

Rolling Plains Church
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rollingplainsumc.com

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~ Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 1st, at 7:00 PM
Finding God in the midst of the pandemic through love, unity and prayer.
Spend time in the presence of God as we honor the verse John 13:34-35.
“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Good Friday, April 2nd, at 7:00 PM
We will enjoy a Worship Service live, and in person at Rolling Plains (also live-streamed).

Easter Sunday, April 4th
Services at 8:15 AM (Traditional service)
10:00 AM and 11:30 AM (Contemporary services)



April, 2021

Maranatha Sisters & Brothers,

Count me in for Easter!

One of the most significant weeks of the Christian calendar, Holy Week, is upon us. This is the week that we walk with Jesus on His journey to the cross and the empty tomb. For Christ followers, the resurrection is the central reason for the hope and faith we have in the Lord, our God. If Jesus were not raised from the dead, then none of what we believe and practice would mean a thing. Everything in our Christian faith rides on the resurrection victory of Jesus. Thank you Lord!

As a church, we go “All in” during Holy Week. We will start on Palm Sunday (March 28th) with a Palm Sunday worship celebration at 6:00 PM. This event will be put together by members of our socially distanced worship choir. In doing so, we remember Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Keep an eye out for the “Drive Through” Easter Egg Hunt that will be held throughout the week. On Maundy Thursday, we remember the New Passover meal known as the Lord’s Supper, as Jesus washed feet, broke bread, and shared the cup with the disciples. These actions would have broken from the traditional Jewish Passover meal and were a sign of God’s New Covenant for us all. On Good Friday, we will worship at 7:00 PM, as we somberly reflect on the suffering of Christ and what He went through in order to save us. Of course, the culminating moment will be Easter Sunday, April 4th, as we celebrate the risen Christ in three worship services (8:15 AM Traditional, 10 AM & 11:30 AM Contemporary). This is the Sunday of all Sundays as we celebrate God’s victory over sin, hell, and death—raising us up to new life with Jesus. Praise God!

What a wonderfully fruitful week this will be! All of this is made possible because there are people in Rolling Plains Church that say “Count me in” with their time, talents, and treasures to further the Kingdom of God through the work of God’s Church. The question is, are you all in? The Sunday after Easter (April 11th) we will be starting a new sermon series called, “Count me in!” The focus of this series will be to encourage each and every person connected to our congregation to be all in, on coming as you are, and planting deep roots into God, and His Church. We will help people realize that each of us is invaluable to God’s Kingdom work through His Church. People will also be reminded that each of us has tremendous influence for the body of Christ. As Kingdom influencers we are also called to be Kingdom Investors through generosity. It will be a great series—helping each of us take the next step of being “all in” with God through his local church at Rolling Plains.

Let’s not wait until April 11th to be all in for Jesus and His Church. Holy week is a great chance to start. Whom do we know that we can invite to come as they are with us into God’s family? Let’s share with people our deep roots and love for God and His Church. Let people see that you are “all in”. When we come as we are to God’s family and church, let’s not come alone. This can be done if you are attending live and in-person, or if you are worshipping digitally. Invite someone to share in worship (however you do it) with us. Are we so “all in” with God that we

proclaim “I love my Church” everywhere we go? Are we so blessed by God’s love, grace, and mercy that we are desperate for others to share in our family of God with us? Easter is such a great opportunity to invite people in our life to come as they are. Tell people they are invited! People are more willing to come when they are invited by someone personally.

Perhaps we have been disconnected and feeling distant from God and His Church. Maybe we’ve gotten out of the habit of worshipping, serving, giving, praying, being in the Word, or in Christian fellowship with each other. Will you say to God and His Church “Count me in”? Let’s be “all in” knowing we are invaluable to the rest of the body. Each of us has a different gift, skill set, and can fulfill a different role. When we aren’t engaged with our church or our gifts aren’t being deployed for God, our church is less than it could be because of it. Let’s be “all in” as a person of influence that God can use to positively influence the body of Christ and the family of God. Each of us has the capacity to be an influencer for God’s purpose in helping others find Christ, and to grow in their faith. Let’s be “all in” as God’s Kingdom Investors through His local Church—knowing that God’s design is to supply all that His local Church needs through His followers. We are all blessed to be a blessing! Let me ask you again. This Easter, can we count on each other to be “all in”? Let’s take advantage of every opportunity to Come as we are, Connect with God and others, Grow in God’s Word and prayer, and Go—in Jesus’ name and help others find Him. You can count me in! How about you?

Come on God!

Pastor John



Our **Easter Egg Hunt** will look a little different this year! We will be hiding eggs throughout the church property. Stop by anytime between March 21st and April 3rd to hunt the eggs. When you find the eggs, leave them there. Take a picture or mark down where they were and let Heather or Miss Jennifer know you found them. Then, on April 3rd, from Noon – 2:00 PM, you can Drive Thru the awning area in front of the church, and we will hand out the prizes. Some bags will contain the "Golden Eggs" for additional prizes. (heather@rollingplainsumc.com or jennifer@rollingplainsumc.com)



Disappointed, But Not Discouraged

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Dear Church Family, Supporters and Friends,

It’s hard to believe, that last October, I was sharing with you the Covid-19 crisis in Spain and my decision to remain here in the US to work for ECM from this side of the pond. Throughout these months, I’ve held on to the belief that I would be returning to Spain this Spring. Regrettably, in the past few weeks, I’ve had to face the realization that the situation in Spain remains quite the same as it was 6 months ago. Spain is still under heavy restrictions which prevent people from meeting in homes or in public places. So, as disappointing as this news has been, I am not discouraged. I know God has this situation well in hand and I will wait for His plans to become my plans. Knowing this gives me the energy and the stamina to carry on with my ministry. With this update, I also want to take this opportunity to thank you again for your prayers and support during these challenging and stressful times.

God bless you.

Can You Do Global Missions Virtually?

For those of you who’ve spent time working online, from home, during Covid-19, I’m sure you’ve had to learn more about “Zoom” than you ever cared to. Throughout this year, Zoom has become my lifeline for doing missions in Europe. My work week tends to be Tuesday through Thursday, and half-days on Mondays and Fridays. When I’m not online leading, or participating in a meeting, I’m preparing for the next one. Some of the countries that I connect with regularly include:

- **Women’s Precept Bible Study** - Madrid, Spain
- **Spotlight English Conversation Class** - Madrid, Spain
- **Leadership Book Studies** - Austria/Bulgaria/Spain
- **Member Care Coordinator Meetings** - Holland
- **Equip Reflect/Grow Ministry** - Austria & Germany
- **Boundaries Book Study & Training** - Romania
- **Coaching for Church Planters** – Spain

The past 7 months have been a truly amazing year for ministry in missions, and I won’t deny that I’m looking forward to the day when we can once again meet in person. Regardless of how we do missions, there will always be opportunities to share the Good News and serve to His glory.

Praises:

- A full recovery from Covid-19 during November. Also, God’s protection from Covid-19 for my daughters and grandson.
- Receiving the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine in March, 2021

Prayers:

- God’s mercy on Spain and that the case numbers would come down quickly so that I may return safely.
- God would continue to grant good health (spiritual, emotional, and physical) to me, my family, and my European teammates.
- God’s guidance as I strive to serve Him faithfully while working in these challenging times and that He will be glorified.
- Safe return to Spain at the end of the Summer.

<http://ecmi-usa.org/graves> to give online or mail to European Christian Mission Int’l.
P.O. Box 563, Wheaton, IL 60187. ([Sharon Graves # 4060](mailto:Sharon.Graves@ecmi-usa.org))



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Amanda Klinehoffer, Hunter Longwell, Beulah Strickler
- 2 Luke Morrow
- 3 Dave Armstead, Caleb Mayle
- 4 Steve Brock, Michael Bagley
- 5 Brian Spring
- 6 Nathan Raines
- 7 Nicole Fink
- 10 Dorothy Morrison
- 11 Anita Richards
- 12 Jennifer Davis, Gaylin Higdon, Tim Swingle
- 13 Teresa Bailey, Jeanie Presley
- 14 Lane Thurman
- 16 Angie Gable, Larry Jones
- 17 Gayle Kirkbride, Sue Snyder
- 18 Ruth Higgins
- 19 Bryce Bronner, Troy Harmer, Dan Morrison, Carl Shaw
- 20 Caleb Delong, Sharon Neff, Dick Reese
- 21 Marcie Flinn, Terry Wiseman
- 22 Becky Jewell, Teresa Ruppel, Kathy Valentine
- 23 William Kinsey, Marie Waltemire
- 24 Sally Snyder, Steve Welsh
- 25 Jeff Conrad, Josh Zinn
- 26 Bridget Geiger
- 27 Bob Kokensparger, Hilda Stalder
- 29 Bob Karr, Alexander Presley, Landon Donley
- 30 Linda Kirkbride

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Dick & Susan Reese
- 5 Jim & Linda Geyer
- 13 Lee & Cheryl Martin
- 22 Ric & Tammy Roush
- 24 Robert & Bonnie Martin
- 28 Mike & Joanne Murphy
- 29 Terry & Lisa Wiseman

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Join us on Thursday, April 1st, 7:00 PM

Finding God in the midst of the pandemic
through love, unity, and prayer.

Spend time in the presence of God as we
honor the verse John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you
love one another; as I have loved you, that you
also love one another. By this all will know
that you are My disciples, if you have love for
one another."

We look forward to seeing you there!

Kelly Lee,
RP Prayer Team



Bethel Community Center – A Local Missional Outpost
126 Ontario Street

Friends of Bethel Community Center,

With students slowly returning to school in-person, things are calming down some at Bethel. We still have a handful of students who attend through the week, but our main busy day is Friday, with all 25 kids attending. We are so blessed to be able to welcome them all and would not have it any other way.

While we miss having a full house every weekday, the calmness has allowed our Youth Coordinator, Breann Adams, and myself, to start planning for our Summer program. I am eager to start promoting it, and I'm very happy to share some of our plans with all of you.

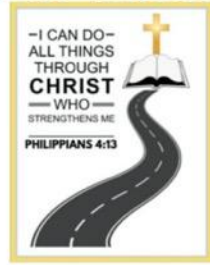
Bethel will do a **2021 Summer Program** themed **"Wonder World Funfest."** We will do the VBS program each day, adapting it to our activities. We will use our popcorn machine and make slushies with students. We hope to have our center decorated in carnival decor, and have many "field trips" planned to places like the YMCA and Lake Isabella. Having our 15-passenger van this year, will make this so much easier! The program will start on **June 14th** and will take place each **Monday-Thursday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. If you are interested in volunteering this Summer, please give us a call at 740-297-4795! Of course, kids from Rolling Plains are welcome to participate.

Thank you so much for your support. Do not hesitate to give us a call or stop in if you would like to learn more about what we are doing at Bethel! We are a 501 (c) (3), nonprofit, faith-based organization, funded by grants, individual donations, Rolling Plains, and other area churches, and organizations.

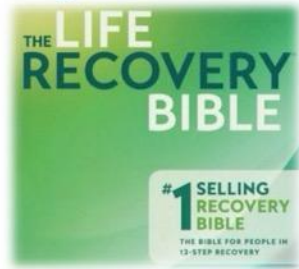
Many Blessings,
Amanda Hatfield
Executive Director



Road to Recovery



Bible Jail Ministry



Road to Recovery Ministry faithfully visits inmates in the Muskingum County Jail to offer hope and pathways for healing.

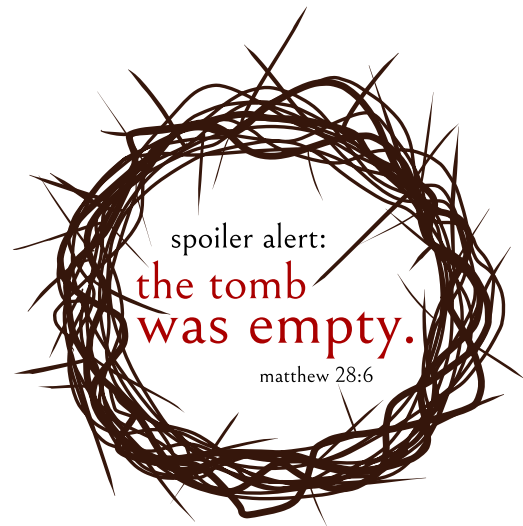
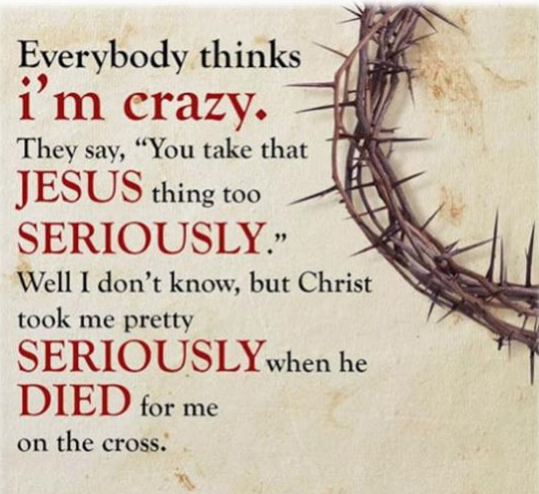
The LIFE RECOVERY BIBLE has been a powerful tool used to lead inmates to the source of true healing, God in Jesus Christ.

During the Season of Lent, every donation of \$8 purchases a Life Recovery Bible that can help to transform a life.

Everybody thinks
i'm crazy.

They say, "You take that
JESUS thing too
SERIOUSLY."

Well I don't know, but Christ
took me pretty
SERIOUSLY when he
DIED for me
on the cross.



Fresh Start

Thursday mornings beginning at 6:45

Teens stop in for
devotion,
discussion, and donuts
at Tim Horton's South.
Fresh Start is led by Paul Law



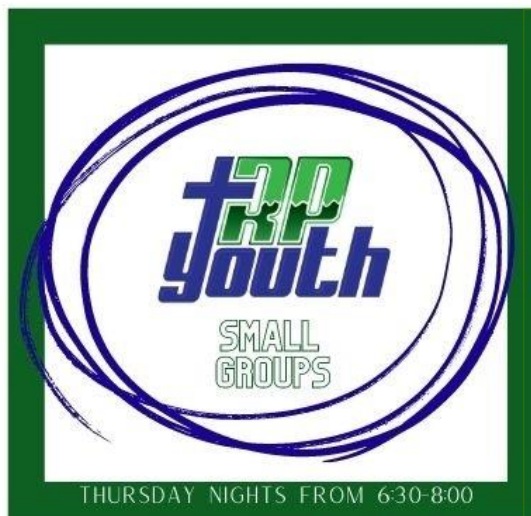
For more information call
Rolling Plains Church
740-453-4192
or e-mail
heather@rollingplainsumc.com

**We are still in need of a few Small Group leaders,
especially Middle School Boys.**

**Also, individual, small groups are beginning to meet.
Contact Heather or your group leader for
dates and times.**

**Please contact Heather Matarazzo for more information
at:**

Heather@rollingplainsumc.com or 740-453-4192.



Be a part of our Landscape Team! This is a great opportunity for you to volunteer on a weekly basis within your own time frame and keep our campus looking beautiful. Beginning this Spring, we will divide the church campus into sections and assign areas to our volunteers who will then keep their area weed-free, which will help our flowers and shrubs survive, and will beautify our landscape.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Tina Peyton, Building Maintenance Supervisor at Tina@rollingplainsumc.com or 740-453-4192. Thank you in advance for considering this wonderful way to volunteer.

Tina Peyton, Building Maintenance Mgr.

Dear United Methodist Women,

A blessed Easter to all of you! We are so ready to get together. We'll see what happens in the next few weeks and hope that on the third Tuesday in April, at 1:00 PM, we can meet in the Embers Room at the church. I will let you know. We finished our 2020 year on a very positive note, meeting all our mission goals. We have yet to begin this year, but I know we will meet the challenge and serve others as we always have. Be positive, dear ladies! ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD...

I'm looking into ways to advertise our Rada Knives and our other crafts. 2021 is called, "Our Year of Hope." We are sending in a monetary donation to Our Legacy Endowment Fund. This fund helps women and children. Please think about and pray for all during this Lenten season and beyond. Prayers are so powerful and together we will get through this.

Please let me know your thoughts on our plans to get together in April (740-454-7871) and (740-586-2813).

June M. Smith
President, RPUMW

