



RUHL'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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This Week in Worship

This week in worship, we have now moved beyond the season of Christmas. It is a new year. New things are beginning. Beginning this week, a new series. Coming out of Christmas, where we talked of Jesus as the true gift of the season, we are going to take the next seven weeks to examine this gift, Jesus, through the lens of what he said about himself. We will be looking at the "I am" statement of Jesus. This week the specific text is John 6:35. (Though we will read a bit more of chapter six around it.) Take some time to read this passage and reflect on Jesus as "the bread of life." Along with this first message in our new series, we will be sharing in communion in both services. How about inviting a friend to join you? See you Sunday.

Ruhl's Daily Devotional in the new year.

Beginning January 1 - the daily readings listed are going to change. Readings will follow the order laid out by "The One Year Chronological Bible" from Tyndale. What will be different? Rather than reading a chapter of Gospel, Psalms or Proverbs, and then another book, "The One Year Chronological Bible" begins "in the beginning" and works its way through the Bible, from start to finish, putting the scriptures in the order that the events described occurred or where written. It will combine and harmonize gospels. The history of Israel, its kings and prophets will be combined. Psalms are scattered in to the historical narrative as they relate to the events. The amount of reading is about the same each day - between three and four chapters, but you will be moving around a little (or a lot) each day to follow the chronological order. It is good exercise to use your Bible. Or, you can purchase a copy of this particular Bible on line or order through a local book store. (I believe that it is available on Kindle as well.) That is not necessary, but it might make it simpler for some to read. Again the idea of Ruhl's Daily Devotional is to spend time in God's word every day. Hopefully then to engage in conversation around it with others. Many have read the whole Bible, or big chunks. This reading plan should give you a fresh perspective. And, if you follow it completely - you will read the whole Bible in a year. If you have any question, please be in touch with me.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Blaine

New Year New Bible Study

Pastor Blaine is starting a new Bible study on the book of Romans beginning TONIGHT. Bible study runs from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm and is open to all ages. Bring your own Bible and come ready to dig in.

Women's Prayer and Share Group

Women's Prayer and Share Group will meet on Fridays beginning on January 11th, from 10:00 to 11:00. This will be a time for sharing prayer requests and praying for each other, our church and our country.

Please join us for Coffee Fellowship Sunday after both services

Our snacks will be provided by Patti Sheffey, Dottie Eckman, Marti Harnish, Sandy Phillips, Steph Heisey, Susan Tucker, Barb Dunmire, Patti Meenehan, Gail Ruhl, and Donna Yoder. Please join us for a great time of fellowship and snacks

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!

Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for 2019 are in the Narthex for you to pick up. If you do not see your name or would like to start using envelopes please see Tom Kinter.

Altar Flowers

The Leadership Team (Board of Ministry) have decided to do flowers different this year to cut down on cost. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the offices. If you would like to sponsor flowers this year please sign up and then there will be two options for you. The first being you can have the office order the usual flowers from Royer's for \$30 and we would need the money and the office notified by the Thursday before the Sunday you wish to sponsor flowers. The second option is for you to order flowers on your own from your own florist and to let the office know what you want in the bulletin for info. If you have any questions please call the office.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE AT THE GROVE—CONTACT Dave Heisey 717-665-4499

Faith & Family Night

Come out for fun and fellowship as, Ruhl's Church joins Faith & Family

As the Hershey Bears take on the Bridgeport Sound Tigers Night at the Giant Center. March 16th at 7 P.M. (New York Islanders).

Cost is \$16.00 Per person. Seats are in section 205 rows A – D.

Deadline to sign up – February 3rd, 2019.

Make checks payable to:

Barb Dunmire

497 Meadowlark Lane

Manheim, PA. 17545

bwbbarb@hotmail.com

717-201-7566

Bus Tour

Museum of the Bible or Smithsonian Zoo - Washington, D.C. Saturday, April 6th, 2019.

Cost: Museum of the Bible - Adults \$82.00, ages 5-11 years \$70.00, U-5 years \$55.00

Zoo - Adults \$69.00, ages 5-11 years \$60.00, U-5 years \$55.00.

Flyers & sign-up sheets on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or see Barb Dunmire 717-201-7566 or bwbbarb@gmail.com.

Weekend to Remember 2019 is coming!

A marriage takes hard work and commitment to keep it healthy, but often our busy schedules crowd out the time we could spend with our spouse. If that sounds like your marriage, then you need to take time out for a Weekend to Remember! This getaway weekend, sponsored by Family Life, is a time to be together as a couple while investing and strengthening the Biblical foundation of your marriage no matter how firm or fragile it is. By getting away from the distractions of life, you can fortify your most important relationship and work toward building wonderful memories together, for decades to come. Over 95% of past guests agree that this marriage getaway helped strengthen their marriages. Even if you have attended an event in the past, you will be blessed by attending again to further strengthen your marriage!

Our local event takes place at the Hershey Lodge on February 15-17. What a great way to spend Valentines Day weekend...in the "sweetest place on earth"...Hershey PA!

Right now, from January 7-28, Family Life is having a Buy One Get One Free promotion, so act now and your spouse goes for free!

And every couple who registers under our group name will receive a FREE GIFT! And for every 5 couples that register under our church name, we get a registration for another couple to attend for free! It is a great idea for engaged couples to get their marriages off to a great start!

Sound interesting? Think it might make a great gift idea for a special couple? Then check out the table in the narthex or contact Kris Gray for more information and to register under our group name (RuhlsChurch) to get a group discount.

Sunshine Class Annual Planning meeting and Potluck

The Sunshine class scheduled our annual class meeting and potluck on Sunday January 20 right after the second service in the New Fellowship Hall. We will gather to choose our class officers, plan our social calendar and decide which ministries to support for 2019. So bring your ideas for social events and ministry opportunities. Prayerfully consider if you would be willing to serve as a class President, Secretary or Treasurer for a year or more. Please bring a hot and/or cold dish to share for supper. Plates, cups, napkins, tableware will be provided.

The Indoor Yard Sale is coming Saturday March 2!

More details later, but if you are interested in a stand, please contact Kris Gray as soon as possible. We have a LOT of interest from people outside our church family who are interested in reserving a stand, so we will limit reservations for stands to church members until February 3, then will open it up to outside groups. Thank you!

Special General Conference Discussion Group

February 23, the Special General Conference begins its session to try to reach a resolution on issues of sexuality that have been causing division in the church for decades. Pastor Blaine is offering two opportunities to come and discuss this session and to better understand the process for any who are interested or have questions. The first one will be Thursday, January 24 at 7 PM and the second one will be Thursday, February 7, also at 7 PM. Both sessions will be at the church. (Exact room depends on the size of the crowd.) If you have questions, please speak to Pastor Blaine

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

“Thoughts from the Dentist’s Chair”

The past few weeks has been the season of Advent and then Christmas. A time of joy and wonder for many. For me, there has been another theme going on at the same time; pain. Ok that might be a little dramatic. There has been some, but mostly it has been frustration and inconvenience. So far, there have been three trips to the dentist and there is one more to go. I know, “ugh,” right? See, for some reason, I have a couple teeth that have been a problem for some time. A few years ago, I got a root canal on one of the back molars. At the time, my dentist told me, you will eventually need a crown on that tooth. Well, this past year, part of the tooth chipped off so it was time. The thing was, till I got in to the dentist, it turned out that there were other issues as well. The tooth next to that one had developed a rather large cavity. So, going to the dentist, thinking that it would be two visits to get a crown, turned in to four as extra steps were added to the process.

Let me say, I love my dentist, literally. My dentist, my entire life has been my great uncle John. John is a very good dentist and a man I respect. Still, going to see him as dentist is never fun, because I have bad teeth and it is pretty much a given that there will be issues. This particular time around, as we got in to it, he told me, “If it were anyone else, I would have just removed the tooth.” But he has been doing what he can to save it. So, I cannot complain, or I shouldn’t complain for the extra time and stress of the chair.

Trying to pass the time, sitting in the chair, doing my best impression of a python holding my jaw open as wide as I could for quite some time, got me thinking. Going about my normal activities, it is basically impossible for anyone else to know what was lurking in my teeth. Indeed, to a large extent, I didn’t even know myself. It was only taking time to sit down in that chair, and open up, and get examined by someone else, an expert, that the true nature and extent of my teeth issues became apparent.

Do you see where I am going? There are so many people walking around, that outwardly look like they are doing just fine, but inwardly there are issues that need addressed. How about you? What do you know is going on inside you that needs to be addressed? That no one else sees? And, what else might there be, that you aren’t really even aware of? Chances are, spiritually speaking, there is something. It won’t get better on its own. Do you need to schedule some time “in the chair”?

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

Psalm 139:23 “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.”

Jeremiah 12:3 “Yet you know me, Lord; you see me and test my thoughts about you. Drag them off like sheep to be butchered! Set them apart for the day of slaughter.”

Yeah, that last one sounds extreme. But sometimes extreme measures are needed to make things right. (Like pulling a tooth.) Here’s the thing, small measures, or extreme measures, don’t happen unless we submit. Submit to the one that we love, and who loves us more than we can possibly know and understand. Don’t walk around as some hidden, walking wounded. Take the time, and even the discomfort if necessary, and address the issues, whatever they might be, for a healthier tomorrow.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Blaine

RUHL'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 13th

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

Monday, January 14th

Tuesday, January 15th

Wednesday, January 16th

6:30pm Bible Study on Romans with Pastor Blaine
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal
8:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Thursday, January 17th

Friday, January 18th

4:30pm Youth Winter Retreat till Monday

Saturday, January 19th

Sunday, January 20th

8:00am - Traditional Worship Service
9:15am – Sunday School for All Ages
10:30am – Worship Service
NO IGNITE for all Youth

Looking Ahead

Youth Winter Retreat Jan. 18th – 21st
Leadership Team Meeting (BOM) Monday, Jan. 21st at 7:00pm