

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

from a relationship with God and keeps us from falling into despair and cynicism. When Jesus arrived, He made true and lasting joy possible and accessible to restless and weary sinners. You can have joy today if you look to Jesus as the living fountain of God's help and kindness. "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and **rejoice with joy that is inexpressible** and filled with glory," obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9).

**3. Peace** – Peace means an inner sense of contentment of heart and an abiding experience of genuine rest for the soul. It is easy to be overwhelmed by the angst and uneasiness of the world. It is easy to be swept up in the "always-wanting-more" spirit of the culture. But when Jesus arrived, He modeled and made possible the way of peace in fellowship with God. This Advent season, be sure to find peace in Christ rather than things and traditions. "I have said these things to you, that **in me you may have peace**. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

**4. Hope** – Hope means the certainty of our future inheritance of heavenly glory and resurrection life. Despite everything the world says, THIS LIFE is not the end. THIS WORLD is not all there is. After we die, our souls will depart to be with Christ, free from the sin, sorrow, and sufferings of this world. When Christ arrives to the world for the second and final time, we will receive resurrection bodies like Him and inherit the earth in righteousness for the glory of God. This is our hope. It is set. Your heart can be certain. Beloved, let the hope of Christ be your anchor. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **to an inheritance that is imperishable**, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a **salvation ready to be revealed** in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5).

Has something been holding you back from giving your life to Christ? Let these four blessings of Advent -- *blessings brought by the arrival/coming of God in Christ* - turn your heart today and ignite a flame of faith and love toward Him. **LOVE, JOY, PEACE, and HOPE can be yours today in the only Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.** "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

To read more articles from Pastor Matt, please scan the QR Code or visit [timeintheword.weebly.com](http://timeintheword.weebly.com)



## 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))

Danny Akers [daneakers@gmail.com](mailto:daneakers@gmail.com)

Lew Carter [joppatrans1@gmail.com](mailto:joppatrans1@gmail.com)

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Dave Good (Chairman) [davidpgood@aol.com](mailto:davidpgood@aol.com)

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John McDonald [jmcdonald47@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:pastormatt@NorthHarford.org)

Anthony Wilson (Associate Pastor)

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Jeremiah Brown (Pastoral Intern)

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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) sign up for weekly Bible Devotions from Pastor Matt.



**Nursery Workers** – December 14<sup>th</sup>

I AM (Crib) – Collen Good and Bill Fornoff

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

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

**Prayer Intercessor** – December 14<sup>th</sup>– Danny Akers

**Greeters** – December 14<sup>th</sup>— Anita Gearhart and Brian Akers

**Ushers** – December 14<sup>th</sup>– Brian Akers\*, Bradyn Citro, Bill Fornoff, Richard Perrine, Bill Tomlinson\*, and Donny 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.*

**December 7, 2025**



## READING THE BIBLE IN 2025

This week's readings are:

- |                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 1-4   | Proverbs 26:17-28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5-8   | Proverbs 27:1-14  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 9-12  | Proverbs 27:15-27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 13-16 | Proverbs 28:1-14  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1-4     | Proverbs 28:15-28 |

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 AM 10:45 AM After Church 6:30 PM	Sunday School Worship Service* (Church/Facebook) Christmas Choirs Practice (downstairs) Christmas Concert* (Church/Facebook)
<b>Wednesday</b>	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	GriefShare (Youth Café) Adult Bible Study (Rm. 1) Children's Christmas Party with Youth on Mission
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00PM	Ladies' Cookie Packing/Sip & See the Christmas Tree (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Friday</b>	7:00 - 9:30PM	Youth Group

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

## MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Reading: Romans 5:6-9, God's Incomparable Love

*O Come, O Come, Emanuel*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Offering

**SERMON:** The Arrival of Perfect Love  
1 John 4:9-10, (Pew Bible Page 1693)

Lord's Supper\* | *What Child Is This?*

Closing Prayer | Doxology

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

## EVENING WORSHIP

### CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT

Join us tonight at 6:30 for our Christmas Choir Concert. Bring your family and friends to hear and join the children, youth, and adult choirs sing about the joy of Christ's coming. We will have refreshments following the concert.

## 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.

## UPCOMING PRAYER SERVICES

### PRAYER MEETING

Next Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 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.

### FIRST FRIDAYS PRAYER VIGIL FOR AMERICA

Join us in the Youth Café from 6-6:45 PM every FIRST FRIDAY of the month for a time of focused prayer for America. Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, is the next one.

## WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

### CHRISTMAS CHOIRS REHEARSALS

Both choirs are practicing upstairs after the service today.

### SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

Pastor Matt will be teaching a 4-part series on **CHRISTIAN LIVING on Sundays in December (9:30-10:30 am in the main sanctuary)**. If you are not a part of a Sunday School class, please consider joining us for a thorough but accessible "guide" to the basic principles of living for Jesus rather than ourselves.

### GRIEF SHARE

The GriefShare Program we host is restarting with a new time! The program 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 5-7 PM from December 10-March 18 See Robyn Smith with any questions.

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR BALTIMORE RESCUE MISSION

The list of items that the Baltimore Rescue Mission provided is in the lobby. Place any donated items on the designated table in the fellowship hall downstairs. Please do not leave them in the lobby. Items are due this Wednesday.

### COOKIES FOR THE BALTIMORE RESCUE MISSION

We are collecting cookies for the Baltimore Rescue Mission to pass out on Christmas Eve. Our goal is 250 dozen cookies. Any leftover cookies will be given to the Karis Home. Cookies are due on this Wednesday. Please use the tear-off sheets on the lobby bulletin boards to select what you'd like to provide. Please label your cookies with the number of cookies provided (you can use the tear-off if you'd like) and leave them in the refrigerator downstairs. Please do not leave them in the lobby. Not a baker? Store-bought cookies are welcome, too!

### COOKIE PACKING ☐ SIP ☐ SEE THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Ladies, join us for a time of fellowship and service as we pack cookies donated for the Baltimore Rescue Mission on Thursday, December 11th, at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. After the packing, we'll enjoy refreshments next door at Becky Fortunato's house.

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The church council will meet next Sunday at 5 PM in Room 1 to discuss the 2026 church calendar and pray for the events the New Year will hold.

## ON THE HORIZON

See the bulletin insert for upcoming events and more church news.

## CHURCH NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW BABY

Nathan, Colleen, Josie, and Tucker Good welcomed Carly Grace into their family last Sunday. Carly weighed 9 lbs., 9 oz. and was 22 inches long. Congratulations, Good family!

### CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Church directories are available in the lobby for members.

### NEW PODCAST

Check out Pastors Matt and Anthony's podcast on any of the following platforms: Apple Podcast, Spotify, iHeart Radio, our Sermon Audio page, and our YouTube Channel. Just search for North Harford Baptist Church to find it.

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

### ADVENT: GOD'S ARRIVAL IN JESUS CHRIST

"Advent" comes from a Latin word meaning "coming," or "arrival." In an old Latin Bible, it was used for the future second coming of Jesus, for the resurrection and final judgment. But the idea of awaiting God to come is not unique to us. Before the first coming of Jesus, God's people were awaiting God to arrive in the Savior. They were awaiting the kingdom of God, the full blessing of the Holy Spirit, and the bringing of salvation to the nations. Praying for and waiting for the blessing of God is a great way to live!

This time of year, we remember the idea of awaiting the coming/arrival of God in the person of Jesus Christ. We remember how saints of old awaited His first coming to accomplish salvation; and we remember how we currently await His second coming to bring all things to their appointed End.

In either case, God's arrival in Christ has important practical implications for our lives. The next four sermons highlight four major implications traditionally linked with the Advent season, the season of awaiting the arrival/coming of God. They are LOVE, JOY, PEACE, and HOPE. I will summarize them here as an appetizer.

1. **Love** – Love means blessing rather than cursing, helping rather than harming, from a sincere heart that truly cares for someone's wellbeing. When Jesus arrived, He brought the eternal love of God by winning our salvation and saving our souls. He lived a perfect life, died a sacrificial death, and rose to eternal life to bring us to God. "For **God so loved the world**, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:16-17).

2. **Joy** – Joy means inner delight and happiness that grows  
(continues to the next page)

## AM Sermon: The Arrival of Perfect Love

### 1 John 4:9-10

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Main Point: Only perfect love can give rest to the soul and satisfy our deepest longing.

Because of Jesus, we have at our fingertips perfect love:

1. From a perfect \_\_\_\_\_ (verses 9, 10).
2. Expressed in the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ (verses 9, 10).
3. Experienced by a perfect \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 9b).
4. That reveals perfect \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 10a).
5. Through the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 10b).



## Christmas News

### CHRISTMAS CAROLERS WANTED

Hart Heritage Estates in Street, MD has requested carolers to sing for the residents at 1 PM on any weekday before Christmas. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

We have a tradition at NHBC of exchanging Christmas cards with one another to raise money for missions. The youth organize this effort each year by sorting and hand-delivering the Christmas cards before and after church. You can also pick up your cards in the Fellowship Hall. Please place your cards on the designated table in the Fellowship Hall from now through December 21<sup>st</sup>. Label them with the names of those in the church you wish to send a card to. Cost: 10¢ each, 3 for 25¢, 12 for \$1, and 60 for \$5. A Word document and a PDF of labels are available on our website's password-protected members' page, which you can print and use for your Christmas cards. The labels include members and visitors and are designed for 2 5/8" x 1" address labels (Avery 5160). Please let the church office know of any errors. We make every effort to make it as complete and convenient as possible. Any errors are unintentional.

### CHRISTMAS EVE COOKIES AND CAROLING

We will have our annual Christmas Eve Cookies and Caroling at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Come for a relaxed celebration with singing and cookies! If you'd like to bring cookies for this event, please sign up in the lobby. Invite others!

### LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Lottie Moon was a missionary to China from 1873 until her death in 1912. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was established in her memory to raise money to support missionaries overseas through the Southern Baptist's International Mission Board. 100% of your gifts given to this offering go to the missionaries. You may put your Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in the designated envelope in the lobby and place it in the offering plate.

### CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE

Do you know a family that needs help with Christmas this year? If so, please let Danny Akers or one of the deacons know.

### DECEMBER MAGAZINES AND WINTER DEVOTIONALS

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

### 'TIS THE SEASON

Today, we begin our ADVENT SERMON SERIES. Invite your family and friends. All the sermons will focus on one aspect of Christ's coming and what it means for the world: LOVE, JOY, PEACE, and HOPE. A thorough treatment of these topics will get us in the proper mindset for Christmas and set us in the right direction for 2026.

## Other Church News

### OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026

We are preparing next year's offering envelopes for distribution by the end of December. Please contact the church office if you would like to have envelopes and do not currently have an assigned number. Also, if you have been assigned a number and do not plan to use envelopes, please contact the church office.

### LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Precepts is an in-depth Bible Study for women that meets on Tuesdays from 9:15-11:30 AM. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, they will begin a study of the Book of John (Part 2). Registration costs \$23.00 and is due by December 19<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are available in the lobby. See Anita Gearhart with questions.

### HOME CARE MINISTRY - URGENT NEED

There is an immediate need for more volunteers to provide meals for church family who have had surgery. Please contact Verla Evans for more information or to help.

### KITCHEN COMMITTEE HELP NEEDED

We need one or two more ladies to serve on our Kitchen Committee. The committee helps serve at Fellowship Meals and some events. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sallye Hoover or the church office.

### THREE NURSERY WORKERS ARE NEEDED

Please contact Lynette Winzenried to volunteer to serve in the nursery on the or 5th Sunday mornings (crib) or the 5th Sunday evening (combined).

### NOVEMBER GIVING

General Fund: \$45,189.28

Benevolence: \$1,100.40

Baltimore Rescue Mission: \$2,4800.00

Camp WoMeTo: \$650.05

CTEN: \$260.60

Annie Armstrong: \$200.00

Heartland: \$340.00

Lottie Moon: \$550.15

Mission Dignity: \$940.00

Other Missions: \$501.20

**Total: \$52,211.68**

*Budget: \$44,033.77*



## 2025 Christmas Giving Form

Instead of flowers, please consider giving to one of these ministries in memory or honor of someone.

**Please place this completed form and payment in the designated box in the lobby or in the church office by December 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Checks made payable to North Harford Baptist Church.**

If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Akers.

Please do not put this in the offering plate.

Organization	Quantity	Cost	Other Amount	Total
Mike Christ		\$10		\$
Saron Mack		\$10		\$
Total				\$

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In memory of    -or-    ☐ In honor of

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Recipient's name*

Given by: (How you want it written in the bulletin)

PURCHASER'S Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(If different than the name to be shown in the



Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In memory of    -or-    ☐ In honor of

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Recipient's name*

Given by: (How you want it written in the bulletin)

PURCHASER'S Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(If different than the name to be shown in the

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In memory of    -or-    ☐ In honor of

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Recipient's name*

Given by: (How you want it written in the bulletin)

PURCHASER'S Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(If different than the name to be shown in the



# BALTIMORE RESCUE MISSION / KARIS HOME CHRISTMAS WISH LIST 2025

UNITED WAY ACCT #4184

DO NOT GIFT WRAP! Items needed by Tuesday Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> to be included in Christmas gift bags. Items received after 16<sup>th</sup> are used but might not be included in gift bags.

## KITCHEN

- GROUND BEEF & HAMS
- turkeys, tuna
- bottled water, juices
- fresh milk, eggs
- dried northern beans
- canned corn, gr beans, spaghetti sauce, baked beans, sweet potatoes, mix veg, carrots, peas
- SUGAR, syrup, salt
- complete pancake mix
- peanut butter, mayo
- ranch, french, bleu ch
- soups: cream chicken, cr celery, cr mushroom, variety vegetable soups
- powdered drinks: iced tea, lemonade, kool-aid
- egg noodles, Ramen

- ketchup, mustard, gravy, alfredo, rice
- 7-10oz disposable cups
- disposable plates
- plastic spoons, forks
- toilet paper
- luncheon napkins
- paper towels on a roll
- alum foil, ziploc bags
- dishwashing liquid

## GIFT CARDS for:

- VISA, Walmart, Aldi's
- McDonald's, Wendy's,
- Burger King, Chick-fil-A  
(Mail or hand deliver to Janna Buettner)
- Games: Battleship, Uno
- writing pads, pens
- postage stamps – flags, flowers

## TOILETRIES, MEDS, and CLEANERS

- liq laundry detergent
- boxes of Kleenex
- individual Kleenex pks
- spray air freshener
- chapstick, Q-tips
- Tums, Roloids
- M, L, XL disposable cleaning gloves
- ibuprofen, cough drops
- bleach, cleaners
- Lysol disinfect wipes
- liquid soap, lotion
- toilet bowl cleaner
- toothpaste, brushes
- Pepto-Bismol, Benadryl
- neosporin, nail clippers
- cornstarch (baby) powder

## NO TOYS, NO HATS, NO WOMEN'S SCARVES & GLOVES NEW MEN'S, WOMEN'S, CHILDREN'S GIFT BAG ITEMS

### BIBLES

- KJV large print Bibles
- ### MEN (new)

- jeans, casual pants all sizes
- boxers/briefs 34 – 58
- sweat shirts: M – 7X
- casual long sleeve shirts: M – 7X
- t-shirts: 2X – 7X
- tennis, casual shoes
- men's shampoo
- men's body wash
- twin size sheet sets
- washcloths, bath towels
- men's stick deodorant
- LED flashlights
- insulated water bottles
- 2026 pocket calendars

### WOMEN (new)

- twin size sheet sets
- bed pillows
- washcloths, bath towels
- women's back packs
- shoulder tote bags
- sweat shirts, sweaters: womens L – 7X, socks
- \*\*\*underwear: all sizes-7X
- \*\*\*sports bras: all sizes
- \*\*\*camisoles: all sizes
- \*\*\*pj's & nightgowns
- robes: all sizes – 7X
- women's shampoo
- women's body wash
- portable shower caddies
- LED flashlights
- insulated water bottles
- writing pads, pens

- 2026 pocket calendars
  - Word search books
  - lge zipper Bible covers
- ### CHILDREN (new)

- NEW OR GENTLY USED PACK 'N PLAYS
- high chairs
- boys pullups 4T-5, 5T-6
- disp diapers: sizes 4,5,6
- BOYS newborn-size – size 12: clothing, pj's, robes, socks, underwear, slippers
- GIRLS newborn-size – size 12: clothing, pj's, robes, socks, underwear, slippers
- children's backpacks
- Bible story books

Please place your donations on the designated table downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Donations are due Wednesday, December 10th.