

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

December. 2025 & January 2026

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Recording the
JOURNEY
of the Black Rock Church of the Brethren

December & January

2025-2026



God so loved the world ...

3864 Glenville Road, Glenville, PA 17329

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Sunday Worship: 10:15 am

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

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

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

Friday, 7:00 am – 1:00 pm

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.

Pastor's Page

“What will happen?” By Pastor Brandon

I find myself thinking about the Christmas story and the events of the Holidays, and a question keeps coming to mind. What will happen? What? I should know what will happen right! I go through these times every year, I experience the carol singing and worshiping and transitioning into a new year as we welcome new leaders. I find myself awed by the music around this time of year, and thankful for the promise of a fresh start as Epiphany dawns. And yet, the question persists, what will happen?

I wonder if the disciples were asking that question, even though Jesus had journeyed with them for a while, a long while. Even though he tells them repeatedly he's going to be crucified, they still want to know how it's all going to happen. I'm guessing the wisemen as they journeyed to Bethlehem were asking that question, as their long journey led them to the stable of love and light where they would join other worshipers in a sudden unified scene of glory and praise! I'll bet even the Inn Keeper wondered what was happening as he opened his Stable, and suddenly his Little Inn became the center of the Universe. And yes, I'm sure it happened as Mary and Joseph Journeyed with their son through life, as they looked upon him for the very first time, as they lost him preaching in the temple, as they watched him preach throughout Jerusalem and all of Judea.

Even as Mary herself followed her son to the cross, how could she not have asked what would happen?

Friends, we as a church, even amidst our regular preparations in Advent, even in our predicted celebrations and observance of Christmas, as well as the changes in the New Year need not apologize as we wonder what will happen. It is up to us to be open to that same light the wisemen followed, to hear the same words of hope Jesus offered his disciples, and to have the same wonder Mary and Joseph had as they followed Jesus through his life. It is up to us to know God is somehow leading us, and whatever will happen, there will somehow be light at the end of the road!

So let us worship. Let us walk this road of worship with God, let us live in our house of worship with God. Let us worship and celebrate in a unified joy like the stable spectators did long ago. Jesus is born; all things are to be new! What will happen? By God's grace, may we never stop asking that, but also never stop allowing God to lead us knowing even unto death, we are never deserted or left alone. Yes, no matter what happens, friends, Emanuel! God is indeed with us!

To God be the glory





December and January Sermons and Scriptures



December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent- Bread and Cup Communion
Pastor Brandon, Sermon: "Are we Ready or Not?" Scripture: Matthew 3:1-6

December 14 - Meditation: by Pastor Brandon.
"The Coming Messiah" Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-7, 10.
Sermon: by Doug Veal (Guest minister and Church of the Brethren Mid-Atlantic District Executive.) "The Coming Messiah" Scripture: Matthew 11:2-11.

December 21- Christmas Sunday
Pastor Brandon - Sermon: "No Doubt" Scripture: Luke 1:26-33

December 28- Guest Pastor Gerry Godfrey
Sermon Title: "Do Not Be Afraid"
Scripture: Luke 2:8-12

January 2026 Sermon titles and scripture references:

January 4 – Sermon: Go ahead and shine!
No matter what, as God leads us, we are to shine, the same way. God through Isaiah called the Israelites to shine the light of the coming promised Messiah! Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-4

January 11- Sermon: We are today's witnesses!
Just as Peter in John and the rest of the disciples were witnesses to the early church about the good news of Jesus, so we too, knowing the complete story, should enjoy sharing it whenever we can, however we can! Scripture: Acts 10:34-43

January 18- Sermon: "Are we beholding Jesus today?"
In all we do, are we willing like the first disciples to not only see Jesus at work, but to proclaim his presence in our lives with joy to others?
Scripture: John 1:29-42

January 25- Scripture: Matthew 4:18-25
Sermon: "The Ultimate Trickle-Down Effect" (When Jesus called the two fishermen from their ordinary daily task to follow him, something special happened not only for them, but for the entire region.)



CHURCH FAMILY
Christmas Party

Church Christmas Party
Sunday, December 7, at 12:30 pm
At Craft Eats Restaurant
304 Poplar Street,
Hanover, PA 17331

All those who have made a reservation for the party will enjoy a Turkey Dinner Entertainment by the Alesia Brass Quintet.

We look forward to a joyful celebration as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ and strengthen the bonds of our Church Community.

It will be a relaxed time filled with great food, beautiful music, and cherished conversations with friends.

Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival

Dec. 12 & 13, 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.



December Birthdays



- 2 Joy Shaffer
- 4 Lily Hoffacker
- 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

December Anniversaries

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



Cookies for the Carlisle Truckstop Ministry

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.

Just a reminder to bring your cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry on Sunday, December 7th. Put 5 or 6 cookies in a zip lock bag. You don't need to put them in a paper bag. You can bring them to the back of the sanctuary or the library. We will deliver them to Carlisle on Monday, December 8th.

Thank you!
Shirley Boldosser





Thank You!



- ♥ 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 Nov. Christine Shaffer and Dec. Susan Feltch.
- ♥ Thank you to all who participated in the Soup Sunday, there were approximately 35 people in attendance.
- ♥ Jill Hoffacker for sending encouragement cards for November and Sharon Myers for December.
- ♥ Thank you to Shari Lehman for creating the Congregational Christmas Card.
- ♥ To Jim Biddle and Suzanne Werner for leading and accompanying the choir.
- ♥ Thank you to our worship leaders for November.- Susan Feltch, Micha Roth and Audrey Shisler.
And for December- Mike McIntire.



The Village Choir of Cross Keys Village
Will present the Christmas Cantata

“A Journey to Joy”
By Joseph Martin

Monday, Dec. 15, at 1 pm.

Angel Tree Project Toys For Children's Aid Society

Thank you to Connie McMaster and 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 our local Children in need for 2025



Thank you!

2026 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 2026. 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 2026
to reveal your identity.**



2025

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD

The congregational Christmas Card has been a tradition here at Black Rock for many years. Starting on December 7 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.



**Please join us Christmas Eve at
the Chestnut Grove Meeting House
at 9 pm**

for our annual Scripture and Carols service 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.

A Workshop In 2026 to consider the future of Black Rock Church of the Brethren.

We will come together to consider plans for the future.
Please listen and watch for coming information as to
When, Where and How we will come together.

Please give suggestions regarding what your thoughts are
for the future of Black Rock.

Leadership wants your ideas no matter how crazy or impossible they sound. What do we have we could sell or make money from? Thoughts on Part time ministry or staff? Different ways to use the building or rent a portion? This is all speculation right now, will you share something that could make the difference for us right here in Glenville Pennsylvania?

Please start now by giving your advice or suggestions by placing them in the suggestion box in the Gathering area.

Put your name on it or share anonymously.

Send an email to a Black Rock leader or a deacon, but please help generate ideas. By the time we have the workshop we hope to have many ideas to consider.

Children's Sunday school classes will be held every other Sunday.

This Sunday School class is for children, during worship.

Each class the 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.

JANUARY

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Birthdays

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-Nicolas Mayton
12 Randy A. Shaffer
18-Harriet Fleming
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
29-Tony Miller
30-Nicholas Redding



January Anniversary
6-Jim & Bonnie Henry 2018

January 2026

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HELLO
JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30 BR at HACC PAL	2-1st Friday Breakfast 8:30 am	3
Office closed						
4 Bread & Cup comm.	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Feb. Journey Deadline.	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21 Pastor Brandon's Birthday.	22 8:30 BR at HACC PAL	23	24
25	26	27	28 11:30 am Ladies lunch	29	30	31

December 2025

CHRISTMAS EVE. SERVICES:
4 PM AT BLACK ROCK COB.
9 PM AT CHESTNUT GROVE MEETING HOUSE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4-Membership mtg. 10 am	5	6 -Christmas Cookie Bake – 9:30—11 am
	Pastor Brandon on vacation					
7– Bread & Cup / Church Christmas Party at 1 pm	8	9 Leadership Team mtg. 7 pm	10	11	12 CAMP EDER: Christmas Tree Festival 5-9 pm	13
14	15 TBHC CANTATA at 1 pm	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24-Black Rock 4 Chestnut Grove 9	25	26	27
		office closed				
28 Guest Pastor Gerry Godfrey	29	30	31	Office closed		

Dates	Accompanist	Audio	Camera	Welcomers	Decorators	Attendance	Visitor	Cards	Worship Leaders
Dec. 7 Advt.2	Esther / Suzanne	Randy/Amy Hoffacker	Jodi Weaver	Connie McMaster & Sandie Keller	Full Decorating team	Sandie Keller	Susan Felтч	Sharon Myers	Mike McIntire
Dec. 14 Advt. 3	Jeanne Wah	Karl Lehman	Beth Osborne						
Dec. 21 Advt.4	Robyn / Suzanne	Randy/Amy Hoffacker	Wynne Hoffacker						
Dec.24 Eve.	Jill Slagle	Carrie Brenton							
Dec. 28	Jeanne Wah	Karl Lehman	Jodi Weaver						