

PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

until he finds it.⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.'"

3. Members of Christ's church are commanded to be faithful in worship and fellowship. It is a sin to wander away and neglect our duties to God and each other. Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ 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." And Acts 2:42, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

4. It takes a spiritual mindset of gentleness, humility, and tender love to bring back a wanderer. Galatians 6:1-2, "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

5. Bringing back a wanderer is a great kindness and an incredible benefit for that person. It is not mean, hateful, or unreasonable. James 5:19-20, "My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."

6. The danger of drifting away is real for Christians, and we must all be diligent to guard our hearts and lives by the grace of God. Hebrews 2:1, "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."

7. We are members not only of Christ but also of each other, and we have an ongoing obligation to love each other with the love of Christ. Romans 12:5, "so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." And Romans 13:8, "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."

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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 joppatrans1@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.

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Scan the QR code or email Jenn at info@NorthHarford.org to sign up for weekly emails.



Nursery Workers – January 18th

I AM (Crib) - Tammy Wetters and Janie Steplowski

II AM (Toddlers) – Arie Reid and Mia Citro

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

Prayer Intercessor – January 18th – Joan Snyder

Greeters – January 18th – Anita Gearhart and Brian Akers

Ushers - January 18th – Bob Doss, Jim Dougherty, Andrew Evans*, Eric Heinze, Wayne Hudson, 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.

January 11, 2026

LADIES' LUNCH OUT
at Barrett's on the Pike
in Bel Air

Monday, January 12th
at noon

Reservations have been made.
Contact Suzanne Heiss if you
didn't sign up but can attend.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 17th
at 8 AM

Sign up in the lobby



READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 9	Proverbs 3:13-26
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 4-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 10	Proverbs 3:27-35
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 8-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 11-12	Proverbs 4:1-9
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 13-14	Proverbs 4:10-19
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 15-16	Proverbs 4:20-27

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	5:00 PM	Church Council Meeting (Room 1)
	6:30 PM	Evening Service* (Church/Facebook)
Monday	12:00 PM	Ladies' Lunch @ Barrett's on the Pike
Tuesday	9:15AM	Precepts Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	5:00-7:00 PM	GriefShare (Youth Café)
	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)
		Mission Friends (Nursery-K)
		Youth on Mission (7 th —12 th graders)
Friday	7:00-9:30 PM	Youth Group
Saturday	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast

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

MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

Holy, Holy, Holy

Reading: Romans 1:7, Blessing the Saints

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Offering

SERMON: Blessing the Saints

Ephesians 1:1-2 (Pew Bible Page 1567)

Christ Is Mine Forevermore | Closing Prayer

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading/Prayer: Acts 17:1-9, Turned the World Upside Down

Nothing But the Blood

Reading & Prayer: Romans 6:1-4, Walk in Newness of Life

In Christ Alone

SERMON: The Gospel Changes Culture
Philemon (Pew Bible Page 1635)

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!

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.

UPCOMING PRAYER SERVICES

January Prayer Meeting Attendance: 18

February Prayer Meeting: Sunday, 2/1
- 6:30-7:15 pm, Fellowship Hall

February Prayer for America: Friday, 2/6
- 6-6:45 pm, Church Café

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The church council meets tonight at 5 PM in Room 1.

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 29th - July 3rd, 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 31st.

PRECEPTS

The ladies' Bible study begins this Tuesday at 9:15 AM.

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 12th, at noon. The reservation has been made at the restaurant so they can be prepared, but if you'd still like to go, please contact Suzanne Heiss so she can adjust the reservation.

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. Pastor Anthony will teach from Proverbs on "The Wisdom of Solomon." Sign up in the lobby.

ON THE HORIZON

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Men's Prayer Group meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Their next meeting is on January 21st.

DEACONS' MEETING

The deacons will meet on Sunday, January 25th, at 5 PM in Room 24.

SISTER TO SISTER

Sister to Sister meets in the Youth Café on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. They share prayer requests, have a devotional from the Bible, and pray together. Their next gathering is on January 27th. See Penny Brown for more information.

CHURCH NEWS

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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



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PASTORS' PODCAST

Check out Pastors Matt and Anthony's podcast on any of the following platforms:



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PASTOR'S ARTICLE

BRING BACK THE WANDERER

If you know a member who has wandered from the worship and fellowship of the church, please reach out to them in love to bring them back into the fold. Those closest to a wanderer are typically the best candidates for reaching out. Remember that God has a heart of compassion, patience, and genuine love for the wanderer. Here are some passages to help us remember how important this is.

1. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gathers His sheep together into little flocks, or churches. John 10:16, "And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd." And 1 Peter 5:2-4, "shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

2. Remember Christ's love for wandering sheep and the immense joy of restoration. Luke 15:3-7, "So he told them this parable: ⁴ 'What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost,

(continues to the next page)

AM Sermon: Blessing the Saints
Ephesians 1:1-2
