



RUHL'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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This Week in Worship

This week in worship is a special one. Ok, every week is special in some way. This week is unique. This week we are blessed to have the children of the church sharing and leading in worship with their annual Christmas Program. You DO NOT want to miss this! They will be bringing us the message of Christmas in a special way. Please note - there will be a special schedule this week. There will not be an 8:00 AM service. There will be Sunday School at 9:15. Then, at 10:30 we will have one combined service for the Children's Christmas Program. Following the service, there will be a special brunch (by donation) for some fellowship.

** After the Children's Program and Brunch, we will be shifting gears. Mary Miller's funeral will take place at the Church later Sunday afternoon. Beginning at 2:00 PM, there will be a viewing and receiving time with the family. The funeral service will begin at 3:00 PM followed by burial in the church cemetery and then a luncheon to follow. All are welcome to come and join in the celebration of Mary's life.

Christmas Food Boxes

Plans are now underway to create 26 Christmas food boxes! Our delivery date will be December 16. Each box contains all the ingredients for the family to enjoy a Christmas dinner.

If you would like to help with food donations, we would welcome any type of food (fresh, canned, boxed or frozen), paper products or personal care items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, shampoo etc). If you would like to donate meat, a cash gift or wish to assist in any other way, please contact Kris.

Some of the families we are helping also need some assistance with some simple gifts for their children, so if you are interested in helping put gifts under their trees this Christmas, please contact Kris soon.

Please bring your donations before Sunday School (by 9:30) on December 16 to the New Fellowship Hall Kitchen and label them "Christmas meals".
Thank you so much!

Voices Needed!

Do you like to sing, but are afraid you don't have the time to fulfill a commitment to singing in a group? (Then please consider helping, even if it's just a small amount of help that you feel that you may have to offer.) The choir and praise band are in need of more voices! We'll take all the help we can get, (even if it's just temporary.) PLEASE consider joining choir for this Christmas season! We currently have an urgent need for every voice, so prayerfully consider whether God wants to hear from you! Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM. See Shawn for further details. Thanks!

Office Administrator, Part-Time, Ruhl's U.M.C.

The office administrator works closely with the pastor and performs a variety of administrative duties. A successful candidate must be able to work independently and take initiative, conduct him or herself with the utmost respect and confidentiality, and be computer and technology savvy.

The office administrator acts as the first point of contact and the face of the church to the community at large and the congregation. The office administrator prepares the weekly worship bulletins; a weekly email newsletter; maintains the church directory, and other records; updates the church calendar; answers the phone and responds to emails; and other duties that support the ministry of the church as requested by the pastor.

Office and/or secretarial/administrative experience required; church or religious background or comparable nonprofit experience strongly preferred. Must be proficient in Microsoft Suite; knowledge of social media and church management software a plus.

The position is Monday through Friday, 20 hours a week. Wage is negotiable based on experience.

To apply, please send resume and two reference letters to office@ruhlschurch.org

Christmas Orchestra

Attention all brass and woodwind players. Time to warm up your chops and oil those valves to prepare for the Christmas Eve service. Please contact Shawn if you are able to help with the brass and orchestra this holiday season. Rehearsal times and dates will be announced soon.

Christmas Caroling at the Danner Home!

Everyone is invited to come join us to go Christmas caroling at the Danner Home in Manheim on Sunday, Dec 9 at 6:30 pm. You can either meet at the church at 6:15 if you want to carpool, or meet us at the Danner home on Ferdinand Street in Manheim. If every family could bring a dozen Christmas cookies to share – that would be great! Drinks will be provided. Bring your jingle bells and festive hats and we will bring the song sheets!

Christmas Community Supper

"The annual Christmas Community Supper held here at Ruhl's will take place on Saturday, December 22nd at 6:00 P.M. We have been blessed by a donations covering the cost of this meal already--praise be to God for answering prayer before it is even asked! That being said, volunteers will be needed that night for kitchen help, serving tables, and lots of help for cleaning up. Also, volunteers to bake cakes and pies for the night would be needed as well!! A signup sheet is soon to be put up, but you can also contact Seth Achey to volunteer! More than anything else, please pray for this event, that those who need the meal and the message most would come, that all would go smoothly, and that hearts would be turned to Christ!

Seth's Cell: (717) 644-3785
Email: sethachey@gmail.com"

TRIM A TREE

Trim a Tree will be held December 9. Donations will be taken to Lancaster County Council of Churches. Items that are needed this year are socks for women and boys; gloves for men, women and children; hats for men; scarves for men and children; and toothbrushes for adults and children. Also needed are coats for men, women and children (no long wool coats, please; jackets are preferred). Coats can be new or gently used. All other clothing should be new. Thank you for your support. Missions Commission

Target Your Discount Cards

The Preschool is once again selling the Target Your Discount Cards. This card allows you to access discounts at many businesses in the Manheim, Lititz, Mount Joy, and Lancaster areas and can be used as many times as you wish between now and December 31, 2019. The discounts vary from a percentage off a purchase or free items with a purchase. Visit www.targetyourdiscount.com for a complete list of businesses or Ginny Brown. If you have any questions or wish to purchase a card (\$20) see Ginny Brown or call De Leitzel (664-3371). A TargetYourDiscount Card is a gift that keeps on giving. Thank you from the staff and children of Ruhl's Preschool for your support!

We need YOU!

We are working on the Welcome Center schedule for 2019 and need a few more friendly people to greet people before and after the first and second services! If you can smile, shake hands and greet people all at the same time...you are qualified for the job! If you are interested, please contact the church office or Kris Gray as soon as possible. Thank you!

Prayer Walkers!

There is a new start time for the prayer walkers. We will start at 10 AM in the Sanctuary and as you walk around the church inside or outside, please use the following list as suggestions as you pray.

- Pray our sanctuary will be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for our Church family, that we will be open to the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for Pastor Blaine as he brings the message God has for us.
- Pray for Bonnie, Ben and Jonathan.
- Pray for Dustin and our youth .
- Pray for Heather, Daphne and Harper
- Pray for Shawn leading Music Ministry at Ruhl's
- Pray for Yvonne, Chy Chy, Sol, and Ny Ny
- Pray for our leadership and for our teachers
- Pray for our Ministries.
- Pray for Ruhl's Preschool

At 10:35 will we meet in the prayer room for a time of praise and thanksgiving.

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

“National Day of Mourning”

Today is the funeral for former President George H. W. Bush. The day has been declared a National Day Of Mourning. The mail will not run. The Stock Market is closed for trading. Many of the Nation’s leaders will be gathered together, with former leaders, family, and representatives from around the world, to pay their respects and lay to rest President Bush.

I have been thinking a lot about death and funerals and such over the last few weeks. In the past few months, here at Ruhl’s, we have said good bye to Fern Fisher, Anna Ginder, Pat Detwiler, and Martha Kready. This Sunday will be the funeral service for Mary Miller. It was only a little over a month ago that the terrible, tragic accident occurred in Lititz that claimed the lives of two high school students. Just this past weekend, another student from Warwick died tragically. Out in California, officials are still trying to determine the number and identity of the dead from the fires that raged. I could go on. And no doubt, many of you reading this may have experienced other losses personally that the church as a whole wouldn’t be aware of.

Considering all that so many have endured these past weeks and months, takes me back to less than a year after Bonnie and I were married. It was over the later winter, early months of spring that Bonnie’s grandfather passed away. He was 90. There were multiple health issues. Then, a few weeks later, a great aunt. Cancer. Then, a couple weeks later, her grandmother, wife to the grandfather that just passed weeks before, passed away unexpectedly. There didn’t seem to be any real medical reason. She was visiting with a sister. They were in a minor accident. Grandma went to the hospital to get checked out. She had a broken thumb. They kept her overnight for observation. Next thing, she was gone. I don’t know what the report said. The family knew, her job was done. She had cared for Charlie all the way to the end. She was ready.

Death is hard. Sometimes it can be ok. If we are watching someone we love suffer and there is no hope for a cure, we can be relieved. But it is still hard. When the circumstances of death are unexpected, when the cause seems tragic, when the person is “young”, it seems especially hard. What really makes it hard for us though, is how close were we to the one who is gone? The stronger the bond, the harder it hits us. I tell people in heavy grief, “You only feel the way you feel, now, (bad, sad, broken) because you really feel the way you felt (love, joy, etc.) for the person who is gone. Dealing with one loss can be hard. So hard. When we keep feeling the sense of loss, over and over, for the next person and the next person, it can seem overwhelming.

Here is where we need to keep an eye on ourselves and on one another. People handle grief in different ways. There is not one size fits all. There should be a bit of latitude for different personalities and circumstances. But there are things that are healthy and things that are not. A person might need some time alone, but we don’t want people to feel trapped alone. We need to keep an eye on each other. Balance space and connection or relationship. Personally though, in these times of grief and loss we need to be very intentional not to pull away, or drift away from God. This is the most vital relationship of all. Our faith is what gives us hope and peace in the face of grief and loss. Stay connected to God in prayer and in His Word. As we take time to remember, to grieve, to celebrate a life; we need to take time for ourselves. Days of National Mourning are rare. They require some kind of Presidential or Congressional action. But a day of personal mourning is different. It is ok, if from time to time, especially when dealing with grief, even multiple griefs, that you take a day. No one else might know what you are doing. But it isn’t about them; it is about you acknowledging and dealing with what is going on in your heart; being reminded of the promises of God. “Jesus said to her (Martha), ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’” (John 11:25-26)

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Blaine

RUHL'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 9th

NO 8:00am Traditional Worship Service
9:15am – Sunday School for All Ages
10:30am – Worship Service
Brunch after Service
Youth Christmas Party
6:30—8:00pm – Christmas Caroling at Danner Home

Monday, December 10th

7:30pm Preschool Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 11th

7:00am Trustee Meeting

Wednesday, December 12th

6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study (Book of Revelation) – All Are Welcome
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal
8:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Thursday, December 13th

Friday, December 14th

Saturday, December 15th

Sunday, December 16th

8:00am - Traditional Worship Service
9:15am – Sunday School for All Ages
10:30am – Worship Service
6:30 – 8:00pm IGNITE for all Youth

Looking Ahead

Community Christmas Dinner Sat, Dec 22nd
Christmas Eve Service Mon, Dec 24th 7:00 PM