

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

on the matter.

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

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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)

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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** – September 7<sup>th</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** – September 7<sup>th</sup>– Tina Holmes

**Greeters** – September 7<sup>th</sup>– Sallye Hoover and Wes Evans

**Ushers** – September 7<sup>th</sup>– Gil Brown, Josiah Brown, Mark Evans\*, Wes Evans\*, Mark Huna, and John Steplowski

**Today's Ushers** — Danny Akers, Lew Carter, Matt Evans, Dave Good, Nathan Good, and Wayne Hudson

\* ushers who greet in the lobby



**NORTH HARFORD  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*To live for Jesus and not ourselves.*

**August 31, 2025**

## Prayer Meeting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

6:30-7:15 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

## READING THE BIBLE IN 2025

This week's readings are:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 5-8   | Job 12-14 (Job)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 9-12  | Job 15 (Eliphaz) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 13-16 | Job 16-17 (Job)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 17-20 | Job 18 (Bildad)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 21-24 | Job 19 (Job)     |

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	6:30 PM	Evening Worship* (Church/Facebook)
Wednesday	9:30 AM	Men's Prayer Groups
	7:00 PM	Adult Bible Study (Rm. 1)
		Boys Bible Club (1 <sup>st</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grade boys)
Friday	4:45 PM	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)
	10:00 PM	Youth leave for Youth Rally at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Port Deposit, MD
		Youth return from Youth Rally

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

## MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome & Prayer

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

Reading: Acts 3:22-26, Listen to the Prophet

*Standing on the Promises | Wonderful Words of Life*

Offering

**SERMON:** PROPHET, Priest, and King

Mark 1:14-15 (Pew Bible Page 1300)

*The Goodness of Jesus | Ways to Respond*

## EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: 1 Peter 1:6-7, Result in Praise and Glory

*Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor*

Reading & Prayer: Hebrews 12:3-4, Resist Sin

*There Is a Fountain*

**SERMON:** Rejoice

1 Peter 4:12-19 (Pew Bible Page 1676)

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

### PASTOR MATT ON VACATION

Pastor Matt will be on vacation from today through Friday. Please contact Pastor Anthony or the church office if you have any questions or needs.

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Monday for Labor Day.

### MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Our men's prayer group meets in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:00 AM every FIRST and THIRD Wednesday. The next meeting is THIS Wednesday. Come when you can for encouragement and prayer. *This is a great opportunity for fellowship for retired men or men who don't work during the day.*

## ON THE HORIZON

### PROMOTION SUNDAY

Next Sunday begins a new year for our Sunday School classes. It is a great time to jump in and attend. Children going into 1st, 4th, and 7th grades will begin attending their new class. See today's bulletin insert for the list of classes.

### PRAYER MEETING

Join us next Sunday from 6:30-7:15 PM in the fellowship hall for a time of prayer. The pastor will lead a time in the Word to stir our hearts to prayer. Then, each table will have a prayer time focused on God's glory in the world, our outreach and evangelism efforts, salvation for the lost, and the health of the church. No one will be forced to pray. Nursery will be provided.

### CHRISTMAS CHOIR - CALL FOR SINGERS

We need singers for our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM. Dave and Ruth Good will lead a time of congregational singing accompanied by a choir of youth, from 7<sup>th</sup> 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 NEXT Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

## ON THE HORIZON (CONTINUED)

### SECRET PAL LUNCHEON

Save the date! The Secret Pal Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 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

### WITH SYMPATHY

Norman (Tom) Thomas, Verla Evans' brother went to be with the Lord on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Service information is forthcoming. Please keep Verla and family in your prayers.

### SEPTEMBER MAGAZINES AND FALL DEVOTIONALS

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

### 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.



### COMMUNION SCHEDULE

We're going to celebrate communion in the morning service every first Sunday of the month and in the evening service every third Sunday of the month.

## 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 (continues to the next page)

## AM Sermon: PROPHET, Priest, and King Mark 1:14-15

“This Jesus Christ is the center...of the whole Scripture. The sum of divinity is the Scripture; the sum of the Scripture is the gospel; the sum of the gospel is Jesus Christ.” -Thomas Adams

Jesus is a prophet because he...

1. Proclaims the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

A. Tells God's \_\_\_\_\_

B. Tells God's \_\_\_\_\_

2. Performs \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ people



### 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 we are asking for the full \$80,000.

Will you prayerfully consider an Above and Beyond gift towards 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.



# Promotion SUNDAY

September 7, 2025

Join us for Sunday School on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLASSES:

- **Nursery 1** (Crib) in Room 8  
*Penny Brown, Dave Good, Ruth Good, Janie Steplowski, & Lynette Winzenried*
- **Nursery 2** (Toddlers) in Room 9  
*Linda Mack & Marie Reid*
- **Pre-K/K** in Room 2  
*Lorna Dorn & Nancy Rathbun*
- **1st – 3rd Grade** in Room 3  
*Harmony Evans, Linda Perrine, & Hannnah Schneider*
- **4th – 6th Grade** in Room 6  
*Denise McDonald & Nancy Taylor*
- **7th – 12th Grade Boys** in the balcony above the gym (DS bldg)  
*Mark Evans & Mark (Moe) Winzenried*
- **7th –12th Grade Girls** in Room D4 (DS bldg)  
*Verla Evans & Becky Fortunato*

## ADULT CLASSES:

- **Apologetics Class** in the Youth Café (DS bldg)  
*John McDonald*
- **Understanding the Bible** in the sanctuary  
*Pastor Matt Fortunato, Jeremiah Brown, and Neil Schmidt*
- **Explore the Bible** in Room 7  
*Matt Evans*
- **Ruth Class** in Room 36 (upstairs)  
*Jeanne Akers*
- **Senior Men** in Room D3 (DS bldg)  
*Bill Fornoff*
- **Sisters in Christ** in Room 24  
*Anita Gearhart*
- **Young Adults** by the baptistry in Room 33  
*Pastor Anthony Wilson and Kenzi Wilson*

# Youth Events



The Susquehanna Baptist Association is having a Youth Rally THIS Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.” Church, be praying for this event.

***The youth will leave from NHBC at 4:45 PM and return at 10 PM.***



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

***Register by Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.***

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

