

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.' 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 – September 14th

I AM (Crib) – Penny Brown and Colleen Good

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

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

Prayer Intercessor – September 14th – Gerry Cicone

Greeters – September 14th – John and Denise McDonald

Ushers – September 14th – Brian Akers*, Bradyn Citro, Bill Fornoff, Richard Perrine, Bill Tomlinson*, and Don 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.

September 7, 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 25-28 | Job 20 (Zophar) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 29-32 | Job 21 (Job) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 33-36 | Job 22 (Eliphaz) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 37-40 | Job 23-24 (Job) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 41-44 | Job 25 (Bildad) |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
Tuesday	After Church	Christmas Choir Practice (downstairs)
	6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting* (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday	9:15 AM	Precept Ladies' Bible Study (Rm. 1)
Friday	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)
		Youth Group

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

MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome & Prayer

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Reading: John 1:1-5, The Eternal Word (Pastor Matt)

Amazing Grace | Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor

Offering

SERMON: The Story of Scripture
Genesis 1-3 (Pew Bible Page 29)

Lord's Supper* | *O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer*

Ways to Respond | *Doxology*

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

PRAYER MEETING

Join us tonight from 6:30-7:15 PM in the fellowship hall for a time of prayer. Jeremiah 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.

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

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Today 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 began attending their new class. See today's bulletin insert for the list of classes.

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 TODAY.

SECRETARY ON VACATION


Jennifer will be on vacation from this week. Penny Brown will be filling in.

ON THE HORIZON

BUSINESS MEETING

We will have a Business Meeting on Sunday, September 14th, at 6 PM, to hear reports, vote on the new budget, new deacons, and the Nominating Committee's nominees.

YOUTH RETREAT


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 on the Church Center app. 

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

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.

AUGUST GIVING

General Fund \$33,042.26
HVAC \$33,896.44
Baltimore Rescue Mission \$2,117.54
Camp Wo-Me-To \$300.00
Commission to Every Nation \$318.14
Lottie Moon \$200.00
Mission Dignity \$300.00
Other Missions \$525.60

Total: \$70,699.98

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

(continues to the next page)

AM Sermon: The Story of Scripture

Genesis 1-3

1. God's Creation

2. Man's Rebellion

3. Righteous Judgment

4. Saving Grace

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



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.