

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)

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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 - August 30th

Nursery Workers

I AM (Crib)- Cheryl Brown and Lynette Winzenried

II AM (Toddlers) - Marie Reid and Emma Evans

PM- Combined I/II - Bill Tomlinson and Donna Tomlinson

Prayer Intercessor - Danny Akers

Greeters - Andrew Evans and Jennifer Evans

Ushers - Danny Akers, Dave Good, Nathan Good, Wayne Hudson*, John McDonald, and Blair Knouse

Today's Ushers - Bob Burman, Frank Cicone*, Jim Feldbush, Gary McAllister, Tom Neunaber*, and Steve Sugarman

* ushers who greet in the lobby



NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

August 23, 2026



READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ☐ Joel | Job 4-5 (Eliphaz) |
| ☐ Nahum | Job 6-7 (Job) |
| ☐ Habakkuk | Job 8 (Bildad) |
| ☐ Zephaniah | Job 9-10 (Job) |
| ☐ Jeremiah 1-4 | Job 11 (Zophar) |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service*
	6:30 PM	Evening Worship*
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	4:45 - 10:00 PM	Youth Group - Youth Rally at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Port Deposit

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

MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

Holy, Holy, Holy

Reading: Genesis 2:21-25, The First Marriage

Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King

Near the Cross

Offering

SERMON: Christian Marriage

Ephesians 5:22-33 (Pew Bible Page 1573)

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed?

Closing Prayer

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading/Prayer: 1 Peter 4:7-11, Serve One Another

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Reading & Prayer: Luke 16:10-13, You Cannot Serve God
and Money

All Creatures of Our God and King

SERMON: What Will You Do with Your Life?

Ecclesiastes 11 (Pew Bible Page 855)

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

August Prayer Meeting Attendance: 31

September Prayer Meeting: September 6
6:30-7:15 PM, sanctuary

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

YOUTH RALLY

The Youth Rally is this Friday 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 promptly at 4:45 PM and return at 10 PM. Please arrive on time so that the youth have time to eat dinner at the Youth Rally.

FAREWELL COOKIE RECEPTION

We will have a Farewell Cookie Reception for the Wilsons after church next Sunday; their last Sunday with us. There will be a basket for cards of encouragement for the Wilsons at the reception. The church is providing the refreshments.

DEACONS MEETING

The deacons will meet next Sunday at 5 PM.

ON THE HORIZON

GRIEFSHARE

We are hosting a 13-week GriefShare Program. This faith-based program is designed to help those in the grieving process. The book costs \$20. Scholarships are available. They will meet in the Youth Café on Tuesdays from 5-7 PM beginning September 8th. Scan the QR code to register. See Robyn Smith with any questions.



LADIES' TEA AT THE TEA TROLLEY

The Women's Ministry invites the ladies to a tea at The Tea Trolley in Delta, PA on Thursday, September 24th, at noon. Please sign up in the lobby by September 10th if you can attend.

SECRET PAL LUNCHEON

The Secret Pal Luncheon will be held on Saturday, October 24th. The time is yet to be determined. Save the date!

CHURCH NEWS

FUTURE OF CHURCH STAFF

With the changes in our pastoral staff this year, it is imperative to seek the Lord in prayer regarding our future. Though my prayer is for a full-time **Youth Pastor**, we are not going to leap headlong into a search process immediately. **First, we are going to give a season of prayer** to seek God's favor and will, to follow God's guidance, and to be sure we are on the same page as a church family. God is faithful and just, and He will lead us in the way we should go at the appointed time. **"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps"** (Proverbs 16:9).

MEAL TRAIN FOR THE MILLERS HAS ENDED

Thank you to everyone who provided meals and encouragement to the Millers. They no longer need meals but are grateful for the care they received from the church family.

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: Christian Marriage
Ephesians 5:22-33

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. **Register by September 13th.**



The youth will have a fall retreat at Black Rock Retreat Center in Quarryville, PA, on October 2-4. They will study the Book of Hebrews, focusing on the supremacy of Jesus and what it means to live by faith.

The retreat costs \$80 per student, \$70 if you send more than one student. Meals and lodging are included.

They will leave the church on Friday, October 2nd, promptly at 5 PM and return on Sunday, October 4th, at 2 PM.

Pick up a registration packet in the lobby or at Youth Group. The packet includes a letter to parents, retreat guidelines and rules, a list of what to bring and what not to bring, a permission slip, an emergency card, and the Black Rock Waiver form. **Completed forms and payment are due by Friday, September 11th.**

Ways you can SERVE

- We need one crib nursery worker immediately for Sunday mornings. See Lynette Winzenried for more information or to volunteer.
- During each Sunday morning worship service, a person takes a prayer guide to the prayer room and prays for the congregation and pastor. If you would like to become a **Prayer Intercessor**, please contact the church office.