## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

## MORE ON CHRIST'S LOVE

*The love of Christ is sustaining.* Left to our own strength, we would fall away from the Lord like dead leaves in autumn. The good news is that Jesus has promised to sustain us, and Jesus is faithful. The Bible teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ "will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:8-9).

The love of Christ is strengthening. Because of our weakness, temptations, sufferings, and the troubles of the world, it would be easy to fall prey to despair, bitterness, or apathy. We must constantly go to Christ for strength and victory, "for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace" (Hebrews 13:9). Whatever else you do today, cry out to God to "be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:1).

The love of Christ is liberating. The classic allegory, "The Pilgrim's Progress," pictures trusting in Christ as having a great burden lifted off the back. By the power of the cross of Christ, the burden of guilt, shame, and sorrow was rolled away like the stone from Jesus' tomb. Jesus taught, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:34-36).

As long as we are separated from Christ, our hearts and minds are enslaved to sin. But in Christ and filled with the Spirit, we are free indeed. "We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:6-11).

Jesus has liberated us from the condemning voice and tyrannical power of sin. He strengthens us daily through the indwelling Spirit and the Word of His grace. And according to His promise and faithfulness, He will sustain us to the end and bring us safely home to glory. "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before

all time and now and forever. Amen" (Jude 24-25).

Scan the QR code to read more articles like this.

# **ONLINE GIVING**

If you would prefer to give online, please scan the OR 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)

Danny Akers daneakers@gmail.com

Lew Carter joppatrans 1@gmail.com

Mark Evans evansmark@yahoo.com

Dave Good (Chairman) davidpgood@aol.com

Wayne Hudson quallybear.usmc@gmail.com

John McDonald jmcdonald47@yahoo.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 - October 19th

I AM (Crib) - Tammy Wetters and Janie Steplowski

II AM (Toddlers) - Marie Reid and Mia Citro

PM- Combined I/II - Jenn Evans and Bella Fotunato

**Prayer Intercessor** – October 19<sup>th</sup> – Gerry Cicone

Greeters – October 19<sup>th</sup> — Sallye Hoover and Wes Evans

Ushers – October 19<sup>th</sup> - Kyle Campanella, Bob Doss, Jim Dougherty, Andrew Evans\*, Eric Heinze, and Vince Minichiello\*

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

\* ushers who greet in the lobby



## NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

October 12, 2025



**Next Sunday during Sunday School** for those in 4th grade and up

The Alternative: Creation's Competitive Edge Dr Robert Carter CMI speaker

Remember to invite your family & friends!

Creation resources will be available

## **READING THE BIBLE IN 2025**

This week's readings are:

☐ Ezekiel 26-30 Provers 4 Ezekiel 31-35 Proverbs 5 Ezekiel 36-40 Proverbs 6:1-19 Ezekiel 41-44 Proverbs 6:20-35 Ezekiel 45-48 Proverbs 7

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service\* (Church/Facebook) Christmas Choirs Practice (downstairs) After Church 6:30 PM Evening Worship\* (Church/Facebook) Tuesday 9:15 AM Precept Ladies' Bible Study 9:30 AM Wednesday Men's Prayer Group 6:30 PM GriefShare (Youth Café) 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)

7:00 - 9:30PM Youth Group

Friday

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

## **MORNING WORSHIP**

Call to Worship and Announcements

Rock of Ages

Reading: Genesis 6:17-18, Promise of a Covenant

I Need Thee Every Hour | All Glory Be to Christ

Offering

**SERMON:** The Noahic Covenant, part 1

Genesis 8:14-9:7 (Pew Bible Page 40)

The Power of the Cross | Closing Prayer

# **EVENING WORSHIP**

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: John 15:12-17, Chosen and Appointed

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Reading & Prayer: Philippians 4:8-9, Practice

Nothing But the Blood

**SERMON:** Supplement Your Faith

2 Peter 1:1-15 (Pew Bible Page 1681)

**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).

- God Do you acknowledge God's authority, that He made the world, made you, and will bring everyone to judgment? (see Ecclesiastes 12:14)
- 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 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 (7<sup>th</sup> grade and up) and adults. The choir will also perform a few pieces. They practice in the Fellowship Hall for 30 minutes immediately following the worship service.

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

All children aged 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in a children's choir! They practice on Sundays from 12:10-12:30 PM, in Room 1 immediately following worship. See Becky Fortunato or Kenzi Wilson with questions.

#### 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 who don't work during the day.

## **GRIEFSHARE**

We are hosting a 13-week GriefShare Program. This is a faith-based program designed to help those in the grieving process. The cost of the book is \$20. Scholarships are available. They will meet in the Youth Café on Wednesdays from 6:30 –8:30 PM beginning October 15th.

Scan the QR code to register. See Robyn Smith with any questions.

## ON THE HORIZON

#### CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Join us next Sunday during Sunday School for a special presentation from Dr. Robert Carter of Creation Ministries International on "The Alternative: Creation's Competitive Edge." Children in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up are welcome to attend. "Rob is one of the world's leading Christian researchers into the study of human genetics and how this relates to human biblical origins." - CMI website.

# ON THE HORIZON (CONTINUED)

## SECRET PAL LUNCHEON

Widows and their Secret Pals are invited to the Secret Pal Luncheon on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP to Bev Herbert by tomorrow.

#### **GLOW DODGEBALL**

The youth favorite, Glow Dodgeball, is coming back to Youth Group on Friday, October 31st. Invite other youth!

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

Our next Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6 PM.

#### FIRST FRIDAYS 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. November 7<sup>th</sup> is the next one.

## LADIES' BONFIRE

The Women's Ministry's annual bonfire at Jeanne Akers' house will take place on Friday, November 7th, at 7:15 PM, following the church's First Fridays Prayer Vigil for America. Bring a snack to share, a chair, and a blanket. Jeanne will have chairs available, also.

#### DRIVEN BY THE WORD CONFERENCE

This is our second annual conference with First Baptist of Perryville. We are hosting this year on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9 AM to noon. Arrive at 8:30 AM for registration and refreshments. This will be a deep dive into the way God reaches hearts and saves souls through the preaching of the gospel. The Pastor of First Baptist of Perryville, Sam Brindley, will bring two of the messages.

## **FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**

We'll have a Fellowship Lunch on Sunday, November 9th, after the morning worship service. The theme is "Your Favorite Fall Dish." If possible, please bring a main dish and a side or dessert to share with your church family.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

## **BCMD ANNUAL MEETING**

If you would like to be a Messenger of our church to represent us at the annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, please let Jenn or one of the pastors know by Oct. 22. The meeting is Nov. 10-11 at Ocean City, MD. More here: https://bcmd.org/event/the-gathering-2025/

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

# AM Sermon: The Noahic Covenant, part 1 Genesis 8:14-9:7

3. Provision Preserved

God preserves His people because He is faithful to His promises.

1. Purpose Preserved

4. Society Preserved

2. Worship Preserved