

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 with in 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

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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 - September 6th

Nursery Workers

I AM (Crib) - Cheryl Brown and Bill Fornoff

II AM (Toddlers) - Verla Evans and Phoebe Evans

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

Prayer Intercessor - YOU? Contact the church office to volunteer.

Greeters - Sallye Hoover and Wes Evans

Ushers - Gil Brown, Josiah Brown, Mark Evans*, Wes Evans*, Mark Huna, and John Steplowski

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

* ushers who greet in the lobby



NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

August 30, 2026

Join us after church for the Wilsons' Farewell Cookie Reception



READING THE BIBLE IN 2026

This week's readings are:

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|---|------------------|
| ☐ Jeremiah 5-8 | Job 12-14 (Job) |
| ☐ Jeremiah 9-12 | Job 15 (Eliphaz) |
| ☐ Jeremiah 13-16 | Job 16-17 (Job) |
| ☐ Jeremiah 17-20 | Job 18 (Bildad) |
| ☐ Jeremiah 21-24 | Job 19 (Job) |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service*
	After church	Wilson's' Farewell Cookie Reception
	5:00 PM	Deacons' Meeting
	6:30 PM	Evening Worship*
Tuesday	9:00-10:00 AM	Precept Book Pick Up
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 - 09:30 PM	Youth Group

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

MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

The Goodness of Jesus

Reading: Matthew 16:24-26, Heart of Discipleship

10,000 Reasons

My Worth Is Not in What I Own

Offering

SERMON: Examples of Discipleship

Ephesians 6:1-9 (Pew Bible Page 1574)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Closing Prayer

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading/Prayer: Psalm 150, Praise the Lord

Be Thou My Vision

Reading & Prayer: Romans 8:37-39, The Love of God

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

SERMON: Remember Your Creator

Ecclesiastes 12 (Pew Bible Page 856)

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

FAREWELL COOKIE RECEPTION

We are having a Farewell Cookie Reception for the Wilsons today after the morning worship service.

DEACONS MEETING

The deacons will meet today at 5 PM.

PRECEPT BOOK PICKUP

Ladies who have signed up for the Precept Bible Study will pick up their books this Tuesday between 9-10 AM in the fellowship hall. Class begins on September 8th at 9:15 AM.

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Next Sunday begins a new year for our Sunday School classes. It is a great time to jump in and attend! Children entering 1st, 4th, and 7th grade will begin attending their new class. See today's bulletin insert for the list of classes.

PRAYER MEETING

Next Sunday at 6:30 PM, we will meet in the sanctuary for our monthly Prayer Meeting. No one will be forced to pray.

ON THE HORIZON

GRIEF SHARE

We are hosting a 13-week Grief Share 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).

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: Examples of Discipleship

Ephesians 6:1-9

Disciples = learning to please and glorify God in all areas of life, no matter what our place in life is.

1. The example of children (vv. 1-3).

2. The example of fathers (v. 4).

3. The example of bondservants (vv. 5-8).

4. The example of masters (v. 9).

Promotion SUNDAY

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Children entering 1st, 4th, and 7th
grades will move up to the next class.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLASSES:

- **Nursery 1** (Crib) in Room 8
Dave Good, Ruth Good, Nancy Smith, & Lynette Winzenried
- **Nursery 2** (Toddlers) in Room 9
Linda Mack & Marie Reid
- **Pre-K/K** in Room 2
Lorna Dorn & Nancy Rathbun
- **1st – 3rd Grade** in Room 3
Harmony Evans, Linda Perrine, & Hannah Schneider
- **4th – 6th Grade** in Room 6
Denise McDonald & Nancy Taylor
- **7th – 12th Grade Boys** in the balcony above the gym (DS bldg)
Mark Evans & Mark (Moe) Winzenried
- **7th – 12th Grade Girls** in Room D10 (DS bldg)
Verla Evans & Maria Minichiello

ADULT CLASSES:

- **Apologetics Class** in the Youth Café (DS bldg)
John McDonald
- **Understanding the Bible** in the sanctuary
Pastor Matt Fortunato
- **Explore the Bible** in Room 7
Matt Evans
- **Ruth Class** in Room 36 (upstairs)
Jeanne Akers
- **Senior Men** in Room D3 (DS bldg)
Bill Fornoff
- **Sisters in Christ** in Room 24
Anita Gearhart

Join us for Sunday School on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

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.



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

When: Friday, October 2nd, leaving the church at 5 PM and returning Sunday, October 4th, at 2 PM

Cost: \$80 per student, \$70 if you send more than one student. Scholarships are available. Meals and lodging are included.

How to Register: Registration packets are available in the lobby and at Youth Group. Please submit completed forms and payment **by Friday, September 11th**, because Black Rock will need our final meal and lodging numbers.

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 Falls 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: Register using the forms in the lobby or register online using the Church Center app, or by scanning the QR Code.
Register by September 13th.

