

Recording the

JOURNEY

of the Black Rock Church of the Brethren

MAY

2024



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Office Hours: M-TH. 7:00AM –3:00PM FRI. 7:00AM-1:00PM 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

**Black Rock Church of the Brethren
3864 Glenville Road
Glenville, PA 17329**

Inside the May Journey

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First Quarter of 2024 Snap Shot

Thank you notes to those who served

May Calendar

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Church Picnic—June 15

"May Flowers" By Pastor Brandon

So, even being nonvisual, I love flowers. I love the smell; I love the idea of sending flowers to loved ones to affirm their presence in my life. I love flowers that symbolize a sense of renewal in some way. And maybe, it brings a true sign of not just renewal, but the flowers fully are blooming. Things are happening, there's reason to feel excited! Yes, that means the complication of bees are present which I try to forget. But how about the renewal, the restart, the rebuilding of the flowers each May marking a true freshness not just to spring, but maybe even to our faith. Friends, could we each be like flowers?

And how might that freshness happen? Maybe it's reading the bible, maybe it's renewing a commitment to serve the church in some special way. Perhaps that renewal simply is you trying to see the positive when the negative seems so swarming and that's all you can seem to notice.

Keep in mind, a flower keeps blooming, stays fresh. It still draws in breath and air around it and it draws on all that to keep life going no matter what's happening. And so, friends, should we not also be drawing on the love of Jesus and the help from one another to find that renewal, that rebuilding in our lives. As we continue to deepen our walk with Jesus, how is God allowing our faith to bloom as the flowers bloom and bud?

So, in our walk with the Lord, let us remember, it's okay to feel worn down, to feel tired, or to think, I'm done, I cannot do one more thing. However, let us think of how we might be renewed in God's love, and just as the flowers are refreshed and bud every spring, may our sense of renewal be genuine and joyful to allow God to breathe new life into us some way somehow. Yes, it's okay to be done with some things, but what new doors may God be

opening, what new ways is God asking you to be a flower, to contribute to the garden, his garden here at Black Rock and beyond! If you're still asking that question, don't worry, the rain's coming, the sun will come out, your bud is just waiting to blossom. Just let God do it! You never know what will happen if you're willing to be one of his very special May flowers!
To God be the glory

Sermons

In person on Sunday Mornings and Worship on Youtube and videos available Online at: www.blackrockchurch.org

May 5, 2024

Ture Friendship - John 15:9-17

May 12, 2024 –Mother's Day

Honoring Mother's -Proverbs 31:10, 26-31

May 19, 2024 -

The day of Pentecost -Acts 2:1-3, 16-21

May 26, 2024 -Trinity Sunday -

All the earth is filled with God's glory - Isaiah 6:1-4



1-Betty Laughman
6-Linda Myers
7-Matty Nawn
10-Carrie Brenton
 Kelly Garvick
14-Brooke Bollinger
17-Amanda Brant
 Susan Felch
 Paul Schlegel

18-Norma Jean Dusman
22-Aaron Hanson
 Eric Hanson
 Elizabeth Rill
 Diana Shaulis
24-Cheryl Leppo
29-Skyler Lehr
 Barry Stremmel
30-Joyce Wilson
31-Delilah Hanson



19-Todd & Stephanie Shaffer
20-Matthew & Rachel Brownlee
26-Nathaniel & Kelly Shaub
30-Jason & Lisa Konopinski

Black Rock Church of the Brethren
Financial and Attendance snapshot for the
First Quarter of 2024

The Average Sunday Worship Attendance was 71
1st Quarter, Year to date Budget was \$60,141.75
1st Quarter, Regular Offering total was \$64,686.86
1st Quarter, Total Revenue was \$71,217.80



Robyn Bortner for preparing April Congregational cards.
Mark and Mary Ann Robinson for tracking the Church Attendance for April .

Jean Kehr for always tracking our Sunday School time and attendance.

Linda Covalt for serving as our Monthly visitor for April.

Suzanne Werner for creating the Narthex display for April.

Susan Felch for serving as the Welcomer for April.

Ken Wildasin for serving as our Worship Leader for April.

Tammy Hartlaub and Linda Myers, for counting our offering each Sunday.

Christian Education team for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt and activities. Thank you to all who donated Candy and funds and for those who filled the eggs with the treats. Thank you especially to Brittany Nolt, Sarah Kilgallen Christine, Greg and Brooke Shaffer for their organization.

Meat Canning 2024 Thank you to all those who donated funds, and those who helped process the chicken, prepared and served snacks and lunch. **Black Rock sent a total of \$2,320.00** that amount included \$500.00 of 2024 budgeted amount and another \$1,820.00 of designated offerings.

The Outreach Team for sharing with us how Church World Service helps **Blanket the World in Love**, by donating Blankets. **Black Rock was able to donate \$1,720.00** to buy 172 Blankets . Thank you to everyone who helped.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM 2024

The Outreach Team will be collecting the items listed below during May & June. There will be a collection box placed next to the wishing well in the back of the sanctuary.

Monetary donations will also be accepted by Diana Shaulis to purchase the cold items needed:

15 oz. cans baked beans

12-18 oz. Rice Krispies, Cheerios, or Honey Nut Cheerios

64 oz. bottle 100% apple juice

14 oz. jar pizza sauce

Boxes of Granola bars

100% fruit juice boxes

18 oz. jar peanut butter

6 pack of fruit or applesauce cups

7.25 oz. boxes of Mac & cheese

And packs of individual boxes of raisins.



Honoring Our Graduate:

Andrew Nawn, son of Matt and Beth Nawn, is graduating from Hanover Senior High School. He will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall of 2024 to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

Congratulations Andrew.



Sam Waltemyer will be providing an inspirational program of music **Sunday, June 9** for our 10:15 am worship service. (Pastor Brandon is on vacation.) We will be collecting a free-will offering at the end of the service to thank Sam for providing this program.

Sam is a pianist by ear from south-central Pennsylvania. His journey with piano began completely by ear playing hymns and songs one note at a time. During high school, he took lessons from the renowned Reverend Robert Harris.

Sam believes that any talent he has is a gift from God and has a desire to share music with others. Music, without a doubt, is a universal language, and should be available to those who wish to hear it. Sam's ministry serves as a tribute to the faithfulness and love of God and the power of both centuries-old and contemporary music. Please plan to join us and welcome Sam to Black Rock church of the Brethren.



CHURCH SUMMER PICNIC

Saturday, JUNE 15, 2024

5:00 PM

AT THE MANHEIM ADVENTURE PARK

4565 Camp Woods Rd

Glenville, PA 17329

There will be a sign-up sheet at church for items to donate for the meal.

The Alesia Band will be providing a concert for us, under the direction of James Biddle.

We hope you will plan to attend as we fellowship together.

A reflection by Donna Feliksik, whom we have been praying for that has breast cancer. Sister of Mary Ann Robinson

How do you feel God's love?

The 'blessing' of a church family. These are the people you sing with; pray with; laugh with; cry with; fellowship with; worship with; minister with; and hold on to through the good and the tuff times. Look into their faces and you can see God's love pouring into your soul.

With today's technology we can do so much online in the comfort of our homes. We can even go to church online and never make it into the actual pew. But how much do we miss when we're not there in person? Can we see the smiles; the tears; feel the hugs? We miss so much of God's blessing by not gathering together.

Yesterday was Palm Sunday. Pastor Dan asked "how would you tell someone else what Palm Sunday is about?" He showed this picture of the journey that you would have to

have walked from Jericho up to Jerusalem. The trip would take you from -720 feet below sea level to 2600 feet above to the top of Mount Olive in a little over 14 mile hike. But the road isn't straight up. There are dips and valleys along the way. Much like our road in life. When we get to the top of the hill we look over the Kidron valley to the destination of Jerusalem. From on top of that hill we can look over to the rise on the other side and see (currently) where the temple would have stood. In Jesus' day the temple would be directly in front of you. I remember standing at the top of that hill and looking over the valley. At the very bottom of the hill (before you cross the valley) is a garden. The Garden of Gethsemane.

This is where Jesus came with his disciples after the "Last Supper." He came with his friends to pray. Jesus knew the "Valley of the Shadow of Death" that he was about to face. Did he want to go through it? No. He prayed "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me." He knew what he was going to have to suffer. But he continued praying, "Yet YOUR will be done, not mine." As I stand at the top of the Mount and look over the valley to what is on the other side, what is my prayer? Do I ask God to give me a miracle and take my cancer away? If he doesn't, do I curse him and sink into depression because he didn't do 'my will?' If he did take it away, what 'blessings' would I miss out on because I didn't have to cross that valley? What if he would have answered Jesus' prayer? What if he didn't have to suffer and die on the cross. What HOPE would we have today? We live in such a fallen world, is death and disease all we have to look forward to? I certainly hope not!

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Looking ahead: Church Picnic– Saturday, June 15 at 5 pm Vacation Bible School –Saturday. July 20 10 am-12 pm followed with Pizza Party at noon.			1 * 9:30 am – Bible Study every Wed.	2- 8:30 am PAL	3- 8:30 am First Friday Ladies lunch	4 Church Retreat 9 am-noon
5-Choir sings	6	7	8*	9 7:30 pm Alesia Band Practice	10	11
12-Mother’s Day	13	14	15*	16	17	18
19-Pentecost June Journey Deadline 11:30 am Deacon Membership mtg. Choir sings	20	21- 7:00 pm Leadership Team mtg.	22*	23- 8:30 am PAL	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 7:30 pm Staff Relations	29*	30- 7:30 pm Alesia Band Practice	31	

Dates	Accompanist/Choir	AV tech	Camera	Welcomers	Decorators	Attendance	Monthly visitor	Congregation cards	Worship Leaders
May 5	Esther Kipple	Randy Amy Hoffacker	Jodi Weaver	Tom & Jackie Howdysshell	Sandie Keller, Connie McMaster & Robyn Bortner	Suzanne Werner	Jill Hoffacker	Jill Hoffacker	Jim Biddle
May 12	Robyn Bortner	Karl Lehman	Beth Osborne						
May 19	Suzanne Werner	Karl Lehman	Carrie Brenton						
May 26	Jeanne Wah	Randy Amy Hoffacker	Wynne Hoffacker						