

New Beginnings

Then the crowd asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”
Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”
John 6:28-29 N.I.V.

Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish

June 2017



Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mel Nielsen
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When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

- Acts 2:1-4 (N.I.V.)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. The first of many questions concerning Pentecost is why were they all together and who were “they.” They were the faithful Jews who were gathering to celebrate one of the many festivals considered important to their faith. Before it came to be known as Pentecost this was a celebration called, “The Festival of the Weeks,” or Shavuot. This was a time to remember when God gave Moses the law on Mt. Horeb.

Today the Christian Church recognizes this day as Pentecost or the day God sent His Holy Spirit. Originally, those who believed in God and the law (Ten Commandments) given to Moses, would gather to celebrate this occurrence. I don’t believe God chose this celebration as the day He would send the Holy Spirit. Pentecost always occurs 7 weeks after Easter. Seven is a number known by the Jews as equating perfection.

God did not want to abolish the law of Moses when He sent His Holy Spirit during that celebration. God may have wanted to establish something new to go along with the law of Moses. If we recall the teaching of Jesus, the Lord never said He came to rewrite that law, but to add greater understanding of it and how we can live by it.

Jesus began that teaching but when it was time for Him to return to Heaven He promised a counselor to take His place. That counselor is the Holy Spirit. In a

way God chose this celebration of the law to draw even more attention to it. Never to abandon it, but to live more fruitfully within the law. Jesus said that obeying the law of Moses was not enough to make a person righteous enough for Heaven, but accepting Jesus Himself as the embodiment of the law would be enough.

You and I know the law says, “Thou shalt not runneth the red light.” Jesus would say why would you not want to run a red light? Is it because you may kill another, you may cause devastation to you and other’s lives.” In fact whole families could be destroyed by one act of violating the law. Even if it is 2 a.m. and nobody else is anywhere near the intersection, we stop at the red light. Why?

It is not enough to know that you can still get a ticket for breaking the law, but it is more in knowing the totality of the law is good. God gave us His Holy Spirit on Pentecost so that we may know the law is good. Life is better when we all obey the law and even better if we know why we obey. Yes, when we obey the law God is pleased, but there is a calmness within us that only occurs when we obey.

Disobeying, even a little, causes a ripple effect in our daily routine. Sometimes when we disobey it becomes a pattern and then we are guilty of willfully sinning against God! How did we get here? It all begins when we think we are above God’s law and can judge for ourselves what is best. God knew this about us so He sent His Holy Spirit to speak to us at 2 a.m. and nobody else is visible, God is with us.

The Holy Spirit was not sent to create hardship. After all it is just one red light, and by running it I can get home one second sooner, why would the Holy Spirit even care? Entire lives have been destroyed by the breaking of the law; and that all started with the breaking of just one. If it’s right, it’s right! If it’s wrong, it’s wrong! God is right! The Holy Spirit is right and so God sent His Holy Spirit so we would know what is right and wrong.

–Pastor Mel

Evan UMW Report



Photo by Pastor Mel

The Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Women met for their annual breakfast on May 2, 2017. 8 members and 3 guests were in attendance along with Pastor Mel. Pictured above L-R, are: Christine Meyer, Pat Bland, Carol Buente, Esther Marcotte, Joyce Riegel, Lorraine Wildman, guest Pearl Evans, guest Jan Heppe, Circle Shepheress, Sue Gallois, Dayle Seitz and Ardis Messer. Not picture is Pastor Mel.

You'll Never Miss It

Frustrated that income never covered expenses, a longtime church treasurer resigned. Another member, who owned the town's grain elevator, volunteered to take over with one stipulation: He wouldn't submit a report for the first year.

The puzzled board members agreed because they knew he was an honest man. After all, they trusted him to process their grain.

By year's end, the new treasurer gave a glowing report. The church's building debt had been erased. Staff salaries had increased 15 percent. And the budget showed a healthy balance.

When the shocked but delighted congregation asked for an explanation, the treasurer said, "Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. When I paid you, I simply withheld 10 percent on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You never missed it!"

Imagine what we could do for God if we willingly returned the first tenth of his gifts back to him.

First UMW Report

The Bonfield First United Methodist Church's United Methodist Women met Thurs., May 18, at the church for Barbara Cordes's presentation of the yearly Prayer and Self-Denial program.

Members learned of the ongoing struggles women and girls around the world suffer as they meet their reproductive health needs. Staggering statistics led to a heartfelt discussion involving ways to get involved and support local women with similar needs. One hundred percent of this year's offering will go directly to partners engaged in programs and advocacy to benefit women and children.

Several stories of UMW supported missions were read from the Prayer Calendar. Old business was discussed, and members were reminded to read the Reading Program books.

Dianne Wells shared with the group that our parish is considering creating a fund to help those locally who need assistance. Money needs to be raised, so the group discussed a few possible fund raisers.

The June 15 meeting will be a "field trip" to Jill's home where the group will watch a movie and reflect.

Strength For Life's Bites

The day was fresh, and I jumped into my work with an attitude of praise. Then those bothersome mosquito bites started itching again. I rubbed lotion on them and tried to cope with the pain and distraction.

Most days are like that. We intend to honor God in all things, but irritating itches or overwhelming problems develop. Worry leads our minds away from God's love and promises.

We can't avoid life's little — or big — "bites." Yet we look to Jesus as our salve and salvation. He covers us and empowers us for each day's tasks. As Isaiah 40:29 (NIV) says, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

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Live It Out

The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.

—Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*

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Fellowship Breakfast

The next Fellowship Breakfast has been scheduled for Tue., June 6, 2017, 8:30 at IHOP in Bourbonnais. Come enjoy a great breakfast and even better fellowship with other church members and friends. This is a good way to get to know other people who worship God in the Bonfield area. You do not need to be a member to attend. Everyone is invited.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish Prayer Shawl group continues to knit and crochet and pray. They always welcome anyone who would like to join to come to the next gathering on June 6, 7 p.m. at Bonfield First United Methodist Church. They have lots of yarn, good fellowship and even instruction if you would like to learn.

If you know an individual in need of a prayer shawl or pocket prayer shawl, please contact Donna Voigt 815-939-0346; Dana Dittus at 815-263-0783 or Pastor Mel.

Time For Church



**PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGES
EFFECTIVE JULY 2, 2017**

Bonfield First

172 Church Street

8:00 a.m. Sunday Services

9:15 Adult and Youth Sunday School

Bonfield Evangelical

348 Smith Street, Bonfield

9:15 a.m. Sunday Services

10:30 Adult and Youth Sunday School

Grand Prairie

Rt. 17 Bonfield

10:30 a.m Sunday Services

9:15 a.m Adult and Youth Sunday School

Upcoming Worship Schedule

*The following is a tentative schedule for
June 2017 worship.*

(Readings & message may change without notice.)

June 4

Pentecost

“Your Personal Spirit”

Altar Color - Red

OT: None

NT: 1 Corinthians 12:3-13

Gospel: John 7:37-39

June 11

Trinity Sunday

“The Great Commission”

Altar Color - White

OT: Psalm 8

NT: None

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

June 18

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

“What a Father Wants”

Altar Color - Green

OT: None

NT: None

Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 25

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

“What? Me Worry?”

Altar Color - Green

OT: None

NT: None

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

July 2

4th Sunday after Pentecost

“Time to Receive”

Altar Color - Green

OT: None

NT: None

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42



There is POWER in PRAYER

Pastor Mel invites you to join in praying
for the following names and causes.

Friends and Family Close to Home

Nursing Home

Heritage Village.....Vi Morse

Manteno Veterans.....Bob Grob, Byron Warren

Assisted Living

Butterfield.....Bernice Schultz, Mel Brinkman family

Harvest View.....Warren Cochran, Roscella Piper,

Randy Riegel

River North.....Ruth Ohrt

Westwood Oaks.....Fostine Schwark, Don Mau

At Home.....Jan May, Jackie Wagner

From Our Church Bulletin

Kurt Boesen, Charles Brinkman, Jr., Shirley Brunner,
Dennis Bushman, Joann Coffman, Tyler Coffman, Sue
Coons, Ron Cordes, Jean Dunn, Dennis Hertz, Butch
Lambert, Janice Logsdon, Allen Messer, Sheila Neuby,
Dorene O'Connor, Merle Penrod, Kevin Reiniche, Rob
Reiniche, Randy Riegel, Richard Wildman, Pam
Wilking, James Vilt., Sr.

Compassion International Kids

Latif Korogo.....Burkina Faso

Maria Clara Maciel Da Silva "Clara".....Brazil

Dayava Sanchez.....Columbia

Witney Juarez.....Guatemala

Shan Toppo.....India

Junior Okwii BarasaKenya

Genesi Marisol Martinez Vasquez.....Honduras

Samuel Juda Lopez Miranda.....Mexico

Mohini Ahirwar.....India

Cinthia Yolany Carranza Aguila.....Honduras

Sonaton Soren.....Bangladesh

Yeferson David Ortiz Cortez.....Colombia

Nevada Eric.....Rwanda

Anielka Carolina Garcia Roque.....Nicaragua

Schekinah Jean Louis.....Haiti

Salome Vicente Melo.....Mexico

Benjamin Sewu.....Ghana

Lucky Hubiagbe.....Ghana

Rebeca Callapa.....Bolivia

Saray Morales.....Columbia

Other requests

Bishop Frank Beard, D.S. Leah Pogemiller, Nueva
Jerusalem, Inner City Violence, State Budget,
President Trump and his new cabinet, First
Responders, Missionaries, Military.

Sunshine Circle Report

On May 18, seven members and one guest met at Sue Buente's home for a delicious dinner at 6:30 with Kim Metzka assisting.

Following the meeting Donna Diefenbach read, "I Am Only One." Metzka followed with a devotion entitled, "Caught in the Storm." The devotion ended with the question to all, Have you been caught in the storm? Some highlights from the devotion are: 1.) Stormy weather can cause fear, Matthew 14:22-33; 2.) stormy weather can worry, Mark 4:35-41; 3.) stormy weather can cause change, Genesis 6:9. So, how are you weathering your storm?

Business meeting opened with those present answering roll call by acknowledging how they weather the storms of life. Minutes and treasurer's reports were read. Old business saw final decisions made for the annual garage sale on June 2 & 3. Items may be dropped off at the church during office hours, Mon. and Thurs., 8-12 or Sunday mornings.

The ladies will be at the church setting up on Thurs., June 1, 1-7 p.m. Hours of operation for the garage sale are Fri. June 2 and Sat., June 3, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

New business included a motion to give \$150 to the Salvation Army Camp to assist a child who wants to go to camp, it was seconded. A motion was made to give \$300 to the church to assist children who may want to attend church camp.

The next meeting will be June 15 at Baker's Square in Bourbonnais at 6 p.m.

HELP WANTED

Garage Sale & Bake Sale

Bonfield Evangelical UMC

343 E. Smith Street, Bonfield

The Evan UMW and Sunshine Circle are seeking good used items for the Rummage Sale on June 2 & 3. They are also requesting donations of baked goods for the bake sale.

You may begin dropping of items for the garage sale at the church after May 14

MENU:

Breakfast - Biscuits & Gravy, Cinnamon Rolls, Breakfast Surprise, Coffee, Milk & OJ.

Lunch - Walking Tacos, Pork Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Soda & Water

Bible Quiz

The “Trinitarian formula” occurs only once in the Bible. In which New Testament book do we read “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” and who said these words?

- A. Romans; Paul
- B. 1 Peter; Simon Peter
- C. The Acts of the Apostles; Luke
- D. Matthew; Jesus

June Memory Verse

This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice
and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

+ Christian Symbols +

Bee



The bee symbolizes various traits across cultures and faiths, including community, industry and resurrection. Its sting may represent judgment, while its honey calls to mind the sweetness of divine riches. Multiple times in the Old Testament, the Promised Land is described as “flowing with milk and honey” (e.g., Exodus 3:8), and the Psalms declare God’s words “sweeter than honey” (19:10; 119:103).

Quotes Of The Month

“I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.”

—F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

“It is a wise father that knows his own child.”

—William Shakespeare

“We realize the importance of light when we see darkness.”

—Malala Yousafzai

“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”

—Mahatma Gandhi

Answer: D (See Matthew 28:19.)

Spaghetti Supper



***Fundraiser for
Youth Mission Trip***

Sun., June 4

***Bonfield Evangelical
Fellowship Hall***

4-7 p.m.

***The Bonfield Youth Group is hosting a
Spaghetti Supper to support their trip to
Rockford Urban Ministries in late June.***

\$8-Adults;

\$5-8 years old & under

June Birthdays

June 1.....Mike Jackubowski
 Diane (Dittus) Lawrence

June 2.....Laura Gronert
 Dana Dittus
 Deandra Dittus

June 4.....Logan Gronert

June 5.....Alyssa Williams
 Robert Osenga
 Christine (Meissen) Lade

June 7.....Rita (Wildman) Overacker
 Mark Ouellette
 Justin Vaughn

June 8.....Timothy Holohan
 Marcia (Riegel) Jackson
 Michael Panozzo
 Randy Charter

June 9.....Nanette (Bouchard) Wood
 Andrew Marcotte

June 10.....Kyle Buente
 Peyton Riegel

June 11.....Alan Buckley
 Zachary Jensen
 Denise (O'Connor) Fecke

June 12.....Jared Sikes

June 13.....Bill Smith

June 14.....Rick White
 James Messer
 Jimmy Vilt, Jr.
 Sarah Meyer
 David St. Germaine

June 15.....Beth (Faga) Meyer
 Warner Diefenbach

June 16.....Burt Taylor
 Somar Powell
 Ceri Dorsey-Tyler
 Ryan Coffman

June 17.....Leigh Ann (Gagnon) Turro
 Lee Ann (Higginbotham-Horn) Kenley
 Gwenyth Jackubowski
 Logan Michael Kuipers

June 18.....Todd Bauer

June 19.....Duane Krieg
 Annette (Abell) Riegel
 Tami (Cordes) Lockwood
 Michael Kingsland

June 20.....Ruth (Piper) Laird
 Mary Katherine Buckman
 Isabelle Lowey

June 22.....Vanessa Longtin

June 23.....Emmery Rice
 Kenneth Dato

June 24.....Paige Meyer
 Bryce Overacker

June 25.....Thomas Pitkin
 Susan (Abell) Diefenbach

June 26.....David Wilson
 Crystal Melhorn

June 27.....Leo Smith
 Dale Dittus
 Patterson Friese
 Deborah (Charbonneau) Meyer

June 28.....Eric Hawks
 Jakob Bouk
 Mark Reising
 Debbie Nielsen
 Leila Wood

June 29.....Mike Bland
 Lori (Hertz-Kirchner) Marquis

June 30.....Ann Meyer
 Mary (Warren) Krieg
 Derek Brinkman

Please notify the church office of any names and birthdays which need to be added, removed or corrected. Office number 1-815-802-9805.

Have You Considered Prayer?

Pastor Mel would like to invite you to join one of two small groups dedicated to prayer. The Men's Prayer Group is a time for men to read scripture and pray. They meet at 6:30 a.m. each Wednesday at Bonfield Evangelical UMC. Another opportunity is for men and women to meet and pray each Mon., morning at 10 a.m. also at Bonfield Evangelical. These groups offer time to talk about the needs of the individual, church, country or world and then offer prayers. All are welcome to attend.

Apr. 2017 Attendance

| | <u>4/2</u> | <u>4/9</u> | <u>4/16</u> | <u>4/23</u> | <u>4/30</u> |
|---------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Evangelical | 50 | 64 | 59 | 46 | 41 |
| First | 18 | 38 | 22 | 15 | 17 |
| Grand Prairie | 44 | 45 | 31 | 42 | 40 |
| TOTALS | 112 | 147 | 112 | 103 | 98 |

J U N E 2 0 1 7

| | | | | Thurs., June 1 | Fri., June 2 | Sat., June 3 |
|----------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | UMW/Sunshine Garage Sales Bake Sales Breakfast/Lunch | UMW/Sunshine Garage Sales Bake Sales Breakfast/Lunch |
| Sun., June 4 | Youth Group Spaghetti Supper Mission Fundraiser @ Evan, 4-7 | Mon., June 5 Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. SPPRC Meeting @ Evan, 6 p.m. | Tue., June 6 I-HOP Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl @ First Church, 7 p.m. | Wed., June 7 Men's Prayer @ Evan, 6:30 a.m. | Fri., June 9 | Sat., June 10 |
| Sun., June 11 | Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. | Mon., June 12 Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. | Tue., June 13 NOW Meeting @ Evan, 7 p.m. | Wed., June 14 Men's Prayer @ Evan, 6:30 a.m. | Fri., June 15 Sunshine Circle @ Evan, 6:30 p.m. First UMW @ First Church, 7 p.m. | Sat., June 17 |
| Sun., June 18 | Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. | Mon., June 19 Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. | Tue., June 20 PASTOR GONE ON MISSION TRIP | Wed., June 21 Men's Prayer @ Evan, 6:30 a.m. Community Lunch @ Lion's Hall | Thurs., June 22 PASTOR GONE ON MISSION TRIP | Sat., June 24 |
| Sun., June 25 | Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. | Mon., June 26 Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. | Tue., June 27 Fold Newsletters @ Evan, 8:30 a.m. | Wed., June 28 Men's Prayer @ Evan, 6:30 a.m. | Fri., June 29 July 2017 Newsletter Deadline PASTOR GONE ON MISSION TRIP | Sat., June 30 |

Ruling On A Gay Bishop Could Be Far-reaching

By Heather Hahn
May 10, 2017 | UMNS

The Judicial Council's recent ruling against the consecration of a gay bishop likely has consequences for United Methodists far beyond one bishop.

The United Methodist Church's top court ruled on April 28 that the consecration of a "self-avowed practicing homosexual bishop" violates church law.

A key part of Decision 1341 is that a "same-sex marriage license issued by competent civil authorities together with the clergy person's status in a same-sex relationship is a public declaration that the person is a self-avowed practicing homosexual."

The decision goes on to say that a clergy member can present evidence to rebut this presumption of sexual activity in a same-sex marriage. But the possible rebuttal can only happen within the context of a formal administrative or judicial process of review.

This marks the first time the denomination's supreme court has weighed in on same-gender marriage licenses since the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015 established same-sex civil marriage as a constitutional right.

The court's majority opinion does not name Bishop Karen Oliveto, the denomination's sole openly gay episcopal leader. It was her election and consecration in the Western Jurisdiction that prompted a petition to the Judicial Council. For now, Oliveto, who is married to a deaconess, remains bishop of the Mountain Sky Area while her ministerial office is under review.

In the meantime, other clergy and clergy candidates also could feel the impact of the Judicial Council's ruling. A year ago, more than 100 United Methodist clergy and clergy candidates came out as gay in the lead up to General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking assembly where views on homosexuality are a recurring topic of debate. At this point, about 180 clergy openly identify as LGBTQ.

On the same day it ruled on a gay bishop's consecration, the Judicial Council also released two opinions instructing United Methodist boards of ordained ministry to examine all qualifications of ministerial candidates — including whether they practice "fidelity in marriage and celibacy in

singleness." The church defines marriage as solely between a man and a woman.

Lonnie Brooks, a former Alaska lay leader who wrote a brief in support of the Western Jurisdiction, called the marriage-license decision "sweeping in scope."

"It removes whatever cover LGBTQ people thought they had in refraining from public avowals of their relationships and activities," Brooks wrote in an analysis of the ruling. If a legal record of marriage exists, he added, any gay clergy member would now be vulnerable to "prosecution and removal from office and denial of livelihood."

Oliveto told the United Methodist News Service that the ruling "not only has an impact on gay clergy and candidates for ministry; it redefines marriage for the whole church."

"It sends a message that marriage is no longer about 'love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity' but reduced to sexual acts," she said. "People — gay and straight — marry for many reasons. To narrow the definition in this way does a disservice for the way the miracle and mystery of love — which is born of God — draws two people together to build a life together."

The Book of Discipline, the denomination's book of church law and teachings, has stated since 1972, that all individuals are of sacred worth but the practice of homosexuality "is incompatible with Christian teaching."

However, it wasn't until 1984 that the denomination prohibited the clergy candidacy, ordination and assignment of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." Oliveto, who told National Public Radio that she came out in seminary, became a provisional elder in 1982.

The combination of the words "self-avowed practicing" is key. The denomination has never banned people from clergy orders simply because they are gay. It also does not ban transgender clergy. The ban has been against same-gender sexual activity.

Over the years, the denomination has at times struggled to define what evidence meets the threshold of "self-avowed practicing."

In a footnote, the Book of Discipline defines

PLEASE SEE "RULING" ON PAGE 9

RULING

(Continued from page 8)

“self-avowed practicing” to mean that a person openly acknowledges to United Methodist leaders, such as a bishop or a board of ordained ministry, that he or she is a “practicing homosexual.” The footnote refers to earlier Judicial Council opinions on the matter.

The Rev. William B. Lawrence, former Judicial Council president, said under that standard, simply having a conversation with a lay member of a local church wasn’t enough.

Now, Lawrence expects, some church authorities may look to see if someone they suspect is gay has a marriage license.

However, he suggested “it would behoove all of us United Methodists to relax a bit and try to find a way not to have an ‘us vs. them’ dialogue about the hot-button issues in the life of the church.”

Lawrence, a professor of American church history and retired dean of Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology, wishes the church would instead focus on its basic mission statements, including the commitment to personal and social holiness.

The Rev. Robert Zilhaber, a Western Pennsylvania Conference pastor who has argued cases for the Judicial Council and wrote a brief in the gay bishop case, offered a different perspective.

“If we don’t use our resources to maintain our connectional covenant, we will soon have neither a connectional covenant nor resources,” he said. “Nullification of the connectional covenant in these matters by our leadership risks not only our status as a church in this area, but in other areas of our life together.”

The Rev. Lea Matthews, a provisional deacon in the New York Conference, was among the clergy candidates who came out last year. She also is a member of the Queer Clergy Caucus. Her message is that LGBTQ clergy are not going anywhere.

“We, the Queer Clergy Caucus, are standing steadfast in our commitment to each other, to the Wesleyan tradition and to the gospel of Christ,” she said. “Along with our families and allies, we will continue to resist. Nonconformity of unjust laws is the only way forward.”

Even as the debate rages on, the Commission on

a Way Forward continues its work to try to find a way for a denomination deeply divided around homosexuality to have some sort of future together. United Methodist bishops have called a special General Conference on Feb. 23-26, 2019, to consider a report based on the commission’s recommendations.

The United Methodist chancellors, who serve as attorneys for the denomination’s annual conferences, issued a statement in the wake of the Judicial Council’s ruling. The chancellors urge “all persons, congregations, districts, conferences and organizations of The United Methodist Church to refrain from any action that would prejudice the ability of the Commission on a Way Forward and the special session of the General Conference in February 2019 to preserve our denomination as one.”

The Rev. Thomas E. Frank, a historian of Methodism and author of the frequently used textbook *Polity, Practice, and the Mission of the United Methodist Church*, disagreed with the Judicial Council’s ruling in Decision 1341 but holds out hope for the Way Forward Commission.

“I continue to be absolutely convinced that for the vast majority of United Methodists, differences of opinion about human sexuality do not rise to the level of church-defining essentials and are not a constitutional matter that necessitates legally dividing the church,” he said. “There is nothing in our constitution about sex and sexuality. I hope the commission will design a path for our church to stay together.”

“Reprinted with permission from United Methodist News Service and the author, Heather Hahn.

Annual Conference Prayer Vigil Times

Each year during Annual Conference, laity ask each district to pray at a certain designated time for the Conference. This certainly doesn’t mean that this is the only time you can pray but it gives each district a designated time.

Vermilion River District’s time to pray is
Thursday evening, June 8



Are your kids ready to Soar High with God's Amazing Love?

Hey kids! Are you ready to take an awesome adventure alongside some of your favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God? VBS Hero Central uses epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories to help you discover your strength in God!

When: July 10-14, 2017

**Where: Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Church
348 E. Smith Street, Bonfield, IL 60913**

Time: 6-8:15 p.m

Ages: Pre-K - 6th Grade

For more information call 815-802-9805 or email: bonfieldgp@sbcglobal.net

***** ALL forms also available on the Parish Website and Facebook pages *****

Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

Facebook page: Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish

VBS Volunteer Registration July 10-14, 2017

Volunteers must be age 13 or older (NO Exceptions)
Anyone younger than 13 will be a VBS participant

Before VBS, I would like to help by:

- Praying
- Preparing craft materials
- Helping with administrative tasks
- Planning decorations
- Decorating classrooms
- Building sets
- Planning publicity

During VBS, I would like to help in one or more of the following areas:

- Group: Helper
- Crafts: Helper
- Snacks: Helper
- Games: Helper
- Music: Helper

Age Level Preference

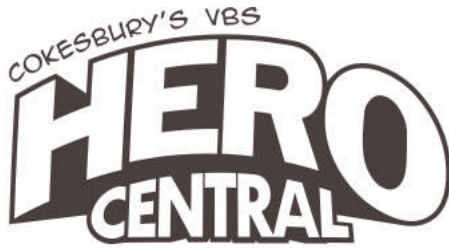
- 3-5 years 6-12 years Wherever needed most

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Days Available _____ Every night Y / N Certain days (please specify) _____

Please scan and email this form to: bonfieldgp@sbcglobal.net -OR- Mail this form to VBS Registration c/o Dana Dittus, P.O. Box 66., Bonfield, IL 60913



Register me for Hero Central!

July 10-14, 2017; 6-8:15 p.m.

Ages: Pre-K - 6th Grade

Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Church

Child's name _____

Gender: Male Female Birthdate ____/____/____ Grade completed _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Parents/Guardian _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____

Emergency contact _____

Relationship to child _____ Phone _____

Name of person picking up and dropping off your child _____

Name of home church _____

Food allergies Y___ N___

List _____

Medical concerns Y___ N___

Explain _____

PHOTO RELEASE APPROVAL: I hereby grant The Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish and specifically the Vacation Bible School leadership permission to take photographs of _____ (child's name) to be used in photo displays, websites and other materials the parish creates. _____ (Parent or legal guardian signature).

Please scan and email this form to: bonfieldgp@sbcglobal.net

Or

Mail this form to VBS Registration c/o Dana Dittus

P.O. Box 66

Bonfield, IL 60913



Photos by Debbie Nielsen

Youth Group Says Goodbye To Youth Directors

Wed., May 17, 2017 saw the end of an era for the Bonfield Grand Prairie Youth Group as they youth said goodbye to Jennifer Druse and Trevor Workman. Druse has been the youth director for the past 4 years and has been assisted by her fiancée, Trevor Workman for the past 2 years. The group has continued to grow under their leadership and is now looking to the future with a new youth director to be named. The youth group presented them with a gift of a wall hanging, shown above, each member signed their name on the back as a reminder of their time together.



The last meeting of the year for the Bonfield Grand Prairie Youth Group featured a Bible Lesson, lots of food and some fun playing games. Pictured at left, the youth enjoy the board game, 'Quelf' with youth director, Jennifer Druse, looking on to the far left. The youth group will begin meeting again in the fall with a new director yet to be named. If you have any questions concerning your child becoming part of this worthwhile ministry, please contact Pastor Mel at 815-922-9161.

Tapestry UMC gives \$2,000 to local school to pay off cafeteria costs

by the Rev. Pat Bell

Tapestry UMC, Parker, Colorado

This year's Mile High Pikes Peak District Conference designated new church-start Tapestry United Methodist Church as the recipient of the offering from their worship service. Almost \$1,300 was given to Tapestry UMC to use to make an impact in their local community of Parker/Lone Tree, Colorado.

While Parker is typically regarded as an affluent area there is a surprising amount of need; however, most of it is hidden. Tapestry held a brainstorming meeting that focused on how the money could be best utilized in Parker, and a noticeable trend arose: We wanted specifically to help vulnerable children in the area.

After some investigating, Tapestry discovered that in one of the local elementary schools, there was a surprising number of students who were either a part of the school's free or reduced cost lunch program or who would qualify if their families applied. Additionally, in spite of the free or reduced cost lunch program, over 150 children were unable to keep up with the cost of the meals – 34 of which were carrying balances of \$50 or more. At a program cost of 40 cents per lunch, that equates to at least six months of lunches per child! Knowing that this situation could eventually lead to kids going hungry during the school days, Tapestry knew they had found their cause.

On May 8, using the funds from the district along with funds from a matching pledge from a church member, Tapestry presented Pine Lane Elementary School with a check for \$2,000 to pay off or subsidize the cafeteria accounts of almost all of the children who were most in need. Tapestry also intends to keep in contact with the school and with their on-site social worker so they might help with similar situations that arise in the future.

Pastor Pat Bell and all the people of Tapestry encourage our Rocky Mountain Conference churches to contact your local schools now to discover if there is a similar need in your area. There is no telling what these kids might grow up to do if they can focus today on learning instead of hunger.

Reprinted from the
United Methodist New Service

Roast Chicken With Spring Vegetables

INGREDIENTS

- 3 1/2 lbs. skin-on, bone-in chicken quarters
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 lemon, halved
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 lb. fingerling or other small potatoes
- 2 bunches radishes
- 1 bunch scallions
- 1 bunch baby carrots
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F. Rinse the chicken and pat dry. Season with salt and pepper, then place skin-side up on a rimmed baking sheet. Squeeze 1/2 lemon over the chicken and drizzle with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Roast 15 minutes. Meanwhile, cut the potatoes and radishes in half and cut the scallions into thirds. Toss the potatoes, radishes, carrots and the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil in a bowl; season with salt and pepper. Remove the chicken from the oven and scatter the vegetables around it. Continue to roast until the vegetables are tender and the chicken is golden and cooked through, about 20 more minutes. Squeeze the remaining 1/2 lemon over the chicken and vegetables. Top with the dill and season with salt.

Yield: 4 servings

Total Time: 40 minutes

Recipe courtesy of
Food Network Kitchen

From:

www.foodnetwork.com

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June 2017



Does the Bible Confuse you?

Pastor Mel is scheduling a Beginners Bible Class.

This small group is intended for those who are new to Bible Study.

If attending church, Sunday school or other classes held by the church gives you anxiety because you think, "I don't know enough!"

Then this is the class for you.

We will move slowly from the beginning - with basic information about the Bible, it's authors when certain books were written and why. Feel free to bring your questions about Jesus!

Bible from Scratch Classes begin Soon - Sign Up Now!

**Classes begin Monday July 17 at the Pastor's house,
225 Country Lane, Bonfield • 6:30 p.m.**

There is not cost, Pastor Mel will supply all materials.

Bibles will be available if you do not have one.

Please let Pastor Mel know by Friday, June 23 so he knows how many will attend.

Call 815-922-9161 for more information or to sign up!