



January

One Mission

Maranatha Sisters & Brothers,

Happy New Year! We are excited to share with you that we will be hitting the ground running Sunday, January 4th with a new sermon series called, "One Mission." We are going to be reminded of the mission God gives His Church and how that specifically plays out here at Rolling Plains. It is our hope that God will renew us with fresh purpose, passion, and power to carry out His work in 2026.

Speaking of God's work, we certainly have many things going on at Rolling Plains. We have women's and men's ministry, Sunday worship, Bible Studies, groups serving at food pantries and meals programs. We meet the needs of children and families. There are groups that knit and sew, serve funeral dinners, have archery ministries, and so many other programs, gatherings, groups, and ministries. Whew... it's hard to keep track of it all! Thanks be to God we are a 7-day-a-week church. While all these ministries and more are important, we have to understand that they all flow out of our one mission as God's Church that can be found in His Great Commission.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
-Mathew 28:19-20

God's mandate is clear. Above all else we are to make disciples. To win souls, train them up in His precepts, and make fully devoted followers of Jesus. Making disciples is the hub at the center of the wheel. While we have all these various ministries going on, they are all connected and revolve around the central focus, the hub of the wheel. That is making disciples. In other words, if what we are doing isn't making disciples, we shouldn't be doing it. For Rolling Plains this plays out in our one mission to fulfill the Great Commission. We exist to invite people to Come as they are. Connect with God and others. Grow in God's Word and prayer. Go in Jesus' name and help others. Anyone who walks through the journey of these four stages is someone on their way to becoming a disciple and fully devoted follower of Jesus.

Each Sunday in this sermon series, "One Mission", we will be looking at a specific portion of our Mission at Rolling Plains to fulfill the Great Commission. We will talk about creating welcoming environments that invite people to Jesus. We will encourage the need to connect deeply with others to connect more deeply with God. We will challenge one another to go deeper personally into the Bible and prayer. And we will receive God's call for us to take all we've learned and go and reproduce this journey and process in others.

A word from Pastor John continued....

Let me share a couple of exciting developments that will assist us in God's call to make disciples in 2026. As has been our tradition, our Prayer Ministry Team will be challenging us to a season of Prayer & Fasting to grow more deeply with God in His Word and prayer. From January 11th – 31st (21 days) we will encourage everyone to give up something they will deeply miss in order to depend on and connect to God more. Each of these 21 days we will also be encouraging you to read one of the 21 chapters in the book of John. What a great way to practice part of our mission, "Growing in God's Word and Prayer."

Your Lead Team has also endorsed a new Marriage and Family initiative that will seek to bring restoration to the nuclear family. We are making a three-year commitment in a coaching and resourcing partnership with several organizations. They will help us as a church better celebrate marriage, strengthen all relationships, encourage families, and increase our engagement with our community to reach more people for Jesus. This new initiative will go a long way to living out our "One Mission" of fulfilling the Great Commission in Muskingum County and beyond.

Friends, 2026 is lining up to be an incredibly powerful year that has the potential for Rolling Plains to leave a lasting Kingdom impact in our community, nation, and world. Let us remain focused on our "One Mission" and understand that all we are, and all we do as His Church revolves around the central focus, the hub, of making disciples of Jesus. The Alice family is excited to share this journey with you!

Come On, God!



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Pastor John

We would 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 3 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.

BURN THAT NOTE:

We still owe on our worship facility addition that was added in 2006. Thank you for your continued financial support in helping us to Burn That Note as soon as possible. From a \$1.6 Million, build you have now paid it down to \$19,912.43. Praise God!

The Church office will be closed on
Wednesday, January 1st and
Monday, January 19th.

BIRTHDAYS

1 Cathy Dorman, Alex Ford, Randy Humphrey
2 Heather Matarazzo
4 Chris Huff
6 Adrienne Jackson, Carol Pletcher
8 Malerie Vandyne
13 Shawn Fairall, Jesse Parrill
14 Brittany Rice, Kevin Stewart
15 Gerald Kimpel
16 Diane Burrier, Gene Hartman
17 Charlie Young
19 Susan Reese, Jennifer Ziel
23 Marilee Abele, Judy Barnhart
24 Lindsey Cornett, Trudy Reed
26 Cindy Scott
27 Kang Kim, Mary Kathryn Parrill, Brandy Weaver
29 Sue Demp, Gloria Lacey, Aimee Serrell
31 Don Rice, Cheryl Rinne, Elizabeth Rupe

ANNIVERSARIES

7 Jeff & Joyce Krouskoupf
27 Rosco & Ashley Wilson

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WORD OF THE MONTH: INTENTIONAL

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” — 1 Corinthians 10:31

As we start the new year, we often find ourselves reflecting on the previous year and setting new goals. If we are honest, we could all agree the world is full of distractions. It's easy to drift through life without purpose or a plan. But God calls us to live intentionally—making choices that reflect His love and bring Him glory. Intentional living means aligning our thoughts, words, and actions with His will. It's not about perfection; it's about direction. Every conversation, every act of kindness, every prayer can be a deliberate step toward honoring Him.

As you set your goals, make a plan, ask yourself : Am I living on purpose today?

When we choose to be intentional, we create space for God to work through us—in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

Take one intentional step today—send an encouraging message, pray for someone by name, or pause to thank God for His goodness.

Lord, help us to live with purpose today. Teach us to be intentional in our words, our actions, and our relationships so that everything we do points back to You. Amen.

Prayers upon the new year,
Terra



MISSIONS INITIATIVE

As we wrap up 2025, we reflect back on the year where we saw a successful Perspectives class, a mission trip to Alaska, 4 disaster response trips to Indian Lake, framing for a post-fire rebuild, Avodah accomplishing some needed tasks for our church family, new mission partnerships formed, the Catalyst Workshop, and several disaster relief supply drives. We sent over \$6,000 worth of food to aid Jamaicans who are so badly affected by Melissa, the Cat-5 hurricane. In partnership with Mid-South GMC and your generous donations, we provided 3 pallets of food!

As we roll into January, we are blessed to have much to look forward to. We believe the greatest way to honor God is to adhere to Jesus's last words before He ascended into Heaven as recorded in Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth". As we begin the New Year, we pray you'll consider what your role in this will be. We'd love to help you find the perfect place to serve based on your talents and interests!



Our end of year giving was able to help some of our local groups (Jerusalem), as well as some of those who are "to the ends of the earth". This is made possible by your generous gift of time at the Muskingum County fair corn stand.

Partner Spotlight: We are excited to share our partners in Missions with you! Pastor Corn Prayongkham is a young Pastor who is doing phenomenal work in Thailand. You may remember we supported a Blessing Home during our 2023 Advent Conspiracy. These homes purposefully mentor young people after school in school work while sharing the hope of Jesus. Pastor Corn was a Blessing Home kid! She has grown up to be a Blessing Home Director and a church planter!



There's a tie into your generosity with Operation Christmas Child too. Pastor Corn has been able to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ into previously unreached areas of Thailand. OCC gift boxes have opened unexpected doors, including the opportunity to teach the OCC Discipleship class, (at the miraculous request of the principal) to the entire school of 100 students! There's no way of knowing that "our" boxes will reach Thailand, but Pastor Corn's story gives us an up-close, personal look as these boxes travel around the world. Thanks for your generosity in this powerful tool! We hope to share some pictures of her distribution of gifts with you next month.



Make this a year that you start a new habit and donate blood every 56 days and save 3 lives. Every donor will receive a t-shirt! Call or text Vicki McConnell (740) 704-9509 to schedule an appointment time on Saturday, January 3rd.

YOU can join us every month as we join Pastor Corn via Zoom on the first Thursday of every month at 9:00am. (The next one will be on January 1st, so many of you should be available). If you're interested in joining us for a fabulous conversation and prayer time, let us know and we'll send you the Zoom link.

Prayer Requests: Please pray for our budding partnerships with Rich Mendola of IFI, Pastor Corn of Thailand Now, and Rev. Bonface of GMC Rongai Church in Kenya. Please pray that these partnerships are God-honoring and that we can meet the expectations that God will lay out for us. We are excited to dig deeper into relationships with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Please pray for the young women in Kenya whose lives are changing as they become empowered by the ministry of Delivering Dignity. These girls are now able to live life more fully. One example is the ability to play and compete in soccer for the first time and making impacts in their communities in ways they never could before.

Please pray that your MIT team would hear God's calling on where He wants us to focus on this year. Help us to know which opportunities we are to pursue and how best to do so. Pray that our work pleases Him and helps plant churches and make disciples.



There is a fairly new weekly Bible Study on Tuesday nights that you need to know about! If you have ever wished you could dig into scripture more deeply, understand the context by knowing what the original language meant, or see common threads throughout Scripture you didn't know about previously.....this is the class for you! This class is for beginners as well as people who have studied the Bible for years. Cody Sterling has a heart - and a gift - for leading others through scripture in a line by line format, bringing to light details that I have glossed over repeatedly! Hear what a couple of our seasoned folks have to say:

"The Genesis Study is a place where I can get my questions, and I have many, answered. Cody has the ability to bring to light so many things I have wondered about. I am excited to go deeper into The Word with The Word."

- Pat Wiseman-Jones

"I am just amazed at what I have picked up in just 9 chapters of Genesis. Cody has opened up the Scriptures like I have never experienced in 40 years of studying God's word." - Paul Law

Hope to see you on Tuesday nights at 6:30 in the youth room. You'll be glad you came!

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	QUILTING AND SEWING 6:00 PM		1	2  6:30-8:00 PM	3 BLOOD DRIVE 
4 METHODIST MEN MEETING 7:00 AM Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM 6th-12th grade	5 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	6	7	8  Fusion 6:30-8:00PM pre-k-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 18-25 Year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	9	10
11	12 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	13  CIRCLE GROUP	14	15	16  6:30-8:00 PM	17
Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM 6th-12th grade	18 FAMILY SKATE NIGHT  1-3 PM LIND ARENA	19	20	22  Fusion 6:30-8:00PM pre-k-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 18-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	23	24 WINTER GAMES
25 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM 6th-12th grade	26 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	27 	28	29  How to study the BIBLE NO PARK IN THE SPACE OF JOHN WARREN JANUARY 1-31 10:00 AM-5:00 PM FOR INFO: CONTACT CATHY @ 825-344-1234 LAMSON.COM	30	31 Praying over the city 8:00 AM

RP FAMILY MINISTRY

ChildFund.

WINTER JAM 2026

\$15
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CHRIS TOMLIN **MATTHEW WEST** **KATY NICHOLE**
HULVEY **DISCIPLE** **EMERSON DAY**
NEWSONG **SPEAKER: ZANE BLACK** **JEREMY ROSADO** **HEATH BROTHERS** **CLIFF PRESTON** **PREJAM**

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Centershot
Making Christ the Target of Our Lives


January 2nd & 16th
6:30-8:00 PM

Please contact Chad Lawson for more information
Chad@rollingplainsgmc.com

THURSDAY NIGHTS

6:30-8:00 PM
PRE-K THRU 5TH GRADE

We are back January 2nd



FUSION

VBS IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR CHILD'S WEEK
craft, game, snack, Bible Lesson

RP Annual FAMILY SKATE NIGHT

& LIND ARENA

JANUARY 18TH
1-3 PM



ADMISSION IS FREE \$2 SKATE RENTAL
CONCESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

PRAYER TEAM

A CALL FOR A SEASON OF FASTING & PRAYING

Can you believe it is a new year already? But, thinking about that, January brings new beginnings. "Prayer and fasting" in the month of January is becoming a tradition. Pastor John talked about our "time" and how we use it. Did you know that we have 1440 minutes a day to spend? How do you spend yours? I suppose many of us use 480 minutes, give or take, each night sleeping or trying to sleep. Our work time of course. Maybe three quarters to an hour three times a day for meals and so on. In a devotional that I recently read, it explained that we have been given 1440 minutes a day and what we do not use cannot be kept over. So... "At the close of each day, you should be able to look back with joy and satisfaction and see that those golden minutes were used wisely. Someone has said, "Time is God's gift to you, but what you do with your time is your gift to God." (The Word For Today). Psalms 90:10,12,17 "Seventy years are given to us! Some even live to eighty. But even the best years are filled with pain and trouble; soon they disappear, and we fly away... Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom... And may the Lord our God show us His approval and make our efforts successful..."

So...What are we going to give up this year for our Prayer and Fasting? How are we going to use our 1440 minutes? What is our "gift to God" going to look like? I am going out on a limb here. But it's not necessarily about eating. For many, yes. It can be very powerful and strongly suggested. But using our "time" can also be a great gift to God. The last two years I gave up my Facebook time. When I would get on Facebook I would skip down to the "reels." Watching tractors stuck in the mud and the very crazy things people do, but instead of that I would use that time praying in January. But now my "reels" have progressed over to like 95% Christian stories and music. That is how I spend my little bit of "unwind time" now. Praising God is a great way to unwind and get wound up. So, this year I will pick something else for my "Prayer and fasting" starting on January 11th through the end of the month or the total month of January. What about you?

Psalms 89:11 says, "The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours; everything in the world is yours-you created it all."

Pastor John explained a few Sundays ago that we are stewards of our Earthly possessions and our time. It is not really our time, but God's time that He has given to us. God has given to us the 1440 minutes a day for us to use for His Glory. I loved the words Pastor used: "We are HIS hope dealers, HIS Grace spreaders and HIS Love dispensers."

Our Prayer Team will be handing out 3x3 sticky note pads in January. You will see the Y-bridge in the faded background. Our very own hometown Y-bridge. Three bridges in one. The Trinity. A constant reminder of our God in Heaven, our Lord Jesus and Savior, and our constant companion and guide... The Holy Spirit... See Matthew 28:19. Amen! Also, please pray for our city, our county, and the surrounding communities. Pray for love, joy, and peace. Pray for families and the family unit. Pray for the loving arms of Christ to hold us.

Gerry Kimpel,
Member of the Prayer Team

Welcome to 2026. The Bible says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans" (Proverbs 16:3). We believe this is the year God wants to reveal plans and establish purpose for your life. What do you want to see God do in and through your life this year? What do you want to see God do in and through our church this year? For 21 days, starting January 11th, we are going to lay the spiritual foundation for the rest of 2026 through prayer and fasting. Fasting disconnects us from the world, while prayer connects us to God. When we put the two together, we will see God do a tremendous work in our lives! This guide will walk you through everything you need for the 21 days. Let us get started!

Pick a Fast. Fasting is withholding from something we want so we can set our minds and attention on God. Food is an important part of life, but Scripture is full of invitations to go without it for a period of time to connect with God and be more mindful of our reliance on him. As we head into 21-Days of Prayer and Fasting, here are four different fasts to choose from. Read through the different fasts and decide which one is right for you this year. If for any reason, you do not feel comfortable fasting from food, the final option (the soul fast) is for you! **Complete Food Fast.** In this type of fast, you drink only liquids. Drink a lot of water, and then add in juice and shakes as needed. **Partial Food Fast.** This fast is sometimes called the "Jewish Fast" and involves abstaining from eating any type of food for a certain period of time each day. For example, you can choose to skip a certain meal or abstain from eating until sunset. **Selective Food Fast.** This type of fast involves removing certain elements from your diet. One example of a selective fast is the Daniel Fast, during which you remove meat, sweets, and bread from your diet and consume water and juice for fluids and fruits and vegetables for food. **Soul Fast.** If you do not have much experience fasting food, have health (or other) issues that prevent you from fasting food, or if you wish to refocus certain areas of your life that are out of balance, this is a great option for you. For example, you might choose to stop using social media or watching television for the duration of the fast and then carefully bring that element back into your life in healthy doses at the conclusion of the fast.

Set Your Strategy. The next key in making the 21-days successful is establishing a prayer routine that works for your schedule. We are creatures of habit, and the goal for the three weeks is to establish a healthy habit of prayer we can carry with us for the rest of the year. Your strategy should consist of three things—a time, a spot, and a plan. **Pick a Time.** What is a time that works for you every day? If you have young kids, there is a good chance it will either have to be before they wake up or after they go to bed. It does not matter when it is; just pick the time that is going to be easiest for you to stick to and put it in your calendar right now. **Pick a Spot.** Your prayer times will be a lot more consistent if you designate a specific spot for them. Maybe it is a certain chair or closet. Or maybe it is your backyard or your car. Again, it does not matter what spot you choose; it only matters that you pick one and stick with it. **Pick a Plan.** The best way to ensure

you will have success during your prayer time is to go into it with a plan. Pray about it. Talk with your fellow believers for Ideas for you. But go into your prayer time with a plan. One option is to pray through the acronym: **ACTS.**

Adoration: Start your prayer by praising God for who He is.

Confession: Admit any sin in your life.

Thanksgiving: Express gratitude for a few things in your life.

Supplication: Finally, end your prayer by praying for one person.

What if today was the day you established a routine for your prayers? And what if next year at this time, you can look back and know that you have prayed every day for the last 365 days? Praying for one day may feel underwhelming, but if you pray every day for a year, the results will be overwhelming.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Day 1	Read: John chapter 1 Meditate: John 1:14 Pray: Have you asked Christ to make you a new person?	Read: John chapter 8 Meditate: John 8:11 Pray: For forgiveness and God's strength to change	Read: John chapter 15 Meditate: John 15:4-5 Pray: Please fill me with your Love, Joy, and Peace
Day 2	Read: John chapter 2 Meditate: John 2:11 Pray: for "His" glory in us.	Read: John chapter 9 Meditate: John 9:15 Pray: From dust He made us...	Read: John chapter 16 Meditate: John 16:13 Pray: Please Holy Spirit, fill us with your wisdom and truth
Day 3	Read: John chapter 3 Meditate: John 3:24 Pray: What do we need to give up?	Read: John chapter 10 Meditate: John 10:27 Pray: That God will know your voice very well.	Read: John chapter 17 Meditate: John 17:3 Pray: WE admit our sin and turn away from it
Day 4	Read: John chapter 4 Meditate: John 4:23-24 Pray: Is our worship genuine and true?	Read: John chapter 11 Meditate: John 11:25 Pray: We commit our lives to Him.	Read: John chapter 18 Meditate: John 18:36 Pray: Please give us opportunities to tell others who Jesus is.
Day 5	Read: John chapter 5 Meditate: John 5:24 Pray: "Eternal Life" begins when you accept Christ as Savior	Read: John chapter 12 Meditate: John 12:26 Pray: Who can I share Jesus with today?	Read: John chapter 19 Meditate: John 19:19 Pray: We praise you. The sign was correct!
Day 6	Read: John chapter 6 Meditate: John 6:27 Pray: That you endure your Prayer and Fasting time	Read: John chapter 13 Meditate: John 13:35 Pray: How can we love others as Jesus loves us?	Read: John chapter 20 Meditate: John 20:31 Pray: Help us Jesus, to continue to read Your Word
Day 7	Read: John chapter 7 Meditate: John 7:38 Pray: Ask for the Holy Sprit to be strong in your walk.	Read: John chapter 14 Meditate: John 14:12-13 Pray: I believe; please help me with my unbelief	Read: John chapter 21 Meditate: John 21:25 Pray: Oh Father, the evidence has been presented, now we need to decide.

Please pray and consider joining Rolling Plains Church's 21-day Prayer and Fasting starting on January 11th.



MAYSVILLE HELPING HANDS

Thank you to everyone who adopted a student (or students) from Maysville Schools. Rolling Plains was able to adopt 20 students this year and we donated several dozen boxes of macaroni and cheese to help with the food baskets for the families.

JOIN US:

PRAY
OVER
MAYSVILLE

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 27TH

@8:00AM

@ ROLLING PLAINS CHURCH

GIVING ENVELOPES

If you do not have Rolling Plains giving envelopes and would like to use them, please contact Jeanine Busey, Financial Secretary, at the church office 740-453-4192.

If you have switched from using giving envelopes to another type of giving, please let us know that also.

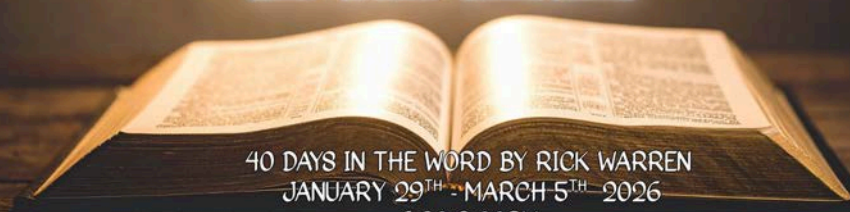
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH
MEN'S BREAKFAST

7:00 AM
EMBERS ROOM



EVERYONE
IS INVITED

How to study the
BIBLE



40 DAYS IN THE WORD BY RICK WARREN

JANUARY 29TH - MARCH 5TH 2026

6:30-8:00PM

SIGN UP: CONNECTION CARD OR ERIN@ROLLINGPLAINSGMC.COM

2026 LEAD TEAM MEMBERS

Pat Kelly, Lead Team Chair

Cathy Dorman, Pastor Parish Relations Chair

Alex Ford

Dan Morrison

Pat Kelly, Finance Chair

Brent Sterling

Aimee Serrell

Dave Rupe

Tim Swingle, Trustees Chair

Bill Coleman

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Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Van Slack

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Return Service Requested

RP *Annual* FAMILY SKATE NIGHT

at LIND ARENA

JANUARY 18TH
1-3 PM



ADMISSION IS FREE \$2 SKATE RENTAL
CONCESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE