



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

APRIL 2026

How The Grinch Stole Easter

Adapted from the book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", by Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel

Every Who down in Who-ville liked Easter a lot. But the Grinch, who lived just North of Who-ville did not!

The Grinch hated Easter! The whole Lenten Season! Now, please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason. It could be that his head wasn't screwed on quite right. It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight. But I think that the most likely reason of all may have been that his heart was two sizes too small.

But whatever the reason, his heart or his shoes, he stood there that Saturday, hating the Whos, staring down from his cave with a sour, Grinchy frown at the warm lighted windows below in their town. For he knew every Who down in Who-ville below was busy now, hanging a big Easter bow. "And they're buying their lilies!" he snarled with a sneer. "Tomorrow is Easter! It's practically here!" Then he growled, with his Grinch fingers nervously drumming, "I MUST find a way to keep Easter from coming!" For tomorrow, he knew...every Who Tom and Sandy would wake up bright and early. They'd rush for their candy! And then! Oh, the noise! Oh, the noise! Noise! Noise! Noise! Noise! That's one thing he hated! The NOISE! NOISE! NOISE! NOISE!

Then the Whos, young and old, would sit down to a feast. And they'd feast! And they'd feast! And they'd FEAST! FEAST! FEAST! FEAST! They would start on Who-pudding, and rare Who-roast-beast, which was something the Grinch couldn't stand in the least!

And THEN they'd do something he liked least of all! Every Who down in Who-ville, the tall and the small, would stand close together, with Easter bells ringing. They'd stand hand-in-hand. And the Whos would start singing! They'd sing! And they'd sing! And they'd SING! SING! SING! SING! And the more the Grinch thought of the Who-Easter-sing, the more the Grinch thought, "I must stop this whole thing!" "Why, for fifty-three years I've put up with it now! I MUST stop Easter from coming! ...But how?"

Then he got an idea! An awful idea! The Grinch got a wonderful, awful idea! "I know just what to do!" The Grinch laughed until pale. And he made some Easter Bunny ears and a tail. And he chuckled, and clucked, "This is quite funny! With these ears and this tail, I'll look just like that Bunny!"

“All I need is a big wagon...” The Grinch looked around. But since wagons that big are scarce, there was none to be found. Did that stop the old Grinch? No! The Grinch simply said, “If I can’t find a wagon, I’ll make one instead!”

When the wagon was made, he called his dog Max, and hitched that poor pooch to the cart with thumb tacks! Then he loaded some bags and some old empty sacks on that rickety wagon, and he frowned at old Max. Then the Grinch said, “Giddyap!” And the cart started down toward the homes where the Whos lay a-snooze in their town.

All their windows were dark. Quiet night filled the air. All the Whos were all dreaming sweet dreams without care when he came to the first house in the square. “This is stop number one,” the old Grinch Bunny hissed. And he went to the porch, empty bags in his fist. Then he squeezed through the doggie door, a rather tight pinch. But if the Bunny could do it, then so could the Grinch. He got stuck only once, but hardly at all. Then peeked ‘round the corner and peered down the hall where the little Who baskets were lined in a row. “These baskets,” he grinned, “are the first things to go!”

Then he slithered and slunk, quite swift on his feet, around the whole room, and he took every sweet! Chocolate and sugar he piled up in heaps! Colored eggs! Cream-filled bars and Marshmallow Peeps! And he stuffed them in bags. Finishing his chore, he stuffed all the bags, one by one, through that doggie door!

Then he slunk to the icebox. He took the Whos’ feast! He took the Who-pudding! He took the roast beast! He cleaned out that icebox as quick as a flash. Why, that Grinch even took their last can of Who-hash! Then he stuffed all the food through the door with a glower. “And NOW!” grinned the Grinch, “I will take their last flower!”

And the Grinch grabbed the lily, and he started to shove when he heard a small sound like the coo of a dove. He turned around fast, and he saw a small Who! Little Cindy-Lou Who, who was not more than two. The Grinch had been caught by this little Who Daughter who’d got out of bed for a cup of cold water. She stared at the Grinch and said, “Easter Bunny, why, why are you taking our Easter lily? WHY?”

But, you know, that old Grinch was so smart and so slick. He thought up a lie, and he thought it up quick! “Why, my sweet little tot,” the fake Bunny lied, “There’s a petal on this plant that’s dried on one side. So I’m taking it home to my nursery to get wetter. I’ll care for it there, then bring it back better.”

And the fib fooled the child. Then he patted her head and he got her a drink and he sent her to bed. And when Cindy-Lou Who fell asleep as kids do, he went to the door, and stuffed the pot through! Then the last thing he took from that house was the mat. Then he squeezed through that door, chuckling “That is that!” In that house, he left nothing but dirt, the old brat! And the one speck of food he left in the house was a crumb that was even too small for a mouse.

Then he did the same thing to the other Whos' houses, leaving crumbs much too small for the other Whos' mouses!

It was a quarter past dawn...All the Whos with sleep giftied, all the Whos, still a-snooze when he loaded all he'd giftied. Packed up with their candy, the baskets, and food stash! The eggs! The flowers! The chocolate and fake grass! Three thousand feet up! Up the side of Mount Crumpit, he rode to the tiptop, where he would then dump it!

"Pooh-pooh to the Whos!" he was Grinch-ish-ly humming. "They're finding out now that no Easter is coming! They're just waking up! I know just what they'll do! Their mouths will hang open a minute or two. Then all the Whos down in Who-ville will all cry BOO-HOO! That's a noise," grinned the Grinch, "That I simply must hear!"

So he paused. And the Grinch put a hand to his ear. And he did hear a sound rising up the mountain. Quiet at first, then it started to fountain...But the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry! It couldn't be so! But it WAS merry! Very!

He stared down at Who-ville! The Grinch popped his eyes! Then he shook! What he saw was a shocking surprise! Every Who down in Who-ville, the tall and the small, was singing! Without any candy at all! He HADN'T stopped Easter from coming! It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-mouth hanging wide open, stood puzzling and puzzling. "This ain't what I's hopin'! It came without chocolate! It came without eggs! It came without flowers or baskets or bags!"

And he puzzled three hours, 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Easter," he thought, "I haven't got quite straight. Pastor Jamie said that Easter meaning comes from Matthew 28!"

Matthew 28 ¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Grinch stood there and stood there, puzzling that day, till God's Spirit spoke to him, and showed him The Way. Easter is not for just the bunnies and candy, nor is it for keeping

Lilies quite handy. Easter's not sugar loaded kids, round us whizzin'. We celebrate Easter 'cuz our savior's risen!

And what happened then? Well, in Who-ville they say that the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day! And the minute his heart didn't feel quite so tight, he whizzed with his load through the bright morning light. He brought back the sweets! And the food for the feast! And he...HE HIMSELF...The Grinch carved the roast beast!

Jesus Christ is risen, and it changes everything.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie



Thank you to all the carolers who came to sing to (and with) me in December! I enjoyed our time together, as I miss gathering with you on Sundays. You helped make my Christmas a very merry one!

God Bless
Naoma Foltz



Naoma Foltz
Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
Tony Herman

Rachel Prichard
Bobby Greenwood &
Judith Stevenson

New Basel Church Council
Monday, March 2, 2026

Called to Order: 7:04 PM by Pam O'Neal

Present

Elders:

Pam O'Neal, Jen Reiff, Lynn Kauffman, and Chris Bethe

Deacons:

Jennifer Latzke and Loren Barten

Trustees:

Drew Snitker and Gary Foltz

Devotion: Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion

Approval of February Minutes:

M/S/C to approve the February Minutes

Communications: None

Reports:

Financial Secretary: Jennifer gave report

Treasurer Report: Pam O'Neal passed out Judy Barten's report

Pastor's Report

February 2, 2026 - March 2, 2026

Worship: Preached and or led Sunday Worship 4 times, and at Homestead Memory Care

Administration Meetings-1 Church Council Meeting

Pastoral Care-5 Phone Visits, 5 Home Visits, 1 Pastoral Care Visit

Other- Annual Meeting and potluck, Super Bowl Party, 4 Cross Talk Local meetings, 4 volunteer reading sessions at Rural Center, Attended Funeral for Elijah Crump

Vacation Days: this month:0 YTD: 0, **Professional Development Days:** This month 0, YTD 4,

Mileage 166

Elders:

Chris Bethe reported 49 took communion March 1st

Deacons:

Jennifer Latzke mentioned that deacons still need to give their report on serving at Irish Den in January.

Trustees:

Drew Snitker reported that the basement project is almost finished.
The entire basement needs to be repainted to match.

Reorganization of Council and Committees

President: Jennifer Latzke

Vice President: Gary Foltz

Secretary: Chris Bethe

Treasurer: Judy Barten

Financial Secretary: Drew Snitker

Head Elder: Chris Bethe

Head Deacon: Judy Barten

Head Trustee: Drew Snitker

Old Business:

Bible School: May 26 – May 30

Women’s Retreat: Full for March dates

New Business:

It was M/S/C to approve bills

Discussed paying pastor’s fees for attending Men’s Retreat

5th Sunday Brunch will be March 29th at 9:30, Everyone brings something to share

Church Cleaning:

- Possibly outside cleaning in April

Painting:

- Drew will set a date and time and notify people

Robot Mower:

- Doing most of the mowing
- Drew will put up a sign-up sheet for trimming
- Graduation Recognition planned for April 26
- Discussed updating the church committees

Moved and seconded to give Crumps a gift certificate to Lumberhouse & Pioneer.

Next Meeting April 6th

Adjournment / Motion to adjourn approved / Adjourned at 8:09 PM

Meeting closed by praying **The Lord’s Prayer in unison.**

Acting Secretary:

Jen Reiff

APRIL INFORMATION

Happy Birthday

1 st Jan McAdams	21 st Nicole Shrack
4 th Judy Lauer	Janessa Latzke
7 th Larissa Cromwell	25 th Andrea Koster
8 th Gabe Barten	Mitch Cromwell
11 th Devin Kamm	27 th Sam Shrack
19 th Angela Bonnema	29 th Mark Bethel

Anniversaries

April 10th Lynn & Suzie Barten
 April 25th Sam & Nicole Shrack

Upcoming May Birthdays

1st Austin Murphy 8th Lyle Miller
 8th Andrew Gantenbein



Scholarships

The 2026 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.



Church Movie Night
 Sunday April 12th at 5

Graduate Recognition Sunday will be April 26th

Greeters, Acolytes, & Ushers for April

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
5 th	Austin & Jessica Murphy	Scarlett Murphy
12 th	Kevin & Stacy Smiley	Sterling Bonnema
19 th	Loren & Linda Barten	Farrah Rothchild
26 th	Larry & Janis Haugh	Devin Kamm

April Usher: Austin Murphy

Thank you to Kenny Chamberlin for being the March



New Basel Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Morning Sunday April 5th at 10 am
ages birth through 5th grade

Meet at the west entryway between the Parish Hall and the church. Depending on the weather, the hunt may be indoors or outdoors. You may bring a basket for your eggs, we will also provide bags for those who don't have a basket. Please arrive a few minutes early, eggs disappear fast!