

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> 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.' <sup>7</sup> 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, <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." 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. <sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> 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."

To read more articles like this visit our SermonAudio page and click "Articles" or scan the QR Code.



## 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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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.

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Scan the QR code or email Jenn at [info@NorthHarford.org](mailto:info@NorthHarford.org) sign up for weekly emails.



**Nursery Workers** – January 18<sup>th</sup>

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 18<sup>th</sup> – Joan Snyder

**Greeters** – January 18<sup>th</sup> – Anita Gearhart and Brian Akers

**Ushers** - January 18<sup>th</sup> – 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 17<sup>th</sup>  
at 8 AM

Sign up in the lobby

## READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

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

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 AM 10:45 AM 5:00 PM 6:30 PM	Sunday School Worship Service* (Church/Facebook) Church Council Meeting (Room 1) Evening Service* (Church/Facebook)
<b>Monday</b>	12:00 PM	Ladies' Lunch @ Barrett's on the Pike
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:15 AM	Precepts Ladies Bible Study
<b>Wednesday</b>	5:00-7:00 PM 7:00 PM	GriefShare (Youth Café) 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)
<b>Friday</b>	7:00-9:30 PM	Youth Group
<b>Saturday</b>	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](mailto: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 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

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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Their next meeting is on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

### DEACONS' MEETING

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

### SISTER TO SISTER

Sister to Sister meets in the Youth Café on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.



## CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

### PASTORS' PODCAST

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



Apple Podcasts



YouTube



Spotify



iHeartRadio

## 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; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> 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: <sup>4</sup> '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,

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

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