



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

OCTOBER 2023

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Is there a holiday more complicated for Christians than Halloween? Each year, people of faith all across America wrestle with the question of whether or not they should participate: Is it demonic? Is it harmless? Is it somewhere in between? If we hand out candy or dress our kids up, does that mean we endorse all the lunacy and depravity?

So, what should the Christian response be? Do we reject the holiday as Satanic, dive into it with enthusiasm and without question, or something in between?

People generally accept that Halloween came to us from the Celts, whose celebration centered around Samhain (pronounced Saw-win) and an end of summer festival. However, most people don't realize that the current theme of souls and spirits involved in Halloween has as much to do with its association with the Church and All Saints Day as it has to do with any pagan holiday. The Church actually bears some of the blame, if there is any, for the holiday as we know it!

Over the years, the Church's relationship with Halloween has been very complicated; simultaneously complimentary and antagonistic. The fact that All Saints Day, which originally was a time when the Church celebrated the witness of the early Christian Martyrs, is now the day after Halloween is no coincidence. Further, there is no doubt that All Saints Day was moved to coincide with Samhain, a time in which the souls of ancestors were beckoned and invited to join the family for dinner. It

seems that Christian faith was mixed with basic Medieval superstition in an attempt to ward off evil spirits through bonfires, disguises, and scary carved pumpkins. Presto. Halloween!

In weighing the Christian response, we should acknowledge that witches, vampires, and all the various evil are problematic, not to mention the skimpy and oversexualized mardi-gras costumes. But Halloween is first and foremost about CANDY, and lots of it. It seems that it should be possible to celebrate Halloween in a way that kids can enjoy cute costumes and sweets, all the while glorifying God in a world that does not know God.

This being said, Christians that are not comfortable trick-or-treating should not do so. The Bible is pretty clear that we shouldn't do anything that goes against our conscience. Even so, we can all remember that Jesus conquered death and hell and all the servants of Satan when he rose in victory! And that is cause for celebration!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council

Monday September 11, 2023

Called to order at 7:08 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

Present:

Elders: Kenny Chamberlin, Jen Reiff, Pam O'Neal

Deacons: Judy Barten, Mitch Cromwell, Francis Anderson

Trustees: Gary Foltz

Pastor Jamie opened with a Devotion.

Mitch Cromwell made a motion to approve the minutes. Jen Reiff second. Minutes were approved.

Communications:

None

Reports:

Financial Secretary and Treasurer:

Mitch Cromwell gave the Financial Secretary's report for August.

Judy Barten gave the Treasurer's report for August.

Pastor's Reports:

Work Summary for 8/7/23 – 9/3/23

Worship: Preached &/or led 4 Sunday worships and at Abilene Place.

Administration Meetings: 1 Church Council meeting, 1 Christian Education, 1 Ministerial Alliance.

Pastoral Care: 5 Phone Visits, 7 Home Visits

Other: 1 CrossTalk Class Session, 4 CrossTalk Local meetings, Sunday School Kickoff, Church Movie Night, 1 Volunteer Reading Session at RCGS, transported and delivered piano to Abilene Place.

Vacation Days: 0 This month, 8 Year to date

Professional Development Days: 0 this month, 10 Year to date

Mileage: 173

Memorial Committee:

Chris Bethe was in attendance to give an update on the memorial committee.

Elders:

Jen Reiff reported 42 took Communion on September 3rd.

Deacons:

Judy reported that the funds for the UCF Endowment & UCC Scholarship have all been moved into Edward Jones accounts.

Trustee:

It was discussed that there are some trim boards missing in the hall, kitchen sink is not draining, and the barn roof still needs to have the tin put on it.

Old Business:

*Harvest Home - October 1st. Potluck meal downstairs after the service, Pam and Jen will decorate.

*Food Pantry- September is our month to donate items to the Abilene Food Pantry

*Sunday School kick off served 35 people. There will be no confirmation class this year.

*Kenny has been in contact with someone coming into work on the ceilings.

New Business:

*M/S/C to pay bills that were presented. Mitch Cromwell moved we pay the bills; Francis Anderson seconded the motion.

*Fall Work Date: we will discuss a date at the October council Meeting.

*Navarre Booster 4H club will hold their 4H Sunday at New Basel on the 4th Sunday of this month.

Jen Reiff moved we adjourn. Gary Foltz seconded.

Upcoming Events:

September 22nd ECHO Articles Due

October 1st Communion

October 1st Harvest Home- Potluck Dinner

October 2nd Council Meeting 7pm

October 8th Movie Night

No Other Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 8:01p.m. by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Pam O'Neal, Secretary



We would like to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards and well wishes over the past few months. It's been a long road but we are doing good and on the path to better health. Our church family means the world to us.
Thank you,
Bob and Pam O'Neal

Dear New Basel Church,
Thank you for helping me go to camp! I had so much fun meeting new friends and learning about Christ!
I would definitely go again!
♥ Thank you, ♥
♥ Farah Rothchild ♥



Prayer Requests

Elaine Bethe
Naoma Foltz
Dwight Meuli
Cecil Schrader

Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
Bob O'Neal
Tony Herman

OCTOBER INFORMATION

Birthdays

2nd Jessica Murphy
 8th Farah Rothchild
 10th Sterling Bonnema
 13th Ed McAdams
 15th Rita Gantenbein
 18th Blake Murphy
 21st Deb Foltz
 Ryan Foltz
 26th Jane Haney
 27th Sydney Taylor
 30th Scarlett Murphy



Anniverseries

6th Francis & Clema Anderson
 7th Kenny & Janet Chamberlin
 14th Gary & Deb Foltz
 18th Gordon & Sara Hunnicutt

Upcoming November birthday

4th Kenny Chamberlin
 9th Kari Beetch
 10th Greg Beetch

Sunday October 29th will be Church Brunch. There will be no Youth /Young Adult Sunday School.



Greeters, Acolytes, & Usher for October

Greeters:

Acolytes:

1 st	Drew & Lindsey Snitker	Austin Smiley
8 th	Larry & Janis Haugh	Farrah Rothchild
15 th	Rita Gantenbein & Marcile Park	Sterling Bonnema
22 nd	Clarine Robson & Naoma Foltz	Scarlett Murphy
29 th	Church Brunch	

Usher: Bob O'Neal

Thank you to Dwight Kamm for being the September Usher!



MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, October 8th at 5pm

Popcorn and drinks are furnished; bring a snack to share if you wish.

The movie will be: APPLE DUMPLING GANG starring Don Knotts.

After three poor orphans are sent to live with gambler Russell Donovan (Bill Bixby), they discover they have actually inherited a large fortune from their dead father. Soon a series of greedy undesirables shows up. They try to get their hands on the money, so, in order to keep things uncomplicated, the kids decide to give their inheritance to a loveable outlaw duo, Theodore (Don Knotts) and Amos (Tim Conway). But there is only one problem - the gold is locked away in a bank vault.



