

New Beginnings

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
John 6:28-29 N.I.V. Matthew 19:26

Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish

March 2018



Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mel Nielsen
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14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

- Acts 16:14-15 (N.I.V.)

A person of business, a faithful convert, a persuasive speaker and also a woman. I am writing about Lydia this month because March is Women's History Month. Women play a big part in the history of the Christian faith as well as the world. A battle is brewing in the workplace for more equality and safety centered on women's rights. This has been most obvious in the entertainment industry. Countless women have come forth with one horror story after another of how a man attempted to abuse or take advantage of them in some form.

Where did Jesus teach us this lesson? Paul did write some interesting things about the role of women in the church. However, I believe that Paul wrote 'for' us, but not 'to' us in 2017. He was writing to individual women or groups of women who were most likely teaching outside accepted orthodoxy. There is no Biblical evidence in Jesus' teaching that instructs us that women as a whole are to be marginalized or subjected to a lower standard of living than men.

For me, Lydia represents just the opposite. She is a strong community minded, God-fearing woman who is involved with her local prayer group. She is an example that women are part of the Priesthood of all Believers. I would go so far as to say if we really stopped women from being a voice in the church, then we might as well go ahead and close the churches.

It was Lydia's deep faith that helped build the church in Asia Minor. She is considered the first European convert to Christianity. Some denominations consider her a saint. Not bad for a simple woman who traded purple cloth and prayed.

Even though I support equality for women and abhor how many women are treated in our society, this article is not about worshipping women. Nor is it about worshipping men, on the contrary, it is about worshipping God. My favorite part of the Lydia story, aside from her example to women today, is how God calls her. Her heart is opened by God's Word and she responds by sacrificing her life.

We need to set aside the male centric world of Paul's time long enough to hear the real message, *she*, (Lydia) had her heart opened by the Word of God, *she* was called, *she* was important to God. Doesn't matter what the men of her time thought - God called her and opened *her* heart. Since before the time of Lydia God has been calling women into the mission and ministries of Jesus.

There have been women like Susanna Wesley, Ann Dutton, Evangeline Booth, Amy Carmichael, Mother Teresa, Corrie Ten Boom and Christine Caine. The last name is the founder of www.propelwomen.org, an organization designed to honor the calling of every woman, empower them to lead, equip them for success, and develop a sense of God-given purpose.

It is never easy to be in the forefront of the Christian movement, it is even harder if you are female. Not because God has directed this, but because sin-filled people have. Every time we find a way to elevate ourselves while degrading the worth of another is working against the Body of Christ, not for.

I pray you take the time to look into the lives of these women I have mentioned above. There are many more women, not as famous, who have fought the battle for Jesus with much less armor than their male counterparts. They have survived and they will continue to survive. This March tell a female church leader how much you appreciate what they do for God.

- Pastor Mel

Sunshine Circle Report

On Wed., Feb 6, 8 members of the Sunshine Circle met at Jan Green's home for sandwiches and salad at 6:30 p.m. All enjoyed the meal and beautiful decorations.

Business meeting followed. Minutes, roll call and Treasurer's Report were given and accepted. The group agreed to purchase two Lillie's for Easter. Kim Metzka will follow up on the purchase of the flowers. They ladies also agreed to hold a garage sale in June. Discussions were held regarding the menu. A light breakfast and a grab and go pork chop sandwich were entertained as possible ideas. More discussion will follow at the next meeting in April.

The ladies from the Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Women are invited to join the Sunshine Circle on April 11 when a meeting is planned at the Bonfield Evangelical Church's Upper Room. Metzka will be the hostess. No meeting will be held in March due to a conflict with the Community Lent Services. On Mar., 14 Jan Green, Ardis Messer and Carol Buente will be serving a meal at the Gift of God Street Church in Kankakee.

Following the business meeting, Green read a few devotions on Random Acts of Kindness. She concluded that acts of kindness are contagious and healthy for all people. Examples were offered such as helping neighbors in need or just being kind to another. Those who commented agreed that it is easier to give than receive. Green shared a story when she was the recipient of other's kindness. Those acts of kindness helped her to straighten out her life. The group discussed what act of kindness does Jesus want from you? The talk was based on 1 John 4:19.

Following devotions, all enjoyed dessert.

Evan UMW Collecting For Gift OF God Street Church

The Evangelical United Methodist Women are collecting donations for the Gift of God Street Church. The following items are needed: Men's and women's winter coats, New Testament Bibles, Bible on tape or disc, gift cards, and non-perishable food items to make a dinner and/or dessert. Hygiene kits are also in demand, those items include: Large and/or small shampoo & conditioner; toothbrush & toothpaste; chap stick; brushes, combs, & picks; bar soap; mouthwash (no alcohol); female hygiene products; and small packs of tissue. Please bring donations to Evan and put in entry way box or take directly to the street church. 300 hygiene kits were handed out at Christmas. Thanks for your assistance in helping the homeless receive the care they need.

Martha Circle Report

Martha Circle met Wed., Feb 7, 2018 at the Herscher Restaurant. Treasurer, Ronda Wenzelman, reported a balance of \$240.00. An offering was taken. Thinking of you cards were signed for 6 shut-ins.

President, Janet Boyer, talked about the President's Report she sent to the District President. In 2014, presidents received explanations of this report; Boyer will run a copy for each member.

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference United Methodist Women is asking each unit to contribute \$75.00 for a total of \$30,000.00. With this donation the conference UMW will have an opportunity to name a conference room in the new Education & Recreation Center. Joyce Cochran & Marilyn Ohrt made and seconded the motion.

The six members present signed up for 2018 activities, which are: Apr., 11 meeting at the Herscher Anderson House, 6:30 p.m. (This is the former Schreffler Funeral Home given to the Herscher Historical Society); June 13 meeting at Herscher Harvest View, 9:00 a.m.; Aug. 8 meeting at Kim Ohrt's, 9:00 a.m.; Oct., meeting at Joyce Cochran's home, 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 5, 6:00 p.m. meeting is the Christmas party with location to be determined. Apr., 11 is open to anyone who wants to come, Grand Prairie or anyone who is interested. Please call the church office, 815-802-9805 or contact Janet Boyer if you plan to attend.

Devotions were led by Boyer on the Good Samaritan, Luke 10. When a day doesn't go as planned are these interruptions or are they opportunities to spread Christ's love? Meeting closed with prayer.

Fireman's Breakfast

The Salina Township Monthly Fireman's Breakfast will be held on Sun., Mar. 4, 2018. Don't miss out on a great breakfast and an opportunity to support their efforts. Breakfast includes eggs, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, bacon and more.

Fellowship Breakfast

Tue., Mar. 6, 2018, 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.

Day By Day

Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close. Then let every one of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourself.

—John Ruskin

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Time For Church



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

10:15 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
March 2018 worship.*

(Readings & message may change without notice.)

March 4

3rd Sunday in Lent

“Our Responsibility”

Altar Color - Purple

OT: Exodus 20:1-17

NT: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Gospel: John 2:13-22

March 11

4th Sunday in Lent

“Apostle's Creed”

Altar Color - Purple

OT: Numbers 21:4-9

NT: Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

March 18

5th Sunday in Lent

“We Are One With Jesus”

Altar Color - Purple

OT: Jeremiah 31:31-34

NT: Hebrews 5:5-10

Gospel: John 12:20-33

March 25

Palm Sunday

“Palm Sunday”

Altar Color - Purple

OT: Isaiah 50:4-9a

NT: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1-5

April 1

Easter Sunday

“Easter Sunday”

Altar Color - White

OT: Psalm 118:1-2 & 14-24

NT: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8



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

<u>Heritage Village</u> Vi Morse	<u>Manteno Veterans</u> Bob Grob Byron Warren
<u>Butterfield</u> Mel Brinkman family Don Mau Bernice Schultz	<u>At Miller Rehab</u> Jackie Wagner
<u>Westwood Oaks</u> Fostine Schwark	<u>Harvest View</u> Warren Cochran Roscella Piper Randy Riegel

From Our Church Bulletin

Kurt and Carl Boesen, Shirley Brunner, Shirley Coffman, Sue Coons, Ron Cordes, Jean Dunn, Dennis Hertz, Linda Johnson, Elizabeth & Olivia Lewis, Janice Logsdon, Allen Messer, Dorene O'Connor, Kevin Reiniche, Rob Reiniche, Phyllis Riegel, Randy Riegel, Jackie Wagner, Richard Wildman, Pam Wilking.

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 Barasa	Kenya
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

Remaining Lent Services

March 7

Bonfield Evangelical UMC
348 E Smith St., Bonfield IL
Speaker - Linda Michel

March 14

Essex UMC
114 Waverly Street, Essex, IL
Speaker - Terry Goodwin

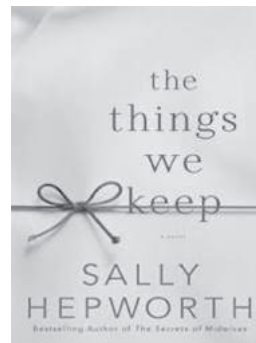
March 21

Herscher UMC
274 North Elm Street, Herscher, IL
Speaker - Pastor Kevin Boesen

Jan. 2018 Attendance

	<u>1/07</u>	<u>1/14</u>	<u>1/21</u>	<u>1/28</u>
Evangelical	36	31	37	34
First	13	16	12	14
Grand Prairie	29	32	31	32
TOTALS	78	79	80	80

Next Ladies' Book Club Meeting Announced



The Things We Keep

by Sally Hepworth

All women who love to read are invited to the next meeting of the Ladies' Book Club. Each lady is responsible to get their own copy of the book then come to the Parsonage, 225 Country Lane, Bonfield on Tues., Mar. 20 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss.

Great Ingathering 2018

God's Blessings! The Dwight United Methodist Men are preparing for the Great Ingathering scheduled for Apr. 15, noon - 1 at the Dwight United Methodist Church. In case you're not familiar with this mission project, the churches in our district and surrounding area have an opportunity to donate goods to be delivered to the United Methodist Mountain Mission in Kentucky. Over the past year we filled up 4 trucks with donations. This year we hope to do just as well.

Let's all take advantage of this project to clean out closets of clothes that we no longer need. Make sure you pack the donations into boxes not bags. Boxed items pack much better in the large trucks. Good furniture is wanted. Good and wearable clothes and shoes are needed. All appliances must be in working condition. OLD TV's or OLD COMPUTER MONITORS ARE NOT WANTED!

The key to a successful Great Ingathering is publicity. Please get the word out to your friends and neighbors. There will be a lunch available at the church this year from 11 am to 1 pm.

If you would like more information please contact the Dwight United Methodist Church at (815) 584-3420.

Have You Heard A Calling To Serve God

A call from God is not necessarily a call to be a pastor. God's calls every person to some mission or ministry. A call can sometimes be described as a voice you hear, or a nudge you feel, or a feeling you cannot ignore. God is persistent.

If you have a sensation that God is calling you but you do not understand to what and where, Pastor Mel would like to speak with you. A call was once described like God asking you to get ready for a trip and you respond by going to the train station only to discover there are trains leaving every few minutes and going in all directions.

Not every call is clearly defined, God wants us to be in discernment over our calls. That may require we take a few different trains to see where they lead. We will soon discover if the train we boarded was the right one. Discovering our call may take time, it is a process.

Pastor Mel is seeking people who feel they have received a call to serve, to assist them with their discernment.

Bible Quiz

According to Matthew's account, what was torn when Jesus died?

- A. Mary's headdress — she tore it as a traditional Jewish sign of grief
- B. A Roman guard's sash — Peter grabbed and ripped it in anger
- C. Jesus' robe — the soldiers divided it among themselves
- D. The temple curtain — torn in two from top to bottom

See answer below

March Memory Verse

See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!
— 1 John 3:1

+ Christian Symbols +



Torch

The torch primarily represents the Passion of Christ, perhaps because he was arrested and tried during the night, when the Temple guard would have used torches for light. The torch also can symbolize spiritual enlightenment, or martyrdom for the sake of the gospel.

Quotes Of The Month

“We live and die; Christ died and lived!”

—John Stott

“Don't start looking in the Bible for the answers it gives. Start by listening for the questions it asks.”

—Frederick Buechner

“The Law saith, Where is thy righteousness, goodness and satisfaction? The Gospel saith, Christ is thy righteousness, goodness and satisfaction.”

—Patrick Hamilton

Answer: D (See Matthew 27:51.)

March Birthdays

March 2.....Sharon (Foltz) Howard
Jacob Brinkman
Pam Wilking

March 3.....Janet Schroeder
Janet (Grob) Boyer

March 4.....Susan (Bradley) Schroeder
Eric Pangle
Tom Willibey

March 5.....Bill Hertz
Mary Osenga
Norman Bauer

March 7.....Denise (Dato) Kirchner
Lynn (Broussard) Pangle

March 8.....Alaxis Morse

March 9.....Michael (Jake) Colston
Herb Foltz
Jennifer Rice

March 11.....Kenneth Bouk
Gina Cordes

March 12.....Dawn (Duchene) Eberl

March 13.....Jessica Brinkman
Chad Grob

March 14.....Wade Kuipers
Matthew Meyer
Dan Pitkin

March 15.....Terry Meyer
Rebecca (Kuipers) Loyd
Doreen (Burkhard-Voigt) Wendling
Susan (Voigt) Resing
Bob Nichols

March 16.....Richard Marcotte

March 17.....Joyce (Diefenbach) Cochran
Alexis Robinson

March 18.....Melissa Pastorel
Tammy (Dau) Riegel

March 19.....Don Mau
Frederick Meyer
Lauren R. Davis
Virginia (Meyer) Young
Jared Charter

March 20.....Sue (Han) Buente
Wesley Adams

March 21.....Joyce (Walter) Riegel
Wayne Buente
Shirley (Schwartz) Larkins

March 22.....Joy (Riegel) Bland

March 23.....Patrick Lindley
Douglas Gagnon

March 24.....Ryan Dau
John (Jonnie) Pitkin

March 25.....David Buente
JoAnn (Domagalla) Hertz

March 26.....Jay Buente
Ron Charter
Jeremy Jensen

March 27.....Alison (Ohr) Paglin

March 28.....Amber Lindley

March 29.....Lecia Geiger

March 30.....Larrin Nottke, Sr.
William Diefenbach
Alexandra Meyer

March 31.....Tony Graf
Eloise (Pfeiffer) Kuipers
Martine (Grant) Berghouse

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

Making The Common Sacred

First Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) reminds us, “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Author E.M. Bounds describes this mind-set as a “spirit of devotion” that “puts God in all things ... not merely in our praying and churchgoing.”

He writes: “The spirit of devotion makes the common things of earth sacred and the little things great. With this spirit of devotion, we go to business on Monday directed by the very same influence, and inspired by the same influences, by which we went to church on Sunday. The spirit of devotion makes a Sabbath out of Saturday and transforms the shop and the office into a temple of God.”

—John Ruskin

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M A R C H 2 0 1 8

					Thurs., Mar. 1	Fri., Mar. 2	Sat., Mar. 3
					Evan UMW @ Evan's Upper Room, 10:30 a.m.		
Sun., Mar. 4	Firemen's Breakfast @ Fire Dept. Bonfield Youth Group 6:30-8 p.m. @ Bonfield Evangelical Upper Room	Mon., Mar. 5	Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. Lent Book Study Evan's Upper Room 1 p.m.	Tue., Mar. 6	IHOP Fellowship Breakfast @ IHOP, 8:30 a.m. SPPRC Meeting @ Evan's Upper Room, 6:30 p.m.	Wed., Mar. 7	Community Lent Services @ Bonfield Evangelical, 7 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 11		Mon., Mar. 12	Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. Lent Book Study Evan's Upper Room 1 p.m.	Tue., Mar. 13	Ad Board Meeting @ First Church, 7 p.m.	Wed., Mar. 14	Pastor gone to MAG meeting in morning Community Lent Services @ Essex, 7 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 18		Mon., Mar. 19	Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. Lent Book Study Evan's Upper Room 1 p.m.	Tue., Mar. 20		Wed., Mar. 21	Community Lent Service 7:00 p.m. @ Herscher
						Thurs., Mar. 22	April Newsletter Deadline
						Thurs., Mar. 29	Pastor gone to District Nominations Meeting in Pontiac
Sun., Mar. 25		Mon., Mar. 26	Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m. Lent Book Study Evan's Upper Room 1 p.m.	Tue., Mar. 27	Fold Newsletters	Wed., Mar. 28	
						Thurs., Mar. 29	Maundy Thursday Service @ Bonfield Evangelical 7 p.m. "Hand Washing" "Holy Communion"
						Fri., Mar. 29	Good Friday Service @ Bonfield Evangelical 7 p.m. "Drama" "Nailing Sins to the Cross"

Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
 colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
 confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns
 cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y
 C L E U X B M T H B U C W B
 N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y
 A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B
 N G N L I S N L A I N E D X
 E W M P R V R D H B N R D F
 P S O G O L G O T H A B S C
 D L N R O C O N F E S S I K
 O T H T C P E K W U O U N D
 M N S H N P W E D R H F S K
 U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E
 H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M
 H V H N C X S O C C J R L O
 F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C
 C R U C I F I X I O N S R V

Solution on page 9

FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and “spots” on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry “head” by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennas and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!

Meet The New VRD Superintendent, the Rev. James Barnett

James Barnett calls himself a child of the Conference.

“My father (the late James F. Barnett) was a United Methodist pastor and as an infant, I was baptized by Bishop Charles Brashares at the 1959 Southern Illinois Annual Conference,” Barnett said. “My entire life has been spent in the nurture of the church.”

“Jim Barnett is a ‘home grown’ product of the IGRC and its predecessor Conferences,” Beard said. “Jim has a wealth of experience and is widely respected as a down to earth leader. He is active in a variety of community activities and ministries. Jim has a servant’s heart and a passion for Jesus Christ.”

Barnett sees this appointment as an opportunity to give back.

“I have been given so much from the Annual Conference throughout my life,” he said. “As a way of giving back, I long to see the Annual Conference even more fully engaging in transformational ministry with the District, local churches, and the people of The United Methodist Church and their communities.”

“I appreciate the fact that Jim is a “straight shooter” that knows how to tactfully say and do what is required,” Beard said. “Jim is a hard worker with a proven track record of effectiveness. He knows The United Methodist Church from the inside out and is committed to seeing the church preserved and renewed.”

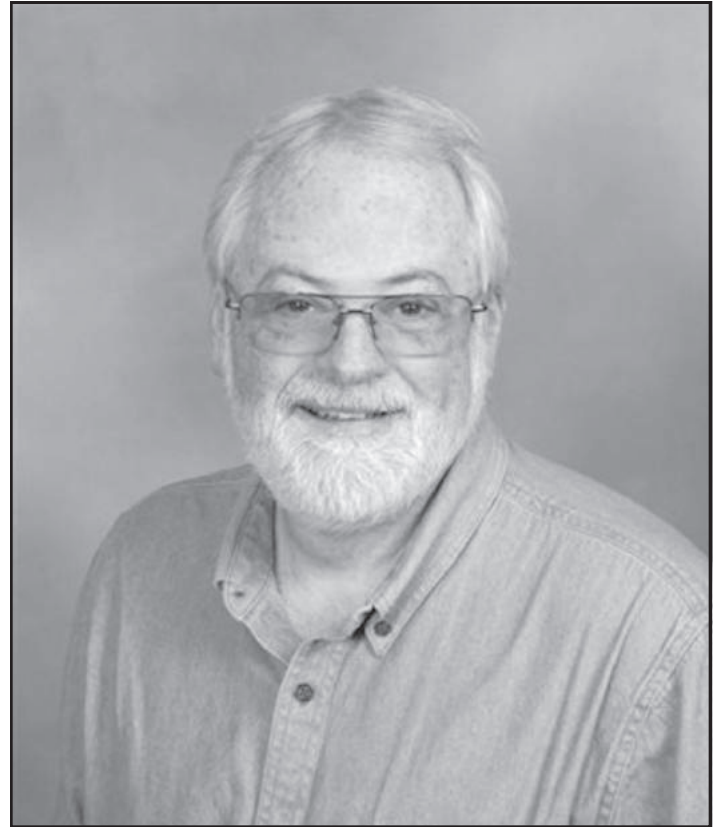
Serving nearly 35 years in the former Southern Illinois Conference and the IGRC, Barnett has served pastorates at Olney First (Associate)-Chauncey; Carterville First; Centralia First; Robinson First and for the past 16 years, Pinckneyville.

A graduate of McKendree College with a degree in Administration of Justice and Perkins School of Theology, Barnett has served on various conference committees dealing with youth and young adults, and in the Conference Camping program.

Within communities where he served, Barnett was active in the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency in Crawford County and later Emergency Management Association and City Police Auxiliary in Pinckneyville. He also was a candidate for state representative to the Illinois General Assembly while in Robinson.

Son of Ethel Barnett and the late Rev. James F.

Barnett, he is married to Lynette Barnett, who currently serves the Zeigler-Royalton charge in the Cache River District. They are the parents of four grown children and have two grandchildren.



James Barnett

Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil



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March 2018

My
KINGDOM
is not of this world.




Easter Sunday
April 1
8:00 a.m.
Bonfield First
178 Church St.
9:15 p.m.
Bonfield Evangelical
348 Smith St., Bonfield
10:15 a.m.
Grand Prairie
Rt. 17 just west of
Herscher Blacktop
**Call Hope at the
Parish Office for more
information
815-802-9805**



**Holy Week
Worship**


Maunder Thursday
March 29
7:00 p.m.
Bonfield Evangelical
348 Smith St., Bonfield

- Non-Traditional Hand Washing
- Holy Communion
- Short Message



Good Friday
March 30
7:00 p.m.
Bonfield Evangelical
348 Smith St., Bonfield

- Drama "In The Shadow of the Cross"
- Purging of Sins



Sunrise Service
April 1
6:30 a.m.
Bonfield Evangelical
348 Smith St., Bonfield

- Bonfield Youth Group Presentation
- Community Breakfast after Worship