



RUF Winthrop

Dear Bethel,

Summer is one of my favorite seasons because it can be a time for remembering the work of the Lord. One of our seniors shared this a few years ago:

[RUF] seeks to be a ministry that both gives and asks for help...I can think of a million times I should have asked for help and didn't. Not because I was too independent or wanted to do it on my own, but because I was afraid of being judged or shamed for my sin. College is really difficult. Most of us are broke, sad, anxious, addicted to our phones, to food, to Netflix. College is a time where I have lost loved ones, had to distance myself from close friends, experienced a couple hard breakups, wrestled with my faith, and changed my major more times than I can count. I spent a lot of college letting these things drown me instead of asking for help. So I would say to you, as I would say to my former self, stop being so self-righteous and ask for help.

Sometimes before we...start studying the word, Mark prays that the Lord will open our eyes to behold wonderful things about God's law. This is actually a direct quote from Psalm 119. RUF is unique because of the emphasis we place on the Bible. We pray the Bible, we sing the Bible, we definitely study the Bible. We don't compromise our biblical standards. And that's been a really sweet reminder to me

of how I should live in non-conformance to the world and even to what's popular or trendy among Christians. The way we get to know our God is through the Word. And again, I'm speaking to myself. Don't be afraid of it. The only way we can have a relationship with God is through His Word, so open it. Everything you'll ever need to know is in there.

Finally, the Lord is at work. I've been in this ministry for a while, and I have to admit that I'm often really tired of hearing this phrase. I've rolled my eyes at it and shaken my head, and it's even made me bitter and angry at times. But the reason we say this so often is because it's so true. I never truly heard the gospel and understood it until I became involved in this ministry. If you're struggling to see how the Lord is at work, read the Old Testament. We do that for a reason. Find out what the R in RUF stands for. And if that word scares you, don't let it. It used to scare me, and now I find so much joy in learning about who our God is and how His sovereignty is evident in my life. You're at Winthrop for a reason...You're in RUF for a reason, however long that time period is...the Lord is working. Never forget that.

The Lord continues to be at work in the lives of students at Winthrop. Thank you for partnering with us in these endeavors. We cannot do this without you.

Warmly in Christ,
Mark and Katherine Ashbaugh

this week

Sunday's sermon:

Plotting Against the Lord's Servant

Nehemiah 6:1-14

events

Youth Committee Meeting
7/5 at 4:00 pm

GriefShare
7/7 at 6:30 pm

Diaconate Meeting
7/7 at 7:00 pm

volunteer schedule

Infant Nursery
Jackie & Albert Krashner
and Amanda Brummett

Toddler Nursery
Laura & Macie Clinton
and Trinna Meek

Worship Training
Miller Brummett
and Jenni Quinn