

## 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))

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

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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 21st

I AM (Crib) – Tammy Wetters and Janie Steplowski

II AM (Toddlers) – Marie Reid and Mia Citro

PM– Combined I/II – Jenn and Sarah Evans and Bella Fortunato

**Prayer Intercessor** – September 21st– Joan Snyder

**Greeters** – September 21st — Anita Gearhart and Brian Akers

**Ushers** – September 21st— Kyle Campanella, Bob Doss, Jim Dougherty, Andrew Evans, Eric Heinze, Vince Minichiello\*

**Today's Ushers** — Brian Akers\*, Bradyn Citro, Bill Fornoff, Richard Perrine, Bill Tomlinson\*, Donny Wetters

\* ushers who greet in the lobby



**NORTH HARFORD  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*To live for Jesus and not ourselves.*

**September 14, 2025**



**Tonight at 5:45 PM**

## READING THE BIBLE IN 2025

This week's readings are:

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 45-48   | Job 26-27 (Job) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 49-52   | Job 28-29 (Job) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 1-2 | Job 30-31 (Job) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3-5 | Job 32 (Elihu)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 1-4      | Job 33 (Elihu)  |

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	After Church	Christmas Choir Practice (downstairs)
	5:45 PM	Business Meeting
	6:30 PM	Evening Worship* (Church/Facebook)
Tuesday	9:15 AM	Precept Ladies' Bible Study
Wednesday	9:30 AM	Men's Prayer Group
	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)
Friday	7:00 PM	Youth Group

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

## MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome & Prayer

*His Mercy Is More*

Reading: Colossians 3:5-10, Christian Living (Pastor Matt)

*Seek Ye First | Glorify Thy Name*

Offering

**SERMON:** The Christian Life (Sam Brindley)

Romans 12:9-21 (Pew Bible Page 1509)

*Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him* [Ways to Respond

## EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: I Timothy 3:1-7, Qualified Shepherds

*Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy*

Reading & Prayer: 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Shepherd's Role

*Holy Holy Holy*

**SERMON:** Shepherds (Pastor Anthony)

1 Peter 5:1-5 (Pew Bible Page 1677)

Closing Prayer

*\*\*If you are able, please help set up tables and chairs for the Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Study after the Evening Service. Thank You!*

## 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

## WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

### 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.

### BUSINESS MEETING

We will have a Business Meeting tonight at 5:45 PM. We will hear reports, vote on the new budget, new deacons, and the Nominating Committee's nominees.

### MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Our men's prayer group meets in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30AM-10:00AM 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 who don't work during the day.*

## ON THE HORIZON

### MEN'S MINISTRY'S WILD GAME FEAST

Bring what you caught, hooked, shot, or bought to be cooked on the grill or bring it already grilled to share—let's try it all! Saturday, October 11th at 4:30PM at Brian Akers's home. Sign up sheet is in the lobby.

### 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 due TODAY.** 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 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

### 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.



### MUSIC LEADER POSITION

In the proposed budget for our new fiscal year (begins Oct.) there is a new position called music leader. The prayer is for a leader over this ministry with the proper spiritual gifts and leadership experience. Right now, the pastors schedule the rotation and choose the songs, but there is no further training, equipping, or practice. The desired music leader will not only do the scheduling but also will be able to (1) lead practices and work with the various teams and individuals for growth (2) implement other instruments and recruit other singers or accompanists, (3) work in conjunction with a choir to use during worship, and (4) have the time and ability to find new songs for the rotation and teach them to the teams and church. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Matt directly.

### BCMD ANNUAL MEETING

We belong to the Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware, and the annual meeting is coming up on November 10-11 in Ocean City, MD. If you would like to be a messenger who represents our church at this meeting, please let us know at [info@northharford.org](mailto:info@northharford.org).

## 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

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## PRAISE GOD!

The goal of \$80,000 has been reached.

Thank you for your generous giving.

This should pay for the complete replacement of the systems in the church building.

Jeremiah Brown and the trustees are finalizing plans for the new system.



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**AM Sermon: The Christian Life**  
**Romans 12:9-21**

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