

HILLS OF HALIFAX

DECEMBER, 2024

Merry Christmas



Halifax
COMMUNITY CHURCH
A GLOBAL METHODIST CONGREGATION

105 Wind Hill Drive

Halifax, PA 17032

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit

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Millersburg, PA 17061



*For unto us a child is born,
his name shall be called*

Wonderful Counselor,

THE MIGHTY GOD
THE EVERLASTING FATHER,

The Prince of Peace.
ISAIAH 9:6

A Note from Pastor Brendan...

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

This week we launched into the Advent Season. If you're not familiar, advent signals the time when we enter a season of preparation to celebrate Christmas – the birth and the return of Jesus.

As we look forward to Christmas, and what a New Year will bring, it's good to reflect and remember, and remind ourselves of what we've experienced and accomplished this past year. **As I reflect, I could not be more proud of you, faithful family of believers. We have seen significant growth as a church in 2024, and we give all praise to God for his faithfulness to us.** This year brought significant physical challenges to me that required a season of medical leave, but I was so blessed to see the way the ministry and outreach of the church continued strongly without interruption.

Here's a brief recap of how God has been honored through HCC this year. In Worship, we started the year with a call to be "Deeply Rooted". Recognizing the pressures of life that draw us away from God our Creator, Savior and Sustainer, we committed ourselves, afresh and anew, to be deep in our faith and grow in our walk with God. This series led us to the "Season of Easter", where we celebrated the Savior who Suffered for our sin, and was Raised again for our new life. Next, we embarked on a message series on "Overcoming Giants", where we went through the Bible looking at different people in Scripture and how God strengthened them to navigate the hardships in their life. After this, we entered into a sermon series on the life of "Daniel" and through his life, learned about the importance of Standing up in a Bowed down World. At the time of this writing we are in the midst of preparing our hearts to celebrate the seasons of Thanksgiving & Christmas and the Gifts God gives to us.

But that's not all! We've received 19 **new members** into the church! We've celebrated six **baptisms!** We've seen 17 **new volunteers** join the **Children's Ministry Team** in 2024, which has enabled us to grow this ministry in so many ways, including the addition of a **Wednesday Evening program** in 2025.

Our **Ministry with Teenagers** is growing both at Sunday School and Wednesday Youth Group. They are growing in the faith, growing closer in community, having fun, and bringing friends! I love to brag on the work Cherry and Adam & Tricia are doing! Each week, we're worshipping alongside **40 youth and 37 children** in these ministries. This is exciting!

(Continued on next page)

A NOTE FROM CORNERSTONE MINISTRY

Jesus did not let [the man from whom he had cast out a legion of demons] come with him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." Mark 5:19

In this verse we see a man healed and delivered by Jesus. Without hesitation, this man wanted to give all his time, energy, and attention to Jesus - to follow him wherever he went.

However, that's NOT what Jesus asked. Jesus commanded him to go home, to tell his family what had happened and of the incredible mercy of God.

Most of us have friends or loved ones who are making terrible choices, struggling with addiction, or just struggling to cope with life, and we are at a loss as to what to do for them. In this verse, it was to those people - his family - that Jesus sent this man as a born-again evangelist for Christ! The message was simple: I was lost. Jesus healed me. I'm whole and restored. Let me tell you about it.

We are all called to tell others about what the Lord has done in our lives and of God's mercy. When our clients find healing they return to their families and communities with a changed life.

Cornerstone Counseling provides counseling in partnership with In Him Christian Wellness, a non-profit Christian Counseling agency that addresses mental health from a holistic perspective. Counseling is offered using biblical principles and prayer, according to the comfort level of each client.

Services are provided to individuals, couples, families, and children, and virtual or in-person appointments are available. Cornerstone Counseling is committed to serving all clients, regardless of ability to pay. Clients need not be a member of or attend any church. **Cornerstone Counseling is located at 115 Wind Hill Drive, Halifax, PA.**

The website: inhimchristianwellness.org will tell you more about In Him Christian Wellness & will have links to click to inquire about scheduling an appointment at our Halifax location. You can also schedule an appointment by calling 1-717-585-0627.

You can also share this QR code to access our direct Cornerstone website. (ccmhalifax.com)

If you have any questions about Cornerstone Counseling, please contact Pastor Jesse at 717-896-8092, ext. 102, or jfunk@halifaxgmc.org.



NEXT WOMEN'S EVENT

SECRET SISTER REVEAL!

Luncheon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, AT 1:00 PM

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



We will enjoy finding out who our 2024 Secret Sisters are, as well as choosing NEW Secret Sisters for 2025.
**If you would like to participate, please join us!*

HALIFAX COMMUNITY CHURCH - LOWER LEVEL

HOUSE ON THE HILL MINISTRIES

HOURS

Mondays: 9 - 11:30 AM

Thursdays: 3:30 - 6 PM

3rd Saturday of the Month: 9 - 11 AM

HALIFAX FOOD ROOM

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!

CORNERSTONE Christian Counseling



Our Mission is to glorify God by bringing hope and healing to mind, heart, and soul through accessible, affordable Counseling.

**COUNSELING SERVICES ARE
AVAILABLE IN HALIFAX FOR
INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES,
FAMILIES, & CHILDREN.**

Financial assistance is available for those who need it.

Counselors come to Halifax from
In Him Christian Wellness.

Website: inhimchristianwellness.org

To schedule an appointment, please email or call:
intake@inhimchristianwellness.org | 717-585-0627

Address: 105 Wind Hill Drive, Halifax, PA 17032 | Follow sign by Wind Hill Rd.

We've also added **3 new Adult Sunday School classes** in 2024, and we continue to build up our **Men's and Women's Ministry Groups**. Thank you to Pastor Jesse and his leadership.

In addition, we're serving food to an average of **80 people each week** through our **Food Room Ministry**. And we've distributed **100 Christmas Food Bags**. We continue to see **40-60 Students at the Youth Center** every school day – where we also feed them a **hot meal daily**.

We sent Missions Teams to **Uganda** and **Red Bird Kentucky** in 2024. And in addition to our ongoing Mission Work, we gave over \$10,000 to support local community **families in crisis**, including **Hurricane disaster relief** through the Global Methodist Church.

We've **completed phases 1 & 2 of our Forward in Faith Campaign** to update our Education Wings here at the church, and we completed work on the new garage – all without incurring any debt.

All this and more conveys the wonderful work God is doing right here at HCC. **Your faithful giving and serving is making HCC a bright spot of Hope & Joy in our valley**. You are the conduit through which God's presence is changing hearts, lives, communities, and even the world. I'm continuously delighted to see how we are making life better and YOU better through life in Jesus Christ. This is truly building our hope for tomorrow.

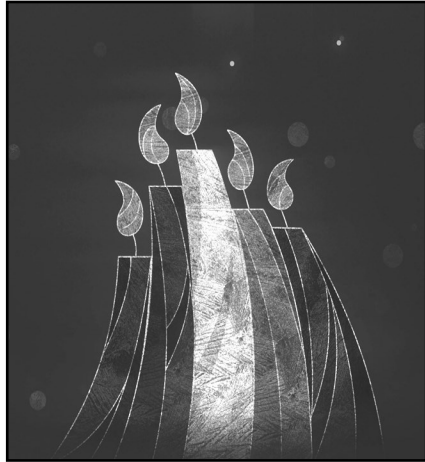
It is a joy to serve with you in ministry! I love you all.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Brendan



WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunday, December 1

Text: Luke 2:25-38
Title: The Gift of Hope

Sunday, December 8

Text: Isaiah 9:6-7
Title: Peace on Earth

Sunday, December 15

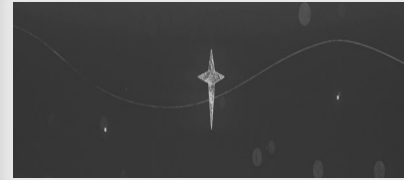
Text: Luke 1:39-45
Title: The Gift of Joy

Sunday, December 22

Festival Choir Cantata
Both Worship Services

Sunday, December 29

Title: TBD



HALIFAX COMMUNITY CHURCH
FESTIVAL CHOIR CANTATA

HOPE AWAKES
IN BETHLEHEM

December 22
Both Worship Services

JOY to the WORLD

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Halifax Community Church
105 Wind Hill Drive, Halifax
www.halifaxgmc.org

Children & Youth Program: 5 PM

Carols, Choir, Candlelight: 8 PM
Pre-Service Music at 7:30

Carols, Communion, Candlelight: 10 PM

BEDROCK GANG SCHEDULE



DECEMBER SCHEDULE

The BedROCK Gang meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM.

Location: Halifax Youth Center

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

Dec. 3: Fellowship and Games

Dec. 10: Fellowship and Games

Dec. 17: Bingo (please bring 2 prizes; i.e. canned fruit or veggies) then out for Christmas lunch at Denny/Lennies

Dec. 24: No Bedrock

Dec. 31: No Bedrock

NEW STUDY ON MONDAY MORNINGS

Bible Study

MONDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM

Facilitator: Alan Bostdorf

Please contact (alanbostdorf@gmail.com) by December 16 if planning to participate

THE ISRAEL STORY

God is a communicator, and The Israel Story is the story that He is telling. Many people throughout history, who were able to experience and hear God's story, told it and wrote it down. Others guarded over it, literally letter by letter, so that it could be preserved for generations to come, for you and me. In order to understand The Story — God's story as well as our story — it is essential that we understand the Israel story. That's the objective. That's what this study, our journey together, is all about.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE



BLUE CHRISTMAS
A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE, REFLECTION, AND HOPE FOR HURTING HEARTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 | 6:30 PM
HALIFAX COMMUNITY CHURCH SANCTUARY
105 WIND HILL DR, HALIFAX
WWW.HALIFAXGMC.ORG

WHERE SADNESS AND THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS SHARE A SPACE

THANK YOU!

The Holiday Treasures Bazaar went well and our profits are around \$2500+ for House on the Hill Ministries!

A big THANK YOU to all who donated, helped, prayed, & to the committee who organized the event! Thank you for going above and beyond to make this year a success!!

-Deb Herb & the Holiday Bazaar Committee

CLOSURE NOTIFICATIONS

Weather Related Closings

In the event of Sunday morning service cancelation, you will receive a recorded phone call. The cancelation will also be posted on our Facebook page.

During the week, we will follow the HASD schedule. If school is closed or dismisses early, the church office will close. If school cancels evening activities, activities at HCC will most likely be canceled ... (Please check with the leader of the activity or Bible Study).

ADULT MINISTRY UPDATE

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

Merry Christmas everyone! As we enjoy this season of expectant hope, here's just a few things to be on the lookout for in the Adult Ministry department:

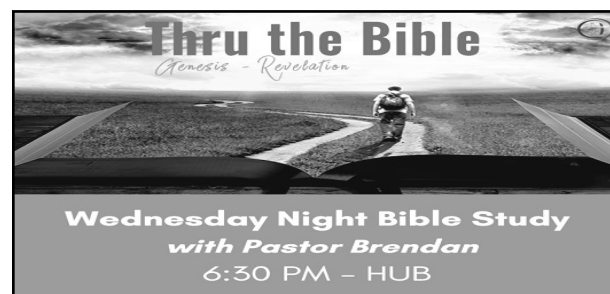
There will be advertisement soon for the Men's Ministry **Crock Pot Cook-Off** scheduled for January. The specific date is still being ironed out but it will be either 1/11 or 1/18!

In February, the Men's Ministry will be hosting their own **In-House Dartball League!** We've had a Dartball board at most of our men's events over the past year and the Men's Planning Committee felt it would be a great opportunity for fellowship to have our own league! Feel free to come to myself, Mika Miller, or Rick Stence with any questions!

The Women's Ministry will be having their **Secret Sister Reveal on January 12th**, as well as a **Puzzling Event on March 15th**. Any questions about these events, please reach out to Kathy Stence!

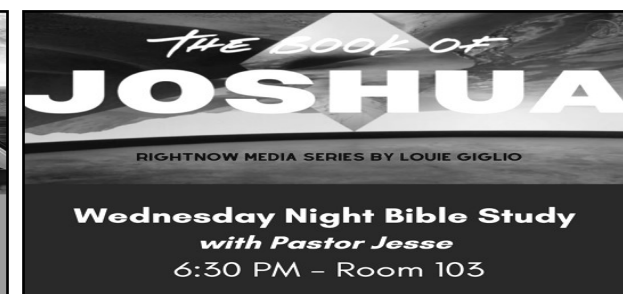
As always, if the Lord has been placing a burden on your heart to get involved with small groups, either as a leader or group member, please reach out to me! I pray you all experience the joy of waiting upon the Lord, and ultimately finding Him, just as the wise men did this Christmas. — Blessings, Pastor Jesse

WEDNESDAYS—STARTING JANUARY 15



Thru the Bible
Genesis - Revelation

Wednesday Night Bible Study
with Pastor Brendan
6:30 PM - HUB



THE BOOK OF
JOSHUA

RIGHTNOW MEDIA SERIES BY LOUIE GIGLIO

Wednesday Night Bible Study
with Pastor Jesse
6:30 PM - Room 103



HCC KIDZ

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
Join the Investigation!

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM



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

- ⇒ Middle School Youth Study- **Flyte Jr. High Curriculum**
- ⇒ High School Youth Study- **RightNow Media Youth Study**

Wednesday Youth Group: We meet at the Youth Center every Wednesday from 6-7:30pm.

- ⇒ *Dinner is served at 5:30. 6-7pm watching/discussing Chosen TV Series Season 1, 7:00pm game time*

Wednesday December 18th - Youth Group

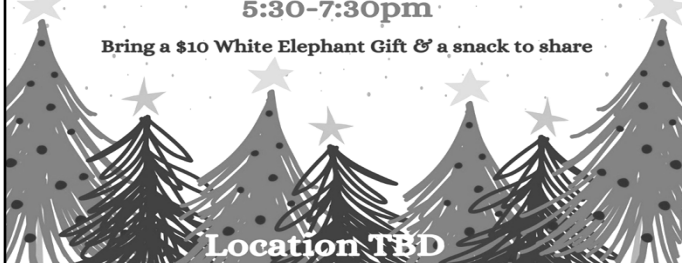
- ⇒ Christmas Movie Night

(Watching- The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!)

Wednesday December 25th and January 1st

- No Youth Group Meeting

RockSOLID Christmas Party
Sunday, December 15th
5:30-7:30pm
 Bring a \$10 White Elephant Gift & a snack to share



Location TBD

Merch Stand
T-SHIRTS!



Come help us make new t-shirts for the merch stand.

YOUTH GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST



Sunday, December 15th

During 9am Sunday School
In the Church HUB



MUSIC MINISTRY

Creative Worship/Choir Director: Carol Bostdorf—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

Christmas Caroling



Join Us! We Are Traveling To Our Homebound To Sing Christmas Carols!

Sunday, December 8
 Meet in the lower level (HUB) at Noon
 Lunch provided



CHRISTMAS concert by...



MEN HARMONY.

SUNDAY, DEC 15 | 4 PM
 Halifax Community Church Sanctuary

The HCC Hand Bell Choir is joining Men in Harmony on 2 of their songs!

HALIFAX COMMUNITY CHURCH
 FESTIVAL CHOIR CANTATA

HOPE AWAKES IN BETHLEHEM

December 22
Both Worship Services



JOY to the WORLD

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
 Halifax Community Church
 105 Wind Hill Drive, Halifax
www.halifaxgmc.org

Children & Youth Program: 5 PM

Carols, Choir, Candlelight: 8 PM
Pre-Service Music at 7:30

Carols, Communion, Candlelight: 10 PM





ROCKSTAR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

JOIN US FOR A
KIDS CRAFTING WORKSHOP

SLIME * TIEDYE* TAKE HOME GIFTS

DECEMBER 8TH
1:30-4PM

HALIFAX COMMUNITY CHURCH - HUB
STARTS AT 1:30PM

Please Register to Ensure Enough Supplies!
Call or Text Tricia @ 906-440-6679

Starting January 15th!

RockSTAR Kids'
END OF YEAR PARTY

DECEMBER 29
9 - 11:30 AM

DROP OFF IN THE HUB
(LOWER LEVEL)

*CONTACT TRICIA WITH ANY QUESTIONS:
CHILDREN@HALIFAXGMC.ORG
906.440.6679

HCC KIDZ

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Join the Investigation!

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM

A very big Thank You to our congregation for the special cards and gifts on Appreciation Sunday! It means so much to us to feel the support and encouragement as we minister to the children of our congregation. It's been such an honor seeing them grow in their faith, knowledge, and love for our Lord.

Thank You... - Tricia & 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. For more information please contact Cherry Pechart at youth@halifaxgmc.org or visit the Halifax Youth Center on Facebook.

We will be closed
December 20th - January 5th.

Embrace the Joy of Giving this Christmas!

CHRISTMAS GIFT MAKING!

December 10th & 11th
3-5pm at the Youth Center

Many DIY Projects available: Keychains, Candles, Jewelry, Ornaments and more...

All Supplies and Wrapping Provided

If any adult would like to come help, contact Cherry Pechart (youth@halifaxumc.com)

YOUTH CENTER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Wednesday, December 18th
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 or 717-896-8092 ext. 113



DECEMBER, 2024

You can access the most up-to-date calendar on our website:
halifaxmc.org / Resources / Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 1, 2024 9am ☞ Adult S.S. Class 9am ☞ Middle & High School 9am ☞ Traditional Worship 10:15am ☞ Bible Study Group 10:30am ☞ Youth Cabinet Me 10:30am ☞ Contemporary Wo 5:30pm ☞ Boy's Life Group	2 8:30am ☞ CCC Hours - Step 9am ☞ Food Room Open 9:30am ☞ Bible Study 12pm ☞ CCC Hours - Lily 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper	3 8:30am ☞ Men's Breakfast & 9:30am ☞ Bedrock Gang 10am ☞ Weekly Staff Meeting 1pm ☞ CCC Hours 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 6pm ☞ Girl's Lifegroup	4 9am ☞ CCC Hours - Step 11:45am ☞ Released Time - 5 1pm ☞ Cintas - Soap/Clean 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 6:30pm ☞ Bible Study with P 6:30pm Blue Christmas Serv 6:30pm ☞ Bible Study with P 6:30pm ☞ Choir Rehearsal 7pm ☞ Women's Lifegroup 7:15pm ☞ Festival Choir Reh	5 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 3:30pm ☞ Food Room Open 6pm ☞ Bell Choir Rehearsal 6pm ☞ Missions Meeting 7pm ☞ Scout Meetings (Earl 7pm ☞ Trustees Meeting 7pm ☞ Praise Band Practice	6 12pm ☞ CCC Hours - Step 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper	7 Belsnickel Festival & Parade 5pm Youth T-Shirt Event
8 9am ☞ Adult S.S. Class 9am ☞ Middle & High School 9am ☞ Traditional Worship 10:15am ☞ Bible Study Group 10:30am ☞ Youth Cabinet Me 10:30am ☞ Contemporary Wo 11:45am Christmas Caroling 1:30pm Children's Ministry Cr	9 8:30am ☞ CCC Hours - Step 9am ☞ Food Room Open 9:30am ☞ Bible Study 12pm ☞ CCC Hours - Lily 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper	10 9:30am ☞ Bedrock Gang 10am ☞ Weekly Staff Meeting 1pm ☞ CCC Hours 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 5:30pm Rainbow Preschool M 6:30pm ☞ Staff Christmas Pa 6:30pm ☞ Staff Christmas Pa	11 9am ☞ CCC Hours - Step 12:30pm ☞ Released Time - 5 1pm ☞ Cintas - Soap/Clean 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 6:30pm ☞ Bible Study with P 6:30pm ☞ Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm ☞ Festival Choir Reh	12 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 3:30pm ☞ Food Room Open 5:30pm Cornerstone Course 6pm ☞ Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm ☞ Scout Meetings (Earl 7pm ☞ Praise Band Practice	13 12pm ☞ CCC Hours - Step 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 7pm ☞ Lifegroup	14 10am ☞ Reach-Out Lifegroup
15 9am ☞ Adult S.S. Class 9am ☞ Middle & High School 9am ☞ Traditional Worship 10:15am ☞ Bible Study Group 10:30am ☞ Contemporary Wo 4pm ☞ Men of Harmony Cor 4pm ☞ Men of Harmony Cor 5:30pm ☞ Boy's Life Group	16 8:30am ☞ CCC Hours - Step 9am ☞ Food Room Open 9:30am ☞ Bible Study 12pm ☞ CCC Hours - Lily 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper	17 9:30am ☞ Bedrock Gang 10am ☞ Weekly Staff Meeting 1pm ☞ CCC Hours 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 5:30pm ☞ Cornerstone Coun 6pm ☞ Girl's Lifegroup 7pm ☞ SPRC Meeting	18 9am ☞ CCC Hours - Step 11:45am ☞ Released Time - 5 1pm ☞ Cintas - Soap/Clean 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 6:30pm ☞ Bible Study with P 6:30pm ☞ Choir Rehearsal 7pm ☞ Women's Lifegroup 7:15pm ☞ Festival Choir Reh	19 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 3:30pm ☞ Food Room Open 6pm ☞ Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm ☞ Scout Meetings (Earl 7pm ☞ Praise Band Practice	20 12pm ☞ CCC Hours - Step 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper	21 9am ☞ Cantata Rehearsal 9am ☞ Cantata Rehearsal
22 9am ☞ Adult S.S. Class 9am ☞ Middle & High School 9am ☞ Traditional Worship 10:15am ☞ Bible Study Group 10:30am ☞ Contemporary Wo	23 8:30am ☞ CCC Hours - Step 9am ☞ Food Room Open 9:30am ☞ Bible Study 12pm ☞ CCC Hours - Lily 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper	24 9:30am ☞ Bedrock Gang 10am ☞ Weekly Staff Meeting 1pm ☞ CCC Hours 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 5pm Christmas Eve Service 8pm Christmas Eve Service 10pm Christmas Eve Service	25 <div style="border: 2px dashed black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> </div>	26 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 3:30pm ☞ Food Room Open 6pm ☞ Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm ☞ Scout Meetings (Earl 7pm ☞ Praise Band Practice	27 12pm ☞ CCC Hours - Step 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper	28 10am ☞ Reach-Out Lifegroup
29 9am ☞ Adult S.S. Class 9am ☞ Middle & High School 9am ☞ Traditional Worship 10:15am ☞ Bible Study Group 10:30am ☞ Contemporary Wo 5:30pm ☞ Boy's Life Group	30 8:30am ☞ CCC Hours - Step 9am ☞ Food Room Open 9:30am ☞ Bible Study 12pm ☞ CCC Hours - Lily 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper	31 9:30am ☞ Bedrock Gang 10am ☞ Weekly Staff Meeting 1pm ☞ CCC Hours 2:30pm ☞ Youth Center Oper 6pm ☞ Girl's Lifegroup				