



Rolling Plains

August, 2021

Newsletter

150 Years of Orthodox Christian Faith

Maranatha Sisters and Brothers!

Well friends, even your pastor makes mistakes every now and then. I find myself on the last few days of a wonderful beach vacation in Charleston, SC, composing this newsletter article. I had convinced myself that I had written it, and it was sent to our newsletter team before leaving on vacation, but, it was not. My old age is showing for certain. Now, by the time you are reading this our church will be halfway through our sermon series called “Life in a Cultural Tsunami”.

On this trip, our family spent some good time in the ocean and if you have ever had the chance to as well, you would agree that the waves are unrelenting. They just keep coming wave after wave. Some are bigger than others and if you’re not paying attention some of them can knock you off your feet and roll you around in the surf, completely wiping you out. A few of us experienced this very thing on our trip. Interestingly, what our family experienced describes well what goes on in the relationship between God’s church and the culture we live in. The waves of the culture are always pressing, pushing against the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and there are seasons where the waves are much bigger than at other times. They were for Paul as he writes Timothy a second letter during a time of great persecution of the church. There was enormous pressure from the culture to conform to all kinds of unsound doctrine being taught.

Today, we are living in a time in our nation where the waves of this current culture are much larger than they have been in some time. For those who do not conform or acquiesce there is the potential of being cancelled or completely wiped out. Sadly, we live in a time where this pressing of the culture is having significant influence on the church and the Gospel rather than the Church and the Gospel bringing influence and change to the culture. When you look at the landscape of God’s Church, in many cases it no longer resembles the traditional orthodox faith and Biblical Gospel that has been taught for more than 2,000 years.

In 2 Timothy chapter 3, Paul warned Timothy that the waves of the culture would always be pressing against the gospel of Christ. He exhorted Timothy to hold onto and continue in what he had learned and had become convinced of because of the sound teaching of those from whom he learned it. Timothy was charged by Paul to hold onto the Holy Scriptures that he learned from infancy, that gave him wisdom about salvation and faith in Jesus Christ.

What I love about this is that Paul was telling Timothy that just because there is pressure to change and conform to the culture, that God’s Word never changes and the source of Truth is always found in Jesus Christ. That Truth hasn’t change and will not change. Therefore, you should hold on in the pressure to conform as the waves crash against you and threaten to wipe you out. It is God’s unchanging Word: The Way, The Truth, and The Life, that is calling us and the world to be the ones to change, adjust, and conform to Him.

For 150 years, Rolling Plains Church has carried the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the South Zanesville community, the greater Muskingum County area, and into the world. There has always been a faithful remnant that has stood true, even in the face of the pressing waves of conformity from the culture.

In August, we will be celebrating all of the mission, ministry, and the making of disciples of Jesus Christ that our church has faithfully been a part of for fifteen decades. In those 150 years the gospel of Jesus and The Word of God have not changed. As we reflect on all that the saints of Rolling Plains have accomplished to bring us to this point, let us receive the baton and be inspired to hold onto the orthodox/traditional teachings of God's unchanging Word that has stood the test of time. Let us renew our efforts as God's Church in the power of the Holy Spirit, to continue to spread the loving, gracious, powerful, and truth-filled Gospel and unashamedly make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

On Saturday, August 28th from 4 PM to 6 PM, look forward to some, fun, food and fellowship in our church's outdoor shelter house and grounds. At 6 PM, we will be moving inside for a worship celebration as we honor former pastors and reflect on all these years of wonderful ministry. A reception will follow in the church lobby. On Sunday morning, August 29th, we will have the privilege of having Dr. Brian Law, one of our former ministers, bring the message at both our 8:15 AM and 10:00 AM services. What a celebration of reflection it will be as we will also experience the fresh wind of the Spirit to continue doing God's bold work of ministry and to hold true to the Gospel in the many years to come as Rolling Plains Church. This is our time to hold onto and spread the Orthodox Biblical teaching and Gospel of Christ to the world.

Come on God!



Pastor John



Anniversaries

- 2 Shawn & Melody Maynard
- 3 Tom & Rebecca Smith
- 4 Bryce & Jen Bronner
- 6 Gary & Barb Handshy
- 8 T.J. & Amanda Williams
- 9 Chad & Gina Jerles,
Bob & Sonnie Karr
- 12 Christopher & Amanda Merlo
- 13 Keith & Lindsay Roe
- 14 Jim & Shirleen Morehouse
- 15 Steve & Patsy Brock, Robert & Tina Peyton
- 16 Allen & Lori Smith
- 20 Scott & Paula Frank
- 21 Mike & Jen Dale
- 23 Chad & Jennifer Lawson,
Kevin & Kathy Valentine,
- 24 John & Mary Lambert
- 25 Dave & Stephanie Taylor
- 26 Herb & JoAnn Chambers
- 27 Dave & Marla Morris
- 30 Tim & Rhonda Reed
- 31 Kevin & Micki Curry,
Marvin & Angie Smith

Birthdays

- 1 Kalli Sidwell
- 2 Justin Omen, Sue Stall, Mason Swauger
- 3 Elya Curry, John Kelso, Burl Lemon, Lindsay Roe
- 4 Tori Dennis
- 6 Marlene Daniels, Randy Spring
- 8 Yetta Lynn
- 9 Rick Lang
- 11 Keith Roe, Melissa Slack
- 14 Erica Hughes, Amy McDaniel, Catie Reed,
Wendy Shreve
- 15 Jay Morris II
- 16 Craig Kokensparger, Cathy Longwell, Sheila Wright
- 17 Jordan Donaldson, Katie Pletcher
- 18 Michaela Jarvis
- 20 Cope Beckert, Jeanine Busey, John Lambert,
Jennifer Lawson, Dick Newlon, Ellen Propp, Bailee
Smith
- 21 Jeffrey Howard
- 22 Loren Anderson, Abby Swingle, Mylie Zehendner
- 23 Christy Sidwell
- 25 Lindsay Wilson
- 26 McKenzie Darner
- 27 Terra Armstead, Chastity Johnson,
Vickie Kokensparger, Shawn Maynard,
Carolyn Pennington
- 28 Sherry Hamilton, Vicki McConnell
- 29 Michelle Dobbins
- 30 Breanna Humphries, Levi Staker
- 31 Clayton Baker, Kevin Curry, Ashley Wiseman

Church-wide Baptisms and Class

It has been a wonderful church tradition to meet together for a church-wide picnic and baptisms every year at Lake Isabella, on the Sunday after Labor Day weekend. Sunday, September 12, 2021, is our Annual Family Picnic and Baptism at Lake Isabella. There will be a mandatory meeting with Pastor John on Tuesday, August 24th at 6:30 PM in the Embers Room for anyone wishing to be baptized.

If it is your desire to be baptized at the Picnic, please contact Pastor John at the church office, 740-453-4192. If you cannot make the meeting, Pastor John will connect with you at a different time.



Lead Team Applications

Our Rolling Plains Church Nominations Team will soon be receiving applications for the 2021 Lead Team.

If you believe you have the call, gifts, and skill-set to serve on this wonderful team, please pick up an Application and Selection Criteria in the church office, beginning August 15th.

The deadline for turning in an application is September 5th. If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact Pastor John at the church office, 740-453-4192.



Our next GriefShare session will begin on Wednesday, September 15th in the Embers Room. The classes last for 13 weeks and will end on December 8th. We do ask that you commit to the class for the first four weeks. The class is facilitated by Pastor Dick Newlon and allows us to explore our grief. The study includes an excellent video series led by nationally known presenters on different aspects of grief. The lessons are each separate. If you miss a week you can come to a later session. There is plenty of time for sharing and discussion. It is your choice to participate in the discussion or not. Please put "GriefShare" on the QR code or e-mail pastornewlop@rollingplainsumc.com or call him at 740-607-9253 to sign up.

Prayer Let's Celebrate!



As we near the 150th Anniversary Celebration of Rolling Plains Church on Saturday, August 28th and Sunday, August 29th, I am happy to let you know of the celebration. We will begin the celebrations on Saturday, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM with some family fun outside, including an ice cream social and bigger-than-life yard games. The United Methodist Men will also be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, and chips. At 6:00 PM we will go inside for a great time of sharing by many of our former pastors. We will have a cake and punch reception to follow. On Sunday, August 29th, we will have a special day also, with a guest pastor presenting the sermon.

I have been very blessed to learn the only way I am going to thrive in this world is with God by my side. He has changed me from a worrier to a warrior. He wants to do that for all of his children, but we have to take action. Do what His word says and grow closer to Him.

I WANT TO CHALLENGE YOU to memorize Philippians 4:8-9 (in any translation you feel most comfortable with), recite, and practice it all month. Practice it by recognizing harmful thoughts, ask yourself is this thought true, is it helpful, is it worth my time and stress? If you find it is not, repeat Philippians 4:8-9 and start thinking of all the things that are described in the verse. For example, the beauty of God's creation: trees, sky, animals...; things you are grateful for: family, a home, food to eat, freedom...

If it does not work you don't have to keep it up, but if it works you will have another weapon (the word of God) in the fight against the darkness of this world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It will soon be time for the children and youth of our church to return to the classrooms and as a congregation, we want to pray over the schools. Please show your support by joining us at the church pavilion (the covered area at the end of the church parking lot) on August 22 after the 2nd service as some of our church members who work in the schools lead us in praying over the schools, the staff, the children, their families, and the needs in the schools. If you are affiliated with a school and would like to help lead prayer, please contact Don Rice: ricer2231@yahoo.com

If you need prayer, please text the connection number. You may request a prayer online, at Rollinglainsumc.com, or call the church office at 740-453-4192. The Prayer Team is available during the last song every Sunday to pray at the altars with you. All prayers are confidential to the Leadership Team and Prayer Team unless you request it to be placed on the prayer chain. The prayer chain members have also signed a confidentiality agreement to be on the chain to pray for your needs.

Your sister in Christ,

Kelly Lee

Rolling Plains UMC Prayer Team Coordinator

PROMOTION SUNDAY

August 22nd

**EVERYBODY
MOVES UP!**



PRE-K THRU HIGH SCHOOL

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Hello, and happy August!

I am a big fan of August, not so much of the month itself but what comes after it. The end of August signifies, we will soon return to normalcy, routine, and a realigning of our family's rhythm after Summer break. It's the month where bedtime routines are reestablished and dinners get back on track from the chaos of June and July (Is it only my house that is a mess in Summer?).

Family Ministry also starts to get back to a familiar rhythm. Backpack Blessing and Promotion Sunday signal the return to school and regular Thursday Night Fusion and Fresh Start are all ahead. This year, more than ever, these are comforting thoughts and the idea of planning, tradition, and routine seem so important. So, with that in mind, I thought I would let you know what we will be discussing with your children throughout the month of August.

Our Pre-K and Elementary group will be discussing Wisdom, using James 1:5 as a beginning point.

“IF ANY OF YOU NEEDS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD FOR IT. HE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU. GOD GIVES FREELY TO EVERYONE AND DOESN'T FIND FAULT.” JAMES 1:5, NIRV

We will be defining wisdom as “finding out what you should do, and doing it”

When Jesus was a boy, He grew in wisdom. God wants us to discover wisdom, too. When we make a wise choice, we reflect the character of Jesus to the people around us. That's why giving kids a strong foundation of wisdom is important. We want to equip them to face down whatever choices they may face in the future.

For our Middle School group, the basic rhythms may be the same but wow are things changing. For this group we are looking at a new series in August titled ***“Into the Unknown”***. This is a 4-week series about change and how to handle it. We will take the month to discuss how God is bigger and stronger than anything they face. He is steadfast in his love for us even when things are changing. We will use verse 13:8 from Hebrews to begin our discussion.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER. HEBREWS 13:8 NLT

Our High School group will be wrapping up their Summer Bible study from the book of Acts. Each week, this Summer, they have read a chapter or two from the Book of Acts and discussed it as a group. Their goal was to complete all 28 Chapters by the end of August. This group of teens really takes the discussion seriously and has thoroughly enjoyed their conversation time, so we may have to extend the readings into September. However, it has been well worth it to hear the hearts of our high schoolers and their willingness to disagree and discuss in such a respectful way. Parents, you have done a great job with this group!

Dates to remember:

August 5th - Summer Fusion from 6:30-8:00 PM

August 22nd - Backpack Blessing/Promotion Sunday at 10:00 AM service

August 22nd - RPYouth Back to School Bash from 6:30-8:00 PM

Heather Matarazzo
Director of Family Ministries

Many of us who grew up in the church have special memories about VBS. Our kids had an opportunity to make some similar memories at the end of June and we thought we would take a section of the newsletter to share some those moments with you.

The rain brought us inside for **Day 1**, but did not stop the fun. The anointing of David, human tic-tac-toe, and sugar cookies were on the agenda for the night.

Day 2 brought sunshine, some new friends, water balloons, and a giant as we took some time to talk about bravery and that we can do it with God's help. Goliath was no match for David when he trusted God.

Day 3 focused on the friendship and loyalty of Jonathon and David. The snack was a huge hit and the kids really did a great job on their craft projects.

Day 4 we spoke about making wise choices and how God can guide us in our decisions. Vegetable spears, ring toss and kindness bags were all used to remember The Golden Rule.

Day 5 saw David crowned king and Pastor John soaked with water balloons.

Thank you to everyone who served during the week. 36 different kids attended during the week, 24 adults showed up to volunteer plus several others who helped prep during the week. However, my favorite number is this one, 16 different teens served during the week, most every night. I had several teens in my office each morning and afternoon prepping for the day. Our teens understand the importance of modeling service to God for our younger kids. This in a large part to the fact they have grown up seeing so many of you serving in RPKids. So once again, thank you.

Get ready for VBS 2022!



Dear Church Family,

How many of us have experienced a death in our family and had friends, neighbors, and our church family provide a meal on the day of the service?

We have been unable to provide this ministry during the last year and a half. We now feel with the church opening up in full, we want to be able to offer this to our members.

We keep a list of names of persons willing to provide a covered dish at a last minute, and drop it off at the church, and those who may be able to help with the meal also. You may have already been a part of this ministry in the past, but if you would like to remain a part of this ministry, please call or text me (740-704-9509) or the Church Office (740-453-4192) and let us know you are still willing to help provide food and help serve.

Thank you to Carol Wilson who has been overseeing this for many years and I pray we can continue this ministry.

Vicki McConnell
Funeral Ministry



Landscape Team

Thank you to the Landscape Team and the Krouskoupf family. You have kept the RP grounds looking great this Summer. Great job!

Also, thank you to the Boy Scout Troop #132 for spreading the mulch in the flower beds for us this year.

We appreciate your hard work and dedication!

Tina Peyton

Building Maintenance Manager





Sunday, August 1st, 2021

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

126 Ontario Street, Zanesville, OH 43701

Come enjoy fun and fellowship as Bethel Community Center hosts our first annual Bethel Fun Fest!



With the support of our amazing community partners and individuals, we will put on this "block party" style event to bring the community together and have some fun!

- Basketball
- Bounce House
- Crafts
- Dodgeball
- Dunk Tank
- Face Painting
- Food Vendors
- Info Tables
- Live Music
- Obstacle Course

Amanda Hatfield, Executive Director | 740.252.6009 | ahatfield6738@gmail.com

Breann Adams, Youth Coordinator | 740.487.8526 | zbethelcommunitycenter@gmail.com

MATTHEW 28:19

THEREFORE, go and
make disciples
OF ALL NATIONS,
baptizing THEM
IN THE NAME OF
THE FATHER AND THE SON
and OF THE Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19 NIV

Our Mission...

Come as you are
Connect with each other
Grow in God's word and prayer
and Go in Jesus' name and serve others.

You might be aware that we still owe on our worship facility addition that was added in 2006. Thank you for your continued financial support in helping us to "Burn That Note" as soon as possible. From a \$1.6 Million build you have now paid it down to \$398,464.58. **Praise God!**

We look forward to the day we can free ourselves from this debt and be ready for God's next best investment for the future of Rolling Plains Church and our ministry to our community and world. If you are giving God's minimum in the Biblical tithe through His local church, perhaps God wants to keep stretching you. Please prayerfully consider a monthly contribution in giving to paying down our Capital Debt and join us in "Burning That Note".

RP BACKPACK BLESSING DAY 2021

AUGUST 22ND
AT THE 10:00 SERVICE

ONE OF OUR FAVORITE ROLLING PLAINS TRADITIONS!
KIDS, TEENS, COLLEGE STUDENTS, AND ADULT STUDENTS
BRING YOUR BACKPACKS TO CHURCH AND LET THE
CONGREGATION PRAY OVER YOU, YOUR BACKPACK
AND THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR AHEAD.



RPUMC Fair Stand

The 2021 Muskingum County Fair begins on August 15th and WE NEED YOUR HELP. We will be working **Monday, August 9th**, and **Tuesday, August 10th**, beginning at **5:00 PM** until we finish, to clean up our Fair Stand in preparation for the Fair. If we don't finish all that needs done, we will return on Wednesday, August 11th at the same time. Stay as long as you can, but we don't expect you to stay longer than you feel you are able. If you can, bring your own buckets, mops, and/or cleaning supplies. Our final prep date is **Saturday, August 14th at 9:00 AM**, when we will be filling condiments, covering tables, etc. to get ready to "open the doors". We appreciate any and all help!

In order to defray the operating costs of our Fair Stand, we are asking for donations toward some of the many expenses incurred each year. For example, we must purchase between 800 and 1000 ears of corn daily; we use approximately 175 to 225 pounds of ground chuck, and many dozens of buns throughout the week, as well as LOTS of butter for the corn. We will need coffee, tea, pop, fresh fruit, ketchup, salt, pepper, and the paper serving containers for the corn, sandwiches, desserts, and drinks. **We use at least 15 pies each day.** Also, for those of you who have gardens and would like to share, **we are in need of fresh tomatoes, green peppers, and cucumbers.**

Your donations will greatly increase the stand profits, which are being used to support worldwide mission and local ministries throughout the year. Please check the items below that you are willing to help with, and turn this sheet in with your offering. You may mark a pew envelope with the word FAIR and put your donation into the offering basket, also. Thank you so much! Plan to volunteer some time, as well, during Fair Week. It is a blast and you get to know other people in the Rolling Plains family.

Thank you all so much for your service to RPUMC! We are grateful for your help.

If you are volunteering during Fair Week, please take advantage of the Free Admission Promotions when you enter the fairgrounds for your shifts. We will have some of the items needed for admission here in the lobby of the church. Also, you can help others gain free entry to the fairgrounds by bringing in some of the items needed and placing them into the boxes provided in the lobby.

We will have free admission tickets at the church office during Fair Week if you need them, but we pay for each ticket purchased, and when you take advantage of the free days it helps us defray the costs, as well as increase our RP Corn Stand profits.

As a reminder, here is a list of Promotional Days:

Sunday, August 15th

Veterans' Day – Veterans admitted FREE all day*

Tuesday, August 17th

Zandex Health Care Senior Citizen's Day

All seniors 60 and over are admitted FREE until 5pm.

Wednesday, August 18th

Kroger Day – FREE admission with **two 14.5 or 15.5 oz. cans** Kroger brand corn, green beans, mixed vegetables, or peas, 7:00 AM until 1:00 PM*

Friday, August 20th

Pepsi Day – FREE admission with **1 empty 20 oz. plastic Pepsi product bottle**, 7:00AM until 1:00 PM*

* No hand stamp for re-entry when promotional items are used for admission.



Jesus has called us to 'reach the nations'. Through International Friendships, we have an opportunity to change lives, one or two students at a time, simply by being a friend....

About 35 International students will be arriving @ Muskingum University in August. Would you consider making a new friend, by “adopting” an International college student? Please contact Laurie Kelly if you have questions, or are interested in adopting an International Student. (740-819-0537 -or- ldkelly123@gmail.com)



**International
FRIENDSHIPS**



Our UMW met July 20th at our new time. We prayed, ate, laughed, talked, discussed, shared joys and concerns and rejoiced in the Lord. We will be meeting from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, the third Tuesday of each month in the Embers Room. We are so hoping that with this time change many more women will be able to come as this will be after work hours. Please join us, ladies. We'd love to have you join us and we'll share all we know about UMW. Then, hopefully, from our group , a new younger group can start and form a new United Methodist Women's Circle.

Have a great August!

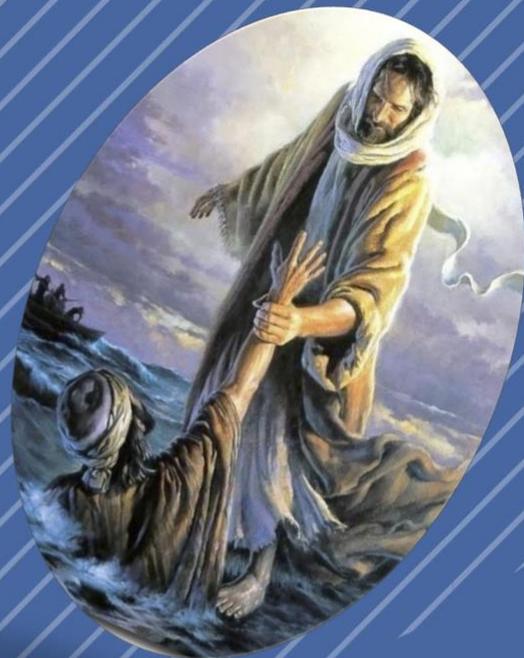
June M. Smith

President, RPUMW

Christian Recovery Ministry

WELCOME Road to Recovery

ROLLING PLAINS CHURCH
FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 P.M.



Everyone is welcome to participate in the “Road To Recovery” support group. We are an open recovery group led by the healing powers of Jesus Christ – based on the 12 biblical steps and the principles of 8 Beatitudes. Together, we will learn how to become spiritually free from our hurts, habits, and hangups.

Every Friday evening at 6:30 PM, we participate in Open Discussions, Testimonies, and Spiritual Training throughout the month. Coffee and light refreshments are available. The goal of this support group is to help each other with our hurts, hang-ups, habits, and other addictive behaviors that we all struggle with.

Road To Recovery is a spiritual support group that relies upon Jesus’ healing power through God’s Word.

Road to Recovery is led by Michelle Dobbins. Please contact her personally with any questions at 740-586-1440. Come and join us in supporting each other on the Road to Recovery! Rolling Plains Church, 3350 Moxahala Park Rd., Zanesville, OH 43701.

*Sponsored by: The Straker Foundation &
The Muskingum County Community Foundation*

*Are you ready to get back with other women for fellowship,
food, prayer, and life lessons?*

*We are planning a special Women's Event on
~ Saturday, October 23rd ~*

You won't want to miss this, so mark your calendars!

Women's Ministry Event Planning Team

YouVersion Bible App



Many of you are already familiar with the YouVersion Bible App for following sermon notes on Sunday morning. Did you know that the YouVersion Bible App also has Bible and Topical Studies that you can engage in alone or invite others to join you online? I encourage you to download the App and explore all of the faith formation options available to you at <https://www.bible.com/app>



rightnow MEDIA

RightNow Media is a wonderful, online tool for anyone who calls Rolling Plains Church their church home, especially in these “Stay at Home” times.

Visit <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/> and click on “Browse” to see the enormous library of content available for adults, children, and youth. These presentations come in the form of Bible Studies, Videos, Movies, and Leadership Events. Ask anyone who uses Right Now Media and they will tell you – it is a must-have in any home.

To register, text RIGHTNOW RPUMC to 41411. Once you are registered, you will be able to access many well-known authors and speakers for adults, including Andy Stanley, Francis Chan, Beth Moore, Dave Ramsey, Bill Hybels, and Max Lucado; popular kids’ shows, Bible stories, and sing-alongs for children of all ages; Bible studies, videos, and presentations concerning many obstacles that are facing our youth today.



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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2064460> to log in to Amazon Smiles, choose Rolling Plains United Methodist Church as the entity you would like to support, and then each time you shop, Rolling Plains will receive a portion of every purchase.

Rolling Plains Church
3350 Moxahala Park Rd
Zanesville, OH 43701
rollingplainsumc.com

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage PAID
Zanesville OH 43701
Permit No. 447

Return Service Requested

INZ NE

Adults Sign -up to Serve

9:30 PM-Midnight

following Maysville Home Football Games

Contact Heather Matarazzo for more information
heather@rollingplainsumc.com or 740-453-4192 ext 104

**In addition to weekly volunteers,
we are looking for someone to coordinate and set up Inzone.
Please let Heather know if you would like to learn more.**