EDITION 585 November 1, 2026

GRAY ROCK CHURCH

Independent Methodist * Ministry and Missions



Letter from Pastor Brandon Hendricks

Greetings Gray Rock Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ as we enter the month of November—a season that calls us to remember, reflect, and give thanks!

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to encourage us to press beyond what our culture has often made this season about. Thanksgiving is not ultimately about consumption, shopping, or even the meal around the table. At its heart, Thanksgiving is an act of worship—the recognition that everything we possess, every provision we enjoy, and every breath we take comes from the gracious hand of God. As the psalmist declares, *"Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good. His faithful love continues forever"* (Psalm 107:1).

When we speak of the history of Thanksgiving, it is worth remembering that this posture did not suddenly appear at Plymouth in 1621. The English Puritan tradition already practiced biblically shaped Days of Thanksgiving—special occasions set apart for prayer, Psalm-singing, public worship, and gratitude following particular acts of God's mercy. The Pilgrims carried this deeply Christian understanding with them across the Atlantic, interpreting their journey and survival through the biblical stories of God preserving His people through trial.

After enduring a devastating first winter and then receiving a successful harvest, their response was therefore not merely to celebrate that food had finally arrived. They understood their preservation as a reason to thank the Lord for His mercies. Thanksgiving was born from people who had suffered enough to recognize that provision should never be taken for granted. Every harvest, every deliverance, and every new day was received as a gift from God.

That same spirit of thanksgiving should also lead us to recognize and celebrate what God is doing through the people He has placed around us. Gratitude is not only looking back at what the Lord has provided; it is also recognizing the lives, testimonies, and gifts through which His faithfulness continues to be revealed. This November, we have a special opportunity to do exactly that as we gather for our 2026 Women's Conference, "Her Story, His Glory," on Saturday, November 14th, beginning at 8:30 A.M. here at Gray Rock Church. Breakfast and lunch will be provided as we set aside a day for worship, fellowship, encouragement, and celebrating the ways God takes the stories of ordinary women and uses them for His extraordinary purposes.

Ladies, this is your invitation to be there—and to bring someone with you! Sign up, invite your mother, daughter, sister, friend, coworker, or neighbor, and come expecting God to move. Scripture is filled with women whose faithfulness became part of something far greater than they could see at the time, and the same God is still writing stories today. As Mary declared, *"My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior"* (Luke 1:46–47). That is the heartbeat of "Her Story, His Glory": whatever God has carried you through, whatever He is presently doing, and wherever He is leading you next, your story can become another reason for His name to be praised.

So as we enter this Thanksgiving season, let us not only thank God privately for His blessings—let us celebrate His faithfulness in one another. Let us fill the room on November 14th with women ready to worship, grow, connect, and discover anew how their stories can point others toward His glory!

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving. Enter His courtyards with praise.
Give thanks to Him and praise His name." — Psalm 100:4

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Brandon Hendricks

WHAT'S THE SCHEDULE ???

NURSERY & CHILDREN'S CHURCH	DEVOTION	SANCTUARY CLEANING
NOVEMBER 2026	**NOVEMBER 2026**	**2026**
1 OLLIE, ELIZABETH, SARAH	**1** CINDY	**NOV** - PAM
8 SAVANNAH, KELLY, ADDISON	**8** TYSON	**DEC** - MELISSA
15 MELINDA, PAM, CINDY	**15** SHELIA	
22 STACY, ASHLEY, SYDNEY	**22** DONNA	
29 ELEANOR, TERA, SARAH	**29** ELEANOR	
DECEMBER 2026	**DECEMBER 2026**	**Christmas Past !**
6 SONDRA, BETTY, SYDNEY	**6** JARVIS	2025 GR Christmas Float
13 OLLIE, ELIZABETH, SARAH	**13** PAT	
20 SAVANNAH, KELLY, ADDISON	**20** JOHN P.	
27 MELINDA, PAM, CINDY	**27** BETTY	
OCTOBER CHOIR PRACTICE	**SAVE THE DATE !!!!**	
5 THURSDAY - 7:00 pm		
11 WEDNESDAY - 7:00 pm	**Dec. 4** - Oxford Christmas	
18 WEDNESDAY - 7:00 pm	Parade	
23 MONDAY - 7:00 pm	**Dec. 6 -** Church Christmas	
30 MONDAY - 7:00 pm	Dinner	

TRUNKS AND TREATS AND FELLOWSHIP - YES !!



Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner…

Left: Our little chicken, Maddie, (with a hand up from Grandpa) took the prize for best costume

Right: Riley and Sydney won for best trunk

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OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Koinonia | every Tues. | 12:30pm @ Fellowship Hall - 7:00 pm @ Parsonage

Nursing Home Choir | every Tues. | 10:30 pm

Young Adult Bible Study | Sun. afternoon @ Riley's house

Senior Citizens Luncheon | Sun, Nov 1st after church

Iron Sharpens Iron | Wed, Nov 4th @ 6:00 pm

Operation Christmas Child Packing Party | Sun, Nov 8th after church

Men's Fellowship Event | Mon, Nov 9th @ 7:00 pm

Women's Fellowship Event | Thur, Nov 12th @ 7:00 pm

Women's Conference | Sat, Nov 14th @ 8:30 am

Administrative Board Meeting | Sun, Nov 15th @ 7:00 pm

Church Breakfast | Sun, Nov 15th @ 10:00 am

Mission Team Meeting | Sun, Nov 29th after church

Oxford Christmas Parade (GR Float) | Fri, Dec 4th - parade start time 6:30 pm

Church Christmas Dinner | Sun, Dec 6th @ 6:00 pm

Children's Christmas Program | Sun, Dec 13th

Children's Ministry

Thanks for everyone's help with our recent Trunk or Treat event! We had a great turnout - praise the Lord for a wonderful evening of family fun!

Upcoming opportunities for our children - **Nov. 1st** is our Senior Citizen Luncheon & our kids are welcome to help with this. We are planning an OCC packing party right church on **Nov. 8th.** Each Sunday during Children's Church we will take a little time to work on songs for the upcoming Christmas program on **Dec. 13th.** Save the date for the Oxford Christmas parade on **Dec. 4th!** We hope all of our children will come out and ride on the float together as we seek to spread the joy of the birth of Christ during the Christmas season!

Right : Cayden - they grow up so fast…. with facial hair and everything!



Senior Citizen Luncheon

On **Sunday, November 1st,** our children/youth/young adults will be cooking lunch to honor our seniors at church. Our senior citizens over age 65 (and their spouse) are invited to stay after church and join us for lunch in the fellowship hall. We look forward to treating all our seniors to a meal on November 1st!

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING - CHURCH MEMBERS COME VOTE

There will be an administrative board meeting on **Sunday, November 15th at 7 pm.** At this meeting, we will be discussing and voting on the fiscal year 2027 budget and an amendment to the church constitution. There are handouts in the church regarding the particulars of the amendment.



As Thanksgiving approaches, lets remember what Paul states in Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

FOOD MINISTRIES

Mothers Love, INC. - Gray Rock participates with Mothers Love, INC. to help feed homeless people in Granville County. If you want to help in any way, (financially, food / water donations) please contact Pam.

Backpack Buddies -
We also collect Backpack Buddy donations for school kids. Individual snack examples: peanut butter crackers, granola bars, goldfish packs, fruit gummy snacks, etc. Thanks for your support of Backpack Buddies and for helping children who struggle to have enough to eat.

ACIM - always needs our monthly food donations. The youth group volunteers monthly at ACIM, restocking shelves and preparing food boxes but we need more volunteers with us, not just youth. We typically volunteer on the 2nd Sunday of each month so this month will be November 8. Thanks for your support of ACIM and for being the hands and feet of Jesus. Your actions matter!

MISSION TEAM

The mission team recently met on Oct. 18th. We are currently planning a mission trip for July 2027. We plan to partner with Preachee again and the **tentative date is July 5-11.** The location is still TBD - with possible locations of West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, or Western NC. We also plan to help with the Gray Rock Church float at the Oxford Christmas parade by passing out items to the crowd. The plan is to volunteer at the OCC Processing Center in Charlotte on Dec. 12th - we are currently on a waiting list. We will be partnering with the Trustees in January to help with upgrades to the fellowship hall. Upcoming fundraisers include working at the CCM sale on Feb. 6th and our walking billboard opportunity for businesses that will start in January. If you know of anyone that has needs in the community regarding work at their home - please let us know. If anyone else is interested in helping with the mission team - whether with local missions or the summer mission trip, please let us know. The more, the merrier! Our **next mission team meeting will be Nov. 29th** right after church.

MYFNEWS

We enjoyed our first joint youth gathering in October where we met with youth from Banks and Corinth for a social event. We are planning to continue having a joint youth gathering once each month rotating which church we meet at.

Our upcoming plans for **November are:**

Nov. 1st - Youth prepare lunch for seniors
Nov. 8th - ACIM 6:30pm
Nov. 15th - Youth meet after church at Corinth (**Dec. 4th** -Oxford Christmas Parade)





Games, a Gourmet and an old Sheriff packing the power of the gospel !

**** See FB for ****
**** more pics ****



GR Women's Event

The Gray Rock Women will meet Thursday, **November 12th at 7:00 pm.** We will be preparing Christmas goodie bags for the residents at Brantwood nursing home and will also be attaching messages to 1,000 (ONE THOUSAND) candy canes that will be passed out at the Christmas parade. We need LOTS of help!!!!!! Please come and participate. Snacks are provided.

Also, don't forget to mark your calendar for the Christmas dinner catered by Texas Roadhouse which is December 6th at 6:00pm. The cost will be announced at church.

We hope to see you November 12th at 7:00pm for good food, fun and fellowship.

GR Men's Event

The Gray Rock Men's group will be having their monthly meeting on November 12th at 7:00 pm. All of our men are invited to come out and join us. We are also hosting breakfast before church on Sunday, November 15th. Be sure to come fill up on a good breakfast and a good word during service!



LADIES - ITS ALMOST TIME !!!!

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

We are having a women's conference on **Saturday, November 14.**

The event begins at 8:30 am with breakfast and lunch provided . Take a time out for yourself and enjoy some fellowship!

Come learn how events in the Bible effected women and brought them closer to God.

There will be three guest speakers and we want you to come on out, show your support and most importantly, grow together in Christ.

You can sign up using the QR code pictured

Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child

It's shoebox time! Each year our church participates in the Operation Christmas Child project and want to encourage everyone to pack a shoebox for children in need around the world. Help us share Christ's love with others. You simply select a boy or girl and an age group - 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 and purchase small items for that child and place them in the shoebox. Remember no liquids or food items. Don't forget to include the $10 shipping which can be paid online or placed in the special envelope in the box. **All shoeboxes are due on Sunday, Nov. 15th, for the shoebox dedication during service. We need your help to reach our goal of 100 shoeboxes.**



REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR :

Lane Johnson, family of Sue Dickerson, Millie Walke, Jeff Nelson, Tom, family of Keith Williams, Dover Baptist Church, Emily, Belle, Stacy's coworker, Mark Belgenzahn, Central Presbyterian Church, Carol, Lauren Madsen, Len & Judy Priode, Pat Newton, Bryan Hendricks, family of Hugh Smith, Shirley & Jerry, Riley's dad & brother, Harriet Sasnett, Dycon's son, Carlos's family, people impacted by hurricane, Kathy's mom, Savannah's mom, Woodcock family, family of Kasey, Delgado family, family of Bill Satterwhite, Brooke's great grandfather, Donna Hockaday, Dale Nestor, Jeff Brummitt, Woodcock family, Christina Geraci, Lorelei Henrickson, Cindy's friend (unspoken), Riley's friend Jacob, Teri, Carter Parham, Butner family car crash, Savannah Hendricks, Nick Harp, Pam Thornton, John Brewer, Stacy's coworker, Christian Detmer, Leon Jones, Laura Hardee, Calder Van der Liden, Gary Shelton, high school students deaths, Lexi & family, Charlotte Fonvielle, Cobb family, Levon Branch & family, Dennis Whitton, family of Kristen Hicks, Wallace family, Sandra McLagan, Riley's coworker & family, Carver family, Overby family, Warren family, U.S. personnel on ships, family of Bryan Stovall, family of Greg Cheatham, Georgia's friend, Rachel Jones, Margaret McLain, Bruce Dement, family of Danny Autry, and John Keefer.







Above : Just a few of the STEW CREW, making it happen!!!!
Many thanks to the people, who so very often, go above and beyond to make the church a community.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Colossians

F H H Q A C P S E X I M E M B E R S I K O I G D
S T R A E H D T I R I P S V L U X Q G O V I N Q
Q T P S A L M S C B S S E N D N I K A X B E N P
Y S N D L J R G E N T L E N E S S S K N A H T P
O I N M E S S A G E M M O D S I W D V Q E V O L
U R G Y L O H M C H D W E L L O W L L D J A O D
R H N F N C N Q F Y S T V U T E A C H N E Z C L
S C A A F O R G I V E S E U T R I V R S S L E O
E L E T B N Y L R A E D F O R G I V E M U I C V
L G I H R G B R R F E E V A G R O F F U S W L E
V G G E C N E R E C N E I T A P A Q Q T K X O D
E B F R K I A D K C O M P A S S I O N M W E T K
S A U B F G R S C Q A S G U I S R D H D W M H N
E W U R B N H D V Y T I N U Z M S O N G S F E C
N G S X U I S T T D R X Q L R I M A K R U L E H
E H T Q L S N E B T S U P E L P O E P Z Q S U O
S T E Y J T D C E T C E F R E P W A F I J T N S
O W W O M M J A R I C H L Y E D U T I T A R G E
S E Z O L T W E U K W H U M I L I T Y K N N W N
H Y M N S W P P T H A N K F U L N I J T F E L O
B K M A W J L C P C A Z W E C N A V E I R G D V
O F K E A D M O N I S H H T B A O H J Y L T H N
W E R O F E R E H T D O G U V N B V Y D O B Q L
X S Q D E D R O L M G G G J P R Y I Q I Q V J T

compassion,
patience.
Spirit,
Forgive
richly
songs
Lord
gratitude.
humility,
psalms,
forgive
Christ
teach
Bear
grievance.
kindness,
message
people,
unity.
dwell
holy
gentleness
admonish
members
thanks
clothe
body.
the
yourselves
forgave.
hearts,
Jesus,
loved,
peace
God
Therefore,
Father.
perfect
hymns,
dearly
love,
thankful.
singing
virtues
wisdom
chosen
rule

Create your own puzzle at WordMint.com or print one of our 500,000+ pre-made word searches, crosswords, and more.

November

2026

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BD - Jason Senior Citizens Lunch - after church YG - Help with lunch	BD - Julia	NH Choir - 10:30 am KON - 12:30 & 7 pm	Iron Sharpens Iron 6:00 pm	Choir Practice - 7:00pm	ANV - Dickie & Ollie	BD - John P.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
ANV - Mike & Cindy OCC Packing Party after church YG - ACIM 6:30 pm	Men's Fellowship Event - 7:00 pm	NH Choir - 10:30 am KON - 12:30 & 7 pm	Choir Practice - 7:00pm	Women's Fellowship Event - 7:00 pm		Women's Conference -8:30 am
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Church Breakfast - 10:00am Admin Board Meeting - 7:00pm YG - meet at Corinth after CH		NH Choir - 10:30 am KON - 12:30 & 7 pm	Choir Practice - 7:00pm	ANV - Jarvis & Pat		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Choir Practice - 7:00pm	NH Choir_- 10:30 KON - 12:30 & 7pm				
29	30	1	2	29	4	5
Mission Team meet. after church.	Choir Practice - 7:00pm	NH Choir - 10:30 am KON - 12:30 & 7pm			DEC 4 - Oxford Christmas Parade - Kids be on float b4 6:30pm	DEC 6 - Church catered Christmas dinner

YG - Youth Group KON - Koinonia NH - Nursing Home Choir