

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)

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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.



Ministries - July 26th

Nursery Workers

I AM (Crib) - Page Knox and Lynette Winzenried

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

PM- Combined I/II - Dave Good and Linda Perrine

Prayer Intercessor - Danny Akers

Greeters - Sallye Hoover and Wes Evans

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

Today's Ushers - Bob Doss, Jim Dougherty, Andrew Evans*, Eric Heinze, Vince Minichiello*, and Donny Wetters

*ushers who greet in the lobby



NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

July 19, 2026

Lord's Supper



Tonight at 6:30 PM
during Evening
Worship

READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

Micah 1-3	Psalm 129	Ecclesiastes 8:1-9
Micah 4-7	Psalm 130-131	Ecclesiastes 8:10-17
Isaiah 1-5	Psalm 132	Ecclesiastes 9:1-6
Isaiah 6-10	Psalm 133-134	Ecclesiastes 9:7-10
Isaiah 11-15	Psalm 135	Ecclesiastes 9:11-18

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service*
	After Church	Current Youth Workers Meeting (Rm 1)
	6:30 PM	Evening Worship Service*
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	Missionary Survivor Night at Youth Group

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

MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Reading: Colossians 3:14-17, The Supremacy of Love

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

Offering

SERMON: Biblical Community (in the local church):
Conclusion

Ephesians 4:31 - 5:2 (Pew Bible Page 1572)

How Deep the Father's Love for Us | Closing Prayer

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: Ecclesiastes 5, God Blesses

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Reading & Prayer: Ecclesiastes 6, God Knows All

O For a Thousand Tongues

SERMON: God Is the One You Must Fear
Ecclesiastes 5-6 (Pew Bible Page 850)

Lord's Supper* | *Doxology* | Closing Prayer

*Baptized believers may participate in the Lord's Supper

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

This fall will bring two new sermon series and two new Bible studies for our growth and edification. The morning series will be **ROMANS: THE GOSPEL OF GOD**. The evening series will be **LUKE: THE TENDER MERCY OF GOD**. Also, if you do not have a Sunday School, Pastor Matt's class in the sanctuary will be on **THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST** from all 4 gospels. And once we are done the book of Job, our Wednesday evening Bible study will be on **THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST** from the whole Bible.

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

July Prayer Meeting Attendance: 26

August Prayer Meeting: August 2nd
6:30-7:15 PM, Fellowship Hall

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

CURRENT YOUTH WORKERS MEETING

The pastors will meet with the current youth workers in Room 1 after the worship service today.

YOUTH GROUP MISSIONARY SURVIVOR NIGHT

The youth will have a special game of Missionary Survivor on Friday, July 24th, at 7 PM. Missionary Survivor is a game with similarities to Capture the Flag and Tag. Invite others!

DEACONS MEETING

The deacons will meet on Sunday, July 26th, at 5 PM.

ON THE HORIZON

JARRETTSVILLE BASKETBALL CAMP

Pray for the volunteers and children who will attend the camp. The camp verse is Matthew 7:12, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

BABY SHOWER

We are hosting a baby shower for Kenzi Wilson on Thursday, August 13th at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Because they are moving, gift cards to Amazon and Target would be the most helpful. Sign up in the lobby if you can help provide food. See Jeanne Akers or Jennifer Evans with questions.

CHURCH PICNIC

The Men's Ministry invites you to join your church family for a time of fun and fellowship on Saturday, August 15th, at Camp Wo-Me-To. You can swim, play yard games, and fellowship from 3:00-5:00 PM. Dinner will be at 5:30 PM. NHBC will provide the meat, rolls, and drinks. Please bring a dish to share based on your family's last name. Sign up in the lobby or on the Church Center app to attend. (A-G: Side Dish | H-Z: Desserts)

YOUTH RALLY

There will be a Youth Rally on Friday, August 28th, from 6-9 PM at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Port Deposit. There will be food, games, and a time of worship and Bible study. The youth will leave NHBC at 4:45 PM and return at 10 PM. Permission slips are available in the lobby. They are due by Friday, August 21st.

CHURCH NEWS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY TEAM

We have an opening to serve on the Women's Ministry Team beginning in September. If you have questions or are interested, please contact Robyn Smith.

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): Conclusion
Ephesians 4:31-5:2**
