we know is also the Savior of the Cross and the Resurrected Son of God, our Lord!

The song says, "Go tell that Christ is born!" It is a message of hope, peace, joy, & love, that is still changing lives today. So, yes, be merry in Christ!

Have a blessed Christmas!

Pastor Mike & Cathy

December: "When Christ Came"	
01 <i>By God's Design</i>	Luke 1:1-25
08 <i>God's Faithful Servants</i>	Luke 1:26-45
15 <i>Glorifying God in Song</i>	Luke 1:46-56
22 <i>God of Mercy & Favor</i>	Luke 1:57-80
24 <i>God's Savior for All the People</i>	Luke 2:1-20
29 <i>God is a Promise Keeper</i>	Luke 2:21-40

Christmas is coming!

On Saturday evening, November 30th, a small band of decorators transformed the church just in time to usher in Advent.



Decorating the Christmas Tree and Caroling took place at the Louisa Health & Rehab Center on Tuesday, December 3rd that included a visit, not by Santa, but by a miniature pony!



Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse)

Our goal was surpassed!! Over 100 boxes were collected and delivered to the collection point.



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.



Christmas Joy packing and visitations is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th, 9:00 am at the church. For information, contact Bunnie Wyckoff, 202-286-8954.

Poinsettias in honor or memory of someone. Please submit your order form as soon as possible to ensure we include your name in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. The order form is posted at the end of this newsletter. Email your completed form to dm3ward@gmail.com or drop it in the offering plate at the church. The Poinsettias cost \$10.00 each. Payable by check to Elk Creek Baptist Church or pay online at elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org or by text to 1-804-258-4320, and marked for Poinsettia donation.



Santa Council Christmas Families – Help make Christmas a little brighter for the four families we are providing for this year. All the tags have now been claimed.

Food and dry goods are also being collected. Please donate in quantities of four, so each family receives the same items. No glass containers.

Gifts and food needs to be at the church no later than December 17th. For information, Contact Coral Losinski, 571-366-9500.

Elk Creek Christmas Card "Post Office"

A blue box of alphabetized slots has been provided in Duerson Hall. Bless someone at church with words of Christmas hope and joy. Another idea - the "postage" saved could be used to bless missions through our church budget that supports International, North American and Local missions.



Comings and Goings –

Veteran’s Day Service and Commemoration – As we celebrated our living veterans, a special commemoration was held outside to recognize those veterans buried in the church yard. Each grave of a veteran is now marked with a flag and medallion.



Deacon Ordination - Our newly elected deacons were ordained on Sunday, November 24th. The congregation held hands as we prayed in a way of laying hands on each deacon.



The **Women's GRACE Fellowship** gathered on November 7th and were blessed with a scrumptious Thanksgiving brunch hosted by Jo and Jay Canova. Several women joined us for the first time. Our next gathering will be our annual Christmas luncheon hosted by Anna and Steve Jones at their home, 39 Deep Creek Circle, Bumpass, on Thursday, December 12th at 11:30 am.



I will give thanks to the Lord for his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High. -Psalm 7:17

The **Men's Breakfast** was held on Tuesday, November 19th, with several new faces in attendance. The next breakfast will be Tuesday, January 21st.



Change of date this month. The **Caring Community's Prayer and Card Ministry** met on Wednesday, December 4th, 9:00 am at the church. The meeting is usually the first Tuesday of each month and is open to anyone; come celebrate lives with a prayer and a birthday card, and pray for those on our prayer list. Questions? Contact Alana Frazier, 703-282-2393, with any questions or to ask for prayers.

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.



Thank you to the Woodchuckers who took time out from their ministry to move all the benches from the lake to the pavilion for the winter. To be involved in this ministry, contact Rick Perks, 301-704-2743.



Mark your calendar:

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).

DATES TO REMEMBER

December

- Sun 1st Advent begins, Communion
Tues 3rd Tree Decorating and Caroling. 9:00 am at the Louisa Health & Rehab Center. 210 Elm Ave, Louisa
Wed 4th Caring Community Prayer and Card Ministry, 10:00 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
Wed 11th Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 12th Women's GRACE Fellowship, 11:30 am luncheon, Anna Jones' house, 39 Deep Creek Cl, Bumpass
Thu 12th Deadline for monthly report to Goshen Association, Tony Wilson, wilsontony540@gmail.com
Wed 18th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Mon 16th No Bunco (returning in January)
Fri 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!!
Tue 31st New Year's Eve!

January

- Wed 1st Happy New Year!!
Thu 2nd Deacon's Meeting, 7:00 pm at the church
Sun 5th Communion
Tue 7th Caring Community Prayer and Card Ministry, 9:00 am at the church
Wed 8th Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Fri 10th Red Cross Blood Drive at the church
Sun 12th Deadline for monthly report to Goshen Association, Tony Wilson, wilsontony540@gmail.com
Sun 12th Quarterly Business Meeting, 11:00 am at the church
Wed 15th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 16th Women's GRACE Fellowship, 9:00 am at the church
Mon 20th Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church
Tue 21st Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am at the church
Wed 22nd Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Mon 20th Deadline for newsletter articles and photos, elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com
Wed 29th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

December

Kevin Quamme	2	Jean Brannon	18
Adam Northcraft	3	Jean & Dan Brannon	18
Mary Faccone	4	Phillip Mason	18
Sandra & Tony Wilson	4	Troy Sullivan	18
Elizabeth Estep	7	Catherine Brown	19
Kevin Quamme	8	Cathy & Mike Gray	20
Kemper "Butch" Weaver	11	Cecilia Hoffman	23
Daniel Kimbal	12	Grayson Hoffman	23
Bernie & Jeffrey Marsh	15	Cecilia & Peter Hoffman	28

January

Kristin Barmoy	6	Karen Wood	19
Wayne Webb	7	Tony Wilson	24
Veronica Schnippel	7	Betsy Hurst	24
Lee Morrell	7	Holly Goodson	26
Sarah Tyler	11	Kristen & Matt Huffman	27
James Duerson	14	Cindy Bock	29
Mike Gray	15	Mary Francis Chewning	29
Tessie Fugett	18		



First Responders, Travellers, Homeless, James Duerson, Sam Butler, Cathy Best, Karen Andrews, Doug McFarlane, Jerry Hopkins, Phoebe Koenig, Darlean Davis, Madilyn Pearl, Mike Yanizeski, Matt Smith, Gary Muller, Ann Stinson, Debbie Cole, Mike Brown, Gary Crider, Salli Peterson, Pat Houghton, Alan Harris, Joey Vaughan, Buddy Gilliam, Kelly Pitcher, Betty Jones, Jacquie McLellan, Deb Moyer, James Pittman, Mary Giddens, Sandra Wilson, Mary-Margaret Ward, Joe Karyn, Charlotte Dye, Tim Holmes, Stephanie & Paul Yi, Maureen O'Hara, Maureen Bougher, Ed Carnahan

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

elkcreeknwletter@gmail.com

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

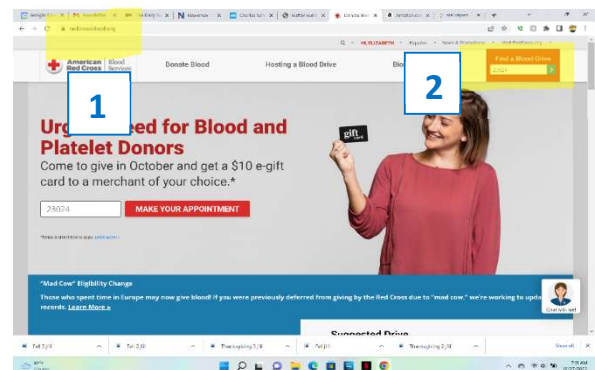
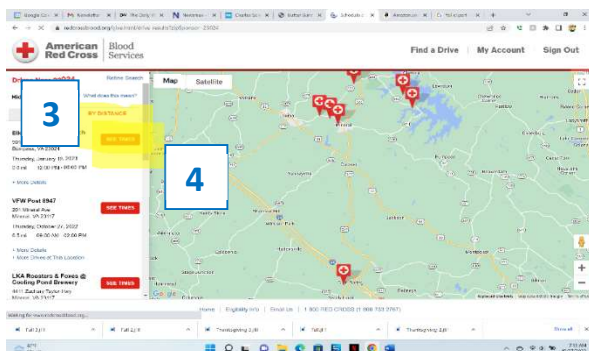
Our 4th blood drive is around the corner. To date, we've donated 94 units, with 24% of those donations being first time donors. If you are a regular donor, there is a 60 day wait time between donations, so please plan accordingly.

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

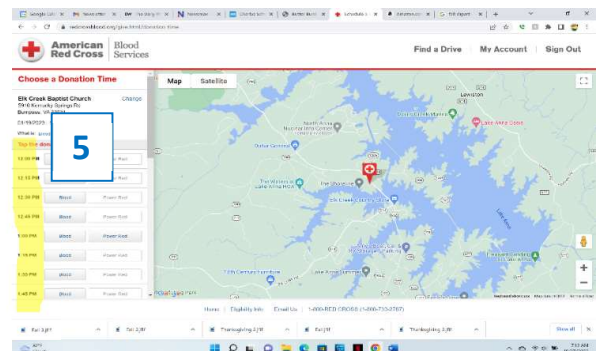
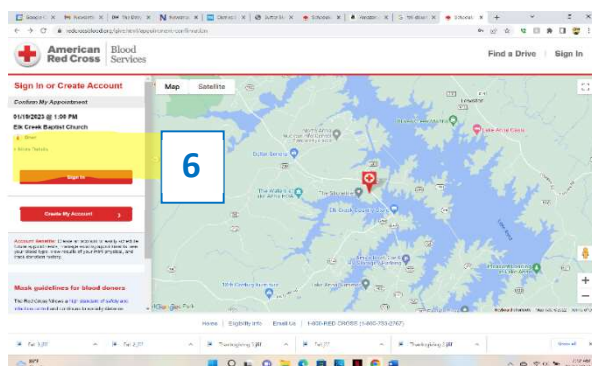
STEPS for signing up:

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.





Poinsettias Given in Memory of:

Poinsettias Given in Honor of:

The Poinsettias cost \$10.00 each. Payable by check to Elk Creek Baptist Church or pay online at elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org or by text to 804-258-4320, and marked for Poinsettia donation.

Number of Poinsettias _____ Total Donation: \$ _____

Given By: _____

- I will pick up my Poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve service.
- Please donate my Poinsettia(s) to someone to enjoy.

Email completed form to dm3ward@gmail.com or drop in offering plate at church.