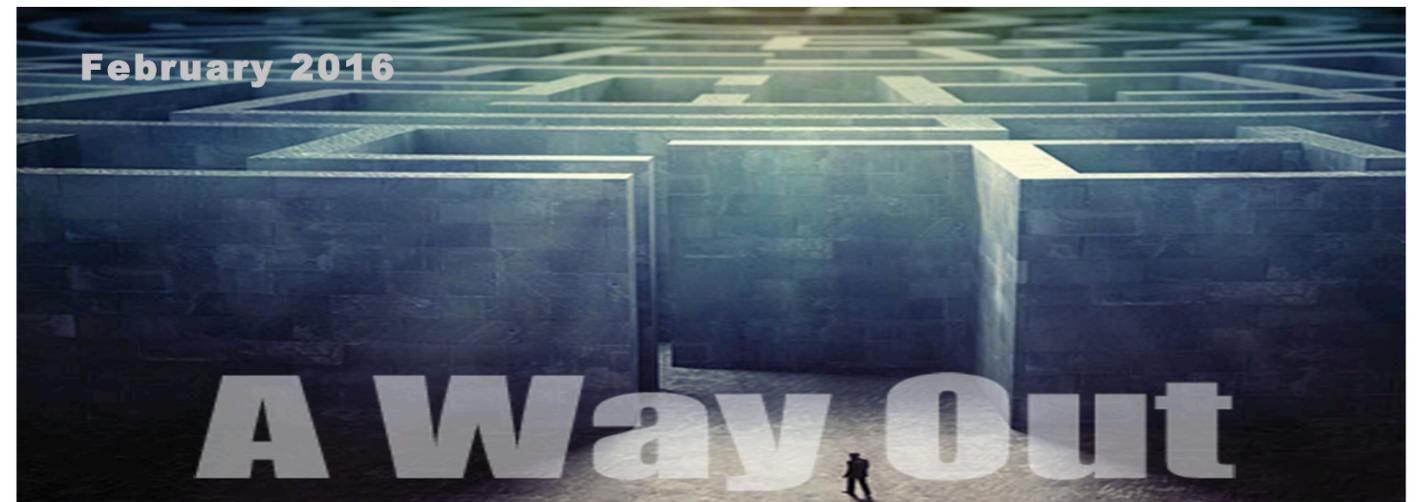


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Greetings Sisters & Brothers,

In January we started off the New Year focused on the simple things that no one sees, yet lead to the big results everyone wants. We focused in on one simple word and Scripture that would determine our thoughts, words, actions, habits, and our destiny in 2016. Whether it be listening, faith, surrender, patience, strengthening... I am praying that each of you have begun to feel the Spirit of God at work in your area of focus for 2016.

As a follow-up to this series we are going to tackle a subject that has a great influence on our thoughts, words, and actions. We are going to talk about temptation. It is in our human nature to feel and experience temptation. It is the appetite of our flesh crying out to give attention to worldly things that often pull us far from God. When we talk about the gratification of our flesh we aren't talking about our skin crying out for more sun. Rather, it is the sinful nature in us that is in conflict with God's creation of us. We were born to have the Spirit of the living God in us, however it is temptation and the pull of sin that battles against this.

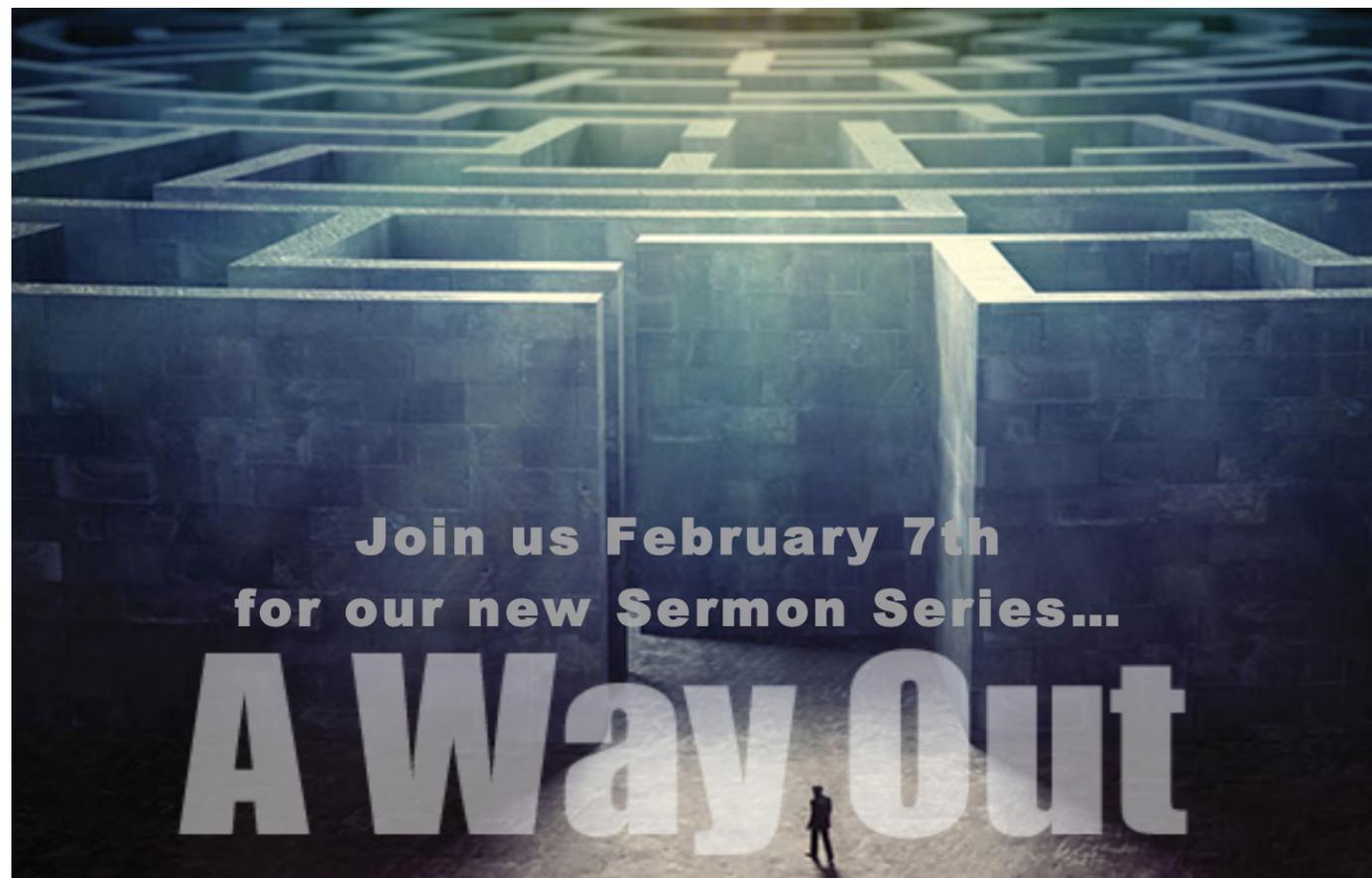
Our great enemy, Satan, wants nothing more than to pull us away from what honors God, and temptation is the means He uses to cause us to live into our sinful nature. Satan knows that sin destroys and kills all that God loves and that, after all, is his ultimate goal – to destroy you and me. It is a great battle that, on our own as human beings, we will lose every time. This is because our being bent towards sin and gratifying the flesh is a pull that is so strong. It seems and sounds depressing and hopeless, but make no mistake about it – this is the human condition. However, there is good news!

“And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV

Whenever you are tempted, God proves to be faithful and always provides us a way out. We are not on our own to battle temptation and to carry the weight of our human desire to gratify the flesh. When you accepted Christ into your life, the power of the Holy Spirit of God entered into your life. It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. It is that power of Christ living in us that is stronger than any tug of temptation in us. In other words, when you have the living Christ in you, you have NO obligation to gratify the pull of temptation in you.

Maybe for you it is a temptation to overeat, overspend, or overreact. Many are tempted by sexual addictions or chemical dependency problems. Whatever it might be, God is faithful and always provides a way out. In this new series, we are going to be hit with the realities of temptation and sin. We will also rediscover the nature and power of the Holy Spirit in us that gives us the ability to find a way out and be set free. You will find your relationship with God to be more intimate and your convictions to be more powerful than ever. I can't wait for us to discover the truth that our God is a faithful God and always provides a way out!

Blessed & Barefoot,
Pastor John



**Bethel Community Center:
A Missional Outpost in the Putnam Neighborhood**

Focus on the Positive

Bethel Community Center is located in the Putnam neighborhood, where we strive to serve children and families living in 200-250 households. We believe we have been called by God to be His presence in an area that faces many challenges. The impact of poverty is clearly evident when anyone drives through this area, but you will also see several cases of families doing well and perhaps even thriving. Our vision is that we will be the support and the love of Jesus to encourage our neighbors there to form relationships that empower them to transform this neighborhood. It is clearly so easy to fall into the pattern of noticing what is wrong and what challenges are there. Therefore we intentionally did an activity at our January 2nd **Saturday Unplugged Family Game Night** to focus on the positive. We formed three multi-generational groups with children and adults ranging from pre-school to retirement age. We asked “What’s great about living in this community, living in Zanesville?” In less than five minutes one group generated twenty-eight responses. Overall, there were over forty non-duplicated answers.

I wonder how well you would do if you had to generate such a list? I find it so easy to see what is wrong and struggle with how to “fix things”. It was such a joy and powerful moment for me to see how willingly our Putnam neighbors participated in this activity. Here are just a few of their responses: the animal shelter, Big Brothers–Big Sisters, the state parks, the skating rink, the Mall, Salvation Army, the homeless shelter, the churches, the firemen and the police, the VFW, the hospital, the schools, and the libraries. Of course, we were certainly overjoyed to see that all three groups listed Bethel Community Center and our servant volunteers. It was also interesting to see that each group included family and friends. I guess I wouldn’t have thought to put that on such a list. In reflection, I can see that relationships are the primary thing that is of true value. So, on a day when we struggle to see if we are truly being a good neighbor and making an impact, I hope I remember this activity and realize that the “community center” is truly about making relationships. Therefore, we are going to strive to be a stable and sustainable presence in this neighborhood. We are going to stay on course. If you feel God calling you to join us in this local missional journey, please contact me.

We Welcome Our New Assistant Director

In October of 2015 we posted two positions for Bethel: a Director, and an After-School Coordinator. During this employment process, we believe God revealed to us to slightly alter those positions and combine the responsibilities of both into an Assistant Director’s position. This goal has been accomplished and we are most pleased to announce that Melissa Lichtner came on board January 1, 2016. Mrs. Lichtner is member of the First Christian Church in Zanesville and is a graduate of Philo High School and The Ohio State University with a degree in social work. With her skill set, experience and passion for working with children and families we believe she is good fit for Bethel. Please pray for her and wish her well as she takes on more and more of the leadership responsibilities at Bethel.

Kay Miller, Executive Director
126 Ontario Street, Zanesville 740-297-4816
zbethelcommunitycenter@gmail.com



United Methodist Men

Attention church family:

At the January men's group meeting, we decided to resume the FREE-WILL OFFERING COMMUNITY BREAKFAST, beginning on Saturday, March 19, from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. This event will take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Free-Will offering means just what it says – come in, have breakfast, and if you are able, make a donation. If you are not able, that's OK too. It is the goal of the men's group to provide community fellowship through this monthly COMMUNITY BREAKFAST. In a perfect world this breakfast event should be free to the community, but it takes funding to do so, and currently, that is not possible.

In the past the cost for the breakfast ranged from \$150.00 to \$200.00. To help maintain a reasonable budget for this event, we are going to have the same menu every month. The menu will be sausage gravy over biscuits, hash brown casserole, scrambled eggs, milk, juice, and coffee.

We would be appreciative of a group of benefactors willing to contribute to help us return to the Free-Will Community Breakfast. To do this, your contribution could be placed into an envelope, designated for the FREE WILL OFFERING COMMUNITY BREAKFAST, and placed in the offering plate. You may also contact Roger Samson or me and give it directly to one of us, and then we will deposit it into the breakfast account.

In addition to the FREE WILL OFFERING COMMUNITY BREAKFAST, we will be kicking off our Flower Bulb Sale this month. It's been 2 years since we did this fundraiser and we hope to provide for your flower bulb needs.

The United Methodist Men take a Sunday morning breakfast to the open shelter at First Methodist Church on Putnam Avenue at Pierce St., and we need more men to help with this small ministry. Any man who attends Rolling Plains Church is welcome to become a member of the United Methodist Men, and we welcome all new members.

In His Service,
Tim Collins, President
United Methodist Men

Kroger Community Rewards Helps Our Missions

Did you know that Rolling Plains is enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards program? In this program, if your Kroger Plus Card is registered correctly, a percentage of all you spend at Kroger comes back to our Missions Ministries. As of now, 10 households are enrolled to participate, bringing in \$64.27 in 2015. We hope you will join these families in helping our Missions by enrolling your Kroger Plus Card at Kroger.com. In order to do this, you must register your Kroger Plus Card, if you have not already done so. Then click on “Community” and follow the prompts. Our ID number is 84919. If you need help doing this, please call the office (740-453-4192) and ask for assistance. If you have already linked your card with our account, remember, you must update this every year. We will remind you when that time comes.

Thanks for helping to support our Missions.



United Methodist Women

As I sit here on this cold, yet beautiful snowy January day, I reflect on the past year and the one just beginning. A new year brings new hope and expectations that are all achievable, if we only trust in the Lord for our strength and guidance. The Almighty certainly was present in the lives of the members of our United Methodist Women this past year. He strengthened us during illnesses, deaths, and personal trials, which we all faced. His hand was on our group, guiding us to a wonderful and fulfilling year in 2015, and we are assured through our faith that He will be with us again in 2016.

At our annual Christmas Potluck and meeting we prepared holiday baskets for 11 shut-ins from our church family. We, as always, enjoyed the fellowship of other sisters and celebrated a productive year of fund raising. We give praise to the Lord, who provided the hands to assemble our crafts, the volunteers who manned our craft booths, those who donated supplies, and those who purchased our wares. It truly was a year that we can reflect upon with joyful hearts.

Our fund raising efforts were rewarded with more proceeds being raised than in several years. We were able to substantially increase our giving to the District United Methodist Women's Organization, which supports many national and global ministries. We were also able to add to the list of other local and global organizations that we support. The list is as follows: Advent Conspiracy, Avondale Youth Center, Pastors' Fund, Salvation Army, Red Bird Missions, First United Methodist Shelter, Transitions Shelter, Heartbeats Family Center, and Eastside Community Center.

Our group will not be meeting in February, but will resume again on the 15th of March at 4:00 PM in the Embers Room. We invite all of our sisters of faith to join us at one of our meetings the third Tuesday of each month. This year will bring new challenges, but many rewards, I'm sure. We are starting a new project that involves preparing one meal a month for the Bethel Mission college student volunteers, the staff, and the children of the area. We look forward to this new year and the many opportunities we are given to continue our walk with our sisters, our church, our community, and our Lord.

Glenda Scott, Secretary
United Methodist Women

"HEMMED IN PRAYER" BIBLE STUDY GROUP

All women are invited to join!

We meet every Sunday evening at 6:30 PM, downstairs in the 2nd/3rd grade classroom. We alternate between sewing and Bible Study each week, giving all women an opportunity to study God's Word, pray, and sew with other women of faith. Please contact Terra Armstead @ 740-704-6144 or dtarmstead@yahoo.com, or call the church office at 740/453-4192 if you are interested or have questions.

Ash Wednesday Services Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Central Trinity UMC – 7:00 PM
Coburn UMC – To be announced
Faith UMC – 1:30 PM
Grace UMC – 7:00 PM
South Zanesville UMC – 7:00 PM



Lenten Worship Services 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
February 14 th	Central Trinity UMC 62 S. 7 th Street	Justin Williams Coburn UMC
February 21 st	Faith UMC 1616 Blue Avenue	Mark Chow Grace UMC
February 28 th	Coburn UMC 3618 Maple Avenue	Steve Fewell Central Trinity UMC
March 6 th	Grace UMC 516 Shinnick Street	Jessica Stonecypher Central Trinity UMC
March 13 th	First UMC 857 Putnam Avenue	Nancy Amos Rolling Plains UMC
March 20 th	Rolling Plains UMC 3350 Moxahala Park Road	Easter Cantata

The themes for the services this year will be based upon the Lenten study book entitled: *Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus* by Mike Slaughter. If you wish to purchase a book, you may order it through Cokesbury, either online (www.cokesbury.com) or by calling 1-800-672-1789.

All services will begin at **6:00 PM** with a time of fellowship to follow.

The monetary offerings this year will be directed to support the Children and Youth Ministry of *The LifeWell* at West Main. You are also invited to bring socks and mittens to donate for *The LifeWell Free Store and Shelter* at First UMC, Zanesville.



Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University is back! As a graduate myself, I can give personal testimony that this course has incredibly improved my family's financial outlook. Through video teaching, class discussions, and small group activities, this class is designed to teach personal finance from the Biblical perspective of Stewardship – in other words, how to use God's gifts in God's ways for the glory of God's kingdom. Classes will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, beginning on February 11 and will run for 9 weeks.

I can't wait to cheer you on through your journey, call me if you have any questions. The cost of the class is \$109. To register for the class, contact me by calling 740-704-6887 or by e-mail (tjandamandawilliams@gmail.com).

Regards,
T. J. Williams

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistant!

Lindsay Wilson has recently joined the office staff at Rolling Plains. She will be providing administrative office support to Pastors John & Nancy, as well as organizing tasks and processes within the church office. Lindsay comes to us with several years of experience working in the non-profit sector and public education. Additionally, she serves on the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Lindsay and her husband, Craig, attend Rolling Plains with their daughters, Eliza, Emily and Ellie.



You can reach Lindsay by calling the church office at (740) 453-4192 ext. 110 or by email at lindsay@rollingplainsumc.com.

Worship Choir News

What a wonderful time we had working on and worshipping through "The Heart of Christmas", and what a supportive Church family we have at Rolling Plains that they would come out and worship with us!!

Now it's time to look ahead to Easter - yes, Easter!!

On Thursday, February 4, we will begin to practice for the Easter Musical, which will be held Sunday Evening, March 20, at 6:00 p.m.

We invite you to join us at this exciting time in the life of the Christian Church through music and worshipping our Risen Savior!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or text me at 740-408-2465 or visit our Rolling Plains Worship Choir FB page.

♪ Susan Reese, Worship Choir Director

HE-BREWS CAFÉ

Have you enjoyed a cup of hot coffee or cocoa and a sweet treat on Sunday morning at He-Brews Café lately? If so, you have a team of servant volunteers led by Tim & Cathy Collins to thank for the hospitality! This dedicated group begins their work early on Sunday mornings and stays long after worship service is over to tidy up and prepare for next week. Thank you!

He-Brews Café serves nearly 30,000 drinks and 7,000 snacks in a year! Servant volunteers are greatly needed to continue the hospitality outreach for He-Brews Café. Wondering how you can support this ministry? We can always use willing hands and a smile, donations of baked goods, or financial contributions for paper products.

If you would like to help, contact Tim or Cathy Collins at 740/ 704-2213, cathycollins@live.com, or at He-Brews Café on Sunday mornings.

Marriage Preparation
and
Enrichment Retreat

Just the Basics

All couples are invited to attend!

Friday, February 12
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM



Saturday, February 13
8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Location to be announced

<p>Cost:</p> <p>\$125.00, non-refundable, paid in full by February 5, cash or check, and made payable to LifeBridgeOhio. Bring or mail your payment to: LifeBridgeOhio 217 Muskingum Avenue Zanesville, OH 43701</p>	<p>Cost Includes:</p> <p>Two books per couple, <i>Preparing for Marriage</i> by Dennis Rainey; Dinner on Friday evening; Lunch on Saturday; and one follow-up visit per couple after conclusion of retreat.</p>
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Facilitated by Kathe King, LifeBridgeOhio member
If you have any questions, please feel free to call the LifeBridgeOhio Office at 740-297-6021

Thank You!

I want to thank all who have helped, in any way, with the funeral dinners this past year! A special "Thank you" to Ruth Hartman and the crew who had the dinner for Mary Ann Dumolt's funeral while we were in California visiting our daughter last June. You are such a faithful group of people that help family members through difficult times of losing loved ones.

Carol Wilson

February Birthdays

- 1 Tina Wasileski
- 2 Joyce Conrad
- 3 Kyle Ransbottom
- 4 Linda Clark
- 5 Beth Jackson
- 6 Chad Lawson
- 7 Linda Geyer, Dani Shofter
- 8 Amy Bergstrom
- 9 Stephanie Browning, Cathy Hickenbottom
- 10 Missy Beckert, Frank Fazakas, John Hann, Dianne Murphy
- 11 Cathy Collins
- 12 Josh Kerns
- 13 Doretta Donley, Monna McGee
- 15 Chuck Roach
- 16 Bob Herron
- 17 Dustin Daniel, Marilyn Humphrey
- 19 Denise Hann
- 20 Becky Clawson, Devin Deaver
- 21 Larry Dennis, T-Bone Hartman
- 22 Shaelynn Beisser, Linda Quinn
- 23 Dave Morris, Abby Trout
- 24 Frances Martin, Cathy Shaeffer
- 25 Joshua Bender, Angela Donaldson, Tina Lambert
- 26 Michelle Cockrell, Sandy Miller, Sean Miller
- 27 Linda Hartman, Angel Hinkle, Becca McConnell
- 28 Karissa Hann, Bill Paisley

February Anniversaries

- 4 Kang & Chelsie Kim
- 9 Mike & Jocelyn McFarland
Shane & Jen Shipley
- 12 Gene & Linda Hartman
Tim & Debbie Swingle
- 21 Charlie & Marlene Daniels
- 25 Bob & Holly Herron
- 26 Tom & Renee Hammers

Coming in February

Liberia Meal Packing Party

February 6 – 11:00 AM

•
KidStuf

February 7 – 9:45 AM

•
Ash Wednesday

February 10 – See article for schedule

•
Married People Event

February 13 – 7 to 9 PM



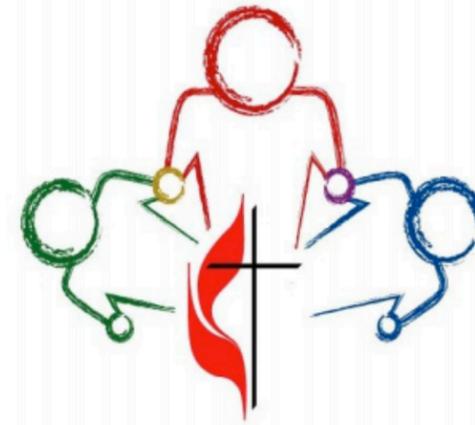
Join Franklin Graham for a Prayer Rally at Our State Capitol.

As our nations' moral foundation continues to crumble, I will visit each of the 50 states during the Decision America Tour and challenge Christians to pray fervently and live out their faith in home, in public and at the ballot box. I will also share the Gospel, which has power to transform hearts.

Will you join me at your state capitol? Plan now to bring your friends, family and church. Let's stand together for Jesus Christ. More details will come later. I hope you will start praying with us now.

[Get more information, and watch for the date to be announced for Ohio at decisionamericatour.com]

Rolling Plains looks forward to hosting area worship leaders at the Foothills District Leadership Training Day! This event is open to all – please join us! Registration information is below.



Foothills District Leadership Training Day

Saturday, March 12, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Rolling Plains UMC
3350 Moxahala Park Rd.
Zanesville, Ohio

Schedule for the Day

- 9:00 am Gathering - Coffee & Fellowship
- 9:15 am Opening Worship
- 9:45 am Plenary Teaching Session
- 10:45 am Break
- 11:00 am Breakout Sessions & Workshops
- 12:30 pm Home to our Mission Fields

Our Featured Speaker

Rev. Dr. Joseph Bishman
Former Superintendent of the
Shawnee Valley District



"Moving Mountains: One Shovel,
One Basket, One Cart at a Time"

Registration

The cost is **\$5.00 per person**

Please send registration to:

Foothills District Office of UMC
PO BOX 67
The Plains, OH 45780

Or Register Online:

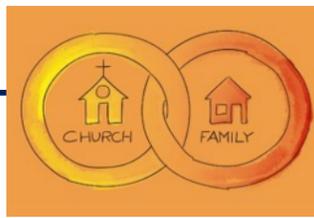
<http://www.foothillsdistrict.org/district/foothills/event/foothills-district-leadership-training-day>

Are you interested in volunteering to make this event seamless?

Contact Lindsay Wilson in the church office at (740) 453-4192 or lindsay@rollingplainsumc.com.

Liberia Meal Packing Party

Come and help pack meals for Liberian children on Saturday, February 6 at 11:00 AM. We will need lots of volunteers on Saturday as we'll be packing about 65,000 meals! We will also need a few people to help with set-up on Saturday morning. Please indicate "Packing Party" or "Packing Party Set-up" on the back of your connection card, and include your email or phone number to be contacted with more information.



Children and Family Ministry

When you have a job to get done, you need the right tool. Hammers and screwdrivers work great for doing the job they were designed for, but sometimes you need something a little more complex. You need a tool that has the right attachment for the job, one that works with that tool to get the job done, like a drill, for without the right drill bit to do the work, it's just a noisy paperweight; or a ratchet – without the right socket, well, I guess you've got a shiny, little hammer, maybe? It's just not useful unless you have both parts working together. There are even some tools that don't need another piece. They need another person, like those lumberjack crosscut saws. The saw won't work as it should unless two people are working together. That's **cooperation – working together to do more than you could do alone.** When you think about it, cooperation is huge. When you cooperate, you can build more, you learn more, and you can *do* more.

As kids are growing, they become more aware of the people around them. They have friends on the playground or in their neighborhood. They have to work in teams to finish projects in school. If they don't learn God's plan for cooperation, they'll have a difficult time of getting along with people. That's why it's important that we take some time out to discover more about what the Bible says about cooperation.

Cooperation is actually a spiritual concept that originates with God. God designed us, as human beings, to not only need each other, but also to need Him. Now it's not like God was up in heaven desperate for some help, so He made us. No, God is all-sufficient, but He created us so we could have a relationship with Him and so that we could participate in His work together. In other words, God put all of us together on this planet to do more *together* than we could ever do *alone*, and in some cases, with His help, to do things that might even seem “undoable.” In light of this, we want every leader, every parent, and every child to memorize this verse of Scripture:

“Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIRV)

Just think about the difference you could make in your church if every parent, leader, and child really bought into this spiritual concept of cooperation. The Bible is full of stories of people who came together in faith to do something they never could have done alone. We can't wait to hear about what happens when kids start understanding God's design for cooperation.

Save the Date: Kidstuf – February 7th at 9:45 AM

Married People

Welcome to the 2015-2016 Married People! Our theme for the 2016 Date Night Events is *WITH*, and it's all about connection. We want couples to improve their “*WITH*” time and even find ways to strengthen their connection to one another when they are not together.

God's way for marriage might not be easy to live out, but it is certainly easy to understand. God gives us only a few verses on how husbands and wives should love each other. We believe He did that on purpose. From the precious few Scripture verses on marriage, come the Core 4 Habits:

Have Serious Fun – Having fun as a couple is not optional – it's essential. We believe the best way to protect your marriage is to enjoy it regularly. (See Proverbs 5:18.)

Respect and Love – Of the few verses God gives to husbands and wives, the directive to respect and love is commanded more than any other. This truth really can set us free when we understand the interplay of respect and love. (See Ephesians 5:21-33.)

Love God First – When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, His answer was to love God with all your and to love others as well as you love yourself. Loving God in your individual life greatly impacts your married life. (See Matthew 22:37-40.)

Practice Your Promise – Our spouses trusted that we would do what we promised when we said, “I will” – to love each other and to stay together no matter what. Knowing and experiencing a lasting commitment is vital to every marriage. (See Proverbs 5:18 and Malachi 2:15.)

We will be kicking off our 2016 Date Night Event Series on **Saturday February 13th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM**, with a night of music, games, dessert, and fun. If you have not yet attended Date Night, don't worry, for there will be “No Mushy Stuff or On-the-spot, Pour-your-heart-out” moments in front of the group. It is all about learning to enjoy moments in marriage. If you have attended before, you know we have fun, so invite a couple of friends. Also, childcare will be provided if you need it.

For more details or to RSVP, contact Heather Matarazzo (heather@rollingplainsumc.com or 740-453-4192).

Heather Matarazzo, Director
Children & Family Ministry



Things are Not Falling Apart, They are Falling into Place!

Could this be a Biblical view from heaven of religion in 2016? Ouch! However, let's listen to St Paul writing to the church in Thessalonica. Do you see any similarity today?

For this reason, God will send them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie. (2 Thessalonians 2:11)

In *For the Love of God*, Volume 2, D. A. Carson writes: **“People do not drift toward Holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.”** (Drifting)

I, Loren Anderson, have this pasted in my Bible. I need to be reminded that God has a plan to bring this world He loves back to His original blueprint, and God is working through the Rolling Plains Church. A REVIVAL is on His AGENDA!

Loren Anderson

