

# HILLS OF HALIFAX

MAY, 2026



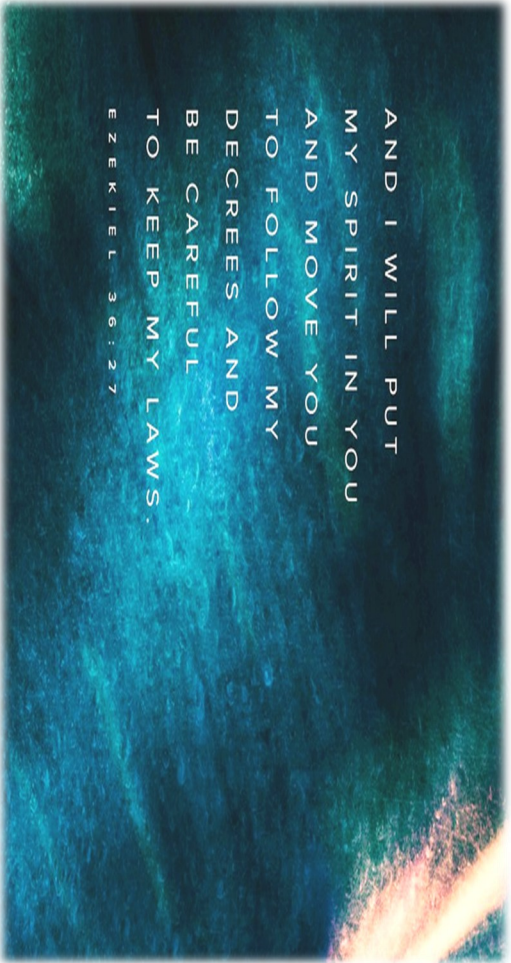
*Spirit* OF THE  
*Living God,*  
FALL FRESH ON ME



**Halifax**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
A GLOBAL METHODIST CONGREGATION

105 Wind Hill Drive  
Halifax, PA 17032  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
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Permit #13  
Millersburg, PA 17061



AND I WILL PUT  
MY SPIRIT IN YOU  
AND MOVE YOU  
TO FOLLOW MY  
DECREES AND  
BE CAREFUL  
TO KEEP MY LAWS.  
EZEKIEL 36:27

## A Note from Pastor Brendan...

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

### May: A Month of Gratitude, Celebration, and Finishing Well

As we step into the month of May, we enter a meaningful and full season in the life of our church—one marked by celebration, reflection, and a sense of completion. Throughout this month, we will not only share in several special moments together, but we will also bring to a close our year-long journey through the Sermon on the Mount. Week by week, verse by verse, we have listened to the words of Jesus, and now we arrive at His final invitations in Matthew 7.

On **Sunday, May 3**, we will turn to *Matthew 7:13–14*, where Jesus contrasts two paths—one broad and easy, the other narrow and life-giving. It's an invitation to consider the direction of our lives and the quiet, faithful influences that have helped guide us toward the way that leads to life.

On **Mother's Day, May 10**, we will gather for 10 AM combined worship led by our *RockStar Children's Ministry*. There is something uniquely powerful about being led by the next generation—their joy and authenticity remind us of the kind of faith Jesus calls us to. On this day, as we honor mothers, grandmothers, and the women who have shaped our lives.

On **May 17**, we celebrate **Graduation Sunday**, recognizing the accomplishments of our graduates and offering scholarships to our college students. As a church, we take seriously our role in encouraging and investing in the next generation. That morning, we will continue in *Matthew 7:15–20*, where Jesus teaches about recognizing a tree by its fruit. It's a powerful word for those stepping into new seasons—and for all of us—as we consider the kind of lives we are cultivating.

Then, on **May 24**, we come to **Pentecost Sunday**, remembering the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. As we reflect on God's presence and power at work within us, we will also hear Jesus' sobering words in *Matthew 7:21–23*, reminding us that authentic faith is more than words—it is a life rooted in relationship and obedience. As this weekend also marks **Memorial Day**, we will pause to honor and remember those who have given their lives in service to our country, holding together themes of sacrifice, remembrance, and the Spirit's renewing work.

Lastly, **May 31**, will be 10 AM combined worship & the Hock Family's Farewell Sunday at HCC. It will be a sacred and meaningful day as we also conclude our Sermon on the Mount series with *Matthew 7:24–29*—the parable of the wise and foolish builders. Jesus' closing words call us to not only hear His teaching, but to build our lives upon it. There could be no more fitting way to end both this series and this season together: reminded that HCC is established on the solid rock of Christ.

While I will share more in the June newsletter, I want to say here how deeply grateful I am for this church family. May is full—and so is my heart. I look forward to finishing well together, excited that the same faithful God who has led us this far will continue to guide each step ahead.

With Gratitude,

-Pastor Brendan

## CORNERSTONE COUNSELING

**CORNERSTONE  
COUNSELING**  
A Faith Based Counseling Service



Address: 105 Wind Hill Drive, Halifax, PA 17032 | "House on the Hill"



**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026**  
**10 AM - 1 PM**

### STAFF YOU WILL MEET

- **Stephanie Berlin, MA, Counselor**
- **Abby Turner, MFT, Executive Director**
- **Victoria Miller, Communications Director**

Refreshments will be served  
See the facility and ask questions!



Our Mission is to Glorify God by Bringing Hope and Healing to Mind, Heart, and Soul through Accessible, Affordable Counseling.

## FOOD ROOM



**HALIFAX  
FOOD  
ROOM**

### 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.)

Contact Food Room Coordinator With Any Questions:  
Kara Stiely – [kstiely240@comcast.net](mailto:kstiely240@comcast.net)

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

Thank you to  
everyone who  
donated an Easter  
bag for the Food  
Room.

We were able to  
provide 75 meals  
to our  
community  
members in need.

## BEDROCK GANG

### BEDROCK GANG

FELLOWSHIP OF THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED IN OUR COMMUNITY

#### MAY SCHEDULE

May 5: Fellowship & Games

May 12: Fellowship & Games

May 19: Fellowship & Games

May 26: Fellowship & Games, then out-to-lunch at Villa Schiano's  
in Elizabethtown

If the school is closed or on a weather-related delay,  
there is no Bedrock.

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



## MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY



*Halifax Community Church  
is sending a mission  
team to Kentucky!*

*Would you like to join the team?*

- When: July 12th-17th, 2026
- Who: Adults and Youth
- Where: Beverly, Kentucky
- Why: To help spread the hope and love of Jesus by completing work projects for those in the Red Bird area.

If interested or want more information, please contact  
Cherry Pechart at youth@halifaxgmc.org.



## STEWARDSHIP

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

As of March 31, 2026:

- **Cost Incurred to Date: \$34K**
- \*Remaining tasks from the current project regarding the storage shed will be completed in the spring.*

**Forward in Faith Savings Balance:  
\$96K**

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

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, May 3, 2026**

**Text:** Matthew 7:13-14

**Title:** Sermon on the Mount: Narrow Gate

**Sunday, May 10, 2026—1 service**

**ROCKSTAR SUNDAY ON MOTHER'S DAY**

**10 AM Worship**

**Refreshments at 9:15 am**

**Sunday, May 17, 2026**

**Text:** Matthew 7:15-20

**Title:** Sermon on the Mount: By Their Fruit

**Sunday, May 24, 2026**

**PENTECOST & MEMORIAL SUNDAY**

**Text:** Matthew 7:21-23

**Title:** Sermon on the Mount: Lord, Lord

**Sunday, May 31, 2026**

**Text:** Matthew 7:24-29

**Title:** Sermon on the Mount: Solid Life



*Hock Family  
Farewell Reception*

**SUNDAY, MAY 31  
ONE WORSHIP  
SERVICE AT 10 AM**

Join us following the service for  
light snacks and fellowship  
downstairs in the HUB.

All are welcome to share  
memories or well wishes during  
this time.

A Card Box will be available  
downstairs for those who would  
like to leave a card for  
the Hock Family.

We hope you can join us as  
we gather to celebrate and  
say farewell.

## ADULT MINISTRY UPDATE

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

Happy May, Everyone!

May is typically a month marked by the hope and expectation of rest. The school year will soon end, vacations will soon start, and for some reason life just feels easier for many of us when it's warmer out.

This is typically a season for the staff to rest, reflect, and map out what the next year of ministry will look like. This process for us is impossible without The Helper, the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has multiple roles in our life:

- He enables us to “abound in hope” ([Romans 15:13](#))
- It gives us power to do God’s will ([Acts 1:8](#))
- He reminds us of everything Christ has said ([John 14:26](#))
- He sets us free from the law of sin and death ([Romans 8:2](#))

As the staff seeks after these things of the Spirit, we invite you to do the same. Not everyone in the church is a pastor, but everyone in the church IS a minister of the Gospel! Whether to our family, our friends, our workplace, God has desires for how to use you for His glory and your good.

Our adult ministries are great ways to seek after the Lord, and we continue to have year-round Sunday School and Bible study groups. Please reach out to me if you’re interested in joining or starting one!

Currently, the vision for the Adult Ministries is to expand our number of prayer groups. If you’re interested in leading one, please reach out to me!

In Christ,

-Pastor Jesse

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Creative Worship/Choir Director: Carol Bostdorf—[cbostdorf@halifaxgmc.org](mailto:cbostdorf@halifaxgmc.org) | 717-896-8092, x 105  
Choir Rehearsals on Wednesdays at 6:30PM / Bell Rehearsals on Thursdays at 6PM / Praise Team on Thursdays at 7PM



PENTECOST  
SUNDAY

MAY 24

We are celebrating Pentecost during both worship services.

Geraniums will be available for purchase.

*Pentecost marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, empowering believers to witness and fulfill God's mission.*  
- Acts 2 -



Honoring Those Who Served  
**SUNDAY, MAY 24**

After the 10:30 worship service, we will gather at the Cemetery to honor and remember those who gave their life for our country and its freedom. Carnations will be available to take to the cemetery.

  
**Special  
Music  
Needed**

Special music needed for the Summer months of June - Sept 13th. Anyone interested in using their gift in worship should contact Carol Bostdorf: [cbostdorf@halifaxgmc.org](mailto:cbostdorf@halifaxgmc.org)

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (CONTINUED)

Easter Sunday School and Children's Church were shared with over 70 Rockstars! Thank you to all those volunteers that made it possible, we could not have done it without you!

While speaking of our amazing volunteers that serve in this ministry, we are also in a time of growth! We are seeking helpers for 9 am service, primarily the toddler room, but we'll shift things to invite new members feeling led to serve in this way. I encourage each of you to pray on this. This ministry is so rewarding and such a great way to be a true disciple of Christ!

These kids are fun and excited to learn about Jesus and all that He creates!

Consider joining us, you won't regret it, I can promise that, and what better way to start your week then having children fill up your cup to energize you for the week ahead!



Vacation Bible School registration is open and ready to be shared with friends and family! Volunteer signup is on the same link. After enjoying the testimonies of our youth that were confirmed, it was a special reminder for myself that VBS truly touches kids' lives! I have challenged our Rockstars to be an active disciple, invite a friend to VBS and bring their friends closer to Jesus! They will all get a special invitation to share. VBS is the first week of August. **August 3-7<sup>th</sup> this year from 9:00-11:30 am.** True North VBS 2025 was so much fun and I'm very much looking forward to Rainforest Falls VBS 2026!! If you know of anywhere to share our advertisements, I'd love the ideas!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



**Brendon & McKenzie Bretz**

Brendon is a former Marine who now serves our local community as a Swatara Police Officer. McKenzie is a former Respiratory Therapist who is now staying at home with our 3 year old son, Cassius. We love spending time outside, tending our animals, spending time with family and friends, and exploring how to grow and make food.



**Doris Erdman**

I have 3 sons, 6 grandchildren, and 4 great-granddaughters. I cherish my alone time with God and spending time with friends. I enjoy cooking and baking. My favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11.



**Erik & Paige Espenshade**

Together we have two beautiful girls – Eleanor and Theodora. Erik is a Controls Engineer and enjoys spending time outdoors, especially hunting, disc golf and hiking. Paige is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher at Harrisburg Christian School. She enjoys reading, scrapbooking and baking with sourdough. Family, faith & time in nature play a huge roll in their lives.



**Ken & Connie Lebo**

Together Ken and Connie have a blended family of 3 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ken is retired from the Insurance Business after 48 years of service. After returning from military service, he taught high school history and economics, as well as coached basketball. Connie spent 15 years in the banking business and then co-founded Keystone Guardianship Services. Ken and Connie married on June 24, 2024 and love traveling together. Ken also enjoys cooking, golfing and watching their great-grandchildren grow.

## NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)



### Jordan Livingston

We are the Livingston family: John Paul, Jordan, Madison, and Ryan. JP works in technology, and Jordan is a stay at home mom. We are high school sweethearts and have been married for 18 years! Our favorite thing is spending time together as a family and making memories.



### Eric & Courtney Miller

Eric and Courtney have been married for almost 9 years and have 3 beautiful children together – Brielle, Layla & Kade. Eric works for UPS as a tractor trailer truck driver and Courtney works at Penn State Health in Radiology. Eric enjoys hunting and fishing. Courtney likes to spend quality time with family and friends, be in the outdoors, and play sports. Courtney also coaches youth softball.



### Justin & Leticia Nye

Justin & Leticia have 4 children together, and 4 grandchildren. Justin is a truck driver and an avid outdoorsman. They both enjoy watching their son play ice hockey.



### Laura Phillips

My husband Rennie and I have been married for 43 years and live on his family farm between Millersburg and Berrysburg. We have two grown sons and two grandchildren. Laura currently works for the PA Department of Agriculture. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, gardening, taking walks and road trips.



## ROCKSTAR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Our Palm Sunday party was busy, exciting and filled with Love! We want to express our gratitude to the congregation for the Easter candy donations, it was incredibly appreciated and allowed us to fill eggs for provide an egg hunt for all of our toddlers, children and youth!!! Your generosity filled over 1000 eggs which were all found—or Dave Kessler will find them through-out the year!! Thank you!



# HALIFAX YOUTH CENTER



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!

For more information, please contact Cherry Pechart:

[youth@halifaxgmc.org](mailto:youth@halifaxgmc.org)

717-896-8092, ext. 113

Also, visit the "Halifax Youth Center" on Facebook

"Trees grow where they're planted; people grow where they're loved and accepted."

BOB GOFF

#EVERYBODYALWAYS

**YOUTH  
END OF YEAR  
PARTY!**

**June 3rd 6-8pm**

STAY TUNED:  
LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED SOON!

ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS WELCOME

I wanted to take a pause to thank all the Mentors, Volunteers, and Sponsors who make the Youth Center what it is for the young people in our community.

From those who spend hours hanging out with the kids, bringing firewood, cooking, praying, giving financially and so much more.

The Youth Center couldn't run without any of you!

# NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)



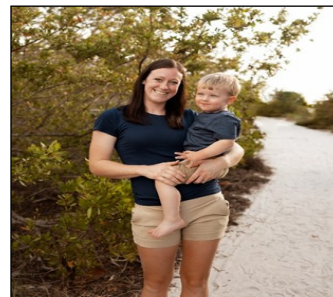
**Daniel Pugh**

Daniel currently resides in Harrisburg and is retired from USPS. He has one daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren. Daniel is a fan of the Dallas Cowboys and Penn State Football. He enjoys watching his grandkids at their sporting events and activities.



**Robert & Karen Reckord**

Robert and Karen have been married for 46 years and have a wonderful adult son and a great daughter who are both married. They also have four beautiful grandchildren. Bob is a retired delivery driver and Karen is a retired Registered Nurse. They enjoy anything that involves family!



**Kelsey Tobias Aldinger**

Kelsey is a Halifax native that lives with her husband and 3 children. She enjoys watching her kids play sports, hunting and working with animals.



**Lisa Van Olden**

My Husband, Wim, and I have been married for 49 years. We have been blessed with four children, six grandchildren, and a great grandchild. I am retiring in May after teaching at Noah's Crew for nearly 30 years.

## NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)



**Julie Zeltwanger**

I am a single mom to two beautiful kids, Jillian and Calvin. I work full time with Specialty Home Care as a Care Coordinator. I love spending time with my kids and my family.

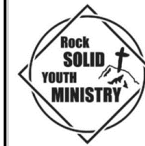
**Trena Segura**

I am retired and spend my days caring for two of my grandchildren. I have three children and five grandchildren. My husband Tom and I have been together for 25 wonderful years. I enjoy painting and gardening.

Not Pictured

**Harry Reed**

## CELEBRATING THE 2026 CONFIRMATION CLASS!



## 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.

### YOUTH RECHARGE/GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

#### 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- Who is Jesus?**

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

**Bible Project- Jesus in the Secular World by Ben Pierce**

#### Wednesday Youth Group-

Held at the Youth Center

5:30pm Dinner

6:00-7:30pm Lesson/Gametime

**Lesson Topic May— Book of James**

### Stay Connected with RockSOLID

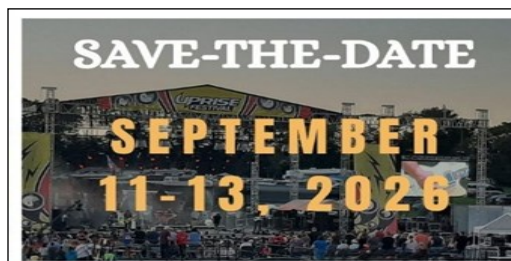
Interested in getting the monthly RockSOLID Youth email of events/activities?

If you do not already receive this monthly email, contact Cherry Pechart at [youth@halifaxgmc.org](mailto:youth@halifaxgmc.org)

For more information email or RockSOLID Youth Ministry at (717)896-8092, ext. 113

Visit **RockSOLID Youth Ministry** on Facebook and Instagram for further info!

## Last Call!



### UPRISE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Camping Weekend at Shippensburg Fairgrounds

RockSOLID Youth Event  
6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Graders Welcome

**Halifax Community Church**  
is sending a mission team to Kentucky!

*Would you like to join the team?*

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- Who: Adults and Youth
- Where: Beverly, Kentucky
- Why: To help spread the hope and love of Jesus by completing work projects for those in the Red Bird area.

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