

“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!

A sunny day after seemingly endless weeks of clouds and snow. We survived the Polar Vortex and approximately ??? inches of snow. Lots going on in preparation of Lent and Palm Sunday, Easter Sunrise and Easter Sunday. Announcements for a community Easter Egg Hunt follow in the pages of this Newsletter. As we prepare our hearts and our lives for a deeper commitment to Christ, continue to read, study scripture, pray, attend worship, witness of God's love for us and serve our families, communities and world in the example of Christ. All of this we do in response to all that Christ has done for us.

As you prepare your heart for Lent, use your time of daily devotion to strengthen your prayer and service, look to the bulletin and Parish Newsletter and website for opportunities to serve and to witness to what your faith means to you. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field—YOU."

Pastor Julie

During Lent, Lord, help us grow in faith,
hope and love —
“and the greatest of these is love”
(1 Corinthians 13:13, NRSV).

A Lenten Bible Study – *Entering the Passion of Jesus*

*In every good story, there is history and there is risk. In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, the author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine delves into the history and literature surrounding the last days of Jesus' life. Levine sets the narrative in historical context and analyzes the risks and motives of the story's characters. She shows how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.*

A six-week study from Wednesday, March 13th through April 17th from 1:00 to 2:30pm at Bonfield Evangelical's Upper Room. The book may be purchased through Cokesbury or Amazon.

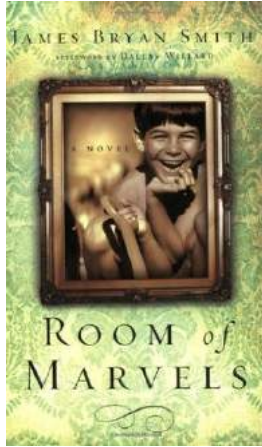
Fill out the form on the back of the February newsletter or in your Sunday bulletin to be a part of the study group.

Check out the back page of this Newsletter to get more info and sign up for the next Bible study in late April and into May.

Living Sacrifices

To search our souls, to meditate,
will not suffice for Lent.
To share the cross, to sacrifice;
these are the things God meant.
—Jane McKay Lanning

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 "Room of Marvels" by James Bryan Smith. Then come on Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30pm at Tricia Coffman's to discuss.

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.



Salina Fireman's Breakfast -

Breakfasts are held on the 1st Sunday of the month from October to March: 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.

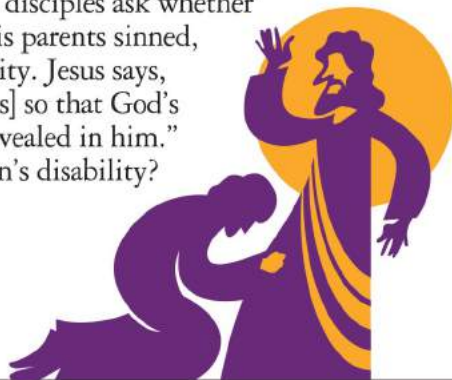
JANUARY 2019 ATTENDANCE

| | <u>1/6</u> | <u>1/13</u> | <u>1/20</u> | <u>1/27</u> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Evangelical | 37 | 38 | 0 | 31 |
| First | 14 | 14 | 0 | 15 |
| Grand Prairie | 25 | 19 | 0 | 16 |
| TOTALS | 76 | 71 | 0 | 62 |

Bible Quiz

In John 9, Jesus' disciples ask whether a certain man or his parents sinned, causing his disability. Jesus says, "Neither. ... [It was] so that God's works might be revealed in him." What was this man's disability?

- A. Deafness
- B. Lameness
- C. Blindness
- D. Epilepsy



"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."
—Rachel Carson

"It's better to bite your tongue than to eat your words." —Frank Sonnenberg



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

March Memory Verse

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

~ Matthew 7:12

Upcoming Worship Schedule

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

March 3

Transfiguration Sunday
Holy Communion
Altar Color - White
Message: Why the Transfiguration?
Psalm: 99
Scripture: Luke 9:28-36(37-43)

March 10

First Sunday in Lent
Daylight Savings Time Begins
Altar Color - Purple
Message: Introduction to the Parables: Lost
Psalm: 91
Scripture: Luke 15:4-7, 8-10
Epistle: Romans 10:8b-13

March 17

Second Sunday in Lent
St. Patrick's Day
Altar Color - Purple
Message: Parable: Lost Father & Sons
Psalm: 27
Scripture: Luke 15:11-32
Epistle: Philippians 3:20-4:1

March 24

Third Sunday in Lent
Altar Color - Purple
Message: Hidden, But Not Lost
Psalm: 63:1-8
Scripture: Matthew 13:33-35
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

March 31

Fourth Sunday in Lent
UMCOR Sunday
Altar Color - Purple
Message: The Power of Three
Psalm: 32
Scripture: Matthew 13:44-52
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21



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, March 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!

Find and circle these words associated with the Lenten journey to the cross.

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

COMMUNITY

LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, March 6 at 7pm
 At Reddick UMC, 35900 E 3200 N Rd
 Reddick, IL

Speaking - Pastor Julie Smith

Wednesday, March 13 at 7pm
 At Bonfield First Church, 172 N Church St
 Bonfield, IL

Speaking - Terry Goodwin,
 Certified Lay Servant, Herscher UMC

Wednesday, March 20 at 7pm
 At Harvest View, 100 Harvest View Lane
 Herscher, IL

Speaker - Donna Pangle, Lay Leader and
 Certified Lay Servant, Wesley

Wednesday, March 27 at 7pm
 At Herscher UMC, 274 North Elm Street
 Herscher, IL

Speaking - Dianne Wells, Lay Servant,
 Bonfield First UMC

Wednesday, April 3 at 7pm
 At Bonfield First Church, 172 N Church St
 Bonfield, IL

Speaking - Linda Michel, Certified Lay
 Servant, Herscher UMC

Wednesday, April 10 at 7pm
 At Essex UMC, 114 Waverly Street
 Essex, IL

Speaker - Pastor Kevin Boesen

United Methodist Women
of the Parish

Evan UMW

First meeting of 2019 is scheduled for March 7 at 1 pm in Evan's Upper Room with Dayle Seitz as hostess and Carol Buente giving a short lesson.

All ladies in our community are invited.

First UMW

As 2019's United Methodist Women year begins March 21 for us, we invite and welcome all female members and friends to join us at our first gathering: 7 p.m. at First Church upstairs in the large classroom. There's always a chance Donna will bring cookies!

Save the Date:



Easter Egg Hunt





Community
 Easter Egg Hunt
 at Bonfield
 Quarry Park on
 Saturday,
 April 13th at
 10am-12pm.

There will be separate age groups and separate areas to make it fair. There will be refreshments and activities for older kids too.

Make sure to look in Sunday's bulletin for more info and April's Newsletter.

Donations of plastic eggs, candy and/or egg filling items can be brought to each church and put in the "Egg Hunt" box.

MARCH 2019

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|--|--|--------------------------------|--|
| <p>3 - Holy Communion - Bonfield Fireman's Breakfast @ 8- 12 - Youth Group @ Evan @ 6:30 - 8pm -Transfiguration</p>  | <p>4 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am</p> | <p>5 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast @ 8:30am</p> | <p>6 - Lenten Service @ Reddick UMC @ 7pm</p>  | <p>7 - Evan UMW @ Upper Room @ 1pm</p> | <p>1 - World Day of Prayer</p> | <p>9 - Family Fun Fest @ Saunemin Grade School @ 11-2pm</p> |
| <p>10 - Daylight Saving Begins</p>  | <p>11 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am</p> | <p>12 - AD Board @ First Church @ 7pm</p> | <p>13 - Lent Book Study @ Evan @ 1pm - Lenten Service @ First Church @ 7pm</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> | <p>16 - "Soul'd Out" Music Group Concert @ Cornell UMC @ 7pm - Dinner @ 5:30</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- Lent Book Study @ Evan @ 1pm - Lenten Service @ Harvest View @ 7pm</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 - Lent Book Study @ Evan @ 1pm - Lenten Service @ Herscher UMC @ 7pm</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> |
| <p>31 - UMCOR Sunday</p> | | | | | | |



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
Ethan Miller
 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

“You do not need to wallow in guilt.
Wallow in the mercy of God.”
—St. John Vianney

Answers for page 2 & 4 Puzzles

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | N | A | M | E | S | H | T | E | G | R | L | W | Y |
| C | L | E | 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 |

Answer: C (See John 9:1-7.)

Committees/Teams

Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC)

The focus of this Committee is to build strong relationship between the staff and the Congregation, between the congregation and the Pastor, between the Congregation and the District Superintendent. Finding a balance between administrative tasks and building relationships is difficult under any circumstances, but with a multiple point charge such as Bonfield-Grand Prairie even more so. Therefore, the ministry of this Committee is vitally important for a vital, effective and therefore healthy congregation.

The Book of Discipline provides specific tasks of the SPPRC, including, but not limited to:

- Encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor, the staff and their families, including advocating for a healthy work/life balance.
- Promote unity (not uniformity).
- Hire, promote, evaluate and provide training for staff.
- Teach the congregation about itinerancy, steps into ordained ministry, the value of diversity and supporting continued education for staff and pastor.
- Write job descriptions for staff, excluding the pastor.
- Create written personnel policies and sexual misconduct policies.

Members of this Committee are proposed by the Nominations and Leader Development Committee and approved by the Charge Conference. *The Discipline* requires at least five and not more than nine members, one must be a young adult and all must be professing or associate members of the church. Members may succeed themselves for one three-year term. The Lay Leader and the Lay Member to Annual Conference are also members of the SPPRC.

The SPPRC must meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may be called by the Bishop, the District Superintendent, the Pastor, the Chair, or any person accountable to the committee. **It may not meet without the knowledge of the pastor or the District Superintendent. *The meeting shall be closed door and all information confidential.*** When the appointment of a pastor or employment of any member of the staff is to be discussed, and that person is not present, that person must be informed prior to the meeting and immediately thereafter be brought into consultation by either the committee of the District Superintendent.

There are five pages in *The Book of Discipline* that outline the responsibilities of this committee so not all are discussed here. The Chairperson is nominated by the Committee on Nominations and Leadership.

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

How Peace Bears Witness

Christians ought not to be smothered in fear. There is a spiritual readiness, where we return to having the peace of God stand guard over our hearts and minds.

What an incredible witness it is to a lost and fearful society when the Christian acts like a child of God, living under the loving sovereignty of the heavenly Father. The Christian needs to walk in peace, so no matter what happens they will be able to bear witness to a watching world.

—Henry Blackaby

Can You Help Levi Cross?

Our former pastor, John Cross has a nephew Levi, who has Neuroblastoma. Levi was diagnosed late fall before his 2nd birthday. If you feel God tugging at your heart please send a donation for fuel and other expenses to First Christian Church c/o Cross Family, 546 N. 6th St., Watseka, IL 60970.

Daniel and Pam Cross and younger brother Liam are staying strong in the Lord through these many hospital stays and need your prayers for God's healing hand on Levi. Friends can follow Levi's progress on Facebook page "Levi's Story".



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.



To God You Shall Return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can't untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don't have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin's power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we're always safe in God's love.



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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Bible Book Study

**Wednesdays - April 24 &
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 1:00pm**

Bonfield Evangelical

Upper Room

348 E. Smith Street, Bonfield

Fill Out and Return to Pastor Julie
BEFORE April 17th

Name (s) _____

Phone _____

This study includes 1 paperback book.
Cost for the book is \$12 payable to: Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish or the book may be purchased through Cokesbury or Amazon.

Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from our world today, and many traditional interpretations of Jesus' stories ignore this disparity and have often allowed anti-Semitism and misogyny to color their perspectives. In *Short Stories by Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine analyzes these "problems with parables" taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.

