

“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!

“What will it take for the church to
be relevant in this new world?” A

question that is asked repeatedly by those in leadership
within the church and perhaps also by you. To answer the
question requires us to look at what we are doing now or
not doing that makes the church irrelevant.

Are we *offering Christ and Christ alone*? We are
Christians, individuals, who have heard and accepted the
invitation from the living Christ to transform our lives. So
when we offer Christ we also offer what Christ has done
for us – a transformed life. Therefore, it is extremely
important to actually live a life different, changed,
transformed from the norm. If we are exactly as we were
before acknowledging the gift of grace – then why is the
offer of Christ and Christ alone important for anyone else?

The church exists to transform the world by
making disciples of Jesus Christ and so we need to *stay on
mission*. We, as disciples of Christ must continue the path
of Christian perfection so that we to in our disciple making
efforts can continue to transform the world through the
power of the LORD GOD.

Offer hope is a world defined by fear. When we
as Christians make decisions about our lives, about our
involvement in the political and economic world in which
we live we make those decisions based not upon fear, i.e.
“what if I do this and I lose?” But rather we make
decisions based upon hope. Our offer of hope to the world
is NOT defined by fear but by love and on the promise of
Christ that we will never lose with Christ and we need not
be afraid of the world’s opinion or even that of another
Christian. We need not make a decision with only our own
well-being in mind; but might trust in the LORD to
provide for us while we care for our neighbor.

Transcend things that divide. The LORD GOD is
pretty clear that only he will be in charge of judgment.
The LORD GOD is pretty clear that only she knows with
absolute certainty the heart of another. So..., let’s get off
our high horses and let GOD do the judging and we do the
feeding, housing, clothing and caring for the least of these:
whether the least of these be determined by race, political
persuasion, socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender or
orientation.

Affirm Spirituality. It is so interesting to hear
comments from people like, “Oh, I’m spiritual just not
religious.” What does that mean? To be spiritual with a
Wesleyan understanding is to have a ‘holiness of heart’
a deep desire to grow into a deeper connection with
God and neighbor. We know when we are moving in
the right direction because the “fruit of the Spirit” are
with us and within us: love, joy, peace, patience
kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and
self-control. (NRSV). So, yes, as Methodists and most
certainly as Christians we affirm spirituality –but we
know that spirituality is not some nebulous thing out
there – nor is it an exercise class – but is the wholeness
of a life centered on the Great Commandment.

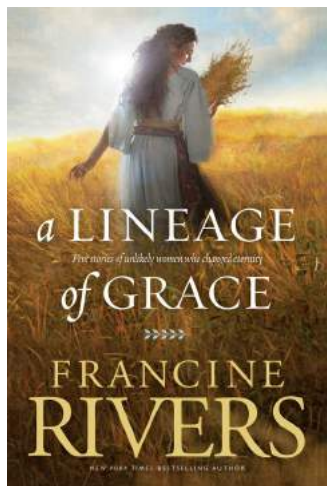
Challenge Materialism. I do not offer a
“prosperity gospel.” I do find it curious that while we
challenge individuals to not go out and buy the latest
gadget the church loves new gadgets because they
might draw a new generation. You know what I mean:
a new sound system, a praise band, a contemporary
worship, a blended worship, a new translation of the
Bible that is in the common vernacular, a home page, a
Facebook page, do you catch my drift? So, I challenge
the church as well: upgrade old systems by all means,
refurbish and clean up worn out and used beyond
common sense; but don’t buy just for the sake of
“new.”

Do Great Good. John Wesley had three simple
rules. The first was Do No Harm. The second was Do
Good. The third was Stay in Love With GOD. The
three must go hand in hand. If the church, universal and
local, were to take these three simple rules seriously
there is no question in my mind that the church will be
relevant in the time to come.

In *Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit* by Lovett
H. Weems, Jr., quotes Leander Keck when he con-
tends, that mainline churches “act like inheritors of an
estate who camped in the yard because they neither
knew nor cared how to live in the house.” We, the
church of today, tomorrow and all the tomorrows to
come, need to know that we have inherited a wonderful,
powerful and timeless message—the love of GOD for
creation. But we are not bound to past interpretations or
means to share that message.

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 "A Lineage of Grace" by Francine Rivers. The book contains five novellas about Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. The

books can be read individually under the titles of Unveiled, Unashamed, Unshaken, Unspoken, and Unafraid. Then come on Tuesday, February 19 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: February 3rd and March 3rd 2019 from 8am - 12pm.

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.



DECEMBER 2018 ATTENDANCE

	<u>12/2</u>	<u>12/9</u>	<u>12/16</u>	<u>12/23</u>	<u>12/30</u>
Evangelical	33	46	80	47	46
First	20	18	23	18	17
Grand Prairie	26	24	28	23	28
TOTALS	79	88	131	88	91

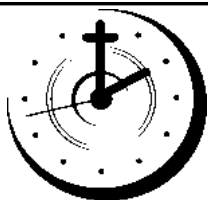
Members and Friends of Bonfield First UMC:

The decision has been made to replace the front doors of the church. They have been ordered and will be installed in the spring. Anyone who would like to contribute to this project may designate giving towards the Building Fund. Monies may be put in your envelope or mailed to the Financial Secretary, Dana Dittus, PO Box 34 Bonfield, IL 60913. Thank you for your support. This will be a much needed improvement toward maintaining our church building.



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

February Memory Verse

And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to
walk humbly with your God.
~ Micah 6:8

Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for February 2019 worship.
(Readings & Message may change without notice)

February 3

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
Holy Communion
Altar Color - Green
Message: Fake News, Fake Prophet, & Fake in the Pews
Psalm: 71:1-6
Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Luke 4:21-30 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

February 10

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
Altar Color - Green
Message: Volunteers Need Not Apply
Psalm: 138
Scripture: Luke 5:1-11
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

February 17

Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany
Altar Color - Green
Message: The Heart of Faith
Psalm: 1
Scripture: Luke 6:17-26
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

February 24

Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany
Altar Color - Green
Message: Love for Enemies - No Room for Judgment
Psalm: 37:1-11, 39-40
Scripture: Luke 6:27-38





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,
Marian Buente, Ron
Cordes, Jean Dunn,
Pearl Evans, Janice &
Tom Logsdon, Dorene
O'Connor, Marian
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, February 5, 2019 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!

Love is a fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Identify another fruit that can make Valentine's Day — and every day — special. First, write a word that fits each clue below. Then unscramble the letters from the bold, vertical column to find another fruit of the Spirit. Write it on the blanks below.

LEAVE

CHAPEAU

TRANQUILITY

BECOME MATURE

RESPOND

SPHERE

OLD TESTAMENT QUEEN

DISCOVER

CONFIDENCE

ALWAYS



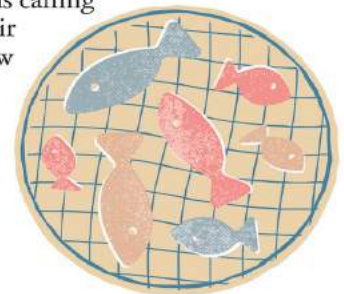
Answer at the Bottom of Page 7

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?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

In Luke's account of Jesus calling the first disciples from their work as fishermen to follow him and "fish for people" (NIV), which disciple is not named?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Simon
- D. Andrew



Answer at the Bottom of Page 7

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United Methodist Women of the Parish

Sunshine Circle

Sunshine Circle held their annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 20 at 6:30pm in the Upper Room at Evan. The meal was potluck. Beautiful decorations on the tables by Kim, Donna, & Jan, plus a wonderful meal.

Devotions were given by Jan Green titled "Remember Jesus is the Reason for the Season". Scripture was read from Matthew 2:18-25. She read a reading from a card she received.

Business was conducted by Donna. Roll call was taken by saying your favorite thing about Christmas. The minutes and treasurer report were given and approved.

Two poinsettias were purchased and given to Sue Buente and Pastor Julie Smith.

It was reported by Rita Overacker that we sent out 35 Christmas cards for "Adopt a Solider".

New Business - A sign-up sheet was passed around for hostesses. Mystery Pals were drawn for the new year. Also, hostesses for the Street Church signed up - March 13 Donna Diefenbach & Ardis Messer, July 10 Carol Buente & Lorraine Wildman, November 13 Kim Metzka & Jan Green. Election of officers were held. All agreed to keep their office. They are President - Donna Diefenbach, Vice President - Rita Overacker, Secretary - Ardis Messer, Treasurer - Kim Metzka.

Secret Pal gifts were exchanged. Next meeting will be February 21, hostess Rita Overacker. No meeting will be in January. Meeting adjourned.

Rita Overacker had a craft for each of us to make and Kim Metzka a game called Christmas Bingo. Each received a gift from Bingo. We then indulged in desserts. It was a fun night!

Martha Circle

Martha Circle met January 2, 2019 at Bonfield Evan church at 8am. We were going to help Ivan Brunner fold church newsletter but there was enough help.

Ronda Wenzelman treasurer reported the balance of \$264.77. Thank you cards were read and an offering was taken. Shirley & Ivan did goodie bags for 3 college students: Ryan Coffman, Brianna Dayton, & Frankie Schripsema.

Janet Boyer thanked everyone for the *Gift of God Street Church* items brought to church and they were delivered. She also showed one of the 6 packages that Megan Halverson (Becky Cruse granddaughter) put together for *Gift of God Street Church*. She has a snow cone machine and makes money selling snow cones. She then gives the money to people in need.

Meetings in 2019

January 2 - Evan church 8am
 March 13 - Shirley Brunner 8:30am
 May 8 - Marion P. 8:30am
 July 10 - Janet Boyer 8:30am
 Sept. 11 - Joyce C. 6:30pm
 Oct. - Tricia C. 6:30pm
 Dec. 11 - ?? 6:00pm






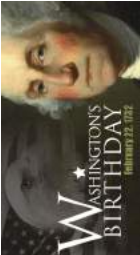
Gift of God Street Church Meals(2nd Wed)

Feb. 13 - Brunners, April 10 Kim & Becky,
 June 12 Joyce & Tricia, Aug. 14 Ronda &
 Linda, Oct. 9 Janet & Marilyn, and
 Dec. 11 Jenny & Cheri

2 year end reports were completed. Janet closed the meeting with prayer.



FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3 - Holy Communion - Bonfield Fireman's Breakfast @ 8- 12 - Youth Group @ Evan @ 6:30 - 8pm</p> 	<p>4 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am</p>	<p>5 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast @ 8:30am</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>2 - Asbury Pancake Breakfast 8am - 1pm</p> 
<p>10</p>	<p>11 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am</p>	<p>12 - NOW Evan @ 6pm - NOW Parish @ 6:30pm</p> 	<p>13 - Martha Circle @ 9am</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18 - Journey Prayer Group @ 10am</p> 	<p>19 - Newsletter Article Deadline 8am - Ladies Book Club @ 6:30pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 - Print Newsletter</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am</p>	<p>26 - Fold Newsletter @ Evan @ 8am</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>

March 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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						



February 1 Mark Osenga, Nicole Swaite,
Elizabeth Buente Shannon,
Randy Riegel

February 2 Brianna Dayton,
Robyn Howard, Leslie Diefenbach,
Lindsay VanVoorst

February 3 Haley Ireland,
Caitlyn Diefenbach

February 4 Rev. Andrew Noxon,
Lauren Meyer, Austin Schwark

February 5 Lara Evans

February 6 Alice (Bradley) Lambert

February 7 Brian Heath, Todd Hertz,
Drew Emmerson Wenzelman,
Alyssa (VanVoorst-Miller) Durbin

February 8 Jonathan Wood,
Gina (Bolatto) Phillips,
David Hansen,
Marcia (Meyer) Svenkson,
Ronda (Foltz) Davis,
Marion (Diefenbach) Panozzo,
Alex Charles Higginbothan

February 9 Dennis Duchene,
Esther (Walter) Marcotte,
Dennis Schwark, Lucas Wood

February 10 Tyler St. Germaine,
Brad Williamson, Catherine Schwark,
Raleigh Turro

February 12 Donna Voigt, Jeffrey Hertz,
Kaleena Vaughn

February 13 Ronald Cordes,
Linda (Rieke) Willibey,
Christopher Sikes,
Carolyn Brinkman, Dayle Seitz

February 14 Brandon Bauer,
Joy (Fecke) Ruckman,
Pam (Bennett) Wood,
Chelsea Kingsland,
Charles Brinkman

February 15 Albert Brunner, Bruce Wilson

February 16 Sarah Rice

February 17 Logan Meyer, Joseph Sikes,
Michaela Sikes, Diane Boyer,
Ruth (Buente) Wheeler,
Carolyn Schwark

February 18 Lauren Berghouse,
Richard Wildman

February 19 Heidi Nottke Williams,
Jennine (Tooper) Wulff,
Brandon Brinkman, Andrew Osenga

February 20 Samuel Wilson,
Matthew Wilson, Mark Schwark,
Cheyenne Overacker, Oliver Miller

February 21 Noah Sackett, Allen Orwig

February 23 Bartlett (Bart) Durbin,
Debby (Mau) Bitner, Josh Wenzelman,
Alan Krieg

February 24 Elliott Svenkson,
Sandi (Grumish) Schultz,
Amber Riegel, Trent Wilking

February 25 Milton Brunner,
Karen (Rice) Adams, Kay Ellen Meyer,
Connor Overacker

February 26 Rachel Heath,
Diane (Prater) Kuipers, Adam Riegel,
Anita (Jensen) Wendling

February 27 Rebecca Coffman

February 28 Keith Bauer,
Jill (Berghouse) Grant

Answers for page 4 Puzzles

Answer: depart, hat, peace, grow, answer, ball, Esther,
find, trust, ever; gentleness

Answer: D (See Luke 5:1-11.)

Ministry Guidelines Resources 2017-2020

The local church has various committees and teams that are made up of the laity of the church. In the coming months I will be offering information regarding several of those committees/teams

Church Council, also known as Administrative Council.

The Book of Discipline, ¶244.1 says that the Church Council is the executive agency of the charge conference. The Charge Conference is made up of those churches with one or more appointed clergy, i.e. the Bonfield-Grand Prairie Parish. The church council is the group of individuals that guides and furthers the ministry of the local congregation between charge conferences. As a whole the Church Council should reflect the make-up of the congregation a whole. **It exists to create and supervise the strategic plan for an effective congregation.** The work of the church council is to envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate a congregation's ministry and mission.

The church council holds the *big picture* of the future of the congregation.

This means that the council is not to micro manage, but to encourage and enable the other elected leaders of the various committees and teams of the church. Every action that the church takes from setting the budget, to organizing VBS and Sunday School, and small groups, and all the other efforts made should be made with the mission of the church in mind *to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Who serves on the Church Council? Every congregation must make provision for including certain functions. Those serving as Chair of the particular committees/teams are members of the Church Council.

Positions may be combined except for the financial functions, i.e. Church Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

Church Treasurer, Financial Secretary, The Vice Chair of Nominations and Leader

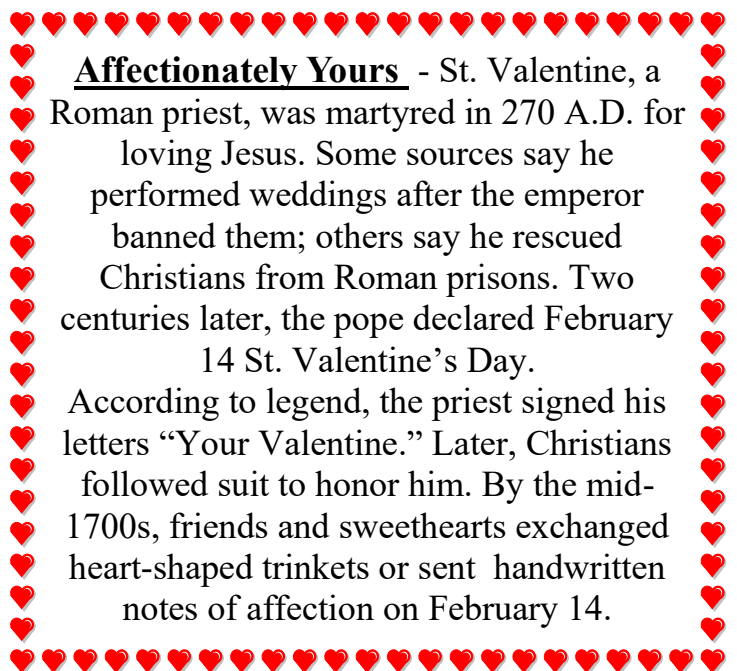
Development, Trustees, Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee Chair, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Membership Secretary, Church Council Chair, President of United Methodist Women/Men, A Young Adult, & Pastor

The members present and voting at any announced meeting constitute a quorum.

The Church Council provides for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach and witness (NOW). These efforts are often accomplished through a team with members selected for each of the specific areas of ministry.

As you can see the work of the local congregation is one of partnership and cooperation with the various branches of the body of Christ coming together to form one coherent ministry and mission. Each branch is to be given respect, courtesy and support, from the Pastor to the Young Adult serving. All come together during the meetings of the Church Council to ensure the effective administration of the ministries and missions of the local congregation.

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


Affectionately Yours - St. Valentine, a Roman priest, was martyred in 270 A.D. for loving Jesus. Some sources say he performed weddings after the emperor banned them; others say he rescued Christians from Roman prisons. Two centuries later, the pope declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day. According to legend, the priest signed his letters "Your Valentine." Later, Christians followed suit to honor him. By the mid-1700s, friends and sweethearts exchanged heart-shaped trinkets or sent handwritten notes of affection on February 14.

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Lent Book Study

March 13, 20, 27 & April 3, 10, 17 at 1:00pm
Bonfield Evangelical Upper Room
348 E. Smith Street, Bonfield
Fill Out and Return to Pastor Julie BEFORE March 6th

Name (s) _____

Phone _____

This study includes 1 paperback book.
Cost for the book is \$12.50 payable to:
Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish

