

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

Second, membership with the church is also practical and visible. That means we outwardly and formally gather together for worship, service, and practical encouragement and discipleship. A local church is a clearly defined group of people with a shared faith and shared biblical commitments. The local church is the natural development from the book of Acts to the book of Revelation. It is the obvious design of God for organizing His people, ministering to them, gathering them for worship and instruction, and using them in the world to spread the gospel and represent the kingdom of Christ.

- Hebrews 10:24-25, “And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works,**<sup>25</sup> **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”
- Acts 2:41-42, 47, “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,” “<sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord **added to their number** day by day those who were being saved.”
- Matthew 18:17, “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to **the church**. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”
- 1 Corinthians 5:4-5, “When **you are assembled** in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,<sup>5</sup> you are to **deliver this man to Satan** for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.”
- Titus 3:10-11, “As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, **have nothing more to do with him,**<sup>11</sup> knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.”
- 1 John 2:19, “They **went out from us**, but they **were not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that **they all are not of us.**”

Let each of us recognize the reality of God’s church, appreciate the importance of God’s church, and grow in our love, zeal, and devotion to God’s church. Church is not the invention of man, but of God. But in a land full of counterfeits, we must strive by the Spirit to be and to love the genuine article. Our goal is to be a Spirit-filled, Christ-centered, Bible-saturated, glory-of-God focused biblical local church. We are the body of Christ, both a spiritual and, also, a visible, outward reality. And our membership, beloved, is not an abstract idea. It is a living reality of fellowship with Christ and with each other by the indwelling Spirit of 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))

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

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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.



## NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

*To live for Jesus and not ourselves.*

January 4, 2026

# Prayer Meeting

JANUARY 4TH  
6:30-7:15 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

## READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

<input type="checkbox"/> John 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 1-2	Proverbs 1:1-7
<input type="checkbox"/> John 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 3-4	Proverbs 1:8-19
<input type="checkbox"/> John 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 5-6	Proverbs 1:20-33
<input type="checkbox"/> John 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 7	Proverbs 2
<input type="checkbox"/> John 17-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 8	Proverbs 3:1-12

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting* (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday	9:00-10:00AM	Precepts Book Pick Up (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday	9:30 AM	Men's Prayer Group (Fellowship Hall)
	5:00-7:00 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)
		Mission Friends (Nursery-K)
		Youth on Mission (7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> graders)
Friday	7:00-9:30 PM	Youth Group - <i>Youth Christmas Party</i>

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

### Nursery Workers – January 11<sup>th</sup>

I AM (Crib) - Colleen Good and Bill Fornoff

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

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

### Prayer Intercessor – January 11<sup>th</sup> – Gerry Cicone

Greeters – January 11<sup>th</sup> – John and Denise McDonald

Ushers – January 11<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

## MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

*Rock of Ages*

Reading: Ephesians 1:5-6, 12, 14

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*The Power of the Cross*

Offering

**SERMON:** God's Glory in the Church

Ephesians 3:20-21 (Pew Bible Page 1571)

Lord's Supper\* | *All Glory Be to Christ*

Closing Prayer | *Doxology*

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

## EVENING WORSHIP

### PRAYER MEETING

Our next Prayer Meeting will be held tonight 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.

## 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

### 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

### PASTOR ANTHONY ON VACATION

Pastor Anthony is on vacation. Pray for a safe and relaxing time for he and his family.

### KIDS KAMP

Kids Kamp is a day camp held at Camp Wo-Me-To for 9-12-year-olds. This year's camp will be from June 29<sup>th</sup> - July 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 AM - 4:30 PM. Cost is \$140. There are discounts for families sending multiple children and scholarships are available. You can register on our Church Center App, from our website, or by using the forms in the lobby. Register by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

### PRECEPTS

Ladies who have signed up for the Precepts Bible Study that begins on January 13<sup>th</sup> are to pick up their books this Tuesday between 9 – 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

### 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.*

### YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY RESCHEDULED

The Youth Christmas Party is this Friday from 7-9:30 PM.

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The church council meeting is rescheduled for next Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM in Room 1.

## ON THE HORIZON

### LADIES' LUNCH AT BARRETT'S ON THE PIKE

Ladies, let's meet for lunch! Join us at Barrett's on the Pike in Bel Air on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at noon. There will be open seating, but please sign up in the lobby to RSVP so the restaurant can be prepared. See Suzanne Heiss with questions.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

On Saturday, January 17th, at 8 AM, the men will have breakfast together in the fellowship hall. Come enjoy delicious food, time in God's Word, and fun fellowship.

## CHURCH NEWS

### FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Follow our Facebook page @HarfordNorth, where Pastor Matt is now sharing DAILY encouragement and Bible verses. Like, share, and comment on these posts to help grow our Facebook presence in the community.

## CHURCH NEWS (CONTINUED)

### DECEMBER GIVING

General Fund: \$49,789.84

Benevolence: \$1,163.40

Baltimore Rescue Mission: \$3,850.00

Camp Wo-Me-To: \$200.00

CTEN: \$445.60

Mike Christ: \$250.00

Lottie Moon: \$8,605.30

Mission Dignity: \$240.0

Christmas Cards: \$328.00

Other Missions: \$535.20

**Total: \$33,007.13**

*Budget: \$65,407.34*

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: WHAT IS IT?

Everyone who is a member of this church has done two things. First, we have read our church covenant and sincerely agreed to the commitments it expresses, which are the basic duties of biblical Christian living. Second, we have stood before the church and committed to serve the Lord faithfully as members of our local church.

Why do we practice church membership? Why do we make these commitments, and why are they so important? The first reason we practice church membership, and the main reason these commitments are important, is because God calls us to be faithful and active members of a biblical local church, which is the body of Christ. Our collective goal is to live for God according to His Word and wisdom, which includes — and in one sense centers on — being a part of a biblical local church. What is membership all about? It boils down to Spirit-led, biblical obedience for the glory of God, the good of others, and the well-being of our own souls.

In our secularized and individualized culture of subjective morality, we think of spiritual things as completely unrelated to outward things and to formal things. But this is not the Bible's mindset. Our membership with the church is BOTH spiritual and invisible AND ALSO outward and formal. The idea of a privatized or strictly internalized Christianity is totally foreign to the Bible.

First, membership with Christ and each other is spiritual and invisible. That means we are joined to Jesus and to each other by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

• 1 Corinthians 6:15a, "Do you not know that **your bodies are members of Christ?**"

• 1 Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the **body of Christ** and **individually members of it.**"

• 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.**"

(continues to the next page)

**AM Sermon: God's Glory in the Church**  
**Ephesians 3:20-21**

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The Daily Bible Reading Plan was another insert in this bulletin. You can download it from our website ([www.NorthHarford.org](http://www.NorthHarford.org)) or contact the church office to have one sent to you.