



RUHL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

WEEKEND EDITION

September 4, 2020

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

"Scheduling"

Recently, I have been spending a good bit of time on "Calendar Work." Honestly, this is an ongoing thing for me, but as the school year kicks off the calendar work explodes for a short time. There is a flurry of activity as we try to get a grip on new schedules, on what each day looks like, what each week looks like in general, and as best as possible what dates need to go on the calendar even months away. I am sure that many of you are familiar with this phenomenon. School, or work fills your calendar with dates and expectations, and then there are the things that push dates around like Doctor visits, etc. And, too, we want to carve out time for family and fun. It can be frustrating. It can be maddening at times. I have found myself, more often than I would like to think about, waiting to schedule something until I hear about something else. And, too, there are those special things you want to do, that you are trying to find just the right time for. How can I fit ...? When would be the perfect time for ...? The sad fact is, too often while we wait for the perfect time, or as we try to fit everything in, we miss out on opportunities. We can cut ourselves short on something we really wanted to do, because we are trying to do too much. Or, we can simply run out of time without ever making a decision and miss the opportunity for something altogether. "All summer long, I wanted to do ..., but somehow something always seemed to get in the way." And we sigh disappointedly. I'm guessing everyone can relate to these ideas in one way or another.

Perhaps what can be saddest of all is when we fail to schedule, and keep time, for those things that feed us the most, that nurture our spirits; maybe some time on a hobby, probably family and friends, and what so many seem to forget about, faith. How many desire to be strong in faith, to know God deeply, to spend time in prayer, in the word, and just simply with God, yet somehow seem to always end up short on time. We have so much to do, God just doesn't seem to fit. We are responsible people. People count on us; we can't let them down. There are things that only I can do, or so we think. Whatever the reason, whatever the excuse, we never seem to see, or find, "the perfect time." Here is the thing. There isn't a perfect time. We will always have things on our mind. The "to do" list is never done. If you have everything crossed off your list, that simply means you haven't updated your list recently. There is no perfect time. But there is the present time. What do I mean? Well, we tend to give the first priority to the things that we think are most important, even if we are

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This Week In Worship



REMINDER

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

Sunday Worship
Member Updates
God's Clothing Closet
New Church Directory
Bus Trip 2021
Scripture Reader Schedule
Manheim Food Pantry
Align Life Ministry Needs

Reflections
Prayer Opportunities
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rationalizing a lot! Like when we do one thing because we don't want to do something else, even if what we are doing is procrastinating. If God is truly important, even the most important thing in our life, then God needs to move from something that we try to schedule somehow, to being part of the present moment. Hopefully, you DO schedule, and keep time regularly, to be intentional with God, with no distractions, time for prayer, devotions, etc. But, too, let us have the mindset, the attitude of heart, an awareness, that God is always with us in everything that we do. May faith fill your calendar. May God transcend your calendar – no matter what view you are looking at – daily, weekly, monthly, even yearly. It is not always easy. I get it. Since I got back from vacation at the beach, I have felt very behind, I've been scrambling, at least in my own mind. I have struggled with keeping up some of the disciplines that I follow. But this morning was a better morning. And I am planning for more of the same tomorrow. How about you?

“You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.” Psalm 63:1

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7

“But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.” Luke 12:31

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Blaine

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

This week in worship, it is Labor Day weekend. Many may have special plans for Monday, or for the whole weekend. Hopefully, worship is part of those plans. This Sunday the message will be coming from Romans 13:8-14. After teaching how we are to give to those in authority what they are due, Paul writes that we should owe no one anything but love. We will be dissecting that idea. Why not take some time to read over the passage and see what God might reveal to you personally? Then, come out, or join online, Sunday morning for a time of Spirit-filled singing, prayer, and God's word. Until then, be blessed. Pastor Blaine

ANNOUNCEMENT

New Ministry!

For the past few months, work has been in progress towards a new ministry at Ruhl's: A Workout Room! The goal of this ministry is to provide a workout space for the purpose of promoting physical fitness and fostering relationships. Hopefully in due time this can not only serve to benefit our “church bodies,” but also present a unique outreach opportunity into the community. With that said: we need your help!

- Donating equipment: Some essentials have been purchased in order to provide a solid foundation for those using the space. Still there is room for a little more! If you have exercise equipment at home that you no longer have a use for, we'd be glad to look at it and see if it could be repurposed in the Workout Room! Specifically, cardio equipment (rowers, treadmills, bikes etc.) and standard free weights are in short supply. Please feel free to touch base if you'd like to donate any of this!
- Donating funds: As with any ministry, there is often a monetary investment to get it off the ground. In this unique time, although we have been truly blessed by some amazing deals and help along the way (Praise the Lord!), exercise equipment is at a premium. From a monetary perspective for the church, building a gym is one of the stoutest investments one can make. Equipment (that is well taken care of) hardly depreciates in value, and weights, barbells, and gym flooring last for many, many years. If you feel led to give towards this ministry, be assured that it will be prayerfully and wisely spent. Checks can be made out to Ruhl's, with a memo for “Workout Room”

- Prayer: Honestly, this is the most important gift you could give, and the one I ask for the most urgently. Prayer is what separates this space from a healthy hangout to a place of spiritual striving. As 1 Timothy 4:8 says, physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for the present life and the life to come. The vision of this ministry is to not only build physical fitness, but also hone our fitness of faith. Organic relational and spiritual mentorship, true vulnerability and accountability, intergenerational interaction for our church body, fostering discipline and resilience, and an opportunity to share Christ with a unique demographic of our neighborhood. These are some of the fruits I have committed to praying towards from the beginning. Will you join me in continuing to put this ministry before God daily, so that His will is truly done?

I know this announcement likely raises many questions. Please feel free to talk to me anytime, about equipment, getting involved, safety precautions, personal workout plans, and whatever else comes to mind. You can also email me at: jdq5662@psu.edu.

Grace and Peace,

Josh

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

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