



New Basel Church
1075 1100 Ave Abilene, KS 67410
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

August 2026

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dandelions. Good night, those things can be exhausting. I used to practice my golf swing on them with a sand wedge! They get everywhere in your yard if you aren't vigilant, and it's hard to have the time, energy, or desire to do the sort of combat it takes to get rid of them for good. But I believe that dandelions can teach us something about Christianity.

Long ago, monastic Christians would look at the world around them and look for insight about their faith. The world around us can teach us about trust, about growth, about our relationship with God, and a whole host of other things. And so these early Christians would look to the ordinary around us to discover the profound about God.

Dandelions are certainly ordinary; at least I've seen yards where they are quite common. But they have a distinct life cycle. They begin life as a green plant, nearly indistinguishable from the grass (or other weeds!) around it. As it matures, though, bright yellow flowers appear, and begin to cover the landscape. And then, left to its own devices, the dandelion flower will change into something completely unexpected – the little white puff ball that we all secretly love to blow on and then watch the wind take the seeds somewhere

downwind. And that, of course, is how we get the next crop of dandelions!

It seems to me that the life of a Christian can be compared to that of the dandelion. When we first begin our journey with Christ, we probably don't look all that different from the world around us. We have many of the same habits, attitudes, and problems of our non-Christian friends. Then, as we mature in our faith, we start to look different; distinct. People, if they know what to look for, can spot a Christian life from a long way away. Even so, our Christian life cycle is not complete until we change fundamentally, until we begin to look like something that people wouldn't have been able to predict at the beginning. And when the Holy Spirit, the Breath of God, blows on us, our faith gets carried downwind in order to plant the seeds of the next generation of believers.

Our modern lives are busy, full of appointments, deadlines, and worry. But I think maybe the monastics were on to something. There is value in slowing down long enough to consider our faith, appreciate the beauty of nature, and contemplate the ordinary. May you slow down long enough to be blessed by God, and may the Holy Spirit blow on you to be a blessing to others.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council

Thursday July 9th, 2026

Called to order: 7:02 PM by Jennifer Latzke

Present

Elders:

Chris Bethe, Lynn Kauffman, and Brady Modellmog

Deacons:

Judy Barten, Jennifer Latzke, and Loren Barten

Trustees:

Drew Snitker and Gary Foltz

Devotions: Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion.

Approval of June minutes:

M/S/C to approve the June minutes

Communications: rural water newsletter

Reports:

Financial Secretary: Drew gave the report.

Treasurer: Judy gave the report

Memorial committee: Janet Chamberlin gave the report

Pastors Report:

6/1/26 – 7/5/26

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, and 3 office visits

Other: 5 crosstalk local meetings, 1 game night, and 1 work day (storm damage)

Vacation Days: this month: 3 YTD:4 **Professional Development Days:** this month:0 YTD: 4 **Mileage:**42

Elders Report: 43 took communion on June 7th

Deacons Report: Judy gave a report on Immanuel Missions.

Trustees report: Drew got a second opinion on the Church roof.

Old Business:

Old Business: Pastor Jamie gave an update on his crosstalk global trip to Nepal. It will be the first week of December instead of November.

August 9th will be the Church picnic at the Heritage Center in Abilene at 10:30 am. Church Council will provide chicken from Wests and the rest of the meal will be potluck.

New Business:

It was M/S/C to pay the bills.

It was M/S/C to pay \$2500 to a local family in need from the Benevolence fund.

It was M/S/C to pay Immanuel Mission in Arizona \$1000 out of the mission's fund.

Upcoming Events:

July 12th- Family night

July 27th- Echo articles due

August 2nd- Communion

August 3rd - Church Council

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Chris Bethe, Secretary



Naoma Foltz

Judy Lauer

Kelly Schrader

Tony Herman

Rachel Prichard

Lynn and Suzie Barten

Judith Stevenson

Family of Bobby Greenwood

AUGUST INFORMATION



2 nd Joleen Beemer	22 nd Mark Robson
8 th Stephanie Gfeller	23 rd Judy Barten
10 th Stetson Shrack	26 th Pam O'Neal
13 th Peggy Meuli	28 th Jennifer Latzke

Anniversaries

9th Gregg & Joleen Beemer

Upcoming September Birthdays

1 st Holly Bethe	9 th Dwight Kamm
7 th James Latzke	

Dear God,

As the school year begins,
please watch over our kids.
Keep them safe and surround
them with people who will
encourage them to live for
You. Thank you for all our
teachers, bless them and
give them strength.

Amen



New Basel is still collecting Best Choice labels. Please give them to Ila Beemer as she is sending them in now instead of Carolyn Beetch.

Greeters, Acolytes and Usher for August

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	Greeters:	Acolytes:
2 nd	Gary & Deb Foltz	Sterling Bonnema
9 th	Church Picnic	
16 th	Mitch & Kara Cromwell	Janessa Latzke
23 rd	Austin & Jessica Murphy	Jace Latzke
30 th	5 th Sunday Breakfast	
August Usher: Gregg Beemer		

Thank you to Dwight Kamm for being the July Usher

CHURCH PICNIC

SUNDAY AUGUST 9TH 10:30 AM
DICKINSON COUNTY HERITAGE CENTER
412 S. CAMPBELL ST.
ABILENE



Fried Chicken will be provided by the Church Council.
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.