

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

**December & January**

2023-2024



*God so loved the world ...*

3864 Glenville Road, Glenville, PA 17329

Phone: 717-637-6170

email: [blackrockcob@comcast.net](mailto:blackrockcob@comcast.net)

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

Sunday Worship: 10:15am

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

Cell# 717-472-7800 or Home # 717-797-6920

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



Pastor's Page  
December.& January  
Sermon Topics and Scriptures  
Birthdays and Anniversaries  
Calendars  
Truck Stop Cookie Ministry  
CAS Angel Tree  
Thank you notes  
Christmas Eve Sunday Cantata and other Services  
Dec. 31, 2023 Pastor Gerry Godfrey, Guest Speaker  
January 21, 2024 Membership Reaffirmation  
Sunday, Come renew your membership vows.

# Pastor's Page

## "Gift Opening!"

By Pastor Brandon

It is truly a joy during this time of year to open gifts, to see expressions on children's faces. Even to hear adults enjoy those colorfully wrapped packages and oo and ah over the gratitude behind those physical blessings. Doesn't this season of gifts, which actually extends for the twelve days of Christmas tide remind us truly of the joy of not just gift giving and receiving, but gift opening? The process is so amazing. It's not so much about the gift we're given, it's the gratitude and love behind the gift, or at least it should be.

The same is true as the new year opens and Christmas tide continues for six days thereafter. Gift openings are still happening during those times too. It's just a different kind of gift unveiling. And what is that? Well it's the gift opening which happens every day actually in quote, ordinary living. God is always opening our eyes, our hearts, our minds, and our hands to different opportunities to share, various avenues of care, and all sorts of needs for prayer. Gift opening is the process of discovering what amazingly beautiful item God has just beyond the bend, just ready for us to unwrap, to enjoy, to smile over, to reflect on, and to be sincerely thankful for.

In that spirit, the church year begins anew after Advent. We are not to forget how the gift opening process continues for our congregation. There's always new thoughts, ideas, approaches, and slants on how we do church. Often, we do leaders retreats of some kind. But this year my call is for us to think about the gift opening process as we each recommit ourselves anew to Christ and his church.

My call is for each of us to engage somehow afresh as we enjoy God working in our lives. Let us remember four key words of faith, participation, affirmation, dedication, and celebration.

If we fully want to enjoy God opening the gift of the church, or even God's people in general, we just cannot forget there's some work as we recommit ourselves to our walk. We must participate, enjoy being an active part of things. It's important to have a heart of affirmation, looking to tell people how you appreciate what they do! And how amazing it is to discover people's passion through a spirit of true dedication to what they hold dear. And finally, after mounting those first three steps, we can celebrate the opening of God's gifts all around, with and within us.

Rest assured Black Rock, no matter the time, the circumstance or the excuse, God will work! Something amazing will happen! Get ready! The season of gift opening is here! Let's celebrate! To God be the glory!

## **Sermons and Scriptures**

**December 3, Bread & Cup Communion -**

Spirit of preparation, Isaiah 40:1-3

**Dec. 10-** The Spirit of anticipation, Ecclesiastes 3:1-18

**December 17-** The Spirit of exultation. Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

**Dec. 24 Christmas Eve. Sunday** -The Spirit of adoration  
**Cantata “Sing Noel” A Carol Service by Hal Hopson**

**Christmas Eve at Black Rock COB at 7 pm -**  
the Spirit of Celebration!

**Christmas Eve at Chestnut Grove at 9 pm**  
Scripture and Song Service

## **Merry Christmas!**

**December 31 -** -Guest Speaker, Pastor Gerry Godfrey  
**Ready for take-off?** - Mark 6:30 - 34 and 53 -56

## **Happy New Year!**

**January 7, 2024 - Bread & Cup communion**  
Baptism of the Lord - You are my Son, the beloved.  
Mark 1:4-11

**January 14, 2024** -Speak, Lord 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

**January 21, 2024 - Membership Reaffirmation Sunday**  
My Refuge is in God - Psalm 62:5-12

**January 28, 2024** - Love builds up - 1 Corinthians 8:1-13



## December Birthdays



2 Joy Shaffer	16- Nate Shaub
3 Rozenna Hartman	16 Audrey Shisler
4 George Brant	19 Delaney Licciardello
4 Skip Wah	19- Rachel Myers Brownlee
7 Braxtin Covalt	19- Shane Wolicki
8 Terry Conover	22 Wayne Baugher
8 Sarah Kilgalen	24 Debora Mancha Wolicki
9- Lincoln Nolt	Dylan Davis
14 Richard L. Shaffer	26- Sally McIntire
	28- Kaitlyn Morgan
	29 Todd Shaffer

## December Anniversaries

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

## January Anniversarie

06-Jim & Bonnie Henry  
21-Bill & Rozenna Hartman

## January Birthdays

1-..... Mel Fleming	18 ..... Francis Myers
.....Carol Jean Hoover	19 ..... Kaden Alwine
3 .....Jodi Weaver	21 ..... Andrew Nawn
4 .....Laura Baugher	21 ..... Brandon Grady
4 .....Shirley Shaffer	21 ..... Evan Hanson
5 .....Jim Biddle	23 .....Karl Lehman
5 .....Mary Jo Crawford	23 ..... Shirley Tracy
5 .....Ruthanna Stremmel	..... Lydia Davis
7 .....Jamie Strevig	27 ..... Susan Shaffer
8 .....Gean Blemings	28 ..... Jean Becker
8 .....Karen Mancha	28 ..... Eric Bortner
10 .....Shirley Boldosser	28 ..... Madelyn Ort
11- .....Lisa Wentz	29 ..... Tony Miller
12 .....Randy A. Shaffer	30-..... Nicholas Redding
18 .....Harriet Fleming	31- ..... Kierstn Hoffacker
.....	

## Congregational Christmas Card

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

Starting on the first Sunday in Advent, December 3, 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 again go to benefit Camp Eder. If you have questions, please see a member of the Outreach Team.



The Meat Canning chicken sent to Haiti was finally received. The shipments were sent in small amounts to avoid gangs that may steal it.



## **Cookies for the Carlisle Truckstop Ministry**

Each year at Christmas time, chaplains and volunteers hand out thousands of cookie bags to truckers and travelers to "let them know that we are thinking of them, that we are here for them, and to provide a "taste of home" while they are on the road." Each bag has info about the Truckstop Ministry and contains a scripture. There are 2 chaplains there who provide worship and counsel for truckers year-round. There are 2 worship services every Sunday.

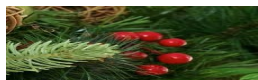
Paul and Shirley Boldosser will collect the cookies at Black Rock on **Sunday, December 10** and deliver them to Carlisle on Monday, December 11. Bring cookie bags to the church library. Cookies should be put in a plastic bag. Each bag should contain 5 or 6 cookies. You can also decorate a brown bag to put that in. (Or they will) And on each bag they will put the Truckstop info and that it is from Black Rock Church Of the Brethren and include a scripture.

**Thank you!**





*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 the Brethren Volunteer Service members.
- ♥ Monthly Phone visitors, Coordinated by Audrey Shisler  
Nov.Betty Laughman, Dec.Susan Felth,
- ♥ Thank you to all who have served our congregation in 2023
- ♥ Mary Robinson for sending encouragement cards for November.and Sandie Keller for December.
- ♥ Nicole Osborne – for creating the Congregational Christmas Card we are using again this year.
- ♥ To Jim Biddle and Suzanne Werner for working with the choir on the Cantata for Christmas Eve Sunday Morning, and to the Choir members for the work they put into this for your enjoyment.



## The Village Choir of Cross Keys Village

Will present the Christmas Musical,

**“RUN TO THE HOPE”**

on Mon. Dec. 18, at 1 pm.

Pastor Brandon will be singing in the Choir.

## **Angel Tree Project:**

**Toys For Children's Aid Society**

**Thank you to the 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. Thank you!**



## **2024 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 2024. 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 2023 it's reveal time!**

# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1- 8:30 a 1st fri. Ladies breakfast	2
3-1st Sun. Advent Bread & Cup	4	5	6– 9:30 a Bible Study each wk.	7-PAL at 8:30 a	8 Camp Eder –Christmas Tree festival	9
10– Martin Ridge Dulcimers	11	12	13	14	15	16
17-Bell Prelude Biddle band	18	19	20	21	22	23
24- <b>Christmas Cantata</b> 10:15 a	25	26	27	28-PAL at 8:30 a	29	30
	Pastor Brandon on vacation Dec. 25—Jan. .2					
31-Gerry Godfrey- My 2 cents offering	Pastor Brandon vacation Dec. 25—Jan. .2					

Dates	Accompanist/ Choir	AV tech	Camera	Welcomers	DECORATORS	Attendance	Monthly visitor	Congregation- cards.	Worship Leaders
Dec. 3	Esther Kipple	Randy /Amy Hoffacker	Jodi Weaver	Brett & Wynne Hoffacker	Jill Hoffacker, Bonnie Henry, Gloria Myers & Rose Rill	Angela Gwinn	Susan Feltch	Sandie Keller	Sarah Kilgalen
Dec. 10	Robyn Bortner	Karl Lehman	Beth Osborne						Kim Gingerich
Dec. 17	Suzanne Werner	Randy /Amy Hoffacker	Carrie Brenton						
Dec,24/ Morn- ing	Jeanne Wah	Randy /Amy Hoffacker	Wynne Hoffacker						
Dec. 24/ Eve.	Bonita G or Suzanne W	Karl Lehman	Carrie Brenton						
Dec. 31	Robyn Bortner	Karl Lehman	Wynne Hoffacker						

# January 2024



**Membership Reaffirmation**  
**Sunday, January 21, 2024**  
**10:15 am**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor Brandon on vacation	2	3	4	5	6 Communion Preparations
7 Bread & Cup Comm. 9 a- W&F mtg	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Membership Reaffirmation Sunday	22 February Journey deadline	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			