

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

God's love to each other. Stay connected to prayer and mindful of the gospel of God's free grace in Christ. This will help us to, among other things, grow in our gracious love in the church.

**6. Love is obedience to God's commandments in our relationships and interactions with each other.** "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.<sup>9</sup> For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:8-10). Do you want to obey God? Then strive to love others. Do you love others? Then, by God's grace, you are walking in obedience to God. God gets all the glory for our love and obedience because they result from His grace, power, and providence in our lives. He loved and saved us so that we might love Him and love others according to His holy law, i.e., His righteous commandments. Obedience does not earn salvation but grows from it like grapes on the vine.

**7. Ongoing refusal to love the family of God is the sin of hatred.** It is a sign that a person does not know God and, therefore, is not saved. "We know that we have passed out of death into life, *because we love the brothers*. Whoever does not love abides in death" (1 John 3:14), along with, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for *he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen*" (1 John 4:20). And finally, "Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and *the truth is not in him*" (1 John 2:4).

**8. The two most important acts of obedience are loving God and loving others.** Apart from these, all other obedience is superficial. It gives the outward appearance of godliness but is in fact hypocrisy and self-righteousness. Jesus taught, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."<sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment.<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

**9. Therefore, let us not only persist in love but also encourage others to love as much as we can.** It is our solemn duty to "Let brotherly love continue" (Hebrews 13:1), and to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24). We owe love to each other, and by the grace of God, work of the Spirit, and faithfulness of Christ, we will love each other in humility and tenderness of heart.

Scan the QR code to read this article on our SermonAudio page.

## 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))

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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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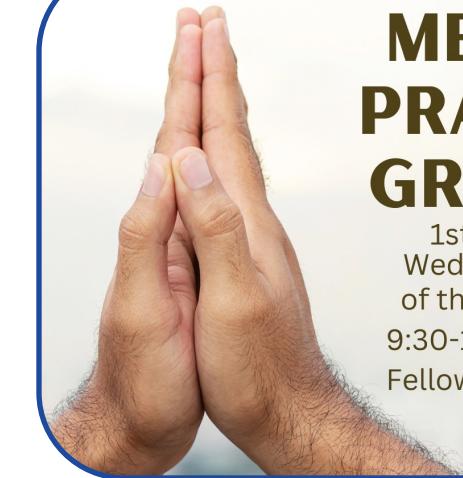
## NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

*To live for Jesus and not ourselves.*

January 18, 2026

## MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month  
9:30-10:00 AM  
Fellowship Hall



## READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 23-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 17	Proverbs 5:1-14
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 27-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 18:1-24	Proverbs 5:15-23
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 31-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 18:25-50	Proverbs 6:1-11
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 35-38	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 19	Proverbs 6:12-19
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 39-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 20-21	Proverbs 6:20-35

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	6:30 PM	Evening Service* (Church/Facebook)
Tuesday	9:15AM	Precepts Ladies Bible Study
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

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



## MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Reading: Mark 1:14-15, The Gospel of God

*His Mercy Is More | There Is a Fountain*

Offering

**SERMON:** The Blessings of God in Christ

Ephesians 1:3-14 (Pew Bible Page 1567)

*Come, Ye Sinners | Closing Prayer*

## EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading/Prayer: Hebrews 10:26-31, Fearful Expectation of Judgement

*Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor*

Reading & Prayer: Proverbs 1:2-7, The Fear of the Lord

*O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer*

**SERMON:** The Fear of God

Jonah 1:1-16 (Pew Bible Page 1167)

Lord's Supper\* | Doxology | Closing Prayer\*\*

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

\*\* 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

### MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Men's Prayer Group will meet this Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

### DEACONS' MEETING

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

### PASTOR MATT'S SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WEEK

Pastor Matt's week of spiritual renewal is from January 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Please pray this is a time of refreshment for him. Contact Pastor Anthony or the church office with any ministry needs.

## ON THE HORIZON

### FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Our first Fellowship Supper of 2026 is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:15 PM. If you are able, please bring a main dish and a side or dessert to share. If you'd like to join the Kitchen Committee who helps at these suppers, please contact Sallye Hoover.

### 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>.

### LADIES MOVIE NIGHT

The Women's Ministry is looking for women who are willing to host a movie night in their homes on Friday, February 13th. If you are interested, please contact Robyn Smith. If you can't host, be sure to save the date!

## CHURCH NEWS

### YEARLY GIVING STATEMENTS

Please pick up your 2025 giving statement in the lobby. Thank you for your faithful giving.

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

### THE SUPREMACY OF LOVE

A true biblical church is a group of people joined to Christ and filled with His love. Because of the Holy Spirit's work in their lives, the love of Christ shines through them. We are not yet perfected in love, but we are filled with Christ's love and maturing in it as the Lord allows. There is no getting around God's call to love each other as the church of Jesus Christ. God commands us, saying, "Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14). There is no denying that God teaches us to love each other. "You yourselves have been taught by God to love one another" (1 Thessalonians 4:9).

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

**1. Love is a top priority in the church.** "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). "Above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14). It is important to learn what the Bible teaches, but by the grace of God we must always do what the Bible commands, and love is the heart of it.

**2. Love grows from faith and comes from the Holy Spirit.** "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6). Plus, "The fruit of the Spirit is love..." (Galatians 5:22). We must be given to prayer because we cannot produce Christlike love within our hearts. Only God can do that. If we truly have faith, and as the Holy Spirit guides and enables us, we will love each other for the glory of God.

**3. Love must be sincere, not faked.** "Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart" (1 Peter 1:22). No one appreciates pretenders who really are just looking out for their own good. True love has sincere affections toward someone and is genuinely committed to their well-being in thought, words, and actions. "Love does no wrong to a neighbor" (Romans 13:10). Love helps, blesses, and does what is right to a neighbor. And it does so from the heart with all sincerity and good intentions.

**4. Love in the church shows the world that we genuinely belong to God.** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.<sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). We are called to love our families, neighbors, and even our enemies, but we are called especially to love the family of God, our brothers and sisters in Christ and fellow members of the church. Do not neglect the body of Christ; be not indifferent to His church. Rather, let us shine the light of His love to the world by loving each other according to Scripture.

**5. Love follows the example of Jesus through self-giving, self-sacrificial kindness toward sinners.** Christian love requires much grace, patience, and forgiveness. "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). And also, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,<sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Colossians 3:12-13). It is easy to forget how gracious, patient, and forgiving God has been with us, and to forget that we neither earned nor deserve His love. When this happens, we forget to reflect

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**AM Sermon: The Blessings of God in Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:3-14**

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Seven Aspects of the Blessings of God in Christ:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

# KIDS SUMMER CAMPS

## KIDS KAMP REGISTRATION

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> to 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. Scan the QR code to register, or you can register using our website, or the forms in the lobby. Register by May 31<sup>st</sup>.



## JARRETSVILLE BASKETBALL CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our basketball camp for students currently in 1st-8th grade will take place on August 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to help make this camp possible and successful. We need people who know basketball to be coaches, but you don't need to know basketball to help. We will need team helpers to assist the coaches, people to direct traffic, people to serve at the first-aid and drink stations, and more. Can't help during the week? You could help the team set up for the camp on Saturday, August 1st. Sign up on the sheet in the lobby. See Brian Akers with any questions.