

Rolling Plains Church
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Zanesville, OH 43701
rollingplainsumc.com

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I QUIT

Maranatha, Sisters & Brothers!

Many of us have uttered these words before. Some you may have been frustrated with your work place relationships or with your level of income and you wanted to just pack it in. Perhaps there have been moments in your marriage when you wondered if it was worth it and you wanted to quit. I know there are times as a parent that I just want to throw up my hands and say, “I give up!” Perhaps you have studied as hard as possible and still aren’t making the grade you want in school or you work hard for that sports team and just aren’t getting the playing time you hoped for and the thought of just quitting seems tempting. We have all had those feelings of wanting to quit.

May I suggest something for those moments? Perhaps in those circumstances we want to quit the wrong thing. So many of the above circumstances are great things. For example, it is important for us to have employment, get an education, have a great marriage, and raise Godly children. Just because we feel like throwing in the towel or raising the white flag on those things doesn’t mean that’s necessarily what God wants. However, there are things in our life that we often overlook when it comes to things we should quit. If we did quit these things, they would draw us closer to God and the amazing transformational life He has planned for us.

Quitting certain mindsets and waving the white flag—giving them up to God—would make our life exponentially more joyful and fruitful. We would experience a positive impact on our employment, education, sports experiences, parenting, marriages, and many other aspects of life. During the month of January we are going to look at four examples where God wants us to declare, “I quit!” In week 1 we are going to quit making excuses. So often God is calling us to do something or to dream big about His potential in our life and we ignore that call with a bunch of excuses. We let fear and worry come in that we might fail—we are not good enough or qualified enough. We don’t have enough time or money, or we simply aren’t ready for that leap of faith—trusting God in a new area of life. We make excuses that rob God’s potential in us to do amazing things. Let’s quit making excuses and dream God’s amazing dream to do big things in us and with us.

Week 2 we are going to quit complaining. It is so easy to have a negative outlook on the events of life. Today we live in a society that believes if we don’t like something, we should just feel free to let our opinion fly. Sadly, most of the time it doesn’t do us any good and it certainly doesn’t positively motivate others around us. We are going to learn to count our blessings, to speak positively into life, and quit complaining.

Week 3 we are going to quit living in fear. For so many people, there is a desperate struggle with fear, worry, and anxiety that paralyzes us from living the abundant life God has for us. We tend to think that our contribution in dealing with situations that are out of our control is to worry about them. However, worry has never made anything better. Let’s learn to do the things we can do and put our trust in God for the things we can’t do, as we quit living in fear.

Week 4 we are going to quit comparing. It is so easy in our society today with the rise in social media to look into others’ lives and compare ourselves to them. Sadly, comparing leads to envy, resentment, and being prideful. Ultimately, it is the death of contentment. So rather than looking on others with love in our hearts, we resent God’s blessing in them and ignore His blessing in us. We are going to learn that the only person we need to measure up to is Christ. When we measure up to Christ and know who we are, we will not have to wish we were someone else or living someone else’s life. We will quit comparing, and live in God’s amazing contentment.

As we step into the New Year with feelings about things we may want to quit, let’s make sure we are quitting those things that God wants us to give up. Let’s start 2017 with some new and transformational attitudes and behaviors that will change our lives and the lives around us by declaring, “I quit!”

Dreaming Big,
Pastor John

If you would prefer to receive your monthly newsletter electronically, please write “e-newsletter” on the back of your connection card, or send an email to: office@rollingplainsumc.com

JOIN US JANUARY 8TH
for our new sermon series...



I QUIT

Computers from RPUMC still at work in Guatemala

Three years ago, the Rolling Plains Church Advent Conspiracy gave our mission schools in Guatemala a generous gift to purchase computers, and that gift is still giving today. Hear what our son Ken learned in a long Skype interview with the teachers of the Juan Wesley School:

Club Extra leaves the school building. This past week the 2016 school year ended. The Club Extra team (the teachers) hosted a camp 40 minutes away, up the Pan American Hwy. The event there, on the curve of the Pan American Highway, was organized by the mayor.

Listening yesterday to the teachers recount the week's excitement, it was evident that it all was a success. They made comments like: "The kids were humble and eager to learn." "Forty-seven children attended, even though some missed several days helping in the year's end corn harvest." "The children came early." "Some had never touched a computer." "This provided a spark to love learning." This recharged the batteries of the teachers after the long school grind. It was a fitting end of the school year – they have until January for vacation.

Each day began with devotions. Then the split-up groups rotated through the sessions, working on Chromebooks to learn English, assembling robots and doing crafts. This was a big deal for all – a first look at robots and at computers as useful tools to learn English. The Chromebooks computers were accessing a program from a master router we brought. This device, with preloaded programs from the internet at our school, broadcasts the programs. There is no internet in that back country.

Next year the team wants to take this mobile program to 5 communities. That mountainous Front Range is full of rural homes, churches, and kids. Is this a way to help them?! The Juan Wesley School team dreams of "Techno Camping" to communities where they can deposit a router that can be refurbished every week at the mission school and left at a center. Think Wikipedia, Khan Academy, and other quality programs that can provide independent study. Best of all, the teachers are taking the lead in this program. If these satellite study centers reach 50 students each, it would only take 6 to double the outreach of the school at a remarkably low cost. We're excited.

Written by son, Loren Kenneth Anderson and father, Loren Edward Anderson in Denver with the stamp on the computer box 'initiated and made in RPUMC.' To look at pictures, visit <https://goo.gl/photos/uBvYr792bVCH3g1b8>.

Thank you so much for your generous support of the shoebox drive this year. We received a total of 843 boxes. These boxes will bring hope and joy to children all over the world.

Also, thanks to those who helped out during National Collection Week. We could not have done it without you.

May God bless you,
Gene & Linda Hartman

United Methodist Women

We have had a very good year selling our Rada knives and craft items. We were able to complete all our missions. Our Christmas Party on December 20th was wonderful. We had fun sending our shut-ins their Christmas gifts and had a good time of fellowship. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 21, 2017 in the Embers Room, 4 - 6 PM. Please join us. All women are welcome. Hope to see you!

Thank you all for supporting our United Methodist Women in 2016. Have a great New Year!

Cathy Speer, Secretary
United Methodist Women

Bethel Community Center *Forward in Faith for the Future*

We ended 2016 by celebrating the first ten years of the missional presence of Bethel in the Putnam neighborhood. Over those ten years, the baton of leadership was passed from the founding families of Bethel to Rolling Plains Church. We "took the keys" in 2012, during a season when we felt the call of God to "go beyond the walls" both locally and globally. Taking on this operational leadership was truly a leap of faith, because it required us to be present day after day, week after week, and month after month. This wasn't a one-week or so mission trip that came to an end, but demanded an ongoing commitment to carry forth the vision in a real hands-on way. I find it miraculous that over the last four years many people from Rolling Plains have come to serve so that we can open the doors for our neighbors. The relationships we have developed are an answer to many prayer walks that we made around the neighborhood.

As we begin the second decade in 2017, we are celebrating the expansion of other partnerships and relationship that will help us to be a stable and sustainable presence. While Rolling Plains is the "anchor" faith-based organization of Bethel, we know that we must reach out to others so that they too can experience the great work God has planned for Bethel.

Walk With us in Faith into the Future

Presently we offer after-school opportunities, family meals, and worship events, a community garden, a summer VBS, a summer activities program in the park, and training about the impact of poverty on educational achievement. We know God has brought us through some challenging times. We believe He is preparing us for another breakthrough season. We are asking, "What is next?" We are seeking the support and presence of people who want to help us develop healthy, transformative community relationships with our neighbors. Please pray about how you might join us in this walk of faith and service. If you want to know more about Bethel, please come visit. We are open 4:00-5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. If that time is not a good fit for you, please contact us so that we can arrange a time that fits your schedule. We follow the Zanesville City Schools school year calendar for the After School Program. When Zanesville Schools close due to inclement weather, we also close. We are located at 126 Ontario Street, which is across from the Putnam Skate Park.

Like us on Facebook. Phone: 740-297-4816. Website: zanesvillebethel.org

Kay Miller, Board Member

What to Do When You Lose a Loved One?

Those who are bereaved need not face death in isolation from other Christians. When a death of someone from Rolling Plains Church occurs, please notify the Church Office immediately by calling 740-453-4192. If the Church Office is closed, please contact Pat Wiseman-Jones at 740-819-2373 or 740-453-5849. Pastor John, Pastor Nancy, and Pat Wiseman-Jones are all willing to lead memorial services and/or funerals, and at least one of them will be available to do so.

Our Church is open and available to have a funeral or a memorial service. The Church will make every effort to accommodate funerals, memorials, and funeral meals, while still honoring prior commitments on the Church calendar. Additionally, Rolling Plains is blessed to have a large team of committed volunteers led by Carol Wilson who provide funeral meals as needed. Calling the Church Office promptly allows our Pastors and staff, as well as our dedicated volunteers, sufficient time to best serve you during a very difficult time.

There is no charge for using the facilities for funerals, memorials, or funeral meals for families of regular attenders and members. If you would like to support this ministry, please consider joining the team that provides the meals and contact Carol Wilson at 740-452-0604. If you feel led to financially give to this ministry, above and beyond your regular tithe, please write "funeral dinner" in the memo line of your check written to Rolling Plains Church.

If you have any questions about Congregational Care, what to do when a loved one passes, or joining the funeral meal team, please call the Church Office at 740-453-4192.



Calling all Ohio State Basketball Fans!

Greetings everyone! I hope all the holidays were spent well, with food, family, and fun! I know mine were. As the last year wraps up, I would like to give a brief thank you to everyone who helped the youth group in any way! Whether you are a leader, a chaperone, a guest speaker, an organizer, or just there to be around kids, I thank you so much for your time and effort. I appreciate it, and the kids do as well. We had a great year serving, learning, and building together in our walks with Christ. Our mission trip to Nashville was the best yet, and InZone had the most students attend since I began working here. So again, thank you.

As we move forward, there are a few key points I want to make you aware of. Firstly, our spot is reserved for the mission trip this Summer. From July 9-July 15th we will spend the week loving on the people and kids of the city of Detroit! More details will be coming soon, but we only have 24 spots available, so see me quickly to reserve yours!

Secondly, if you are new to RP or just unaware of our youth events, I want to make them known again. During the Sunday morning 9:45 and 11:00 AM services, we offer a class aimed specifically for youth. After the praise team finishes, simply head up the stairs to class. Then again on Sunday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, we meet for more discussion as well as some fun and worship. During the school year we also meet at Tim Hortons on Thursday mornings at 6:45 AM, before school.

Lastly, as good of a year as it has been, youth ministries everywhere are facing an uphill battle. Everything is battling for time in a student's life. Work, school, sports, social life, significant others, Netflix, Xbox, and whatever else you can imagine is important to a student. All of these things make it difficult for church youth groups to make it into the "essentials list." What I mean by that is the things students claim as the most important. However, we do this as adults, too. I say that to say this—it may be more important now than ever before to get as many students into the church as possible, to teach them Scripture, love, and respect, in a world where these things are not "essential". If you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, or uncle, or if you have any kind of influence on a student's life, I challenge you to challenge them to get involved, which means doing what you're saying and being involved yourself. There are so many students who seem as though they are doing great on the outside but actually are struggling and just need someone to talk to, so join a life group, volunteer in the youth or children's ministry, and make it a point that your faith is essential. You are being watched and everything you do and say is remembered. Come talk to me and I will gladly take your leadership and get you involved.

If you are a student reading this and haven't quite committed yet, what are you waiting for? There is no such thing as putting your toes in to test the waters when it comes to Jesus. You just have to dive in. Be vulnerable and willing to change. You never know who you will impact or what will impact you!

I am praying for you all and looking forward to another great year in the Journey with you.

Beau Dailey, RPUMC Youth Director

Our **Kroger Community Rewards** supporters (8 households) who shopped at Kroger between 7/31/2016 and 10/30/2016 have contributed a total of \$34.08, which will go to our Ministry Fund (which then goes to support ministries in our community). If you shop at Kroger, but are not taking advantage of their Community Rewards program, please consider linking your Kroger Plus Card with our fund by going online and registering your card. If you need help with this task, please feel free to contact the church office, and someone will help you.

On Saturday, March 4, 2017 the **Rolling Plains Journeymen** and the Coburn Cruisers are going to see the **Ohio State Buckeyes play the Indiana Hoosiers**. This is the last game of the season for Ohio State and tickets have already been purchased for our groups to be able to experience it "in person".

The game will start at 12:00 noon. We plan to leave Zanesville on a chartered bus early enough for us to have time to view the Schottenstein Center and have something to eat before the game. The cost will be \$71.00 per person, which will include your ticket, the cost of the bus tip, and a tip for the driver. The only additional cost to you will be for your food. If you are interested in going to the game, please e-mail me at nonnie43@columbus.rr.com or sign the back of your Connection Card, and I will be in touch with you.

Also, August 28, 2017 through September 9, 2017 we plan to take a trip to The Black Hills and Yellowstone National Park. The cost of this trip will be \$1,729.00, which will include hotels, bus transportation, tips, and many of the meals. A \$250.00 deposit will be required. We will soon have complete information about all of the stops we will be making and the sights we will see. We are also encouraging you to purchase travel insurance as well, and we will make that information available to you when you purchase your ticket. If you are interested in this trip, or would like more information, please write "Black Hills/Yellowstone" on the back of your Connection Card.

If you have any questions, please call Pat Wiseman-Jones @ 740-453-5849 or Diana McCloy @ 740-607-5824. Keep in mind that this is a day that the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad in it.

Blessings in this New Year,
Pat Wiseman-Jones

Birthdays

2 Heather Matarazzo
3 Ray Lavy, Chad Seastrand, Terry Singer
5 Ray Smith
6 Darla Bonifield
9 Jim Geyer, Sharon Graves
10 Tom Smith, Delbert Smith
12 Cathy Speer
13 Jesse Parrill, Teri Zachariah
14 Andrew Presley
16 Diane Burrier, Gene Hartman
17 Karrie Brewer, Roxanne Miller, Darcy Searl
Charlie Young
18 Heather Collins, Denny Neff
19 Alice Hunt, Shelba Kane, Susan Reese, Jennifer Ziel
20 Larry Stall
23 Jordy Anderson, Judy Barnhart, Marilee Spung
24 Lindsey Cornett, Mary Lambert, Trudy Reed
26 Cindy Scott
27 Kang Kim, Krystal Lent, Mary Kathryn Parrill
29 Sue Demp, Gloria Lacey, Larry Miller
30 Debbie Goins
31 Lara Bunting, Don Rice, Cheryl Rinne, Wendy Roll,
Elizabeth Rupe

Anniversaries

7 Jeff & Joyce Krouskoupf
15 Roger & Catherine Moore
18 Dan & Debbie Goins
23 Nick & Nicole Fink

If you have a birthday or anniversary that is not listed, please notify us by calling 740-453-4192 or by emailing us (office@rollingplainsumc.com) and we will update our database accordingly.

All children and youth under the age of 18 are automatically excluded from these lists, due to our Safe Sanctuary Policy, which has been put into place to protect our children.

Go Forth to Serve in Love

Haiti – January 14-21, 2017: Rolling Plains continues its partnership with the people of Haiti through the Servants in Fellowship (SIF) organization. SIF “is a small, non-profit organization, which is based in Ohio and serving in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.” SIF believes in “sharing Christ by serving others.” Their mission is two-fold – to work alongside the Haitian people and the short-term mission teams.

The 2017 Rolling Plains Mission team members are: Tim Swingle, Don Rice, Brenda Robinson, Nancy Barker, Emilee Casey, Mark Burrier, Pat Wiseman-Jones, Misty Andrews, Haley Andrews and David Smitherman. Please keep the Haiti Mission team in your prayers during the month of January. Missionaries need prayer prior to departure and when they return. Pray for health, safe travels, and their families that they leave behind.

Is God calling you to join this team traveling to Haiti? There is room for one more person. The trip cost is \$1,471.00, which includes airfare, lodging, food while in Haiti, and fees. Not covered are the cost of the passport (need to already have or expedite process), food in the airport, and transportation to Columbus Airport.

Mission in Motion:



The church has left the building! Mission in Motion is the people of Rolling Plains Church putting their faith in action! We believe in living out God’s commandment to “love our neighbor as ourselves” (Matthew 22:38). One of the ways we live out loving our neighbor is through reaching out to the people in our community who are in need. This monthly initiative focuses on practical ways we can leave the church building and serve our community. We focus on community outreach in areas such as food and housing insecurity, and by working alongside our area schools and homeless shelters. Each month we focus on a different need, with opportunities to involve our church, families, friends, and neighbors to be the hands and feet of Christ. We invite you to bring your unchurched friends to experience the amazing works God does through service.

January Mission in Motion Initiative – South Zanesville Food Pantry: The South Zanesville Food Pantry is located within the South Zanesville United Methodist Church, 53 East Main St., in South Zanesville. This food pantry serves between 450 and 600 local families per month. Many of the food items and necessity items are provided through the generosity of people within the community. Participants of the South Zanesville Food Pantry are usually able to get some meat, canned and boxed goods, bread, and on the first Friday of the month, fresh produce. Necessity items such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrush/paste, soap, and detergent (laundry and dish) are difficult items for economically insecure people to obtain. Much of what is available in the Food Pantry depends on generous donations. Sunday, January 15th will be our Mission in Motion Collection Sunday! Let’s fill South Zanesville Food Pantry with hygiene items or detergent! Please bring your items to Rolling Plains UMC! On Friday, January 6th, beginning at 9:30 AM, the food pantry will be giving away fresh produce. If you are available and interested in helping to distribute produce, please contact Joyce Krouskoupf at 740.819.3361.

Advent Conspiracy: I’m writing this article the week before we take the Advent Conspiracy collection on December 20th. I find that I am in my own advent period, a time of waiting and watching what God will do through you, God’s beloved daughters and sons. I find myself praying more for the children in Mexico who are living on the streets, hopeless of having a better life. How many children will come to live in House of Hope and enjoy a delicious meal, all because you gave up what you wanted this Christmas so that children in Mexico would have something they need – nutrition and an environment filled with love and positive adult influences.

I find myself praying for the people of the Philippines who are desperate for clean water. How many water filtration systems will be delivered to families because of your generosity? Through the provision of clean water, the health of families will increase while the rate of water-borne diseases is slowed.

I find myself praying and thanking God that we can never out-give the One who provides everything. In this advent of waiting and watching I know that you, the people of Rolling Plains, will rise up and answer the call of God: *Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’* (Matthew 25:40). It is my humble privilege to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ alongside you.

In The Journey with you,
Nancy Amos, Associate Pastor

Right Now Media

Right Now Media is a wonderful, online tool for anyone who calls Rolling Plains Church their home. If you are interested in checking out this exciting resource, just e-mail Missy Beckert at Missy@rollingplainsumc.com. Please include your e-mail address and she will send you an invitation to Right Now Media. You will be able to check out well-known authors and speakers like: Andy Stanley, Francis Chan, Beth Moore, Dave Ramsey, Bill Hybels and Max Lucado. These come in the form of Bible studies, kid’s videos and leadership events. Ask anyone who uses Right Now Media. It is a must-have in any home.

Inclement Weather Policy

As Winter has finally caught up to us here in Ohio, we’d like to remind everyone that Rolling Plains will continue to hold Sunday services as scheduled during inclement weather, unless Muskingum County is under a Level Three Snow Emergency.

We encourage you to take precaution and use your best judgment when deciding to venture out to church in bad weather. The Lord knows your will and your heart, but also your limitations.

United Methodist Men Update

Brothers in Christ, I hope this article finds you warm. The January men's group meeting will be on January 8 at 7:00 AM at Tina's diner in Avondale. We are going to discuss a quarterly evening dinner meeting at the Church and a future Saturday service project at Christ's Table. Bring your Promise Keepers book, because we will be starting that study. Remember, this month only we will be meeting at Tina's Diner on Sunday, Jan. 8th at 7:00. Hope to see you there.

Tim Collins, President
United Methodist Men

Enrich Your Marriage

A focus on one another
Give to each other the gift of time spent together to focus on your relationship

Friday
January 27, 2017
6:00 - 9:00 pm
Saturday
January 28, 2017
8:30 - 3:00 pm
Located @ Grace UMC
Reservations Due By:
January 20, 2017
Sponsored by
Putnam Presbyterian Church
Facilitator: Kathe King

Weekend Includes:
Dinner on Friday night, a guest speaker, lunch on Saturday. Whole group interaction & fun, and time for just the two of you.

Cost is \$75.00 per couple
(If cost is a problem please contact us, we have some scholarships available.)

No child care provided!

For More Information
call 740-816-8614 or email
Kathekingmentor@gmail.com