

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

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September, 2020



Maranatha Sisters & Brothers,

Every day you when turn on the TV, get on your social media internet feed, or talk to someone at the water cooler everything just seems to be so negative. The news that comes at us daily is so difficult and the changes, cancelations, shutdowns, mandates, and shortages just feel nonstop. It is so easy for this negativity to spread into our life and influence us. We can adopt a negative outlook on the future and believe the worst. In the midst of the negativity we can lose our confidence about who God has called us to be and how He has called us to live.

Everyone is battling something that many of us may not know about. Of course, in this season of pandemic and a fractured and divided nation, we have a pretty good idea of how challenging it is for everyone to live day to day. On the outside, it may look like a person has it all together, while on the inside they are battling a huge amount of discouragement. In these moments, negativity can steal our passion and rob our joy for the things of life God has called us to and purposed us for.

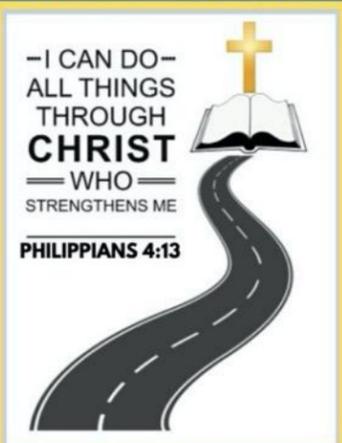
But in Christ there is Good News! In this bad-news world there is always the good news of Jesus Christ. God has not fallen off of His throne and He is alive and well. As a matter of fact, Christ is still risen from the dead and God's love and grace is still available for all people. No matter what we face on earth, God is working in you and all those around you for His amazing and powerful good. Even better, whatever doesn't pan out on earth, God has a reservation in heaven for all who believe. Praise be to God! All this is tremendously good news that gives us the power of positively living even though the world around us can feel so negative. That is why in our current sermon series we are talking about how we can remain positive despite all of the difficult news and negativity around us.

Because of Christ and all of the truths of the good news of the Gospel, we can remain eternally optimistic that God is at work and that He is always in the process of delivering on His promises. This can give us a Godly confidence to know that the Lord our God is always for us. We, therefor, live with the divine anticipation that God is going to show up big time in our life. Rather than living every day waiting for "the other shoe to drop" we can live passionately for the Lord. It's a positively living life that trusts in and believes that God (despite all of the problems of the world) is who He says He is. Friends, in the midst of the darkness of the world, let's live positively in the light of Jesus Christ.

As we welcome that light of Christ, let's positively live in the light towards others. This is the time for us to be so encouraging with our words with everyone we encounter because we are all feeling the battle. This is the time for us to show and share the grace, love, and hospitality of Jesus Christ. People are hungry for something, anything positive. They are hungry for the Good News. We can help others see the positive and the good news through living out our relationship with Jesus and allowing His love and grace to pour out of our life. When we are passionately, confidently, optimistically, and joyfully living out our days in a time where it's just hard for most people to live day to day, it will speak to people and encourage them to positively live

To receive our newsletter by email instead, simply send an email to newsletter@rollingplainsumc.com with "e-newsletter" and your first and last name in the subject line.

ROAD TO RECOVERY
SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP



—I CAN DO—
ALL THINGS
THROUGH
CHRIST
— WHO —
STRENGTHENS ME
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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 learn how to become spiritually free from our hurts, habits, and hangups.

The Group 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!

FRIDAY EVENINGS AT ROLLING PLAINS
6:30 P.M.
ROLLING PLAINS CHURCH, 3350 MOXAHALA PK. RD, ZANESVILLE, OH 43701
CHURCH OFFICE: 740-453-4192

for Jesus. I'm looking forward to sharing this powerfully encouraging and challenging message series with you. Let's *positively live* as we navigate the darkness of this world together in the light of Jesus Christ.

Come on God!

Pastor John

Breakthrough Prayer

There has been no better time to continue praying our Breakthrough Prayer (each day at 5:16 AM or 5:16 PM). In fact, this is the best time to get into God's promises in His Word.

*God,
Awaken the people of Rolling Plains Church to breakthrough into a new season of fruitfulness. Forgive us of our sins and fill us with a hunger for your Word. Give us the courage to step out of the darkness of fear and let your light shine. Show us the favor of your great light; so that your Glory would shine through us as a beacon of love and hope to a broken and hurting world.*

In Jesus' name, Amen!

***“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*”**



We continue to supply masks for children and adults as part of our Covid-19 Mission. These are given out by the church as needs are presented.

We have had a request from Bishop Palmer for prayer shawls. There is no deadline. Sizes, yardage, patterns, and prayers or poems can be found with a Google search for *prayer shawls* or *prayer shawl ministry*. This is a good time to use up any extra yarn you have. I'm opening this request up to all the ladies of our church. Please let me know if you have this talent and can make us some shawls to send to our conference officers for them to give out. You can call me at 740-454-7871 or 740-586-2813. Thanks so much.

I'll leave you with an excerpt from a prayer that was in our Response Magazine.

We know we are not alone! Open our eyes so that we can see your face in the midst of the challenges before us. In our human frailty, strengthen us by your Holy Spirit, that even through our brokenness, your light might shine bright. Amen

June M. Smith
President, UMW

(Prayer written by the California-Nevada and California-Pacific Conference UMW.)

The following was taken from NEWSNet, the e-newsletter of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church and was written by Rick Vance.

Disaster Fatigue



Like you, I hoped we would be further along in the recovery from COVID-19 by this time. This morning's report from the Centers for Disease Control, tells me that we are not.

This public-health disaster has deeply affected people around the world. For more than five months we have been trying to live in a reality that is characterized by constant change and uncertainty.

Research shows that early in a disaster cycle, people tend to pull together. There is a spirit of community and unity that draws people together.

Do you remember earlier this year, how people supported one another? People were getting to know their neighbors.

Eventually though, stress built up, optimism wavered, and discouragement and cynicism set in.

With this in mind, I believe it is time for us to look at the coping skills we are using to navigate this new reality. In an article published by UC Davis Health, writers discuss this current reality where people are saying; "... they don't care if they get COVID-19. They'd rather risk getting sick than stay home or be careful. Others have simply stopped listening to health leaders and science."

They suggest that we have the ability to help ourselves if we develop coping skills that include:

Exercise: Even a simple walk will help

Talking: Talk it out with a trusted friend

Constructive thinking: Be compassionate with yourself and others

Mindfulness and gratitude: Live in the moment and be thankful for the blessings God has given you.

We are living in unprecedented times. We are all susceptible to the stress that accompanies this type of disaster. It is important to remember that we must care for ourselves and care for those whom God has placed in our pathways.

Utilizing Wesleyan accountability groups such as the Class Meeting and being open to Christian conversations, we can begin to navigate the obstacles of COVID-19 fatigue.

Through it all remember John Wesley's words; "The best of it all is, God is with us."

If you need resources during this time, please let us know.

The Rev. Dr. Rick Vance, director of the Center for Men's Ministries
General Commission on UM Men
rvance@gcummm.org



Bethel Community Center – A Local Missional Outpost

126 Ontario Street

Community Connections - GOOD NEIGHBOR EVENT

We are excited to announce that our *Good Neighbor Event* will be held on **Saturday, October 3** from **9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**. **Zanesville Noon Rotary** and **Muskingum County Garden Society** will partner with us for this project. We will have teams involved with this beautification project in the targeted area, two blocks either side of Bethel, on Putnam Ave. and Moxahala Ave. This includes the side streets and will encompass around 35-45 properties. We are also inviting Boy Scouts and 4H Clubs to participate.

The project has three parts:

- General trash and recycling – we will have two dumpsters in the area
- Small hands-on repair projects, and tree planting.
- A block party with food and entertainment from 12:00-2:00 PM.

A letter to the neighborhood will seek input and ideas for the day and will invite them to join with us in this community pride event.

Our mission statement says:

We exist to improve the quality of life in the Putnam community by developing collaborative relationships with our neighbors to address identified needs and interests.

This project puts our “words” into action. If you would like to join us for the day, please contact us at zbethelcommunitycenter@gmail.com or 740-297-4795.

Project Team for this event includes: Heather Dolan and Kyle Witucky of Noon Rotary and Angela Morosko and Kay Miller, Bethel Board Members.



Project work for beautification project 1



We plan to open our doors to serve children and teens this school year, but we know the program will look different than in the past, due to COVID-19. We are working on plans that will include adherence to the PPEs for social distancing and safe sanctuary. We are in a planning stage with Zanesville/Muskingum Literacy Council to be a host site for Zanesville City School’s online classes, using Chrome Books.

[A Night With New Room,](#)

As you would expect, due to the ever-changing restrictions and limitations of COVID-19 and with the safety of everyone in mind, we’ve made the difficult decision to transition the New Room Conference 2020 to an alternate format for this year.

In the midst of the chaos and uncertainty, God is still making a way for us to come together. Never before in our lifetimes have we experienced such a protracted period of crisis. And never before have we experienced such a profound opportunity for awakening. This is the reason for [A Night with New Room.](#)

Would you give us the gift of **two hours of your time on Friday evening, September 25 from 6–8 pm CT [7-9 pm ET]?**

This year, we will come to you—wherever you are—via streaming video. Along with our team, we will bring awakening songs from Mark Swayze and Brenna Bullock; a timely keynote from Jim Cymbala of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City; and an interview-style conversation between Miriam Swaffield and Lo Alaman with an offering of spoken word verse from *We Sang a Dirge*, Lo’s forthcoming Seedbed book. The evening will close with a concert of prayer uniting thousands of hearts together across thousands of miles of apartness to sow for a great awakening.

Through crisis, we believe the Lord is opening a door for us that cannot be closed—a doorway into a sustained season of awakening. We must walk through it together.

Will you plan to join us for a night that promises to inspire without entertaining, to provoke without angering, and to call forth without apology?

There is no charge, but be warned, it could lead to costly obedience. It could well be a Friday night for the history books. More information will follow, but [register today](#) to claim your spot! To register, visit <https://my.seedbed.com/product/night-with-new-room-2020>



Love Life Girls' Night In with Joyce
Friday, Sep 11, 2020 7:00 PM CDT

Grab your girlfriends & let’s have a girls’ night in! Get some snacks, put on your comfy clothes, & cute fuzzy slippers. Join us from your own cozy couch for our first ever Love Life Girls’ Night In! To register go to:
<https://joycemeyer.brushfire.com/livestream/468061>

We are having a virtual Block Party all month long at RPKids.

It's a real celebration when everyone's invited to the party! With God's help, we can show friendship by using our words and actions to show others we care.

Our kids will have the opportunity to take part in a service opportunity each week of September that will help them focus on those we sometimes forget were invited to the same party, by the very same God who invited them.

OVERVIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FRIENDSHIP AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY. Jesus showed us the greatest example of love when He laid down His life for His friends. With His words and actions, He showed friendship to everyone He met. We can reflect Jesus' love best when we treat one another with friendship.



MEMORY VERSE:

A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES. THEY ARE THERE TO HELP WHEN TROUBLE COMES. PROVERBS 17:17 NIRV

VIRTUE:

FRIENDSHIP – USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE

Check out RPKids throughout the month for more details

For our RPYouth we have the very timely topic of Comparison



Just as they are headed back to school (whatever form that will take) we are diving into the Bible and looking at how God wants us to see ourselves and others.

Here is a quick overview of our series "This or That", a three-week series on comparison.

WEEK 1: God doesn't compare you to others.

WEEK 2: When we stop comparing, we can better celebrate others and ourselves.

WEEK 3: God wants us to see ourselves the way He does.

RELATIONSHIP: God, Self

RESPONSE: Healthy relationships, wise choices

CORE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT: Transformation, Restoration, Compassion, Identity, Truth.

We look forward to continuing to connect with your students. Please feel free to reach out if we can help in any way

Blessings,
Heather Matarazzo, Director of Family Ministries



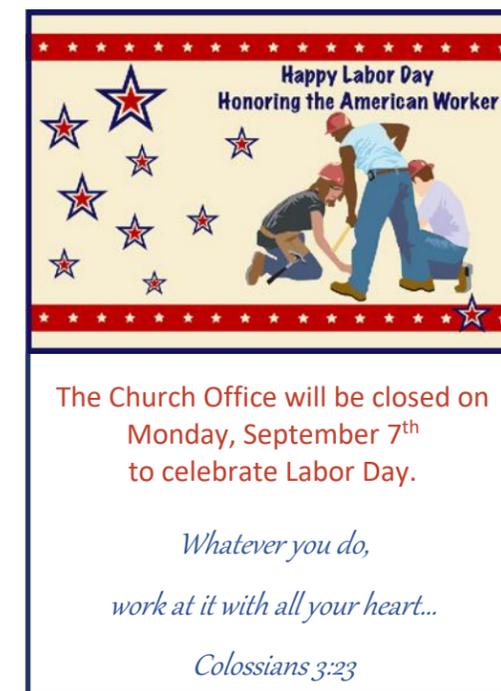
SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Paula Slack
- 2 Kyra Hina, Tim Trout
- 3 Tawna Alice, Robert Allard, Alethea Botts, Sharma Brown, Dan Goins, Ricky Moorehead, Joanne Murphy
- 4 Kim Balsley, Pat Kelly, Doug McConnell
- 7 Kevin Valentine
- 8 Jenna Cannon, John Kirkbride, Jim Reed, Madison Wilson
- 9 Anthony Jenkins
- 11 David McConnell
- 12 Charles Quinn, Nancy Smith
- 13 Kaiden Hartman, Rod McDaniel, Roger Smith, Matt Stokes
- 14 Imelda Scurlock
- 15 Nancy Barker, Linda Huggins, Jim Morehouse
- 16 Mark Burrier, Amy Frame, Jackie Heiney, Laura Kelso
- 17 John Alice
- 18 Micki Curry, Jeff Hunt
- 19 Jason Bunting, Phil Kinner
- 20 Nora Holtsclaw
- 21 Anita Allard, Joey Kennedy, Sandy Thompson
- 22 Laurie Kelly
- 23 Samantha Adams, Cody Adams, Tina Peyton, Tracey Presley
- 24 Kris Kemp
- 25 Paige Morrow
- 26 Colleen Cannon
- 27 Tonda Adams, Kathy Lavy, Robert Martin
- 28 Mike Dale, Lisa Delong
- 29 Joyce Dixon, Dixie Murphy
- 30 Kasey Kelly, Keely Kirkbride, June Smith

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mike & Janie Moore
- 7 Chris & Kim Balsley, Dakota & Rachel Matz
- 8 Craig & Vickie Kokensparger, Jason & Marian Valentine
- 9 Doug & Beth McConnell
- 11 David & Becca McConnell
- 12 Dick & Karen Newlon
- 13 Nathan & Ciera Raines
- 18 Bruce & Vicki McConnell
- 19 Jeff & Alice Hunt



ATTENTION Kroger COMMUNITY REWARDS SUPPORTERS

Your dollars spent shopping at Kroger from May 1 through July 31 benefited RP in the amount of \$27.60, with 27 households participating. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

If you are not already enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards program and would like to participate, you can do so by visiting <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. A percentage of every dollar you spend will then be donated back to RP.



A Churchwide Call to reclaim our Wesleyan Heritage of Small Group Gatherings.

Greetings Beloved, it's Pastor Alethea, and like many of you, I hoped we would be further along in the recovery from COVID-19 by this time. Yet, all the recent news and ever-changing scientific and medical information tells us that we are not.

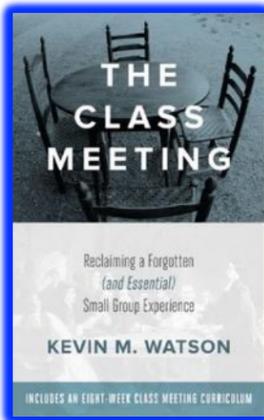
Growing Weary? *"This public-health disaster has deeply affected people around the world. For more than five months we have been trying to live in a reality that is characterized by constant change and uncertainty." Research shows that early in a disaster cycle, people tend to pull together. There is a spirit of community and unity that draws people together. As time continues, people begin to grow weary. "We are all susceptible to the stress that accompanies this type of disaster. It is important to remember that we must care for ourselves and care for those whom God has placed in our pathways."*

Friends, may I ask? "How Is It With Your Sour?" This was a question that John Wesley asked the early Methodists on a regular basis. In fact, one of the hallmarks of the early Methodist Movement was the weekly gathering of small groups for the "SOUL PURPOSE" of openly sharing, in deep and transparent ways, what was going on in their daily lives. Now this wasn't a grumble session, but a *Faith Building, Soul Yielding, God-Praising, Prayerful time* of talking about how the **Word of God** and the **Activity of the Holy Spirit** was shaping and molding their faith, based upon their lived experiences!

These weekly, small group settings were called "Class Meetings", and members of the Methodist Movement treasured these opportunities to lovingly engage one another in **conversations about the state of their souls**.

We are living in unprecedented times...

We need each other more than ever before...



Beginning September 9th, we will embark upon a Church-wide Study of the small group experience. With the growing limitations on large group gatherings, small group gatherings (8-10 persons) can help to meet our deepest needs for community and fellowship. Over an eight-week period, online weekly lessons will be offered on:

- **WHY** small groups are essential to 'soul care' and faith formation
- **WHAT** a small group experience is (and isn't)
- **HOW** anyone with a desire to grow in their faith can facilitate a small group

Our online study will be drawn heavily from United Methodist Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson's book entitled:

The Class Meeting; Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience. While this book is whole-heartedly recommended, it is **not required** for participation in this online study. *However, those sensing God's nudging towards greater engagement and accountability through leading a small group, may indeed want to purchase this book!* After completing this study, our pastoral prayer is that **we the people of Rolling Plains** United Methodist Church will be **equipped** with a shared language **to talk** about the work of **the Holy Spirit** in our lives and **have a structure** for holding these kinds of **small group meetings and conversations** together.

¹ Rev. Dr. Rick Vance, director of the Center for Men's Ministries General Commission on UM Men. NewsNET: August 11, 2020 - Vol 13, Issue 88

¹ Rev. Dr. Kevin M. Watson is a The Assistant Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and an ordained elder in the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Road to Recovery

Hope Rocks

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated in painting HOPE ROCKS with Road to Recovery. What a fun way to be a blessing!

NOW it's time to share these messages of HOPE throughout the Zanesville area as the Lord leads. Everyone is invited to take a painted rock to someone who could use a little encouragement. Nursing Home Residents, Recovery Houses, Sick and Shut-ins. Give HOPE by sharing one of the painted rocks with a Message of HOPE. See Michelle Dobbins to participate, and See Michelle Dobbins to participate, and thanks for making this a wonderful outreach for our community!

*So be strong and courageous,
all you who put your hope in the LORD!
Psalm 31:24*



Brought to you by RightNow Media

Looking for a date night idea? Want to grow in your marriage? Join us for Marriage Night on Saturday, September 12th.

During this one-night event, hear from Matt and Lauren Chandler, Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, and Conway and Jada Edwards to discover how to honor God in your relationship - plus, comedy from Michael Jr.

Join us for this year's all-digital event with one of our host sites around the country.

Join thousands of couples across the country for **Marriage Night 2020.**

If you have not signed up for your FREE access to all that Right Now Media has to offer, just text keyword: RIGHTNOW RPUMC to 41411 and you will instantly get registered to our RightNow Media account. Rolling Plains Church pays for the subscription so it is free to all who call Rolling Plains their home.



Conference COVID-19 Re-entry Kit Challenge

"I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation." – John Wesley, Journal, June 11, 1739

Due to increased exposure to the COVID-19 virus, our neighbors returning from prisons and jails are at a higher risk of spreading the coronavirus back into the community. In May 2020, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) asked The West Ohio Conference for assistance in providing hygiene items and face masks to our returning neighbors.

All In Community, the WOC Disaster Response Ministry, and the West Ohio Conference United Methodist Women worked together with churches across the Conference to provide nearly 2,400 health kits with masks, plus an additional 2,500 face masks. Although the original COVID-19 Reentry Kit Challenge is finished, local jails and reentry coalitions are still in need of reentry kits and masks.

Missional Opportunity for our congregation

Join "All In Community", together with our Pastors, our Rolling Plains Missional Initiatives Team, our United Methodist Women, and our Road to Recovery Support Group, to help fill this crucial need in reducing the spread of Covid-19 in our community. We're inviting every member of our congregation to get involved and to help out.



Our Conference needs more COVID-19 Reentry Kits

Individuals and groups can assemble according to the Conference Checklist

- Please contact Michelle Dobbins (740-586-1440) if you want to be part of a Friday evening "kit assembly" group. Safe Social Distancing Tables will be made available for group assembly.
- If you have a small group, life group, or craft group that would like to assemble kits, please see group assembly instructions. Write your group name and number of kits when delivering kits to the church.
- Individuals may also assemble kits. Anyone that can acquire the checklist items can assemble kits, drop them off in the church lobby during office hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) or during times of Worship on Sunday mornings (8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.) Please include your name with your kit!
- Can't make a Kit but can make a Financial Gift? Financial Contributions are greatly appreciated and may be mailed directly to the West Ohio Conference, c/o Mariellyn Grace, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085. Please write 'Reentry Kits' in the memo line.

West Ohio Conference COVID-19 Re-entry Kit Checklist

One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels

One washcloth
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels

Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
Do not remove from packaging

Two, 2-in-1 shampoo & conditioner (travel size)
Original scents only. No strongly perfumed products
Do not remove seals

Optional One gender-neutral washable facemask. Also, Optional One one-gallon size re-sealable bag

One adult toothbrush & toothpaste
Do not remove from packaging

10 adhesive bandages (3/4 by 3 inches)
Common household bandages acceptable

One note of hope
Sign first name only
Do NOT include any contact information

One hand sanitizer (travel size preferred)

ALL IN COMMUNITY COVID-19 REENTRY KIT PACKING SLIP

Group Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact person: _____ Tel #: _____

Email: _____ District: _____

Please indicate the number of items delivered: _____ Hygiene Kits _____ Masks

Place packing slip inside of boxes/bags and on top of items to be delivered.

Thank you for being the church during the COVID-19 pandemic!

COVID-19 Re-entry Kit Assembly Instructions

- Lay hand towel flat on a table.
- Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel.
- Place all remaining items except plastic bag, mask, and note on top of the washcloth.
- Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items.
- Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel.
- Write a brief note of encouragement and welcome to include in the kit.
- Place the tightly rolled bundle, note, and facemask [if available] in the plastic bag,

God came to Earth in the form of a person--Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus grew up not only to become the greatest teacher and miracle worker the world had ever seen, but to die a unique death. In His death Jesus was not a victim of evil men. Jesus willingly gave up His life and died on the cross so that He could pay the penalty for our sins. His death was His choice and His story doesn't end with His death. Jesus rose from the dead after three days and thereby demonstrated that He was God. To accept the free gift of salvation, all you have to do is ask Jesus into your Life.

Just pray something like this:

*Lord god, I realize that I am a sinner. Even though I may not understand it all, I trust that Your Son, Jesus Christ paid for my sins at the cross, overcame death by rising again and is alive with You. I accept Your free gift of Salvation. I invite You to come into my life and show me the way to go from here. In Jesus' name I pray.
Amen*

If you prayed this prayer, please talk with Pastor John or Pastor Alethea. They would love to help and encourage you (740-453-4192).



Americans are called on to observe Patriot Day each September 11th with a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 AM Eastern Daylight Time. **Patriot Day is observed** in the United States to commemorate the lives of those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, and the Pentagon in Virginia, and those who perished when the hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania.



Thank you for participating in the Rural King Church Week. Your receipts have been verified & Rural King is donating 10% to Rolling Plains UMC!

Total Donated (8/2 - 8/15)

Receipts Submitted: **22**

Estimated Donation: **\$272 71**