



New Basel Church  
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**echo**  
New Basel Newsletter

**JULY 2021**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Ah, July 4<sup>th</sup>! Independence Day! This month, along with every other person in the country, we will celebrate Independence Day with an abundance of food and family and fireworks. Honestly, what is it about Americans that makes us want to celebrate our country by blowing up our own yards? Did you ever wonder just how much gun powder we go through this month? I love it, of course, and I promise to try to stay on something approaching a reasonable budget for the week!

Hopefully, at some point, we'll reflect upon the freedom that we experience and treasure as a result of living in this great nation of ours, and our minds will wander to those that struggled to form and defend our country. The authors of the Declaration of Independence deserve our undying gratitude for the freedom they have imparted to us, as do those who have served or are currently serving in the military. We are direct beneficiaries of their sacrifices, and we should honor them.

But the freedom we experience as Americans is nothing compared to freedom we have as followers of Christ. John 8:31-32 puts it like this: "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." You see, even though Americans are free to pursue happiness and determine for themselves their relationship with God, *neither the founders nor the soldiers could free us from our enslavement to sin.*

They could do nothing to help us stop sinning, nor could they protect us from the consequences. That has to be Jesus, and as John continues, we read, "if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (v36)

Many Americans today think that since they live in a free country, they are free. They feel free from tyranny, free to choose, and perhaps even free from sin. But they're wrong! They only think they're free, as did those people listening to Jesus way back then. It is true that governments can devote themselves to refrain from intruding on people's lives and protect individual liberties as our government has done. *But it is Jesus, and only Jesus, that truly liberates.*

As you celebrate your holiday with your friends and family, take a moment to express your gratitude for those Americans that provided for your freedoms. But the story doesn't end there. Think about how you might express your freedom in Christ to your family and friends. How can God use you to set others free from their bondage to sin? Isn't that a much more important and necessary discussion?

After all, the framers of the Constitution made sure you have the freedom to have those conversations! Don't be afraid to use it!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Jamie



# **New Basel Church Council Minutes**

## **Monday June 14, 2021**

Called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

### **Present:**

**Elders:** Kenny Chamberlin, Nicole Shrack, Pam O'Neal

**Deacons:** Holly Bethe, Francis Anderson, Mitch Cromwell

**Trustees:** Dwight Kamm, Austin Murphy

Pastor Jamie opened with prayer.

### **Minutes:**

Approved by council

### **Communications:**

Bread for the World asking for donations

MAF asking for donations

St Jude Children's Research Hospital

Village Manor Newsletter

Neighbor to Neighbor brief review of what they do for the Abilene Community and a Thank you for our prior support.

### **Reports:**

#### **Committee Reports:**

Vacation Bible School - Was a success this year.

Pastor Parish Relations Committee met June 9<sup>th</sup> & they discussed:

- Several issues that have been brought to them from the congregation.
- Talked about goals for monthly/regular social gatherings
- Clarified benefits for Pastor Jamie
- Discussed the need to create an annual performance criterion to review with Pastor

#### **Financial Secretary and Treasurer:**

Pam O'Neal gave the Financial Secretary's report for May.

Holly Bethe gave the Treasurer's report for May.

#### **Pastor's Reports:**

Led worship 5 times in the Month of May

Administration Meeting - 1 Church Council, 1 Pastoral Relations

Pastoral Care - 3 Home visits (Dwight and Marvel Meuli, Don and Sandy Reiff, Seth and Judy Lauer)  
1 phone visit (Sandy Reiff)

Church Life - VBS, Church Brunch

Non-New Basel Church Activities - Mission and Outreach Ministry Council, 1 National Association Leadership Zoom Meeting.

Special Thank You from Pastor Jamie to Austin and Jessica Murphy, Holly Bethe, Kenny and Janet Chamberlin, and Clema Anderson

**Elders:**

Pam O'Neal reported that 43 people took communion on Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Communion will be served on July 4<sup>th</sup>. We will go back to normal communion as there have been several complaints about the all-in-one cup.

**Deacons:**

None

**Trustee:**

Austin Murphy reported there is some sheetrock that needs to be replaced in the parsonage. There is also a septic system issue that needs to be addressed ASAP

**Old Business:**

VBS was a success

Date for Harvest Home - October 24<sup>th</sup> date is set; plans will follow in the next few months. Pastor Jamie has a few ideas for a guest speaker.

Birthday and Anniversary Updates - A slip will be put in the bulletin to update information for records committee and ECHO

Communion - Will be served the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. We will go back to serving as we have in the past. Next communion will be July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Church Improvement Offering will be held again June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**New Business:**

M/S/C to pay bills that were presented. Pam O'Neal moved we pay the bills; Mitch Cromwell seconded the motion.

Video System - Still discussing options. Pastor Jamie knows of at least 5 members that will not be able to attend church and have been viewing it online.

Plumbing issues, the septic tank needs to be checked and possibly drained. The septic system backed up into the church after our service this Sunday. Trustees and Kenny will have to locate the septic tank.

- Francis mentioned that the Soil Conservation has a program that we would qualify for if we need to replace the septic system.

Air conditioning in the Parish Hall - Austin checked with KVK, they gave us an estimate. We will wait at this time due to the septic system issue.

Propane Contract - We have not received a contract at this time.

Transfer of membership for Pastor Jamie and wife Angela Bonnema. Motion passed and voted on.

Church Fellowship - Will continue to do it once a week. Pam O'Neal will make up a sign-up sheet for 3 months. Please sign up. The fellowship does not have to be extensive. Coffee, Juice, treat of some sort.

Pastor Jamie- He would like to meet with most of the congregation within his first year. A sign-up sheet will be passed around during service this Sunday and will be posted for you to sign up on.

Pastor gave us his vacation for the 2021 year - July 19<sup>th</sup> thru August 1<sup>st</sup> (July 25<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> pulpit supply will be needed.) December 26<sup>th</sup> thru January 1<sup>st</sup>. (Pulpit supply needed for December 26<sup>th</sup>)

## Upcoming Events:

Church Fellowship will follow after every service.

June 21<sup>st</sup> Father's Day

July 4<sup>th</sup> Communion

July 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting @ 7p.m.

Echo Articles due July 26<sup>th</sup>

## No Other Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Nicole Shrack, Secretary



Andrew Gantenbein, head football coach at Osage City High School, was chosen as the 2A coach for the East side in the Shrine Bowl game on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at Hutchinson.

## IN OUR PRAYERS...

Eunice Pryor  
Elaine Bethe  
Joe Foltz  
Naoma Foltz  
Harold Provance

Wanda Murphy  
Dwight Meuli  
Kelly Schrader  
Tammy Anderson  
Sandy Reiff

Don Reiff  
Judy Lauer  
Suzie Barten  
Ruth Phillips

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Thank you so much all that volunteered and contributed to make our 2021 Vacation Bible School a success. Whether you gave donations to help with snacks and supplies, helped set up or tear down, taught classes, served food, or simply prayed over us; your help was greatly appreciated and felt. We had a student attendance of 42 kids ranging from ages three to kids completing sixth grade that were able to raise \$749.87 for the Romblon Kids Bible Club during the week. The kids learned through stories and songs that Jesus is number one in our lives and we can trust in him for everything.

Thanks again for loving and supporting the youth in our community and helping to make our Mystery Island Vacation Bible School a success.

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# JULY INFORMATION

## Anniversaries

10<sup>th</sup> Robby and Emily Haynes  
 12<sup>th</sup> Bob & Pam O'Neal  
 14<sup>th</sup> Kenneth & Rita Gantenbein  
 17<sup>th</sup> Ed & Jan McAdams

28<sup>th</sup> Lyle & Sandy Miller  
 Greg & Kari Beetch  
 29<sup>th</sup> Austin & Jessica Murphy

## Birthdays

6<sup>th</sup> Sara Hunnicutt  
 9<sup>th</sup> John Meuli  
 13<sup>th</sup> Kim Palenske  
 29<sup>th</sup> Tim Reiff  
 30<sup>th</sup> Casey Stalder  
 31<sup>st</sup> Chris Bethe  
 Glenna Dautel  
 Eunice Pryor



## PASTOR JAMIE'S OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays:  
9:00 am - noon**

## **Greeters, Acolytes, and Usher for July**

### Greeters:

4<sup>th</sup> Harlow & Jane Haney  
 11<sup>th</sup> Holly Bethe and Chris Bethe  
 18<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Beetch and Travis Beetch  
 25<sup>th</sup> Sam & Nicole Shrack

### Acolytes:

Scarlet Murphy  
 Riley Hunnicutt  
 Farrah Rothchild  
 Axie Shrack

### Fellowship

Bonnema  
 Meuli  
 Murphy  
 OPEN

July Usher: Lonnie Schrader

Thank you to Kevin Smiley for being the June Usher

