

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.’¹⁶ 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.”⁴² 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,⁵ 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)

Brian Akers (Chairman) hcsbball@gmail.com

Danny Akers daneakers@gmail.com

Lew Carter joppatrans1@gmail.com

Dave Good davidpgood@aol.com

Wayne Hudson 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

Anthony Wilson (Associate Pastor)

pastoranthony@NorthHarford.org

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 to sign up for weekly Bible Devotions from Pastor Matt.



Nursery Workers – August 10th

I AM (Crib) – Penny Brown and Colleen Good

II AM (Toddlers) – Matt/Jennifer Evans and Sarah Evans

PM– Combined I/II – Jordyn Fortunato and Lynette Winzenried

Prayer Intercessor – August 10th – Gerry Cicone

Greeters – August 10th – Anita Gearhart and Brian Akers

Ushers – August 10th – Brian Akers*, Bradyn Citro, Bill Fornoff, Richard Perrine, Bill Tomlinson*, and Donny Wetters

Today’s Ushers – Gil Brown, Josiah Brown, Mark Evans*, Wes Evans*, Mark Huna, and John Steplowski* *ushers who greet in the lobby*



**NORTH HARFORD
BAPTIST CHURCH**

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

August 3, 2025



Please keep these events in your prayers, plan to attend, and invite others!



READING THE BIBLE IN 2025

This week’s readings are:

Isaiah 41-45	Psalms 141	Ecclesiastes 12:1-8
Isaiah 46-50	Psalms 142	Ecclesiastes 12:9-13
Isaiah 51-55	Psalms 143	Song of Solomon 1
Isaiah 56-60	Psalms 144	Song of Solomon 2
Isaiah 61-66	Psalms 145	Song of Solomon 3

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting*
Monday-Friday	9:00-11:35 AM	Jarrettsville Basketball Camp
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Adult Bible Study (Rm. 1)
		Boys Bible Club (1 st -6 th grade boys)
		Girls in Action (1 st -6 th grade girls)
		Youth on Mission (7 th —12 th graders)
Friday	7:00-9:30 PM	Youth Group
Saturday	4:00-7:00 PM	Block Party

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

MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome & Prayer (Jeremiah)

O Worship the King

Reading: Philippians 3:20-21, Resurrection Glory (Pr Matt)

How Great Thou Art | There Is a Redeemer

Offering

SERMON: Glorification
Romans 8:16-23 (Pew Bible Page 1503)

Lord's Supper* | *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Ways to Respond | *Doxology*

*Baptized believers may participate in the Lord's Supper.

NO EVENING WORSHIP

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 tonight from 6:30—7:15 PM.

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 if you have any questions or special prayer requests.

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Nominating Committee meets tonight at 5:15 PM.

FOOD NEEDED FOR BASKETBALL CAMP VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to help feed the basketball camp volunteers this week? 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. Contact Jeanne Akers with any questions.

NO MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Men's Prayer Group is not meeting this week.

BLOCK PARTY

We are having a Block Party on Saturday from 4-7 PM. There will be food, carnival-style games, bounce houses, an obstacle course, face painting, and more! Invite others. We need church members to come and talk with our visitors and help make them feel welcome. You do not have to be involved with Jarrettsville Basketball Camp to attend—this event is for everyone. Sign up in the lobby if you can help with food, face/hand painting, set up/clean up, or at the carnival games or bounce house.

ON THE HORIZON

NO EVENING SERVICE

There will be no Evening Worship Service on August 10th.

LADIES' FALL BIBLE STUDY

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

BUSINESS MEETING

Our next Business Meeting will be on Sunday, August 17th at 5:45 PM. The proposed budget will be presented. We will hear reports and vote on membership changes and Sunday School teachers for the new year.

CHURCH NEWS

MEALS NEEDED

Our Home Care Ministry is providing meals for Maria Minichiello, who is recovering from shoulder surgery and Terri Schmidt, who is having surgery on her right hand this week. 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.

JULY GIVING

General Fund: \$38,452.29

HVAC Fund: \$34,035.60

Baltimore Rescue Mission: \$1,630.00

Camp Wo-Me-To: \$308.56

Mission Dignity: \$400.00

Other Missions: \$661.50

Total: \$75,487.95

Budget: \$44,033.77

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

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AM Sermon: Glorification

Romans 8:16-23

Glorification is the great hope and certain destiny of God's beloved children.

The Four "Rs" of Glorification

1. Glorification _____ suffering (verses 16-18).
2. Glorification _____ creation (verses 19-22).
3. Glorification _____ our bodies (verse 23).
4. Glorification _____ waiting patiently (verses 24-25).



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 16th, 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.