

HILLS OF HALIFAX  
DECEMBER, 2025



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# A Note from Pastor Brendan...

Pastor Brendan Hock: [bhock@halifaxgmc.org](mailto:bhock@halifaxgmc.org) / 717-896-8092 x 101 "Christ Centered | Community Driven."

## THE GREATEST GIFT

As we move through this holy season of Advent and draw near to Christmas morning, our hearts naturally turn to the joy of giving. We wrap gifts with care, tuck them beneath the tree, and watch the wonder in the eyes of those we love. But even as we celebrate these traditions, we are reminded that Christmas is first and foremost about a gift—the gift—given to us by God Himself.

When the angel announced the birth of Jesus, heaven declared, *"I bring you good news of great joy for all people" (Luke 2:10)*. That joy was not simply that a baby had been born, but that the long-promised Savior had come. The infant lying in a manger would one day stretch out His arms on a cross. His humble birth and His sacrificial death cannot be separated—they are chapters of the same story, the story of a God who refused to leave us lost in darkness.

At Christmas, we remember that God’s gift was not wrapped in bright paper, but in swaddling clothes. It was not placed under a tree, but in a lowly manger. And yet, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it became the greatest gift humanity has ever received—*salvation, grace, and the hope of eternal life*.

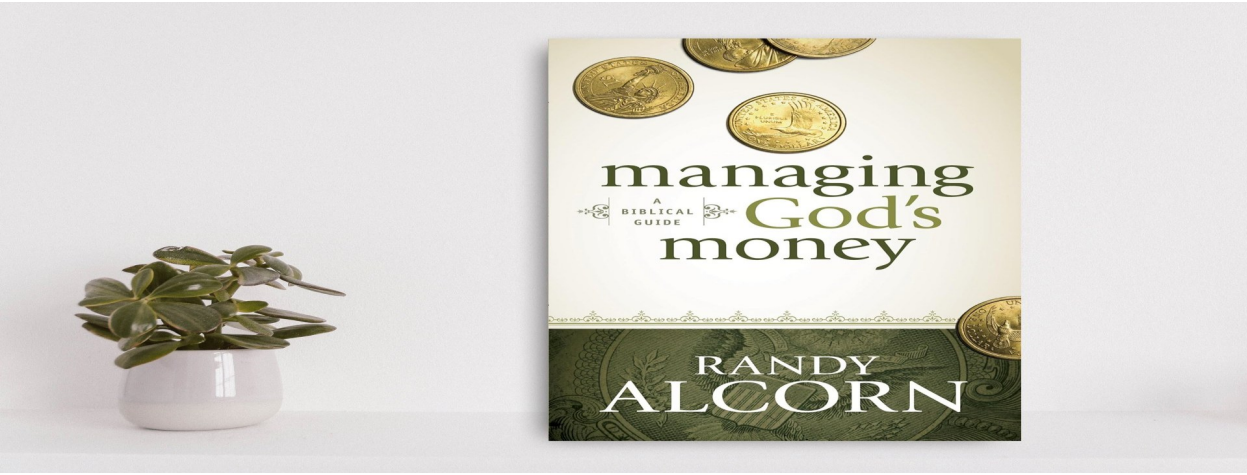
As you celebrate this season—with its lights, beauty, music, and treasured moments—may your heart be drawn again to the deep love of God. Let every gift you give or receive remind you of the One who gave everything so we could belong to Him.

May the peace of Christ fill your home, and may the joy of the Savior fill your heart.

Blessings on the Journey!



# BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP 101



A new 3-week study will be offered in January titled Biblical Stewardship 101. The class will be lead by Financial Advisor, Austin Cook. Our goal is to assist congregants in learning about managing resources in alignment with biblical principles. Austin will utilize materials from Right Now Media and Managing God's Money by Randy Alcorn.

**This class will be offered during the 10:30 service on January 4, January 11 and January 18.** If you are interested in attending, a sign-up sheet will be in the lobby starting 12/7.

Please sign up in advance so we can determine the size of classroom required – all are welcome to join this educational conversation!

## 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 October 31:**

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

**Forward in Faith Savings Balance: \$74K**  
*(Cost Incurred to Date has been removed from this number)*

# CORNERSTONE COUNSELING UPDATE

## A BEACON OF HOPE: HOW OUR COUNSELING MINISTRY IS BRINGING HEALING AND WHOLENESS

In a world often marked by anxiety, brokenness, and despair, the need for a safe space to heal and grow in faith has never been greater. Cornerstone Christian Counseling Ministry, guided by the restorative power of Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, has been faithfully providing support to those navigating life's toughest storms. We believe that everyone needs a place to get stronger and better with God's help.

### More Than Just Service

This is the essence of our ministry: restoring relationships between individuals, others, and God. We understand that our work is a direct reflection of serving one another in love and extending the church's care to those in need. Our goal isn't just mental wellness, but spiritual wholeness, empowering clients to address their challenges through a biblical lens. Scripture is a powerful mandate for transformed communication, moving beyond simply avoiding "bad words" to proactively using our speech as a tool for ministry and spiritual growth in others.

Ephesians 4:29 shares just that: *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."* It is a call to align our words with our new identity in Christ, making every interaction an opportunity to extend God's grace.

### To Those That Have Already Listened and are Finding Their Identity: Stories of Success through Cornerstone Christian Counseling Ministry

- A young girl to discover her worth in Christ, not in the words of her peers.
- A veteran learns to adjust after returning home from deployment.
- A caregiver find the strength and support to care for their loved one.
- A couple in crisis find healing and rebuild their marriage.
- A teacher struggling with burnout find a renewed sense of purpose.
- Several adults learn how to set healthy boundaries, which helped to significantly decrease their anxiety.

We are consistently seeing a need for faith-based, holistic counseling. Because of this ministry and its partnership with In Him Christian Wellness, we are able to provide an avenue for the Lord to meeting the ongoing needs of His people in a safe and welcoming space.

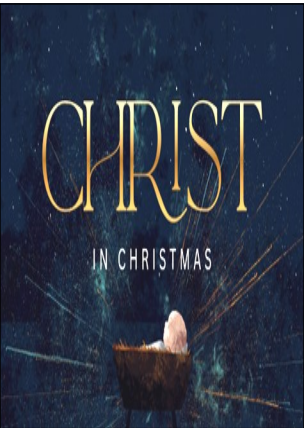
### How You Can Help Us Reach More Lives

- **Pray:** Please pray for our counselors' wisdom and for the hearts of those seeking help.
- **Volunteer:** Just a moment of your time to encourage someone who may be struggling with anxiety, brokenness, and despair in consideration to seek counseling as a step towards peace from anxiety, repair beyond brokenness, and hope among despair.
- **Give:** Your support helps us provide services to those who cannot afford them.

Thank you for being a cheerful giver and an instrument of God's love in our community.

**Cornerstone Christian Counseling:** 717-220-5446 / intake@inhimchristianwellness.org

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE



This Christmas season, we are launching a new sermon series titled **“Christ in Christmas”** rooted in [Galatians 4:4–6](#). Paul reminds us that at just the right moment in history— *“when the fullness of time had fully come—God sent His Son, born of a woman, to redeem us and make us His children.”*

In this series, we will explore how the birth of Christ was not an accident nor an afterthought, but a perfectly timed act of divine love; how His coming fulfills God’s promises; and how the Spirit He sends into our hearts allows us to cry out, “Abba, Father.” As we journey through Advent, we will rediscover that Christmas is more than a celebration of a holy night—it is the declaration that God has come near to adopt us, redeem us, and make us His own.

## Sunday, December 7, 2025

**Text:** Galatians 4:4-6  
**Title:** Christ In Christmas:  
The Right Season

## Sunday, December 14, 2025

**Text:** Matthew 1:18-25  
**Title:** Christ In Christmas:  
The Right Reason

## Sunday, December 21, 2025 Christmas Cantata—both services

## Wednesday, December 24, 2025 Christmas Eve Services

**Text:** Luke 2:1-7 & Luke 2:8-16  
**Title:** The Christ in Christmas:  
The Right Person

## Sunday, December 28, 2025 Text & Title: TBD



# Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
6:30 pm

Halifax Community Church  
105 Wind Hill Drive, Halifax

 A service of hope for those experiencing grief during the holidays

# YEAR IN REFLECTION ARTICLE

As we enter the final month of 2025, it’s good to pause and reflect on all we’ve experienced together as a church family this past year.

We began the year with a worship series focused on how God works through a church that is **DEVOTED**. Together, we looked at the early church in the book of Acts and celebrated the ways God is still transforming lives here at HCC. During this time, we welcomed **28 new members** and celebrated **9 baptisms**. Even more, **8 of those new members made first-time commitments to Christ**. Praise God for a growing church family—our full parking lot is a beautiful sign of His work among us!

This year we also celebrated **9 confirmation students** who chose to live for Christ and grow in His grace. I continue to be deeply grateful for our Youth Coordinator, **Cherry Pechart**, and her team of dedicated volunteers. As **Adam and Tricia Farner** stepped into leading our Family Ministry alongside Children’s Ministry, it has been a joy to watch families connect, grow, and flourish together. **Pastor Jesse’s** leadership in Adult Ministry—especially through the start of a men’s prayer group—has strengthened our church with deeper discipleship, unity, and heart-felt prayer. Under **Carol Bostdorf’s** faithful leadership, our music ministry has flourished with renewed passion, excellence, and joyful participation.

In the summer, we walked through the book of **JUDE**, where **verse 3** calls us to *“contend earnestly for the faith... and guard against the divisions Satan brings to the church.”* As the year drew to a close, we began a verse-by-verse journey through the **BEATITUDES** in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount—a grounding and life-giving way to end the year.

It is through our worship gatherings, as well as our Prayer and Bible Study Groups, that we grow in faith and respond in service—building God’s Kingdom through ministries like our **Food Room, Youth Center, Cornerstone Counseling**, and our **local and overseas mission efforts**.

All of this reflects the wonderful work God is doing here at HCC. I am continually delighted to see how He is blessing this church and strengthening our hope for tomorrow. Your love is seen, felt, and deeply appreciated. It has been a joy to serve with you in ministry.

I love you all. **Merry Christmas!**

-Pastor Brendan



# WOMEN’S EVENT—SECRET SISTER

## SECRET SISTER REVEAL!

### Luncheon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, FOLLOWING 2<sup>ND</sup> SERVICE

KAYLA WILBERT: OFFICE@HALIFAXGMC.ORG  
717-896-8092, EXT. 110

We will enjoy finding out who our 2025 Secret Sisters are, as well as choosing NEW Secret Sisters for 2026. *\*If you are new to Secret Sister, please RSVP & join us!*

HALIFAX COMMUNITY CHURCH - LOWER LEVEL

# FOOD DRIVE—THANK YOU!

A huge **thank you** to the Halifax Boys Scouts and Cub Scouts who collected, sorted, and weighed over **2,400** pounds of food for the Food Room. This will go a long way to help our community members in need! And **thank you** to everyone in the congregation who took time to fill bags and bring them into the church! Your donations and efforts are a huge blessing!

# HOLIDAY BAZAAR—THANK YOU!

**Save the Date for the Holiday Treasures Bazaar next year—November 7, 2026!** **Thank you** so very much for all those who donated, participated, and helped with the Holiday Treasures Bazaar to make it a success! It was a lot of fun with good fellowship and many new friendships were formed. Over **\$3,700** was raised to help with community mission needs!



## BEDROCK GANG



**BEDROCK GANG**  
FELLOWSHIP OF THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED IN OUR COMMUNITY

**DECEMBER SCHEDULE**

**Dec. 2:** Fellowship and Games  
**Dec. 9:** Fellowship and Games  
**Dec. 16:** Fellowship and Games, then out-to-Christmas Lunch at Denny/Lennies  
**Dec. 23:** No Bedrock Meeting  
**Dec. 30:** No Bedrock Meeting

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

## ADULT MINISTRY UPDATE

*Pastor of Family Ministry: Jesse Funk—[jfunk@halifaxgmc.org](mailto:jfunk@halifaxgmc.org) | 717-896-8092, x 102*

Hello everyone!

The Adult and Family Ministries at HCC have been busy all throughout the Fall, and we have enjoyed spending so much time with you in fellowship and discipleship outside of our typical Sunday worship!

Our recent [Family Movie Night](#) had about 70 people attend! Thank you all for coming and enjoying King of Kings with us, and we hope it sparked plenty of discussion from your kids on the drive home. Due to the overwhelming response, we will look to see how often we can offer this to you all!

As we move forward into a season where there isn't as much natural light or warmth, let us move closer to the light of Christ and the fire of His Spirit. One of the best ways to do that is to find a life group, Sunday school or bible study group that can help support you in your walk with Christ.

We currently have [4 Sunday school classes](#) and [4 mid-week discipleship groups](#) running, with most of them continuing to meet year-round! There are life-stage specific groups (young adults, women's groups, etc.) as well as co-ed groups for you to explore to grow deeper in the grace of God!

One of the ministries I was tasked with starting at my previous church was [prayer groups](#). This is an opportunity for people to gather together and answer Paul's call in Galatians 6 to bear one another's burdens. There is a small group of men gathering bi-weekly as a prayer group, but we would love to start more! If you feel the Spirit nudging you in this direction, please come talk to me!

Be on the lookout for advertisements about the [Men's Crockpot Cook-off coming in January](#), and the [Men's Dartball league this coming February](#)! The Men's Ministry team will be meeting in December to finalize plans for these events.

As always, if the Lord has been pushing you to step out into small group leadership, or discipleship of any kind, I would love to sit down and talk to you!

In Christ,

-Pastor Jesse



## MUSIC MINISTRY

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



**COME**  
— LET US —  
**ADORE HIM**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**  
The Festival Choir is presenting the Christmas Cantata "Come Let Us Adore Him" at both worship services. Come and celebrate the season and be encouraged to come to Christ in worship and obedience.

### A Note of Thanks!

I want to say thank you to the congregation and all those who gave cards and small gifts to me for staff appreciation month. I am so blessed to be able to serve this congregation which I love and consider family.



My heart is full of joy for all the nice words and they are very much appreciated. God Bless as we continue to serve our wonderful Lord and Savior together.

-Carol Bostdorf



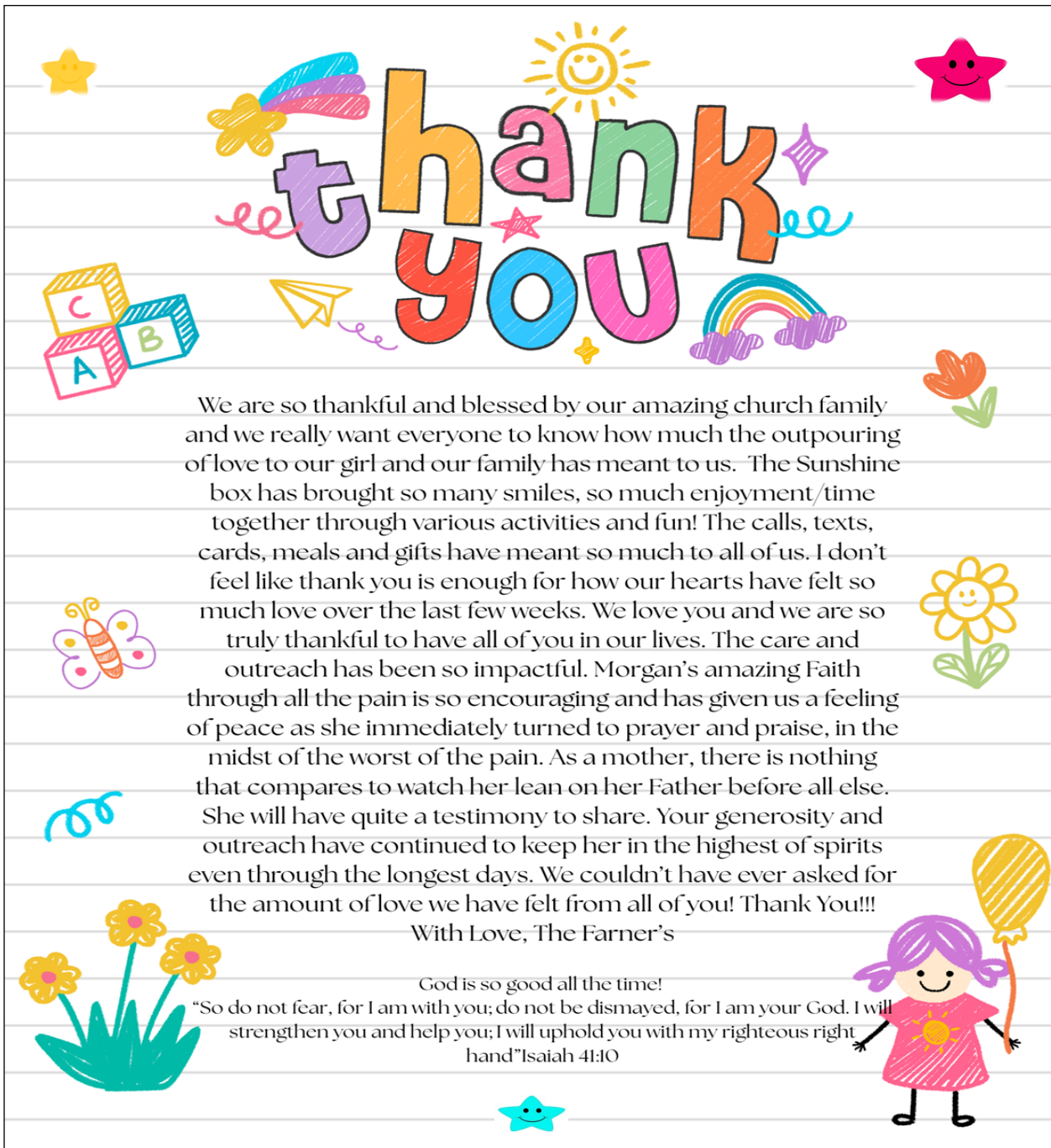
**CHRISTMAS  
EVE**  
— —  
**CANDLELIGHT**  
SERVICES

**4:00PM** – FAMILY SERVICE WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH LEADING.  
**8:00PM** – TRADITIONAL SERVICE WITH SCRIPTURE, CAROLS, & SPECIAL MUSIC. PRE-SERVICE MUSIC WILL BEGIN AT 7:30PM TO DRAW US INTO WORSHIP.  
**10:00PM** – TRADITIONAL SERVICE WITH SCRIPTURE, CAROLS, & COMMUNION.



## ROCKSTAR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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



We are so thankful and blessed by our amazing church family and we really want everyone to know how much the outpouring of love to our girl and our family has meant to us. The Sunshine box has brought so many smiles, so much enjoyment/time together through various activities and fun! The calls, texts, cards, meals and gifts have meant so much to all of us. I don't feel like thank you is enough for how our hearts have felt so much love over the last few weeks. We love you and we are so truly thankful to have all of you in our lives. The care and outreach has been so impactful. Morgan's amazing Faith through all the pain is so encouraging and has given us a feeling of peace as she immediately turned to prayer and praise, in the midst of the worst of the pain. As a mother, there is nothing that compares to watch her lean on her Father before all else. She will have quite a testimony to share. Your generosity and outreach have continued to keep her in the highest of spirits even through the longest days. We couldn't have ever asked for the amount of love we have felt from all of you! Thank You!!!

With Love, The Farners

God is so good all the time!  
"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" Isaiah 41:10



## YOUTH MINISTRY (CONTINUED)



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

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students from any school are welcome to attend.

For more information please contact Cherry Pechart at [youth@halifaxgmc.org](mailto:youth@halifaxgmc.org)

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



### **GIFT-MAKING DAYS**

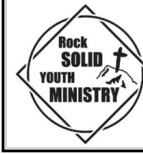
**Tuesday and Wednesday  
December 9th and 10th**

**During Youth Center Hours, 2:30-5:30pm**

Craft Supplies will be available for Youth to make gifts for Family and Friends.

***Candle-Making, Signs, Jewelry***

If you have a craft/gift idea, just let us know!



## ROCKSOLID YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Cherry Pechart—[youth@halifaxgmc.org](mailto: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



## **RockSOLID Christmas Party**

**Sunday, December 7th**

**5:30-8:00pm @ the Youth Center**

**Bring a \$10 White Elephant Gift & a snack to share**



**BLESS THE YOUTH CENTER  
AS WE REMEMBER THE  
GREATEST GIFT!**

SEE THE AMAZON  
YOUTH CENTER  
WISH LIST BELOW.  
GIFTS WILL BE  
GIVEN AT OUR  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
DECEMBER 17TH.



THANK YOU!

## **YOUTH CENTER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**Wednesday, December 17th  
2:30-5:30**

If any parent or community member would like to help with a gift or snack for the party, it would be welcomed! Contact Cherry Pechart at [youth@halifaxgmc.org](mailto:youth@halifaxgmc.org) or 717-896-8092 ext. 113



### YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL-

Join us from 9-10am in the HUB.

#### 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School

**Bible in Life— God's Plan**

#### 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School

**Bible Project—Evidence of Jesus  
(Christmas)**

#### Wednesday Youth Group-

⇒ Held weekly at the Youth Center

⇒ 5:30pm Dinner

⇒ 6-7:30pm Lesson/Gametime

## **YOUTH GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST**

**Sunday, December 14th**

During 9am Sunday School  
Church HUB

**Adults: Feel free to stop down  
and vote after the 1<sup>st</sup> Service!**





# DECEMBER, 2025

The calendar is also on our website: [www.halifaxgmc.org / Resources / Calendar](http://www.halifaxgmc.org/Resources/Calendar)

Sun	Mon	Tue
Nov 30, 2025	Dec 1	2
9am ☞ Adult S.S. Class	Youth Center Closed	8:30am ☞ Men's Breakfast & Devotions
9am ☞ Middle & High School Sunday School	9am ☞ Food Room Open	9:30am ☞ Bedrock Gang
9am Traditional Worship	9:30am ☞ Bible Study	10am ☞ Weekly Staff Meeting
10:15am ☞ Bible Study Groups		2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open
10:30am Contemporary Worship		6pm ☞ Young Adults Cooking
3pm Christmas Decorating		
4pm ☞ Children's Christmas Rehearsal		
7	8	9
9am ☞ Adult S.S. Class	9am ☞ Food Room Open	9:30am ☞ Bedrock Gang
9am ☞ Middle & High School Sunday School	9:30am ☞ Bible Study	10am ☞ Weekly Staff Meeting
9am Traditional Worship	2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open
10:15am ☞ Bible Study Groups		6pm ☞ Girl's Lifegroup
10:30am Contemporary Worship		6pm ☞ Rainbow Preschool Meeting
4pm ☞ Children's Christmas Rehearsal		
5:30pm ☞ Boy's Life Group		
14	15	16
Reserved for Eagle Scout Event	9am ☞ Food Room Open	9:30am ☞ Bedrock Gang
9am ☞ Adult S.S. Class	9:30am ☞ Bible Study	10am ☞ Weekly Staff Meeting
9am ☞ Middle & High School Sunday School	2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open
9am Traditional Worship		6:30pm ☞ Cornerstone Counseling Meeting
10:15am ☞ Bible Study Groups		7pm ☞ SPRC Meeting
10:30am ☞ Youth Cabinet Meeting		
10:30am Contemporary Worship		
12pm Women's Ministry - Christmas Show		
4pm ☞ Children's Christmas Rehearsal		
21	22	23
9am ☞ Adult S.S. Class	Youth Center Closed	Youth Center Closed
9am ☞ Middle & High School Sunday School	9am ☞ Food Room Open	9:30am ☞ Bedrock Gang
9am Traditional Worship	9am Newsletter Folding Team	10am ☞ Weekly Staff Meeting
10:15am ☞ Bible Study Groups	9:30am ☞ Bible Study	6pm ☞ Girl's Lifegroup
10:30am Contemporary Worship	4pm Children's Christmas Rehearsal	
4pm ☞ Family Fellowship at YMCA		
5:30pm ☞ Boy's Life Group		
28	29	30
9am ☞ Adult S.S. Class	Youth Center Closed	Youth Center Closed
9am ☞ Middle & High School Sunday School	9am ☞ Food Room Open	9:30am ☞ Bedrock Gang
9am Traditional Worship	9:30am ☞ Bible Study	10am ☞ Weekly Staff Meeting
10:15am ☞ Bible Study Groups		
10:30am Contemporary Worship		

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6
12:30pm Released Time: 3rd & 4th	2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	Beltsnickel Parade & Festival
2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	3:30pm ☞ Food Room Open		
5:30pm ☞ Youth Group	6pm ☞ Missions Meeting		
6:30pm Blue Christmas Service	7pm ☞ Scout Meetings (Earl Rhoades)		
6:30pm ☞ Choir Practice	7pm SPRC Meeting		
6:30pm ☞ Bible Study with Pastor Jesse	7pm ☞ RockStar Core Leadership Meeting		
	7pm ☞ Praise Band Practice		
	7pm Trustees Meeting		
10	11	12	13
1pm ☞ Cintas - Soap/Cleaner Refill	2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	10am ☞ Reach-Out Lifegroup
2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	3:30pm ☞ Food Room Open		
5:30pm ☞ Youth Group	7pm ☞ Scout Meetings (Earl Rhoades)		
6:30pm ☞ Choir Practice	7pm ☞ Praise Band Practice		
6:30pm ☞ Bible Study with Pastor Jesse			
17	18	19	20
2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Open	8am ☞ Cantata Preparations
5:30pm ☞ Youth Group	3:30pm ☞ Food Room Open		8am ☞ Cantata Preparations
6:30pm ☞ Choir Practice	7pm ☞ Scout Meetings (Earl Rhoades)		
	7pm ☞ Praise Band Practice		
24	25	26	27
Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Youth Center Closed	10am ☞ Reach-Out Lifegroup
Youth Center Closed	Youth Center Closed		
1pm ☞ Cintas - Soap/Cleaner Refill	3:30pm ☞ Food Room Open		
4pm Christmas Eve Service			
8pm Christmas Eve Service			
10pm Christmas Eve Service			
31	Jan 1	2	3
New Year's Eve	New Year's Day	Youth Center Closed	
Youth Center Closed	Youth Center Closed		
	3:30pm ☞ Food Room Open		
	7pm ☞ Scout Meetings (Earl Rhoades)		
	7pm ☞ RockStar Core Leadership Meeting		
	7pm ☞ Praise Band Practice		