



JUNE 2023

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

There is a funny story about a guy that tried to rob a church. He went to the office, thinking there would be a huge pile of cash from the Sunday offering (LOL) and demanded that the pastor turn it over. Since there was no cash, he agreed to let the clergyman write a check instead. Of course, when the would-be burglar tried to cash the check, he was immediately arrested! Justice!

We love hearing about stories when bad or mean people get their comeuppance. But we love the good stories, too! An unknown and struggling singer finally gets a chance to perform on *America's Got Talent*, or one of the similar shows, and knocks it out of the park! The crowd goes wild!

We love it when good things happen to good people. We love it when bad things happen to bad people. But what do we do when bad things happen to good people? When a hurricane or tornado rips through a populated area, many people will often speculate that the devastation and horror are somehow related to God's judgment on a sinful people. They must have deserved it somehow, or so the thinking goes. Still others see the wreckage and claim it as proof that there is no God, because how could a good God allow such undeserved misery?

In Jesus' day, there was also a national tragedy that had people reeling and looking for meaning. Recorded in Luke 13:1-9, some people came to the temple to worship and were killed there by Roman soldiers. Imagine you were part of the congregation when a gunman entered the

sanctuary and opened fire. How could you go back there to worship, knowing exactly where blood was shed and where your friends died? How could you sing songs of joy there? How could you sing songs of forgiveness? How could you listen to a sermon about God's sovereignty?

So it was in Jerusalem, and the people struggled to understand. Some thought that it was God's judgment; these people must have done something really bad because God didn't accept their sacrifice but demanded their own blood.

Jesus, however, had a different view. Did those unfortunate souls deserve to die? Well, as a matter of fact, yes! *But so does everyone else!* Were they any more sinful than the rest of us? No. Actually, they didn't deserve punishment any more or less than anyone, which is where it applies to us still today. We all deserve punishment, and we all deserve to die for our sins. The thing we need to do is stop worrying about other people's sin, and repent of our own so that we won't be ultimately destroyed for them.

So why do bad things happen? Paul says it like this: "For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it..." (Rom 8:20) Destruction, suffering, and death are part of the world we live in because it is a fallen world, subjected to sin. This means that tornados, hurricanes, and the hundred other examples of when bad things happen to good people, all happen because the perfect creation was subjected to sin. After all, it ain't heaven yet!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jamie

# New Basel Church Council

Monday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

## **Present:**

**Elders:** Kenny Chamberlin and Jen Reiff

**Deacons:** Francis Anderson, Mitch Cromwell, and Judy Barten

**Trustees:** Drew Snitker and Gary Foltz

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion and prayer

M/S/C to approve April 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes

## **Communications:**

Lyla (Sybert) Watson sent a card and check

## **Reports:**

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

Mitch gave the Financial Secretary report for April

Judy gave the Treasurer's Report for April

M/S/C to approve the Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports

### **Pastor's Report:**

Worship: Preached and/or led Sunday Worship 4 times, Maundy Thursday (Ebenezer Baptist Church)

**Administration Meetings-** 1 Church Council Meeting, 9 Planning Meetings, 1 Membership Meeting.

**Pastoral Care-** 12 Phone Visits, 3 Home Visits, 6 Hospital Visits

**Other-** 1 Confirmation Class, 1 Cross Talk class session, 4 Cross Talk Local Meetings, 3 Volunteer Reading, Work Day, helped pour concrete at parsonage

Vacation Days: this month 0 YTD: 3

Professional Development Days: this month 0 YTD: 5

Mileage 222.6

**Elders Report:**

Jen Reiff reported 96 people took communion on April 9<sup>th</sup>

**Deacons:** Judy Barten reported deacons will meet after meeting

**Trustees:** Drew presented bills from Church Work Night

**Old Business:** Lawn mowing sign up is almost full. Bible School starts May 30<sup>th</sup>. We will not have movie night in May.

**New Business:** M/S/C to pay bills that were presented.

We will discuss dates for Church Picnic and Harvest home next meeting, we tabled the discussion.

**Upcoming Events:**

May 1<sup>st</sup>- Scholarship Applications Due

May 7<sup>th</sup>- Communion and Graduate Recognition

May 25<sup>th</sup>- ECHO Articles Due

May 28<sup>th</sup>- Pentecost Sunday

May 30<sup>th</sup>- Bible School Starts

June 4<sup>th</sup>- Communion

June 5<sup>th</sup>- Council Meeting

**No other announcements:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm by praying the Lord’s Prayer in unison.

Jen Reiff, Acting Secretary



Elaine Bethe  
Naoma Foltz  
Dwight Meuli  
Cecil Schrader  
Bob O’Neal

Kelly Schrader  
Tammy Anderson  
Rodney Anderson  
Judy Lauer  
Ed McAdams

# JUNE

## BIRTHDAYS

13<sup>th</sup> Allie Gfeller  
14<sup>th</sup> Nathan Kamm  
15<sup>th</sup> Bo Rothchild  
20<sup>th</sup> Doug Pryor  
29<sup>th</sup> Tony Herman



## ANNIVERSERIES

7<sup>th</sup> Bill and Carolyn Graves  
11<sup>th</sup> Kevin & Stacy Smiley

## Upcoming July Birthdays

6<sup>th</sup> Sara Hunnicutt  
9<sup>th</sup> John Meuli



Thank you to all that volunteered their time and contributed to make Vacation Bible School 2023 a success!! There were 47 kids in attendance. The focus this year was on Ephesians 6 and the Armor of God. Each day focused on a different component while talking about the 2 kingdoms at war (good and bad) and encouraging kids to choose the right side.

## Greeters, Acolytes, & Ushers for June

### Greeters

### Acolytes

4 <sup>th</sup>	Kenny & Janet Chamberlin	Bo Rothchild
11 <sup>th</sup>	Gordon & Sara Hunnicutt	Wyatt Hunnicutt
18 <sup>th</sup>	Francis & Clema Anderson	Savannah Smiley
25 <sup>th</sup>	Randy & Judy Barten	Sterling Bonnema

June Usher: Kevin Smiley

Thank you to Drew Snitker for being the May Usher.

Happy  
Father's  
Day!

June 18<sup>th</sup>

The righteous man walks in his  
integrity;  
His children are blessed  
after him.

Proverbs 20:7

