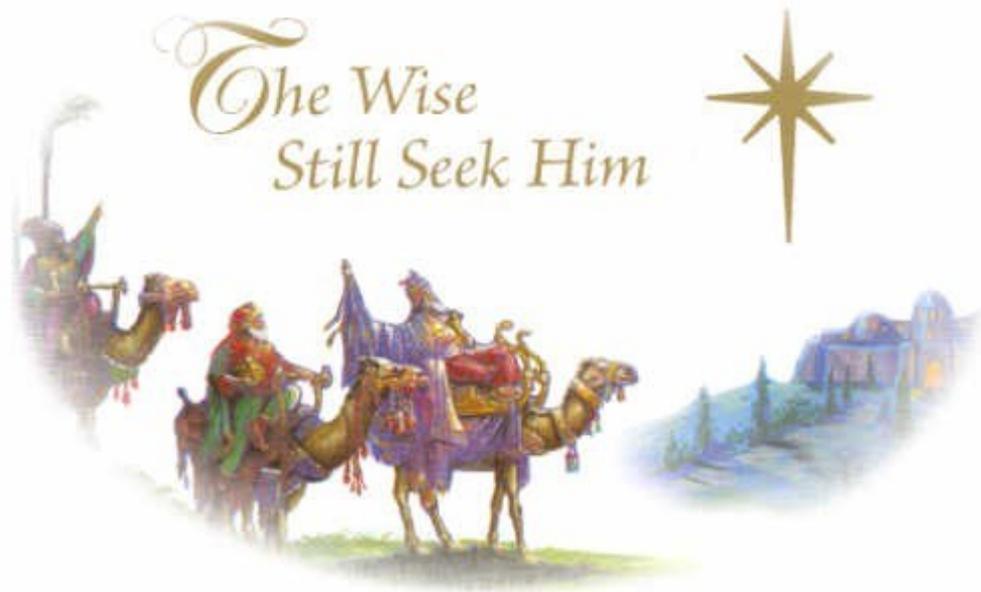


**West York Church of the Brethren  
5101 Darlington Road  
York, PA 17408**

**Richard Godfrey, Pastor**

# The West Yorker



## *January 2026*

*"The mission of the West York Church of the Brethren is to love, nurture and build the community of Jesus Christ."*



January

2026

# The West Yorker

**West York Church of the Brethren**

**5101 Darlington Road**

**York, PA 17408**

**Phone: (717) 792-9260**

**Prayer Line: (717) 792-9260 (Option "5")**

**E-mail: westyorkchurch@gmail.com**

**Website: www.westyorkcob.org**

**Sunday Worship: Sunday School 9:00 am**

**Worship Service 10:15 am**

**Souper Bowl  
Sunday  
February 8th, 2026**



We will be collecting soup (any kind), Ramen Noodles and money for Souper Bowl Sunday on February 8th.

**We will accept monetary donations also to purchase more soup or Ramen Noodles.**

You can bring your donations to the church beginning January 4th through February 8th. These donations will be given to Harvest of Hope Food Pantry.

**Happy  
New Year  
2026**

## 2026 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chairperson - Larry Marshall  
Vice Chairperson - Landon Eshbach  
Church Clerk - Susan Parente  
Treasurer - Jake Hershey  
Assistant Treasurer - Kathy Hinkle  
Property & Grounds Chair - Merl Keefer  
Music & Worship Chair - Linda Zumbrum  
Education Chair - Kayla Eshelman  
Service & Outreach Chair - Mike Parente  
Stewardship Chair - Gary Hake  
Deacon Chair - Cindy Heist  
Youth & Family - Shawna Hake

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

New Year's Day - January 1  
Men's Breakfast - January 3  
Epiphany - January 6  
Baptism of the Lord - January 11  
Youth Meeting - January 11  
CEC Board Meeting - January 13  
Sanctity of Human Life Sunday - January 18  
Newsletter Deadline - January 19  
Day of Prayer for Children & Youth - January 21

**DENOMINATIONAL, DISTRICT & COMMUNITY EVENTS**  
(For more info on denominational events, go to [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org))



**Friends of Cross Keys Village -  
The Brethren Home Community**

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR HOLIDAY POSTAGE STAMPS** for The Brethren Home. You may put them **in the box by the informational bulletin board**. Thank you!

children's  
AID SOCIETY  
Southern PA District  
Church of the Brethren



All three centers need paper goods - paper towels, Kleenex, wipes, toilet paper, paper plates, copying paper and construction paper. When these items are donated it saves us money because we don't have to buy them.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thank you for your continued support for CAS.*

Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum  
**8th Annual Holiday Train Garden**  
Operating Model Train Layouts & Displays  
134 East Hanover Street - Hanover



**Fridays 6 pm to 9 pm  
Saturdays 11 am to 7 pm  
Sundays 12 pm to 5 p**  
January 2026 - 2, 3 & 4  
**Free event**

**Donations benefit the Fire Museum**

**MESSENGER RENEWAL  
TIME**

It is time to renew your Messenger subscription or start a new subscription if you want to start getting the Messenger, the magazine of the Church of the Brethren.

The cost of a subscription is **\$18.00 for 1 year** or **\$34.00 for 2 years**.

For any new or renewal subscription, make your check payable to **West York Church of the Brethren** and send it to the church office by **January 18, 2026**.



**IF YOU ARE CERTIFIED IN CPR & AED, PLEASE CONTACT BARB IN THE CHURCH OFFICE AND LET HER KNOW. WE ARE COMPILING A LIST OF THOSE WHO ARE TRAINED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.**

***THANK YOU!!***



**Baptism**  
of the Lord



Steve & Nicole Grove have taken the opportunity to serve as our new Food Pantry coordinators. They are asking for donations of soup and Ramen noodles for the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry for the months of January and February.

**January Special Offering**

Our special offering for January is

**“Stewards”**

(Property and Grounds)

This offering is deposited to the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Please use the brown envelopes on the table in the Gathering area.

**February Newsletter**

Deadline for articles for the February Newsletter is

**January 19, 2026**

*Thank you.*

**CHARITY KNITTING/CROCHETING MINISTRY**

At the start of the new year, we will be starting a new charity knitting/crocheting ministry. We will meet one Monday a month for fellowship, prayer, and making. Anyone may participate, even if you can't meet in person. Some of the suggested ideas are prayer shawls, chemo hats, homeless hats, etc.



Please see Brenda Myers if you have questions.



**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**  
Saturday, January 3rd  
8 am  
Fellowship Hall at WYCOB  
**PLEASE JOIN US!!!**

**YOUTH MEETING**  
Sunday, January 11th  
11:30 am to 1pm



Youth in middle or high school.  
We will read and talk about scripture.

\*\*\*\*\*

**YOUTH GAME DAY**  
Board Games

Sunday, January 25th

11:30 am to 1 pm  
Youth in middle or high school.



**2026 Offering Envelopes are now available. If you do not use envelopes and would like to start so that your giving is recorded with an end-of-year tax statement, please see Jake Hershey, Michelle Hartlaub or call the church office.**





### The Child Education Center

will be having a Popcorn Loft popcorn sale beginning Tuesday, January 6th until Tuesday, January 20th. The popcorn comes in 13 different flavors. There is also Chocolate and Peanut Butter fudge. Order forms will be available the beginning of January. We appreciate your support of our school!

**Interested in giving to West York Church Electronically? Scan the QR Code.**



#### QR CODE

Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.

Any questions, contact Jake Hershey.



### **Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry Cookie Collection**

Many thanks for everyone who baked and helped bag cookies for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. We collected exceedingly and abundantly so many cookies that we ran out of bags and bibles. 286 bags were delivered over two trips. Great job! Brenda Myers



### INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

The "Seeking Amazing Grace" Adult Sunday School class continues to grow, numerically, but even more importantly, spiritually. We will be starting the study of the book of Romans.

You do not have to be an advanced Bible scholar to be a part of this class - only someone interested in learning more about God's Word - the Bible - and how it applies to our modern-day culture.. Please come and check us out.

Bible study is one of the most important aspects of a growing, maturing faith, and is ever-increasingly important in these chaotic times in which we live. And the informal, friendly atmosphere of the Sunday School class is a great place to see God's Word come alive in your own life and walk of faith. Come join us.

We also continue to look at the Wired Word - a study of the current top news stories of the week and how Scripture applies to those stories and how we, as Christians, need to respond to the events in the news each day. Hope to see you in class.

**Care and Share Women's Bible Study** meets virtually on Mondays at 7 pm, led by Judith Wallace. They are starting a new study "*Matthew: The Arrival of the King.*"

You are invited to join one or more of these groups for Bible Study!!





*“My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness ....For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:9, 10

So many times in life when we are experiencing difficulties or things just aren't going well for us, we tend to blame God and wonder why we have to put up with so much adversity. Why must I suffer so much? Why doesn't God fix this? Why can't life be a bit easier?

A young boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was only ten years old and had lost his left arm in a car accident. But he really had a desire to learn judo - and learn it well enough to be a master himself some day. He was doing very well in his lessons, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training, the master had taught him only one move. “This is the only move you'll ever need to know,” the sensei replied.

Several months later, the sensei sensing the boy was ready for competition, took him to his first tournament. There he won all three matches. Still amazed by his own success, he found he was now in the finals. He asked the judo master why he had won.

“You won for two reasons,” the sensei answered. “First, you've almost completely mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm.” The boy's biggest weakness had become his greatest strength.

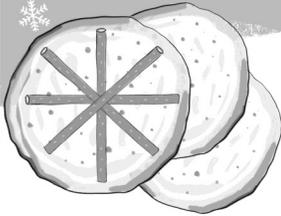
We don't often view our weaknesses in life the same way, but we should - just like Paul prayed fervently for God to remove some difficult affliction unknown to us - what he called a “thorn in the flesh.” Refusing to remove it, God said to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Pastor Godfrey

**PASTOR GODFREY'S DECEMBER SERMONS**

January	4th	-	<i>Believe and Receive</i>	John 1:1-4; 10-14
January	11th	-	<i>Baptism 101</i>	Matthew 3:13-17
January	18th	-	<i>Behold the Lamb</i>	John 1:29-42
January	25th	-	<i>Do You Have a Dream?</i>	Matthew 4:12-22

# Snowflake SNACK CAKES



Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

### What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls



### What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

### Lesson tie-in:

Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike!  
(Psalm 139:14, KJV)



## TRANSLATE GOD'S WORD

The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages.  
"Translate" the verse below using the code.

CODE	E=△	L=□	R=+
A=■	G=●	M=↗	S=■
B=X	H=◀	N=⊥	SH=☀
D=◀◀	I=▲	O=⊗	T=♪
	K=	P=□	TH=♥

Y      ◀   ■   □   □   ▲   ■   ♥   △

W      F      ⊗   ⊥   △   ◀   ⊗   ▲   ⊥   ◀◀   ■

W      ▲   ■   ◀◀   ⊗   ↗   ■   ⊥   ◀◀   ♥   △

W      ⊗   ⊥   △   ◀   ⊗   ●   △   ♪   ■

U      ⊥   ◀◀   △   ✦   ■   ♪   ■   ⊥   ◀◀   ▲   ⊥   ●

Proverbs 3:13



### Grace Delivered

Our monthly coin collection benefits the **Nashville Fire Company** with cases of water and

Gatorade. We are asking you to consider bringing your loose pocket change and extra coins to drop into our offering cans on the first Sunday of each month. If offerings will permit, we will add additional fire companies as we go along.



**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!!!**  
[WWW.WESTYORKCOB.ORG](http://WWW.WESTYORKCOB.ORG)



To sponsor the bulletin, newsletter and flowers for on the altar in 2026. Sign-up sheets are hanging on the Informational Bulletin Board in the hallway by the coat rack.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**  
meets during the  
worship service each week.



### STAY CONNECTED Follow us on

**Facebook**

**and**

**Instagram**



**West York Church  
of the Brethren  
@westyorkcob**

**West York COB  
@westyorkcob**



**THE NURSERY IS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN FROM NEWBORN THROUGH 3 YEARS OLD. IT IS LOCATED IN THE ROOM OFF OF THE GATHERING AREA.**

### CHILDREN'S STORY

**If anyone feels led to share a Children's Story during the Worship service please let Pastor Godfrey or Barb in the office know.**



**In the event of bad weather, please contact Larry Marshall for cancellations.**

# Serving our Congregation in January

## Acolytes

- 4 Danika Grove
- 11 Caleb Grove
- 18 Eva Hake
- 25 Alex Bridges



## Greeters

- 4 Darlis Parker
- 11 Brittany Nolt
- 18 Brenda Myers
- 25 Pat Eutzy



## Power Point Operator

- 4 Dave Highlands
- 11 Nathan Keefer
- 18 Larry Marshall
- 25 Bill Zumbrum



## Sound Board Operator

- 4 Larry Marshall
- 11 Ed Jacobs
- 18 Merl Keefer
- 25 Gary Hake



## Nursery Caregivers

- 4 Jessica McIntyre
- 11 Genie Grove
- 18 Linda Zumbrum
- 25 Donna Ausherman



## Hospitality Table

- 4 OPEN
- 11 Pennie Jacobs
- 18 OPEN
- 25 OPEN



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## January

Ron Horn, Jr.  
 Nathan Keefer  
 Taylor McIntyre  
 Kyle Miller  
 Holly Hartman  
 Gretchen Greiner  
 Landon Eshbach  
 Brian Allabach  
 Chuck Wallace  
 Cameron Spurlock  
 Doug Ward  
 Doug & Rita Ward  
 Judith Wallace  
 Connie Emory  
 Vivian Hubbell  
 Larry Lehman  
 Wendy Kemper



**The Wellspan Spiritual Care and Education Department** wants to let our church know when a member is in the hospital. **PLEASE identify our church at registration and admittance into the hospital.** According to HIPAA regulations, if you provide this information to the hospital, our church may be notified of the admission.



**DAY OF PRAYER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Wednesday, January 21st is our monthly Day of Prayer for our Children and Youth. Please find time during this day to pray for our Church's Ministry to Children and Youth.

*Prayer Requests*

If you have a prayer request you would like to share with the church, please fill out a prayer card (found in the gathering area) and give it to the pastor. You may also call Barb in the church office.

**West York COB Prayer Line**

**What Is It?**

It is an avenue for ALL of us to use! It is not for sharing prayer concerns, but for calling to hear what prayer concerns have been shared. It is a recorded message that Barb, our church secretary, updates a couple times a week to keep the congregation informed of those who need prayer. The number to call is **717-792-9260 (Option "5")**.

If you have a prayer concern to be added to the prayer line, please call the church office.

God Bless You for Praying!



*Thank you one and all West York for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. We miss the (food) pantry.  
You're Simply the Best!  
Shelby & Charlie Guisler*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thank you to everyone who donated or helped in anyway with the Thanksgiving meal. We served 196 meals and received over \$1,100 in donations. The people were very appreciative for these meals.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thank you to all the participants in presenting the cantata "Peace on Earth" during the worship service on December 21st. What a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus!*



**For pastoral emergencies:**  
Please contact Pastor Godfrey or Cindy Heist.



**2026 RELATED MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES**

Friends of Cross Keys Village - Connie Emory  
Children’s Aid Society - Vivian Hubbell  
Camp Eder - Don Hubbell  
Brethren Volunteer Services - Cheryl Fahringer  
Disaster Relief - Tony & Lois Hinson

In addition to the above representatives, the following positions were also approved at the Congregational meeting in October:

Tim Coonan - Leader of Gifts Discernment  
Susan Parente - Annual Conference Delegate



**2026 MEAT CANNING PROJECT**

The 2026 “Meat Canning Project” is scheduled for April 6-9, 2026.

Please watch for more information to come.

**DISTRICT**

The SO PA District Board meets on a regular basis throughout the year, and visitors are welcome to attend these meetings and bring their joys and concerns of their home congregations. If you would like to see firsthand how the Board conducts the business of the District, plan to attend the meetings listed below, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

- January 17 - Mechanicsburg COB
- March 21 - Children’s Aid Society  
(636 W. Poplar Street - York)
- May 16 - Carlisle COB
- July 18 - Rouzerville COB
- October 10 - The Brethren Home  
(Nicarry Meeting House - New Oxford)

**Announcements**

We are running the announcements on a power point prior to the worship service and after. If you have an announcement you would like to add to the power point, please contact the church office no later than Thursday each week.

If you have an announcement you would like to make in church during the worship service, please talk to Pastor Godfrey prior to the service.



The Service and Outreach Chairperson, along with our Pastor, administer and oversee a special Outreach Ministry Fund. This “Outreach Fund” will be used to assist people with uncovered or unexpected financial needs on a case by case basis. Payments to assist persons will be made against bona fide invoices only and no cash will ever be distributed to individuals.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please designate on your envelope “Outreach Fund”.

Thank you for considering to participate in this ministry with your generous offering.

