

PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

through faith in Jesus. In fact, if you are a new believer in Jesus, not only are you ready for baptism, but since God has commanded it, you must be baptized. Once you are sure that Jesus is your Savior whom you trust, love, and want to live for, you are definitely ready for baptism.

The questions below, along with biblical answers, can help you investigate whether you are ready to be baptized. These are important for three reasons. *First, no one else can decide if you believe in Jesus.* You must see your need for salvation, and you must look to Christ in faith to be saved. Neither your parents nor the church can claim salvation for you; you must claim salvation based on the death and resurrection of Christ. *Second, some people think they are believers, but are not.* The Bible exposes their misunderstanding and helps them find true faith in Christ. *Third, some people are believers, but feel like they are not.* The Bible encourages them in their salvation by pointing them away from themselves toward God's promise in the gospel.

That promise is that Jesus alone suffices to save sinners. If you work through these questions, you will know if you are ready for baptism:

1. Who is baptism for? Baptism is for new followers of Jesus. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). Are you a disciple, a follower of Jesus? Are you ready to humbly obey God's command to be baptized? Are you ready to publicly profess your faith in Jesus? If so, then you are ready for baptism.

2. Are you ready to join the church? "So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:41-42). So called "private and personal" faith in God is a modern idea that does not come from the Bible. In the Bible, new believers are baptized and joined to the church. Are you ready to join the church for worship every Sunday? Are you ready to faithfully and joyfully join the church for fellowship, encouragement, learning, giving, and serving? The Bible says the church is "one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:5). Are you ready to be a member of the church? Then you are ready for baptism.

3. What does baptism mean? Baptism symbolizes that you have "died" to sin and "been risen" to new life in a relationship with Jesus. "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4). Before His death, Jesus "took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body'" (Matt. 26:26). The church continues to do this in what is called "communion" or "the Lord's supper." Jesus spoke in a metaphor. Just as the bread symbolizes His body, baptism in water symbolizes His saving work within our hearts. Do you understand that baptism is symbolic? Do you know that baptism does not save you, but your faith in Jesus does? If so, and if you have a new heart that believes in Jesus as your Savior, then you are ready for baptism.

To read the rest of this article please scan the QR code or visit our *Semon Audio page*.



ONLINE GIVING

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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.

Matt Fortunato (Senior Pastor)

pastormatt@NorthHarford.org

Anthony Wilson (Associate Pastor)

pastoranthony@NorthHarford.org

Jeremiah Brown (Pastoral Intern)

Jeremiah@NorthHarford.org

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 – May 3rd

I AM (Crib) - Penny Brown and Bill Fornoff

II AM (Toddlers) – Verla Evans and Phoebe Evans

PM– Combined I/II – Linda Mack and Marie Reid

Prayer Intercessor – May 3rd – Tina Holmes

Greeters – May 3rd – Sallye Hoover and Wes Evans

Ushers - May 3rd – Gil Brown, Josiah Brown, Mark Evans*, Wes Evans*, Mark Huna, and John Steplowski

Today's Ushers - Malik Baker-Gore, Bob Burman, Frank Cicone*, Jim Feldbush, Gary McAllister, Tom Neunaber*

* ushers who greet in the lobby



NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

April 26, 2026

Prayer Meeting

MAY 3

6:30-7:15 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 17-20 | Psalm 82 | Proverbs 22:24-29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 21-24 | Psalm 83 | Proverbs 23:1-5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 1-4 | Psalm 84 | Proverbs 23:6-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 5-8 | Psalm 85 | Proverbs 23:10-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 9-12 | Psalm 86 | Proverbs 23:15-21 |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	After Church	Orchestra Interest Meeting (Rm 1)
	5:00 PM	Deacons' Meeting (Rm. 24)
Tuesday	6:30 PM	Evening Worship* (Church/Facebook)
	7:00 PM	Sister to Sister (Youth Café)
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	7:00-9:30 PM	Youth Group

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

MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

O Worship the King

Reading: Exodus 32:1-9, False Worship

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Offering

SERMON: Love God

Exodus 20:1-7 (Pew Bible Page 121)

O Church Arise | Closing Prayer

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: John 3:9-15

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Reading & Prayer: Job 41:1-6

And Can It Be?

SERMON: Believing Is Not Seeing

John 20:24-31 (Pew Bible Page 1436)

Closing Prayer

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

May Prayer Meeting: Sunday 5/3

6:30-7:15 PM, Fellowship Hall

April Men's Breakfast Attendance: 25

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

ORCHESTRA MEETING

There is an orchestra meeting today after church in Room 1 for all interested youth and adults.

DEACONS MEETING

The deacons will meet today at 5 PM in Room 24.

SISTER TO SISTER

Ladies are invited to join Sister to Sister on Tuesday, April 28th, at 7 PM in the Youth Café for a time of prayer and encouragement from God's Word. See Penny Brown with questions.

BUSINESS MEETING

We will hold a Business Meeting on Sunday, May 3rd, at 5:30 PM.

PRAYER MEETING

Our next Prayer Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3rd, at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. No one is forced to pray. Come be a part of a revival of congregational prayer.

CALL TO BAPTISM

If you have turned to Jesus in faith for salvation, contact the church to start the process to be baptized and join the church (info@NorthHarford.org). See Acts 2:40-41 and Matthew 28:19-20 on God's will for new believers to be baptized and join the fellowship of Christians.

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Matt will begin a Bible Study on **Old Testament Wisdom and Poetry** beginning this Wednesday in Room 1.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

Pastor Matt will begin a Bible Study on **The Minor Prophets of Israel** next Sunday in the sanctuary.

ON THE HORIZON

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

We'll have a Fellowship Supper on Wednesday, May 13th, at 6:15 PM. Please bring a main dish and a side or dessert to share, if you are able.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

We are having a Men's Breakfast on Saturday, May 16th at 8 AM. The Men's Ministry will provide a hearty breakfast and Pastor Anthony will bring a message from The Book of Proverbs. Sign up on the Church Center app or in the lobby.

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. For more information, visit their website www.marylandbuildersforchrist.com or contact Roger Williams.

CHURCH NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

Last Sunday, Justen Winemiller was baptized. We are thankful for his profession of faith. A vote for his membership will take place at our Business Meeting next Sunday. If you have not introduced yourself to Justen yet, please do so. Congratulations, Justen!

MUSIC LEADER POSITION

In October, when our church's fiscal year begins, we approved a budget that includes a new part-time position for a music leader for our church (up to 8 hours/week at \$20/hour). We have begun to move forward in that endeavor. The opening, along with the full job description, is on our website so we can see and share it as the Lord leads. We have also posted it on select job sites. Below is the first section of the opening. It explains the duties and expectations:

1. We are prayerfully seeking a Christian man to lead a group of singers and musicians to create a rotation of various "teams" for morning and evening worship, teams that he will lead during worship, but is also able to lead music solo as needed.
2. Lead a regular – not necessarily weekly – practice for team building and development (flexible).
3. Working in collaboration with the pastors, choose a mix of older and newer songs for each service.
4. Working under the direction of the pastors, view the musical aspect of worship in service to the ministry of the Word and prayer, not an independent or autonomous ministry.

INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR MUSIC LEADER

As applications come in, the pastors will bring viable candidates to the deacons for further review. If we begin an interview process for anyone, I will involve the music ministry team for collaboration, support, and feedback. The interview process will include but not be limited to: Discussion(s) with pastor and pastor(s), and a formal interview with the pastors and deacons. Part of that will be open to music ministry people to observe and take notes so that they can provide feedback and ask us questions. This will be followed by some sort of fellowship time and meal for face time and conversations. Part of the process will include the candidate leading music for AM and PM worship, along with some kind of fellowship time for more face time and conversations. If the pastors and deacons unanimously agree on 1 candidate, we would bring it to the church for a vote, requiring a 3/4 majority.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

AM I READY FOR BAPTISM?

The short answer is, if you believe in Jesus based on the true gospel, whereby you are joyfully eager to commit your life to Him, then you are ready for baptism. That means you will be dipped in water as a symbol of cleansing and new life

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AM Sermon: Love God
Exodus 20:1-7

The Ten Commandments:

1. You shall have no other gods before me
2. **You shall not make for yourself a carved image**
3. **You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain**

2nd Commandment:

-Christian

-Church

-Civil

3rd Commandment:

-Christian

-Church

-Civil



YOUTH GROUP SPRING FORMAL

The Youth Group will have a spring formal on May 9th at 6 PM. It will be held at the Dallas Sutton building. This event is for students in high school (grades 9-12). The cost is \$20/person. Scholarships are available. There will be food, entertainment, and a photo booth. Please sign up in the lobby or on the Church Center app so we know how many will be attending. Any questions, please see Jeremiah Brown.



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). There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby (pricing included). Please sign up so we know how many will be attending. Scan the QR code to order your tickets.

