



New Basel Church of Christ  
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[www.newbaselchurch.org](http://www.newbaselchurch.org)



## MARCH 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Death Valley, California, an area known as the Racetrack Playa has captured people's interest for years. The playa is a flat lakebed some three miles long and extremely flat.



Every now and then, rocks on the surface of the lakebed leave tracks, as if they moved! As it turns out, these sliding stones are driven by strong wind when the surface of the ground is slightly wet or frozen. Catching these stones in the act, though, has been devilishly tricky, and it seems few have actually been able to see them actually moving. Some have referred to them as 'living stones.'

In his first letter, Peter also refers to 'living stones,' but in a much different context. The recipients of that letter, a young Christian community living in what is now modern day Turkey, were having difficulty. They were facing opposition and hardship due to their faith in Jesus, and some were teetering on the edge of turning away from the faith.

Peter, who was also known as 'The Rock', wrote to encourage these people and told them a couple of really remarkable things that we still find encouraging and instructional today. "You, also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Pet 2:5) There is a lot in this little verse worth exploring.

First, Christians back around the year 60, when this was written, did not have temples of their own. Jesus' resurrection was only 30 years prior, so Christianity was still in its infancy and they didn't have the massive temples (or even modest church buildings) like their Gentile friends who worshipped Aphrodite, Zeus, and the like. Nor did they have anything that rivaled Jewish temple in Jerusalem. The reason this was such a problem was that up until then, people thought God, or gods, met people at their temple! Temples were where gods dwelt, and a city that had a temple was protected and purified by that particular god. Peter, however, shows that *we* are God's temple. When God wants to meet a city, protect a people, or purify a nation, he starts with *us*!

Further, Peter calls them and us a holy priesthood. This means that, in addition to being little mobile temples everywhere we go, we also perform the functions of a priest and should conduct ourselves accordingly, living holy and dedicated lives. We are to offer God praise, and also to lead others to do the same.

As Christians, we are living stones, to be used by God.

As we are built into little mobile spiritual houses, we allow God to speak to others through us, and to protect and purify a nation. Be holy, as God intends!



Grace and Peace,  
 Pastor Jamie

**New Basel Church Council Minutes**  
**Monday February 5, 2024**

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

**Present:**

**Elders:** Pam O’Neal, Kenny Chamberlin, Jen Reiff

**Deacons:** Mitch Cromwell, Francis Anderson

**Trustees:** Gary Foltz

Pastor Jamie opened with devotion.

M/S/C to approve the January 2024 minutes as printed.

**Communications:**

None

**Reports:**

**Financial Secretary and Treasurer:**

Financial Secretary given by Mitch Cromwell

Treasures report was handed out for everyone to look at.

**Pastor’s Reports:**

Work Summary for 1/1/24 – 2/4/24

Worship: Preached &/or led 4 Sunday worships at New Basel and 2 at Abilene Place

Administration Meetings: 2 Church Council meeting, 2 Funeral Prep, Annual Meeting, 1 VBS

Planning (phone)

Pastoral Care: 3 Phone Visits, 7 Home Visits, 1 Hospital Visits, 2 Funeral attendance

Other: 5 CrossTalk Class Session, 3 CrossTalk Local meetings, 3 Volunteer Reading Session at RCGS

Vacation Days: 0 This month, 0 Year to date

Professional Development Days: 5 this month, 5 Year to date

Mileage: 401.8

**Elders:**

Jen Reiff reported 37 took communion on February 4<sup>th</sup>

**Deacons:**

N/A

**Trustee:**

N/A

**Reorganization of Council & Committees:**

Officer Elections are as follows:

- |                                       |                             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pam O’Neal – President                | Head Elder – Chris Bethe    |
| Gary Foltz – Vice President           | Head Deacon – Judy Barten   |
| Jen Reiff – Secretary                 | Head Trustee – Drew Snitker |
| Jennifer Latzke – Financial Secretary |                             |
| Judy Barten - Treasurer               |                             |

**Old Business:**

\*None

**New Business:**

- \*M/S/C to pay bills that were presented
- \*Pastor Jamie will get with new members to plan Installation of New Council Members Jennifer Latzke & Chris Bethe
- \*Received a signed Rental agreement from Hannah Nagely to host a birthday party in the Parish Hall this Sunday February 11.
- \*Discussion of New Basel’s philosophy and what we stand for

**Upcoming Events:**

- February 14<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday
- February 20<sup>th</sup> – ECHO Articles Due
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Communion
- March 4<sup>th</sup> - Council meeting
- March 10<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Time
- March 24<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday
- March 28<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday Service 7pm at New Basel
- March 31<sup>st</sup> – Easter – (NO 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch)

**No Other Announcements:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm by praying the Lord’s Prayer in unison  
 Pam O’Neal, Acting Secretary

***Please Pray For.....***

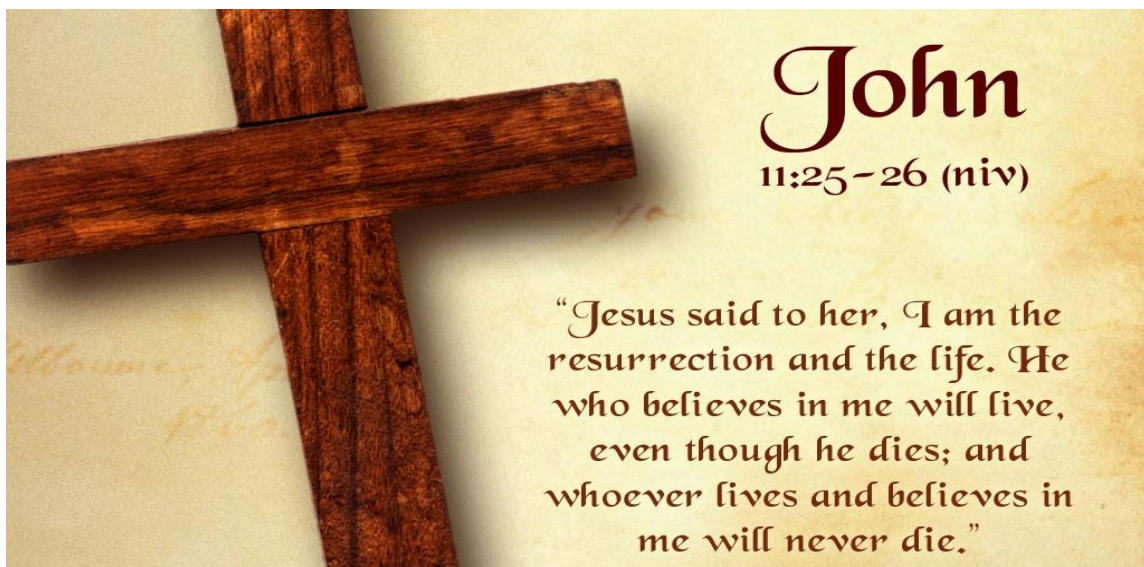
Elaine Bethe	Judy Lauer
Maxine Kauffman	Kelly Schrader
Naoma Foltz	Bob O’Neal
Dwight Meuli	Tony Herman

Our sincere thanks to our amazing church family for all of the prayers, hugs, cards, and calls during the time of my brother's illness and passing. Your care and support are greatly appreciated.

Jan & Ed McAdams



It's hard to believe, but VBS is already sneaking up on us! New Basel will welcome kids from preschool through 7th grade, beginning Tuesday May 28, and continuing through June 1. Kids should watch for a postcard in the very near future containing preliminary info, and adults should plan to clear their calendar to help the church in this most important of endeavors - presenting the Gospel to the next generation in a fun and engaging way. Please contact Pastor Jamie if you are able to help.



# MARCH INFORMATION



2<sup>nd</sup> Cecil Schrader  
Carolyn Graves  
3<sup>rd</sup> Marvel Meuli  
5<sup>th</sup> Clayton Gfeller  
6<sup>th</sup> Keenan Reiff  
7<sup>th</sup> Pastor Jamie  
12<sup>th</sup> Wyatt Hunnicutt

14<sup>th</sup> Gregg Beemer  
18<sup>th</sup> Savannah Smiley  
24<sup>th</sup> Kevin Smiley  
Duane Beemer  
31<sup>st</sup> Kenneth Gantenbein  
Naoma Foltz  
Marion Kamm  
Clarine Robson

## ANNIVERSARIES

10<sup>th</sup> John & Peggy Meuli, Jr.  
14<sup>th</sup> Adam & Alyssa Gantenbein  
20<sup>th</sup> Mitch & Kara Cromwell

### Upcoming April Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Jan McAdams      4<sup>th</sup> Judy Lauer  
3<sup>rd</sup> Katie Kamm      8<sup>th</sup> Gabe Barten



### Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7pm:

Every year, New Basel Church partners with neighboring churches Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church and Ebenezer Baptist Church to celebrate the Last Supper. This is our year to host, so please plan to attend this very special worship service.

## Greeters, Acolytes and Usher for March

### Greeters

### Acolytes

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Greg and Jolene Beemer	Axie and Stetson Shrack
10 <sup>th</sup>	Bob & Pam O'Neal	Janessa Latzke
17 <sup>th</sup>	Ron & Margaret Shouse	Tinley Moddlemog and Savannah Smiley
24 <sup>th</sup>	Drew & Lindsey Snitker	Sterling Bonnema
31 <sup>st</sup>		

Usher: Kenny Chamberlin

Thank you to Mitch Cromwell for being the February Usher

### Special Business Meeting

March 3, 2024 after Worship Service

Re: AV System Donation

Details: An anonymous donor has offered to purchase two 75-inch video monitors for the front of the Sanctuary and one 65-inch video monitor at the rear. There is no anticipated cost to the congregation. After a brief informational meeting, a vote will be held.