

PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

14:6, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" Jesus is the only Mediator between a holy God and sinful people because He is truly God and truly a man. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus," who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time" (1 Timothy 2:5-6). In a nutshell, the Bible's message is that Jesus fully reveals God to sinful humans and perfectly reconciles sinners to a holy God. Salvation is not a philosophy or religious feeling. Salvation is a relationship with God experienced inwardly through faith in Jesus Christ. He is God and man; He is God's appointed Mediator for man and man's only Savior to come back to God. There is no other way to forgiveness and the immeasurable gift of eternal life.

6. Baptism symbolizes salvation, but is not what saves you. Romans 6:4, "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." The Bible is full of symbols. Animal sacrifices symbolized Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. The temple symbolized God's presence with and authority over Israel. When the church celebrates the Lord's supper -- also called communion -- the bread symbolizes Jesus's body and the cup symbolizes His blood shed on the cross for our sins. Likewise, baptism in water symbolizes the Spirit's work within us. When you believed in Jesus based on the true gospel, the Spirit killed the old you (the you enslaved to sin and under God's judgment) and gave birth to the new you (the you redeemed from sin and fully forgiven by God). Baptism is a picture of death, burial, and resurrection... of the old you dying and the new you rising to life in Christ.

7. Do you believe? If you believe the good news of salvation in Christ, then the guilt of sin has been washed away. Your heart has been cleansed. You are a child of God. You have been justified (declared righteous in God's eyes) by faith. You are SAVED and SECURE by the love, power, and faithfulness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To show this publicly and join Christ's church (assembly of believers gathered for worship, fellowship, biblical spiritual growth), be baptized. Be joyful in obedience and humble in discipleship. Christ is your and you are His. Follow Him in all things, including baptism. "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:13-17).

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

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

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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 – July 12th

I AM (Crib) - Colleen Good and Janie Steplowski

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

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

Prayer Intercessor – July 12th – Gerry Cicone

Greeters – July 12th – Deb Eiche and Meg Fornoff

Ushers - July 12th – 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.

July 5, 2026

Prayer Meeting

TONIGHT

6:30-7:15 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

1 Timothy 1-3	Ps 119:145-176	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
1 Timothy 4-6	Psalm 120	Ecclesiastes 3:9-15
2 Timothy	Psalm 121	Ecclesiastes 3:16-22
Titus & Philemon	Psalm 122	Ecclesiastes 4
Jonah	Psalm 123	Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM 10:45 AM 6:30 PM	Sunday School Worship Service* (Church/Online) Prayer Meeting*
Monday	Church Office Closed	
Tuesday	10:00 AM	Loss of Spouse Seminar (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

Rock of Ages

Reading: Romans 13:8-10, People of Love

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Offering

SERMON: Biblical Community (in the local church), part 2

Ephesians 4:25-32 (Pew Bible Page 1572)

Lord's Supper* | *The Power of the Cross*

Closing Prayer | *Doxology*

*Baptized believers may participate in the Lord's Supper

EVENING WORSHIP

PRAYER MEETING

We have Prayer Meeting tonight at 6:30 PM. 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

Jume Prayer Meeting Attendance: 21

July Prayer Meeting: July 5th

6:30-7:15 PM, Fellowship Hall

May Men's Breakfast Attendance: 22

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Monday. Happy 4th of July.

LOSS OF SPOUSE SEMINAR

We are hosting a Loss of Spouse Grief Share seminar on Tuesday, July 7th, from 10 AM to noon in the Youth Cafe. Contact Robyn Smith with any questions.

TRUSTEES, COUNTERS, AND SECURITY MEETING

The trustees, counters, and security team will meet next Sunday, July 12th, in Room 1.

WHERE WILL YOU SERVE?

Please take time to prayerfully complete the 2026 Christian Service Survey (the teal insert). This will help the Nominating Committee as they strive to fill each role. Surveys are due next Sunday!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Nominating Committee will meet next Sunday, July 12th, at 5 PM in Room 24.

PASTOR MATT ON VACATION

Pastor Matt and family will be on vacation July 12th - 18th.

ON THE HORIZON

JARRETTSVILLE BASKETBALL CAMP

Jarrettsville Basketball Camp is held outdoors at the church for 1st-8th graders. This 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. Registration forms are available in the lobby and on our website. You can also register online through our Church Center app.

JARRETTSVILLE BASKETBALL CAMP VOLUNTEERS

We need assistant coaches to connect with the kids. Sign up on the sheet in the lobby.

CHURCH NEWS

PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE

Pastor Anthony announced on Sunday that he has accepted a senior pastor position at a church in Louisiana. Their last Sunday with us will be August 30th. Keep the Wilsons in your prayers as they prepare for the move and new ministry.

JUNE GIVING

General Fund: \$40,082.66	Maintenance Fund: \$540.00
Baltimore Rescue Mission: \$1,330.00	
Camp Wo-Me-To: \$200.00	Alpha's Glory: \$250.20
Mission Dignity: \$340.00	Other Missions: \$871.00
Total: \$43,613.86	Budget: \$43,870.29

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE BAPTISM

Have you turned from sin and put your faith in Jesus for forgiveness? Then the next step is baptism (i.e., being dunked in water as a symbol of salvation and public testimony of your faith). Below is a short, biblical punch list of what to know before baptism. If you are ready or have questions, please let us know. We are here to help you come to Jesus and live for Jesus based on the Bible.

1. Baptism is for followers of Jesus. Matthew 28:19-20, "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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." A disciple is a follower, a student. Having believed in Jesus for forgiveness, we also surrender our lives to Him in glad and humble obedience. Do you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Are you a sincere follower of Jesus? His will is for you to be baptized and join the church for worship, fellowship, and biblical spiritual growth.

2. God loves you with an amazing and gracious love! John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Love is a genuine affection for someone and a commitment to bless them rather than harm them. God's love is the fountain source of all His blessings. Jesus died on a cross for your sins because of God's love, and God's love is freely available to you through faith in Jesus.

3. Jesus died in your place. 1 Peter 2:24, "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." The idea of substitution is key to the good news of salvation through Jesus. He died as a substitute for sinners. On the cross, Jesus took the sin, guilt, and deserved judgment of others as His own so that they could be free and never be condemned. This is the heart of Christianity. For all who believe, Jesus died in our place to reconcile us to God and free us from the wrath to come. Praise God for the substitutionary death of Christ.

4. You are saved by a living faith, not an intellectual knowledge. James 2:17, "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." Just knowing things about the Bible, God, and Jesus does not save anyone. Just doing certain things the Bible commands does not save anyone. Cleaning your life up, coming to church, or growing up in a church-going home does not and cannot save you. The only thing that saves you is faith -- your heart trusting in Jesus for forgiveness based on the true gospel. As John 3:16 says above, "whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

5. He is God, and He is the only way of salvation. John
(continued on the next page)

**AM Sermon: Biblical Community
(in the local church), part 2
Ephesians 4:25-32**

10 Pillars of a Spirit-filled local church (the final 5 today):

6. A Spirit-filled church speaks _____ (v. 29)

7. A Spirit-filled church _____ the Holy Spirit (v. 30)

8. A Spirit-filled church repents of _____ (v. 31).

9. A Spirit-filled church shows the _____ of Christ (v. 32).

10. A Spirit-filled church _____ each other (v. 32).

2026 Christian Service Survey

Position	I now hold this position and want to continue	Consider me for this position	I'd like a job description	Position	I now hold this position and want to continue	Consider me for this position	I'd like a job description
Accompanist				Nursery Worker (Indicate which level: I or II)			
Decorating Committee				Special Events Coordinator			
Finance Committee				Sunday School Director			
Financial Secretary				Sunday School Secretary			
Historical Committee				Sunday School Teacher			
Library Committee				Trustee			
Music Committee				Usher			
Music Leader				Usher (alternate – as needed)			
Nursery I Coordinator				Youth on Mission Leader			
Nursery II Coordinator							

Name:

Phone Number:

Remarks/Questions:

Please place the survey in the box provided in the lobby or give it to a member of the Committee by Sunday, July 12th.

Andrew Evans, Phoebe Evans, Remona Fletcher, Eric Heinze, Tom Neunaber, or Thelma Rush

Christian Service Survey

The Nominating Committee's responsibility is to seek out and enlist those whom the Lord would have serve Him in an elected position for the coming two fiscal years (October 2026 through September 2028). **Exceptions:** Nursery Coordinators, Nursery Workers, and Sunday School teachers will be elected to serve for only one year (September 2026 through August 2027). Trustees' term of service is three years (October 2026 through September 2029).

Please notify the Nominating Committee of both your desire to serve and your interest in serving by filling out the survey on the reverse. **In most cases, this survey is the committee's only way of knowing your desires and/or interests.**

If you are now serving in one of the positions listed and wish to be considered for continued service in that position, **you also need to complete this survey.**

Written job descriptions describing each position are available from the church office or any of the Nominating Committee members. If you already hold one of the listed positions and do not have a job description, the Committee urges you also to obtain the written job description for your position.

Your prayers, along with the prompt completion and return of this survey, will greatly facilitate the work of the Nominating Committee.

MEN'S RETREAT

THEME: MAGNIFYING THE LORD TOGETHER.

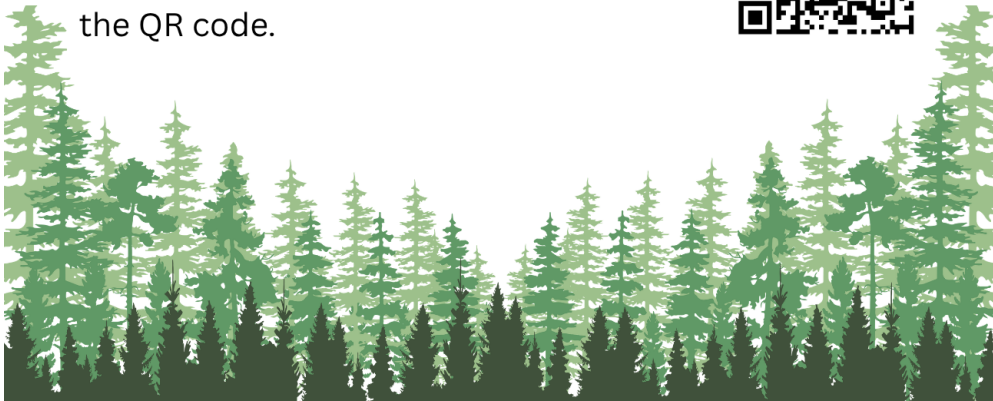
The Men's Ministry Team invites men and teen boys ages 14 and up to a Men's Retreat at Mill Creek Fall Retreat Center in Airville, PA (only 30 minutes from church). Minors must be accompanied by an adult (preferably their father).

When: Meet at the retreat center on Friday, September 18th, any time after noon, and leave on Saturday, September 19th, at 4 PM.

What: The retreat will include a dinner on Friday, an overnight stay, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. There will be time for fellowship, hearing God's Word, and enjoying the outdoors

Cost: \$25 for adults; FREE for minors

You can register by using the forms in the lobby or online. To register online, you can use the Church Center app or scan the QR code.



PRECEPT Ladies Bible Study

AN IN-DEPTH* STUDY OF
THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS
*EXPECT 5 HOURS/WEEK OF HOMEWORK

When: Tuesdays from 9:15-11:30 AM
starting September 8th
Pick up books on September 1st

Where: The Fellowship Hall

RSVP: Register & Pay \$25* by
August 20th. Registration
forms are in the lobby.

*Scholarships available
See Anita Gearhart with
questions

