



**“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.” ~ John Wesley**



Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ!

I recently read an article entitled *Christmas Shame* by Eugene Peterson. Eugene Holland Peterson was an American Presbyterian clergyman, scholar, theologian, author, and poet. It was through *The Message*, a paraphrase of the Bible in modern language, that I was introduced to Peterson. Christmas Shame was what Peterson felt when at 8 years of age his mother decided one Christmas not to have a Christmas tree, like all of his friends' families, based upon a reading from Jeremiah 10:2-4

Thus says the Lord: "Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, for the customs of the peoples are false.

A tree from the forest is cut down, and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. Men deck it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move"

He then told the story of how his family, like so many others, would go to a nearby forest, chop down a tree, fix it to wooden slats to hold, and then proceed to decorate it. From this Scripture and his mother's actions that long ago Christmas *a seed of discontent with all cultural displays of religion* was planted in Peterson's heart. Continuing in the article he said:

The feelings I had that Christmas when I was eight years old may have been the most authentically

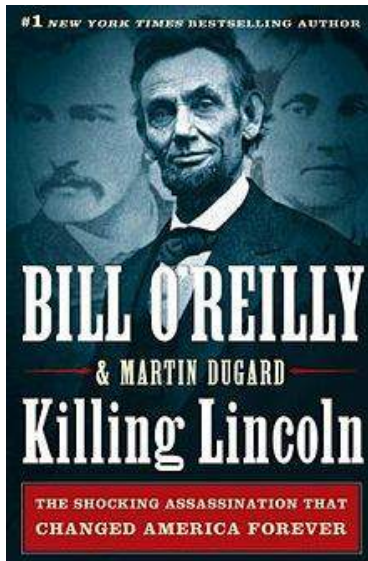
Christmas feelings I have ever had, or will have: the experience of humiliation, of being misunderstood, of being an outsider. Mary was pregnant out of wedlock. Joseph was an apparent cuckold. Jesus was born in poverty. God had commanded a strange word; the people in the story were aware, deeply and awesomely aware, that the event they were living was counter to the culture and issued from the Spirit's power.

It seems more and more each Christmas I also have a seed of discontent with all cultural displays of religion. Displays without authenticity, without remembering why we celebrate Christmas. No, not the *Jesus is the Reason* buttons that people wear with misplaced puffery and self-aggrandizement, or remembering to say "Merry Christmas" instead of Happy Holidays. But remembering on Christmas Day we celebrate the coming of light into the darkness, the giving of love in the life of a baby born in a manger, the giving of hope to those without hope. And I am reminded that as disciple of the Risen Christ I am called to bring light into the darkness, to give love, and hope to the hopeless and to remember to whom I belong this day and every day.

So yes, I will have a Christmas Tree lovingly decorated with ornaments collected over a life-time, remembering loved ones who are now with our Lord Jesus, and with a *creche* handed down to my by my Mom, and I will remember the story of two people called by God to answer his call upon their lives, even though that call led to mockery by people they knew and flight to a foreign country for a better and safer life; but, ultimately to the salvation of the world.

Pastor Julie

Ladies' Book Club



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 "Killing Lincoln" by Bill O'Reilly then come on Tuesday, January 15th at 6:30pm at Joy Bland's to discuss.



Salina Fireman's Breakfast -

Breakfasts are held on the 1st Sunday of the month from October to March: December 2nd 2018, January 6th 2019, February 3rd 2019, and March 3rd 2019. It runs from 8am til Noon. They are held at the fire station 144 S. East Ave. Bonfield, IL 60913, phone # (815)935-1411 if any questions.

Prices are \$8.00 for adults, children \$5.00, and kids under 3 are free.

Menu items include - Pancakes, sausage patties, eggs, biscuit and gravy, French toast, bacon, milk, orange juice and coffee.

Facebook - www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish
Website - <http://bonfieldgrandprairie.org>

If you would like to see the newsletter in color then check out our website at www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org and click on the newsletter tab at the top.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please send an email to bonfieldgp@gmail.com.

*Thanks,
Everyone!*

The Evan flooring project has been finished and then new floors look wonderful!

Thank you to all the people who helped picking out the carpet, choosing the vendors, those that brought their muscles and moved the pews multiple times, and to everyone that helped.

~ Evan Trustees & Carolyn Brinkman



We are a Parish of 3 churches Bonfield Evangelical (Evan) UMC , Bonfield First (First) UMC, & Grand Prairie UMC. Our minister is Pastor Julie Smith. It is our goal to share God's love with the world through our words and actions! We welcome you to visit us for Sunday service at the times below.

Time For Church



Grand Prairie

Rt.17 Bonfield
 8:00 am Sunday Services
 9:15 am Adult and Youth Sunday School

Bonfield First

172 Church Street
 9:15 am Sunday Services
 10:30 am Adult and Youth Sunday School

Bonfield Evangelical

348 Smith Street
 10:30 am Sunday Service
 9:15 am Adult and Youth Sunday School

Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for December 2018 worship.
 (Readings & Message may change without notice)

December 2

First Sunday of Advent - Holy Communion
 Altar Color - Purple
 Message: The Prophets' Candle: HOPE
 Scripture: Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Second Sunday of Advent
 Altar Color - Purple
 Message: The Bethlehem Candle: FAITH
 Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Third Sunday of Advent
 Altar Color - Purple
 Message: The Shepherd's Candle: JOY
 Scripture: Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Altar Color - Purple
 Message: The Angel's Candle: PEACE
 Scripture: Luke 1:39-45

December 30

First Sunday After Christmas Day
 Altar Color - White
 Psalm: Psalm 148
 Message: You are Never Too Old
 Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Manteno's Veterans Home Singing

We welcome all who enjoy to sing to join us on Thursday, December 20 @ 2:30pm to sing at the Manteno Veteran's Home. Meet at Evan @ 1:45pm if you would like a ride to Manteno.

Also, singing on Thursday, January 17 @ 2:30pm.



There is POWER in PRAYER

Pastor Julie invites you to join in praying for the following names and

Friends and Family

Heritage Village
Vi Morse
Mary Krieg
Butterfield
Mel Brinkman family,
Don Mau, & Bernice
Schultz
Riverside Senior Living
Jackie Wagner
Harvest View
Roscella Piper
Randy Riegel
Manteno Veterans
Bob Grob
Miller
Marion Panozzo

From Our Church Bulletin

Kurt and Carl Boesen,
Bradley Boor,
Shirley Brunner,
Ron Cordes, Jean Dunn,
Pearl Evans, Janice &
Tom Logsdon,
Allen Messer,
Dorene O'Connor,
Marion Panozzo,
Kevin Reiniche,
Rob Reiniche,
Randy Riegel,
Jackie Wagner,
Richard Wildman, &
those in assisted living
and nursing homes.

Compassion International Kids

Melany Samantha.....Aguilera
Sonaton Soren.....Bangladesh
Saray Morales.....Columbia
Janny Boya.....Ecuador
Witney Juarez.....Guatemala

Do you or your family sponsor a compassion international kid? If so, please contact the office if you are still sponsoring a kid, 815-802-9805 or bonfieldgp@gmail.com.

Fellowship Breakfast

Come enjoy a great breakfast and fellowship with other Parish members and friends at IHOP in Bourbonnais on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 8:30 am. This is a good way to get to know other people. You do not need to be a member to attend. Everyone is invited. Each person pays for their own breakfast. The group orders from the regular menu.

Puzzle!

The word list contains the angel's Christmas message to the shepherds. Fit those words into the crossword squares. Then write them on the correct lines below to complete Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

Word List:

be	baby	that	today
do	been	this	afraid
all	born	town	Christ
for	find	will	cloths
has	good	bring	manger
joy	Lord	David	people
not	news	great	Savior
you	sign	lying	wrapped

" 24 26 1A 5 I 3A 8 13 18
of 4 27 16 9A 1A 2D 7 the 15
12 in the 28 of 23 a 20 22 10
3D to 8 ; he is 19 the 10." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answer at the Bottom of Page 7

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?? Bible Quiz ??

According to the fourth Gospel, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the _____."

- A. love
- B. life
- C. light
- D. Lord



Answer at the Bottom of Page 7

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United Methodist Women of the Parish

Evangelical UMW

The Bonfield Evangelical UMW met on November 1, 2018 with Lorraine Wildman hostess. Seven members answered roll call having made 41 sick calls this past month.

Dayle Seitz reviewed one of our UMW reading books, "Eleanor" - an interesting book about the life of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Christine Meyer gave the World Thank Offering lesson for 2018 and encouraged all to acknowledge all we have to be thankful for by giving to our undesignated giving which helps women and children all over the world where our missions exist.

Joyce Riegel information from our "Response" magazine highlighting another UMW mission, The Sunlight Sister Center. The center is working with the Comfort Women - women from Korea who were forced into giving "comfort" to the Japanese soldiers through sex during WWII. Records had been destroyed and this abuse was only acknowledged by the Japanese in 1993.

Minutes were read and the treasury report given.

Carol Buente reported on her visit to Cunningham Children's Home and the progress of the Education and Recreation Center. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be March 23, 2019. The Quilt Festival will be April 5 & 6, 2019 in the Cunningham Chapel.

We are to bring our Thank Offering to church on November 11. Donations of caps, gloves, and baby items are once again being collected as well as food items for the Salvation Army.

On December 6, we will meet at the Family House Restaurant in Bradley. Watch the bulletin for more details or call Christine at 815-939-2912.

First UMW

October: Donna Voigt presented the annual Thank Offering Program on Thursday, October 25. Just as in past years, the selfless donations collected go to those in need around the world. Jill Grant shared photos from the Prayer Calendar indicating the influence that United Methodist Women have worldwide. Women in other countries are taught skills that enhance their lives and allow them to earn money to

support their families. The tremendous success of the annual chicken supper was discussed as members considered where to donate much of the profit.

This will be finalized at the November meeting. During the month of November, the congregation will be encouraged to bring donations for *Cunningham Home*, *the Salvation Army*, and the *Gift of God Street Church*. Members were reminded to continue reading UMW selected books.

November: On Thurs., Nov. 15, Dianne Wells shared a mini version of her PEACE program which she created/presented to district UMW members at the meeting in Coal City earlier this Fall. Her presentation focused on forgiveness, reconciliation, and helping others who are experiencing "storms" in their lives. Dianne based much of her program on Cardinal Bernadine's book "Gift of Peace" in which he related two life-altering "storms" he experienced. She also explained how the Cardinal was able to deal with these difficult experiences and forgive those involved in them. The group decided to send monetary gifts totaling \$950 to the following recipients: the *Salvation Army*, *Baby Fold*, *Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House*, *Fortitude*, and *First Church* for upcoming improvements. These generous donations are the result of hard work and dedication from members and friends who made the annual chicken supper's success possible. In addition, members and friends continued to give even more of themselves as they donated over \$700 in winter items for the *Salvation Army*, gift cards for *Cunningham Home*, and much needed paper products for the *Gift of God Street Church*. It's never a surprise that this "little church" continues to put the needs of others first! Thank you very much to all who were able to give.

December: First Church UMW celebrates with a Christmas potluck dinner at the church on Sunday, Dec. 9 @ 5 pm. Drinks and table service will be provided. **All members and friends** are invited!

Martha Circle

December 4th Christmas party will be at the Ohrts Party room at 6pm.

**More United Methodist Women of the Parish,
Sunshine Circle, article on Page 8**

DECEMBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
November 2018 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	January 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					1 - Hanging of the Greens @ Grand Prairie @ 8am 
2 - Bonfield Fireman's Breakfast @ 8-12 - Youth Group @ Evan @ 6:30 - 8pm - SPARC Meeting @ Evan @ 3pm	3 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am	4 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast @ 8:30am - Martha Circle Christmas Potluck @ the Ohrt's @ 6pm	5 - Advent Study @ Evan @ 1-2:30pm & 6-7:30pm	6 - Evan UMW @ Family House Restaurant	7	8
9 - First UMW Christmas Potluck @ 5pm - Grand Prairie Christmas Program @ 7pm	10 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am	11 - Evan NOW Meeting @ Evan @ 6pm - Parish NOW Meeting @ Evan @ 6:30pm	12 - Advent Study @ Evan @ 1-2:30pm & 6-7:30pm - Sunshine Circle @ 6:30pm	13	14	15
16 - Evan Christmas Program @ 10:30am	17 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am	18	19 - Advent Study @ Evan @ 1-2:30pm & 6-7:30pm	20 - Singing at Manteno Veterans Home @ 2:30pm	21 	22
23	24 - Christmas Eve First Church Candle Light Service @ 7pm	25 - Newsletter Deadline 	26	27 - Printing the Newsletter	28	29
30	31 					



- December 1 Suzanne (Berghouse) Graham
- December 2 Shane Robert Buente, Dave Spinale
- December 3 Laura Hanson
- December 4 Mark Meyer, Jerry Wells, Larry Hansen, Bill Kohl
- December 5 Kylie Lockwood, Greg Graham
- December 7 Donna (Baylor) Osenga, Braden Cordes
- December 8 Gina Hansen
- December 9 Judy (Orwig) Mau, Barry Messer, Lee Bauer
- December 10 Ellynnor Grace Julia Ruckman
- December 11 Dale Schroeder, Matthew Martin Loyd
- December 12 Danielle Norton
- December 13 Steve Buente
- December 14 Justin Fritz, Joshua Fritz, Dave Osenga, Brittany Ricketts
- December 15 Brian Clemans, Ed Buente, Shirley (Hanneford) Hertz, Alex R. Berghouse, Pat Vilt, Tom Shimmin
- December 16 James Moody, Mandy McMurray, Glenn Wulff, Bruce Philips, Kaylynn Renee Buente
- December 17 Ryan Charter, Vicki (Buza) Brinkman, Brock Wenzelman
- December 18 Mila Osenga, Ralph Rice, Jr., Miria Lee (Lehnus) Hester, Shelly (Gates) Messer
- December 19 Gary Wood, Susan (Vilt) Mickelson, Brian Wells
- December 20 Daisy (Johnson) Rice, Michele Wilson
- December 21 Kathi Nichols, Angela (Diefenbach) Kirk, Christian Hansen, Tina (Miskiewicz) Pitkin
- December 23 Rick Overacker
- December 24 Keith Bauer, Jeff Nottke, Francis Rice
- December 25 Greg Hertz, Johnny H. Schultz, Tara St. Germaine, Jessica (Dixon) Gagnon
- December 26 Rory Havener
- December 27 Madison Turner, Lester Lambert
- December 28 Daniel Meyer, Justin Corden Ruckman
- December 29 Cindi Young, Aamira Dato
- December 30 Sarah Rieke, Jamie Diefenbach, Dale Schreffler



December Memory Verse

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
~ Luke 2:11

OCTOBER 2018 ATTENDANCE

	<u>10/7</u>	<u>10/14</u>	<u>10/21</u>	<u>10/28</u>
Evangelical	50	42	38	33
First	16	13	9	17
Grand Prairie	31	14	20	50
TOTALS	97	69	67	100

Thank You!

A heartfelt ‘thank you’ to Bonfield Evangelical members and friends that hosted a potluck for myself and my family. The food, was as always great, and the gifts truly meaningful.

If I didn’t thank Bonfield First for their welcome given at Monical’s Pizza when we first came, Thank You!

Also, thank you for your generosity during Pastor Appreciation Month. The teapot, tea and mug have already been used. But even more, my heart was touched by the donation made to Little Grassy United Methodist Church Camp.

Thank You, Pastor Julie

Answers for page 4 Puzzles

Answer: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

Answer: C (See John 1:6-7, NRSV.)

Sunshine Circle

Six members of the Sunshine Circle met at the home of Ardis Messer on November 15 at 6:30.

Meeting was opened with devotion on thoughts of Giving Thanks. Readings were read "Leftovers Again" and several poems on Thanksgiving time. Scripture was read from Psalms 100 followed with prayer.

Business meeting followed. Minutes were read. Roll call was answered by naming an act of kindness you did the past week. Treasurer's report was given.

Old Business - A correction to the minutes, it was omitted that we gave \$100 to UMCOR. Report was given on Street Church. We fed 27 but the majority of them came from Olivet. Maybe 7 were homeless.

New Business - Discussion on how we can help someone at Christmas. It was suggested by the group that we give \$50 to Adopt a Soldier. We will send Christmas cards to other soldiers. Motion made and seconded. We will purchase 2 poinsettias.

Our next meeting will be a Christmas Potluck on December 20 at Evan's Upper Room at 6:30pm. Mystery Pals will be revealed. Election of officers will be held. Meeting adjourned. Each member made a Christmas frosted jar. Lunch was served.

Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who helped setup & take down, organize, plan, sang, and all who attended the Annual Parish Thanksgiving Community Service that was on November 11. Dawn Broers was our guest speaker and gave us information on a the homeless organization Fortitude. Below is more information about Fortitude.

There was a love offering taken for Fortitude, \$540 was collected and given to Fortitude.

- The NOW Committee

HOW CAN I HELP THE HOMELESS OF KANKAKEE COUNTY??

#1 SUPPORT FORTITUDE

GIVE20 CAMPAIGN

Just \$20 from 1,000 residents funds the shelter for 3 months!

SPONSOR A MATTRESS AND PILLOW SET

For \$100, you can help supply the homeless shelter with needed beds in your name

BECOME A DONOR

One-time and regular donors can give directly or online—all proceeds benefit the homeless

www.fortitudecommunityoutreach.org

Facebook: Fortitude Community Outreach
815-546-3271

Dr. Dawn Broers, Executive Director
183 E. Bethel, Bourbonnais, IL
60914

Please make checks payable to:
Fortitude Community Outreach



#2 VOLUNTEER

STREET OUTREACH

Volunteer to join us any Thursday night for street outreach to the homeless and needy. *Must sign up—see Facebook or website for sign up link!*

SHELTER TEAMS

Organize or join a team of volunteers to cover an evening, overnight, and/or morning shift at the shelter

#3 DONATE

STREET OUTREACH ITEMS

These items ONLY are collected for the outreach:

Toothpaste	Feminine Hygiene
Toothbrush	Shampoo/Cond.
Deodorant	Lotion
Shave Cream	First Aid
Razors	Adult socks
Scarves	Combs/Brushes

NEW adult underwear

NEW adult winter hats

Adult gloves—no small knit, only good gloves or mittens

Adult t-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets,

coats—gently used, no broken zippers

Packaged snacks: crackers packs, fruit cups or snacks, granola bars

Donations can be delivered to Our Savior Lutheran Church, 975 W. Brookmont, 9-1 weekdays, call ahead suggested 815-599-4230. Office in back, up the stairs.



A Merry Balance

In Luke 10:38-42, Martha gets a bad rap. After all, we need Marthas to get things done and to show hospitality. (Note that Martha is the one who opens up her home to Jesus in the first place!)

Marthas are needed in December, but holiday preparations shouldn't shift our focus from the reason for the season. When we become "worried and distracted" as Martha did (v. 41, NRSV), we're tempted to trade God's "one thing" (v. 42) for the world's many worthless things. Yet if we're only like Mary, we may forget to let the world know who we're celebrating!

So this Christmas, keep a proper balance between your inner Mary and your inner Martha. Take time to "be Mary," kneeling at the manger, so that all the merry things you do as Martha have meaning and serve the newborn king.

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Reflection

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will fulfill the good promise I made" (Jeremiah 33:14, NIV).
Thanks, God, that we can depend on your promises.
* * *

God sends us out as messengers with his good news. Who has brought that news to me? Who needs me to carry that news to them?
* * *

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid" (Isaiah 12:2, NRSV).
* * *

Mary and Elizabeth supported each other during the uncertainty and joy of pregnancy. May we who worship together also support one another through life's ups and downs.
* * *

[Christmas Eve] "I'm expecting!" women used to say. Mary was surely expecting as she and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem. What are we expecting this Christmas? May nothing short of love be born among us!
* * *

[Christmas Day] "To you" — to me! to us all! — "is born this day ... a Savior" (Luke 2:11, NRSV). Thank you, Lord!
* * *

Father, make me as eager as young Jesus to be in your house and to learn your teachings. Amen.
* * *

"Into this world, this demented inn in which there is absolutely no room for him ... Christ comes uninvited."
—Thomas Merton
* * *

"Once we have seen [Jesus] in a stable, we can never be sure where he will appear or to what lengths he will go or to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation he will descend in his wild pursuit of men."
—Frederick Buechner
* * *

"Beautiful music ... is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us."
—Martin Luther
* * *

"The world is round so that friendship may encircle it."
—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin
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Pastor Julie Smith's Information

Email: jjas04@aol.com

Cell: (618) 658-0281

Office Hours: Tuesday 1pm - 3pm & Thursday 9am - 1pm,
evenings upon request

Mailing Address: PO Box 66, Bonfield, IL 60913

Parish Office Information - Hope Raymond, Secretary

348 E. Smith St., PO Box 66 Bonfield, IL 60913

Phone: (815) 802-9805, please leave message

Email: bonfieldgp@gmail.com

Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

Hours: Tues. 1-5 pm & Thurs. 8-12 pm

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Bonfield, IL 60913

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Bonfield, IL 60913



Holiday Service Schedule



- Grand Prairie UMC Christmas Program
Sunday, December 9th at 7pm
- Bonfield Evangelical UMC Children &
Candlelight Christmas Program
Sunday, December 16th at 10:30am
- Bonfield First UMC
Christmas Candle Light Service
Monday, December 24th
Christmas Eve at 7pm

