



Halifax, PA 17032

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A Note from Pastor Brendan...

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

"Christ Centered | Community Driven."

In the year 735, a monk named Bede lay dying in a monastery in Jarrow, England. He had spent his life as a scholar, authoring commentaries on Scripture as well as a history of the English Church. And now, on his deathbed, he continued to dictate a translation of the Gospel of John, determined to finish the work.

As his final hours drew near, he asked those with him to join in singing a hymn: The Gloria Patri. "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. "

This short hymn was already ancient in Bede's time. It dates back to the early days of the church, possibly the second or third century. It was often sung after the reading of psalms or prayers, tying all worship back to the eternal glory of the Trinity.

The Gloria Patri doesn't ask for anything. It's an offering, pure and simple, calling to mind the words of St. Paul... For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36)

So, why did Bede choose this as his final song? Maybe because it sums everything he lived for. The final days of his life on earth weren't much different than the thousands that came before - each one lived with purpose, making the best use of his gifts in service to Christ. And when the time came to let go, he did so with a song of praise.

May this dedication define our days as well.

I love you all,

Pastor Brendan

Factor Saudon

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen... Amen.

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-

Please contact Kara Stiely for more detailed information:

Phone: 717-418-4368

Email: kstiely240@comcast.net.



VISION UPDATE

Early in 2025, a team of HCC members met to pray, reflect, and seek God's Vision in preparation for 2026 and beyond. Vision is more than a statement—it is a God-given direction that unites the church and fuels our mission. Proverbs 29:18 reminds us that without vision, people lose their way. When we catch God's vision together, we serve with joy, give with purpose, and grow in hope.

A key point of celebration for the team, was the recognition of HCC growth over the last two years. God has led wonderful people to Halifax Community Church, and we have been blessed by this growth across all age groups of our Church family. As a result, the Vision God gave during our 6 weeks of prayer discernment centered on Three Keys Areas.

- 1. Strength in Discipleship.
- 2. Strength in Connection Together.
- 3. Strength in Missions & Evangelism.

With that Vision before us, we dedicated the remainder of 2025 to prayer, and to begin putting clear & specific steps in place where we envision a church family that is deeply rooted in Christ through strong discipleship, closely connected in love and fellowship, and boldly reaching our community and the world through missions and evangelism. We look forward to the new year and timely ways this vision will be lived out in 2026 and beyond. Together, we will grow in faith, strengthen our unity, and share the hope of the Gospel so that lives are transformed for God's glory.

Thank you for your continued prayers for all God is doing through HCC.

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 Monday, October 6, at the home of Darla Lentz. Please contact one of us for the address.



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.

The Trustees have been hard at work on the following projects:

- 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.

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

Below are the balances as of the end of August.

Current projects as listed above:

• Budgeted Cost: \$62k

• Cost Incurred to Date: \$7,110.15

Forward in Faith Savings Balance: \$93,125.89

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

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



As we enter the season of Harvest, we will continue in our series on *The Sermon on the Mount—Beatitudes*. When Jesus came to earth, He brought a whole new way of thinking that challenged the people of His day. With concepts like loving your enemies, the ideas Christ presented in the Sermon on the Mount still challenge today's worldly thinking. In this series, Pastor Brendan looks at what it means to be citizens of God's kingdom, covering the basic fundamentals of Christian living. As followers of Christ, we're called to live against the flow of mainstream culture: Are you ready!

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:1-7

Title: Beatitudes: Mercy

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:1-8

Title: Beatitudes: Pure in Heart

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:1-9

Title: Beatitudes: The Gift of Peace

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:10-12

Title: Beatitudes: Endurance in Dark Times

The Beatitude Life

THE POOR IN SPIRIT Embracing our need for God.

THE MOURNERS Experiencing God's comfort in our pain.

HE MEEK Choosing humble submissiveness over ambition and authority.

THE HUNGRY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS Longing for God to make all things new.

THE MERCIFUL Extending God's incredible compassion and mercy.

E PURE IN HEART Making our hearts fully God's, in all we think, say and do.

EMAKERS Bringing healing, togetherness, and fullness to our world.

THE PERSECUTED Following Jesus no matter what the cost.

SPRC would like to recognize our pastors and ministry staff during October, Pastor Appreciation Month. Starting, Sunday, October 5, there will be baskets in the church lobby to collect any cards you wish to shower on Pastor Brendan, Pastor Jesse, Cherry, Tricia & Adam, and Carol. You are also welcome to mail cards to their homes or place cards in their church mailboxes. Thank you for showing your appreciation!



ADULT MINISTRY UPDATE

Pastor of Family Ministry: Jesse Funk—<u>ifunk@halifaxgmc.org</u> | 717-896-8092, x 102

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him." -John Piper

What an astounding reality for the Christian to take hold of: the way to make God shine most brightly in our lives is for us to be convinced and contented by Him, His character, His will, and His faithfulness. As we continue in this busy fall season, I pray that you find your deepest delight in who God is towards you!

It is not too late to pursue this joy through the small groups and Sunday schools that we offer!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

- Pastor Jesse's Sunday school meets at 9am in Room 103 and is studying Romans.
- Rick and Kathy Stence's New Beginnings Sunday School meets at **9am in the Conference Room** and is starting "Forgotten Figures," a study on specific Old Testament characters by Chuck Swindoll.
- Alan Bostdorf's Young Adults Sunday School meets at **9am in room 104**. They are studying "77 FAQs about the Bible" by Sean MacDowell.
- John Orr's Sunday School meets at **10:30** in the conference room. They will be studying "Seeing God as a Perfect Father" by Louie Giglio.

MID-WEEK GROUPS

- Alan Bostdorf's Adult **Monday Morning study meets in the conference room at 9am**. They are studying *Revelation*.
- Pastor Brendan's Wednesday Night Study meets at **6:30pm in the HUB**. They are studying "Thru the Bible: New Testament."
- Pastor Jesse's Wednesday Night Study meets at 6:30 in Room 103. We are studying the book of Romans.
- Kathy Stence's New Beginnings Women's Group meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 10am at the Stence household. They are studying the life of Elijah.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- HCC's annual Fireproof Families event will be Saturday, November 15th from 5pm-8:30pm.
 Come and enjoy a catered meal and two encouraging messages specifically for families!
- The Women's Ministry will be hosting a crafting event on **Saturday October 4**th **from 6pm-8pm in the HUB**. Craft items and snacks will be provided! If you have any questions you can reach out to Kathy Stence.

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

CORNERSTONE COUNSELING



"The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness..." -Genesis 16:7

This line from the book of Genesis was the Lord seeking out Hagar after she was kicked out of Abraham and Sarah's house. While Hagar was doing everything she thought she was supposed to do, it led her to the wilderness. And yet, God was not content to leave her there. He sought her out and promised to be faithful to her. Hagar's interaction with God ends with her saying:

"Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."

God still sees us today, even if we are in the wilderness like Hagar was. He still seeks us, wanting to bring healing and restoration. It is out of this millennia-old Biblical truth that the Cornerstone Counseling Ministry was founded: that God still sees and seeks His children.

Cornerstone Counseling is a ministry that exists to greatly reduce the financial burden associated with counseling, and ensuring the counseling received is in alignment with the God of true healing and His Word. Using the House on the Hill at the top of the HCC parking lot, we contract with In Him Christian Wellness services to provide counseling to any and all who may need it, regardless of their ability to pay.

Co-pays for counseling sessions are largely covered through donations to the ministry, but all client information is kept confidential in alignment with HIPAA, meaning nobody (including the Cornerstone Board) has access to client information.

If you're interested in learning more about this powerful ministry, please reach out to Pastor Jesse! (717-896-8092, ext. 102 / jfunk@halifaxgmc.org)

WOMEN'S EVENT



SIGN UP IN CHURCH LOBBY

Location: HUB

KATHY STENCE: 717-413-8705

Join us for a crafting event that will support the Holiday Treasures Bazaar.

Craft supplies and snacks will be provided, we just need willing hands!



You can also call or email **Kathy Stence to RSVP:**

Phone: 717-413-8705

Email: greenkitty63@gmail.com.

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

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



MUSIC MINISTRY

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



Adult Choir rehearsals at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings. No rehearsal on Wednesday, October 15th.

Bell Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, October 2nd at 6pm.





Festival Choir -

We will be preforming the Christmas cantata "Come Let Us Adore" this year, on Sunday, December 21st at both worship services. We will have a read through session on Wednesday, October 8th at 7:15pm. Rehearsals for the cantata will then begin on Wednesday October 22nd at 7:15pm. Anyone in High School or older is encouraged to participate.

God's Choir—Music Devotional

I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You. Psalm 22:22

God "inhabits the praises of Israel" (Ps. 22:3)—the gatherings of His people. The drama of worship is too grand a production to be produced by believers in lonely isolation from one another. So, David worships on the hillsides, alone, but also says, "I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You."

Just as the church choir is composed of multiple voices, so every one of the diverse gifts in the congregation is essential for worship. You may not be gifted as a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass, but you are gifted—and your gift is needed in God's choir!

(from the devotional "Praise in the Presence of God" by Jack Hayford)





ROCKSOLID YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Cherry Pechart—<u>youth@halifaxgmc.org</u> | 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-God Delivers Us

8th-12th Grade Sunday School

Bible Project—How to Read the Bible

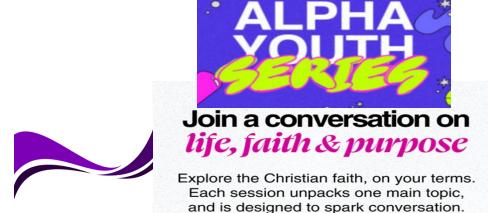
Wednesday Youth Group-

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



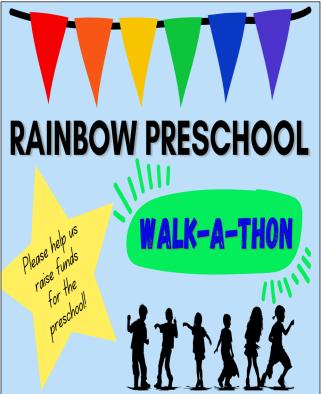
COME JOIN ALPHA THIS FALL AT WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP!

Come along, see what you think.





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

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Name of Sponsor	Donation Amount
Address	Phone Number

BEDROCK GANG

The BedRock Gang meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM.
Location: Halifax Youth Center, 231 Rise St., Halifax

BedRock is a group of senior citizens enjoying Christian fellowship,
fun activities, & programs!

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Oct. 7: Fellowship and Games

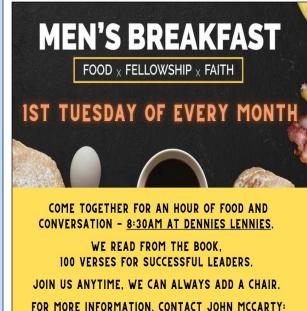
Oct. 14: Fellowship and Games

Oct. 21: Fellowship and Games

October 28: Fellowship and Games, then
out-to-lunch at Villa Schiano's in
Elizabethville

Note: Steering Committee Mtg.: Thurs.,
Oct. 9 at 10:00 a.m. with Pastor Brendan

MEN'S BREAKFAST



570-547-1848.



ROCKSTAR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

THANK YOU to all who are coming out to God is on the Move! It has been a wonderful time of fellowship.

If you haven't joined us yet, give it a try!









Please RSVP to
Adam & Tricia!
children@halifaxgmc.org

Happy Fall! We are so blessed by all of you! - Tricia and Adam



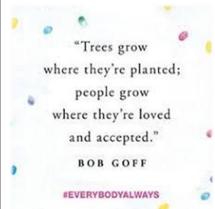
YOUTH MINISTRY (CONTINUED)



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.





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.

Note from Coye Pechart Halifax Troop 1165 Regarding Eagle Scout Project

I am partnering with the Halifax Youth Center to construct a fence along the border of the Youth Center and the park and to rebuild their fire pit. This is something that the youth center has needed for a while, and they would greatly appreciate it.

I am looking to raise \$1,500 for these materials. If I receive more donations than needed, all extra donations will be donated to the Halifax Community Church. If you are planning on donating to the project, you can either give by cash or check. If you are using a check, you should write the check payable to Boy Scout Troop 1165 and write Coye Pechart Eagle Project in the memo. Cash and Checks can be placed in the box at the Welcome Desk or mailed Checks can be mailed to 302 Tobias Rd., Halifax, PA.

If you have any questions or would like to donate to this project, please contact me via email at coyepechart@gmail.com or call me at (717) 956-8358.



OCTOBER, 2025

The calendar is also on our website: www.halifaxgmc.org / Resources / Calendar

5	6	7
9em 🗘 Adult S.S. Class	9am 🗘 Food Room Open	8:30am 🗘 Men's Breakfast & Devotions
9am 🗘 Middle & High School Sunday School	9em Crafting for Holiday Bazaar	9:30am 🗘 Bedrock Gang
9em Traditional Worship	9:30am ♥ Bible Study	10em 🗘 Weekly Staff Meeting
10:15am 🗘 Bible Study Groups	2:30pm 🗘 Youth Center Open	2:30pm C Youth Center Open
10:30am Contemporary Worship		6pm Girl's Lifegroup
40	40	
12	13	14
9am 🗘 Adult S.S. Class	Youth Center Closed	9:30am C Bedrock Gang
9am 🗘 Middle & High School Sunday School		10am ♥ Weekly Staff Meeting
9am 🗘 Traditional Worship	9:30am [©] Bible Study	2:30pm V Youth Center Open
10:15am Dible Study Groups		6pm Ф Rainbow Preschool Meeting
10:30am C Youth Cabinet Meeting		
10:30am Contemporary Worship		
5:30pm [©] Boy's Life Group		
19	20	21
9em 🗘 Adult S.S. Class	9am ♥ Food Room Open	9:30am C Bedrock Gang
9am 🗘 Middle & High School Sunday School		10am 🗘 Weekly Staff Meeting
9em 🗘 Traditional Worship	1pm Card Ministry Team	2:30pm ♥ Youth Center Open
10:15am ♥ Bible Study Groups	2:30pm C Youth Center Open	5:30pm Cornerstone Counseling Meeting
10:30am [©] Contemporary Worship		7pm ♥ SPRC Meeting
26	27	28
9em Adult S.S. Class	9am © Food Room Open	Ram Newsletter Folding Team
gem ♥ Adult S.S. Class gem ♥ Middle & High School Sunday School		9:30em Dedrock Gang
9em ♥ Traditional Worship	2:30pm V Youth Center Open	10am
10:15am	2.50pm 2 Tourn Center Open	2:30pm V Youth Center Open
10:30am Contemporary Worship		6pm ♥ Fouth Center Open
5:30pm ♥ Boy's Life Group		opin + ans diegroup
3.30pm 2 Boy's Life Gloup		

