



## ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

*Serving the Community Since 1813*

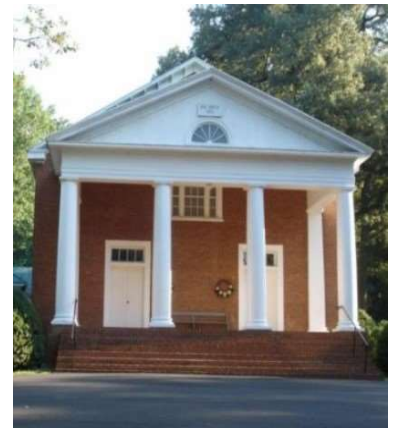
5916 Kentucky Springs Road

Mineral, VA 23117

540-967-8032

[elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org](http://elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org)

**February 2025**



### The Shape of *Love*

What shape represents love for you? Is it a heart, a diamond, a ring, a hand, a square, or could it be a cross?

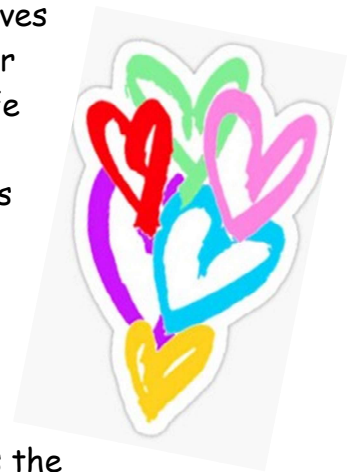
The usual shape that represents love is a heart. That is appropriate because "God is Love" (1 Jn. 4:16), and His heart shapes love.

How so?

In other religions, people serve their gods to meet their needs or requirements.

The Bible reveals that our Heavenly Father is not needy. He gives from His sacrificial, servant heart, sending Jesus as the Savior who provides reconciliation through forgiveness and eternal life by grace. His love creates eternal relationships.

God's compassion and love are beyond measure, "not treating us as our sins deserve," while encompassing His full being (Psalm 103:10-13; Ephesians 3:18-19). So, God's love is not contained within a single shape. Yet, God's heart of love can be understood by the shape of the cross. Like the points on a compass, the vertical staff connects heaven and earth and its horizontal branch extends in opposite directions, "as far as the east is from the west."



What about the shape of our love? One way our love is experienced is by the hand that connects with a shake that affirms, and by an action that gives hope as accompanied by Good News. Together they make a strong witness, showing both God's love and yours. "We love because He first loved us." (1 Jn. 4:19)

Thankful for a month that reminds us to love God and one another,

*Pastor Mike*


#### February

02 *The Andrew Principle* John 1:40-42

09 *Changed by Jesus (Miracle #1)* John 2:1-12

16 *What's in a Person* John 2:13-25

23 *Born Again* John 3:1-21



**Please join our Elk Creek Family  
February 15, 2025, 4:30 pm in Duerson Hall  
for our annual Valentines dinner.**

Catered by Vito's, the menu will include lasagna, meatballs, salad, bread knots, desserts and drinks.

For everyone's enjoyment, entertainment will include games, music, and a guest comedian for a fun evening.

The cost is \$12 per person; cash or checks made out to Coral Losinski.

Sign-up at Church on Sunday, February 2nd and 9th, or text Coral, 571-366-9500 to RSVP.



**A Note about the Blood Drive** - Thank you to everyone who volunteered and/or donated blood at our blood drive on January 14<sup>th</sup>. We collected a record 39 units from 43 participants which will benefit 117 people!! To date, 139 units have been collected.

## **Potluck Brunch and Town Hall Meeting: Creating a Master Plan for Ministry**

**Sunday February 23, 9:30 am in Duerson Hall**

A master plan for ministry impacts what we do and the building in which we do God's will as the congregation of Elk Creek Baptist Church. A church campus does not shape our ministry, but the ministry shapes the church campus. The church campus does impact how we are able to do ministry.

Values come before vision. How so? Values prioritize what we do. Valuing Worship anticipates - a worship space, Valuing Fellowship - a gathering place, Valuing Ministry – a working place, and Valuing Discipleship - a learning place. Reaching retirees and those who come to recreate at the lake anticipates accessible and age-appropriate spaces.

Buildings, a lakeside Chapel, and land, are all a blessing from God. Because we have them, we are to be good stewards, maintaining and improving all to the glory of God. Do our plans match our values, meet our needs for today and anticipate the future? Or, can we do so by well prayed through improvement or expansion? The campus then becomes a place for ministry and out of which mission takes place to impact our community and see lives changed by the gospel.

Pastor Mike will lead a short lesson from the Sunday School material that will lead us into a Town Hall type forum where we will be sharing ideas, dreams and hopes for our congregation giving opportunity for input. Here are four suggested ways to prepare.

1. Pray! Prayer leads to Vision and Vision Leads to Mission.
2. Write down your idea, hope or dream for the church to clarify it.
3. Come to listen with an open mind and a receptive attitude. God will use a faithful congregation to reveal the "good works he has prepared in advance for us to do."
4. Stewardships meet and bring impactful ideas for ministry and mission.

At the last Business Meeting the Building & Grounds Stewardship was asked to pull together a team to help create a physical Master Plan. It was quickly realized that our spiritual values and goals prioritize what we do physically. Prepare and join in the excitement of a congregation of faith working in unity to glorify God.



## Remembering James Edward Duerson, Sr. January 14, 1927 – December 26, 2024

James Duerson, 97, for whom our Fellowship Hall was dedicated this past year, lived in the Elk Creek community of Louisa County his entire life and faithfully attended Elk Creek Baptist Church serving in many capacities, including Treasurer, Clerk, Deacon and Moderator. He served on the Board of Deacons for 59 years, 29 as Chair.



Memorial contributions are requested to be sent to Elk Creek Baptist Church, Attn: Mike Bridges at 5916 Kentucky Springs Rd., Mineral, VA 23117, or Louisa County Ruritan Club, Attn: Don Hackler, 40 Deer Tail Lane, Louisa, VA 23093.



**Remembering also Anna and Sally,** our faithful 4-legged worshippers who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.



## Last call for Heartbreak Hotel at Riverside February 16<sup>th</sup>



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.

Contact Anna Jones, 540.207.6592. Send a check to 39 Deep Creek Circle Bumpass, VA 23024 or Venmo@stevej840.



**October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Lynchburg, VA**



Join with 5000 women at the Thomas Road Baptist Church worshipping and praising God. Chris Tomlin will be headlining the Friday night concert. Speakers on Saturday include Lysa Terkeurst, Jenny Allen, and Margaret Feinberg. For more information, check out <https://ewomen.net/Lynchburg-VA-2025>.

We have 20 tickets reserved at a discount until March 31<sup>st</sup>. The Time is NOW to reserve your seat as this event sells out very quickly. Contact Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315 for instructions on how to join our group.

### **Outwitted**

by  
Edwin Markham

He drew a circle that shut me out—  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout  
But Love and I had the wit to win;  
We drew a circle that took him in!

## Comings and Goings –

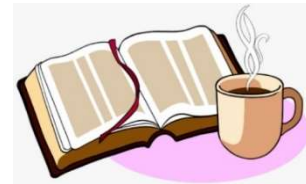
The Worship Team is looking for someone to **coordinate decorations and flowers** for use in worship for both the indoor and waterfront sanctuaries. If you would be interested, please contact Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315.

**Calligrapher wanted!!** We are looking for volunteers to create beautiful church documents. Please contact Donna Duerson, [buglady8@yahoo.com](mailto:buglady8@yahoo.com)

The **Caring Community's Prayer and Card Ministry** wants to pray for you on your birthday. If you have not received a greeting from us on your special day, please let us know. We meet the last Tuesday of the 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** Bible Study: NEXT LEVEL - Growing in Knowing God's Word 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 6:45 pm at the church. Led by Pastor Mike, NEXT LEVEL means moving upward in our walk of faith out of an increased understanding of God's Word. It is a journey. We will explore more behind and beyond the sermons in John. Grow together in faith in the NEXT LEVEL study.



The **Wednesday Book Study** continues on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:wilsontony540@gmail.com).

The **Woodchuckers** met recently to review policy and procedures for continuing this valuable ministry. Currently, 30 homes are being serviced with 7 recipients recently added. They are meeting on Tuesdays and Fridays as a need arises to either deliver wood or collect donated wood. If you have or know of someone with wood to donate (pine or cedar are not acceptable), the wood needs to be already cut in lengths of 12 to 18 inches, so the team can split it. Contact Rick Perks, 301-704-2743, for more information or to get involved.



## Looking Ahead

The **Packing Team** that pre-bags groceries for the Resource Council is scheduled at the Resource Council on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to noon. If you would like to be part of the team, contact Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315.



### Coming Together

Louisa Young Life Banquet

You are invited to dinner  
**March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm**  
**Betty J Queen Center**  
522 Industrial Dr, Louisa, VA 23093

Just as a body, though one, has many parts,  
but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.  
- 1 Corinthians 12:12

Lent begins March 25<sup>th</sup>    Palm Sunday is April 13<sup>th</sup>    Easter is April 20<sup>th</sup>

### 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](mailto: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.
- **Visit our website** – [elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org](http://elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org) –
  - Check out the archived church newsletters.
  - Make an online donation.
  - Email the webmaster, [web@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org](mailto: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.**



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

\*Changes to the published calendar are posted on the website – [elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org/calendar](http://elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org/calendar).

\*\*Send dates of meetings/events to [treasurer@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org](mailto:treasurer@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org)

### **February**

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Communion  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church  
Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Deacon's Meeting, 7:00 pm at the church  
Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church  
Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Deadline for monthly report to Goshen Association, Tony Wilson,  
[wilsontony540@gmail.com](mailto:wilsontony540@gmail.com)  
Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church  
Thu 13<sup>th</sup> Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church  
Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Dinner, 4:30 pm at the church  
Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Women's GRACE Fellowship, 9:00 am at the church  
Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church  
Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church  
Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church  
Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Deadline for newsletter articles and photos, [elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com)  
Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Brunch and Town Hall Meeting, 9:30 am at the church  
Tue 25<sup>th</sup> Caring Community Prayer and Card Ministry, 9:00 am at the church  
Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church  
Thu 27<sup>th</sup> Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church

### **March**

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Communion  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church  
Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church  
Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Deacon's Meeting, 7:00 pm at the church  
Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Deadline for monthly report to Goshen Association, Tony Wilson,  
[wilsontony540@gmail.com](mailto:wilsontony540@gmail.com)  
Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church  
Thu 13<sup>th</sup> Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church  
Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church  
Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Goshen Missions Dinne, 5:00 pm at Mineral Baptist Church  
Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church  
Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am at the church  
Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Bible Study, 6:45 pm at the church  
Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Women's GRACE Fellowship, 9:00 am at the church  
Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Deadline for newsletter articles and photos, [elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com)  
Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Band practice, 5:00 pm at the church  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Packing Team, 9:00 am at Resource Council  
Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Louisa Young Life Banquet, 5:00 pm at the Betty Queen Center  
Tue 25<sup>th</sup> Caring Community Prayer and Card Ministry, 9:00 am at the church  
Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church  
Thu 27<sup>th</sup> Band Practice, 5:00 pm at the church



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

### February

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

### March

Cherry Hill	3		
Andrew Kimball	4	Clorese & Joey Vaughan	16
Brian Burghardt	5	Karen Andrews	19
Coral Losinski	6	Trevor Sullivan	22
Duerson Donna	8	Rachael Shipp	22
Jo Canova	12	Barbara McKenny	23
Stan Polonsky	12	Diana Condon	24
Kelly Pitcher	14	Janet Martin	25
Eileen Perks	15	Mindy & Doug Ward	26



Victims and families of the fires and plane crashes. Migrants facing deportation. Gov't workers whose jobs may be in jeopardy. Nelson Fegley, Vickie Spence, Matthew Croce, Brian Giddens, John Fugett, Holly, Ed Carnahan, Woody Jenkins, Alan Harris, Butch Weaver, Jason Koenig, Tom Horne, Sonja Peterson, Dillon & Chrissy, Gary Muller, Mike Yanizeski, Jerry Hopkins, Mary Weigand, Sally Thornberry, Sharon Brown, Jim Brew, Norm Stahl, Hannah Hargrove, Sue Kelly Graham, Brenda Weigand, Michael Ward, Mary-Margaret Ward, Diana Condon, Sandra Garcia, Paul Arnold, Jimmy Ryders, Devin Simmers, Joey Vaughan, Aubrey Weigand, Kevin Wagman, Pam Arnold, Susan Whitlock, Alice Schnippel, Cathy Best, Karen Andrews

*Together in Christ.*

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

[elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com)

# JANUARY SCRAPBOOK

## Men's Breakfast January 21st



# Women's GRACE Fellowship January 31<sup>st</sup>

