

HILLS OF HALIFAX

NOVEMBER, 2025



105 Wind Hill Drive

Halifax, PA 17032

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

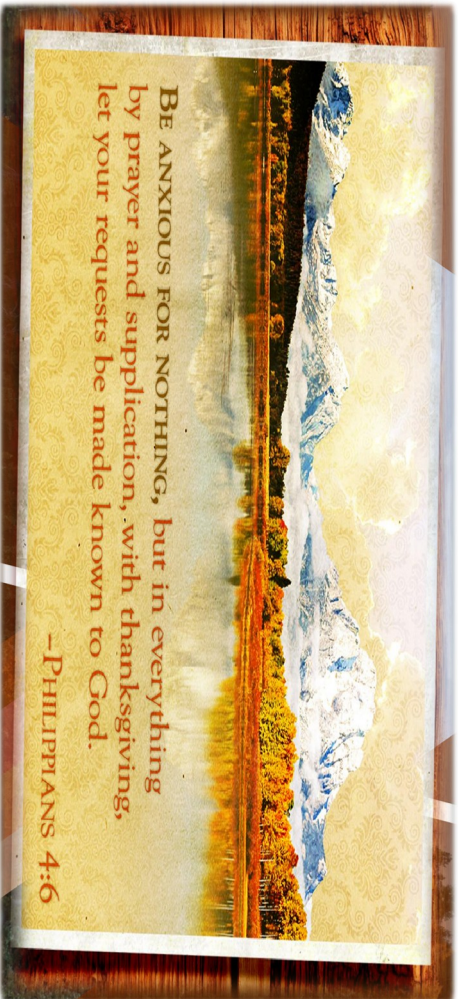
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A Note from Pastor Brendan...

Pastor Brendan Hock: bhock@halifaxgmc.org / 717-896-8092 x 101 “Christ Centered | Community Driven.”

By the time you read this article you will have heard that after much prayer, reflection, and seeking the Lord’s guidance, I believe God is leading me into a new season of ministry. This has not been an easy discernment process, as my heart is deeply connected to this congregation and the work we have shared together; yet, through prayer, Meagan and I have sensed a clear and peaceful direction from the Lord to serve in a different congregation.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of serving alongside each of you. Together, we have sought to honor Christ and advance His Kingdom in this community, as we walked alongside people and loved them. Your prayer and partnership in ministry have been an incredible blessing to me personally and to my family.

This decision does not come out of restlessness, but out of obedience. The God of all peace is calling me onward, and He is already raising up a person to provide faithful leadership for this church in the years ahead.

I have complete confidence and trust in the program staff of our church. The gifts they bring in pastoral, children, youth, & music ministries is a blessing and it has been an honor to work alongside them. I believe they will be a tremendous support to the new spiritual shepherd of this flock. My prayer is that this transition will be marked by unity, peace, and an unwavering confidence in God’s good plan for His Church.

I look forward to walking with you in the coming months - through June 2026, to ensure a smooth and healthy transition. My prayer is that you will strive to be forward-looking and excited for God’s amazing future that He has for HCC. I am grateful for you all.

With love and gratitude in Christ,



Pastor Brendan

(More information is on the back page)

Pastor Brendan and the SPRC are currently working with Reverend Rob Townsend, Presiding Elder for the Northern Maryland District and the Dean of the Appointive Cabinet of the Northeast Annual Conference of the GMC, to begin the process of choosing a successor – viable candidates will be recruited for and presented to the SPRC for consideration, and each candidate selected to move forward will participate in a formal interview process with the SPRC. We’re hopeful to select, and have an official offer acceptance from, our new pastor ahead of Pastor Brendan’s departure in June.

Do members have a say in the hiring process?

Under the GMC, the SPRC is responsible for hiring for all roles within HCC, including the Lead Pastor position. All SPRC members are HCC members, nominated and selected for service by other HCC members.

That said, the SPRC welcomes and encourages your feedback to gain an understanding of perspectives regarding pastoral candidates’ experience, character traits, attributes, etc. so that we can thoughtfully prepare our requirements for the GMC with your insight.

What will Pastor Brendan’s transition look like?

Pastor Brendan will remain our Lead Pastor until June, and our ministries will continue to be spearheaded by current leadership. Because of Pastor Brendan’s gracious time allowance and the energy and commitment our ministry leaders deliver to our congregation and community, we can look forward to a successful and seamless transition.

Will Pastor Brendan continue to preach, lead new member classes, officiate weddings / funerals, perform baptisms, etc. during the transition period? Yes.

Will Pastor Jesse continue to be our Pastor of Family Ministries? Yes.

Will there be an event planned to celebrate Pastor Brendan’s contributions to HCC ahead of his departure?

Yes – we’re excited to celebrate Pastor Brendan’s unwavering discipleship and leadership over his past seven years of service at HCC, and we’ll keep all members and the congregation posted on details closer to time. In the meantime, please shower Pastor Brendan, Meagan and the boys with your gratitude and well wishes.

How can I help support and ensure a smooth transition for my children / youth?

Be transparent with your children when this topic of discussion arises – share with them that Pastor Brendan felt a personal calling to move forward, and he courageously answered. To help them understand, consider sharing stories of biblical respondents to God’s call (Abraham leaving his homeland for a new promise, Moses freeing Israel, David becoming king, Isaiah becoming a prophet, the apostles following Jesus, etc.)

Who can I reach out to with questions or for support?

Please reach out to **Pastor Brendan, our Lay Leader, or any SPRC member** with questions or concerns:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Rick Stence, Lay Leader: 717-413-9170 | Brad Brunner: 717- 580-5298 |
| Vonda Blasick, SPRC Chairperson: 717-215-2379 | Lynn Gilmore: 717-756-3441 |
| Troy Masser: 717-319-3350 | Jen Altland: 717-645-9509 |
| Ryan Rhoades: 717-979-6000 | Steve Ciccocioppo: 717-579-2120 |
| | Lois Campbell: 717-896-8507 |

Why did Pastor Brendan resign?

Following nearly seven years of leading our church, and after thoughtful discernment of God’s plan for his next step in faith, Pastor Brendan felt a personal calling to move forward from HCC for a new opportunity to continue using his gifts for God’s unique purpose and mission for his life.

When will Pastor Brendan’s last day / sermon be?

Pastor Brendan is graciously committed to serving in his current role until June. This will benefit us tremendously, as it’ll allow us the time needed to thoughtfully and prayerfully select a new pastor.

What new opportunity will Pastor Brendan be taking on?

Pastor Brendan will be serving another congregation in ministry – details will be shared later, after the Cabinet has prayerfully discerned.

Could the church’s affiliation, mission or vision change as a result of new pastoral leadership?

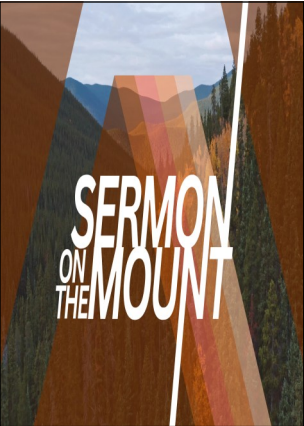
Our church’s affiliation will not change, and our new pastor will be selected by the SPRC and appointed by the GMC. Our mission and vision are regularly evaluated on a recurring basis (ex: this summer, Pastor Brendan lead a Vision Committee that finalized a three-year vision plan for HCC). Under our new pastor’s leadership, we’ll continue to monitor and optimize these core values.

What does the process of finding a new pastor entail?

While historically, prior to Pastor Brendan’s initial arrival, our church under the UMC affiliation used an episcopal "appointment system" where bishops, not congregations, have the final authority to assign pastors, we’ll be hiring for our new pastor under the GMC guidelines, which differ significantly and had been used after disaffiliation last year when we’d asked Pastor Brendan to continue his leadership of our church. A detailed overview of this process can be referenced below:

Feature	United Methodist Church (UMC)	Global Methodist Church (GMC)
Final authority	Bishop and cabinet have final say.	Local church has a significant voice and can decline a candidate.
Congregational power	Input is consultative; local SPRC does not hire the pastor.	Power is more congregational, with the ability for the church to interview and reject candidates.
Guaranteed appointment	Ordained elders are guaranteed an appointment.	No guaranteed appointment; clergy must compete for positions.
Appointment length	Appointments are made annually.	Appointments are intentionally longer-term.
Bishop's role	Elected for life, with full authority over appointments.	Term-limited, with less concentrated authority.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



In November, we will continue going verse-by-verse through the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus’ message in Matthew 5 is one of the most powerful and transformative teachings He ever gave. It reveals what life looks like when we live under God’s rule—when our hearts, not just our actions, reflect His character. In these words, Jesus turns the world’s values upside down, calling us to a deeper righteousness, genuine mercy, and a radical love that mirrors His own.

As we continue in this series, we will walk through Jesus’ vision of kingdom living—challenging, inspiring, and reshaping how we see God, ourselves, and others. It’s more than a list of moral lessons; it’s an invitation to live as citizens of heaven—here on earth.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:10-12
Title: Sermon on the Mount: Happy Are the Hassled

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:13-16
Title: Sermon on the Mount: Salt & Saints

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:17-20
Title: Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom of Heaven

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Text: Matthew 6:1-4
Title: Sermon on the Mount: Generous Living

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025
(First Sunday of Advent - Holy Communion)

Text: Matthew 5:17-18
Title: Sermon on the Mount: The Messiah & the Bible



Thanksgiving Eve Service

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

6:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY



May this Thanksgiving bring you peace, love, and a grateful heart.

ADULT MINISTRY UPDATE

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

Happy Fall, Everyone!

It has been a wonderfully active Fall season so far at HCC, and the engagement we’ve seen in Adult Discipleship has grown to such an exciting degree.

In my personal study time, I’ve been struck by **Psalm 103: “Bless the Lord, o my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”** How easy it is for me to forget those benefits! Thankfully, the Psalmist reminds us that we belong to a God who:

“Forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

I don’t know about you, but that’s about all I need in this life. If God is nudging you to remember all His benefits, take a look at the adult ministry opportunities below!

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to have 4 Sunday school classes and 4 mid-week discipleship groups running through the Fall, with many of them running year-round! Whether young adults, women’s groups, or mixed discipleship groups, HCC has a place for YOU to grow in God’s grace!

FAMILY MINISTRY

A **Family Event** coming up will be Pizza and Movie Night on Saturday, November 15th from 5pm-8pm. Your whole family is invited to grab some pizza and watch King of Kings, which our Kid’s Ministry Directors have been waiting to watch with you all! Come join us for a night of fellowship and fun! If you have any questions, you can reach out to Pastor Jesse, or Tricia and Adam Farner.

MEN’S MINISTRY EVENTS

Our annual **Crockpot Cook-Off** will be held in January, be on the lookout in your bulletin for an official date to be set!

The Men’s Ministry is still open to adding 2-3 men interested in planning men’s ministry events throughout the year. Reach out to Pastor Jesse if you’re interested!

WOMEN’S MINISTRY EVENTS

Christian Life Assembly Christmas Play- The Women’s ministry has purchased 20 tickets to go see the Christmas play at Christian Life Assembly in Camp Hill on December 14th. Tickets are \$20 and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Ladies, you can buy your tickets starting Sunday, 11/2! The ladies will gather for a meal at Hoss’s after second service on the day of the play, and will carpool to Christian Life Assembly. If you have any questions about this event, you can reach out to Kathy Stence!

As always, if you would like to find or start a life group, Sunday school, or engage with any other form of adult ministry, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me!

In Christ, -Pastor Jesse

FOOD ROOM

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Giant Donation Pick-up: 2nd & 4th Saturday mornings of the month.

Food Room organizing/stocking: Looking for assistance Thursday morning after Giant donation drop-off.

Please contact Kara Stiely for more detailed information:

Phone: 717-418-4368

Email: kstiely240@comcast.net.



HALIFAX FOOD ROOM

Contact Food Room Coordinator With Any Questions:
Kara Stiely – kstiely240@comcast.net

HOURS

Mondays: 9 – 11:30 AM
Thursdays: 3:30 – 6 PM
3rd Saturday of the Month: 9 – 11 AM

LOCATION

105 Wind Hill Drive, Halifax.
The brick house at the top corner of the church parking lot.
(Follow the sign by Wind Hill Rd.)

Pre-registration is not needed.
When you arrive, volunteers will assist you!



Christmas Food Bags will be provided to Food Room clients. A list of items needed will be attached to bags & in the church lobby for you to take and fill starting Sunday, November 2nd. We are asking for the bags to be returned by Sunday, November 30th (as bags will be distributed in the Food Room during the weeks of December 8th and 15th). Thank you for helping to provide a nice holiday meal to those in need!

USHERS NEEDED

USHERS NEEDED FOR BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES



- HAND OUT BULLETINS & GREET PEOPLE AS THEY ENTER THE SANCTUARY
- MAKE SURE MONETARY OFFERINGS ARE SECURED ONCE SERVICE BEGINS
- HELP PASS OUT COMMUNION ON SCHEDULED SUNDAYS

IF INTERESTED, CONTACT KAYLA:
OFFICE@HALIFAXGMC.ORG / 717-896-8092, EXT. 110

POINSETTIA ORDERS



*Christmas
Poinsettias*

Order Deadline
NOVEMBER 16TH
\$9.00 each

Place order envelope in
KAYLA'S MAILBOX!

Flowers can be taken home after
the Christmas Eve service you
attend.

BLUE CHRISTMAS



*Blue Christmas
Service*

Wednesday, December 3rd
6:30 pm

Halifax Community Church
105 Wind Hill Drive, Halifax

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 are the balances as of September 30:

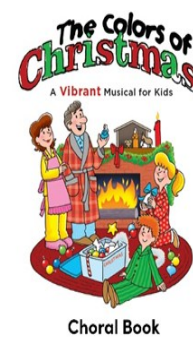
- **Cost Incurred to Date: \$34K**

Forward in Faith Savings Balance: \$72K
(Cost Incurred to Date has been removed from this number)

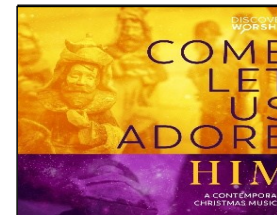
Thank you again for supporting the debt free future of our church.

MUSIC MINISTRY

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



The children and Youth of our church will be presenting the Christmas musical “The Colors of Christmas” on Christmas Eve at the **4pm Family Service**. **PLEASE NOTE the time change for this service.** We are looking for children and youth grade K – 8th grade to participate. **Our first rehearsal will be on November 9th at 4pm and will continue Sunday evenings except for 11/16 and 12/21. Final rehearsal will be on Monday, December 22nd at 4pm with a Pizza Party.** If your child/children would like to participate please contact: Carol Bostdorf, Tricia Farnar or Cherry Pechart. We look forward to an exciting presentation as we learn about the “Colors of Christmas” and what they mean.



The Festival Choir will be presenting the Christmas Cantata “Come Let Us Adore Him” on **Sunday, December 21st at both worship services**. The festival choir is open to anyone in High School and older that enjoys singing. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:15pm. Please contact Carol Bostdorf if interested in participating.



Thanksgiving Eve Service
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26
6:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

This is an evening of praise, worship and giving thanks for all that the Lord has done and is doing. The service will be led by the Worship team, along with the Adult Choir, Hand Bell Choir and RockStar kids. Please join us for a time of celebration and gratitude.

SMALL ANIMAL NEEDED

We need a small animal for December 14th for our Advent Wreath lighting at both services. Preferably a lamb or small goat that could be held. If anyone has one or knows someone that does and would allow us to use it in worship, please contact Carol Bostdorf cbostdor@halfaxgmc.org.



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.

6th-7th Grade Sunday School

Bible in Life— Following God with Courage

8th-12th Grade Sunday School

Bible Project—How to Read the Bible

Wednesday Youth Group-

⇒ Held weekly at the Youth Center

⇒ 5:30pm Dinner

⇒ 6-7:30pm Lesson/Gametime

ROCKSOLID YOUTH SCHEDULE 2025/2026

NOVEMBER OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
WEDNESDAY, THE 12TH YOUTH GROUP SHOPPING
SUNDAY, THE 16TH PACKING PARTY W/ KIDS 9AM

DECEMBER 7TH ROCKSOLID CHRISTMAS PARTY

JANUARY 16TH-17TH ROCKSOLID ALL-NIGHTER
(IF ENOUGH MENTORS ARE FOUND)

FEBRUARY 7TH GUYS' NIGHT OUT- DODGEBALL

FEBRUARY 22ND GIRLS' DAY OUT- SHOPPING

MARCH 20TH-22ND YOUTH RETREAT WEEKEND

APRIL 12TH CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

APRIL 26TH YOUTH SUNDAY

JUNE 3RD END-OF-YEAR PARTY



Join Us as We Share God's Love Around the World!

Important Dates



December

Gifts will be purchased for local children in coordination with Community that Care, Halifax.

Until November 16th- Collect Money
Donations for shoebox gifts

- Place in Gift Box at Welcome Center
- For Checks to Halifax Community Church, please put "Shoebox Gifts" in Memo.

Wednesday, November 12th- 6-7:30pm
Youth Group Shops for Box Supplies

- RSVP and Meet at Youth Center by 5:45 (5:30 dinner)

Sunday, November 16th- Packing Party
Children Ministry assisting Youth with packing boxes during 9am Sunday School

Cherry Pechart, youth@halifaxgmc.org
717-896-8092, et.113

THANK YOU

THANK YOU from Coye Pechart, Halifax Troop 1165
Regarding Eagle Scout Project

Thank you for your support of my Eagle Scout Project and the Youth Center. I have raised the funds needed for the project and any remaining funds will be donated to the Halifax Community Church. On Saturday the Youth Center fence was installed and the firepit was redone by myself, the troop and friends. Thank you for your part in supporting the safety and ministry of the Halifax Youth Center.



HALIFAX TREE LIGHTING



**HALIFAX COMMUNITY
TREE LIGHTING**
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 7 PM
VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK - RISE STREET & PARK DRIVE

- MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
- SANTA & MRS. CLAUS WILL ARRIVE BY FIRE TRUCK
- HOT COCOA & TREATS FOR ALL

**SPONSORED BY
HALIFAX COMMUNITY CHURCH**

WOMEN'S EVENT



CHRISTMAS SHOW
Christian Life Assembly in Camp Hill
<https://cla.church/drama>

\$20 / TICKET FOR THE DECEMBER 14 SHOW
TICKETS SOLD IN CHURCH LOBBY NOVEMBER 2 & 30

WE ARE LEAVING THE CHURCH FOLLOWING SECOND SERVICE AND CARPOOLING TO LUNCH AT HOSS' BEFORE THE SHOW.

**CONTACT KATHY STENCE WITH ANY QUESTIONS:
717-413-8705**

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

No RSVP needed!
Contact Tricia Farner with any questions:
717-896-8092, ext. 103



SUNDAY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
YMCA ELIZABETHVILLE ON THE 3RD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH
USE THE GYM AND SWIM (SWIM FROM 4 PM - 6 PM)
WE WILL HAVE A MEAL AND HAVE TIME TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AS HALIFAX COMMUNITY CHURCH FAMILIES!

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.

YOU ARE INVITED:
YOUTH THANKSGIVING DINNER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19 | 04.00 PM
YOUTH (6TH-12TH), YOUTH FAMILIES, MENTORS
AT HALIFAX YOUTH CENTER



RockSOLID Youth

Wednesday November 26th the Youth Group will be meeting at the Youth Center for Dinner at 5:30, then attending the service together.
Pick up at the Church around 7:30.

Thanksgiving Eve Service
at Halifax Community Church, 6:30pm





ROCKSTAR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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



FAMILIES FALL OUTING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

3-6 PM

BUTCHER'S FARM, NEWPORT, PA

COME ENJOY TIME TOGETHER AS A CHURCH FAMILY!

If Cost is difficult for you, please talk with the Children's Ministry Coordinators:
Adam & Tricia Farnar, children@halifaxgmc.org / 717-896-8092, ext. 103.
We want all to be able to come and fellowship with us!







Please RSVP to
Tricia & Adam!

children@halifaxgmc.org





HALIFAX COMMUNITY CHURCH

Dinner & Movie

NOVEMBER 15TH

Please RSVP by signing up in the church lobby,
or contact Tricia Farnar:
717-678-0145 / children@halifaxgmc.org

FAMILY NIGHT



DINNER 5-6 PM IN HUB
MOVIE 6-8 PM IN SANCTUARY

Happy Thanksgiving! - Tricia and Adam



BEDROCK GANG

BEDROCK GANG

FELLOWSHIP OF THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED IN OUR COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

- Nov. 4: Fellowship and Games
- Nov. 11: Fellowship and Games
- Nov. 18: Fellowship and Games
- Nov. 25: Fellowship and Games, followed by Thanksgiving Lunch at the Youth Center

For more information, contact the church office:
717-896-8092, ext. 110 / office@halifaxgmc.org

Find joy in every moment,
and connect with others.
Together in support



MEN'S BREAKFAST

MEN'S BREAKFAST

FOOD × FELLOWSHIP × FAITH

1ST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

COME TOGETHER FOR AN HOUR OF FOOD AND CONVERSATION - 8:30AM AT DENNIES LENNIES.

WE READ FROM THE BOOK.
100 VERSES FOR SUCCESSFUL LEADERS.

JOIN US ANYTIME. WE CAN ALWAYS ADD A CHAIR.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JOHN MCCARTY:
570-547-1848.