



RUHL'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

It is Palm Sunday! After five weeks of Lent with its somber subjects, it is time to cut loose! Sunday will be all about Praising God, Praising Jesus, Praising the Holy Spirit. Yes, next week has a couple services that can be tough, but so important; Holy Thursday and Good Friday, before we get to EASTER — the biggest praise of all. But for now, we take a breath – a big one and PRAISE. Take some time in the next couple of days to read over the text for Sunday and let God begin to work on your heart. We will be looking at Luke 19:28-40, Luke's version of the Triumphal Entry. Also – Don't forget – Sunday evening is the Egg Hunt! Who can you invite to come and hear the Easter story and join in the hunt?

LANDSCAPE CLEAN UP THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Do you enjoy working outside? Then join the Sunshine Class Saturday, April 13, from 8am until we are finished for mulching and weeding the flowerbeds around the church and Prayer Garden. We will share a Potluck lunch around noon. Come when you can and leave when you want. If you have shovels, spades, trowels, pruners, wheelbarrows, pitchforks, leaf rakes, tarps or garden gloves, please label them and bring them along and come join the fun as we serve the Lord! No experience necessary! All ages welcome!
Questions? Contact Bruce or Kris Gray at 717-664-3868.

HELP NEEDED AT THE GROVE

We will be opening the Grove for the 2019 season on Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30. Help is needed setting up tables. Contact Steve Brubaker with any questions.

WOMEN'S PRAYER AND SHARE GROUP

NOTE: Women's Prayer Group will not meet this week.

EASTER FLOWERS

This Sunday is the last day to order Easter flowers! It is time to consider having Easter Flowers in the sanctuary "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" your special loved ones. These beautiful flowers will adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and will be yours to take home or present to the honoree after the Easter Sunday service. The sign-up sheets are located at the back of the pews in the sanctuary along with the box to deposit your request and money. Please make your checks payable to Ruhls UMC. All requests and money are due by Palm Sunday, April 14.

EGG HUNT AND PARTY

Sunday evening, at 6:30pm, we will host our 9th annual Easter Egg hunt outside (weather permitting) or in the New Fellowship Hall. All children 12 and under are welcome to participate and we have plenty of candy/sticker filled eggs for all. Bring the kids, grandkids, neighbors and friends! Before the hunt we read the Easter Story and each child gets a copy of the book to take home. Volunteers to help with the snack should arrive at 5:30, and youth "egg hidiers" should come at 5:00. Come join the fun and help bless the children with the Good News of Easter!

EASTER BOXES

This Sunday we are assembling the Easter Food Boxes. Thank you for your generous donations to help make this joyous Easter season a little brighter for so many local families!

EASTER BREAKFAST

Join us for a delicious breakfast immediately following the Sunrise service on Easter Sunday. Cost is by donation. Some of the menu items are egg casserole, French toast, fruit, juice, coffee and more. We would love to see you.

LAY EQUALIZING DELEGATES NEEDED

Each year, clergy and lay delegates from the member churches of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference gather for three days of work and worship. Pastor Blaine, and our representative, Ted Achey attend representing Ruhl's. In order to have an even representation of clergy and lay delegates, each year, the Districts that make up the Annual Conference elect additional lay delegates (members of local churches who are not pastors.) In the past, Ruth Achey has attended Conference as a Lay Equalizing Delegate and may do so again. We may have more than one lay equalizing delegate if people are willing and they are approved. To be considered for that service, you must apply for approval ahead of time. Names must be submitted to the District office **by April 24**. They will be voted on at the District Conference May 5. Then those elected would serve at the Annual Conference held June 13-15 (Thursday to Saturday). Why is this important? The Annual Conference sets policies, approves budgets and performs other duties. This year, in particular, we will be voting on delegates to go to the General Conference held every four years. If you are interested, or have questions, please **contact Pastor Blaine** for more details.

ANNUAL NIGHT OF MUSIC – HUMILLE'

Ruhl's Church will once again host an outstanding evening of live music on Sunday May 5 from 7-8:30pm. Come early and get in the spirit with some gospel music singing, lead by Ruhl's Gospel Players beginning around 6:30pm. Then prepare to be blessed by the music of HUMILLE', a band (pronounced ooo-me-yay) composed of 6 young singers and musicians, and based out of Berks County, PA. Refreshments follow.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE AT THE GROVE

CONTACT Dave Heisey 717-665-4499

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.

GREтна 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 out 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 SPECIAL REQUESTS:

Jello

Canned Chicken

Canned Vegetables

Canned Fruit

Saltines/Crackers

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 of 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 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.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

IGNITE is held Sunday nights from 6:30 till 8:00pm for grades 6th through 12th. Our new series will be starting soon. We will be talking about "Godly Relationships".

Youth Fundraiser: The youth are selling Hershey Park Tickets at a discounted rate. The best deal is to buy the tickets before March 15th. All checks need to be made out to Ruhl's Church. For more info look on the Bulletin board in the NFH or talk to Barb Dunmire.

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.

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

“Company Is Coming”

I can remember when I was a child at home, every now and then my parents would invite someone over for a visit; dinner, a picnic, hanging out with a small bonfire, etc. Whenever this happened, there was always a flurry of preparation. We would have to straighten things up; clean up the pile of shoes at the door, put away toys, quick run the sweeper, etc. Some people live messy, things everywhere; that wasn't us. The house was simply lived in. With four children, you can understand and imagine. Still, when company was coming, mother wanted things to look their best. If someone dropped by unannounced, it was a pleasure; but I think I could see my mother just a little anxious. “Please excuse the mess, we are ... (doing something).” No matter what though, if we had company for any reason, it would be unthinkable not to pay attention to the guest.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, next week is Holy Week, and then Easter Sunday. It is an exciting time in the church; lots of celebration. And, we hope, lots of company. Easter is one of those times when church attendance swells with more people. Some are members that might not be very regular. Some are family and friends that come for such special occasions. Some are people who might not normally, or even hardly ever attend church, but have a sense or a pull that church is the place to be on that special day. With the potential for company such as this, we want to be ready. A little bit of that might involve some cleaning up around the church. Traditionally, lots of churches have a work day to clean up the grounds from winter. And probably someone is going through the church with an eye for those corners that just seem to accumulate over time. But really the most important preparation that needs to happen is in the mind and the heart of each person who regularly attends.

It is very common that when we come to church each Sunday, we look for certain people to connect with, special friends in Christ. And, if we are aware of something, we might seek out virtually anyone who is part of the body. It is a good and healthy thing to genuinely like and care about our brothers and sisters in Christ. The thing that can sometimes get overlooked though, are the guests. Someone new comes, we don't know them, and we don't take the time to know them. Sometimes it is pretty obvious that they are there with someone. Other times, we might simply be too preoccupied to take the time to greet the newcomer. We need to have the mindset that when someone new comes, here is an opportunity. This next week or so, there is a very good chance there could be many opportunities. We don't want to miss any. Prepare yourself now. Pray that you will have eyes to see, and a heart that is open, to anyone who might be new. Pray that God will work in your mind and heart that you might not judge, or assume based on what you see, but that you will take time to warmly greet and get to know those new faces. Each and every one of us should see ourselves as ambassadors for Christ. Our job IS to reach out; it is to connect with all that we can, in the name of Christ. Get ready Ruhl's. Company is coming!

Grace & Peace, Pastor Blaine

RUHL'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, April 14

8:00am – Traditional Worship Service
9:15am – Sunday School for All Ages
10:30am – Worship Service
6:00pm – Youthful Praise (music ministry for kids & youth)
5:00 – 8:00pm - IGNITE for all Youth (Help with Easter Egg Hunt and After Party)
6:30pm – Easter Egg Hunt

Monday, April 15

7:00pm – Leadership Meeting

Tuesday, April 16

7:00pm – SPRC Meeting

Wednesday, April 17

6:30pm – Bible Study with Pastor Blaine

Thursday, April 18

10:00am – Ruhl's Church Prayer Walk (Come and pray for Ruhl's)
7:00pm – Holy Thursday Service
8:15pm – Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 19

No Women's Prayer and Share this week
7:00pm – Good Friday Service
8:15pm – Praise Band Rehearsal

Saturday, April 20

9:00am - Youth Easter Sunrise Service Skit Rehearsal
10:00am - Easter Brass Rehearsal

Sunday, April 21

6:30am – Sunrise Service
7:00am – Easter Breakfast
8:00am – Traditional Worship Service
9:15am – Sunday School for All Ages
10:30am – Worship Service

Looking Ahead

Pleasant View Communion Service – April 22, 1:30pm
Strawberry & Waffle Breakfast – May 4, 7:00am
Annual Night of Music—May 5
District Conference—May 5, Location TBA
Summer Mission Trip – June 15 thru 22
Community Picnic – July 20
Grove Revival Week – July 21 thru 26
Vacation Bible School – July 29 thru August 2