



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

APRIL 2024

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Being a Christian can be difficult, especially when the world around us doesn't like Christians. Or the things we stand for.

Last winter, an Episcopal Church in Brookings, OR, filed a lawsuit against the city for violations against its right to practice its religious beliefs. At the heart of the matter was an attempt by the city to restrict the church's practice of feeding homeless people on its property, and limit such activities to two days per week. The church claimed that such restrictions violated its right to practice its religious beliefs. Thankfully, a judge last week agreed with the church.

This case merely highlights the animosity that exists between Christians and non-Christians. We do not need to tax our brains very hard to come up with other examples. Movies and TV shows exhibit the differences on a regular basis, and business practices highlight discrepancies in moral compasses. Even holidays seem to be at odds with each other, as is showcased by this year's Transgender Day of Visibility, a 'holiday' that has been celebrated each March 31st for the past 15 years coinciding with Easter this year!

The phenomenon, however, is not a new one; Christians have faced opposition from the very first.

The book of 1 Peter was written to a group of Christians living in what is now Northern Turkey, who were trying to figure out how to live as Christians in a world that put a lot of pressure on them to go back to the way things were before they professed faith in Jesus Christ.

The question is an interesting one, because of how directly it applies to the culture within the United States. What are we, today in the US, supposed to do in light of the fact that there is so much anti-

Christian sentiment in the news media, on university campuses, within the military, and on government property?

Peter's instructions to this group of young believers made it clear that one thing we are *not* supposed to do is to withdraw from society and into our own walls, and avoid all contact with the outside. Nor are we supposed to simply live amongst the world and apart from the church. Peter is clear in his desire for Christians to be part of a community that interacts with outsiders. As someone once said, it is not that Christians live in the world and go to church; it is that they live in the church and go to the world. It is vitally important that Christians stay plugged into their local church, not just because we need to be encouraged and challenged once in a while, but also because the church needs each member to encourage and challenge the rest as well.

The life of a Christian living and working amongst people that reject the Gospel of Christ is not going to be an easy one. Despite what many televangelists would claim, hardship and suffering are probably going to be a part of the Christian life, and from the looks of things in modern culture, it's going to get worse before it gets better. But Peter has insight here as well: **there is hope.** Our role model, Jesus Christ, experienced opposition and persecution, but he showed us that we can live with hope in a hostile world. He also showed us that we can live with holiness in a hostile world, and make the world a better place. We have hope because Jesus conquered sin and death, and earned us a place with him in glory!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council
Monday March 4, 2024

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Pam O'Neal

Present:

Elders: Pam O'Neal, Jen Reiff, and Chris Bethe

Deacons: Francis Anderson, Judy Barten, and Jennifer Latzke

Trustees: Gary Foltz and Drew Snitker

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion

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

Communications: None

Reports:

Financial Secretary and Treasurer:

Financial Secretary report was given by Jennifer Latzke.

Treasurer's report was given by Judy Barten.

Pastor's Report:

Work Summary for 2/5/24-3/3/24

Worship- Preached and/or led Sunday Worship 4 times, and 1 at Homestead Memory Care

Administration Meetings- 1 Church Council, 1 Trustee, 1 VBS planning

Pastoral Care - 4 phone visits (Johnson, Silva), 7 Home Visits (Bethe, Kauffman, Robson, Schrader)

Other- 1 Cross Talk Class Session, 4 Cross Talk Local meetings, 3 Volunteer Reading Session at RCGS, Assisted in Homiletics Class at Sterling College.

Vacation Days this month: 0 YTD: 0

Professional Development Days This month: 0 YTD: 5

Mileage:118

Elders: Chris Bethe reported 51 people took communion March 3rd

Deacons: No Report

Trustee: Drew Snitker stated we need to set a date for Spring Cleaning.

Old Business: Set Date for Spring Cleaning. Saturday April 20th at 3:00pm.

Discussed TV's in Sanctuary

Installation of new council members will be Sunday March 10th

Discussed what our church stands for/philosophy for new members (see Article 3 in the by-laws)

New Business:

M/S/C that we fund church camp for kids this summer.

Drew Snitker will get sign-up sheet together for lawn mowing.

Discussed Graduation Recognition

Discussed Bible School 5/28-6/1

Upcoming Events:

March 10th: Daylight Savings Time

March 10th: Movie Night

March 25th: Echo articles due

March 24th: Palm Sunday

March 28th: Maundy Thursday Service at New Basel 7:00 pm

March 31st: Easter (no 5th Sunday Brunch)

April 1st: Church Council 7:00pm

No other Announcements

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Jen Reiff, Secretary



Elaine Bethe
Maxine Kauffman
Naoma Foltz
Dwight Meuli

Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
Tony Herman



Palm Sunday



New Basel Easter Egg Hunt: Easter morning 2024

APRIL INFORMATION

Happy Birthday

1 st Jan McAdams	25 th Andrea Koster
4 th Judy Lauer	Kaityn Gantenbein
8 th Gabe Barten	27 th Sam Shrack
11 th Devin Kamm	29 th Mark Bethe

Anniversaries

19 th Angela Bonnema	April 10 th Lynn & Suzie Barten
21 st Nicole Shrack	April 25 th Sam & Nicole Shrack
22 nd Elizabeth Haynes	
Katie Haynes	

Upcoming May Birthdays

1 st Austin Murphy	7 th Clema Anderson
4 th Dwight Meuli	8 th Andrew Gantenbein



Scholarships

The 2024 New Basel scholarship application deadline is May 1st.

Students wishing to receive a scholarship should be a graduating senior in high school or enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited institution of post high school level. For a scholarship application, please visit our website www.newbaselchurch.org and click on the News tab.

Greeters, Acolytes, & Ushers for April

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
7th	Austin & Jessica Murphy	Scarlett Murphy
14th	Kevin & Stacy Smiley	Austin Smiley
21st	Jane Haney and Carol Lawson	Farrah Rothchild
28th	Larry & Janis Haugh	Owen Cromwell

April Usher: Austin Murphy

Thank you to Kenny Chamberlin for being the March Usher

Your kids experience and sense the friction between Christianity and anti-Christian thought in school, from teachers and coaches, and amongst their friends. How absolutely vital it is, then, that they experience being with 400+ other Christian kids and leaders during the summer! It's time to get your kids signed up for Summer Bible Camp! Kids can have a blast this year with games, snacks, and time with their super team! They also will get deeper into God's word, learning that God has more for them than they could ever even imagine. Kids that have completed 6th-12th can go June 10-14, and those that have completed 3rd-5th grade can go June 23-26. New Basel Church thinks it's important enough that all our kids go, that we're willing to pay for your kid to do so! You just pay the \$20 registration fee, and we'll cover the rest. For more information, go to www.agkansas.com, but contact Pastor Jamie before you register so we can be sure we get all the kids together.