

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,"⁶ 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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Scan the QR code or email info@NorthHarford.org to sign up for weekly emails and inclement weather announcements.



Ministries - August 2nd

Nursery Workers

I AM (Crib) - [You?](#) and Bill Fornoff

II AM (Toddlers) - Verla Evans and Phoebe Evans

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

Prayer Intercessor - Tina Holmes

Greeters - John and Denise McDonald

Ushers - 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, and Tom Neunaber*

* ushers who greet in the lobby



NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

July 26, 2026

Prayer Meeting

AUGUST 2

6:30-7:15 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

Isaiah 16-20	Psalms 136	Ecclesiastes 10:1-7
Isaiah 21-25	Psalms 137	Ecclesiastes 10:8-15
Isaiah 26-30	Psalms 138	Ecclesiastes 10:16-20
Isaiah 31-35	Psalms 139	Ecclesiastes 11:1-6
Isaiah 36-40	Psalms 140	Ecclesiastes 11:7-10

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service*
	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)
Thursday	6:30 PM	Youth on Mission (7 th -12 th graders)
		Deacons Meeting
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: Matthew 22:36-40, The Greatest Commandments

O Worship the King | His Mercy Is More

Offering

SERMON: Christlike Love

Ephesians 5:1-2 (Pew Bible Page 1572)

Behold Our God | Closing Prayer

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: James 1:5-8, God Gives Wisdom

Nothing But the Blood

Reading & Prayer: Ecclesiastes 7

There Is a Fountain

SERMON: Wisdom Gives Strength

Ecclesiastes 7 (Pew Bible Page 852)

Closing Prayer

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

DEACONS MEETING

The deacons will meet on Thursday, July 30th, at 6:30 PM.

PRAYER MEETING

Next Sunday, at 6:30 PM, we will gather around tables downstairs for our monthly Prayer Meeting. No one will be forced to pray.

ON THE HORIZON

JARRETTSVILLE BASKETBALL CAMP - AUGUST 3-7

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."

BUSINESS MEETING

We will have a Business Meeting on Sunday, August 9th, at 5:30 PM to hear reports, the proposed budget for next year, and vote on next year's Sunday School teachers.

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 (scan the QR code) to attend by Sunday, August 9th. (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

WITH SYMPATHY

Dolores Cullum, Penny Brown's mother, went to be with the Lord early Friday morning. Her services will be held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Brogue, PA on Tuesday. There will be a viewing from 9-11 AM followed by the funeral service at 11 AM. Interment will be at the church. Please keep the family in your prayers, especially Penny's father, Russell.

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: Christlike Love

Ephesians 5:1-2

God requires us to follow Jesus in laying down our lives for the good of each other.

1. Christlike love requires _____.

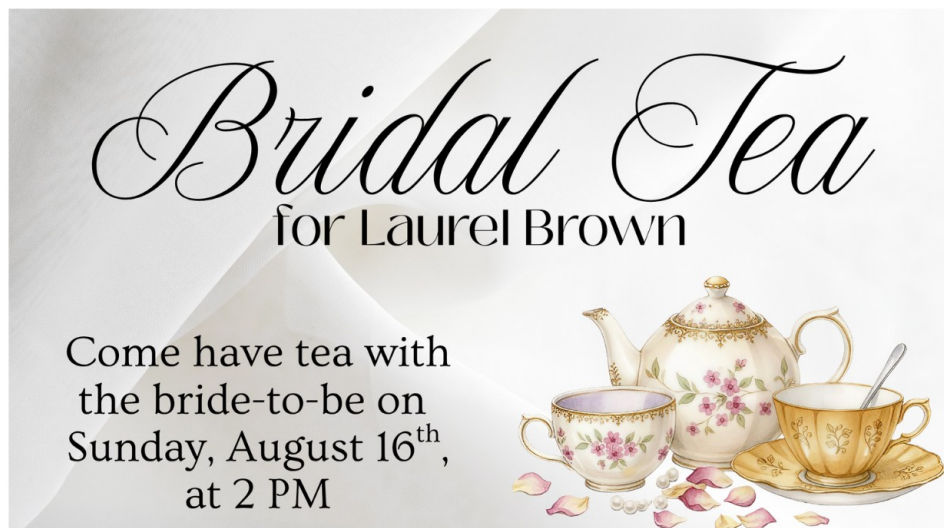
2. Christlike love requires _____.

3. Christlike love requires _____.



BABY SHOWER FOR KENZI WILSON

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.



BRIDAL TEA FOR LAUREL BROWN

Come have tea with the bride-to-be! Join us as we celebrate with Laurel on Sunday, August 16th, at 2 PM in the fellowship hall. Laurel is registered on Amazon. Scan the QR code for her registry. Please have gifts sent to her home in Colorado. Gift cards are welcome, too.



MEN'S RETREAT

THEME: MAGNIFYING THE LORD TOGETHER.

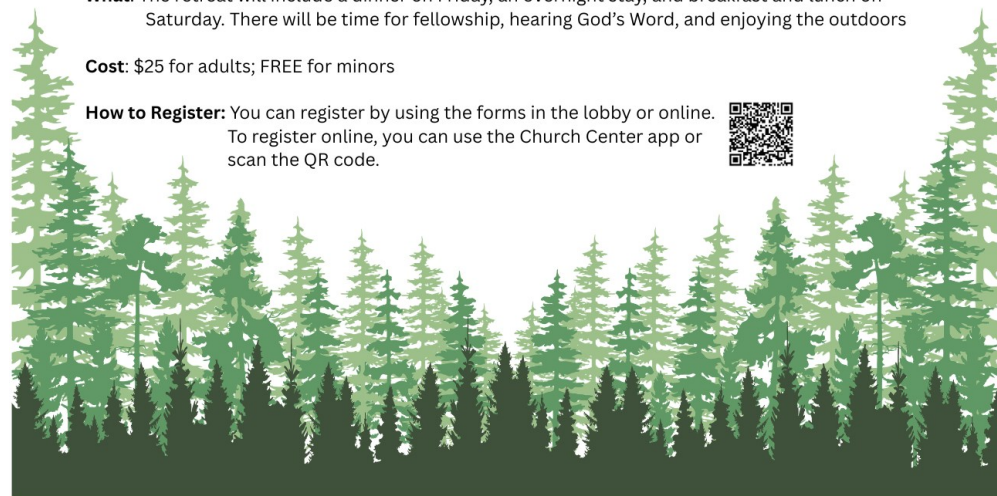
The Men's Ministry Team invites men and teen boys ages 14 and up to a Men's Retreat at Mill Creek Fall Retreat Center in Airville, PA (only 30 minutes from church). Minors must be accompanied by an adult (preferably their father).

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

How to Register: 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