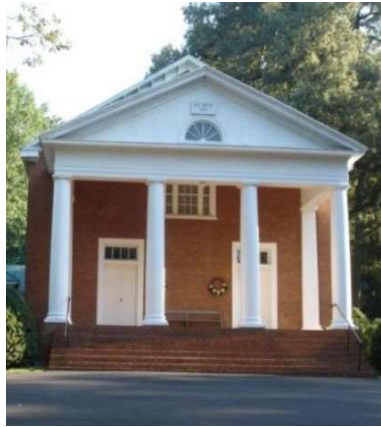




ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Serving the Community Since 1813

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

January 2025



Quarterly Business Meeting
January 12th



Red Cross Blood Drive
January 14th

BELIEVE in JESUS
The Gospel of John

The new year brings encouragement, opportunity and hope, a fresh beginning. So we start 2025 “In the beginning...” That is where the gospel of John starts and leads us to soar as an eagle to new heights of understanding of who Jesus is as the One and Only Son of God, Creator, the Resurrection and the Life, and Savior of Sinners. The gospel gives an eyewitness account of Jesus’ grandest teachings, His greatest miracles, His immaculate example, and His unmatched sacrifice as the Savior who rose from the grave on the third day as Lord.

The purpose of the 4th gospel is: **BELIEVE in JESUS!**

From its introduction to its post-resurrection finale, Jesus is presented as Lord, One, whom can be trusted for guidance in a new year and all years. No matter what may happen on the world stage we can anchor our lives in Jesus as Lord.

John starts with creation and concludes with Jesus’ apostles beginning their unique and faithful ministries. From His first invitation to “come see” to the final call from Jesus to “follow me,” there are no better footsteps to follow in 2025 than those of the “Great I AM.”

A journey of many steps begins with the first step. We will follow Jesus public ministry through the gospel of John and learn of His call to join in doing His will in ministry as a congregation. I’m excited already. I hope you will be too.



Blessing for the New Year of 2025,
Pastor Mike

January	
05 <i>Belief begins with Jesus</i>	John 1:1-13
12 <i>Glory, Grace & Truth for Today</i>	John 1:14-18
19 <i>An Eyewitness Testimony</i>	John 1:19-34
26 <i>Invited to Walk with Jesus</i>	John 1:35-51

Welcome to Pam & Gerald Paine who became members of the church on December 22nd.



Last call to sign up for the **Red Cross Blood Drive, January 14th**, 12:00-6:00 pm at the church. 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.)



Our Advent season was full of activity...

Each Sunday the Advent candles were lit to remind us of the hope, peace, joy, and love Christmas brings.



A very festive **Open House** on December 8th hosted by Jo and Jay Canova at their home was well attended by folks decked out for the season. (The upside-down Christmas tree was a real conversation piece.)



Christmas Joy was shared on December 10th as bags were stuffed with goodies and an ornament, and delivered or mailed to friends.



The **Women's GRACE Fellowship** gathered on December 12th at the home of Anna and Steve Jones. Those attending were treated not only to a scrumptious luncheon served by "the butler", and were led in singing by the dulcimer trio of Anna and Steve, and Steve's mother, Hannelore Jones. (The beautiful dulcimers were made by Steve's father.)



Gifts were wrapped and food donated for our **Santa Council Christmas Families**. Everything was loaded and delivered to four families on December 19th.



Comings and Goings –

The **2025 Cleaning Teams** schedule is being made up now. Cleaning is done weekly and teams sign up for a month at a time. With lots of teams, the effort can be well spread out over the year. If you feel called to help with this important church need, please email Linda Bridges, lindasbridges@gmail.com, to get started.

The Worship Team is looking for someone to coordinate decorations and flowers for use in worship for both the indoor and waterfront sanctuaries. If you would be interested, please contact Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315.



The **quarterly business meeting** of the church is coming up on January 12th, 11:00 am at the church.

The **Men's Breakfast** is coming up on Tuesday, January 21st, 8:00 am at the church.

The **Women's GRACE Fellowship** will meet next on Friday, January 31st, 11:30 am at Debbie Lovette's home, 9 Scarlet O'Hara Drive, Bumpass



Please note the permanent change of date for the Caring Community's Prayer and Card Ministry. Starting this month, it will meet on the last Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am at the church. The meeting 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 & 3rd Wednesdays (except January 1st), 6:45 pm at the church. The study continues with 2nd 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

Heartbreak Hotel at Riverside



Don't miss your chance to see "Heartbreak Hotel" (ELVIS) at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 16 at the Riverside Center for the Performing Arts in Fredericksburg. Our group rate is \$81.00 pp. Your ticket includes: show, dinner, tax and gratuity. You are welcome to invite anyone you wish to attend.

<https://www.riversidedt.com/heartbreakhotel2025>

This is going to be a very popular show and we have a large block of reserved seats. Contact Anna Jones, 540.207.6592, by January 6, 2025. Send a check to 39 Deep Creek Circle Bumpass, VA or Venmo@stevej840.

Annual Valentine Dinner, Saturday, February 15th, 4:30 pm at the church.

Lent begins March 25th

Palm Sunday is April 13th

Easter is April 20th

DATES TO REMEMBER

*Changes to the published calendar are posted on the website – elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org/calendar.

**Send dates of meetings/events to treasurer@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org

January

- Wed 1st Happy New Year!!
Thu 2nd Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church
Thu 2nd Deacon's Meeting, 7:00 pm at the church
Sat 4th Pack away Advent decorations, 9:00 am at the church
Sun 5th Communion
Tue 7th Special Election Voting (church is closed)
Wed 8th Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 9th Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church
Fri 10th Woodchuckers Meeting, 10:00 am 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
Fri 14th Red Cross Blood, 12:00 pm at the church
Wed 15th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 16th Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church
Mon 20th Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church
Mon 20th Deadline for newsletter articles and photos, elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com
Tue 21st Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am at the church
Wed 22nd Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 23rd Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church
Tue 28th Caring Community Prayer and Card Ministry, 9:00 am at the church
Wed 29th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Fri 31st Women's GRACE Fellowship, 11:30 am at Debbie Lovette's home,
9 Scarlet O'Hara Drive, Bumpass

February

- Sun 2nd Communion
Wed 5th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 6th Deacon's Meeting, 7:00 pm at the church
Thu 6th Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church
Sun 9th Deadline for monthly report to Goshen Association, Tony Wilson,
wilsontony540@gmail.com
Wed 12th Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 13th Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church
Sat 15th Valentine's Dinner, 4:30 pm at the church
Thu 20th Women's GRACE Fellowship, 9:00 am at the church
Mon 17th Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church
Wed 19th Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 20th Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church
Thu 20th Deadline for newsletter articles and photos, elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com
Tue 25th Caring Community Prayer and Card Ministry, 9:00 am at the church
Wed 26th Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 27th Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

January

Rachael & Johnathon Shipp	1	Tony Wilson	24
Kristin Barmoy	6	Betsy Hurst	24
Wayne Webb	7	Hope Saettel	26
Veronica Schnippel	7	Holly Goodson	26
Lee Morrell	7	Kristen & Matt Huffman	27
Sarah Tyler	11	Kimberly Schoelen	28
Mike Gray	15	Cindy Bock	29
Cindi & Tim Chrzanowski	17	Mary Francis Chewning	29
Tessie Fugett	18		
Karen Wood	19		

February

Larry Croce	1	Wayne Frazier	26
Earl Eck	8	Barry Hash	28
Todd Johnson	9	Penny & Woody Jenkins	28
Bunnie Wyckoff	16		
Cindy Wenger	24		



Jimmy Ryders, Devon Simmers, Joey Vaughan, Gary Muller, Tom Horne, Aubrey Weigand, Pam Arnold, Susan Whitlock, Alice Schnippel, Brooke Roberts, Andy Seelinger, Gerald & Fran Chancellor, Woody Jenkins, Nelson Fegley, Irene Luck, Stephanie & Paul Yi, Joe Karyn, Ed Carnahan, Mark Robertson, Cathy Best, Karen Andrews, Jerry Hopkins, Phoebe Koenig, Darlean Davis, Madilyn Pearl, Mike Yanizeski, Matt Smith, Debbie Cole, Mike Brown, Gary Crider, Salli Peterson, Pat Noughton, Alan Harris, Buddy Gilliam

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

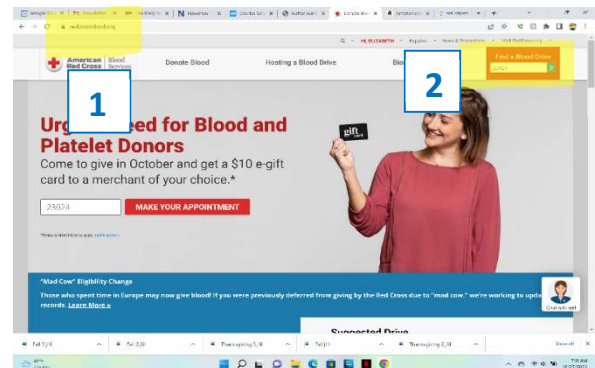
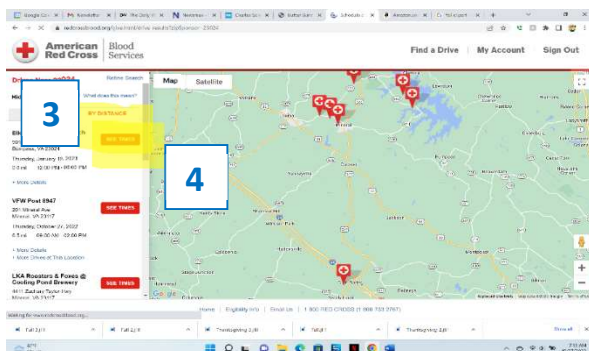
Our 4th blood drive is around the corner. To date, we've donated 94 units, with 24% of those donations being first time donors. If you are a regular donor, there is a 60 day wait time between donations, so please plan accordingly.

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.

