Maranatha Sisters & Brothers,

Have you ever ached for an issue that you’ve seen on the news? Has there been an injustice you have witnessed and thought somebody ought to do something about that? Has something stirred in your spirit that maybe you’re the one who is supposed to do something about it? I’m going to assume that so many of us have a burden—an aching in our hearts—that God has planted in us for us to do something on his behalf. If we are faithful to it, we can make a difference in this world far beyond anything we think we could do. The problem for most of us, as to why we don’t step out and do God’s good work, is that we think we are just ordinary, everyday people. We think, “How could I even begin to make that kind of a difference?” Friends, if you are an ordinary, everyday person, you are exactly the kind of person God wants to use for His good work. God is reaching out to YOU. He is saying, “Son/daughter, we have work to do.” It is God’s good work!

Nehemiah was just an ordinary, everyday person. In fact he was a butler in the service industry. However, Nehemiah, as an ordinary everyday person, had a Holy discontent and God-sized passion in his heart for his people that were struggling back in his hometown of Jerusalem. God uses this ordinary man—a cupbearer to the king to return to Jerusalem and help rebuild the city. The Bible says they began the work to rebuild the wall and it was “good work.” Friends, it was God work! God wants to use you in the same way. If he can use Nehemiah, he can use any of us.

Beginning on September 8th, we will begin a 4-week sermon series called, “We have work to do.” In this series, we will be walking through the book of Nehemiah to gain the wisdom, passion, and power we need to do the work that God is calling us to do. Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king – King Nebuchadnezzar. As cupbearer to the king, it was Nehemiah’s sole job to taste the wine and food before the king drank or ate it. You can imagine, as a king there would be quite a few people out to get you for a variety of reasons. Now, I would be demanding a pretty significant benefits package for my family, because if it goes wrong just one time, it is going to be a pretty bad day. Nehemiah wasn’t a pastor, a priest, royalty, or a dignitary. He was an ordinary, everyday guy.

While serving the king, Nehemiah receives the news that his people have returned to Jerusalem to find the city in ruins and there is all kinds of pain, suffering, and brokenness. There is no economy, no jobs, no infrastructure, and no hope. This news breaks Nehemiah’s heart and actually causes him to pray, fast, weep, and cry out to the God of Heaven for four months. Nehemiah had a choice. He could have just brushed off the painful news of his people and said “Well, I’ll pray for you” or he could let this news into his heart, and it would burden him so greatly that it would grow into a Holy discontent—a burning passion from God. He chose the latter, and in doing so, it launched him into realizing that God had work for him to do. He got personally involved. In this sermon series, we will see how he did it as an ordinary, everyday guy. You will also see the struggles he encountered along the way. Finally, you will see the celebration of what happens when ordinary, everyday people allow God to show up to do amazing things in them.
What burdens you? When was the last time you wept for an injustice or allowed your heart to break for a need? The burden we carry could be God’s assignment of work for us to do. This is not someone else’s assignment, but yours. Is it possible that we could be on the front end of something and not even realize how amazing it could be; or how much impact we could make, if we let God use us? I know, without a doubt, that God is capable of doing in us far more than we could ever possibly ask or imagine. What say you? God says we have work to do. Are you ready for an adventure of a lifetime—being used by God in a significant way to make a lasting impact in this world? Nehemiah said, “Yes” to this question. How about you? I so look forward to diving into the Word of God with you, in order to help you answer this question and equip you with the tools necessary for the journey. Friends, we have work to do!

Come on God!

Pastor John

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The S. Zanesville Food Pantry is in desperate need of cereal, mac-n-cheese, & peanut butter. You may bring these items with you Sunday, or any time during the week. Just place them in the grocery cart in the coat closet (to the left, just inside the entrance doors). We will make sure they get to the Food Pantry.

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As summer is now nearly gone and our barbecues, pool parties, and vacations are quickly becoming memories, let’s not let the sacrifice Jesus made for us become a fading memory also. One thing that may not be in our thoughts, but always should be, is the price that Jesus paid for us. Let us take just a moment to reflect upon the amazing sacrifice Jesus made for our sins. In Matthew 20:28 Jesus said, “He came to give his life as a ransom for many.” Jesus didn’t die for His sins, He died for our sins. Remember, Jesus wasn’t capable of sin! He placed Himself on the cross, for something He wasn’t even capable of doing, and paid the ultimate price, the ultimate sacrifice for us! Ephesians 5:2 says, “and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”. So as the temperatures begin to cool, and the flowers begin to fade, let us take just a moment to thank our Heavenly Father for His amazing gift, and never let the price that Jesus paid for us become just another memory.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that who so ever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. Amen.

Do you feel like you need to bring your troubles to the alter, your concerns to the foot of the cross, or just to have a heartfelt discussion with our Father? Every Monday, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, you can Bring it to the Throne, a moment of prayer, of reflection, and quality time with our Father.

Our prayer team would love to have you join us, as we lift the requests and concerns of our congregation and our pastors up to our Heavenly Father every month. If you would like to join us in prayer, please contact a member of the prayer team.

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This trip is NOT limited to those 65 and up

October 7 – 17, 2019 | TEXAS – YE-HA!
(11 Days, 10 Nights - Including Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston)

The Journeymers are planning another Great Trip!
We would like YOU to join us!

PACKAGE INCLUDES: Motor coach transportation to/from Texas, lodging & breakfast, 5 dinners, stops/tours including the G.W. Bush Presidential Library, JFK assassinations site and Memorial, and highlights of Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas (to name a few).

PRICES: $1356 per person, triple occupancy; $1476 per person, double occupancy; and $2045 per person, single occupancy.

For tickets and/or more information, contact Pat Wiseman-Jones at 740/453-5849

Seating is limited, so don’t hesitate!
In 2005 Rolling Plains embarked on a $1.6 million building project that is now our current sanctuary, the Embers Room, the Lobby, the Kitchen, and several other multipurpose rooms. Thank you for your continued contribution towards our ability to someday “Burn that Note” on our capital debt. We are getting closer each and every week, and your giving above and beyond your normal tithe is making a difference. We currently have $480,149.26 left to pay down in order to reach our goal. Please pray for God’s great provision for our church and about how God can use you to get this number to zero.

Come on God!

Should you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact our Operations Manager, Kevin Franklin; our Finance Chair, Chad Lawson; or Pastor John Alice.

Your Finance Team

Greetings brothers in Christ,

Our first order of business is the September Men’s Retreat. The retreat (Sept. 13, 14, & 15) is fast approaching, and we have established September 3rd as the deadline for registration. Please pick up a registration form at the Welcome Center counter and return it with your $75.00 to the church office as soon as possible (See Brother Dick Newton's Retreat article for more specific details).

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, Sept. 1st at 7:00 AM in the Embers Room. Our next day of serving lunch at Christ's Table will be on Saturday, October 5th. We should arrive there around 10:00 AM to prepare sandwiches and soup, which we will serve from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. After lunch we will clean up and should be done by no later than 1:15 PM. Many hands make tasks go faster. Hope to see you there!

Remember, the DEADLINE to register for the Retreat is September 3rd, so pick up and return your registration form. Every man needs a weekend of relaxation and spiritual renewal.

In His service, Tim Collins
The children and youth who participated in the Summer Youth Program earned points when they attended and completed expected tasks and activities. Here are the kids who earned enough points to go on a field trip to The Works in Newark, with a stop on the way home at Welden’s Ice Cream Parlor at Buckeye Lake. We are so proud of the progress we saw in the growth of new skills and positive behavior. It was a joy for the leaders and volunteers to join this great group of kids on this trip. We look forward to seeing who will join us for our Fall After School Program. Kelly Stewart, our new program coordinator, is currently developing the program to serve kids who are ages 5 to 11.

Among the many different craft activities and cooking experiences, here are two examples from the Summer Youth Program. When provided opportunities and materials, it was amazing to see how creative the kids were and how they grew in their confidence to be able to prepare healthy snacks.  
Kay Miller, Bethel Board Member

Men’s Retreat

Do you enjoy great friends, great fellowship, great food, walking in the woods or the peace of a camp setting away from the rush of the world, and most importantly a chance to grow in your faith as we consider our Christian journey?

Foothills District and Rolling Plains U.M. Men are organizing a retreat that will begin at 6:00 PM, on Friday, September 13th and will end around 10:00 AM on Sunday morning, September 15th. You are welcome to come and go as your schedule allows, but we would hope you could spend the weekend. The retreat will be held at Camp Otterbein, which is located near Logan, Ohio. Our retreat will be led by Rev. Dennis Miller. Dennis is the Superintendent in our Foothills District. He will be teaching and we will be discussing the book of Philippians. We will spend time in class, but there is a lot of time built in to hike, fish, or just find a quiet place to meditate. There will be evening campfires, with songs led by Josh Rivera. The cost for the two-night stay including meals, luxurious bunk beds, and hot showers is $75. Our prayer is that you will not let the cost stand in your way, as we have scholarships available. Complete a registration form, available at the Welcome Center or on the Rolling Plains Church website, return with your payment no later than September 3rd, bring a 2-liter bottle of your favorite soft drink and snack food to share with the group, and we will see you in September. You do not have to be a member of United Methodist Men, Rolling Plains Church, or any church to attend. We just pray you will come with a desire to deepen your faith, as you enjoy a weekend with like-minded men.

Please use the link below when shopping at Amazon and share with all your friends & family. A portion of every purchase comes back to the church.

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2064460
Please plan to join us at our Annual Baptism and Picnic. Those who have completed the Baptism Class will be baptized on Sunday, September 8th at 4:00 PM. Following the service, we will enjoy our annual Family Picnic in the Main Shelter House. Food, drinks, and place settings will be provided. Please bring a non-refrigerated dessert to share. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for a great time of food and fellowship!
Mission in Motion

Greetings Friends, it’s Pastor Athel! We’re GROWING and GOING! Rolling Plains is Making a Difference here in our Church, within our Local Community, and even throughout the World!

THANK YOU for SERVING! YOU’RE AMAZING!
Our Servant Volunteers serve in more than 50 Local and Global Missions and Ministries. These activities are also Discipleship Pathways that help us to GROW and to GO out to the Hands and Feet of Jesus! We’re a Mission! Where is God calling you to Grow and Go through Serving others?

TEXT “Serve” to 740-297-6407
or visit our website at www.rollingplainsumc.com and click on the SERVE image.

AMAZING Servant Volunteers make MINISTRY Possible

Where is God Calling You to SERVE?

Church Office Support
☐ Pastoral Administrative Assistance
☐ Answering & Responding to Telephone Calls
☐ Bulletin and Newsletter Preparation
☐ Office Organization
☐ Interior and Exterior Building Maintenance

Sunday Morning Worship and Hospitality
☐ Sound, Media, Streaming, and Visual Design
☐ Communion Stewards
☐ Worship Team and Choirs
☐ Prayer Ministry
☐ Greeters and Ushers
☐ He-Brews Café
☐ Discover Rolling Plains Membership (Hospitality)

Congregational Care
☐ Small Group Leaders
☐ Prayer Team
☐ Connection Card Follow-up
☐ Home and Hospital Visitation, Letter Writing
☐ Discipleship Pathways Book & Bible Study Leaders

Family Ministry Support
☐ Nursery Workers
☐ Pre-K and Children’s Class Facilitators
☐ Fusion for Pre-K to 5th Grade (Thursdays 6pm)
☐ Women’s & Men’s Ministry
☐ Life Group Leaders/Facilitators

Spiritual Support in Groups
☐ Monday Night Prayer 6:30-7:00pm
☐ Fresh Start for Youth Tim Horton’s (Thursdays 6:30pm)
☐ Youth Advisory Council
☐ GriefShare weekly meetings
☐ Road to Recovery for Husbands, Habits, and Hang-ups

ROLLING PLAINS – Come, Connect, Grow, and GO!
Missions In Motion In Zanesville and Beyond!

Local Mission and Outreach
☐ Bethel Community Center
☐ South Zanesville Food Pantry
☐ Weekends Meals to Local Homeless Shelter
☐ Needle Crafters for Christ
☐ United Methodist Women
☐ United Methodist Men

Community Partnerships
☐ Habitat for Humanity Home Building
☐ Walk with a Pastor (Colonky Square Mall)
☐ Christ’s Table
☐ Boy Scouts
☐ Salvation Army Meals and Christmas Bell Ringers
☐ Muskingum County Fair – Corn Stand Fund Raise (Aug)
☐ Putnam: Jam Fest (Aug)
☐ Forever Dad’s “All Pro Dad’s Breakfast” (Sept – Apr)
☐ In-Zone for Youth (Alien Maysville Home Games)

Global Mission Leadership & Participation
☐ TTH – They’re Home Ministry to Troops
☐ Missionary Support to Spain
☐ Operation Christmas Child
☐ Advent Conspiracy Project Team (Nov-Dec)
☐ Annual Mission Trips to:
☐ Haiti (Jan)
☐ UMCOR Sawyer Brown Depot (Feb)
☐ Mexico (Apr)
☐ Vietnam (May)
☐ RP Lake Isabella Baptisms (Sept)
☐ Guatemala (Nov)
☐ Liberia (Dec)

TEXT “Serve” to 740-297-6407

Discipleship Pathways
On your Journey to Come, Connect, Grow and Go in your Relationship with Christ Jesus

GriefShare is a 13-week program led by Pastor Dick Nawlon that begins Wednesday, September 4th at 6:00 PM in the Embers Room. This program is designed to help people through the grieving process left by the passing of a loved one. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life’s most difficult experiences. You don’t have to go through the grieving process alone. A Workbook is available for a small donation and will help you stay connected so you can work through the grief process in a positive way. If you miss a week, the program material will be repeated later. Questions? Call the Church Office at 740-453-4192.

Are you ready to take control of your money? Financial Peace University (FPU) is a nine-lesson course designed to help you build a budget, dump debt, grow your wealth, and leave money stress behind! Each lesson is based on Biblical wisdom and common sense, and classes are facilitated by our Member Coordinator, Dave Rupac, with video support from Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts. Classes will begin Thursday, September 8th.

There is NO COMMITMENT required to attend the first class. In your FPU group, you’ll be motivated and encouraged by others just like you. When you participate in the next FPU at Rolling Plains, you’ll get your member workbook and one free year of Financial Peace Membership, with access to exclusive online tools to help you on your journey to Financial Peace! TEXT “FPU” to 740-297-6407 to register or Write FPU on your Connection Card.

Join us ONLINE, Wednesday, September 11th at 7pm for a one-time “Taste of Inductive Bible Study”

Our Precept Ministries Online Trainer, Jennifer Fitchum, will cover Joshua 1:1-9. All you need to participate is a computer, internet connection, a pen, and a printed copy of this scripture text from the NKJV - New American Standard Bible beforehand. If you want to participate in a Group Setting, we will also Host a Computer Connection here at the Church. So, come! Let’s learn More about God’s Word “Line upon Line, Precept upon Precept.” Register Today by: Texting “PRECEPT” to 740-297-6407, or Write “Precept” on your Connection Card.

YOUR QUESTIONS AND DOUBTS ARE WELCOME HERE
Curious about God, Jesus, or the Bible? Starting Point is a 6-week gathering where your questions about God turn into a conversation about faith. In a Starting Point group, you can discuss your doubts and explore the trickiest topics of faith, free from pressure and judgment. Fall Gathering begins Wednesday, September 18th at 6:30pm. TEXT “Starting Point” to 740-297-6407 to reserve your seat in the group.