

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

God” (Hebrews 9:13-14).

*Third*, as you confess your sin and ask for mercy, and as you look to the cleansing power of the blood of Christ, *strive in prayer for full confidence in your standing with God*. A clean conscience is a two-sided coin. On one side, we must not allow feelings of guilt, shame, and failure to rule over us, as if the blood of Christ is ineffective to cleanse us. But on the other side, we must take our stand on grace in full assurance of our place in heaven. Hebrews explains: “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:19-23).

A clean conscience is a conscience that grasps and enjoys the forgiveness of sin through the blood of Christ. This is not easy. It is not automatic. It is maintained only through active humility that goes to God in prayer and looks to Christ in faith. Why is that? Because if we have the Holy Spirit and are increasing in the knowledge of God, we will be more and more sensitive to our sin, grieved by our sin, and deeply burdened to be rid of our sin. If we love God and want to please Him, we should be and will be deeply troubled by our ongoing internal and external sins.

*Fourth and finally, consider the tragic impact of trying to deal with sin apart from God's grace and the blood of Christ*. Apart from God's grace administered to the heart, a believer will -- and sadly I have seen these things many times over the years -- become overwhelmed by guilt and shame, which can bring devastating effects. It stunts sanctification and practical discipleship. It breeds what has been called a morbid introspection, looking inward at self instead of upward to Christ. It brings a crippling despair that leads to apathy and leads one further from fellowship with Christ. We truly and desperately need the ongoing grace of God to minister to us in our battle against sin.

If I am focused on my heart instead of Christ, and if my heart is ruled by guilt and shame rather than grace and forgiveness, what would you expect? This can never bring peace, freedom, joy, and spiritual fruit. Confess your sin; cry out for mercy; look to Christ and the cleansing power of the blood of Christ; and strive by grace for 100% confidence and assurance before the throne of God. “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

## 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)

Mark Evans [evansmark@yahoo.com](mailto:evansmark@yahoo.com)

Dave Good (Chairman) [davidpgood@aol.com](mailto:davidpgood@aol.com)

Wayne Hudson [quallybear.usmc@gmail.com](mailto:quallybear.usmc@gmail.com)

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.

Matt Fortunato (Senior Pastor)

[pastormatt@NorthHarford.org](mailto:pastormatt@NorthHarford.org)

Anthony Wilson (Associate Pastor)

[pastoranthony@NorthHarford.org](mailto:pastoranthony@NorthHarford.org)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

North Harford Baptist Church

4008 Old Federal Hill Road

Jarrettsville, MD 21084

(410) 836-6994

[www.NorthHarford.org](http://www.NorthHarford.org) | [info@NorthHarford.org](mailto:info@NorthHarford.org)

Scan the QR code or email [info@NorthHarford.org](mailto:info@NorthHarford.org) to sign up for weekly emails and inclement weather announcements.



**Nursery Workers** – June 21<sup>st</sup>

I AM (Crib) - Tammy Wetters and Janie Steplowski

II AM (Toddlers) – Marie Reid and Mia Citro

PM– Combined I/II – Bella Fortunato and Jenn Evans

**Prayer Intercessor** – June 21<sup>st</sup> – Danny Akers

**Greeters** – June 21<sup>st</sup> – John and Denise McDonald

**Ushers** - June 21<sup>st</sup> - Bob Doss, Jim Dougherty, Andrew Evans\*, Eric Heinze, Vince Minichiello\*, and Peter Vaughan

**Today's Ushers** - Brian Akers\*, Bradyn Citro, Bill Fornoff, Richard Perrine, Bill Tomlinson\*, and Don Wetters

\* *ushers who greet in the lobby*



# NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

*To live for Jesus and not ourselves.*

**June 14, 2026**

## MEN'S PRAYER GROUP



1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month with 2 times to choose from:

**9:30 AM**  
Fellowship Hall

**6:30 PM**  
Pastor Matt's Office

## READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

Mark 9-12	Psalms 110	Hebrews 5:5-7:28
Mark 13-16	Psalms 111	Proverbs 30:10-16
Galatians 1-2	Psalms 112	Proverbs 30:17-23
Galatians 3-4	Psalms 113	Proverbs 30:24-33
Galatians 5-6	Psalms 114	Proverbs 31:1-9

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 AM 10:45 AM After church 6:30PM	Sunday School Worship Service* (Church/Online) Jarrettsville Basketball Camp Vol Mtg Evening Worship* (Church/Online)
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Prayer Group (Fellowship Hall) Men's Prayer Group (Pr. Matt's office) 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

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

## MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

*Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor*

Reading: Colossians 3:12-17, Christian Living

*Blessed Be Your Name | Abide with Me*

Offering

**SERMON:** Signs of Spiritual Life

Ephesians 4:17-24 (Pew Bible Page 1571)

*There Is a Fountain* | Closing Prayer

## EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: Ecclesiastes 1, The Vanity of Wisdom

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Reading & Prayer: Ecclesiastes 2, The Vanity of Life

*O For a Thousand Tongues*

**SERMON:** All Vanity

Ecclesiastes 1-2 (Pew Bible Page 847)

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](mailto:info@NorthHarford.org) if you have any questions or special prayer requests.

## UPCOMING PRAYER SERVICES

**May Prayer Meeting Attendance:** 30

**July Prayer Meeting:** July 5<sup>th</sup>

6:30-7:15 PM, Fellowship Hall

**May Men's Breakfast Attendance:** 22

## WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

### BASKETBALL CAMP VOLUNTEERS MEETING

Jarrettsville Basketball Camp volunteers will meet after church today for 45 minutes in Room 1. More volunteers are needed! Sign up on the Church Center App or in the lobby. Contact Brian Akers with questions.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Nominating Committee will meet today at 5:30 PM in Room 24.

### REMINDER TO HEADS OF COMMITTEES

Your committee's budget requests are due today.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING

The Finance Committee will meet on Friday, June 19th, at 6 PM to discuss next year's budget.

### BABY BOTTLES DUE NEXT SUNDAY

Alpha's Glory Pregnancy Resource Center is doing its annual Baby Bottle Drive from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Pick up a bottle in the lobby, fill it with change and money, and return it to the lobby next Sunday, Father's Day. If you'd prefer to write a check, please make it out to Alpha's Glory Pregnancy Resource Center and place it in the bottle.

### 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](mailto: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.

## ON THE HORIZON

### NEXT SUNDAY EVENING

We will not have an Evening Worship service next Sunday to allow families to have more time together for Father's Day.

## CHURCH NEWS

### A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Dot Marcum went to be with the Lord overnight Thursday. There will be a visitation on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, from 7-9 PM at McComas in Jarrettsville. A second visitation will be held at the church on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10-11 AM, with the funeral service at 11 AM. Interment will follow at Highview Memorial Gardens. The church will provide a meal following the services. If you can help provide food, please contact Remona Fletcher. Please keep the Marcum family in your prayers.

## CHURCH NEWS (CONTINUED)

### CONGRATULATIONS

Zach and Mandy Wetzel welcomed Annabelle Rose on June 9<sup>th</sup>. She weighed 6 lbs., 3 oz. and was 18 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well. Praise the Lord! Congratulations, Zach and Mandy!

### CRIB NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

We have an immediate need for two crib nursery workers and a crib Sunday School teacher. Please contact Lynette Winzenried for more information and to volunteer.

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

### OUR NEED FOR A CLEAN CONSCIENCE

The importance of confession, asking for mercy, and looking to the blood of Christ.

We need daily grace from Jesus to deal with ongoing sin in a biblical and helpful way. Sin is not our master (see Romans 6!) because of Christ, but we still sin internally (in mind and heart) and externally (in word and deed). It is necessary, therefore, for the gospel to shepherd us through feelings of guilt, shame, failure, and evil of our sin. How does a Christian receive grace to cleanse the conscience in the aftermath of sin?

**First, go to God for mercy and confess your sin.** David exemplifies this in Psalm 51. Part of his prayer is, "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51:2). John confirms the importance of confession in the believer's life. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9). Dealing with sin apart from confession to God is like starting a campfire without wood, a non-starter.

**Second, turn your heart to the promises of the gospel.** This is the key! Confession of sin apart from resting in the gospel only brings a superficial and fleeting emotional experience, but not true comfort and purification of heart. Remember that Jesus "has freed us from our sins by his blood" (Revelation 1:5), which includes being freed from the guilt and penalty of sin. Literally, the only thing that cleanses our conscience from the guilt and shame of sin is the blood of Christ, who dealt with our sin sufficiently on the cross.

The author of Hebrews confirms the necessity of Christ's blood to "purify our conscience" and enable us to serve God properly: "For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh,<sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living

*(continued on the next page)*

## **AM Sermon: Signs of Spiritual Life**

### **Ephesians 4:17-24**

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Four signs of new life in Christ:

1. New Identity

2. New Lifestyle

3. New Mind

4. New Heart

# MEN'S RETREAT

The Men's Ministry is planning a Men's Retreat at Mill Creek Falls Retreat Center in Airville, PA, for men and boys who are 14 years old and up. Minors must be accompanied by an adult (preferably their father). The theme will be "Magnifying the Lord Together."

They will meet at the retreat center on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, any time after noon, and leave on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, by 4 PM. The retreat will include a dinner on Friday, an overnight stay, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. There will be time for fellowship, hearing the Word of God, and enjoying the outdoors.

Cost will be \$25 for adults; free for minors.

Registration will begin on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. See Bill Tomlinson with any questions.



**SAVE THE DATE**