

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” And Mark 16:15-16, “And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.’<sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” What is the point? When you believe in Jesus through the gospel, you become a disciple (i.e., student, follower) of Jesus. New disciples are to be baptized as an outward sign and identifier of their new life in Christ.

*Joining the Church.* Acts 2:41-42, “So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” And Romans 12:4-5, “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,<sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” What is the point? After being baptized, new disciples of Christ join the fellowship, worship, and service of a biblical local church. Alongside other believers, the devote “themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Not only is this a great benefit to children of God for their faith and growth, but it is God’s will and brings glory and honor to His name.

God designed baptism as a public outward sign and signifier of your faith and discipleship. God designed local churches as the way to organize and advance His kingdom on earth, as the way to build up and minister to His children on earth. If you do not believe in Jesus based on the gospel (see 1 Cor. 15:1-4!), then believe today and be forgiven; become a disciple of Christ and partaker of eternal life. If you believe, be baptized and join the church.

Despite the scoffing and mocking of the world, it is a great privilege to join and share in what God is doing in the world. Despite the overly complex and showy versions of Christianity based on human innovation and tradition, biblical Christianity is incredibly simple and humble in its outward expression. Battling against sin, temptations, and trials in life is difficult, but the outward expression and design of Christian living is simple, and you can get in on it today. Believe, be baptized, join the church, and take one day at a time and one step at a time in looking to Christ in faith and learning to live for Him and not for yourself, the world, or anything in the world.

Get in on this with God! For your good, for His glory, be baptized in His name and become a faithful member of His local church. The church belongs to God.

## ONLINE GIVING

If you would prefer to give online, please scan the QR code for a secure online giving option.



## NEED HELP?

Need help with a practical need? Your deacon is here to help make the resources of the church available to you. Email our secretary Jenn if you do not know who your deacon is ([secretary@NorthHarford.org](mailto:secretary@NorthHarford.org))

Brian Akers (Chairman) [hcsbball@gmail.com](mailto:hcsbball@gmail.com)

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Wayne Hudson [quallybear.usmc@gmail.com](mailto:quallybear.usmc@gmail.com)

Need a pastoral visit for prayer, comfort, or encouragement? Do you need Christian counselling or guidance? Do you have a theological question? Your pastors are here to help. Don’t be afraid to text, call, or email us. We are here for you. Either contact us directly or schedule something through Jenn.

Matt Fortunato (Senior Pastor)

[pastormatt@NorthHarford.org](mailto:pastormatt@NorthHarford.org)

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Jeremiah Brown (Pastoral Intern)

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Scan the QR code or email Jenn at [info@NorthHarford.org](mailto:info@NorthHarford.org) to sign up for weekly Bible Devotions from Pastor Matt.



**Nursery Workers** – August 3<sup>rd</sup>

I AM (Crib) – Janie Steplowski and Bill Fornoff

II AM (Toddlers) – Alex Lewis and Phoebe Evans

PM– Combined I/II – Linda Mack and Marie Reid

**Prayer Intercessor** – August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tina Holmes

**Greeters** – August 3<sup>rd</sup> — John and Denise McDonald

**Ushers** – August 3<sup>rd</sup> — Gil Brown, Josiah Brown, Mark Evans\*, Wes Evans\*, Mark Huna, and John Steplowski

**Today’s Ushers** — Malik Baker-Gore, Bob Burman, Frank Cicone\*, Jim Feldbush, Gary McAllister, and Tom Neunaber\*

\* ushers who greet in the lobby

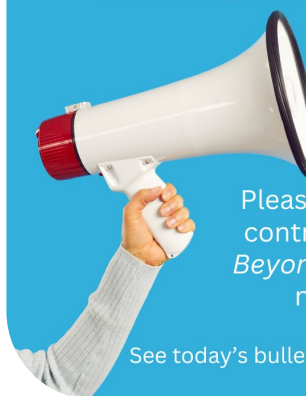


**NORTH HARFORD  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*To live for Jesus and not ourselves.*

**July 27, 2025**

## Important Announcement



Our HVAC  
system needs to  
be replaced.

Please prayerfully consider  
contributing an *Above and  
Beyond Gift* to help fund the  
new HVAC system.

See today’s bulletin insert for more information.

## READING THE BIBLE IN 2025

This week’s readings are:

Isaiah 16-20	Psalm 136	Ecclesiastes 10:1-7
Isaiah 21-25	Psalm 137	Ecclesiastes 10:8-15
Isaiah 26-30	Psalm 138	Ecclesiastes 10:16-20
Isaiah 31-35	Psalm 139	Ecclesiastes 11:1-6
Isaiah 36-40	Psalm 140	Ecclesiastes 11:7-10

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	6:30 PM	Evening Worship* (Church/Facebook)
<b>Monday</b>	10:00 AM	Ladies’ Pool Party at Jeanne Akers’
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 PM	Adult Bible Study (Rm. 1)
		Boys Bible Club (1 <sup>st</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grade boys)
		Girls in Action (1 <sup>st</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grade girls)
		Youth on Mission (7 <sup>th</sup> —12 <sup>th</sup> graders)
<b>Friday</b>	7:00-9:30 PM	Youth Group

\* Nursery Provided (birth-3 years old), Downstairs in Rooms 8 and 9

## MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome & Prayer (Pastor Anthony)

*Immortal, Invisible*

Reading: 2 Peter 3:18, Growing in Christ (Pastor Matt)

*How Deep the Father's Love | Abide with Me*

Offering

**SERMON:** Grasping the Love of Christ  
Ephesians 3:14-19 (Pew Bible Page 1570)

*Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy | Ways to Respond*

## EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: Romans 5:6-11, Christ Died for the  
Ungodly

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Reading & Prayer: Psalm 110, The Lord Says to My Lord  
(Pastor Anthony)

*It Is Well With My Soul*

**SERMON:** The Victor Suffered  
1 Peter 3:18-22 (Pew Bible Page 1675)

Closing Prayer

## THE WAY OF SALVATION

The salvation of your soul is extremely important to us. We want you to experience the love and forgiveness of God through faith in Jesus. We don't ever want to give you the impression that all you need is religion and doing good deeds. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).

1. **God** - Do you acknowledge God's authority, that He made the world, made you, and will bring everyone to judgment? (see Ecclesiastes 12:14)
2. **Sin** - Are you convinced of your sin and guilt before the eyes of God, grieved at your wrongdoing, and humbled by God? (see Psalm 51:1-4)
3. **Salvation in Christ** - Do you believe in the gospel of salvation in Christ? That is, do you grasp that He alone is Mediator? That He alone is righteous? That He alone died as a substitute for sinners? That He rose and is the only source of eternal life? (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
4. **Saving Faith** - Do you trust Jesus to forgive your sins and save your soul by the grace of God, not because of your good deeds or religion? (see Ephesians 2:1-10)

## VISITING WITH US?

We are glad to have you with us this morning, and we hope God speaks to your heart through the great and wonderful truths of the Bible. Please visit the **Guest Resources** desk in the lobby, where you will find a variety of free gifts for you, including a study Bible for adults and a study Bible for teens. Email us at [info@NorthHarford.org](mailto:info@NorthHarford.org) if you have any questions or special prayer requests.

## WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

### LADIES POOL PARTY

Ladies, youth girls, and children 6th grade and under are invited to a pool party at Jeanne Akers' house on Monday from 10 AM to noon. Bring sunscreen, towels, and a bag lunch. See Kenzi Wilson with questions.

## ON THE HORIZON

### PRAYER MEETING

Our prayer meeting had a good showing of over 20 people and I am thankful to God for that. We will see more and more of God's work in our lives, community, and nation the more we call out to Him in prayer. Come join our revival of prayer for the sake of the kingdom of God, and I'll see you at the next prayer meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 PM.

### FOOD NEEDED FOR BASKETBALL CAMP VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to help feed the basketball camp volunteers August 4-8? Any contributions would be appreciated! We will be dining together for lunch (50 people) and for dinner, after service projects (30 people). If you would like to send any salads, snacks, side dishes, casseroles, full dinners or other items, please sign up in the lobby. Please indicate if a dish contains gluten or dairy. Contact Jeanne Akers with any questions.

### LADIES' FALL BIBLE STUDY

Precepts is an in-depth Bible Study for women that meets on Tuesdays from 9:15-11:30 AM. In the fall, they will begin studying the Book of John (Part 1) on September 9th. Registration costs \$27.00 and is due by August 19th. Registration forms are available in the lobby. See Anita Gearhart with questions.

## CHURCH NEWS

### PRAISE THE LORD

Matthias and Molly Beichler came forward last Sunday to express their desire to join North Harford Baptist Church. We are thankful! If you haven't introduced yourself to them, please do so. Their membership will be voted on at our next Business Meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

## CHURCH NEWS (CONTINUED)

### MEALS NEEDED

Our Home Care Ministry is providing meals for two members' families who are having surgery soon. In total, we will need five meals per week. Meals do not have to be home-cooked and can be dropped off at the church for pickup. If you can help, please contact Verla Evans.

### NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COURSE

If you do not have a class already, you are invited to a NEW 8 week OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE: ITS CONTENT AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT. Pastor Matt will be teaching in the sanctuary and would love to see you there. This will be a thorough and clear overview of the whole Bible that will bring the story, its parts, and its meaning into clear focus.

### AUGUST MAGAZINES

New magazines and seasonal devotionals are available in the magazine racks located on either side of the lobby and by the downstairs exit. Please help yourself.

### MAGAZINE RACKS

Please do not put magazines or resources in our magazine racks in the lobby without asking. These are for church distribution and need to go through the pastors for approval. As pastors, it is our job to guard the teachings that we endorse and distribute.

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

### A SPECIAL INVITATION: BAPTISM AND CHURCH, GOD'S WILL FOR HIS CHILDREN

One of our heartfelt goals is to help you find and grow in a relationship with Jesus through faith. This is a special invitation to you who have come to faith in Jesus in your heart but have not yet been *baptized or joined the church*. After I came to faith years ago, I went through a four-month season of reading and listening to Scripture to learn God's will for the next steps. Once I was convinced by what the Bible taught about next steps, I was *baptized and joined the church*.

Some go through the process quicker. For others, it is slower. But you only need to worry about your own heart and what God is doing in your life. Faith leads to love, and love leads to obedience. And that is why I extend this special invitation to you. Since you believe in Jesus and love God, the Bible invites you to obey God by *being baptized and joining the church*. Here are some helpful Bible verses on the matter.

*Baptism.* Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father  
(continues to the next page)

## AM Sermon: Grasping the Love of Christ Ephesians 3:14-19

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Grasping His love conforms us to His likeness.

1. A *prayer* for His love (verses 14-16)

2. The *power* of His love (verse 19b)

3. The *preeminence* of His love (verses 17-19a)



## BLOCK PARTY

We will have a Block Party on Saturday, August 9th, from 4-7 PM. There will be food, carnival-style games, a bounce house, an obstacle course, face painting, and more! Invite others! We will need church members to come and talk with the visitors and help make them feel welcome. You do not have to be involved with Jarrettsville Basketball Camp to attend.

Sign up on the sheet in the lobby if you are able to help at the Block Party.



## CHURCH PICNIC

The Men's Ministry invites you to join your church family for a time of fun and fellowship at Camp Wo-Me-To on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00-7:30 PM! There will be swimming, fishing, boating, and more from 3:00-5:00 PM. Dinner will be at 5:30 PM. NHBC will provide the meat, rolls, and drinks. Please bring a dish to share based on your family's last name. Sign up in the lobby or on the Church Center app to attend.



(A-G: Desserts | H-Z: Side Dishes)



## MAINTENANCE FUND - HVAC Goal = \$80,000 Consider an Above and Beyond Gift

As many may know, our sanctuary building is 50 years old, and with an aging building comes many repairs. It has become apparent that after years of the trustees trying to maintain the Ralph Minton Building's heating and air units, the system needs to be replaced. The commercial HVAC and the crane needed for delivery will cost approximately \$80,000. The AC is running day to day, and delivery for the new unit will take 8 weeks. Utilizing \$7,000 from the Ralph Minton maintenance budget and \$24,000 from the Maintenance Fund will leave a balance of \$49,000. This will leave the maintenance fund at zero; thus, we need \$50,000 but asking for the full \$80,000.

Will you prayerfully consider an Above and Beyond gift toward this need? We are not asking you to change your normal tithe to the Church's General Fund, but if you are able, please consider an additional gift designated for the Maintenance Fund - HVAC. You can make this designation on your envelope or through our online giving.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Akers or Jeremiah Brown.