## Recording the JOURNEY of the Black Rock Church of the Brethren

### December & January 2024-2025



3864 Glenville Road, Glenville, PA 17329 Phone: 717-637-6170 email: blackrockcob@comcast.net www.blackrockchurch.org Sunday Worship: 10:15 am Pastor: Brandon R. Grady (pastorbrandon121@gmail.com) Cell# 717-472-7800 or Home # 717-797-6920 Office Manager: Jodi Weaver (aabrcob@comcast.net) Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:00 am –3 pm Friday, 7:00 am—1:00 pm 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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year December. 2024 & January 2025 Pastor's Page Sermon Topics, Scriptures, and Guest speakers Thank you notes TBHC Villagers Choir Christmas Cantata Birthdays and Anniversaries Congregational Christmas Card Calendars Christmas Eve Services Carlisle Truck Stop Cookie Ministry Children's Aid Society-Angel Tree Project 2025 Prayer Partners /2024 Parrtners reveal SOPA Meat Canning note Brethren Disaster Ministries, Kentucky opportunity Bringing back Children's Sunday school classes. Camp Eder News, Camps and Events

## Pas or's Page

### "Do you dare to be in the desert?" By Pastor Brandon

As we consider the joy and transition of this time of year, so much wonderful stuff is happening right? Families are reconnecting, New Year's resolutions are being made, persons are recognizing the many gifts which God has given them perhaps in a new way. The innocence of children and adults alike is on display as we enjoy enfolding and encircling each other in songs of joy to the world or of reflection as we look back on one year and move to the next.

But amidst the joy, isn't it odd to think about the desert? That's right, the desert friends. And why possibly raise such a barren image in what should be a joyful writing about Christmas and New Years times? Because inevitably, after Christmas and New Years hits, the same issues, the same challenges, the same barrenness, and the same questions of future stability still face not only the wider church, but our faith community. Yes, the exciting joy of where we're at during the Holidays is absolutely amazing, but lingering in the background is the barrenness of the prospects. How many more Christmases will the Black Rock Church be able to enjoy? How much more can I do for the church, when it seems I can do less and less in my life in general? And also, how will we continue to be viable as the continuing problems of lack of membership or even getting people interested in joining a church, or even remaining active as members of our church are just unavoidable thoughts.

Well friends I love Isaiah 43 verse 18 which reminds us God will build streams in the desert. God will do a new thing, the prophet says. God doesn't say, I might do it. Nope, I will do it! God will allow us to experience springs and streams of living water. Things will, as much as possible, be flowing and full and faithful and flourishing.

But for all that to happen. I'm fascinated by one particular part. God will only bring the refreshment, in the desert. If we aren't in the desert like John the Baptist, even like Jesus was, God can't bless us as he did them. That desert can be by ourselves or with many others. That desert can be journeying like the wisemen did through barren lands and hilly lonely countryside on their way to Bethlehem. That desert can even fall in a new year where many sit alone, having experienced loss of family, or absolutely anyone they can spend time with or enjoy the Holidays with.

Friends, where are we daring to be in the desert? And are we willing to rest there, so God can refresh us? Notice God doesn't give a timeline for the refreshment to come, just we are to be assured it will come!

So, take heart, the joy of the Lord, the stream of living water is about to flow. The Israelites needed such hope as everything they knew was destroyed and they needed to be led out of the desert. So too in this time of journeying and following the star to celebrate Jesus in the manger and then following him into the excitement of another year on earth, do we also need the refreshment of God's streams in our deserts, whatever they may be? Will you dare to be there? Will you be brave enough to name the desert? And thereby allow God to refresh you through the newborn king Jesus wherever you are?

To God be the glory



#### **December and January Sermons and Scriptures**



**December 1**– 1st Sunday of Advent. Luke 1:46-55 "Affirmation...It can Change the World!" **Sermon by Greg Broyles,** (sermon from COB AC)

### Advent Sermon Series on the Gifts from God.

**Dec. 8** -Bread & Cup Communion, 2nd Sunday of Advent. Luke 1:67-79 "The Gift of Mercy."

**Dec. 15**– 3rd Sunday of Advent, Pastor Brandon, Romans 12:3, "God's Grace to and for all" **Guest Speaker, Marla (Bieber) Abe,** Ephesians 2:8-9 "Goodness, Gracious Me!!"

**Dec. 22**– Christmas Sunday, 4th Sunday of Advent Colossians 3:12-13, "The Gift of Forgiveness"

Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve. –4 PM at Black Rock COB Christmas Eve at Chestnut Grove-9 PM Scriptures and Songs

### Merry Christmas! December 25, 2024

**December 29** -<u>Guest Speaker, Pastor Gerry Godfrey</u> Scripture: Psalm 71:1-16 "The Reality of Trials"

### Happy New Year! 2025

January 5, 2025 - John 1:1-9, "Ultimate Life" Consecration of Leaders, Bread & Cup Communion.

January 12-John 2:1-11, "Do you fully believe?"

January 19-1 Corinthians 12:12-27, "Vital Community"

January 26- Luke 4:14-18, "An Anointed Purpose"



- Outreach Team for creating the Angel Tree and delivering the gifts to Children's Aid Society. Thanks also to those who donated the gifts and funds to make Christmas extra special for those in need.
- Outreach team -Mary Ann Robinson and all who will send Christmas cards to Brethren Volunteer Service members.
- Monthly Phone visitors, Coordinated by Audrey Shisler November The Greg Shaffer family and December– Susan Feltch.
- Thank you to all who have served our congregation in 2024 in so many various ways.
- Carol Jean Hoover for sending encouragement cards for November and Sandie Keller for December.
- Thank you Shirley Boldosser for creating the Congregational Christmas Card this year.
- To Jim Biddle and Suzanne Werner for leading and accompanying the choir and to the Choir members for the work they put into this to Praise our Lord and Savior and for your enjoyment.



### The Village Choir of Cross Keys Village

Will present the Christmas Cantata

### "City of Hope"

on Mon. Dec. 16, at 1 pm.

Pastor Brandon will be singing in the Choir





- 2 Joy Shaffer
  - 4 George Brant
  - 4 Skip Wah
  - 8 Terry Conover
  - 8 Sarah Kilgalen
- 14 Richard L. Shaffer
- 15 Dominick Licciardello
- 16 Geraldine Eckrote
- 16 Nate Shaub
- 16 Audrey Shisler
- 19 Delaney Licciardello
- 20 Rachel Myers Brownlee
- 21 Matthew Garvick
- 22 Wayne Baugher
- 24 Debora Mancha Wolicki
- 26 Sally McIntire
- 28 Kaitlyn Morgan
- 29 Todd Shaffer

### **December Anniversaries**

1-Aaron & Erin Hanson 16- Mike & Sally McIntire 28-Mel & Harriet Fleming 30–Joe & Connie McMaster





### **CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD**

The congregational Christmas Card has been a tradition here at Black Rock for many years. Starting on December 1 and continuing through the end of the month, the Christmas card will be on display for folks to sign. The idea is that by signing the card, you are sharing your greeting with members of the Black Rock Flock, and in lieu of sending individual cards, you can use the envelopes provided to make a donation. The card proceeds will go toward The Children's Aid Society. This year the Christmas Card was designed by Shirley Boldosser. Many thanks to her for sharing her talent in this way.



Please join us at 9 pm on Christmas Eve for our annual Scripture and Carols service at the Chestnut Grove Meeting House near Jefferson. Shirley Boldosser and Carrie Brenton will again be leading us this year with volunteers reading the scripture verses and playing the chimes to accompany some of the carols. Thank you, Shirley and Carrie, for your commitment to this outreach to the community.



<u>Cookies for the Carlisle Truckstop Ministry</u> The cookies are distributed to truckers at local truck stops and truck depots and handed out to truckers and holiday travelers.

Christmas cookies are a way to let truckers know that we appreciate them. They say "remember that what you do for the least of these.....you do for Christ." You should take some time and go to the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry website and learn of the year long ministry.

Please, Bring your cookies to Black Rock on December 8. Put 5 or 6 cookies in a zip lock bag. You don't need to put them in a paper bag. Diana Shaulis had a wonderful idea to decorate the bags with the story of the Christmas candy cane and was working on that. The Shaulis family will be decorating the bags to honor the memory of Diana, and finish what she started. She was always a big supporter of the Truck Stop Cookie Ministry.

Thank you!



Angel Tree Project Toys For Children's Aid Society Thank you to Connie McMaster and Sandie Keller of The Outreach Team for organizing this and a special thanks to all who gave of their time, gifts and resources. This helps to brighten Christmas for local Children in need.

### **2025 Prayer Partners**

Having a prayer partner is knowing someone is praying for you every day of the year. Write your name and birthdate on the paper provided. Take a paper from the basket on the table in the Gathering

Place at the back of the sanctuary, that is your prayer partner, then drop your paper in the basket. Pray for your prayer partner every day throughout 2025. Send your prayer partner a birthday card but sign it "Your Prayer Partner", send other notes of encouragement throughout the year." Wait until the

end of the year to reveal your identity. If you had a partner for 2024 it's reveal time!

### **SOPA Meat Canning**

Usually Meat Canning is right after Easter. I'm hoping that remains the same. I'm hoping meat canning is the week of April 21, 2025. It's been Monday thru Thursday Prior so, I'm



asking for volunteers to go on a day or days of that week.

Please contact me,

If you would have questions or would like to volunteer. Thank you.

Paul Boldosser,

### BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES

We are planning a BDM work week to volunteer the week of May 11, 2025. It is in eastern Kentucky. It takes about 8 hours to get there. The team would leave Sunday the 11th and return May 17. If you have interest or questions, call me. Thanks Paul Boldosser.

### **January Birthdays**



1-Georg Brant 1-Mel Fleming **3-Jodi** Weaver **4-Laura Baugher** 4-Shirley Shaffer 5-Jim Biddle 6-Ruthanna Stremmel **8-Gean Blemings 10-Shirley Boldosser** 11-Lisa Wentz 12 Randy A. Shaffer **18-Harriet Fleming 19** Francis Myers 19-Kaden Alwine **21-Brandon Grady** 21-Evan Hanson 21 Andrew Nawn 23-Karl Lehman **23-Shirley Tracy 27-Brian Garvick** 27-Susan Shaffer 28 Jean Becker **28-Eric Bortner** 28-Madelyn Ort 29-Zena Hardman **30-Nicholas Redding** 



January Anniversary 6-Jim & Bonnie Henry 2018





**Children's Sunday school classes** will be held on **December 1, 15 and 29.** This Sunday School class is for children, during worship. Each Sunday children will sing a song or two, have story time, a memory verse, snack time, prayer time, coloring or craft time, and play time. Parents (or grandparents) are welcome to attend worship or sit in on the class (if children are not ready to stay). The teachers will be Shirley Boldosser, Christine Shaffer or Savannah Lehr. This will be in the Sunday School room down the hall, past the nursery, on the left. The nursery will still be available for babies.

#### Camp Eder Welcomes a new Program Director William Hillard

2024 Graduate of Lancaster Bible College, with a degree in Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

#### Camp Eder <u>Christmas Tree Festival</u> Dec. 13 & 14, 5-9 pm

Christmas lights and music, Tree decorating contest, Turkey Dinner and soup (per donation) Warm drinks and Cookie (free) Bake Sale, Kids activities, Cozy Fires and S'mores.

Camp Eder <u>Winter Camp 2025</u> January 24th-26th For Grades 1st-12th and Shining Stars \$90.

> Camp Eder <u>Summer Camp Registration</u> opens Jan. 1st !

**Camp Eder Senior Days 2025**: April 9th, September 3rd and November 5th.

# December 2024

:	Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Wed		Thu	Fri		Sat
1-Greg Broyles2Pastor Brandon on vaca			3	4		Past	astern Zone fors mtg. at ck Rock	6 8:30 aFir Ladies br		7
8-Bread and Cup Deacon mtg.		9	10 LT mtg. 7pm	n 11	11			13 Camp Eder Christm 5-9 pm		14 as Tree Festival
15– Guest Marla (Bieber) Abe		16 1 p-TBHC Cantata-Nicarry	17	18 Ladies Hoss's at 11:30am				20		21
22 23 Christmas Sunday		23	24 Christmas Eve -Black Rock 4p Chestnut Grove 9p25Pastor on vacation a		26 ind Of	27 ffice closed.			28	
29-Gerry Godfrey 30			31							
Pastor on vacation and Office closed							1			
Dates	Accompanis	t Audio	Camera	Welcomers	Decora	tors	Attendance	Visitor	Cards	Worship Leaders
Dec. 1	Esther Kipple	e Karl Lehman	Carrie Brenton							
Dec. 8	Jeanne Wah	Randy /Amy	Jodi Weaver		Robyn Bortner,			Susan Feltch	Sandie Keller	Mike and Sally McIntire
Dec. 15	Suzanne W	Karl Lehman	Wynne Hoffacker	Brett & Wynne Jill Hoffa		lenry, cker,				
Dec. 22	Jeanne Wah	Randy /Amy	Beth Osborne	Hoffacker	Sandie K and Cor McMas	nnie				
Dec. 24/ Eve.	Jill Slagle	Carrie Brenton	Carrie Brenton							
Dec. 29	Suzanne W	Karl Lehman	Jodi Weaver							

# January 2025

Sun	n Mon Tue		Wed Thu		Fri	Sat
			1– New Years day.	2	3	4
5– Bread & Cup Comm.	6 -Epiphany	7	8	9	10	11-Child protection edu @ Hanover COB 9-3p
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19- Feb. 2025 Newsletter deadline	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	