



Maranatha Sisters and Brothers,

More Than I Deserve

We live in an entitlement culture. Many grow up having everything handed to them and being the center of attention in the household. Often it means one can do no wrong with their teachers, parents, and other authority figures. This leads to becoming spoiled and self-centered, demanding and expecting that we are owed things, or that we deserve this or that I'm entitled!

This especially translates into our relationship with God. Without even knowing it, we feel entitled to certain things from God. If it doesn't go our way or our prayers aren't answered as we prayed them, nor in the timeframe we asked for, we can get jaded. Thus, we treat God as though he owes us or that we deserve certain things from him. Allow me to burst any kind of entitlement bubble you might have with God. God owes you nothing, yet He has given you everything. That's right. Not only does God not owe you a thing, His Word tells us the only thing we are owed, because of our sinful nature, is death, destruction, and eternal punishment. But thanks be to God that He doesn't treat us as we deserve.

But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Christ Jesus, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins. God sent Christ to be our sacrifice. Christ offered his life's blood, so by faith in him we could come to God. -Romans 3:24-25 CEV

So, while what we are "owed" is death, God put that punishment on His Son Jesus, setting us free from the law of sin and death, and making us right in His eyes. Thus, though we don't deserve it, we are given the love, grace, mercy, power, passion, resources, and blessings of a personal relationship with God. From that perspective everything in our life is a gift from God. When you live with an attitude that you are blessed with all you have rather than entitled to all you have, it gives you a whole new attitude and outlook on life. Suddenly how you view what's in your hands is completely transformed. It's no longer my time but His. It's no longer my gifts and talents, but His. It's no longer my stuff, my resources, my money, but it's all his. I deserve and am entitled to none of it, but I've been blessed with all of it.

OCTOBER 2025

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A word from Pastor John continued....

It becomes so easy for us to run our own schedule without consulting God, use our talents without leveraging them for God, and to have very few conversations with God about how He wants to use the monetary resources He has blessed us with. "Well, I don't have enough time, talent, or treasures, to be giving any of it over to God." That's a lack mentality that leaves us wanting, deserving, and feeling we are owed more than what we have. No! God has blessed us with this day. He has given us breath. The sun rose over us again. Thanks be to God! Just as all that we have has been given to us by God, we therefore treat all that we have as though it is all His anyway.

We are owed nothing, yet God has given us everything. Let that sink in. This means how we use our talents matters, what we spend our resources on matters, how we use our time matters. The gracious and generous heart is born out of the blessed attitude that I have been given more than I deserve and thus I have more than enough. There is no better way to live than living graciously, gratefully, and generously. It is so freeing, it is so attractive, it inspires others and motivates us toward God's Kingdom righteousness. An "I am blessed" attitude that squelches out all entitlement warms the very heart of God to be moved to bring even greater blessings.

Please be in prayer as we embark on a new sermon series on Sunday, October 12th called, "More Than I Deserve". Let us ask the Holy Spirit to move each of us from any speck of an entitlement attitude to living blessed. As we move from feelings of lack to God's call, to abundance. As we move from, "I'm too busy" to, "God, what would you have me do?" As we move from a sense that we have nothing to offer to a sense that God has equipped us to do His great Kingdom's work. Let's beseech the Lord together to ask Him to bring a fresh vision to all of us, the body of Christ, as to the life we've been lovingly, graciously, and powerfully blessed with. Because while we deserve nothing, God has given us everything. It's all His!

Come on, God!



Pastor John

CHARGE CONFERENCE

ROLLING PLAINS' ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH@ 6:00 PM IN THE EMBERS ROOM. PASTOR ROLLAND MITCHELL WILL BE OUR AWAC GMC ELDER FOR THE EVENING TO PRESIDE OVER OUR CHARGE CONFERENCE.

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 \$36,433.44. Praise God!

OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS

2 Mari Grant
2 Jessica Murgittroyd, Ashley Yontz
4 Gina Jerles, Amy Smith, Tammy Smith
6 Stephanie Downing, Shelia Smith
7 Hadley Holcomb
12 Christopher Merlo, John Roberts
13 Marsha Archer, Tim Reed
16 Peyton Alice
18 Tiffany Leach, Brent Sterling
19 Nellie Krigbaum, Todd Thompson
20 Tayler Cavinee, Nate Harper
21 Jan Harlan, Sandy Hayes
25 Marci Jones, Kendra Kemp
26 Mariya Kemp
27 Jeff Flinn, Bruce McConnell, Dan Serrell
28 David Birkimer
30 Roni Lowry
31 Barb Knox

ANNIVERSARIES

4 Chris & Amanda Jarvis
16 Tim & Amy Smith
18 Drew & Adrienne Jackson
23 Steve & Jill Crippen
24 Tim & Tonda Adams
25 Kevin & Vickie Franklin



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
BECOMING A

Communion
VOLUNTEER?

CONTACT STEFANIE KAHLE
@ (740) 319-9681
IF INTERESTED



OCTOBER 12TH ~ PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BLESS OUR PASTORS, YOU MAY BRING A CARD
AND PLACE IT INTO THE BASKET AT THE WELCOME CENTER.
AS ALWAYS, PLEASE KEEP OUR PASTORS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN
YOUR PRAYERS.**

MISSIONS INITIATIVE

From Genesis to Revelation, and in fact everyday, God calls us near to Him and calls us to invite others to know, honor, and serve Him as well. Your Missions Initiative Team is inviting you to a “Catalyst Workshop” hosted by One Mission Society. We will learn how to better define what discipleship, missions, and reaching our neighbors looks like at Rolling Plains. This workshop will be most successful if all of our church leaders are able to come together to share ideas of how we can help each other! Anyone who wishes to come is welcome! Please RSVP by October 25th to missions@rollingplainsgmc.com as we'll be providing lunch. **Mark your calendars and RSVP for November 1st from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM!**



One of the missions that RP supports purposefully shows Christ's love to students from all over the world simply by being a friend. International students are far from home in a new country and curious to learn all they can about how we live in America. Most, however, are never invited into an American home! We've had several families from RP enjoying friendships through IFI. IFI also hosts several opportunities for the students. This semester, several of the students are studying the Bible in an Alpha class!

On November 15, we have the distinct privilege of hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner here at Rolling Plains for IFI's students from Muskingum University and their host families. Let us know if you would like to help!



**International
FRIENDSHIPS**

TEAM UPDATE

Exciting news from our friends at Thailand Now

The River Network: Training the Trainers for Church Multiplication in Asia

In February 2026, we will be hosting The River Network to provide training to Church Multiplication Leaders from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines. This training is Train the Trainer, meaning the participants will be qualified to take the training materials back to their home countries, translate the materials, and then provide the training to churches in their home nation. This training will take place in Bangkok at the Avana Hotel, a Christian-owned hotel.

We are excited to expand the ministry of Thailand NOW to encompass other nations in Southeast and South Asia. Our prayers are that a movement of church multiplication will make disciples and bring the Good News to the most unreached nations in the world.



THAILAND NOW

"Serving Thai People With the Love of Jesus!"



RP FAMILY MINISTRY



INZ NE

9:30 PM-midnight following Maysville home football games
\$1.00 Admission, Concession items available for purchase
OCTOBER 10TH & 24TH

InZone is open to students 6th-12th grade.
Students under the age of 16 must be signed in and signed out of InZone by a parent or responsible adult.
Students 16-18 years old may sign THEMSELVES in and out of InZone.
Call Rolling Plains Church at 740-453-4192 for more information.



IT'S NEVER TO
LATE TO JOIN A
SMALL GROUP.

SEE YOU
THURSDAY
NIGHTS!

THURSDAY NIGHTS FROM 6:30-8:00

THURSDAY NIGHTS
6:30-8:00 PM



PRE-K THRU 5TH GRADE
LIKE VBS EVERY WEEK!

Fresh Start

Thursday mornings
at 6:45 AM



Teens (6th- 12th grade) stop in for
devotion, discussion, and donuts
at Tim Horton's South.
Fresh Start is led by
Paul Law and Cody Sterling

RP Youth Mission Fundraiser

Now that we have a new water fountain,
Let's put it to good use.

\$20.00 each

Hampton Soft Touch

Stainless Bottle - 25 oz.



All proceeds for the sale of water bottles will be applied to our Youth Mission Fund

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WORD OF THE MONTH: HARVEST



Scripture:

"She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks... She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night." — Proverbs 31:17–18 (NIV)

Autumn marks the heart of harvest season, when farmers gather the fruits of their labor after months of planting, tending, and trusting the land. It's a time of long days, heavy lifting, and deep gratitude—each crop pulled from the soil is a testament to patience and perseverance. For many farmers, harvest isn't just about yield—it's about legacy, community, and faith in the unseen.

As God's daughters we are much like the farmer. We have sown in tears, prayed in silence, and labored in love. Now, sister, it's harvest time. Not just in the fields of life, but in your spirit. God honors the quiet faithfulness of women who keep showing up—whether anyone sees it or not.

Harvest isn't just about abundance; it's about recognizing the fruit of your faith, your endurance, and your obedience. Maybe your harvest looks like peace after a storm, restoration in a relationship, or clarity in a season of change. Whatever it is, receive it with joy.

Take time this month to reflect on what God has grown in you. Celebrate the small victories, receive the harvest and rejoice in it. And remember: the harvest is holy, because the hands that gathered it were faithful.

Thank you,

Terra Armstead

THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP. BIG DADDY WEAVE WILL BE IN CONCERT AT CORNERSTONE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH IN DUNCAN FALLS ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH AT 7PM. USE QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS WHICH ARE \$25.00.



METHODIST MEN

Greetings from Lake Erie AKA "The North Coast",

Just a few lines to remind you that the Methodist Men's Group is scheduled to serve lunch on Saturday, October 4th at Christ's Table. We will meet at Christ's Table at 10:00 AM to prepare sandwiches, heat soup, load the salad bar, and start serving from 11:00 to 12:30. We will clean up and be finished by 1:00 PM.

As you are reading this, we will have completed our service at the September 20th Women's Brunch.

Please continue to think of a possible date and time for a Men's Saturday Brunch or evening dinner so more men would be able to attend.

Don't forget the Men's Breakfast will be at 7:00 AM on Sunday, October 5th.

Tim Collins, Methodist Men's Secretary

NURSING HOME CARD MINISTRY

We have completed enough Christmas cards for six nursing homes and will get together closer to Christmas to put candy canes on them. We are going to meet again on October 23rd from 10:30 to 11:30 to do our birthday and thinking of you cards.

Thanks!

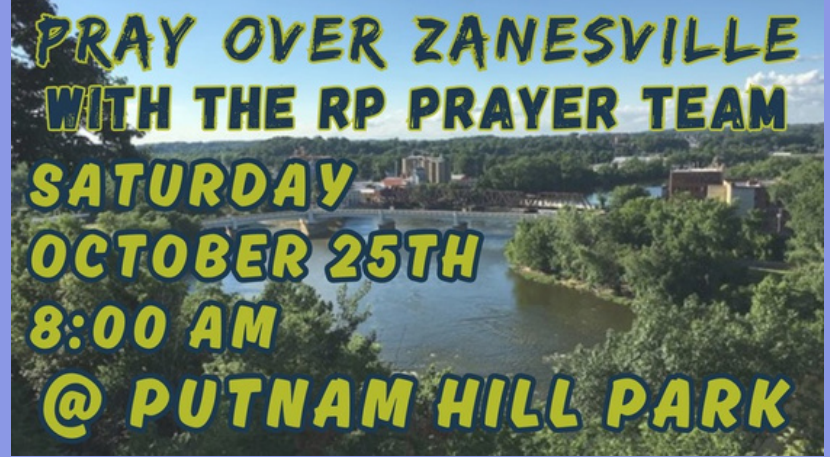
Sincerely, June Smith



MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Sunday
OCT. 5TH
@ 7:00AM**

**FOOD
FELLOWSHIP &
BIBLE STUDY**



Family of Rolling Plains,

I have been doing a little research for an upcoming event and thought I would share some information about the power of prayer.

In my research, I found information about a study on how prayer changes the brain. Growing up, I was told that when we became a certain age, our brains stopped growing. Well, if our brains stop growing, how can the following verse be true?

Romans 12:2 NIV "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

How can our brain be renewed if it does not change? Did God know something science did not know yet? Of course, He did!

In 2003, a radiologist named Andrew Newberg used a new machine called functional magnetic resonance imaging to study the brains of people who prayed. Andrew gathered people from different faiths and asked them to pray for 12 minutes a day. Andrew captured images of a control group that were not going to pray and this group before they started their daily prayer as a baseline. The images Andrew collected after the experiment proved that our brains could grow in adulthood, therefore agreeing with the Bible. The group that prayed showed a scientifically significant increase in volume and metabolic activity in the part of the brain that connects emotions and thoughts, creating an ability to be more loving and forgiving. He also found that the group who prayed had a decrease in the fight or flight response, which allows one to respond to situations without overwhelming emotions like anger and fear.

I am sure glad I believe in an all-knowing God. What I want you to take from this is that prayer can transform your brain and your life. It says so in the Word of God and is backed up by science.

If you want to read more about the brain and prayer, check out the resource below.

What I also learned is that praying together builds connection. Watch the announcements and join us for monthly group prayer.

May God bless you and encourage you to pray daily.

Kelly Lee~ prayer ministry member

**Liedke, Michael. "Neurophysiological Benefits of Worship." The Journal of Biblical Foundations of Faith and Learning, vol. 3, no. 1, 2018, *Liedke, Michael. "Neurophysiological Benefits of Worship." The Journal of Biblical Foundations of Faith and Learning, vol. 3, no. 1, 2018, . Accessed 20 December 2021.*

OCTOBER 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 METHODIST MEN MEETING 7:00 AM Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM 6th-12th grade	6 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	7 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	8 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	9 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	10 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	11 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM
12 PASTOR APPRECIATION Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM 6th-12th grade	13 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	14 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	15 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	16 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	17 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	18 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM
19 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM 6th-12th grade	20 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	21 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	22 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	23 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	24 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	25 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM
26 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM 6th-12th grade	27 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	28 NEEDLE CRAFTERS FOR CHRIST 6:00-8:00 PM	29 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	30 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	31 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM	4 Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM pre-K-5th grade Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade Young Adult Small Group 15-25 year olds 6:30-8:00 PM

SAT

5

MEETING / 100 AM

NEEDLE
CRAFTS
FOR CHRIST
6:00-8:00 PM

6th-12th grade

12 PASTOR 13
APPRECIATION

6th-12th grade

NEEDLE
CRAFTERS
FOR CHRIST
6:00-8:00 PM



QUILTING AND
SEWING
6:00 PM



Young Adult Small Group
12-25 year olds
6:30-7:00 PM

25

6th-12th grade

NEEDLE
CRAFTERS
FOR CHRIST
6:00-8:00 PM

p 6:30-8:00 PM
6th-12th grade

NEEDLE
CRAFTERS
FOR CHRIST
6:00-8:00 PM

**QUILTING AND
SEWING
6:00 PM**

30

Fusion 6:30-8:00 PM
pre-k-5th grade
Youth Small Groups 6th-12th grade
Young Adult Small Groups 13-25 year olds
6:30-8:00 PM

31



Old Country

Praying
over the city
8:00 AM

Old Country House



Our Worship Choir has begun practicing on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. This is in preparation for our Christmas Choir Concert on Sunday, December 7th. Anyone, 14 years and older, who loves to worship through song is welcome. Please contact Susan Reese via text (740-408-2465) or sign up in the RP App.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Saturday
October 18th**

**Community
Candlelight Vigil
for Charlie Kirk**

**8:00 – 9:00 PM
Muskingum County
Courthouse**



What a great summer it has been! As we look forward to Fall with Thanksgiving fast approaching, don't forget to schedule your blood donation on November 1st from 8:00 AM -1:00 PM.

We will be in the lower level this day.
Call or text Vicki McConnell
740-704-9509 [RedCross.org](https://www.RedCross.org).

Rolling Plains Church
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Zanesville, OH 43701
rollingplainsgmc.com

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