



RUHL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER WEEKEND EDITION

August 14, 2020

"Thinking Out Loud" by Rev. Blaine R. Wenger

"The Flowers of the Field"

Making coffee one morning a couple weeks ago, I looked out the window and saw this bright little bit of yellow perched precariously on a very slender stalk in the middle of the field out back. I thought to myself, "That is pretty cool. There is a goldfinch perched on a stalk of grass." I didn't think about it much until later that morning when I noticed it was still there. Hmmmm. Obviously not a bird. Some kind of flower; in the middle of the field of grass. Sure enough, over the next couple days, it became clear that it was a small sunflower variety. I'm guessing that a bird dropped a seed from the patch of similar flowers on the other side of the road that goes by the front of the church.

Over the next week or so, we watched as this lone sentinel stood silently amidst the grass. The flower grew; it was quite clear by the naked eye, even from a distance, what it was. It was this very pleasing, very noticeable burst of yellow in a field of greens and browns.

After a couple weeks, the farmer was coming to mow the field in advance of bailing it. Bonnie saw him coming and decided to go out and pick the flower. Bringing the flower inside, close up, you could see what wasn't obvious from a distance. The flower, or the stalk, had not just one flower; in fact, there were five more smaller flowers and a bud on the same stalk. These other flowers were either at a different angle or lower on the stalk that they couldn't be seen from our vantage point. We have had it in a vase in the kitchen for about a week now.

Looking out the window and seeing that little burst of yellow was a small joy. It got me thinking. (I know surprise, right?) That lone flower in the field makes a fairly good symbol for how we are to be as believers living in the world. Those that follow Christ, are to stand out from the rest of the world. No matter if we are "surrounded" by unbelief, and practices, we stand as witness. We are of a different kind than the world around us. Simply "being" who we are, in Christ, is enough to set us apart. Note, the flower doesn't need to do anything to call attention to itself. It is obvious. I would note, too, that the closer you get, the more you see there is to this following Jesus way of life. Lastly, I would note, that if you try to "preserve" things by removing it from the world, it doesn't always turn out so well. The believer, cut off from the source, will eventually wither and perish. We might wish for more peaceful surroundings, but it is more important to bloom where you are planted. It really is all you can do.

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REMINDER

[CLICK HERE](#) if you missed the Early Edition of the newsletter sent through email on Monday for information regarding:

- Sunday Worship
- Services at the Grove
- Scrapbook Update
- God's Clothing Closet
- Align Life Ministry
- Manheim Food Pantry
- Prayer Opportunities
- Prayer Requests
- Finances

As you consider the “field” that you are planted in, are you standing tall? Are you “ok” to stand apart?

“Consider how the wildflowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.” Luke 12:27

“Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:15-16

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Blaine

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

This Week In Worship, we stay in the gospels, but there is no “story.” We have some tough, or intense teaching from Jesus. We will be considering Matthew 15:10-20. Take some time to read this passage and let the Holy Spirit work on you with what it means. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you particular areas that you would work on to walk more closely with Jesus.

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING SOON

A new, updated Church Directory will be finalized and ready to print by the end of August. **If you have any changes**, please [email](#) or call the church office (717-665-3400) ASAP. Thank you!

WATCH OUR SERVICES ONLINE VIA FACEBOOK OR OUR [YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

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