



RUHL'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

This Sunday, we will look at one of the most recognizable benefits of the cross; perhaps the most recognized one there is. Pastor Tom will be sharing a message based on John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8. The text is short – but powerful. I encourage you to read these two verses and spend some time with them over the next few days. Look at them each day. Can you memorize them? These verses contain some truths that it would be well for us to have in our hearts. Till Sunday, may your day today, and the rest of the week be blessed. Grace & Peace, Pastor Blaine

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for Coffee Fellowship this Sunday after both services. Our snacks were provided by Carolyn Kennell, Sandy Phillips, Judy Achey, Dolly Bowerman, Ruth Achey, Suzy Achey, Stacy Reed, Sue Hess and Cheryl Ruhl. Please join us for a great time of fellowship and snacks!

AIR CONDITIONING / HEATING PROJECT

The Leadership Team, along with the Trustees and Finance Committees has approved a project to install a system for the Sanctuary, Narthex and Nursery that will provide air conditioning as well as heat. This will greatly enhance the usability of the overall church facility in several ways as well as begin to move us away from the use of oil for heat; which should provide savings to the church budget for years to come. This project is getting underway and you will soon see the signs. The goal is that construction will be finished in about a month so that we will begin to use it this summer. The finance committee is asking for your help to support this project. We have a gift in the amount of \$14,000 that is being used as seed money. And, there is an offer of \$25,000 if we match that amount. This is where we are asking for your prayerful support. Last week a letter was sent out sharing about the project and asking for financial support. Donations can be a one-time gift, or they can be a pledge that would be given over time. Every bit helps and is greatly appreciated. If you did not receive a letter, please contact the office and we will get you one. Gifts for the Air Conditioning / Heating Project can be placed in the offering any week or mailed to the church. Just make sure that it is clearly marked for the AC/Heat Project. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

GRADUATING SENIORS

If you or your child is graduating from High School or College this year, please let the office know so we can recognize them for their great accomplishment on June 9. You may place info in the office mailbox or email to office@ruhlschurch.org. We would love to have their name and where they graduated from. If they graduated High School, where they plan on attending College or working. If they graduated College, what degree and what they plan to do. Thank you.

WOMEN'S PRAYER & SHARE GROUP

Prayer & Share will not be meeting May 24.

MISSION TRIP - JUNE 15-22

The mission trip scheduled for June 15-22 will be serving the community of Clendenin, West Virginia. This area was devastated by flooding in 2016 and many families are still in need of help. There will be a sign-up sheet on the New Fellowship Hall bulletin board for anyone interested in joining the team. Fundraisers have been scheduled to offset the cost of the trip which includes, project money to fund repairs/ rebuilding, housing accommodations at a local church, meals and traveling expenses. If you have further questions, please contact Chuck or Gail Ruhl at 717-665-3018.

GRETNA GLEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER IS HIRING FOR SUMMER 2019

Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center is hiring for the upcoming summer camp season. Summer staff arrive for staff training on June 5th and serve at Gretna Glen through August 10th. Gretna Glen is hiring lifeguards, counselors, food service and program team members. These positions are often held by college age staff, but please know we welcome applications from any adult that seeks to work in a Christian camp environment. More details are available at www.gretnaglen.org along with our application or call our office. 717-273-6525

FOOD PANTRY

At Ruhl's Church we want to help our neighbors in need. One of the ways we do that is through food ministry. In the main lobby, there is a grocery cart with a list of items each month. You are encouraged to give a food tithe. Every time you go to the grocery store, purchase one item that you will share with those in need and place it in the cart when you come to church. The items collected ultimately go to the Food Pantry in Manheim, housed at the Salem United Methodist Church. However, we will pull a few items aside as they would be useful to keep a small selection here at Ruhl's for special, emergency needs. In the Hallway between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall, there is a white book case with a selection of food items that you can take and use personally or deliver to someone you are aware of who has an immediate need. Take whatever is useful. No questions asked!

FOOD PANTRY - MAY REQUESTS:

Canned Chicken & Tuna
Canned Fruits & Vegetables
Jelly
Saltines
Spam

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY PREGNANCY CENTER

At Ruhl's Church, we support the work of the SVPC through our Mission Team. You can help personally. In the main lobby there is a manger to collect items used by SVPC. Anytime the Spirit moves you, purchase an item and drop it off. (All items should be new unless noted otherwise.) Items will be delivered when the manger starts to get full. Items to support this local ministry include: Baby bathtubs, Bottles, Boppy Pillows, Pacifiers, Diaper Bags, Baby Wash, High Chairs, Baby Bouncer, Teething Rings, Receiving Blankets, Burp Cloths, Wipes, Hooded Towels, Crib Sheets, Baby Lotion, Diapers, (New OR GENTLY used) Clothing in sizes preemie up to 5T.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE AT THE GROVE

CONTACT Dave Heisey at 717-665-4499

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

~ **IGNITE** is held Sunday nights from 6:30pm till 8:00pm for grades 6th through 12th.
Visit our website to check out the weekly newsletter. <http://www.ruhlschurch.org/youth>

~ YOUTH GROUP VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out Youth Group announcements each week on YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjtvwywqDxQo937EF0qhChEA>

~ MOVIE NIGHT AT THE CRAWFORDS

Friday, May 17th

~ REMINDER

No IGNITE Memorial Day Weekend

CAN'T MAKE IT SUNDAY MORNING?

We are Live streaming services here at Ruhl's. What does that mean exactly? Well that means if you are ever home sick or away on a Sunday morning, you can tune in and watch our service live from where ever you are with your cell phone, tablet, computer, or smart TV. All you need to do is go to www.youtube.com, then in the search bar type in Ruhl's Church. The first thing that will pop up is the Ruhl's Church channel. You click on that, select the live service or watch one of the previous uploaded sermons. The actual link is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCixs22KP6jkwdmCXuwlwMg>

Our live services will be most 8:00am services and all the 10:30am services. We also live stream our service to the nursery and the prayer room for anyone who may need to step out of the service for a while. The live stream is deleted as soon as the service is over for copywrite issues and the Sermon part of the service will be put up on our website and YouTube channel on Monday. If you have any problems or questions, see Dustin.

“Thinking Out Loud” by Rev. Blaine R. Wenger

“Unaccustomed Work”

Last Friday, I finally got a mostly dry day off. We have had rain every Friday since sometime in February! I had quite a list that I wanted to tackle. There were beds of raspberry and blackberry in the garden that needed weeded and then straw put down to help keep the weeds at bay. I had a small bed that I wanted to weed and plant some lettuce. There was a pile of mulch to spread around, and some plants to plant. I like gardening. (If it is not crazy hot or humid, that is.) Growing up, we had a quarter acre garden. We did a lot of canning and freezing. Garden work, lawn and landscaping chores were a very regular part of summertime. So, the chores that I had in front of me Friday were not something unfamiliar; I knew what I was doing. The trouble was, it didn't take long until I was feeling the effects of my labors. The garden beds may be raised, but there is still bending involved to get those weeds out, especially the weeds in the middle of the bed. And, as this was the first time working on those beds this spring, there were a lot of weeds. All told, it took me hours. By the time I was done, muscles were screaming. I know, I am getting old... I am a wimp... I own those things. Still, I was hurting, and there were many other things on my to do list that I wanted to accomplish. So, with frequent breaks, I kept at it. (When school was out, I got some help.) Eventually, I did get done what I hoped to do. But when I sat down that night ... Wow! And then, here is the kicker. There was more to do on Saturday to finish. Let's just say that Saturday, I moved at a different speed. Familiar as this work was to me, I had grown unaccustomed to it.

Maybe you can relate. There is something in your life that you have spent some time with, that is a part of you, but still, when you engage in it, the “muscles” are a bit stiff. It is like riding a bike. You may not forget; but if you have set it aside long enough, you can be a bit wobbly to try to pick it up. It is understandable when this is the case with something like a sport you played when you were young, a video game that you used to love, making a certain recipe that you had memorized, etc. Despite our familiarity, we can grow unaccustomed to the work in virtually any area of life. It is natural.

It may be natural, but it is sad? Or, is it something else, when the work that we have grown unaccustomed to, is God's work? You recognize the Gospels, the Psalms, even portions of letters in the New Testament, or stories in the Old Testament, and yet you find that spending time in God's word is difficult. You have prayed before, many times, in fact, you even prayed over regularly each week in church, but to really spend time in prayer yourself has become a chore; the words don't come. You've been on a mission trip and it was amazing, but the energy and drive to help a friend or a neighbor is just not there. I could go on. You get the idea. How can it be that we grow unaccustomed to the work of God and find it taxing our bodies, our hearts, our spirits? It is the same as any other chore or activity that I already mentioned or suggested. If you don't stick with it; if you don't “exercise” regularly, the “muscles” become stiff and unaccustomed to the work, even if the mind and past experience says it should not be so.

What is one to do? Make a list, mentally, or even on paper, of the things that you want to do regularly for God, and with God, so you stay fresh and strong in these areas. Then work at it, every day, like you would any other to do list. Well, maybe a little different; really work at it. Don't put it off. And, make this the priority. Do these things first. Don't wait. Unlike the garden chores, there isn't a season for this kind of work, it is a year-long, day in day out kind of thing. Or, it should be. If it is not, if we start going longer and longer in between our times of connection with God, in His Word and in prayer, you will get stiff. Don't grow unaccustomed to the work of God. Keep yourself fit and see how blessed you feel.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Blaine

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 19

8:00am – Traditional Worship Service

9:15am – Sunday School for All Ages

10:30am – Worship Service

6:00pm – Youthful Praise (Kids & Youth music ministry)

6:30 – 8:00pm - IGNITE for all Youth

Monday, May 20

7:00pm - Leadership Meeting

Tuesday, May 21

Wednesday, May 22

6:30pm – Bible Study on Romans with Pastor Blaine

7:30pm – Choir Rehearsal

8:15pm – Praise Band Rehearsal

Thursday, May 23

10:00am – Ruhl's Church Prayer Walk
(Come and pray for Ruhl's)

Friday, May 24

Saturday, May 25

Sunday, May 26

8:00am – Traditional Worship Service

9:15am – Sunday School for All Ages

10:30am – Worship Service

(No Youth Group or Youthful Praise)

LOOKING AHEAD

Sr. Citizen Luncheon – June 4

Graduation Sunday – June 9

Finance Meeting – June 10

Trustee Meeting – June 11

Annual Conference - June 13-15

Summer Mission Trip – June 15 thru 22

Leadership Meeting – June 17

Pleasant View Communion – June 24

Community Picnic – July 20

Grove Revival Week – July 21 thru 26

Vacation Bible School – July 29 thru August 2

God's Clothing Closet - August 24

Chicken BBQ & Jam in the Grove – September 14

Worship in the Grove – September 15