

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

AM I READY FOR BAPTISM? PART 2

For people thinking about whether they are ready for baptism, it is common to wrestle with the question, "But how do I know if I am really a believer?" Do not be discouraged if you have a little bit of doubt or uncertainty. This is somewhat normal because nobody has a perfect faith. All Christians have a faith that is flawed. Our faith is lacking. The key is to look away from yourself toward Jesus and all that He did for you.

Jesus alone is perfect and Jesus alone can save us. Faith does not save you because of its own virtue, but faith saves you because it joins you to Jesus. Those joined to Him are saved by virtue of His righteous life and perfect sacrifice. Looking away from self toward Jesus is the essence of faith. It is the only way you can know if you are saved or not. These final questions, therefore, will help you figure out if you are a true believer in Jesus yet, or if you are still in an earlier phase of seeking God.

(A.) "Do I know I am a sinner who needs salvation?" The Bible says "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23) and that "godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation" (2 Cor. 7:10). A sin is a violation of God's holy law, His commandments that require what is good but forbid what is evil (see the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20). Our natural sinfulness is seen in that we are inclined to love things in the place of God and love ourselves at the expense of others. This is the opposite of God's two greatest commandments: love Him above all things and love others as ourselves (see Matt. 22:36-40).

Are you grieved over your sins because of their offense to God? Is there a seed of repentance in your heart? We all must acknowledge that we are guilty and headed for judgment if we do not have Christ. This is called conviction. Are you convinced of your need for salvation?

(B.) "Do I know Jesus died as a substitute for me, taking my sin, guilt, and judgment as His own?" The Bible says that Jesus "bore our sins in His body on the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24) and that He died "to bear the sins of many" (Heb. 9:28). Do you believe Jesus bore your sins as His own on the cross? That He bore your guilt as His own on the cross? And bore the judgment you deserved as His own on the cross? If so, then you believe the heart and soul of the good news of salvation.



To read the rest of this article please scan the QR code or visit our [Sermon Audio](#) 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)

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

North Harford Baptist Church

4008 Old Federal Hill Road

Jarrettsville, MD 21084

(410) 836-6994

www.NorthHarford.org | info@NorthHarford.org

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



Nursery Workers – May 10th

I AM (Crib) - Colleen Good and Janie Steplowski

II AM (Toddlers) – Matt/Jenn Evans and Sarah Evans

PM– Combined I/II – Lynette Winzenried and Jordyn Fortunato

Prayer Intercessor – May 10th – Joan Snyder

Greeters – May 10th– John and Denise McDonaals

Ushers - May 10th – Brian Akers*, Bradyn Citro, Bill Fornoff, Richard Perrine, Bill Tomlinson*, and Donny Wetters

Today's Ushers - Gil Brown, Josiah Brown, Mark Evans*, Wes Evans*, Mark Huna, and John Steplowski

* ushers who greet in the lobby



**NORTH HARFORD
BAPTIST CHURCH**

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

May 3, 2026

Prayer Meeting

TONIGHT
6:30-7:15 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 13-16 | Psalm 87 | Proverbs 23:22-28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 17-21 | Psalm 88 | Proverbs 23:29-35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth 1-4 | Ps. 89:1-37 | Proverbs 24:1-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 1-4 | Ps. 89:38-52 | Proverbs 24:8-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 5-8 | Psalm 90 | Proverbs 24:15-22 |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	5:30 PM	Business Meeting (sanctuary)
	6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting* (Fellowship Hall)
Monday	6:30 PM	Trustee Meeting (Rm. 1)
Wednesday	9:30 AM	Men's Prayer Group
	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

All Creatures of Our God and King

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:14-18, We Do Not Lose Heart

Near the Cross | Christ Arose

Offering

SERMON: How to Not Lose Heart

Ephesians 3:13-21 (Pew Bible Page 1570)

Lord's Supper* | *He Lives*

Closing Prayer | *Doxology*

*Baptized believers may participate in the Lord's Supper

PRAYER MEETING

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Tonight at 6:30, we will have our monthly Prayer Meeting. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall around tables. No one will be forced to pray. The focused prayer for our nation and leaders will be a part of this meeting. Come be a part of a revival of congregational 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: TONIGHT

6:30-7:15 PM, Fellowship Hall

April Men's Breakfast Attendance: 25

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

STAFF CHANGE

Due to personal reasons, Jeremiah has stepped down from ministry duties. Pastor Matt will give a report and announce changes for the path forward at tonight's Business Meeting.

BUSINESS MEETING

We have a Business Meeting tonight at 5:30 PM in the sanctuary.

PRAYER MEETING

We are having a Prayer Meeting tonight at 6:30 PM.

TRUSTEES MEETING

The trustees will meet on Monday at 6:30 PM in Room 1.

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.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Men will meet to pray on Wednesday at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Matt began a Bible Study on **Old Testament Wisdom and Poetry** this past Wednesday in Room 1.

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.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

Pastor Matt will begin a Bible Study on **The Minor Prophets of Israel** on Sunday, May 17th in the sanctuary.

MEMORIAL DAY EVE COOKOUT

Come join us for a fun and delicious cookout on Sunday, May 24th, at 5 PM. We'll enjoy burgers and hot dogs off the grill with sides and desserts. There will be yard games to play and popsicles to enjoy! Invite others. If you are able, please sign up in the lobby to bring food.

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

WE ARE THANKFUL

Steve and Janice Sugarman came forward last Sunday to express their desire to join the church. We are thankful. A vote for their membership will take place at our Business Meeting tonight. If you have not introduced yourself to Steve and Janice yet, please do so.

APRIL GIVING

General Fund—\$37,590.32	Maintenance—\$6,050.30
Annie Armstrong—\$3,400.13	Benevolence—\$500.50
Baltimore Rescue Mission—\$980.00	Other Missions: \$797.00
Total: \$49,318.25	<i>Budget: \$43,870.29</i>

OUR GRADUATES

Please let the church office know of anyone who is graduation from high school or college this year or last semester.

MAY MAGAZINES

May magazines and seasonal devotions are available in the magazine racks on either side of the lobby and downstairs by the exit.

MUSIC LEADER POSITION

In October we approved a budget that included a new part-time position for a music leader for our church (up to 8 hours/week at \$20/hour). The opening, along with the full job description, is on our website so you 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.

AM Sermon: How to Not Lose Heart Ephesians 3:13-21

How can we avoid losing heart amid so much suffering, sin, and strife?

I. What we need:

1. We need _____ from God (v. 16).

2. We need Christlike _____ from God (v. 17).

3. We need _____ of Christ's love (vv. 18-19).

II. How to get it:

1. Through _____ (vv.13-15).

2. Through _____ (vv. 20-21).



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. Sign up by Monday! Any questions, please see Pastor Anthony.



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 the 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.

