



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

OCTOBER 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the blessings of living in this great country of ours is that we have a tremendous legacy of faith, beginning with the very founders of our nation. Even today, we can look to them for insight and wisdom in spiritual matters.

Take, for example, the Puritans. Today, we think of them as the people with the black and white clothes, funny shaped guns, and celebrating the first Thanksgiving with their newfound Indian friends. The truth, however, is a little deeper. They laid the foundations not only for our Constitution, but for Congregational churches across America. And they had keen insight into the human spirit. They had a saying, *“the same sun that melts the ice hardens the clay.”*

Remember the Bible story about Moses and Pharaoh? Time and time again, Moses would come into the presence of Pharaoh, announcing yet another destructive plague because the Israelites had not yet been released. And time and time again, Pharaoh did not release them. In fact, he seemed to dig his heels in deeper, resolving not to.

And the Bible says that Pharaoh’s heart was hard. Sometimes he hardened it, sometimes it just says that it was hard, and sometimes God hardened it.

Moses, on the other hand, reacted differently. When Moses first encountered God during a conversation with a burning bush, he was pretty resistant. Moses came up with a couple excuses to not do what God

had in mind, which God dealt with one by one. When Moses couldn’t come up with any more excuses, he begged God, “O my Lord, please send someone else.”

But Moses went. He allowed the ice to melt. He obeyed, and over the course of the next several decades, Moses developed an increasingly close relationship with God.

That’s what the Puritans were talking about. God prompts and directs us, but the key is how we react. Sometimes we do what we’re supposed to, and sometimes we don’t. Moses eventually did what God wanted him to do. Pharaoh did not. David could have hardened his heart, but didn’t. Jonah hardened his heart, then didn’t, then did. And what would have happened if Paul refused to turn from his former life of persecuting Christians instead of planting churches?

Is your heart hard? If we’re honest, we have to say sometimes. We all have times when we want to do what we want to do, and don’t let God tell us otherwise. When God tells us to do something, we become like Pharaoh and say ‘No!’ When God says no, we say ‘I want to anyway.’ That’s what Pharaoh did, and we do too! In fact, pretty much **every time we sin**, it can be directly attributed to our hard hearts!

The point is, don’t let your heart get hard. When God tells you the truth, let your heart melt in the warmth instead of bake in the sun.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council

Monday September 9th, 2024

Called to order at 7:02 pm by President Pam O'Neal

Present:

Elders: Pam O'Neal and Jen Reiff

Deacons: Francis Anderson and Judy Barten

Trustees: Drew Snitker and Gary Foltz

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion

M/S/C to approve the August minutes as printed.

Communications: None

Financial Secretary: Jennifer not present, Judy Barten presented report

Treasurer's Report: Report was given by Judy Barten

Pastor's Report:

Work Summary for 8/5/24- 9/1/24

Worship-Preached and/or led Sunday Worship 4 times, 1 Wedding

Administration Meetings- 1 Church Council, Baptism Planning, 1 Wedding Rehearsal, 1 Worship Planning

Pastoral Care- 7 Phone visits, 4 Home Visits, 2 Office Visits

Other- 1 Crosstalk Local meetings, 1 Church Movie Night, 1 Premarital Counseling

Vacation Days this Month:0, YTD: 8

Professional Development Days- This month:0, YTD: 10

Mileage: 40

Elders Report: Pam O'Neal gave Chris Bethe's report that 30 took communion on Sept. 1st

Deacon's Report: N/A

Trustee's Report: Drew Snitker reported information on the downstairs classroom ceilings. Also discussed the need for insulation in the balcony, will be getting some quotes. Discussed need for plants/shrubs out front.

Christian Education Report:

Judy Barten reported that the Christian Education Committee met, and we are planning to have a Confirmation Class this year. Their next meeting will be in October.

Memorial Committe:

Janet Chamberlin and Janis Haugh attended the meeting. They presented a list of suggested items based on the Family's wishes on ways to use Memorial Money. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the list.

Old Business:

Harvest Home will be September 29th- Speakers will be from the Irish Den. Meat will be provided. The congregation is asked to bring a dessert or side dish.

Propane Contract is taken Care of.

Sunday School Kickoff was a success.

The Church Council plans to propose a change in the by-laws at the Annual Meeting that would allow spending up to \$5,000 without congregation approval.

New Business:

It was M/S/C to approve and pay bills.

A Fall Workday was planned for Saturday October 5th at 1:00 pm

Announcements:

Upcoming Events:

September 25th- Echo articles due

October 6th- Communion

October 7th Church Council

Adjournment: Meeting was Adjourned at 8:29 by praying the Lord's Prayer in Unison
Jen Reiff, secretary



Prayer Requests

Maxine Kauffman
Naoma Foltz
Dwight Meuli
Jane Haney

John Meuli
Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
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

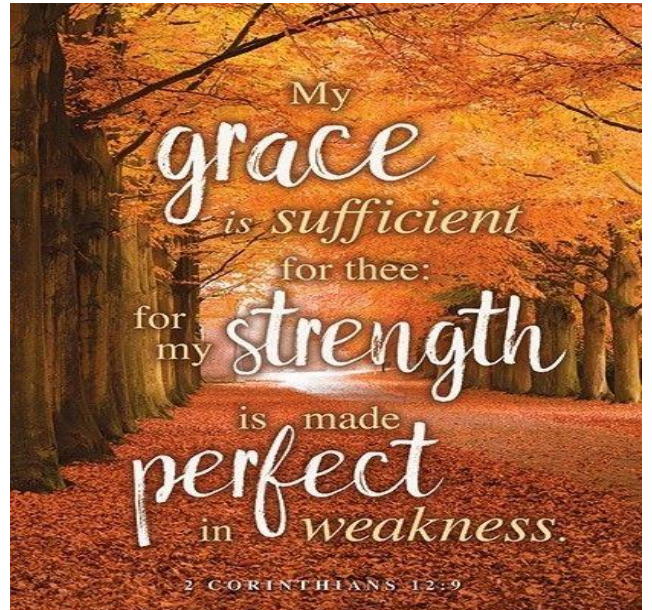


Anniverseries

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

Upcoming November birthday

4th Kenny Chamberlin



Greeters, Acolytes, & Usher for October

Greeters:

Acolytes:

6 th	Drew & Lindsey Snitker	Austin Smiley
13 th	Larry & Janis Haugh	Farrah Rothchild
20 th	James & Jennifer Latzke	Jenessa Latzke
27 th	Rita Gantenbein and Marcile Parks	Scarlet Murphy

Usher: Bob O'Neal

Thank you to Randy Barten for being the September

Church Movie Night
October 13th at 5pm
“My Fair Lady”

