

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)
Jeremiah@NorthHarford.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

North Harford Baptist Church
4008 Old Federal Hill Road
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
(410) 836-6994
www.NorthHarford.org | info@NorthHarford.org

Scan the QR code or email Jenn at info@NorthHarford.org to sign up for weekly Bible Devotions from Pastor Matt.



Nursery Workers – August 31st

I AM (Crib) – Shannon Lewis and Lynette Winzenried

II AM (Toddlers) – Marie Reid and Mia Citro

PM– Combined I/II – Becky Fortunato and Donna Tomlinson

Prayer Intercessor – August 31st – Meg Fornoff

Greeters – August 31st – Jennifer and Andrew Evans

Ushers – August 31st – Danny Akers, Matt Evans, Dave Good, Nathan Good, Wayne Hudson*, and John McDonald

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.

August 24, 2025

Tonight at 6:30, Pastor Akin Omisanmi will share about a church plant in Southwest Baltimore, along with Pastor Joel Kurz, who will share about One Hope Ministries of The Garden Church.

ONE
HOPE

Building Healthy Churches in the Inner City



DEVELOPING AND TRAINING
DISCIPLES FROM THE COMMUNITY
FOR THE URBAN CHURCH

READING THE BIBLE IN 2025

This week's readings are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joel | Job 4-5 (Eliphaz) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nahum | Job 6-7 (Job) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habakkuk | Job 8 (Bildad) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zephaniah | Job 9-10 (Job) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 1-4 | Job 11 (Zophar) |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	6:30 PM	Evening Worship* (Church/Facebook)
Monday	6:30 PM	Deacons Meeting (Rm. 24)
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

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

MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome & Prayer (Pr Anthony)

Blessed Assurance

Reading: Leviticus 19:1-4, The Call to Holiness (Pr Matt)

There Is a Fountain | I Love You, Lord

Offering

SERMON: Holiness

1 Peter 1:14-17 (Pew Bible Page 1672)

As the Deer | Ways to Respond

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: Colossian 1:5-6, Gospel Fruit (Pr Matt)

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Rock of Ages

ONE HOPE MINISTRIES: Pastor Joel Kurz, Garden Church
Pastor Akin Omissanmi, Southwest Baptist Church

Closing Prayer (Pr Anthony)

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

GUEST PRESENTATION, NEW CHURCH PLANT

At the evening worship service tonight, Akin Omissanmi, the pastor of Southwest Baptist Church in Baltimore, a new church plant that we aim to begin supporting our next budget year, which begins in October, will be sharing about the ministry. The church plant is a partnership with One Hope Ministries of The Garden Church, so their pastor, Joel Kurz, will also be visiting. Please come to learn about this opportunity and support these brothers.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Nominating Committee will meet for 15 minutes after the service in Room 24.

DEACONS MEETING

The deacons will meet in Room 24 on Monday at 6:30 PM.

YOUTH RALLY

The permission slips for the Youth Rally are due this Friday. See today's insert for more information.

ON THE HORIZON

CHRISTMAS CHOIR - CALL FOR SINGERS

We need singers for our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 7th, at 6:30 PM. Dave and Ruth Good will lead a time of congregational singing accompanied by a choir of youth, from 7th grade and up, and adults. The choir will also perform a few pieces. They will practice in the Fellowship Hall for 30 minutes immediately following the worship service starting on Sunday, September 7th.

SECRET PAL LUNCHEON

Save the date! The Secret Pal Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, October 25th, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Secret Pal is an annual ministry where women of NHBC "adopt" a widow in the church. Their identities are revealed at the luncheon. If you'd like to learn more about this ministry please see Sarah Caro, Bev Herbert, or Shannon Lewis.

CHURCH NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

At last Sunday's Business Meeting Matthias and Molly Beichler were voted in as members. Please be sure to welcome Matthias, Molly, and their daughter, Kelsey. We are thankful they have joined us!

RECENT GRADUATE

Karah Snyder graduated Saturday from Tufts University as a Doctor of Physical Therapy. Congratulations, Karah!

THE BLESSINGS OF CHRIST SERMON SERIES

Have you missed a sermon in our summer series, The Blessings of Christ? If so, you can find them all on Sermon Audio. Scan the QR code to go to the series.



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: Holiness
1 Peter 1:14-17

Four Pillars of Holiness

1. Cherishing God's law (verse 14a)

2. Commandments of God's law (verses 14b-15)

3. Character of God's law (verse 16)

4. Condemnation of lawbreakers (verse 17)



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.

Youth Events



The Susquehanna Baptist Association is having a Youth Rally on Friday, September 5th, from 6-9 PM at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Port Deposit. There will be free food, games with prizes, and worship with a gospel message from Romans 10, "Saved to Serve." The youth will leave from NHBC at 4:45 PM and return at 10 PM.

Permission slips are available at Youth Group and in the lobby. They are due this Friday.



Cost is \$60/1st child and \$50 for additional children
Register by September 14

Permission slips are in the lobby or register online through our Church Center app.

The youth will be going to the Black Rock Retreat Center in Quarryville, PA, on October 3rd - 5th. The cost is \$60 for the first child and \$50 for additional children.

Register by Sunday, September 14th.

Registration forms are in the lobby and at Youth Group, or use the QR code to register online.

