

February

2026

# ELDERTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## FEBRUARY – NEWSLETTER – 2026

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### PASTORS PAGE

Romans 11:36

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.  
To Him be glory forever." Romans 11:36

Hello, Elderton Presbyterian Church. As we begin another year, February arrives with its bitter cold and wintry mix. It is also one of the darkest months of the year. Occasionally, I have made it a habit to dedicate time to studying the various Catechisms available to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Let's start with the first question found in the Larger Westminster Catechism.

WLC 1. What is the chief and highest end of man?

A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy Him forever.

We can consider various reasons for our existence. Some believe our purpose is to accumulate wealth and power. Others think the human race has no ultimate purpose beyond itself. Some wrongly conclude that life lacks a true meaning, viewing it as a mere stroke of chance since it evolved randomly. Still others, with a more limited perspective, believe they exist to serve society or to protect their family name.

However, the answer to this question lies elsewhere. In this context, the term "end" refers to the purpose for which something exists. According to our faith, humanity's purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. The scriptures state, "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever." (Romans 11:36). We find fulfillment and meaning in life by consciously striving to glorify God. Our goal is to live in a way that pleases Him through our words and actions. Being a good Christian husband or wife is about glorifying God. Loving your neighbor as yourself is also about glorifying God. Those who consciously seek to glorify God will find joy in Him and consider Him their greatest happiness now and in eternal life.

We should dedicate our lives to honoring God in all our words and actions, as this is what pleases Him.

Sincerely,

Angel De La Cruz, D.Min. M.Div

# GREETERS & ACOLYTES

IF THE DATE ASSIGNED TO YOU CONFLICTS WITH YOUR SCHEDULE,  
PLEASE TRADE WITH SOMEONE ELSE ON THE LIST  
AND NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE OF THIS CHANGE.

As a greeter, you should arrive at the door by 10:00 a.m. Please distribute the morning bulletin.

You will ring the bell 10 times at 10:15 and again at 10:30 a.m.

Close all of the doors when the service begins.

You will also collect the offering. Please retrieve the collection plates before the service starts; they are in the black cloth bag on the first pew in the back section of the church.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>
February 1	Mike and Holly Uptegraph	Emily Johns
February 8	Charlene De La Cruz and Iris Reese	London Smith
February 15	Jeff and Marcia Elgin	Sophia Pinkerton
February 22	Justin and Barbara Johns	Jonah Scrips
March 1	Kyle and Lindsey Uptegraph	Zachary Smith

## CHANCEL FLOWER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

February 1 and 8 – open

February 15 and 22 – open

February 25 and March 1 - open

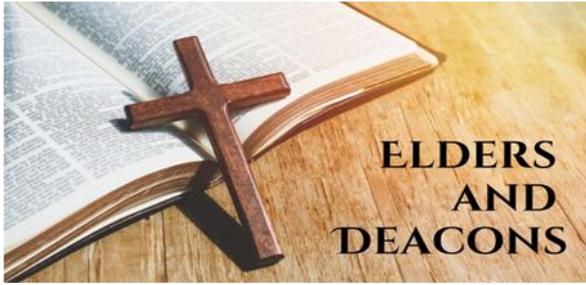
If anyone wishes to request a date for  
chancel flowers, an organ arrangement,  
or a table arrangement, you must  
call the church office  
724-354-3117  
or see Susan to secure the date you  
would like to donate flowers.



Join us for worship on  
**Transfiguration Sunday**

February 15, 2026  
10:30

as we gather at the Lord's Table and  
celebrate Communion together.



We extend our sincere appreciation to these Elders and Deacons who have faithfully served Elderton Presbyterian Church.

**Elders**

Dee Craig – 6 years  
Marcia Elgin – 6 years

**Deacons**

Jeff Elgin – 6 years  
Shawnee Hohl – 6 years  
Linda Richardson – 6 years  
Joanie Riggle – 6 years

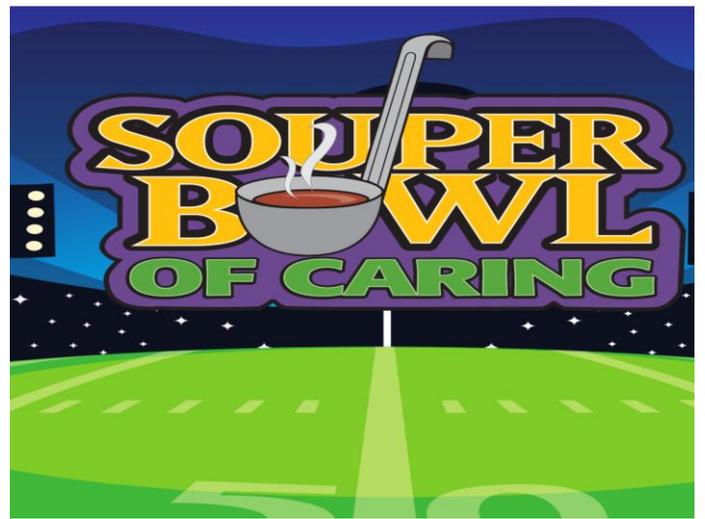
We extend our congratulations and pledge our support to the following who will be ordained and installed on February 8, 2026.

**Elders**

Terry Johns  
Sarah Pritt  
Lori Rodgers  
Lanette Klonowski

**Deacons**

Eric Pinkerton  
Holly Uptegraph  
Mike Uptegraph



**February 8, 2026**

**“Souper” Bowl of Caring**

The youth will be at the doors collecting for the “Souper” Bowl of Caring.

The money collected will stay at our food bank; the total received will be called into the National Headquarters.



***In Memoriam***

**Helen L. Bowser**

August 3, 1939 – January 5, 2026

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith”*

*2 Timothy 4:7*



As we begin the season of Lent, you are invited to stop in the pastor's office to receive ashes as a sign of reflection and renewal.

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 9:00-12:00

ALL ARE WELCOME.



The "Education Insider Magazine" has listed Elderton Presbyterian Church's Butterfly Hill Preschool as a **"Top Presbyterian Preschool in 2026"**

This is based on nominations from subscribers, website visitors, and industry professionals who have consistently recommended Butterfly Hill Preschool as the frontrunner in academic excellence, character development, and student-focused education.

After a thorough review by the editorial team and educational professionals, Butterfly Hill Preschool has emerged as a standout in this sector.

The recognition has been highly effective for educational institutions featured in the editions, enhancing enrollment, strengthening alumni relations, and elevating visibility within their communities. Similarly, Butterfly Hill can evaluate the visibility and use of these reprints in their outreach, and this showcase from a renowned magazine enhances credibility.

The Education Insider Magazine believes this recognition will further amplify the meaningful work Elderton Presbyterian Church is doing to support families and provide a warm, enriching preschool experience where every child is encouraged to thrive.

Congratulations to all who have made Butterfly Hill Preschool a lasting success for 32 years. Your dedication has built a legacy that continues to bless children and families.



## **Rural Valley Helping Hand Center**

On any Sunday morning during announcements, you may hear me asking for volunteers for Helping Hand. I know some of you have questions, "What is Helping Hand?"

The Rural Valley Helping Hand Center was established by local churches in the area. They have 10 churches involved at this time. The center has been in business since the 1970's. It is entirely funded by donations from the area. They accept good, clean, used, and new clothing, small appliances, and household items. They also accept and welcome baby care items such as strollers and highchairs, but cannot sell outdated car seats. They Do Not accept TV's or electronics.

The mission of this center is to make items available for sale at low cost and to use the proceeds to aid the area. The pricing is very reasonable. Most items are 50 cents to \$5.00. With the money they make, they support local food banks and pantries, donate to local organizations at holiday time, and provide emergency help to those in need. Our own food bank benefits from their donations.

There is a need for this in our community, and with the help of volunteers, donations, and customers, the Helping Hand Center can complete this mission.

Their operating hours are: Tues, Wed, and Thurs. 10-2:45 and Sat 9-11:45

I usually work 1-3 days a month, and my scheduled days are posted in the Sunday bulletin and on the monthly calendar. If you would like to volunteer with me, donate any items, or have any questions, please reach out to me in church or call or text me at 724-549-9113.

Hebrews 13:16

"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased".

God Bless,

Sheila Brumbaugh



On Sunday, February 1, 2026  
we participated in the baptism of

**Lucy Evelyn Taylor**

daughter of  
Chad and Shawna Taylor

Lucy is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and she participates in cheer and soccer.  
Lucy enjoys reading, arts & crafts, and cuddling with her pets,  
She also helps her mom with their foster animals.

In a spirit of thanksgiving and promise,  
let us dedicate ourselves to nurturing and guiding  
Lucy in the Christian faith.

#### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

John Speer – 4th  
Nolan Taylor – 11th  
Matt Brown – 12th  
Joe Bertolino – 14th  
Shelby Clowser – 14th  
Marlo Mellish – 17th  
Dave Dyott – 18th  
Aaron Quinn – 18th  
Janet (Mrs. Don) L. Rearick – 23rd  
Ashley Quinn – 25th  
Evie Grantz – 25th  
Donna Howard – 27th  
Sarah Pritt – 28th

#### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Buster and Lori Rodgers – 7th, 1981 – **45 years**  
Paul and Merilyn Meyers – 17th, 1968

**LENTEN PRAYER CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL 2026**  
**PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY FOR THOSE LISTED**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			FEB 18 Vaughn & Margie Wood  Mark & Pat Schrecengost	19 Sandy Wingard  Kyle & Lindsey Uptegraph  Irene Rankin	20 Arlene & Delone Wingard  Joe & Karen Schrecengost  Sarah Pritt	21 Chester & Brenda Schall  Colton, Shelby, Aiden & Natalie Fairman
22 BUTTERFLY HILL TEACHERS	23 Peg Rowan  Justin, Cierra, Blake, Bailee & Brantly Claypoole  Laurie Pritt	24 Barb Spangler  Shirley Claypool  Justin, Barbara, Ethen, Landon, Caprice & Maddox Johns  Kaely Klonowski Michael Haley	25 Dave & Lisa Smail  Tom & Sue Quinn  Buster, Lori & Braydn Rodgers	26 Eric & Susan Schrecengost  Tyler & Hannah Keith	27 Mike & Holly Uptegraph  Terry & Blythe Johns	28 Ryan, Sarah, Makayla & Liam Scrips  Megan, Josh, & Casey Mouser
MAR 1  THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING	2 Cory, Kathy Jo, Mia & Jonah Scrips  Gerry & Donna Howard	3 Joe Scrips  Linda & Roger Richardson  Bob Griffin	4 Jeff Schrecengost Cheryl Hankey  Blair & Sandy Peterman	5 Chad, Shawna, Lucy & Nolan Taylor  Angie Schrecengost & John German	6 Bob & Shirley Schall  Chris, Lanette & Jaden Klonowski  Iris Reese	7 Carmen & Coleson Myers  Dylan Shankle Alyssa Duplinsky
8 THOSE BULLIED OR PERSECUTED	9 Cory, Melissa, Evie & Cooper Grantz  Tom & Phyllis Popp	10 Butch Rodgers  Don & Nancy Rupert  Emily Spencer	11 Brian & Brenda Salley  Bryn Salley Alexis Stenman	12 Brett & Joanie Riggle  Rylee Riggle	13 Corey, Megan, Cole & Lily Marsh  Larry & Linda Prugh	14 Adam, Ashley, Aaron, Adalyn, Ava, & Asher Quinn  Bonnie Gratzmiller

**LENTEN PRAYER CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL 2026**  
**PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY FOR THOSE LISTED**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
15 THOSE GRIEVING	16 Marlo & Meila Mellish  Todd Mellish  Eric, Amber & Sophia Pinkerton	17 Paul & Marilyn Meyer  Richard & Mary Orr  Alice Graham	18 Terri, Dave & Alexandra Maughan  Jo Foster  Patty Mellish	19 Jim & Robin Shaffer  Bernie & Pam Gaff  Isabelle Gaff & Oakley Johnston Dawson Johnston	20 Tom Spencer  Bonnie Bowser-Thomas  Nancy Schrecengost	21 Jamie and Sheila Brumbaugh  John and Dee Craig  Karen Boyer
22 THOSE WITH AN ADDICTION	23 Jeff & Shawnee Hohl  Chandler Blose Amy Blose  Candy & Kent Mummert	24 Mike & Krista Johnston Grant Johnston  Josh, Laney & Maren Brown	25 Nate, Jennifer, Travis & Emily Johns  Zane, Lizzy, Blaine, & Becca Clowser	26 Heather, Dennis & John Bell  Betsy & Joe Bertolino	27 Ron & Sharon Aikins  Doug & Jodi Klingensmith	28 John Bowser  Charlene & Angel De La Cruz  Dave Pletcher
29 THOSE WHO ARE DEPRESSED OR LONELY	30 Bob & Kim Anderson  Kris & Eric Longwell  Matt Brown & Danielle Kunkle	31 Blair & Lois Brown  Rod & Kathy Burns  Pam & Mike Flickinger	Apr 1 Mark & Cassie Clowser  Veda & Dewey Hixenbaugh	2 Loretta Coleman  Connor, Brittany & Everett Fairman  Matt, Hope, Zachary, London, Miles, Isaiah & Andersen Smith	3 Scott & Brenda Coleman  Breanna & Donnie Neese	4 Jeff & Marcia Elgin  Kris & Dave Hilty  Ryan, Beth, Ellie & Daniel Smith
5 HAPPY EASTER						

## February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>8:30-</b> Choir Practice <b>9:30-</b> Sunday School <b>10:30-</b> Worship Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>9:00 – 12:00 –</b> Helping Hand
<b>8</b> <b>8:30-</b> Choir Practice <b>9:30-</b> Sunday School <b>10:30-</b> Worship Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>1:00 –</b> Circle Meeting at Nancy Schrecengost's home	<b>12</b> <b>6:00 -</b> Session Meeting <b>6:00 -</b> Deacons Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 
<b>15</b> <b>8:30-</b> Choir Practice <b>9:30-</b> Sunday School <b>10:30-</b> Worship Service - communion	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>11:00 –</b> Men's Bible Study at Crouse's Cafe	<b>18</b>  <b>9:00-12:00 –</b> In office ashes	<b>19</b> <b>10:00- 3:00</b> Helping Hand	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>8:30-</b> Choir Practice <b>9:30-</b> Sunday School <b>10:30-</b> Worship Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>6:00 –</b> Christian Ed meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>