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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We all go through seasons when our faith is tested, or when our faith feels stronger than it does at other times. If we are honest, some of us we will admit that we are really struggling in our faith right now. We might feel like we lack direction, or we may know of a step we need to take, but we lack the faith to step out and take it. Some of us have had a strong faith at one point in time and now we feel like we have lost our edge. Perhaps for others, it just seems as though life throws one thing after another at us, or that we are in the midst of a huge challenge and our “faith meter” feels low. Perhaps we think we have just lost our spiritual edge. Here is the thing – God has such an amazing and powerful life for us to live, but it requires stepping forward each day in faith for His plan.

During the month of July, we are going to look at the life of the prophet Elisha and how he is always right in the middle of steps that take a ridiculous amount of faith. There is the time where the prophet Elijah comes to Elisha and calls him to come and follow him. Elijah is this giant of the Faith and a powerful witness to God in so many ways. He basically approaches Elisha and throws his own cloak over him. What he is saying is, “What I have been doing, I want to pass along to you to do the same.” At that moment Elisha, who is a farmer and is working the family fields, slaughters the oxen and burns the plow he is using in the field (1 Kings 19:19-21). He leaves that life behind and answers the call to follow Elijah. I want a plow-burning faith. How about you?

There is another time when he happens upon a widow who is about to have her children removed from her house and sold into slavery. She believes she has nothing that God could use to help her in this situation. Her faith is gone. However, she does have a little bit of oil. Elisha challenges her to gather all the empty jars she can and for her to pour the oil she has into them. The oil doesn’t stop until the jars are all filled. What an amazingly ridiculous faith that leads to the power of God’s amazing provision! I want an oil-pouring faith that believes in God’s abundance, not in human scarcity.

There are other moments like the time Elisha challenges an army to dig ditches or when an axe head floats on water. All of it is quite ridiculous. However, God calls us to a ridiculous faith! I believe out of this series, God will help refill our “faith tanks” and grow our “faith meters”. It is my prayer that God will use this sermons series for some of us to re-gain our spiritual edges. For others it just may mean we will get the nudge we need to finally take that step we knew we needed to take all along. We will learn how to have a plow-burning faith, a ditch-digging faith, and an oil-pouring faith, which will get our spiritual edge back. It is going to be an amazing faith-building month! I look forward to unpacking Elisha’s story and watching how it can inspire and spur all of us on to a ridiculous faith.

Blessed & Barefoot,  
Pastor John



Join us on July 10<sup>th</sup> for our new sermon series!

COME  
AS  
YOU ARE

CONNECT  
WITH  
EACH OTHER

GROW  
IN  
GOD'S WORD

GO  
AND  
SERVE OTHERS



## Springtime Blessings

### As one chapter closes, another one opens...

Thirteen years ago my husband, Gary, and I purchased this cabin as a weekend get-a-way. After his death in 2004, I operated the cabin as a vacation rental thinking that someday I would have the time to use it for myself. Well...that time never came. While living in Spain, God has clearly shown me that it was time to give others an opportunity to own and enjoy this beautiful retreat. While back in the U.S. during the holidays, I made the decision to sell the property. In April, God blessed me with a good offer from a young couple in the Columbus area. On May 24, the final papers were signed and the cabin was officially sold. Letting go has been bittersweet, but I'm so thankful that I followed God's leading. I feel such a sense of relief – no repairs, no mortgage, and no distractions, just rest in His peace and wait on Him. Thank you for your prayers.



### It's hard to keep this girl down...



This is my lovely housemate, Julia, waiting to go home from surgery on May 31. In April, she suffered a torn ACL from a skiing accident. What's so amazing is that during the month of May with doctor's appointments, x-rays, and trying to decide where to have her knee repaired (Spain or England), she continued to go about her daily activities. Even with the brace on her knee and the 81 steps to our apartment door, her energy, love, for people, and devotion to her work never waned. This month, she's gone home to recuperate and be with family, but she's already planning her return, so she can help with summer camps and youth activities. God has blessed her with a beautiful spirit and a loving personality, which she shares with everyone she meets. Way to go Julia!

Preparing lunch for these beautiful young ladies and getting to know them was a real blessing for me on June 9. All the way from California, they have come to serve in Spain as summer interns for 8 weeks. Along with teaching English classes and working with teens, they have been experiencing Spanish culture and foods. Soon they will be helping with our basketball and cheerleading camps. We so appreciate their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment to sharing the Gospel with the youth of Alcalá.



### Please pray for:

- Complete healing for Julia's knee
- Massive opportunities for the girls to share the Gospel during the summer outreach activities.
- My language exchange partners Lili, Ana, and Maria who still have yet to meet and know the Lord.

Thank you for partnering with me to share the love of Jesus Christ in Europe.  
Your financial support and prayers make it all possible.

DONATE: ECMI-USA, PO Box 2217 Monument, CO 80132 (Sharon Graves # 4060) or <http://www.ecmi-usa.org/get-involved/give/>

## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on June 21<sup>st</sup> in the Embers Room. Our program for the afternoon was a discussion on "peacemaking" and following the vision set forth by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. This included the Beatitude, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

We will be participating in the Quilt Show Bazaar at the Fairgrounds on July 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Come and check out our wares. We hope to see you at our next meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Come and join us for fellowship and inspiration as we find ways to unite and strengthen our mission purpose.

Cathy Speer, Secretary  
Rolling Plains UMW



***Mission in Motion:*** The church has left the building!  
Mission in Motion is the people of Rolling Plains Church putting their faith into action!

### July Mission in Motion: Housing Insecurity

Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio is on a mission to transform the lives of individuals locally by working with families in need and advocating for affordable housing. Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

- Pray for the basic need of shelter to be realized by all people, both locally and globally.
- Donate household and building supplies to the *Habitat for Humanity ReStore* at 100 Sunrise Center Drive in Zanesville. Contact Store Manager Terry Schulz at (740) 592-0032 ext. 107, if you have questions about donating or would like to arrange for a pick-up.
- Join the construction crew on Saturday, July 30 as Habitat for Humanity does a *Blitz Build* for a local family in Crooksville. Shifts are 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Sign up for a shift on your Connection Card or by emailing Pastor Nancy at [nancy@rollingplainsumc.com](mailto:nancy@rollingplainsumc.com).
- If you have construction experience, please consider volunteering to be a supervisor on this building project.

## United Methodist Men

Greetings! I hope this article finds you enjoying this wonderful warm weather. I have a few things to bring you up to date on:

- The flower bulb orders have been sent in and should arrive here sometime in mid-September.
- During the June meeting, our men's group decided to discontinue the monthly community breakfast. This decision was reached after much thought and discussion. Attendance and donations were low, and the donations were not covering our expenses, so it was decided to discontinue the event effective June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- We are still meeting at 7:00 AM on the first Sunday of the month, and we hope and pray that our numbers increase. We hope to see you on Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>!

In His Service,  
Tim Collins, Pres.  
United Methodist Men



The youth group will be on their Mission Trip to Nashville, Tennessee, June 26 to July 1, which means our focus this month will be on service and mission. There are a few specifics we want to focus on:

- What is the difference between mission and service, if any?
- Why are we doing it?
- Why are we doing it there and not here?
- Finally, how do we bring back our passion once the trip is over?

This should all lead to some interesting discussion and hopefully also lead to more outreach for our summer months.

We want to thank you all for your help in donating to our cause, no matter how you did. Either through the offering plate, the baked potato bar, or partnering with a student. We have been fully funded plus some, which will help cover the vans! Thank you.

Moving forward, July is going to be a quieter month as far as activities and events. That means we want to plan some outreach within our church family and local community. We also want to plan some fun outings while there is no school or homework. Chaperones will always be needed for these events, so keep in touch with me if you are interested in serving alongside us or if you know of an opportunity for service.

Lastly, continue to pray for breakthroughs in the ministry. How can we reach more students? It's not an issue of conflict, just an issue of choice. We are hoping to try some new things in the Summer that will pay off. Thank you in advance for that and we look forward to serving with you and for you!

Beau Dailey, Director  
 RP Student Ministries  
 beau@rollingplainsumc.com



## Rolling Plains Fair Stand Volunteers Needed

We are preparing for the 2016 Muskingum County Fair, which runs August 14 – 20. Fair Week is always a fun time and we hope you will join us. With God's grace and your help, we are planning to have a record year at our Rolling Plains Fair Stand. We are asking for your help during Fair Week. We will need help with the operation of the stand: in the kitchen, by waiting tables, and/or by offering monetary support, which will be used to purchase supplies, food, and drinks. **We will also need at least 15 fresh-baked pies per day** and other desserts such as cookies, brownies, and cake throughout the week of the fair. During the week prior to the fair, we will be cleaning and prepping the stand and will need several volunteers to help us with that. When Fair Week is over, we will need help to clean and close up the stand. The times and dates will be posted later this month in the bulletins and in the August newsletter. There will also be donation forms in your bulletins soon, which can be placed into the collection basket, or you may send a check directly to the church with "Fair Stand" written on the memo line. Look for a sign-up sheet in the lobby for shifts at the stand and one for pie and dessert donations.

Don't miss out on the fun!!

Barb & Gary Handshy  
 Jane & Paul Law



## Heal Our Land

*...if my people will humble themselves and pray, and search for me, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear them from heaven and forgive their sins and heal their land.*

2 Chronicles 7:14

The last several decades have brought continual challenges and moral decay to the landscape we truly and sincerely call the "land of the free". Along with the challenges and decay, still stands a church poised to follow God's Word. With this posture, we will present "**Heal Our Land,**" an evening of worship, praise, and prayer for this great land of ours.

## Sunday evening, July 10 @ 6:00 PM - Rolling Plains Worship Center

May we join our hearts and prayers together in seeking God's favor and direction for our United States of America (wear your red, white and blue in support!).

Presented by the Worship Choir and the Rolling Plains Prayer Ministry



### Anniversaries

- 1 Denny & Sharon Neff
- 2 Dick & Marilee Spung
- 4 Scott & Roxanne Miller
- 5 Jeff & Marcie Flinn
- 6 Forrest & Carol Dreier  
 Jesse & Kala Parrill
- 13 Joe & Mary Ann Graham
- 14 Dan & Kathy Mohler
- 17 Phil & Linda Kinner,  
 Charles & Linda Quinn
- 19 Bill & JoAnn Paisley
- 22 Dan & Kelly Morrison
- 23 Jan & Shirley Harlan
- 24 Mark & Diane Burrier  
 Van & Melissa Slack
- 27 Kris & Kendra Kemp
- 30 David & Elizabeth Rupe

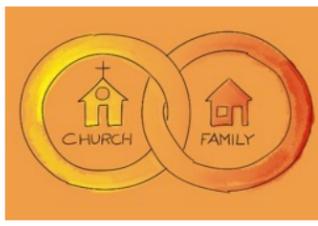
### Birthdays

- 1 Shirley Rice, Mike Shaeffer
- 3 Craig Wilson
- 4 Lori Smith
- 5 Becky Johnson, Angela Morosko
- 6 Linda Hatfield, Amanda Jarvis, Pat Murphy
- 8 Perry Collins, Deidre Johnson
- 9 Lee Martin, Tammy Seiler, Bryan Smith,  
 Ray Snyder, Kyle Trout
- 11 Billijean Ball, Paula Frank
- 12 Mason Deaver, Keely Roush, Jerry Stump
- 13 Cassandra Burtnett, Betty Mason
- 14 Zhen Li
- 16 Roger Miller, Mike Murphy
- 17 Harry Strickler
- 18 Velma Higginbotham, Rachel Purnell, Dave Rupe
- 19 Bill Dalrymple, Jesse Evans, Shelby Hatfield, Valerie  
 Mozena, Matt Wood
- 22 Carol Denton, Roz Kennedy,
- 24 Jacob Bender, Larry Macenko, Tim Matheney
- 25 Kala Parrill
- 26 Beau Dailey, Patty Roberts
- 27 Patsy Brock, Ed Kinsel
- 28 Hailey Swingle
- 29 Fred Beckert, Roy Sarbaugh
- 30 Jerry Diehl, Joe Martin, Bob Ziel,  
 Rob Matarazzo
- 31 Angie Smith, Kim Touvell

**Thank you** for your prayers and support during the time of Kelsey's illness and passing. Pastor John's message at the funeral service and the dinner provided by Carol Wilson and her team were both especially comforting to our family.

Nellie Krigbaum & Family

*If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, we may not have all your information. Please contact the office at 740-453-4192 to update your information.*



## Children and Family Ministry

We will continue our discussion of *Faith* in July for our elementary school kids. They will be filling their passports as we follow more of Paul's journey.

### WEEK 1

We continue our look at Paul's journey in **Acts 15:1-35** with an important meeting that happened in Jerusalem. Paul and the rest of the disciples were arguing about whether or not people who weren't Jewish had to become Jewish in order to follow Jesus. At the end, they decide that the story of Jesus is for everyone. Nothing should stand in the way of people coming to faith in Jesus. **Bottom Line: The story of Jesus is for everybody.**

### WEEK 2

In **Acts 21-36, 25:23-26:32**, we find out more about an opportunity that Paul had to share his story with King Agrippa. Paul told King Agrippa that he believed Jesus was the Son of God. That truth was bigger than any other faith story, because Jesus actually lived, died, and rose again to save us. This is proof that the Story of Jesus is way bigger than any other story.

**Bottom Line: The story of Jesus is bigger than every other story.**

### WEEK 3

In the third week, we'll take a look at something Paul wrote while he was under house arrest. He was hoping to encourage the early churches in Ephesus. In **Ephesians 4:32**, Paul writes how we should forgive others because of the way God forgave us through Jesus. **Bottom Line: The story of Jesus changes how I forgive others.**

### WEEK 4

Next we head to **Acts 27:1-28:10** where we discover that Paul was shipwrecked on his way to Rome. This was obviously something Paul never planned, but his faith in God never wavered. God used that whole ordeal to help others put their faith in Jesus. **Bottom Line: The story of Jesus changes how I see my problems.**

### WEEK 5

We'll finish up our *Where in the World* series with something else that Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus. In **Ephesians 4:4-6, 15b-16**, Paul cast his vision for how we need to work together to accomplish everything that God wants us to do.

**Bottom Line: The story of Jesus changes how we work together.**



## Bethel Community Center A Local Missional Outpost for Rolling Plains

### Making a Difference

The mission statement for Bethel Community Center says we are present to share the love of Jesus as we engage and equip our neighbors in the Putnam neighborhood to work for community transformation. Well, we know that is certainly a BHAG ("Big Hairy Audacious Goal"), which can be accomplished only through the movement of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. We often ask ourselves, "Is this mission statement just words on a piece of paper? Is our vision in line with the vision to which God has called us? Are our core values making an impact?"

### The Star Fish Story

When we ponder the effectiveness of our impact, we are called to remember the story of the Starfish. If you aren't familiar with this story, it goes like this: A man is walking along a beach where thousands of starfish have washed upon the shore. Up ahead he sees an old man picking up starfish, one at a time, and throwing them back into the ocean, so he goes to him and asks, "Why are you doing that?" The old man says, "Because the sun is up and the tide is going out and if I don't throw them into the ocean now, they will die." The other man says to him, "There are thousands here. You can't save them all. What difference does it make?" As he picks up one after another, the old man says, "It makes a difference to this one, and to this one, and to that one." So that story inspires us to remain on course and to be present to make a difference for each child and youth.

### Who is making the difference?

Our goals to be a stable and sustainable presence are made possible by the 90+ volunteers who have served at Bethel over the last twelve months. Our records show that we have had an average of 33-35 different volunteers each month. The total volunteer hours since January 2016 comes to 8,687 hours, and if calculated at the minimum wage of \$8.10 the value would be \$7030.80! This past year we have had 35-40 different children and youth participate in one or more of our program activities. We have gone deep with fourteen children who earned 8,824 Bethel Bucks and were present for a total of 690 engagement hours. We won't know for years what our impact will be, but we remain faithful to God's call for us to be present. We celebrate the 90+ volunteers who make the sacrifice of time, treasure, and talent, so that we can continue to open our doors. If you want to join us in our missional outreach, we welcome you. **Contact our new Executive Director Melissa Lichtner** at 740-297-4816 and have a conversation on how you can go, get connected, and serve.

Kay Miller, Bethel Board Member



### Prayer Ministry

**The Rolling Plains Prayer Ministry meets on Thursday mornings at 7 AM** to pray over the needs of our church and community. Also, to accommodate so many busy schedules, we have added an evening prayer on the last Monday of each month this Summer, which will be coming up on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Please join us, at 6:30 PM on Monday evenings in the Embers Room.

**MOPS** (Mothers of Preschoolers) and **MOPS Next** (Mothers of school age kids) invite and encourage moms with children of **ALL ages** to join our group. The purpose of MOPS/MOMSNext Zanesville-Rolling Plains UMC is to share the love of Jesus Christ with moms (birth through 12th grade) by building lasting friendships and supporting one another in an atmosphere that is fun, uplifting, and encouraging.

Over the summer months we will have a number of informal play dates and "moms night out" events. For more information and to see our upcoming dates, please join our Facebook group, "Zanesville Moms MOPS/ MomsNext Information" or email [ecochick411@gmail.com](mailto:ecochick411@gmail.com) with questions.



**Our Offices will be closed on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> so our staff can enjoy Independence Day with their families.**