

# NEW BEGINNINGS

BONFIELD - GRAND  
PRAIRIE PARISH UMC

“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!

Having just completed our Season of Advent and now the Twelve Days of Christmas with the celebration of Epiphany it is a good time to hear again the Angel Gabriel speaking to Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds – do not be afraid. I would encourage you to begin this New Year of 2019 with this statement in your hearts and to go where Jesus is leading you.

On Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, Jesus we will also reaffirm our baptisms. At the heart of Jesus' statement to “go” is an understanding that **we** go in response to our baptismal call –to be followers and friends of the Risen Christ. To be disciples, to invite others back to and into the Church, and to equip our Parish and ministries to offer this invitation. What we are being asked to do is really quite simple:

*to spread the Gospel that we are a loved, redeemed, and saved people through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

We read in the Acts of the Apostles how the first Christians planned the best ways to evangelize, preach the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments, and organize the communities of faith. The proclamation of the mission, the carrying out of Jesus' mandate to “Go, and make disciples” has been influenced by the signs of the times, and the Bonfield-Grand Prairie Parish will need to adapt to changing situations, while at the same time proclaiming the fullness of the Gospel message and the dignity of each and every human person. This constancy in mission and service has inspired hundreds if not thousands and will inspire this Parish as well.

So, as we move forward into 2019, we recognize that we once again are planning for our future; Jesus exhorts us to be faithful and focused in our discipleship. The biblical virtue of stewardship requires us to wisely use our time, talent, treasures.

We look to the future not the past. This Parish, just as Peter, has come to an exciting moment, the moment when Jesus calls us to step outside of the boat and walk on the water. This call is inviting us to embrace the challenge of mission as never before. He's calling us to step outside of our own worlds, our fears, our own comfort zones and, with our hearts and minds focused on the Lord, to travel those turbulent waters into His warm, loving embrace. Oh, for sure, we're going to sink, as Peter did, from time to time, but our Lord will be there to pick us up and help us complete our journey. If we are willing to take the chance, step out of the boat of what we're used to, and trust Jesus, the Lord will show us the way...how the Church's mission will be revitalized and renewed... how we're going to re-invigorate the mission and make it come alive once again for the salvation of souls and the coming of the Kingdom.

Will you join me? Will you step out or up in giving to support the ministries of this Parish? I am excited to take this journey of faith, hope and love with you and recognize this is hard work, and that there will be painful times of loss and misunderstandings, moments of both grief and joy. If we keep the big picture in mind—the need to be good stewards of God's abundant resources—and support each other we will truly be contributing to building the Reign of God where discipleship, evangelization, witnessing to the Gospel and ministry flourish.

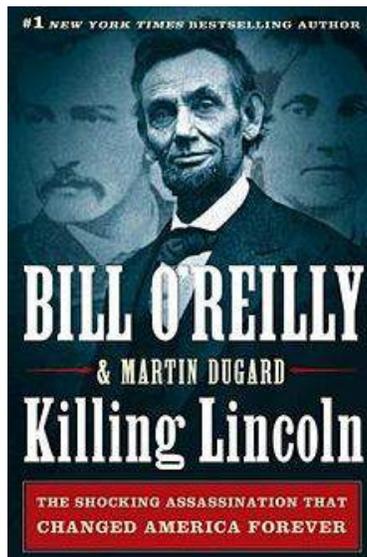
## Prayer for the New Year

*God, our Creator, we thank you for the blessings of the years past. We give thanks for the power of the Holy Spirit given to us to get through the tough times of the years past. We pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit that we would continue to be your people, called to the ministries of this Parish strengthened by faith, hope and love, so that we may continue to witness to the truth of the Gospel, and be a sign of Your love for all people.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month from October to March: January 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019, and March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019.

It runs from 8am till 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, biscuits and gravy, French toast, bacon, milk, orange juice and coffee.

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish](http://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](http://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](mailto:bonfieldgp@gmail.com).

### VRD Lay Servant BASIC COURSE

Dates: Saturdays, Feb 23 and March 2, 2019 (both dates required)

Time: 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

Location: Chenoa UMC, 225 W Owsley Street, Chenoa, IL 61726

If anyone is interested in attending there is a form that needs to be completed.

Amy L Smith

- Director of Lay Servant Ministries  
- Vermilion River District

Cell - 309.530.6371

Email - [SmithAmyL678@gmail.com](mailto:SmithAmyL678@gmail.com)



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 January 2019 worship.  
(Readings & Message may change without notice)

### January 6

Epiphany of the Lord - Holy Communion  
Altar Color - White  
Message: Where Are You Looking?  
Psalm: 72:1-7, 10-14  
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12  
Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12

### January 13

Baptism of the Lord  
The Baptismal Reaffirmation  
Altar Color - White  
Message: Renewed  
Psalm: 29  
Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
Epistle: Acts 8:14-17

### January 20

Human Relations Day  
Recognition of New Leadership  
Altar Color - Green  
Message: Leadership, Stewardship, & Growth  
Psalm: 36:5-10  
Scripture: John 2:1-11 & 1 Corinthians 12:12-31  
Old Testament: Isaiah 62:1-5

### January 27

Ecumenical Sunday  
Altar Color - Green  
Message: All Means All  
Psalm: 19  
Scripture: Luke 4:14-21  
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

### Manteno's Veterans Home Singing

We welcome all who enjoy to sing to join us on Thursday, January 17 @ 2:30pm to sing at the Manteno Veteran's Home. Meet at Evan @ 1:45pm if you would like a ride to Manteno.



# There is POWER in PRAYER

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

## 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

Karen Batdorf, 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, January 1, 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 10 words below are spelled correctly but are missing the letter O. Use them to complete the Bible verse below, where you'll find all the missing O's.

S, NE, JHN, ANTHER, GD,  
LVED, UGHT, T, ALS, LVE

Dear friends, since \_\_O\_\_ \_\_O\_\_  
\_\_O\_\_ \_\_O\_\_ us, we \_\_O\_\_ \_\_O\_\_  
O\_\_ \_\_O\_\_ \_\_O\_\_  
O\_\_ \_\_O\_\_  
1 \_\_O\_\_ \_\_O\_\_ 4:11, NIV

Answer at the Bottom of Page 7

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O God, you give the winter's cold,  
as well as summer's joyous rays.  
You warmly in your love enfold,  
and keep us through life's wintry  
days.

—Samuel Longfellow

## ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

What did Jesus say brings greater joy in heaven than 99 righteous people?

- A. The singing of angels
- B. One sinner who repents
- C. 100 righteous people
- D. None of the above



Answer at the Bottom of Page 7

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## United Methodist Women of the Parish

### Evangelical UMW

Bonfield Evangelical UMW gathered for our Christmas luncheon at Family House restaurant on December 6, 2018. There were 4 members and 3 guests present. There are no meetings scheduled for January or February 2019. Our next meeting will be March 7, 2019.

Thank you for all your help collecting for Cunningham, Lessie Bates, MMDC and all our other projects in 2018. We'll start all over again in 2019! Watch for more information all you ladies out there - Come join us for mission information, ways to help the needy, worship and fellowship.

### First UMW

First UMW hosted their annual Christmas potluck for the congregation on Sun., Dec. 9, at 5 p.m. Over twenty individuals enjoyed a variety of delicious homemade fare...and lots of it! The group played a couple holiday-themed games, *Finish the Christmas Phrase Like Tom Would* and *What's in the Christmas Stocking?* Winners received chocolate prizes. The group presented Pastor Julie with a gift, and the evening concluded with a simple, yet beautiful retelling of the Nativity by everyone present.

There will not be any First UMW meetings in January or February 2019.

### Martha Circle

Martha Circle met December 4, 2018 at 6pm at Ohrt's all-purpose room for their Christmas Meeting with Kim and Marilyn Ohrt as hostesses. Janet Boyer said a prayer and we all enjoyed the pot-luck meal. Shirley Brunner had a "name that Christmas song" game and Ivan read the Luke Christmas Story with "and" being the magic word. We all received a little gift from Shirley.

### Martha Circle

Various cards were signed and sent for 5 people. We collected \$75 gift cards for CCH and \$260 to be used for giving. As a result of this money and \$500 from the treasury, Martha Circle donated \$760 to 7 community charities and families. Martha Circle ladies are also buying Christmas gifts for a Limestone family. Thank you Martha Circle for your giving Christmas spirit.

As we left the Brunners gave each of us a piece of Barnes & Noble chocolate cheesecake, delicious! What a good evening of food, fun and fellowship!



### Praying for Unity



Every January, the Christian church worldwide marks the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This ecumenical "octave," or eight-day observance, lasts from January 18 (the Feast of St. Peter) to January 25 (the Feast of St. Paul).

The week is based on Jesus' prayer to his heavenly Father in John 17:21 that his followers "may all be one ... so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (ESV). Jesus knew that if Christians were fiercely divided, people outside the faith wouldn't want to learn more about him. The theme for the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from Deuteronomy 16:20 (NRSV): "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue."





January 1 Tina (Sikes) Pfeiffer, Mary Nicklas) Charter  
 January 2 Carla Taylor  
 January 4 Wesley Pastorel  
 January 5 Ronald Wildman  
 January 6 Dan Riegel  
 January 7 Alan Rieke, Cindy Melhorn  
 January 8 Paul Larkins  
 January 11 Jim Diefenbach  
 January 12 Scott Bland, Stacey Bland, Michelle (Wilking) Hertz  
 January 14 Wayne Osenga, Bob Scholl  
 January 15 Stacey (Alrandi) Robbins  
 January 17 David Dayton  
 January 18 Lori Brinkman  
 January 20 Wayne Meyer  
 January 24 Grant Wenzelman  
 January 26 Ian Charter  
 January 27 Kamden Lockwood  
 January 28 Andrew Pfeiffer  
 January 31 Randy Riegel

Family and Friends - Kevan Wilson, Dale Pfeiffer, Lindsey Rice, Julia (Morrow) Fecke, Ed Diefenbach, Troy Wilson, Lesley (Chouinard) Dato, Jacob Grob, Jacob Mau, Michael Weber, Rachael (Friese) Tracy, Chad Sullivan, Matthew Goodman, Elizabeth Meyer, Cade Turro, Anthony Hawks, Terry Goodman, Jeanne (Clifford) Dau, Jenny Jensen, Tommy Lee Davis, Shawna (Davenport) Havener, Robert Buente, Valerie Evans, Marla (Pilotte) Orwig, Jeremy Riegel, Kathy Dahn, Morgan Norton, Adam Weber, Gavin Milk, Scott Peters, Linda Wagner, Amy (Jackson) Meyer, Alison Adams, Cyndee Meyer, Julia (Williamson-Goodman) Obenhauer, Jason Dahn, Rick Hoffman, Dana Riegel, Abigail (Pfeiffer) Allen, Matt Ward, Judy (Pfeiffer) Bushman, Marie (Cooper) Brunner, Linda (Riegel) Lindley, Melissa (Orwig) Denoyer, Gerrick Weedon, David Sackett, Dustin Kingsland, Casaundra (Casi) (Dato) Tapp, Timothy Messer, Andrew Wulff, McKenzie Riley Paetsch, Marjorie Smith, Alexis Graf, Gerald Frank Fecke, Jr., & Jason Kirk

**January Memory Verse**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. ~ Proverbs 3:5-6

**NOVEMBER 2018 ATTENDANCE**

	<u>11/4</u>	<u>11/11</u>	<u>11/18</u>	<u>11/25</u>
Evangelical	40	38	44	49
First	12	12	11	19
Grand Prairie	22	24	26	25
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>93</b>

**Kingfisher Faith**

Eugene Peterson tells of watching a kingfisher repeatedly dive for fish in a lake in a video on his publisher’s website. Peterson counted 37 dives before the kingfisher caught its supper! “And he’s the king fisher!” Peterson chuckles. From that bird-watching episode, he gleaned a ministry lesson: It may take a long time and many attempts — maybe dozens! — before something works out.

God calls us to live out his love faithfully, even when we don’t seem to be accomplishing anything. Maybe we extend 36 invitations to worship, work 36 monthly shifts at a food bank or utter 36 prayers without seeing results. “What’s the point?” we wonder. But the kingfisher urges us on: “Maybe number 37 is the charm!”

In the words of St. Paul (and mixing fishing and farming metaphors): “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9, NIV).

Answers for page 4 Puzzles

**Answer: B (See Luke 15:7.)**

Answer: Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11, NIV

### Ministry Guidelines Resources 2017-2020

"The local church is to minister to persons in the community where the church is located, to provide appropriate training and nurture to all, to cooperate in ministry with other local churches, to defend God's creation and live as an ecologically responsible community, and to participate in the worldwide mission of the church." — Book of Discipline 2012 ¶202

The twenty-six Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation, one for each ministry area, cover church leadership areas, as well as areas focused on nurture, outreach, and witness. The booklets are tools that get new lay leaders off to a good start and as a reference resource for all lay leaders. Each booklet includes the basic "job description" for the leader as well as practical "how-to" information important to implementing ministry effectively. Brief and to the point, making it a perfect resource for the busy, but spirit-led leader.

I recently asked Hope to purchase the Guidelines for Parish use. They are located in her office. If you are new to a Leadership position this coming year, please ask her for a copy of the appropriate Guideline for your use.

We will be providing an article in each Newsletter for the next several months about the Guidelines, *The Book of Discipline* and the Book of Resolutions for you.

*"Taking an active stance in society is nothing new for followers of John Wesley. He set the example for us to combine personal and social piety. Ever since predecessor churches to United Methodism flourished in the United States, we have been known as a denomination involved with people's lives, with political and social struggles, having local to international mission implications. Such involvement is an expression of the personal change we experience in our baptism and conversion.*

*The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church*

*helps us think and act out a faith perspective, not just responding to all the other 'mind-makers-up' that exist in our society."*

Excerpt from The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016. Copyright © 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

### Reflection

Lord Jesus, the Magi brought you precious gifts.  
Help me also give you my very best — always.

\* \* \*

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14, ESV).  
Amen.

\* \* \*

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other."

—Unknown

\* \* \*

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

\* \* \*

"Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence."

—Henry David Thoreau

\* \* \*

"Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see."

—Roy T. Bennett

\* \* \*

The One who calls you to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature is the One who by your consent, goes into all the world and preaches the Gospel to every creature through you!

—W. Ian Thomas

thank you

The Grand Prairie United Methodist Church Sesquicentennial Committee would like to thank everyone for helping us celebrate 150 years. We chose to make it a celebration all year long with a party in October. We were so blessed to have so many in attendance that day to celebrate our past, present, and future. It is a blessing that we have been able to hear God's word and become teachers of that message over these last 150 years. We know that our future is bright and we look forward to spreading God's word for all to hear. Thank you to the committee for all of your hard work in planning and preparing for our event. We could not have done it without all of you. Special thanks to Andrea Lemenager for creating a picture of the church and letting us use that picture in so many different ways. Thank you to our congregation for being right there with us every step of the way and supporting our ideas. Thanks also goes out to Pastor Julie for being there to celebrate with us and help us get our guest speaker. We were blessed that day to hear a message from Jan Griffith. We are blessed beyond measure and know the blessings will continue in our future. THANK YOU!



Pastor Julie Smith's Information

Email: [jjas04@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:bonfieldgp@gmail.com)

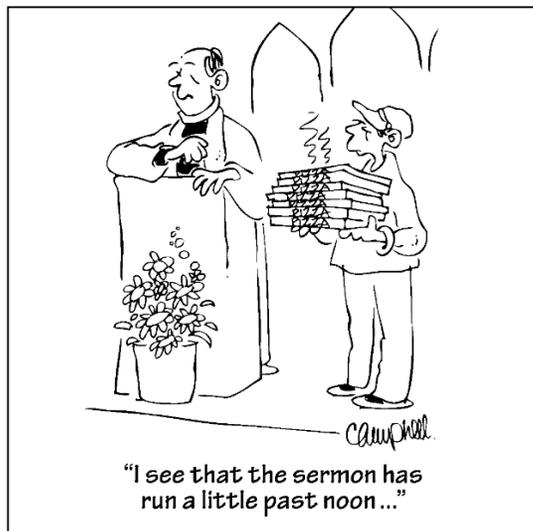
Website: [www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org](http://www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org)

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

Bonfield / Grand Prairie Parish  
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Bonfield, IL 60913

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"I see that the sermon has run a little past noon..."

**Bonfield Box Holder**

**Bonfield, IL 60913**

## 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](http://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.