



First Church of the Brethren
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. David A. Crumrine dcrumrine@rsfirstchurch.org

January 2026

Living out our faith

Being the hands and feet of Jesus, serving with open minds and hearts.

We exist to be a community of welcome and worship where people find peace, purpose, and power through Jesus Christ.

Instead of emphasizing “new” for the New Year of 2026 will bring to us, let’s instead focus on the “old.”

Consider recommitting to the foundational beliefs and actions that worked in 2025 that we want to bring into the next year to enable us to stand tall for Jesus in the face of new challenges and opportunities.

Historians call it “cultural baggage.” Ways of doing things in the old country to help ensure success in new lands and situations. The Old Testament Prophet Jeremiah called it “walking in the old ways.” (Jeremiah 6:16). In the most recent issue of Brethren Life and Thought, Karen Garrett quotes a hymn by Brethren founder Alexander Mack as “be ready to do battle with the god of the world.” She notes that such an attitude is in keeping with the Brethren interpretation of Romans 12:2 on “not being conformed to the world.”

If we do make resolutions and promise of improvement to ourselves, think about making them in the important sphere of spiritual growth. Start with self-examination, considering areas such as your prayer life, your time spent with Scriptures, and application of God’s word to service, interpersonal relationships and to your church family.

The remainder of the Romans 12 scripture tells us that by so doing we can be “transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” To also finish the Jeremiah scripture, we are told that by so doing “we can find rest for our soul.” And that sounds like a Happy, prosperous, and great New Year!

- Pastor Dave



Highlights of Leadership Mtg.

December 2, 2025

Missions and Service Team - Sandy Burket

- White Gift will be split between RS Ministerium, Middle PA COB District and Heifer Project.
- Remaining budgeted Local Outreach was given to: Because We Care, RS Library, Blair Co Family Shelter our Blessing Box and RS Angel Tree.
- Sign-up sheet to keep Blessing Box refilled in 2026 is in Alpha classroom or contact Sandy Burket.

Christian Education Team - Kaye Russell

- Advent books available for all ages in Overflow room under balcony.
- Children singing Christmas Eve.
- No children's Sunday School Dec. 28.

Worship Team - Terry Hershberger

- Altar flower change for 2026 - Only one bouquet will be used. Cost will be \$40.
- Microphones have been upgraded so cong. singing heard better on streaming.

Finance and Facility Team - Bryce Nooyen

- Budget for 2026 approved at Forum.
- Congregation approved a proposal for electrical upgrades with a projected cost of approx. \$40,000. Should resolve some elevator issues and other safety concerns.
- Revised bids being solicited for roof with hopes of proceeding in 2026.

Hospitality and Communications Team - Beth Burns

- JOY Christmas party 12/18.
- Cookies to given out at Christmas Eve service.

Deacons' Report – Mike Bianconi reported.

- No Deacon calling will be held in 2026
- Planning to have some meals frozen and available when support is needed.

Pastor Dave

- Blue Christmas service 12/21 during worship.
- Looking ahead to baptisms and membership transfers. Let him know if you may wish to be included.

Other

- Slates were affirmed at Forum. Leadership Team will appoint Christian E chair when someone is found. Looking for delegates for Annual Conference in Fort Wayne, IN.

Next Meeting – Tuesday January 6th at 6:00

Congregational Forum held Nov.28, 2025 -

- All agenda items were affirmed.
- A brief report from the new Visioning Team was given. More information will be shared as they continue their evaluation.

Complete minutes of Forum are available for review. Contact the Church office to receive an email or hard copy. If you note needed corrections contact office.

First Church of the Brethren, Roaring Spring, PA
Congregational Forum Agenda
Sunday, November 23, 2025, 10:45am

Welcome/ Open Forum - LT Chair, Paul Witkovsky

Opened with devotion and prayer

Presentation of Agenda - Paul Witkovsky

Entertain questions/ comments - Paul Witkovsky

- o **No question or additions**

Motion to accept made at LT meeting.

- o **1st Brenda Fluke-Garber/2nd Chris Wagner**

- Affirm or not affirm with show of hands - Paul Witkovsky
 - o **All affirmed**

Congregational Forum Minutes 11/2024- Paul Witkovsky

Included in January 2026 newsletter

- **No additions or corrections**

Presentation of 2025 Leadership Team, Pastor, & Deacon Reports -

Leadership Team Chair Paul Witkovsky

Entertain questions/ comments - Paul Witkovsky

- o **No questions or comments**

Motion to accept - Paul Witkovsky

- o **1st Tom Holsinger/ 2nd Linda Steele**

- Affirm or not affirm with show of hands - Paul Witkovsky
 - o **All affirmed**

Presentation of Proposed 2026 Slate - Gifts Discernment Member Brenda Fluke-Garber

Entertain questions/ comments - Paul or Brenda

No questions or comments

Motion to accept made at LT meeting.

- o **1st Betsy Garach/ 2nd Tom Holsinger**

- Affirm or not affirm on paper -Paul Witkovsky
 - o **All affirmed**

Presentation of Proposed 2026 Budget -Bryce Nooyen Entertain

questions/ comments - Bryce Nooyen

- o **See attached notes**

Motion to accept made at LT meeting.

- o **1st Linda Steele/2nd Tom Holsinger**

- Affirm or not affirm with show of hands - Paul Witkovsky o **All affirmed**

Presentation of Church Electrical upgrades- Finance & Facility Chair Bryce Nooyen

Upgrade information - Bryce Nooyen

Entertain questions/ comments - Bryce Nooyen

- o **See attached notes**

Motion to accept made at LT meeting.

- o **1st Betsy Garach/ 2nd Cathy Petre**

- Affirm or not affirm show of hands- Paul Witkovsky
 - o **All affirmed**

Constitution Update- Paul Witkovksy

Edit the name of the Church by removing "The" from the official title of the Church. Change is noted on the constitution change log 11/6/2024
Motion to accept made at LT meeting.
Affirm or not affirm with show of hands- Paul Witkovksy

- o **All affirmed**

Church Visioning update - Terry Hershberger See attached notes.

2026 Slate notes: When Christian Ed team chair and Annual Conference delegates positions are filled Gifts Discernment Team with present names to leadership and leadership will then approve. Christian Ed could have co-chairs serve.

2026 Budget notes: F&F recv'd 2-3 quotes for insurance policy. Our current policy is the cheapest and has the best coverage. Third year in a row White Gift will be used for outreach.

Electrical upgrades notes: Upgrades are needed for safety. This should elevate the elevator and kitchen outlet issues, along with flickering lights while AC is running. The project should be about \$35-40,000 which includes contractor and Penelec (pole work & wire feed to building). There are enough funds to cover the project. Questions:

Will this fix the problem and was it known prior to the elevator repairs?

Yes, the problem will be fixed, and F&F was aware of some issues, but not to this extent.

How long should it take?

One day without power. Penelec may take a few days longer for outside work.

Is there a charge from Penelec? Does the transformer need replaced if so, who is billed for it?

The Contractor reached out to them, it is included in the quote.

Roof discussion: During the electrical upgrade discussion on roof repairs/replacement concerns.

F&F is aware of the need for roof repairs. Goal is for it to be started by Spring 2026. They are actively getting quotes from contractors; they would like to go with a local company.

Concerns: The Roof issue is deteriorating the integrity of the building, plaster and painting repair will be address when the roof work is complete. The clogged drains are more of an issue for leaking than the roof itself. F&F usually take care of cleaning the drains, the roofing contractor will likely have this addressed in their estimate for routine maintenance, due to a lift being needed to reach them. There is a concern for the work to be more costly the longer we wait. The congregation needs to be informed with progress on quotes and time frame for work to be done.

Church Visioning Impact Team: Terry explained; the team was formed out of a need for us to have a more welcoming experience at church, whether it's when you get out of your car in the parking lot or entering the building or even while in the building.

The Congregation was asked to provide positives and concerns and share them with the team.

Positives were: Very blessed to have Pastor Dave, friendliness and welcoming, many opportunities to serve and participate in fellowship other than worship, seasonal Altar decor.

Concerns listed: Building accessibility, finances, day care issues, parking and lack of handicapped spaces, inside signage, service and leadership sharing, too businesslike for a church, encourage new ideas. They are aware of accessibility issues and that will require money. Maybe we need to have a Capital Campaign for improvements? Anyone with any suggestions or comments please reach out.

Team members are: Terry Hershberger, Guy Forshey, Keith Hall, Chris Wagner, Becky Bryson, Bobbi Beers, Dan Brumbaugh, Bonnie Butler, Bryce Nooyen, Betsy Garach, Mike Bianconi, and Travis Russell.

Paul shared that everyone is encouraged to reach out to any member of leadership with any question or concerns they have and they attend leadership or team meetings at any time. Teams are asked to make sure they have meetings listed on the church calendar. **Noted** if there is a vote or private matter, guests might be asked to leave the room.

Pastor Dave closed with Prayer

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by

Valerie Smith

Church Clerk

11/2025

***Any additions or corrections, please contact the office or Valerie Smith** to help reduce the amount of paper, forum minutes are included in email copy only, if you would like a paper copy please let Courtney in the office know.



HELPING HANDS IN JANUARY



Greeter

Deacon Greeter

Mike & Becky Bianconi

Fellowship Time

Genesis Class

	4	11	18	25
Candlelighter				
Organist	Cathy Petre	Cathy Petre	Terry Hershberger	
Pianist	Marcia Fleck	Cathy Neal	Jill Delozier	Brenda Fluke-Garber
Worship Leader	Lois Lynn			
Storyteller	Pattie Conlon	Dave Crumrine	Tammy Dell	Bethann Frederick
Children's Church	Jodie & Bella Dellinger	Tammy Carter	Angie Russell	Terra Gartmann Melinda Green
Welcome Center	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland
Parking Lot Greeters	Don Bookhammer			
Flowers				
Bulletins				



**WEDNESDAY
Night
RECHARGE**

**Every
Wednesday
5:45 pm**



Good Grief Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 pm

Love Them Through It, Monday, January 12th at 6:30 pm

*Pricing for the Altar
Flowers has changed!*

*It is now \$40 to place
one arrangement of
flowers at the altar!*



**Contemporary Christian Music
Gathering the first Sunday of the
Month from 6:00-7:30 pm**



The Men's Fellowship will be having a Hoss's Fundraiser meal on Sunday, February 1st at the Duncansville Hoss's restaurant. Please let them know you are with Group # 133165

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

6 pm

The Dream

**RSVP to Janet Imes
or Valerie Smith
by January 18th**

ALL LADIES WELCOME!

**Sisters
OF FAITH**

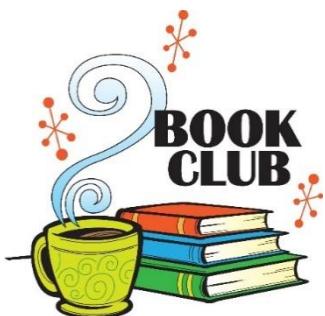
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

January 24, 2026

8 am

**Breakfast at
The Dream**

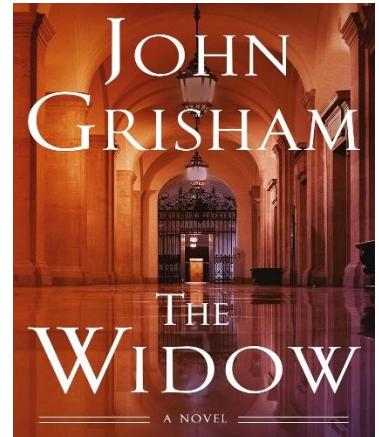
All men are welcome!



Meetings are the third Monday of each month at 10 am in the Parlor.
Join us as we discuss the monthly selection on January 19, 2026.

The Widow By John Grisham

The story follows Simon Latch, a struggling lawyer in rural Virginia barely making ends meet while his marriage falls apart. When Eleanor Barnett, an elderly widow, walks into his office needing a new will and reveals her late husband left her a hidden fortune, Simon thinks he's finally hooked the richest client of his career. But when the widow dies under suspicious circumstances, Simon finds himself accused of her murder and must race to find the real killer to clear his name.



Gripping from the first client meeting to the final pound of the gavel, *The Widow* delivers a sharp, twist-packed whodunit where every clue points to the wrong man, showcasing Grisham's mastery of yet another genre.



1/1 Keith Hall
Carol Emerick
1/4 Ryan Butler
Randy Keith
Lois Lynn
1/7 Jenni Mowery
1/8 Margaret Sell
1/9 Eliana Eicher
1/11 Michael Pollard
1/12 Dan Emerick
1/13 Troy Crumrine
1/16 Gary Thompson

1/17 Nadia Padilla
1/18 Abigail Garber
1/20 Carli Rinker
1/24 Linda Claycomb
1/25 Linda Piper
1/28 Penny Igou
1/29 Melanie Hoffman
Danielle Conrath
1/30 Becky Bryson
1/31 Gary Fluke
Mitch Frederick
Sandy Norris
Carol Imler



1/1 Mark & Betsy Garach
1/15 Travis & Angie Russell
1/18 Greg & Mary Anne Smith
1/27 Mark & Linda Steele



Since Our Last Newsletter...



Rick Carrier and Don Bookhammer assist with projects for the Disaster Relief.



Hanging
of the
Greens
First
Sunday
of
Advent



The Youth
enjoying
the
ReCharge
Christmas
Party

thank
you

A huge shout out to everybody who helped to make the ReCharge Christmas party possible. From the behind-the-scenes helpers, the kitchen help, the activity helpers, and the crowd control folks, you have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated! A special thanks to our church family for supporting this ministry financially and prayerfully. Love the ReCharge family



Left: Sisters of Faith
Christmas Dinner
Center & Right: J O Y
Christmas Brunch



This Month

January 2026 ▾

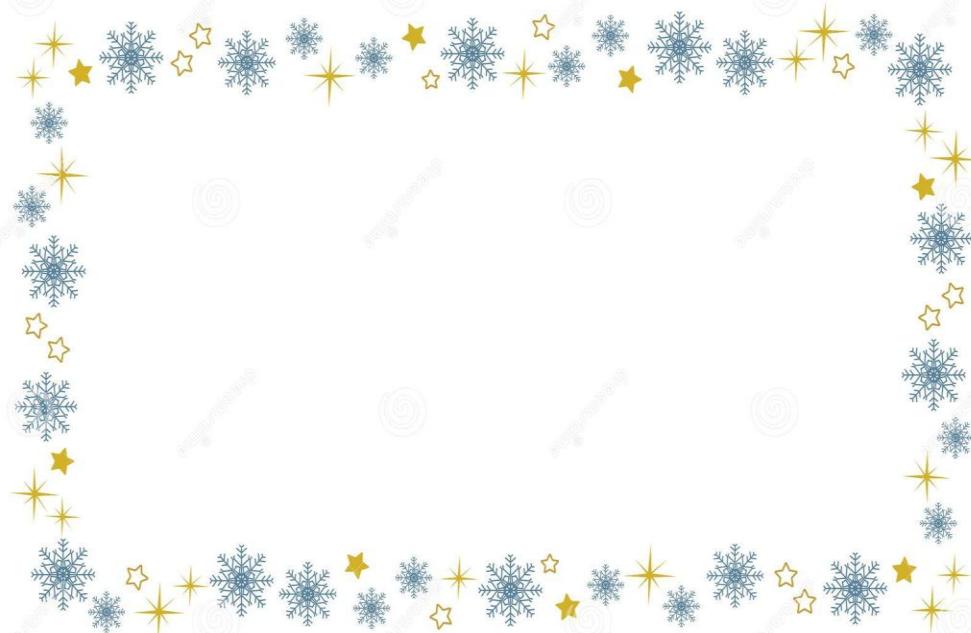
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 9:25 am Worship 10:30 am NO Sunday School	29	30 9:30 am Bible Study	31 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	1 Office Closed	2	3
4 9:25 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School	5	6 9:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Leadership Meeting	7 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45 pm ReCharge 6:15 pm Virtual Bible Study 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice	8 9:00 am Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 am Bulletin Submission Deadline 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Knitting Group in Parlor	9	10
11 Food Bank Collection 9:25 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Sunday School	12 6:30 pm Love Them Through It 7:00 pm BDM Meeting	13 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Good Grief	14 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45 pm ReCharge 6:15 pm Virtual Bible Study 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice	15 9:00 am Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 am Bulletin Submission Deadline 1:00 pm Newsletter Submission Deadline 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Knitting Group in Parlor	16	17 8:00 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
18 9:25 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School	19 10:00 am Book Group	20 9:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Sisters of Faith	21 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45 pm ReCharge 6:15 pm Virtual Bible Study 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice	22 9:00 am Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 am Bulletin Submission Deadline 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Knitting Group in Parlor	23	24
25 9:25 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School	26	27 9:30 am Bible Study	28 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45 pm ReCharge 6:15 pm Virtual Bible Study 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice	29 9:00 am Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 am Bulletin Submission Deadline 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Knitting Group in Parlor	30	31



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means.