

PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

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 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 28th

I AM (Crib) – Shannon Lewis and Lynette Winzenried

II AM (Toddlers) – Maria and Julia Minichiello

PM– Combined I/II – Dave Good and Linda Perrine

Prayer Intercessor – September 28th– Danny Akers

Greeters – September 28th — Wayne and Sharon Hudson

Ushers – September 28th — Malik Baker-Gore, Bob Burman, Frank Cicone*, Jim Feldbush, Gary McAllister, Tom Neunaber*

Today's Ushers — Kyle Campanella, Bob Doss, Jim Dougherty, Andrew Evans, Eric Heinze, Vince Minichiello*

* ushers who greet in the lobby



**NORTH HARFORD
BAPTIST CHURCH**

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

September 21, 2025



Lord's Supper

Tonight at 6:30 PM
during Evening Worship

READING THE BIBLE IN 2025

This week's readings are:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| ☐ Matthew 5-8 | Job 34 (Elihu) |
| ☐ Matthew 9-12 | Job 35 (Elihu) |
| ☐ Matthew 13-16 | Job 36 (Elihu) |
| ☐ Matthew 17-20 | Job 37 (Elihu) |
| ☐ Matthew 21-24 | Job 38 (God) |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	After Church 6:30 PM	Christmas Choir Practice (downstairs) Evening Worship* (Church/Facebook)
Tuesday	9:15 AM	Precept Ladies' Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Sister to Sister
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 PM	Youth Group

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

MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Reading: Hebrews 11:1-4, Role of Faith

Great is Thy Faithfulness | I Love You, Lord

Offering

SERMON: Life on Earth (Pastor Matt)
Genesis 4 (Pew Bible Page 35)

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed | Closing Prayer

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: Galatians 2:20, Christ Who Lives in Me

O Church Arise

Reading & Prayer: Revelation 12:7-12, His Time is Short

Nothing But the Blood

SERMON: Humble Yourselves (Pastor Anthony)
1 Peter 5:6-14 (Pew Bible Page 1677)

Lord's Supper* | *Doxology* | Closing Prayer

*Baptized believers may participate in the Lord's Supper

***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 if you have any questions or special prayer requests.

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

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.

SISTER TO SISTER

This Tuesday, September 23rd at 7 PM we will meet in the Youth Café of the Dallas Sutton building. Come for a time of fellowship, praying for one another, and encouragement from God's Word. See Penny Brown with any questions.

ON THE HORIZON

YOUTH RETREAT

The youth will be going to the Black Rock Retreat Center in Quarryville, PA, on October 3rd - 5th. If you have registered, your money is due by September 28th. Please pray for the youth and leaders to have a safe and effective weekend.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

All children aged 3 through 6th grade are invited to participate in a children's choir! Practices will be on Sundays from 12:10-12:30 PM, in Room 1 immediately following worship, starting October 5th through December 1st. See Becky Fortunato or Kenzi Wilson with questions.

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' home. Sign up sheet is in the lobby.

SECRET PAL LUNCHEON

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

A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Cheryl Brown's father (Tom Bermel) passed away on September 13th. His services will be September 26th at Highview Memorial Gardens—visitation at 10:30 followed by a service at 11:30. A meal at the church will follow the internment. If you can help provide food for the meal, please contact Remonda Fletcher.

NEW MINISTRY: FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL FOR AMERICA

Join us outside in front of the youth building (or inside if raining) from **6-7 PM every FIRST FRIDAY** of the month for a time of focused prayer for America. **October 3rd** is the first one. We will also sing praise songs and hear from God's Word. We will have light refreshments and practical tools to help us pray for our nation in our own time. Please block out these 12 hours for the whole year and join us in calling upon God for revival, reform, and spiritual awakening in Harford County and the whole nation. Prayer is a powerful spiritual weapon that I want to see our church and especially our leaders, embrace and trust more and more.

MUSIC LEADER POSITION

In the budget for 2026 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.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IN THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF LIFE SEMINAR

Dr. Michael Erickson, a friend and colleague of Pastor Matt is hosting a one day seminar entitled *Christian Leadership in Ministry, Family, Workplace, & Life Settings: Fundamentals & Skills of Leadership in the Project Management of Life* on Saturday, October 11th at Upper Cross Roads Baptist Church. Visit <https://www/crossroadsbi.org/courses> for information and registration.

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*.

(continues to the next page)

AM Sermon: Six Aspects of Life on Earth

Genesis 4

1.

4.

2.

5.

3.

6.



