

Recording the

# ***JOURNEY***

of the Black Rock Church of the Brethren

**November**

**2022**



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[www.blackrockchurch.org](http://www.blackrockchurch.org)

Sunday school 9am &, Morning Worship: 10:15am

Pastor: Brandon R. Grady ([pastorbrandon121@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbrandon121@gmail.com))

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Office Manager: Jodi Weaver ([aabrcob@comcast.net](mailto:aabrcob@comcast.net))

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:00am–3:00pm

& Friday 7:00am-1pm remotely

Our Vision: Come as you are. Experience God's love.

Go out like Christ.

Our Mission: Black Rock Church is a place of refuge where people are renewed and transformed by the Spirit to continue the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together

## **Highlights in the November “Journey”**

- ◆ Pastor’s Page
- ◆ Sermon topics and scripture for November
- ◆ Birthdays, Anniversaries and Thank you’s
- ◆ Celebration of Life Service Nov. 6
- ◆ Angel Tree Project for Children’s Aid
- ◆ November Church Calendar
- ◆ Save the date for December
- ◆ eBrethren Global Missions article



Often in my house, the air conditioner is running. Whether I'm resting in my bed, or working in my office. Whether I'm at the dining room table enjoying a meal, or sitting on the couch in the living room, I hear it run. Most of the time, the breeze feels great, except when it doesn't. Sometimes a chill will set in, even when it's warm inside, and I have to get a blanket to keep myself warm. So why do I have it on all the time, well, it's not for me. It's for others who come into the house, who say they're hot. Lately, I've kept my air conditioner fan on, instead of auto, and while the chill may sometimes surprise me, the warmth of why it's on makes me smile, knowing even if I'm chilled a bit, others are warmed by the love it represents.

And so my friends as the cold months begin, as fall deepens for us, so can we feel a warmth even in the cold? Can we feel the sun, warming our faces, and Jesus warming our hearts? Can we feel the freshness of the air, even if we might shiver just a bit? And as we think of being the church, can we feel the warmth of one another, and the warmth of the spirit, as we continue to wrestle with the cold realities of our budget and potential diminishing membership?

Jesus, I have to think, felt the coldness of a room when he knew people were against him. He felt it when they didn't really believe. And I'm sure he felt it as people were cursing and mocking him. And he clearly must have felt it in Pilates' hall, standing there alone. But Jesus still warmed rooms, hearts, places, times, people. Jesus never allowed the cold of a moment, of people, or of decisions to override the warmth of God's love.

And so friends as we fall into the norms of the cold seasons, may we rise with the warmth of Jesus in our hearts, in our lives, in our families, in the very place in which we rest. As the cold rushes by, as we experience the blowing wind, or even the pelting of rain, may we be warmed knowing God loves us and all people. May we be warmth to those looking for shelter from the storm of whatever cold they may find themselves in. After all, when Jesus said, come to me all you who are weary, and I will give you rest, was there any more words of warmth than that ever spoken? May we embody the world's warmth, even if it may seem colder than ever. After all, in the world and the church we live in, the warmth never stops!

To God be the glory in Jesus' name!

# **November Sermons and Scripture**



## **November 6 Celebration of Life Service** **Count the Cost**

Luke 14:25-33

We must be willing to realize we are going to lose things and popularity in the world if we follow Jesus.

## **November 13** **Cheerful giving**

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

As we smile in giving what we have and who we are to others, so God allows others to smile too.

## **November 20** **Cheerful Thanks**

Phillipians 4:4-7

To be filled with gratitude to others and to God should be an indescribable joy!

## **November 27 First Sunday in Advent**


Guest Speakers, Traci Rabenstein and Kim Gingerich



## **Save the Date: December 11**

### **Christmas luncheon** **Covered Dish & Cookie Exchange**

Hosted by the "Middle Room" Sunday School class. There will be a covered dish and cookie exchange on Sunday, Dec. 11 after church. Watch the narthex bulletin board to sign up to bring either a main dish, side dish or a dessert. If you'd like to participate in the cookie exchange bring at least one dozen cookies to share.



## November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Geoffrey Rappoldt  
Chrystelle Strausbaugh  
Kellie Waltmyer  
Gregory Shaffer  
Caleb Stickles  
Tammy Sasscer  
Carl Stremmel  
Deb Stremmel

Kenneth Stremmel  
Mackenzie Bortner  
Kirsten Cook  
Christine Shaffer  
Bailey Stickles  
Ken Weaver  
Tyler Osborne  
Linda Covalt

### **Anniversaries**

Brian & Susan Felch  
Mark & Mary Robinson  
Todd & Sandy Bollinger

Justin & Danielle Hoffacker  
Tony & Stacey Widener  
Paul & Shirley Marshall



## **Thank you**

- ♥ Thank you to Sandie Keller for tracking the Worship attendance and preparing the October Encouragement cards.
- ♥ Thanks to Donna Apicella for sharing her creativity for the Narthex display for October.
- ♥ Thanks to Jean Kehr for being our monthly visitor by phone.
- ♥ Thank you to Adam and Brittany Nolt who served as Worship Leaders for October.



**Senior Day at Camp Eder** is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov 9th starting at 9:30am. There will be a Chalk Talk by Eva Hurst about Faith and Thanksgiving. A pork dinner with mashed potatoes & gravy, salad and apple crisp will be served at 12pm. The afternoon program will be a Christmas story & activity. The cost is \$18. Please rsvp by calling 717-642-8256 or email: [mschmittel@campeder.org](mailto:mschmittel@campeder.org).

# CHURCH LIBRARY

“Love the Lord your God with all your mind.”

The following books recently donated to the library are on a shelf to your left as you enter the library, under Christian Living. They will remain there for 2 months before being catalogued and placed on shelves in the appropriated category.

Beverly Lewis, author of the following Amish novels.

## Seasons or Grace series

- 1 The Secret
- 2 The Missing
- 3 The Telling

## The Rose Trilogy series

- 1 The Thorn
- 2 The Judgement
- 3 The Mercy

## The Courtship of Nellie Fisher series

- 1 -----
- 2 The Forbidden

# CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."

## The Heritage of Lancaster County

1 -----

2 The Confession (large print)

## **Other Amish Novels**

### The Adams County Trilogy by Jerry Eicher

1 Rebecca's Promise

2 Rebecca's Return

- Hannah by Jerry S. Eicher
- The Choice by Suzanne Woods Fisher
- Hand to Hold by Kathleen Fuller
- Winter's Awakening by Shelley Shepard Gray
- Plain pursuit by Beth Wiseman

## **Other Titles**

- Around God's World for Eighty Years by Pastor Charles M. Bieber (former pastor at Black Rock Church)
- The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown
- Before I Say Good-Bye) (large print)  
by Mary Higgins Clark
- Coming Through the Rye by Grace Livingston Hill
- How Can I Help? Christian guide to personal counseling by W.H. Skip Hunt PH. D
- Come Rain or Come Shine by Jan Karon
- Loving Liza Jane by Sharlene MacLaren
- Marriage, Family and the Christian Home by Harold S. Martin
- High Maintenance Relationships by Les Parrott
- Brides of Iowa by Connie Stevens
- A Teenager's Daily Prayer Book
- Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul  
101 stories of courage, hope and laughter

## **Congregational Christmas Card**

As in years past, we are once again having a Black Rock Congregational Christmas Card.

Starting the first Sunday in Advent, November 27, there will be a large Christmas greeting on display in the back of the sanctuary. Simply sign the card and then in lieu of sending individual cards to congregational members, use the envelopes provided to donate what you might have spent on sending cards. This year the proceeds will go to benefit Camp Eder. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Outreach Ministry Team.





**2022**  
**Angel Tree Project**  
to support  
**Children's Aid**  
**Society**

**2022 Angel Tree Project**

The Outreach Team will be sponsoring an angel tree again this year for Children's Aid Society. The tree will be in the back of the sanctuary starting the first Sunday in November. We will be collecting gifts until Dec 4.

Remember they are to be new and unwrapped. As always, thanks in advance for your help.

## **Look at the nations and see!**

*By Eric Miller, director of Global Missions for the Church of the Brethren*

*“Look at the nations and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told.” – Habakkuk 1:5*

What comes to mind when you think about Church of the Brethren missions and missionaries? What sort of work have we done together? Do you know how we have an impact around the world?

Reading documents in the archives, it is easy to see the tension between evangelism and service in Brethren missions of the past, but the two goals were never really at odds. Brethren missionaries went to serve God and to care for people, not to earn their way into heaven or score points with God. They preached the Gospel and lived it. Frank Crumpacker walked from village to village preaching. Howard Sollenberger collected supplies and medicine for people suffering from poverty and war. They built churches, hospitals, schools, and even a major road. Seventy years after the last missionary left, people still remember. Loving God and neighbor matters. Making disciples takes time. We baptize people into a church to join with us as members of the body of Christ. We may fall short, but we are not doing it just for show. We may not always see the results of our work, but we know if we are faithful God will bring a good harvest.

Working in Global Missions, I hear variations on this theme: we know Jesus cares because you care. You gave us a cup of water when we were thirsty. You stayed with us. Our global Church of the Brethren family is strongly evangelical. They love to share the gospel and plant churches. They also reach out to the downtrodden in their own communities.

In Rwanda they worship side-by-side with the often-overlooked Btwa people and partner with them in farming. In Venezuela, they take boats up the river into the jungle to worship with indigenous sisters and brothers. In the Dominican Republic, the neighborhood churches reach out to the sick, elderly, and poor who live nearby. In South Sudan, after our country director Athanasus Ungang was wrongly imprisoned, he started a prison ministry that continues after his release and exoneration.

To be clear, we have not been perfect. We are a small church that offers Jesus, what we have, and our friendship. I have seen what impact our small church has made through our faithfulness, in communities that remember our love decades later. We may sometimes feel pressure to do more, to close a deal of faith today, but ultimately we aim to build churches on strong foundations that will endure and glorify God. May we continue to share the love of Jesus with all people and be willing to accept the gifts they share in return.

***Did you know the Church of the Brethren has partnerships and programs in all of the following countries?***

*Brazil, Burundi, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Spain, Uganda, Venezuela, Vietnam*

*Learn more about the work of Global Mission at [www.brethren.org/global](http://www.brethren.org/global) or support this ministry today at [www.brethren.org/givegm](http://www.brethren.org/givegm).*

**New Address Update:**

**Adam, Brittany and Lincoln Nolt  
PO Box, York, PA 17402  
[bbarrick@live.com](mailto:bbarrick@live.com)**

# November 2022

| Sun   | Mon                                     | Tue                     | Wed | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|---|---|-------------------------|-----|--|--|--|
| <br>6th Daylight Savings ends Fall Back |   | 1                       | 2   | 3<br>8:30a-PAL   | 4<br>8:30a-First Friday<br>Ladies breakfast                  | 5  |
| 6 Celebration of<br>Life Service<br>9am W & F mtg.<br>Adult Choir sings   | 7                                       | 8<br>7p-Staff Relations | 9   | 10   | 11   | 12   |
| 13<br>Deacon Banquet<br>Bells play  | 14                                      | 15                      | 16  | 17   | 18   | 19   |
| 20. Dec/Jan.<br>Newsletter D-line<br>Adult Choir sings  | 21                                      | 22                      | 23  | 24 8:30a-PAL<br>Happy<br>Thanksgiving  | 25<br><b>Pastor Brandon on Vacation</b><br><br>Office closed | 26   |
| 27 1st Sun Advent<br>Guest speaker<br>Traci Rabenstein  | 28<br><b>Pastor Brandon on Vacation</b> | 29                      | 30  |  |  | Pastor Brandon<br>Back on Sunday<br>Dec. 4, 2022 |

| Dates           | Accompanist/<br>Choir         | AV tech                          | Zoom and Video  | DECORATORS  | Monthly phone<br>visitor | Congregational<br>cards. | Attendance   | Worship Leaders          |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| NOV 6           | Robyn Bortner<br>Adult Choir  | Karl Lehman                      | Carrie Brenton  | BONNIE HENRY<br>-JILL HOFFACKER<br>GLORIA MYERS -<br>ROSE MARIE<br>RILL | Betty<br><br>Laughman    | Jill Hoffacker           | Needed<br>Please sign up<br>on the Narthex<br>Bulletin board | Angie and Ashlee Gwinn   |
| NOV 13          | Jeanne Wah<br>Bells           | Amy Hoffacker<br>Randy Hoffacker | Wynne Hoffacker |   |                          |                          |  | Greg & Christine Shaffer |
| NOV 20          | Suzanne Werner<br>Adult Choir | Karl Lehman                      | Beth Osborne    |   |                          |                          |  |                          |
| NOV 27<br>Traci | Esther Kipple                 | Amy Hoffacker<br>Randy Hoffacker | Jodi Weaver     |   |                          |                          |  |                          |