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The meek

Hunger & thirst for righteousness

Blessed are ...

The persecuted

Halifax, PA 17032 105 Wind Hill Drive

HILLS OF HALIFAX SEPTEMBER, 2025

A Note from Pastor Brendan...

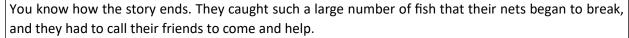
Pastor Brendan Hock: bhock@halifaxgmc.org / 717-896-8092 x 101

"Christ Centered | Community Driven."

After a long night of hard work, a team of professional fisherman had nothing to show for it, nothing but their empty nets.

Jesus approached them early the next day — Peter among them – issuing a challenge: "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

Peter's response? He said what many of us might have said. "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything." What Peter said next, however, made all the difference. "But because you say so, I will let down the nets."



It's important to remember that Peter's reason for trying again wasn't that he suddenly decided to believe in himself. He tried again because he decided to believe in Jesus. He tried again because he was ready to take Jesus at His Word. I imagine we've all been there. We've all spent long days and longer nights trying to do better, trying to be better, trying to make something happen, till we've exhausted our resources and drained every ounce of energy -- and still there's nothing to show for it, nothing but an empty net.

With a string of failures behind you, it's hard to have the nerve to try again. Why should you? You know yourself and nothing has changed. Why should this time be different? In fact, if it's all on you, and only you, I suppose it makes good sense not to try again.

But remember this story. It's not all on you. If you believe in Jesus and the simple power of His Word -that's all the reason you need to try again. Still holding an empty net? Exhausted from your efforts? Stop thinking, for a moment, about how long the night has been. Stop thinking about what hasn't happened yet. Think, instead, about what Jesus is asking you to do.

That "thing" that you're ready to give up on... that dream, that prayer, that need. Don't let it go just yet. One more time, go out into the deep, and cast your net. And, if necessary, cast it again, one more time — as many one-more times as it takes, and let Jesus fill the net to overflowing.

I love you all,

Pastor Brendan

HOLIDAY CHURCH BAZAAR

The Holiday Church Bazaar is on Saturday, Nov 1st! Spread the word to welcome any vendors to set up a table or 2. We are also welcoming any homemade crafts this year! We will be ready to receive your donations the week before the bazaar. Any questions can be directed to Deb Herb, 717-495-8251; Jacquie Cooper, 717-896-3036; Kathy Snyder, 717-329-1778; Darla Lentz, 717-497-3245; or Pat Scheidler (717-422-4754). There will be a craft day at 9am on Tuesday, September 16, and another one on Monday, October 6. Please contact one of us if you can join us for this fun event!

LAY LEADER UPDATE

Over the last several months my focus has come to rest on the subject of discipleship. First, as Pastor Brendan began meetings with the vision team, I found that with great unity, the vision team zeroed in on the issue of discipleship as the main need of our church. It is discipleship that gives meaning, purpose, and structure to why a person makes a decision for Christ. If discipleship is weak, being a Christian can take on errors that produce an unbiblical lifestyle. It is discipleship embodied in our life that provides the impetus for changing us into biblical reflections of Christ. The vision team believed that to thrive in today's world, discipleship needs to be a strong and integrated aspect of our lives.

Second, I was pleasantly surprised at the Northeast Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church. This year it was held in Cortland, NY. It was truly an honor for me to be able to represent our church along side Pastor Brendan. The Theme of the Conference was "Fanning the Flame". As the conference leadership presented a vision for the future, they focused on the concept of "Holiness". They said that holiness is needed in our churches today. Holiness is that characteristic that is evident when others can see an unquenchable desire in us to be like Christ. Holiness is a desire to be like Christ as the bible presents him to be, not as we want him to be. We do not shape God into the image we desire; rather, God shapes us into what He desires. I may be mistaken, but it seems to me, that is what discipleship is all about. It brings me great joy to see our Conference leadership tackle such a high calling!

And Third, my own personal studies are also focused on discipleship. I have been looking into what makes a "healthy" Christian and a "healthy" church. I am studying a book called Natural Church Development, (N.C.D.). The book lays forth the idea that leaders should not focus on church growth, but rather on church health. Healthy things grow and duplicate. If you aim at growth, many gimmicks can produce numbers. But if you aim at health, growth and multiplication is a natural by-product. Health is yet another way of talking about discipleship. And currently, I have a burden for myself to be a healthy disciple, and for our church to produce healthy disciples as well.

So, I leave you with the question that our Northeast Annual Conference challenged me with. "Do others see in you an unquenchable desire to be like Jesus?" Embrace this question every morning and grade yourself at the end of each day!

Rick Stence (Lay Leader)

FOOD ROOM

Thank you to everyone who donated toiletry items for the Food Room.

We serve approximately 30 individuals/families each week.

The donations have been greatly appreciated by our clients!



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you for your generous giving towards Forward in Faith, which enables the church to save for future capital expenses vs. going into debt.

Below is a list of current projects to begin this fall:

- Replacing the front walkway and handicap access to the entry of the church
- Painting the HUB
- Installing electric in the new shed

Going forward, monthly updates will be provided via the newsletter on the Forward in Faith balances. This will include the savings amount, as well as the costs incurred on the current projects.

<u>Please note, Forward in Faith balances will no longer be reflected in the weekly bulletin to ensure there</u> is clear communication.

Below are the balances as of 07/31/2025.

Current projects as listed above:

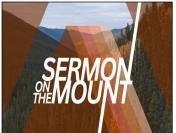
- Budgeted Cost: \$62k
- Cost Incurred to Date: \$0
- Forward in Faith Savings Balance: \$96,946.54

(Cost Incurred to Date has been removed from this number)

Note: No costs have been incurred yet as the current projects are still in the planning phases.

Thank you again for supporting the debt-free future of our church.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



As we move into the Fall Season, we are excited to begin a new series on the **BEATTITUDES from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount**. The most famous and misunderstood message of Jesus is The Sermon on the Mount. Some arrogantly assert that this sermon is their own personal code of ethics while others say it's an impossible standard that won't be kept until Heaven. Matthew 5 through 7 are some of the most challenging, convicting, and comforting chapters to be found in all the Bible. Join us this fall as we look at this great sermon together!

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:1-2

Title: Beattitudes: God's Kingdom

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:1-4

Title: Beattitudes: Entering the Kingdom

Sunday, September 21, 2025

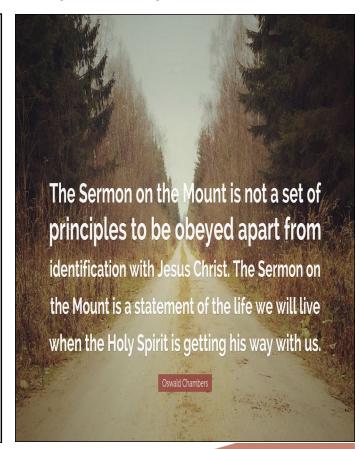
Text: Matthew 5:1-5

Title: Beattitudes: Living Gently

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:1-6

Title: Beattitudes: Right Hunger



ADULT MINISTRY UPDATE

Pastor of Family Ministry: Jesse Funk—jfunk@halifaxgmc.org | 717-896-8092, x 102

Happy Fall everyone!

I hope you're as excited as I am about this fall season of ministry! As we continue to listen for God's direction regarding what new ministries He wants here at HCC, we will still continue to hold as many discipleship opportunities this fall as we always have.

In Ephesians, Paul desires for his flock to have the ability to comprehend "the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge..." Many of us know the commands of God, but do we know the character of God just as well? If we know He loves us, do we know how much? If we know He is good, do we know how good? This fall, we invite you to not only know the commands of God, but the depth of His love, grace, mercy, and goodness towards YOU. We hope to walk alongside you as you find the depth of God's love towards you is far deeper than you ever previously thought.

Check out the next page to see some classes that can help you along this journey, and sign-up sheets are currently in the church lobby; or, you can send me an email or call me to sign up!



UPCOMING EVENTS

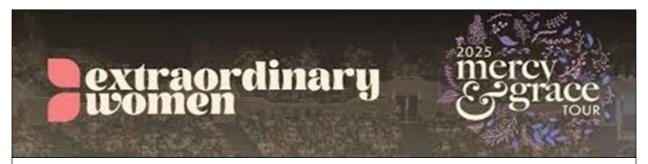
- Planning is underway for this year's Fireproof Families events. Feel free to come to Pastor Jesse with any ideas or feedback from last year's event!
- Women's Ministry is gathering groups to attend the September, 2025 Extraordinary Women Conference in Hershey, PA (see page 13)
- The Men's Ministry is planning another Men's Barbecue for November, with the specific date to be announced in the near future.

As always, if you feel the Spirit may be urging you to lead or join a small group, I would love to talk to you about that to help discern where God is directing you!

In Christ,

Pastor Jesse

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN CONFERENCE



<u>WHAT</u>: Extraordinary Women – <u>Speakers</u>: Lysa TerKeurst, Demi Tebow, Annie F. Downs, Elizabeth Woodson, Shelene Bryan, & Chonda Pierce. <u>Worship Leader:</u> Michael O'Brien Friday Night Concert: Chris Tomlin

WHEN:

<u>Friday, Sep 19, 2025, 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM</u> EDT (doors open at 6:00 PM) <u>Saturday, Sep 20, 2024, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM</u> EDT (doors open at 7:30 AM)

WHERE: Giant Center, 550 Hersheypark Dr., Hershey, PA 17033

<u>WHO</u>: Ladies of Halifax Community Church, our friends, acquaintances, neighbors, relatives - anyone you'd like to invite!

HOW TO REGISTER:

https://ewomen.net/hershey-pa-2025/

Select "Register Now".

Select "Join a Group".

From the drop-down list under "Search for an existing group", select group "GilmoreLHer25", passcode GilmoreLHer25

Gold Group: Registration with <u>Early Entry</u>, <u>Reserved Seating Section</u>, All purchases are non-refundable. \$99.00

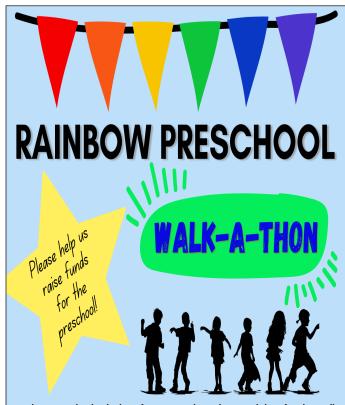
Basic: \$79.00. All purchases are non-refundable.

Box Lunch: \$15.00. Chic-Fil-A - Box lunch includes hot chicken sandwich, chips, cookie, and bottled water. All purchases are non-refundable. <u>Available until September 6, 2025.</u>

<u>CONTACT PERSON:</u> If you would like to arrange to ride with someone else or are available to drive others, or if you have any other questions, please contact **Lynn Gilmore: 717-756-3441 / LynnGilmore@gmail.com.**

Tickets will likely sell out, so don't wait until the last minute!

RAINBOW PRESCHOOL

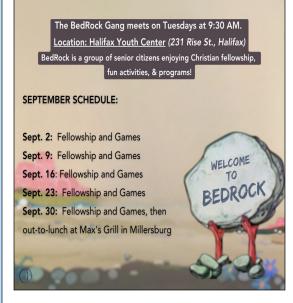


Rainbow Preschool is looking for sponsors! Students and their families will be participating in a Walk-A-Thon to raise money for the preschool. Money raised will go directly towards educational materials, field trips and activities for the students. If you would like to sponsor the preschool as an individual or a business, please fill out the below form and submit it along with your donation to the church office. If you have any questions, please email us at preschoolehalifaxgmc.org

-please make checks payable to Halifax Community Church-

Name of Sponsor	Donation Amount
Address	Phone Number

BEDROCK



CANNING EVENT

FROM GARDEN TO GIVING: JARS OF JOY

RSVP: Kelly Wenrich, officemanager@halifaxgmc.org / 717-896-8092

September 7th, 12PM-2PM
Location: lower level (HUB)

JOIN US FOR A HANDS-ON LESSON IN HOME CANNING

LEARN THE BASICS OF WATER CANNING WHILE MAKING SPAGHETTI SAUCE AND DILL PICKLES TO TAKE HOME.



WHAT TO BRING (OPTIONAL):

- Cutting board & knife
- Mason jars (pint or quart size)
- Other canning supplies you may have on hand
- Any extra tomatoes or cucumbers you may have
 - A joyful spirit and willingness to learn and share

ADULT MINISTRY (CONTINUED)

Pastor Jesse's 9am SS and 6:30pm Wednesday Night Study, Room 103 (Romans): In this series, Michael DeFazio (New Testament faculty at Ozark Christian College) will walk through the book of Romans and see Paul clarifying the Gospel, unifying the church, and proving God's righteousness and love. Join us as we deepen our understanding of the true freedom the Gospel provides!

Rick & Kathy Stence's 9am SS, Conf. Rm. (Hebrews): The book of Hebrews is a study on the superiority of the new covenant under Christ. Join us as we discover the Old Covenant as a mere shadow of what will be so wondrously and sufficiently accomplished by Christ becoming our new High Priest!

Alan Bostdorf's 9am Young Adults SS, Room 104 (77 FAQs): In this series, you will learn the answers to not only your own questions about the Bible, but also questions of people God has brought into your life to witness to!

John Orr's 10:30am SS, Conf. Rm. (Seeing God as a Perfect Father): How you view God informs everything about who you are and who you're becoming. In this powerful study, bestselling author and pastor Louie Giglio challenges our perceptions of who God is and points us to know him as a heavenly Father who is not absent or ambivalent but is available and ready to embrace you with his unconditional love and blessing. Join us as we learn the joy of having a perfect Father!

Alan Bostdorf's 9:30am Monday Morning Adult Study, Conf. Rm. (Revelation): Are you ready to live fully prepared and fully equipped to handle anything life throws at you? In this eight-session series, pastor and author Matt Chandler will walk us through the book of Revelation to remind us of God's fierce, conquering, commanding authority over all the earth.

BedRock Gang meets Tuesdays at 9:30am, Halifax Youth Center (231 Rise St., Halifax). We are a group of senior citizens enjoying Christian fellowship, fun activities, & programs! See schedule on page 12.

Monthly Men's Breakfast—Food, Fellowship, & Faith: 2nd Tuesdays of the month, 8:30am, Dennies Lennies. Come together for an hour of food and conversation. We will be continuing in quick devotion from the book, 100 Verses for Successful Leaders. Join us anytime, we can always add a chair.

Pastor Brendan's 6:30pm Wednesday Night Study, Conf. Rm. (Through the Bible): Join us as we are starting fresh in the New Testament!

ReachOut: LifeGroup, led by Kathy Stence, (Elijah): 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 10am, at her home (call for address: 717-413-8705). In this series, you will learn about the life and ministry of one of the most effective prophets of the Old Testament. Join us as we learn about the man who defied and defeated the prophets of Baal, and brough down the glory of God for all to see.

Adult LifeGroup, led by David & Dawn Sariano, (Hebrews): Wednesdays, starting 9/17, at 7 pm, Room 104, on a bi-weekly schedule. Join us as we study Hebrews—verse-by-verse!

CORNERSTONE COUNSELING

WE'D LIKE YOU TO MEET OUR COUNSELOR!

Stephanie is a passionate lover of Jesus and mother of three children - ages 11, 10, and 7. She holds a Master's Degree in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling from Messiah College and has experience working with a variety of issues and concerns within the context both private and community health settings. Stephanie works at IHCW's Halifax office, in partnership with Cornerstone Counseling Ministry. Stephanie provides couple, marriage, and individual counseling and works with adults, teenagers, children, and families. In addition to her role at In Him, Stephanie is the president of a local non-profit organization, No Other Love, and also teaches clinical training workshops for the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs across the state. Stephanie enjoys music, good coffee, playing with her children, friends, worship, hosting traveling/exploring, prayer, reading, writing, and inspiring people to pursue a deeper intimacy with Jesus!





Stephanie Berlin, MA

Halifax

Specialties:

Marriage Counseling Sexual Trauma
Families Children
Individuals Teens
Addiction Adults
Grief & Loss

Credentials:

- BA in Psychology, 2010, McDaniel College
- MA in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling,
 2023, Messiah University

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THANK YOU TO OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS!!



We have had the most amazing and faithful season! VBS was so much fun, a true blessing. We are so thankful to every one of you that gave a hand or two for a day or all week. We absolutely loved the week of faith, fellowship, and watching the children's faith grow. Our week was filled with such Love and Faith—Thank you doesn't feel like enough. We are feeling so blessed and filled with JOY in our hearts! Our family here at Halifax Community Church, and being privileged to spend the week with so many others all serving with the same purpose, is so encouraging! We were blessed to work side-by-side with 50+ volunteers through the week, 20 of which were youth leaders, and we were able to reach 109 children throughout the week. When I say our hearts were overflowing, I am not exaggerating—it was the best week of 2025!! We are so thankful to every one of our amazing volunteers and feel so blessed to be a part of such an amazing faith-filled family/community!



Well over \$1300 was raised by the children as the community support project for VBS for:

Boy Scout Troop 1165
Cub Scout Pack 156
Girl Scout Unit 191



ROCKSTAR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry Coordinators: Tricia & Adam Farner children@halifaxqmc.org | 717-896-8092, x 103



We are now gearing up for a fun fall season! "God is on the Move" will be starting the week of September 1st—following Labor Day! "God is on the Move" will gather one night a week to spend some time in fellowship with each other and to enjoy some exercise together. It would be like a running club for any level of walker/runner and kids would be included. Children are welcome and encouraged to be a part of this! We hope it's another way to get to know each other more. The sign-up sheet is at the church, please feel free to join!!

"STEPPING STONES" FOR 5TH GRADERS

We will be introducing "Stepping Stones" to our 5th grade group on September 7th with John McCarty leading the group! We are still looking for a couple additional volunteers to assist. This will bridge the gap between our RockStars and RockSolid groups and the students are very excited about it! This program will be offered at 9 am during Sunday School. If you are interested in helping support this new and exciting program, please reach out!

PARENT CONNECT

I am looking at starting a group for parents to connect with other Christian parents. Years ago, I was part of "Parent Connect", which got together during the day in the middle of the week. Since evenings can be so busy for families, we thought we'd do a survey to see the level of interest in starting this or something similar. Anyone interested in a time of fellowship with other like-minded parents, please connect with me, I'd love to have you be a part of this!

VOLUNTEER OPENINGS

We do have a few openings in our volunteer schedule so please reach out if you are interested in sharing your gifts in this way, we'd be blessed to have you! Our volunteer team is amazing and always willing to help out! if you have any questions, please connect with one of us!

OUR BUTCHER'S FAMILY FUN FARM OUTING IS BEING PLANNED, SO STAY TUNED!



MUSIC MINISTRY

Creative Worship/Choir Director: Carol Bostdorf—cbostdorf@halifaxgmc.org | 717-896-8092, x 105



Let's start the Music! Get ready for the Fall Season by attending the Music Ministries Potluck Kickoff on <u>September 3rd at 6:30pm in the HUB</u>. All current music ministry participants are encouraged to attend (Adult Choir, Hand Bell Choir, and Worship Team), as well as anyone wanting to become a music ministry team member.

Spouses and families are also invited to attend. Come share a side dish or dessert. Meat, condiments, and drinks will be provided. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Carol!

Adult Choir Rehearsals will begin on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>September 10th at 6:30 in the choir room</u>. Anyone high school age or older is welcome to participate. We sing 2 Sundays a month (the first and 3rd), and at special services. There are also opportunities to sing in small groups and ensembles. Any questions, please contact me!





BACK to CHURCH Sunday on Sunday September 7th. "Life is Better Together" is our theme. A Sunday to welcome everyone back after the summer season and get involved with different ministries of the church. Ministry fair tables will be available in the lobby for everyone to check out the different ministry options. We will have coffee, donuts and lemonade prior to both services, where you can leisurely look over the ministry fair and socialize with other members of the congregation. A new sermon series will be starting based on "The Beatitudes". Everyone is welcome! Invite your friends. We look forward to starting a great year of ministry here at HCC where "Life is Better Together"!





ROCKSOLID YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Cherry Pechart—youth@halifaxgmc.org | 717-896-8092, x 113 We exist to reach, equip, and empower students to be life-long followers of Jesus.

WEEKLY YOUTH RECHARGE/GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL-

Join us from 9-10am in the HUB.

For September...

6th-7th Grade Sunday School

Bible in Life- Escaping Egypt: Patience

8th-12th Grade Sunday School

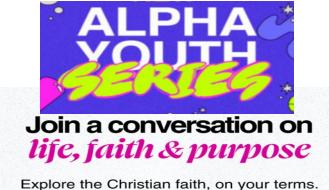
RightNow Media Study-Control by DA Horton

Wednesday Youth Group-

- ⇒ Held weekly at the Youth Center
- 5:30pm Dinner
- ⇒ 6-7:30pm Lesson/Gametime



COME JOIN ALPHA THIS FALL AT WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP! KICK OFF SEPTEMBER 3RD



and is designed to spark conversation.

Come along, see what you think.



YOUTH MINISTRY (CONTINUED)



The Halifax Youth Center is open on all Halifax full school days, from 2:30-5:30pm.

6th-12th grade students from any school are welcome to attend.

Youth Center Meals: Can you help???

Food is a very important part of the Youth Center Ministry at this time. Thanks for your help in this important way!

Please sign up using the YC Meals google formhttps://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AqguVn-An5qzE13nydvPEy5JUtKfT_iQS8AIyeAzuaU/edit?usp=sharing or contact Cherry Pechart, youth@halifaxgmc.org or 717-497-4338



Mac n' Cheese Monday - We've got this covered! Thank you!!

Taco Tuesday - Prepare 3-4lbs taco meat in advance and freeze....label "Youth Center" and drop off in the HUB freezer or Youth Center the week prior to your sign up.

Whatever Wednesday - Prepare a meal for Youth Group (5:30pm); anticipate 20 to 30 youth. You can drop off meal warm by 5:15 at the Youth Center or prepare/deliver ahead of time to be warmed up by Youth Center staff.

Throw Back Thursday - Prepare a casserole or two; can be an oldie but goodie or something new you want to try; soups are great, too!

- · If frozen, drop off in HUB freezer or Center. Label "Youth Center"
- Include baking instructions, temperature and time .
- . If preparing the same day, deliver to the Youth Center by the 2:15pm

Free the Fridge Friday - We've got this covered! Thank you!!

Food and Supply Donations are always welcomed by families, friends, and the community!

For more information. please contact **Cherry Pechart at** youth@halifaxgmc.org

717-896-8092, ext. 113, or visit the "Halifax Youth Center" on Facebook.



IMPACT THE FUTURE AND **CHANGE LIVES!**

BECOME A

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS? NTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

717-896-8092 ext. 113 youth@halifaxgmc.org **ENGAGE IN CONVERSTATIONS** SHARE YOUR HOBBIES HAVE FUN!