



New Basel Church  
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**echo**  
New Basel Newsletter

## JANUARY 2025

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I love Calvin and Hobbes.

You remember the comic strip by Bill Watterson? It shows the daily life of a 6-year-old boy with crazy blonde hair and his best friend, a toy tiger. Together, they discover life's complexities.

In one particular strip, Calvin announces that he is disillusioned with 'these New Years.' Every time there is a New Year, it looks exactly like the old year! Pollution and war and stupidity and greed are still around, and nothing seems to have changed. After venting some of his frustration, Calvin walks off with his tiger friend, who comments, "The problem with the future is that it keeps turning into the present."

Pretty profound for a stuffed toy.

But Calvin is right. One study says that of all the New Year's resolutions that people are going to make this year, only 8% are going to be successful. It would seem that lots of people, though their desire for change is real enough, are unable to affect real and lasting change in their own lives, let alone changing the world for the better.

That's because a New Year is incapable of changing anything. You don't need a New Year. You need a Savior.

Simply changing the calendar and wishing on a star is not going to affect lasting change in your life. But God can. When God comes into our life, the Holy Spirit comes to reside within us. That's a fancy way of saying that when we become a Christian, we suddenly have within us a Godly influence

that we didn't have before, and it helps us to lead a better, more perfect, more healthy life. A calendar doesn't change us, God does.

It is this reality that grants us hope for the future. Calvin's frustration with New Years was grounded in a clash between a hope that the future would be better, and the realization that so many things were no different than yesterday. But that is what faith is. As Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." It is our faith in God that gives us hope for the future, and indeed a completely different vision of what that future should be!

Yes, a New Year is a new chance at a new beginning. The problem is that as humans, the chance we have to change is necessarily rooted in our past; in our previous habits, patterns, and failures. A truly new beginning is offered to us only through Jesus Christ, who has the power to break our destructive behaviors and history.

Whether your resolution is to take better care of yourself, take better care of your family, or take better care of your relationship with God, God can help you. Ask him to help you resist temptation, and then lean on his strength.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

**New Basel Church Council**  
Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Called to order at 7:25 pm by President Pam O'Neal

**Present**

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

**Deacons:** Judy Barten, Francis Anderson, and Jennifer Latzke

**Trustees:** Gary Foltz and Drew Snitker

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion

M/S/C to approve the November minutes

**Communications:** Received membership transfer from Lyona United Methodist Church for Loren and Linda Barten. Received thank yous from Samaritan's Purse for our donation to the Hurricane Relief, Salina Rescue Mission for our donation, and from Operation Mobilization for our donation. Also, received a letter from Church Women United asking for a donation for their Christmas project.

**Financial Secretary:** Jennifer Latzke presented report

**Treasurer:** Judy Barten went over November financial report

**Pastor's Report:**

Work Summary for 11/4/24-12/1/24

**Worship-** Preached and led Sunday Worship 4 times, and at Homestead Memory Care, 1 Funeral, and Joint Thanksgiving Worship

**Administration Meetings-** 1 Church Council, 1 Funeral Planning, 1 Worship planning (Joint Thanksgiving)

**Pastoral Care-** 10 Phone visits, 4 Home visits, 2 Pastoral Visits, 1 Hospital Visit, 1 Funeral Visitation

**Other-** 3 Crosstalk Local Meetings, 1 CrossTalk Global meeting, 1 Church Movie Night, 3 Volunteer Reading Session at Rural Center Grade School. Read the following: Fire Cat, Muddy Paws, and Curious George's Discovery.

Vacation Days This month: 0, YTD 8

Professional Development Days This month 0, YTD 10, Mileage 92

**Elders Report:** Chris Bethe reported that there was no Communion on Dec1st

**Deacons:** No report

**Trustees:** Drew Snitker reported that Bob O'Neal presented that we get a list together of projects needing done and post them on the board and have members of the congregation either volunteer to complete the projects or pay to have them done.

Gary Foltz reported that the new blinds will be installed in the parlor after tonight's meeting.

**Old Business:** Christmas Eve Service will be held at 6:30 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

We are still in need of another Trustee

Pastor Jamie is in need of new stove and possibly refrigerator for the Parsonage.

**New Business:**

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

Gary Foltz showed us sign possibilities for the New Basel sign in front of the Church.

It was decided to donate \$600.00 each to the following places out of the Benevolence Fund: Church Women United, Hospice, Abilene Food Bank, and Neighbor to Neighbor.

Christmas Eve Offering will be donated to Hospice of Dickinson County.

Discussed possible Christmas Caroling

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch will be December 29<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to have the congregation all bring a brunch item to share. It will be at 9:30 in the Parish Hall. No Sunday School that day. Worship will be in the sanctuary.

Annual Meeting will be Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup> following worship and a potluck.

**Announcements: Upcoming Events:**

December 15<sup>th</sup>- Children's Christmas Program

December 22<sup>nd</sup>- Echo Articles Due

December 24<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm

December 29<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch 9:30 in the Parish Hall- Everyone bring a brunch item to share

January 5<sup>th</sup> – Communion

January 6<sup>th</sup>- Church Council Meeting

January 26<sup>th</sup>- Annual Meeting

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 by praying the Lord's Prayer in Unison

Jen Reiff, secretary



Children's Christmas Program 2024



# Thank you

Thanks so much to the 14 New Basel carolers that serenaded John and myself on Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Being house bound as John is, seeing your smiling faces encouraged him so much. We are blessed to have such a caring church family.

In His love,  
Peggy Meuli



New Basel Christmas Carolers



Prayer Requests

Maxine Kauffman  
Naoma Foltz  
Jane Haney  
John Meuli

Judy Lauer  
Kelly Schrader  
Tony Herman

# JANUARY

## **Birthdays**

2<sup>nd</sup> Travis Beetch  
19<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Beetch  
Jen Reiff  
24<sup>th</sup> Bobby Greenwood  
27<sup>th</sup> Benson Smiley  
28<sup>th</sup> Adalynn Haynes  
31<sup>st</sup> Randy Barten



## **Anniversary**

January 25<sup>th</sup> - Seth & Judy Lauer

## **Upcoming February Birthdays**

2<sup>nd</sup> Janet Chamberlin  
6<sup>th</sup> Duncan Reiff  
10<sup>th</sup> Bob O'Neal

**Movie Night**  
"War Room" will  
be shown at the  
church January  
12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.



## **Greeters, Acolytes, & Usher for January**

	<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>Acolytes:</u>
5 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin & Stacy Smiley	Austin Smiley
12 <sup>th</sup>	Francis & Clema Anderson	Janessa Latzke
19 <sup>th</sup>	Ron & Sam Pryor	Devin Kamm
26 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Bethe and Holly Bethe	Scarlet Murphy

January Usher: Chris Bethe

*Thank you to Larry Haugh for being the December Usher*



## **New Basel Annual Meeting**

Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup>

A potluck luncheon will take place after the church service, followed by the meeting.