

LUKE 1:78-80, THE TENDER MERCY OF GOD (PM)

Zechariah prophesied about God’s arrival in Israel.

1. He prophesied God’s _____

2. He prophesied God’s _____

3. He prophesied God’s _____

PASTOR’S ENCOURAGEMENT

BORN AGAIN THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST

Since you are born again through faith in Christ, you are eternally joined to Him—bonded to Him in love and communing with Him daily. First comes the *new birth*, when we repent and believe the gospel -- that Christ is God and man, and that He lived a righteous life, died in our place for our sins to win our salvation, and rose to eternal life to become the living source of salvation. "And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him" (Hebrews 5:9).

Then comes *Christian living* -- being made holy and learning to live in obedience to Christ. "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace" (Romans 6:14). If we attempt to reverse the order, we lose every ounce of true Christianity. So what is the new birth? Where does it come from? How does it happen?

The new birth is a sinner receiving spiritual life through faith in Jesus. "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13). And, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). Therefore, if you believe in Jesus according to the true gospel, you have spiritual life. You are no longer dead in sin. You have been born again.

The new birth comes from God Himself by the work of the Holy Spirit. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:6-8). And, "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 3:5-6). Therefore, if you believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit has made you new. You are no longer enslaved to your natural, sinful lusts. You have been born again and the Holy Spirit is at work within you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

North Harford Baptist Church
4008 Old Federal Hill Road
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
(410) 836-6994
www.NorthHarford.org
info@NorthHarford.org

Ministries - September 20th

Nursery Workers

I AM (Crib) - Tammy Wetters and YOU? (we always have two workers; see Lynette Winzenried to volunteer)
II AM (Toddlers) – Marie Reid and Mia Citro
PM– Combined I/II – Bella Fortunato and Jenn Evans

Prayer Intercessor – Meg Fornoff

Greeters - Anita Gearhart and Brian Akers

Ushers - Jim Dougherty, Andrew Evans*, Eric Heinze, Vince Minichiello*, Peter Vaughan, and Justen Winemiller

Today’s Ushers - Brian Akers*, Bradyn Citro, Bill Fornoff, Richard Perrine, Bill Tomlinson*, and Donny Wetters

*ushers who greet in the lobby



NORTH HARFORD
BAPTIST CHURCH

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

September 13, 2026

MEN’S RETREAT

When: September 18-19

Where: Mill Creek Falls Retreat Center in Airville, PA

Who: Men and boys 14 years old and up (must be accompanied by an adult, preferably their father)

Cost: \$25 for adults
FREE for minors

REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE TODAY!!!

Register using the form in the lobby or through the Church Center app.



This week’s Bible readings are:

Jeremiah 45-48	Job 26-27 (Job)
Jeremiah 49-52	Job 28-29 (Job)
Lamentations 1-2	Job 30-31 (Job)
Lamentations 3-5	Job 32 (Elihu)
Matthew 1-4	Job 33 (Elihu)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service*
	After Church	Christmas Choir Practice (Fellowship Hall)
	5:45 PM	Business Meeting
	6:30 PM	Evening Worship Service*
Tuesday	9:15 AM	Precept Ladies’ Bible Study
	5:00 PM	GriefShare (Youth Café)
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Adult Bible Study* (Room 1)
		Boys Bible Club (1 st -6 th grade boys)
		Girls in Action (1 st -6 th grade girls)
		Mission Friends (Nursery-K)
		Youth Bible Study (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



Scan the QR Code to visit our Sermon Audio page to view our pastor’s articles and sermons.

NEXT PRAYER MEETING: October 4th , 6:30 - 7:15 PM, in the sanctuary



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

MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Reminder of Grace: Ephesians 2:4-8, Saved by Grace

Prayer: Adoration and Confession

Jesus Paid It All

Proverb of the Week: Proverbs 1:8-19, Choose Your Friends Wisely

Prayer: Thanksgiving and Supplication

To God Be the Glory

Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor

Offering (Philippians 4:18-20)

SERMON: The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:14-17 (Pew Bible Page 1575)

There Is a Fountain

Invitation to Christ and Benediction

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

The Law of God: Matthew 22:34-38, The Greatest Commandment

Prayer: Adoration and Confession

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

Psalms of the Week: Psalm 2, The Reign of Christ

Prayer: Thanksgiving and Supplication

All I Have Is Christ

SERMON: The Tender Mercy of God

Luke 1:76-80 (Pew Bible Page 1336)

Prayer: Consecration

Take My Life and Let It Be

 If you would prefer to give online, please scan the QR code for a secure online giving option.

PLANS FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Our church is in a time of transition. But God is faithful and more than competent to sustain us and work out His will among us. He is faithful, and He knows exactly what we need. The first and by far the most important thing **in** this process is to seek God's will through **humble prayer and private fasting**. Then, I hope to begin the process of forming a search committee near the end of September for an Associate Pastor who will focus on youth and young adults, also called student ministries.

FIRST, I plead with you to come to our prayer meeting tonight at 6:30 in the sanctuary. **SECOND**, please consider a time of fasting during which you can seek God in private prayer, while also experiencing and demonstrating a deep dependence on God to sustain you. There are different ways to fast, and you can choose the time and length of your fast. Just remember that fasting is **meant to be private (Matthew 6:16–18)**. **Making a show of it is abhorrent to God**. People should not know that you are fasting, and you don't need to ask anyone else about their fasting!

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PLANS FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR (CONTINUED)

SOME IDEAS:

1. **Fast from food**, drinking only water or black tea or coffee. For example, skip dinner and breakfast for a 24-hour fast. Or skip a whole waking day for essentially a 48-hour fast. Go longer if the Lord leads you.
2. For health reasons, some cannot do #1. But you can eat only what is necessary, fasting from any extra indulgences, e.g., desserts, unnecessary snacking, or "treat" beverages.
3. **Fast from all screens and/or entertainment and games** to give that time to prayer and the Word. For this to be felt like a food fast, it would need to be longer **because food is a necessity, but screens and entertainment are not**—a week, two weeks, a month?

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

MEN'S RETREAT

Registration for the Men's Retreat to Mill Creek Falls Retreat Center (September 18-19) is due **TODAY**. Register using the form in the lobby or online through the Church Center app (scan the QR code). Please bring a lawn or camping chair and, if you are staying the night, twin bedding and/or a sleeping bag (recommended).



CHRISTMAS CONCERT - CALL FOR SINGERS

We need singers for our Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 23rd, at 7 PM. Baptized believers in 7th grade and up are welcome to join. Dave and Ruth Good will lead congregational singing, accompanied by the choir. The choir will also perform a few pieces. They will practice in the Fellowship Hall for 30 minutes immediately following the worship service, starting today.

BUSINESS MEETING

We will hold a Business Meeting tonight at 5:45 PM. We will hear reports and vote on the proposed 2026-2027 budget and the nominations from the Nominating Committee.

ON THE HORIZON

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

We are having a Fellowship Supper on Wednesday, September 30th, at 6:15 PM in the fellowship hall. If you are able, please bring a main dish and a side dish or dessert to share with your church family.

SECRET PAL LUNCHEON - SAVE THE DATE

The Secret Pal Luncheon will be held on Saturday, October 24th, from 12 to 2 PM.

CHURCH NEWS

WITH SYMPATHY

Norma Dunn, Suzanne Heiss' mother, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday. Please keep the family in your prayers. A memorial service will be held in October.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study on Wednesdays is being livestreamed on Facebook. It will also be available on our SermonAudio page.

EPHESIANS 6:14-17, THE ARMOR OF GOD (AM)

God has fully equipped His children to withstand Satan's attacks and stand firm in the faith.

1. The belt of _____
2. The breastplate of _____
3. The shoes of the _____
4. The shield of _____
5. The helmet of _____
6. The sword of the _____,
i.e., _____



Our Visit to the Tea Trolley

Our Tea Trolley reservation is confirmed for Thursday, September 24th, at 12 PM. Thank you to all who signed up to attend!

We confirmed with the Tea Trolley that parking is available across the street. However, carpooling would still be beneficial.

They will be offering cream of crab soup that day, but if you don't like that, you can choose roasted red pepper soup. The scones will be the delicious vanilla scones that the previous owner, Rachel, used to serve.



Ladies' Bonfire

This year's Ladies' Bonfire will be held at the church on Friday, October 9th, starting at 7 PM. This change will allow us to use it as an outreach to the moms of youth who attend youth group.

Please bring your own lawn chair (we can bring a few chairs from the church if needed) and any snack you would like to contribute. The Women's Ministry will provide all things s'mores-related. We will also provide bottled water.

A sign-up sheet is in the lobby so you can indicate your attendance and what you plan to bring.

Upcoming Women's Events