

PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

Step two is to experience a godly sorrow for your sin. When I was living in the wasteland of pride and imprisoned by my own sinful passions, folly, and selfishness, I was numb to sin. It did not bother me. I chased after it, reveled in it, and rejoiced in it. Then God's Truth showed me the errors of my ways, the darkness of my heart, and the selfish pride that was ruling over me. The Word of God broke my heart and filled it with a godly sorrow for the life I lived. Has God exposed your sin and sinfulness to you? Has your heart been broken at the sight of it all?

Step three is to find rest for your soul by trusting in Christ for salvation. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29). The soul burdened with sin can find rest in Christ. The heart wearied by corruption and longing for relief can find refuge in Christ. Jesus promises true and lasting rest to all who come to Him for salvation.

"But how do I come to Him?" "How can this rest be mine?" Through faith. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Salvation is yours when your heart trusts in Jesus based on the gospel. For your reading: Ephesians 2:1-10.

First, God crushes us by making us see and feel our guilt and corruption. We experience a genuine godly sorrow for sin. Second, God renews and comforts us by giving us forgiveness, cleansing, and everlasting hope in Jesus. We find rest for our souls by trusting in Christ for salvation. "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. [25] For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:24-25).

THE AFTERMATH: THE FRUIT OF GOD'S GRACE

Repentance and Godliness. When you believe in Jesus and find rest for your soul, you also begin turning from sin toward godliness in your heart. This is repentance, the handmaiden of faith. She is adorned with zeal for God and His Word, worship, and church. She wears a crown of humility beset all around with priceless jewels of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22b-23a).

Baptism and Church Membership. When you believe in Jesus and have a heart of repentance, you obey Jesus by being baptized and joining the church. In Matthew 28:19-20, you will see that new followers of Christ are baptized and begin learning to obey Him in all of life. In Acts 2:41-42, you will see that those who believed the gospel were baptized and devoted themselves to the teaching, worship, and fellowship of the church.

To read the rest of this article, please scan the QR code or visit our Sermon Audio page. It can be found under the heading "Articles"



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)

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

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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.

Matt Fortunato (Senior Pastor)

pastormatt@NorthHarford.org

Anthony Wilson (Associate Pastor)

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Scan the QR code or email info@NorthHarford.org to sign up for weekly emails and inclement weather announcements.



Nursery Workers – April 12th
I AM (Crib) - Colleen Good and Janie Stepkowski
II AM (Toddlers) – Matt, Jenn and Sarah Evans
PM– Combined I/II – Lynette Winzenried and Jordan Fortunato
Prayer Intercessor – April 12th– Danny Akers
Greeters – April 12th– Deb Eiche and Meg Fornoff
Ushers - April 12th– Brian Akers*, Bradyn Citro, Bill Fornoff, Richard Perrine, Bill Tomlinson*, Donny Wetters
Today's Ushers - Gil Brown, Josiah Brown, Mark Evans*, Wesley Evans*, Mark Huna, John Stepkowski
* ushers who greet in the lobby



NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

April 5, 2026



READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

- Romans 1-4 Psalm 69:19-36 Prov. 20:1-5
- Romans 5-8 Psalm 70 Prov. 20:6-10
- Romans 9-12 Psalm 71 Prov. 20:11-15
- Romans 13-16 Psalm 72 Prov. 20:16-20
- I Cor. 1-4 Psalm 73 Prov. 20:21-25

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
		NO evening worship
Monday		Church Office Closed for Easter
Tuesday	9:15 AM	Precepts Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	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	7:00-9:30PM	Youth Group

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

MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

Jesus Is Alive! Allelujah (choir)

Reading: Romans 10:10-13, Saved through Faith

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today | Jesus Messiah

Offering

SERMON: The Way of Salvation

Romans 6:23 (Pew Bible Page 1501)

Lord's Supper* | *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Closing Prayer | *Doxology*

*Baptized believers may participate in the Lord's Supper

NO EVENING WORSHIP



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

March Prayer Meeting Attendance: 35

Due to Easter, there will be no Prayer Meeting in April.

May Prayer Meeting: Sunday 5/3

- 6:30-7:15 pm, Fellowship Hall

CHURCH NEWS

MARCH GIVING

General Fund: \$45,686.65

Benevolence: \$455.45

Balt. Resc. Mission: \$1,720.00

Mission Dignity: \$340.00

Lottie Moon: \$200.00

Total: \$50,473.95

CTEN: \$265.60

Camp Wo-Me-To: \$375.05

Annie Armstrong: \$746.00

Other Missions: \$685.20

Budget: \$43,870.29

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed on Monday for Easter.

SECRETARY OUT OF THE OFFICE

Penny Brown is filling in for Jenn Evans this week. Penny will be the contact for the Prayer Chain during this time. Jenn will return to the office on April 14th.

ON THE HORIZON

BCMD DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

A Disaster Relief Training will be held on Saturday, April 11th, from 8:30 AM—4:00 PM, at Covenant Church in Shepherdstown, WV. Classes will include an Introduction class, Mass Feeding, Recovery, Administration, Assessment, Shower and Laundry, and Chaplaincy. To register, visit bcmd.org/events. For more information, see Richard or Linda Perrine.

GLOW DODGEBALL

The youth favorite, Glow Dodgeball, is coming back to Youth Group on Friday, April 17th. Invite other youth!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, April 18th, at 8 AM. Sign up in the lobby or the Church Center app.

LADIES CRAFT DAY

The ladies will have a Craft Day on Saturday, April 18th, at 10 AM. BYO craft or do the provided craft. Sign up in the lobby or the Church Center app.

NEMOURS ESTATE VISIT

Ladies, the Women's Ministry is planning a trip to the Nemours Estate in Wilmington, Delaware, on Tuesday, **May 12th**. The estate is open 10 AM—5 PM. We plan to meet at the entrance at 10 AM. You will have an option of touring the gardens and grounds (Garden Day Pass) or grounds, gardens, mansion and chauffeur's garage (Estate Day Pass). We will provide a ticket link when it becomes available. This is a new date, so there is a new sign-up sheet (pricing included). Please sign up so we know how many will be attending.

BUILDERS FOR CHRIST

Please consider joining the Builders for Christ trip to Hillside Baptist Church in Springfield, MO from Saturday, June 20th through Friday, June 26th. Visit their website www.marylandbuildersforchrist.com or contact Roger Williams for more information.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

ARE YOU READY TO BE A CHRISTIAN ?

The word "Christian" is used three times in the Bible. It is used in the book of *Acts of the Apostles* in 11:26 and 26:28. Many believe that the term was first used as an insult to those who followed Christ rather than the polytheism of Roman culture or traditional Judaism. Even if not an insult, "Christian" was used by outsiders to identify followers of Christ. However, "Christian" was also used positively by followers of Christ. The Apostle Peter wrote, "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name" (1 Peter 4:16). The tradition has obviously stuck! Believers in Jesus are called disciples, meaning followers or students, and Christians, meaning we belong to Christ, worship Christ, and devote our lives to Christ.

Have you thought about becoming a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ? If God has been stirring your heart and drawing you to the Truth, are you ready to surrender to His will? Are you ready to become a Christian and leave your old self in the past?

What a Christian is. *A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus as Savior and has turned from a life of sin to love, honor, and obey Jesus based on biblical truth.* You can break that down into smaller bites. First, a Christian trusts in Jesus for salvation (FAITH). Second, a Christian has turned from disobedience to obedience (REPENTANCE). Jesus calls sinners to "*repent and believe in the gospel*" (Mark 1:15). The gospel is the "good news" of His life, death, resurrection, and gift of salvation. The Apostle Paul preached about "*repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ*" (Acts 20:21). Faith is the root, and repentance is the fruit. A living tree has both.

Therefore, if you have faith and repentance flowing out of your heart, then you are a Christian. If you are not a Christian or are not sure about it, how can you become sure? How does one become a Christian according to the Bible?

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Step one is to learn the gospel. This means learning that all people are sinners who are guilty of breaking God's commandments, alienated from God, and headed for judgment with no way of saving ourselves. Despite this miserable situation, there is GOOD NEWS! The gospel message is the good news that Jesus (truly God and truly man) lived a righteous life we never could, died for our sins under the wrath of God, and rose to eternal life to win for us the prize of eternal life. Jesus saves us from the misery of sin. He forgives us for breaking God's commandments, reconciles us to God forever, and delivers us from the judgment to come. For your reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

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KIDS SUMMER CAMPS

To register, scan the QR code, use the forms in the lobby, or visit our website (www.NorthHarford.org). Completed forms can be emailed to info@northharford.org or left on the secretary's desk.

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 29th to July 3rd, from 9 AM - 4:30 PM. Cost is \$140. There are discounts for families sending multiple children and scholarships are available. A \$50 deposit is required per camper at the time of registration. Register by May 31st.



JARRETTSVILLE BASKETBALL CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for Jarrettsville Basketball Camp (August 3-8). 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 or on our Church Center app. See Brian Akers with any questions.



JARRETTSVILLE BASKETBALL CAMP REGISTRATION

Jarrettsville Basketball Camp is held outside at the church for students in 1st-8th grade (grade completed as of June 2026) to learn and practice fundamental basketball skills and hear about Jesus. The FREE camp is from August 3rd to August 8th, from 9-11:35 AM, with check-in beginning at 8:30 AM. Register by July 10th.



Easter Flowers & Gifts

Daffodils

In Memory of:
Ed Dorn
Ma Ann Henson

Given by:
Lorna Dorn
Deb Eiche

In Honor of:
Frank & Gerry Ciccone
Nancy Smith

Given by:
Ted & Heather Eck
Your Secret Pal

Tulips

In Memory of:
Our Parents: Hermon & Lona
Akers, Glen & Louise Lewis
David Blevins
Donald Blevins
Charles & Donna Burman

Given by:
Dannry & Margaret Akers
Love, Mom
Your Loving Wife
The Bob Burman Sr Family
Bob Sr, Sarah & Dana, Bob
Jr, Rachael & Alex, & Anna
& Chris
Dana and Sarah Caro
Lorna Dorn
The Bob Burman Sr Family
The Bob Burman Sr Family
The Bob Burman Sr Family
The Bob Burman Sr Family
Marie & Truitt Reid
Deb Eiche
The Bob Burman Sr Family
The Bob Burman Sr Family
Truitt & Marie Reid
The Bob Burman Sr Family

Laura C. Burman

Dana Caro Sr
Ed Dorn
Jim Evans
Torry & Sis Faby
Betty Jane Farrington
Rush Fletcher
Dennis & Hazel Hedrick
Ma Ann Henson
Raleigh & Pat Holt
Bill McCartin
James & Essie Reid
Jim Smith

In Honor of:
Larry Akers
Betty Allred
Sandra Blevins
Sandra Blevins
Bob Burman Sr
Eunice Caro

Given by:
Sarah Caro
Sarah Caro
Bill & Donna
Your Secret Pal
Sarah & Dana, Bob Jr, Rachael,
& Alex, & Anna & Chris
Dana & Sarah Caro

In Honor of:
Jenn Evans
Verla Evans
The Fortunato Family
Remona Fletcher
Anita Gearhart
Anita Gearhart
Grandma Good
"Nana" Ruth Good
Bev Herbert
Tina Holmes
Sallye Hoover
Shannon Lewis
Pat McCartin
John McDonald
Ken & Doris Miller
Truitt Reid
Nancy Smith
Robyn Smith
Joan Snyder
The Wilson Family
Arnold Wyatt

Given by:
Sarah Caro
Your Secret Pal
John & Denise McDonald
Sarah Caro
Sarah Caro
Your Secret Pal
Josie, Tucker, & Carly
Josie, Tucker, & Carly
Sarah Caro
Sarah Caro
Sarah Caro
Sarah Caro
The Bob Burman Sr Family
Denise McDonald
The Bob Burman Sr Family
Marie
Your Secret Pal
Your Secret Pal
Sarah Caro
John & Denise McDonald
The Bob Burman Sr Family

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

\$260 was donated to AAEO to support missions in North America.

In Memory of:
Hermon & Lona Akers
Mary Akers
"Mom Mom" Mary Akers
"Granddad" Jim Evans
Rush Fletcher

Given by:
Larry Akers & family
Larry Akers & family
Andrew & Sarah Evans
Andrew & Sarah Evans
Truitt & Marie Reid

In Honor of:
Larry Akers
Penry Brown
Jenn Evans
Verla Evans
Becky Fortunato
Jody Marry
Betty Schiavone
Kenzi Wilson

Given by:
Matt, Jennifer, Andrew & Sarah
Remona
Remona
Matt, Jenn, Andrew & Sarah
Remona
Remona
Matt, Jenn, Andrew, & Sarah
Remona

1

Everyone Needs Salvation

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
(Romans 3:23)

2

Jesus Died For Our Salvation

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

3

Salvation Is A Gift

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23)

4

We Are Saved By Grace

But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.
(Romans 11:6)

What is the Romans Road?

Simply put, the Romans Road shows the path to Heaven. It uses points from the book of Romans in the Bible to explain God's gift of salvation. At each stop we learn something new about why we need salvation, how God has provided for it, and how we receive it.

As you look at each of the six points outlined here, take time to reflect on what God's word has to say. Remember that the book of Romans was written to people just like you and me: people living in a busy culture, trying to make sense of what is true and what is most important in life.

The Romans Road describes the only way to Heaven. Study it, learn it, and follow it!

6

God Saves All Who Call Upon Him

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
(Romans 10:13)

5

Salvation Comes Through Faith

The one who ... believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness. (Romans 4:5)