



RUHL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

WEEKEND EDITION

September 11, 2020

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

"Time For A New Sticker"

A couple weeks ago, Bonnie was out running some errands. I was in my office when she called. She wanted to let me know that while driving that morning, she noticed that the inspection sticker was going to run out THAT day. Oops! We forgot about that. I made a phone call, and fortunately we were able to schedule the inspection appointment for the next day. The next day, I took the car to the shop, waited for the work to be done, and left with the sticker. Good for another year.

It got me thinking. We are required to have vehicles inspected yearly. Your dentist, your doctor, your eye doctor, etc., want to see you every year. The wise person will have their heater inspected. At church, the hood over the gas stove gets inspected every year, the fire extinguishers get checked, the elevator gets checked twice a year. Probably you can think of other things. There are many things that require or need to be regularly checked. A thorough going over will confirm that all is in working order, or it will identify issues that need to be addressed so that they don't become bigger issues or cause complete failure. My car's inspection showed that there was one light that needed replaced. Other than that, everything was fine. Except, take note, "while the brakes are fine, they will not last to pass another inspection, so you should plan on addressing that in the next few months".

If an inspection is important, even required for one's car, or teeth, or eyes, or body over all – what about the heart? Now, here, I don't mean the heart doctor, as in M.D., but the heart doctor meaning God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In very many jobs, there is an annual review. How often, specifically when and how, do you have your heart, your faith, inspected, or reviewed? Very many people are actively living out faith, to some degree. But, how many of those give time and attention to a real, thorough review? We pour ourselves out, sometimes slowly, sometimes quickly, as we give, and serve, even worship. We fill ourselves up by means of prayer, time in God's word devotionally, and studying. We are built up through others, through relationships, spiritual friendship, times of silence and solitude even fasting if we avail ourselves of such. And of course, there is worship. But.....how many really give time to self-reflection? How many really devote themselves to "looking under the hood"?

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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
Devotional Correction
Grove Sunday
New Church Directory
Reverberate at Ruhl's
Align Life Ministry Story
Scripture Reader Schedule
Bus Trip 2021
Manheim Food Pantry
Align Life Ministry

Reflections
Kid's Corner
Prayer Opportunities
Finances
Church Calendar

The primary founder of the United Methodist Church, John Wesley, utilized a system of small group ministry where people would grow together and be accountable to one another. One of the most basic functions of these groups was to check in on each other, checking themselves in the area of faith. There was a basic question that was asked and answered in the group, "How is it with your soul?" This gave the opportunity to think specifically, and hopefully deeply, about the state of one's very being. How were they doing in their spiritual walk? Were there any problem areas, any struggles that they needed to address? And, maybe needed help to address? You definitely need to have a sense of trust with your companions to do such a thing with complete openness and honesty. But you don't need a group to do this. This is something that you can explore on your own. Or, you could engage with a trusted spiritual friend to probe and give feedback. There are options. What should be obvious though, is that the practice in some form is necessary for you to be healthy, to grow and mature as a person of faith in Jesus Christ.

If you don't check in every so often, things can get out of order, needs or brokenness arises that would go unaddressed. Little problems can become big problems. Next thing you know, your issues, your brokenness can impact others. An honest check up every so often, can be a very good thing. How about it; when was the last time you inspected the heart in detail? Are you overdue? Time for a new sticker.

"Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind." Psalm 26:2

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Blaine

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

This week in worship we will be examining Matthew 18:21-35. This deals with one of the most familiar, but difficult themes in the Bible, and in our Faith; forgiveness. We know we are supposed to, we know we should; but actually forgiving is often very difficult. There may not be easy answers, but we are going to talk about it. Hope to see you Sunday, for some spirit filled worship. Until then, be blessed.

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

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