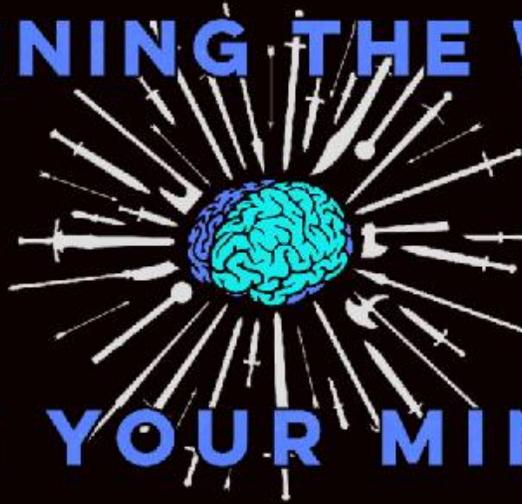


WINNING THE WAR



IN YOUR MIND

September, 2021

Maranatha Sisters & Brothers,

God's Great Church Comeback!

The Lord has allowed me the privilege of leading God's Church for more than 20 plus years, and I have always been reminded of how rewarding and challenging ministry is. We live in a time when each year that goes by, our culture looks less and less to faith in God and His church. Add a global pandemic to that mix that scatters people and pulls them from regular Spiritual habits and disciplines and the task of keeping God's people engaged in and connected to Church becomes challenging. On more than one occasion I can admit without any shame that the enemy has battled hard in my mind with discouragement, doubt, and negative thinking. I'm sure you have experienced some of those feelings as well. But God! In the midst all of our trials our God is faithful, and friends, He is moving at Rolling Plains Church and making a Great Church Comeback!

I am asking you to save a date and to invite all of your friends and family to come with you. On Sunday, September 12th, we are beginning a new sermon series called, "Winning the War in Your Mind". This message series is inspired by the book with the same title by Craig Groeschel. After a year of social distancing, being scattered from church, and a Summer of breaking free and getting out like never before, we want to gather everyone back to God's Church. We are targeting this Sunday to be God's Great Church Comeback Sunday. What better way than to start a sermon series focusing on the battle that goes on in our mind. The enemy is the great deceiver and is doing all he can to fill our minds full of lies, negativity, lack, discouragement, and so much more that can take us off of God's perfect will. We will be learning together how we can experience God's victory of renewal and transformation in our minds with His amazing truth.

Our thought life is so significant because what comes into our minds often comes out in our life. Our life is always heading in the direction of our strongest thoughts. Almost all of our battles in life like addiction, broken relationships, feelings of insignificance, or financial concerns are won or lost in our mind. The Bible tells us there is a battle in our mind, but praise be to God in the power of the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus, God can take wrong, toxic, stinking thinking and put our thoughts on God—what is true, good, right, Holy, pure, and fruitful.

If you think about it our brain can easily be wired to have a wrong pattern of thinking. Once we think a thought it creates a pathway in our brain. The more we think that thought, the more deeply embedded that line of thinking becomes. That is because once we start thinking something (good or bad), it is easier to think that same thought again. Many of us are in bondage in our minds where the lies of the devil have created a stronghold. What we will learn to do is what Scripture says, and that is to take captive every thought and make them obedient to Christ Jesus. If we can reframe our thinking in Christ with the truth, well then, we know that the truth will set us free from bondage.

Each and every one of us will be practically touched and deeply inspired by this sermon series as God sets us free. So, let's mark our calendars and come back to church on September 12th. Every one of your friends and neighbors is desperate for healing somewhere in their mind and would benefit greatly from this series, so invite them. We are also encouraging people to purchase the book and even have your Life Group or Bible Study consider following along with a study from the book. Let's win the war in our minds, together, as we seek God's great healing and renewal as we encourage one another as the body of Christ in worship. It's time Church, for renewal. It's time Church, for God to free our minds with His truth. It's time Church, for us to come back and experience God's great church comeback. See you soon and bring your friends and family!

Come on God!



Pastor John



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Paula Slack, Amy Zinn
- 2 Kyra Hina, Tim Trout
- 3 Tawna Alice, Robert Allard, Sharma Brown, Dan Goins, Ricky Moorehead, Joanne Murphy
- 4 Kim Balsley, Pat Kelly
- 7 Kevin Valentine
- 8 Jenna Cannon, John Kirkbride, Jim Reed,
- 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, Austin Wayne
- 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,
- 24 Kris Kemp
- 25 Paige Morrow
- 26 Colleen Cannon, Elya Taylor
- 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 & Becka McConnell
- 12 Dick & Karen Newlon
- 13 Nathan & Ciera Raines
- 18 Bruce & Vicki McConnell
- 19 Jeff & Alice Hunt

The Church Office will be closed
on Monday, September 6th
to celebrate Labor Day.

*Whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart...*

Colossians 3:23



When Doing Good...Expect Obstacles

This Fall will begin my 10th year serving in Europe with European Christian Mission International and yes—I'm going back to Spain on September 13, 2021. Praise the Lord! While being back in the US the past 15 months, I've reflected quite a bit on the obstacles that have been put before me while trying to answer God's call to go and serve Him in a foreign land, learn a new language, and live in a very different culture. Anytime we are going about the business of serving God, it is a known fact that there will be difficulties, and challenges, and believe me, I've had my share—great and small. However, when I look back, there have been three major ones (all health related) that caused me to wonder if it would be the end of my time in foreign missions. The first one happened right after I was commissioned in December, 2011 to go to Spain. I was diagnosed with breast cancer! I just couldn't believe that God would have brought me to the point of my actually going, and then allow a cancer diagnosis to get in the way. Thankfully, that was not His plan. I arrived in Spain later that Spring in good health, and ready to serve. The second obstacle occurred while in Spain, in the Fall of 2016. I fainted on the sidewalk while crossing a street one day in Alcala de Heneres, Spain. At first, I didn't think much of it until it happened again a few weeks later. The doctors in Spain found nothing wrong neurologically and recommended that I see my family doctor while back in the US for Christmas. It was then determined that the issue was heart related and in February, 2017 I was fitted with a pacemaker, and back to Spain six weeks later. The third obstacle, as you might have already guessed, has been COVID-19. During the Spring of 2020, I lived through a governmental/military enforced "lockdown" of Spain. Looking back on that experience, I tell people it was like being under house arrest and solitary confinement at the same time. Finally, in June of 2020, I was able to return to the US, and at least be in my own home—closer to family and friends. While grateful and happy to be home this past year, there have been a couple of times where I'd hoped it might be possible for me to return to Spain. Unfortunately, after contracting COVID-19 myself, in November, 2020, and Spain going into another lockdown this Spring, my hopes of returning any time soon came to an end.

Now, I'm thrilled that God has answered my prayers to return to Spain and continue the work He has called me to do. Sharing this brief recap with you reminds me of the story of Nehemiah and the obstacles he faced while trying to rebuild the wall. In the midst of all of the opposition and criticism he faced, he never let go of his vision for that new wall around Jerusalem. Nehemiah did three things that I believe helped him complete this task. First, he prayed and talked to God continuously about his vision. Second, he never took his eyes off of God even while in the midst of heavy criticism. And, finally, he was willing to adjust his strategy to accomplish his vision. Like Nehemiah, the past 10 years in missions have taught me that (1) prayer and conversation with God are essential; (2) God will see me through any obstacle placed before me; and (3) it's okay to adjust one's strategy and move forward without always knowing what lies ahead. I recently heard a quote by Andy Stanley where he said, "If we are certain of the outcome, no courage will be required." Thank you God, for the courage to continue moving forward.

Praises:

- Having the Covid-19 vaccination allows me to return to Spain without any further restrictions.
- Ability to carry on all of my work with ECMI this year over the internet and Zoom.
- Spending quality time with my family and dear friends.

Prayers:

- Safe flight and return to Spain.
- Restart face to face ministry programs with Spaniards in Camarma de Esteruelas.
- God will provide new opportunities to share my faith and be a witness to others.
- After a year without speaking Spanish, that my language capabilities will return quickly.

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



The United Methodist Women met July 20th and enjoyed delicious food and drink. Our hostesses were Judy Barnhart and Sandy Thompson. We were so pleased to have two new ladies join our group. We are hoping that many more will join us in August when we have our picnic in the Embers Room. Everyone will be bringing a dish to share, and our hostesses will be Ruth Hartman and Beulah Strickler.

At the July meeting we had a "Response" moment from our United Methodist Women's Response magazine. We learned what an honor it is to receive a Special Mission Recognition pin. It is one of the United Methodist Women's five channels of Mission Giving. It is unrestricted, undesignated funds available for use in all parts of the national and international program of United Methodist Women. This was the pin we presented to Rev. Alethea Botts. We order the pins from our district treasurer and take all our people, both women and men, into consideration (United Methodist Women members or not) to whom we want to show love and appreciation.

Michelle Dobbins is our new Prayer Ministry Leader, and we are to call her with any prayer requests. She will then notify the leaders of each prayer team. Thank you, Michelle.

We finished our meeting by painting rocks for Michelle's Road to Recovery group. What fun we had!

We moved our August meeting to the 24th, because of Fair week. September's meeting will be held on the 21st. Join us ladies...we're nice people.

Blessings to all,

June M. Smith

President, Rolling Plains UMW

Please use the link below when shopping at Amazon and share with all your friends and family.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2064460>

A portion of every purchase comes back to the church.



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.
He 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.

BURN THAT NOTE

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 \$394,668.39 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!

Our **Kroger Community Rewards** supporters (27 households) who shopped at Kroger between 5/01/2021 and 7/31/2021 have contributed a total of \$77.42, which will go to our Ministry Fund (which supports 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. Just visit <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. A percentage of every dollar you spend will then be donated back to RP.

Pastor Dick Newlon will be leading a new 13-week program of GriefShare beginning September 15th 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 & will help you stay connected so you can work through the grief process in a positive way. To sign up, type GRIEF to 740-265-3855.



Festival of Sharing Ohio ~ *Lifting each other up in difficult times.*

Life is full of the unexpected. Families all around Ohio have experienced difficulties brought on by natural disasters, health emergencies, economic struggles and so much more.

Through Festival of Sharing, we have the opportunity to bring hope and a touch of human kindness to those who need it most. Kits collected from the Festival have gone to those recovering from the tornadoes in Dayton. Cleaning kits were delivered to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank so they could continue providing much needed food to places like Christ's Table and the South Zanesville Food Pantry.

School kits ensure that struggling children all around the state have access to the supplies they need for success. Each child receives a canvas bag filled with the essentials. And this year RP can help even more students start the school with what they need most.

On Sunday, September 5 and Sunday, September 12, we will come together as a church for a School Supply Kit packing party! Tables will be set up in the carport after both services and everyone is invited to come and assemble kits.

The canvas bags are already here, now we just need the items listed below to fill them! Sign up at the Welcome Center to let us know what supplies you will be donating. Then bring them with you to church on Sunday mornings or drop them off at the church office during the week.

School Supply Kit Items:

- Blunt scissors, rounded tip only
- 3 70 count bound notebooks
- 12" rulers
- Hand-held pencil sharpener
- Large erasers-No pencil cap erasers
- 6 new, unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 box of 24 crayons



FUNERAL DINNERS

One of the ministries our church has offered for many years, is the funeral dinner. We would like to be able to continue this ministry but it takes many hands to make this happen. If you are willing to fix a salad or dessert occasionally for this, please call or text Vicki McConnell (740-704-9509) or call the church office (740-453-4192).

If you would be willing to help serve, please let us know also.

ONE NIGHT IN A BOX ~ Fundraiser For Homeless
September 3rd @ 7 PM - September 4th @ 7 AM
(740-704-8531)



Trulight Ministries

@trulightministries · Nonprofit Organization

We are trying to raise \$100,000 this year, our biggest goal yet! The money will go toward emergency Winter shelter, laundry, showers, and a day center. All you have to do is sleep in a box, or tent on our property (or your own property). If you need a box, we will provide you with one. You can do this in your own back yard with your kids or inside your home. Teach your children the importance of giving back to the community, and homeless awareness. If you raise \$100 or more, you will receive an "I survived one night in a box" t-shirt. If you choose to do it at our place, we will have free food, music, and you can sit around the fire and fellowship with one another. This is a very fun event for a good cause. Please help us. If you can't do it on Sept 3rd, that's ok. Pick your own date to do it with your family on your own property. You can mail in your donation forms with the money to Trulight Ministries, PO Box 2602, Zanesville, Ohio 43702. Or drop it off to us during business hours. Thank you so much and God bless you all. Text us your name and t-shirt size once you raise the \$100, so we can get your shirts ordered.

Trulight Ministries currently serves free breakfasts Monday - Friday, from 8am to 10am. Sunday lunches are from 11am to 1pm. Free clothing, furniture, and toiletries go to low income. We also help people get jobs, transportation to jobs, IDs, and birth certificates.

ROLLING PLAINS WORSHIP CHOIR NEWS

I am so excited to tell you that on Thursday, September 16th, we will be resuming Worship Choir practice at 7:00 PM in the Choir Room.

If you are 14 years of age, or older, and love to worship through song,
you are welcome to sing with us!!

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.



Susan Reese, 740-408-2465



**The First Church of God, along with local agencies,
plan to hold a Remembrance Service
at Secrest Auditorium
on Saturday, September 11th at 6:00PM
to commemorate the 20th anniversary
of the life-changing events that occurred on September 11th, 2001.**

**We will take time to reflect on the events that changed our world forever,
remember the efforts of those who helped with the rescue and recovery,
and show our appreciation for our local first responders.**

Speakers include Mayor Don Mason, Sheriff Matthew Lutz, and Pastor Jim Childers

NEVER FORGET. 9.11.01



126 Ontario Street
Zanesville, OH 43701

Dear Friends of Bethel Community Center,

I am happy to announce that our first Bethel Fun Fest was a success! We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful partners helping us plan events like this.

We welcomed so many folks of all ages to enjoy free desserts, play cornhole, basketball, bounce houses, a dunk tank, crafts, face painting, live worship music, vendor tables, an auction, and food vendors. A special thank you goes out to those who either donated, or helped hands-on during the event.

We had 83 high school seniors from Praying Pelicans Missions who ran all events at our Fun Fest! These particular students were from a high school in Kansas City Missouri. They also came to Bethel the following 2 days to prep and paint inside the center, clean and organize, and weed outside of the center. Thank you Praying Pelican!

Bethel will have a Monday through Thursday after-school program from 3:00-5:30PM. This program will begin right after Labor Day (Tuesday, September 7th).

All school-aged students are welcome to attend this free program which will include a snack, homework help, and fun activities. Transportation home will be available for students in the Zanesville area.

We plan to integrate some STEM learning into this after school program as well as activities to share the love of Jesus. We had great success in our Summer program blending themed crafts and activities with Bible stories.

Thanks for your support and we look forward to a great year at Bethel!

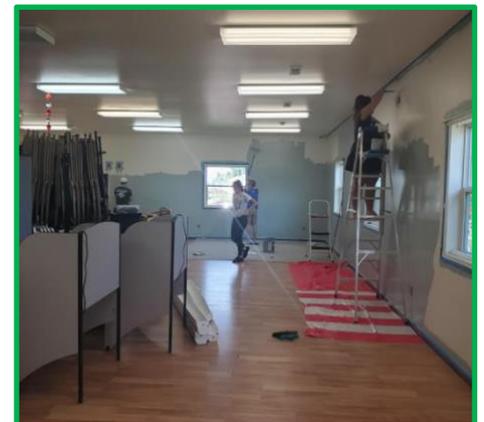
Sincerely,

Amanda Hatfield, Executive Director

Breann Adams, Youth Coordinator



**Don't forget
to stop by
our community
garden to grab
some goodies!**



CONQUERING OUR MOUNTAINS



"I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and Earth." Psalm 121:1-2

Save the Date:

Women's Ministry Brunch
October 23rd 10:00 AM – Noon

“Conquering our Mountains”

Watch for more details, coming soon.

Greetings Brothers in Christ,

It's been quite a bit of time since I posted a newsletter article.

The Rolling Plains United Methodist Men have been meeting since May of this year. Brothers have been attending the monthly breakfast meetings, but we would LOVE to see more men attend. You don't have to be a Rolling Plains member to attend our meetings. ALL MEN are welcome!

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, September 5th at 7AM in the Embers Room. At the September meeting we will be holding nominations of officers for the upcoming year. Everyone's attendance is encouraged.

We are trying to book a date for a men's supper in September or early October. Watch for more information on the date.

The United Methodist Men will be preparing and serving the brunch meal for the Women's Ministry Brunch on Saturday, October 23rd. We will need help with this project.

In His service,

Tim Collins

Rolling Plains UMM Secretary

Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen—there's a better way! Join our *Financial Peace University* class, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future together! Interested?

Join us at Rolling Plains beginning Sunday, September 19th at 5:30 PM. This is a 9-week program, and will finish before Thanksgiving. You can sign up and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace at fpu.com/1140240. Or you can text FPU to 740-265-3855.

An advertisement for Financial Peace University. It features a photograph of a smiling man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue shirt. The text "FINANCIAL Peace UNIVERSITY" is at the top, with "Peace" in a script font. To the right, there is a call to action: "Start winning WITH MONEY" in bold, followed by "Learn the step-by-step plan to take control of your money and your future. Sign up today!" in a smaller font.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

OK. RP Families, you can take a breath, the chaos of August is over, and the steadiness of September is here.

Now, I know this September does not look like last September, nor is it back to our pre-pandemic Septembers. So, while we are not going back to “business as usual” behaviors, we are using what we have learned over the past year and adding some new, fun tools, and keeping some old favorites in Family Ministry.

One of our favorite new tools is the RP Families Virtual Classroom. We know there are times you cannot make it to RP Kids Sunday Mornings or you want a mid-week lesson for your child and Thursday Night Fusion doesn’t work. This virtual classroom provides video lessons, monthly worship music playlists, crafts, games, mission opportunities, Bible verse activities, and more. Starting In September, you will be able to add prayer requests that will be sent directly to our Family Ministry Team. You can access the Virtual Classroom through the Rolling Plains website or by visiting the RP Kids Facebook Page. This classroom changes weekly, so please stop back on a regular basis to see what is new.



THURSDAY NIGHTS
6:30-8:00 PM

VBS in the
Middle of the week
Bible lesson,
game, craft and snack

Masks will be required, social distancing will be observed and safety protocols will be in place.



Thursday Nights 6:30-8:00 PM
Kids 4 years to 5th grade

One of our old favorites that is making its way back to a regular schedule is Fusion.

Starting in September, Fusion will be available to all children Pre-K - 5th grade.

Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 PM

During the month of September, our Pre-K through 5th grade group will be discussing the virtue of **Initiative**.

We define **Initiative** as seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

God took the initiative, by sending Jesus, to show us how much He loves us and fix the relationship between us.

When we see a need and choose to do something about it, we reflect God’s image in us. Through our initiative, others can see the reality of God’s love for them.

Our Memory verse this month comes from Paul's letter to the church in Colossae.

**“WORK AT EVERYTHING YOU DO WITH ALL YOUR HEART.
WORK AS IF YOU WERE WORKING FOR THE LORD.” COLOSSIANS 3:23A, NIRV**

Our RP Youth have the return of some favorite ministry events and activities including Fresh Start and InZone. We need a lot of volunteers for each InZone. Please consider helping at one, or all of these events!



Fresh Start
Thursday mornings
beginning at 6:45 AM

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

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



INZONE

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.

Our High School Group will continue reading through and discussing Acts with the goal of finishing the book in September.

As I said last month, we had originally planned to complete this reading during the Summer, but the discussion has been so rich we have decided to slow down and really take our time.

Our Middle Schoolers will tackle “The Big Questions”

A 4-week series about identity, belonging, and purpose. The bottom line: We want our kids to understand that our biggest questions deserve better answers, and that Jesus is where those answers are found. We want them to walk away each week knowing and believing that “knowing Jesus changes everything”, and they don't have to prove they're enough. They matter more than they think, and they belong here.

Your prayers are appreciated and needed as we tackle all of these lessons with our kids and teens.

If you would like more information on any of these programs or events, please contact me at heather@rollingplainsumc.com or call 740-453-4192 ext. 104.

Heather Matarazzo

Director of Children & Family Ministries

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

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**ROLLING PLAINS
2021 ALL CHURCH PICNIC & BAPTISM
Lake Isabella
Sunday, September 12th**

Plan to join us at our Annual Baptism and Picnic. Those who have completed the Baptism Class will be baptized at 4:00 PM. Following the baptisms, 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!