

“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!

John Wesley was almost in despair. He did not have the faith to continue to preach.

When death stared him in the face, he was fearful and found little comfort in his religion. To Peter Böhler, a Moravian friend, he confessed his growing misery and decision to give up the ministry. Böhler counseled otherwise. "Preach faith till you have it," he advised. "And then because you have it, you will preach faith."

On May 24th, 1738 he opened his Bible at about five in the morning and came across these words, "There are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, even that ye should partakers of the divine nature." He read similar words in other places. That evening he reluctantly attended a meeting in Aldersgate. Someone read from Luther's Preface to the Epistle to Romans. About 8:45 PM "while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that Christ had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

After this experience Wesley became bold in his witness. He began traveling all around England preaching and serving the people of God. His preaching became so controversial that he was barred from preaching in the pulpits of the Church of England. Since he continued to preach in the open fields, he was charged with "trespassing" on the parishes of other ministers.

He replied to this charge in a letter written in March of 1739 with what has become the most famous quote of Wesley, "the world is my parish." In the letter he says, "I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right and my bounden duty to declare, unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation. This is the work which I know God has called me to; and sure I am that His blessing attends it. Great encouragement have I, therefore, to be faithful in fulfilling the work He hath given me to do. His servant I am, and, as such, am

employed according to the plain direction of His Word, 'As I have opportunity, doing good unto all men'; and His providence clearly concurs with his Word; which has disengaged me from all things else, that I might singly attend on this very thing, 'and go about doing good.'"

Wesley's ministry knew no boundaries. There was no place he could not and would not go to be in ministry to God's people. As time went on, John Wesley was used powerfully by our Lord to reform England. The movement he began with his brother Charles, and others, became a national force. John rode thousands of miles (as many as 20,000 a year) preaching as only a man filled with the Holy Spirit can preach, telling the gospel to all who would listen. He acted "as though he were out of breath in pursuit of souls." Wherever he preached, he also provided care in the way of establishing classes which provided for the basic needs of the people. Read here that food, clothes, and housing were provided for those in need. Lives changed and manners and morals altered for the better. It is often conjectured that his preaching helped spare England the kind of revolution that occurred in France.

So why do we establish boundaries? There are many things that sometimes discourage a Pastor in her ministry, but the one that cuts my heart to the quick is when I hear the people say when asked to engage in mission activity or service projects: "Why? That doesn't affect us," or "we need to take care of our own," or "that is Kankakee's problem, not ours." Whether the mission, ministry or act of service is to an individual living in Kankakee, Bradley, Bourbonnais, or Bonfield, Illinois, the United States or Timbukto, the mission, ministry or act of service is done in the name of Jesus the Christ.

When we are reluctant to reach out to our brothers and sisters in other areas of our world there are usually reasons. First, we may be worried that there isn't going to be enough left of whatever "it" is to care for ourselves. Secondly, we may be saying we don't believe that God is calling us to this particular ministry nor that God will provide what is needed to accomplish HIS ministry. Third, we may be saying

Continued on next page...

Pastor's Article continued....

that our hearts are simply too small for all that God is calling us to do and to be.

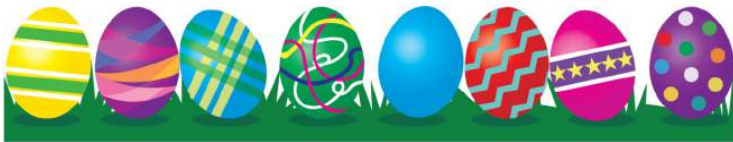
When "we" become our primary focus of ministry then "we" have failed to be an obedient church filled with obedient people to God's ministry.

When we reach out to people in ministry wherever they may be in our pews, in our neighborhood, the neighborhood across the street, or the neighborhood across the world we do reach out—to God's own. We the people called Methodists are called into ministry to all the world – for the world is our Parish.

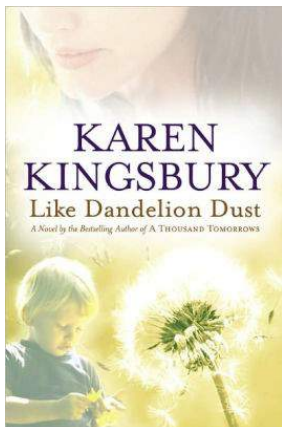
Pastor Julie

FEBRUARY 2019 ATTENDANCE

	<u>2/3</u>	<u>2/10</u>	<u>2/17</u>	<u>2/24</u>
Evangelical	45	37	37	39
First	17	17	13	10
Grand Prairie	20	21	19	21
TOTALS	82	75	69	70



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 "Like Dandelion Dust" by Karen Kingsbury. Then come on Tuesday, April 16th at 6:30pm at Janet Boyer's to discuss.

Puzzle!

Follow the arrows and fill in the blanks to discover what the women found at Jesus' tomb on Easter morning.

T

BEGIN ▶

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“ ”

Answers at the Bottom of Page 9

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Bible Quiz

After Jesus raises Lazarus from death, what does his family do to thank Jesus?

- A. They host a dinner for him.
- B. Martha serves the meal.
- C. Mary anoints Jesus' feet with an extravagant amount of expensive perfume.
- D. All of the above.



Answers at the Bottom of Page 9

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

April 7

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Holy Communion
Altar Color - Purple
Message: Forever Changed
Psalm: 126
Scripture: Luke 8:2, Luke 4:38-41, Luke 13:10-17, Mark 5:27-34, John 4:1-42, John 8:1-11

April 14

Palm Sunday
Altar Color - Purple
Message: Participant or Observer
Psalm: 118:1-2,19-29
Scripture: Luke 19:28-4
Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

April 21

Easter Sunday
Altar Color - White
Message: Resurrection Surprise
Psalm: 118:14-24
Scripture: Luke 24:1-12
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

April 28

Second Sunday of Easter
Altar Color - White
Message: Jesus the Builder
Psalm: 150
Scripture: Luke 6:46-49
Epistle: 5:24-32

April Memory Verse

Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others.
~ Matthew 7:1-2



“Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush.”

- Doug Larson

“Easter is the only time when it’s perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket.” - Evan Esar

United Methodist Women of the Parish

Purpose of the United Methodist Women -The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose Purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church.

Evan UMW

The Bonfield Evangelical UMW met on March 7th in the Upper Room with 9 members. Members answered roll call with 68 sick visitations having been made in the past 2 months. We welcomed Jen Spinale as a new member.

Dayle Seitz served as hostess.

Carol Buente gave the lesson from the UMW lesson book. The article was titled "Sisterhood of Service". The scripture basis for this was Exodus 2- the history of the Egyptian midwives who spared the Hebrew infant boys who Pharaoh had ordered killed. Even then women were serving where they were, in hostile circumstances. God challenges all of us today to serve around the world to bring peace, "shalom". 2019 is the 150th anniversary of what is now United Methodist Women.

In December, our unit contributed financial help to the Salvation Army, Lessie Bates Neighborhood House, the Gift of God Street Church, Cunningham, Bible Witness Camp, Center of Hope and Harbor House. We fulfilled our pledge to the UMW conference which goes to global missions, we contributed many items to Cunningham, Lessie Bates, the needy children in Kankakee, the Street Church, Salvation Army, Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Our unit thanks all those who helped with our missions. The purpose of the United Methodist Women is to know God and to fulfill the mission that our founding women set before us 150 years ago.

On March 21 we served supper at the Gift of God Street Church to 18 persons. We also served in January, May and September 2018.

Joyce Riegel gave information from the "Response" magazine about another organization formed 40 years ago, the Women's Missionary Association. Formed in Dayton, Ohio to help uplift all women and girls.

Meeting was adjourned and a delicious snack was served by Dayle. Any questions please call Carol Buente at 815-933-9611 or Christine at 815-939-2912.

Evan UMW Events:

March 21- Spiritual Growth Seminar
at Tonical UMC

March 23- Dedication and Open House for the
new Recreation Center at the Cunningham
Children's Home in Urbana.

This is named the Rosanne Noel Center.

April 4&5- Festival of Quilts at
Cunningham Children's Home

April 27- District Spring Meeting at Manteno
Methodist Church, we are collecting men's body
wash for Cunningham for this event.

May 2- The annual May breakfast at the home of
Christine Meyer at 9am

May 5- Ladies Tea Party at the church

May 8- Feed Supper at the Gift of
God Street Church

Martha Circle

Grand Prairie Martha Circle met at 8:30 on March 13, '19 at home of Shirley And Ivan Brunner, who served us a delicious brunch. Thank you Brunners!

Janet B read a Response article on church people helping other people in community, Such as church ladies helping girl scouts learn sewing. United Methodist 2019 dates were Passed to everyone. March 23 Dedication of new school and rec/gym. April 5 & 6 CCH Quilt show.

Martha Circle continued on the next page....

United Methodist Women of the Parish

Martha Circle Continued

Joyce C. and Ronda W. made & seconded to raise our 2020 pledge to \$100. Ronda W. reported balance of \$360. Offering was taken.

On Thursday May 30 from 8:30 to 10:30 Martha Circle will be hosting and serving breakfast to members of an Antique Car Club. Final Plans will be made at our May 8 meeting.

Hello cards were sent. Meeting was closed by telling “what is something you are going to do this spring /summer.”



United Methodist Women Reading Program

Book Review: “The Same Sky”
by Amanda Eyre Ward

The views on imagination in our country differs from person to person. Alice and Carla live under different circumstances, yet their lives will come together for the glory of God. This book is heart warming, beautifully written and helps each person reading make their own judgments.

If you do not know the hardships faced by immigrants, it might be an eye opener for you. You may see different ideas shared by the two women. You may even want to start a book study with your friends. This hard to put down book will not only reference immigration but, also the fears, depression and heartache of not being able to be blessed with children. I recommend this book to all United Methodist Women as one of their reading books for 2019.

(nurturing for community)
Enjoy your reading journey.

Dayle Seitz, Vice President Women’s Methodist Group, Bonfield Evangelical

Sunshine Circle

On Thursday February 20th 5 ladies of the Sunshine Circle met at Evan in the Upper Room at 6:30pm with Rita Overacker as hostess.

Rita conducted the meeting in the absence of the President.

Roll call was answered by telling what you did on Valentine’s Day. Minutes were read and approved. No treasurer report was given due to the absence of the treasurer. New business - It was suggested that we do a Tea some time this spring. After discussion and thought we agreed on May 5th at 2pm in the Upper Room. More details to come, SAVE THE DATE. There was a discussion for a soup and sandwich meal, this was tabled till later.

Date in April 18 was changed to April 11th due to Maundy Thursday. Next meeting will be March 21st in the Upper Room at 6:30pm with Lorraine Wildman as hostess. Meeting was adjourned

Devotions by Rita- Theme Winter Valentine’s: several readings on self-control, fruits of the spirit, and scriptures from the Bible on love. She closed with reading “The Dash”. We gathered at a beautiful decorated valentine's table. Lunch consisted of sandwiches, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, cupcakes, and drinks. Each received a gift.

Sunshine Circle Meetings 2019

- March 21st- at Evan Upper Room at 6:30pm, Lorraine Wildman hostess
- April 11th- at Evan Upper Room at 6:30pm, Kim hostess
- May 16th- at TBA at 6:30pm, Donna Diefenbach hostess
- June 20th - Progressive meeting
- Sept. 19th- at Evan Upper Room at 6:30pm, Carol hostess
- Oct. 17th- at TBA at 6:30pm, Donna Diefenbach hostess
- Nov. 21st - at Ardis’s House at 6:30pm, Ardis Messer hostess
- Dec. 19th- at Jan’s house at TBA, Jan Green hostess



Easter Egg Hunt

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

There will be separate age groups and separate areas for the egg hunt. There will be crafts, refreshments and activities for older kids too.

The Easter Bunny is also going to make an appearance to visit with the children. Donations of small candy and/or egg filling items can be brought to each church and put in the "Egg Hunt" box.



	<p>Wednesday, April 3 at 7pm At Bonfield First Church, 172 N Church St Bonfield, IL Speaking - Linda Michel, Certified Lay Servant</p>
	<p>Wednesday, April 10 at 7pm At Essex UMC, 114 Waverly Street Essex, IL Speaker - Pastor Kevin Boesen</p>



Living Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 8:00PM at the First United Methodist Church of Fairbury in the sanctuary.



All are welcome to partake of communion.

	<p>Spring Cleaning</p>	<p>First Church Sprucing Up - Getting ready for Holy Week and Easter, the church needs a good cleaning. Please join us on Saturday, April 6th at 9am for a cleaning party, everyone is welcome! Bring your mops, brooms, buckets, Lysol wipes, cleaning supplies, gloves, elbow grease, etc. and help us get ready for the Easter season.</p>
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Food Handler: Serve It Safely Safety Principles for the non-restaurant environment on Friday, April 12th at 10AM -12PM at Aroma Park UMC 210 West Third St. Aroma Park, IL 60910.

Cost is \$10 for a 3 year certificate (no exam). Please fill out the flyer posted at your church or contact the Parish office for more info - 815-802-9805. A 3 hour, IDPH - approved, University of Illinois Extension program designed to increase self-efficacy related to serving food safely in the non-restaurant environment. Designed for staff and volunteers of food pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers, schools, and churches.

APRIL 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7 - Holy Communion - Youth Group @ Evan @ 6:30 - 8pm - The Great Ingathering @ Dwight UMC	1 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am	2 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast @ 8:30am	3 - Lent Book Study @ Evan @ 1pm - Lenten Service @ First Church @ 7pm	4 - Evan UMW	5	6 - First Church Cleaning @ 9am
14  PALM SUNDAY	8 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am	9 - Evan NOW Meeting @ 6pm - Parish NOW Meeting @ 6:30pm	10 - Lent Book Study @ Evan @ 1pm - Lenten Service @ Essex UMC @ 7pm	11 - Sunshine Circle @ Evan @ 6:30pm	12	13
21 - Sunrise Service @ First @ 6am  EASTER SUNDAY	15 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am	16	17 - Lent Book Study @ Evan @ 1pm - Community Lunch @ Lions Club @ Noon	18 - Maundy Thursday Healing Service @ First Church @ 7pm	19 - Tenebrae Service @ First Church @ 7pm	20
28	22 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am	23 - Newsletter Article Deadline 8am	24 - Administrative Professionals Day	25 - Print Newsletter	26	27
29 - Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC @ 10am	30 - Fold Newsletter @ Evan @ 8am	30				



April 1 Tiffany Peters,
Thaddeus Miller, Miyake Meyer,
Andrew Jacobowski
April 2 Brock Pfeiffer,
Gerald Fecke (Trey),
Marsha Bauer,
Wilma (Diefenbach) Jones
April 3 Mary Messer, Wendell Meyer
April 4 Emily Meyer,
Michelle (Martin) Moore
April 5 Cherrie (Deschand)
Diefenbach
April 6 Michelle Dahn, Kenzie Grob,
Connie (Wood) Dato,
Billy Pitkin
April 7 Amanda Werner,
Danny Gagnon
April 8 Rob D. VanVoorst
April 9 Stacey (Wenzelman) Mitchell
April 10 James Voigt,
Benjamin Kuipers,
Diane (Schafer) Charter,
Mary Grace Brinkman,
Matthew Marcotte
April 11 Chuck Voigt,
Candace (Borschnack)
Overacker
April 12 Brian Svenkeson,
Joann Schwark

April 14 Kyle LaMore, Kelly LaMore,
Austin Jones, Dylan Charter,
Lyle Turro
April 16 Roscella (Wesemann) Piper,
Aaron Wells, David Laird,
Marilyn Ohrt
April 19 Amanda Davis
April 20 Jeff Werner,
Marilyn (King) Handley,
Carolyn (King) Souders,
Lisa (Gagnon) Gronert,
Gary Schwark
April 21 Allison Gates, Dave Wood,
Kayla Schwark, Steven Schwark
April 22 Norma (Voigt) Dettman
April 23 Aaron Holmes, Brian Grob
April 24 Alexandre Overacker,
Tyler Fritz,
Christine (VanDerVliet) Meyer
April 26 Roscoe Hall, Heath Overacker
April 27 Lauren Goodman, Rob White,
Ronda (Wildman) Hawks,
Larrin J. Nottke, Cindy White,
Andrea Lemenager
April 29 Virginia (Nottke) Dittus,
Jackson Graham,
Molly Mickelson



“Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade.”
- Charles Dickens

“April ... hath put a spirit of youth in everything.”
—William Shakespeare

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Answers for page 2 Puzzle & Quiz

Answer: D (See John 12:1-3.)

Answer: The stone was rolled away from the door.
An angel said to them, “He is not here; he has risen!”
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(See Luke 24:1-6.)

Committees/Teams Information Article

THE TRUSTEES – THEIR ROLE

As a trustee, you will supervise and maintain all property belonging to your congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective. The trustees have several legal and administrative functions. They are to:

- oversee, maintain, and supervise all local church property;
- report annually to the charge conference the state of the church's property, equipment, investments, and resources;
- receive and administer all gifts (bequests, gifts or trusts) made to the congregation;
- make certain that all trust funds of the congregation are properly invested;
- ensure that the articles of incorporation of the congregation are keep up to date, if applicable;
- be response, in conjunction with the pastor, for all use of the church buildings and grounds;
- maintain adequate insurance coverage on all church property and develop appropriate risk management policies;
- submit to the committee on finance the annual budget requests for insurance, property maintenance and improvements, and new property purchases;
- be accountable to the charge conference and the church council &
- oversight of custodial staff; but not the hiring as Staff Pastor Parish Relations is responsible for all hiring of employees.

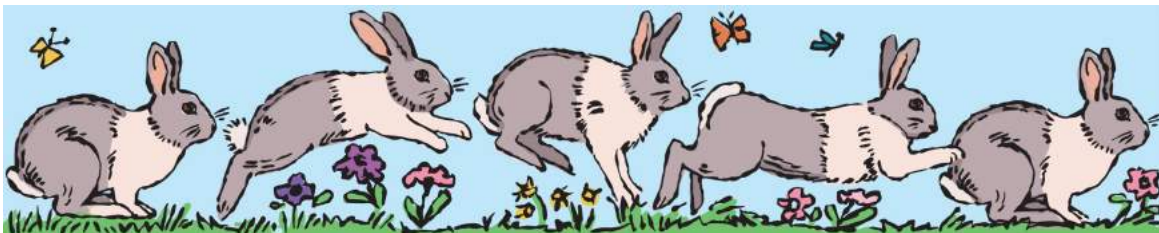
THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – THEIR ROLE

The finance committee is charged with all of the following activities:

- oversee stewardship;
- compile a budget annually;
- raise sufficient income to meet the budget
- administer funds received by the church;
- count and deposit the offering;
- disburse funds;
- establish internal control policies
- review and report annually on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls,
- provide for an annual audit of the church financial statements,
- report to the annual charge conference on the audit,
- recommend proper depositories for church funds, use contributions in accordance with donors' intent,
- report annually to the church council all designated funds that are separate from the church budget.

Members of finance are: chair, pastor, lay member of the annual conference, chair of church council, chair of SPPRC, representative of trustees, lay leader, financial secretary, treasurer, others as determined by charge conference. The pastor and any other individual that is paid is without a vote.

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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.

Clergy Women and Lay Women Retreat

May 1, 2019 at Northfield Inn and Suites Conference Center in Springfield, IL a one-day retreat that will start at 9am and conclude at 4pm.

There is no cost to the retreat but we do require that you pre-register for this event at our website www.igrc-reg.brapp.com/2019 Clergy-womensRetreat

Bishop Deborah Kiesey will be our featured guest There will be plenty of time for table talk, reuniting with friends, and making new connections. There will also be a time for Questions and Answers with Bishop Kiesey and with the Bishop and Cabinet.

The purpose of the gathering is for clergy women to have a place where they can be affirmed, encouraged, have a safe place to let their guard down and have fun, feel a sense of support and connection with other clergy women as well as have a time to share their concerns with their Bishop and hear from me regarding issues important to them.



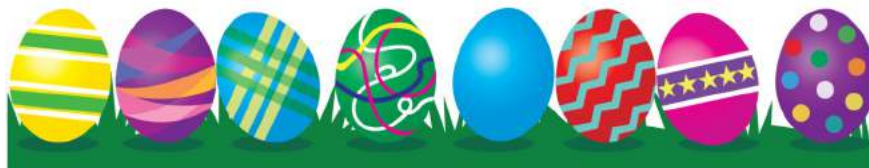
"The world is mud-luscious and puddle wonderful."
- E.E. Cummings

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." -Margaret Atwood

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"
- Robin Williams

"We are Easter people living in a Good Friday world."
- Barbara Johnson

"Easter is more than a day, an event, a remembrance. It is a way of life."
- Michael Marsh



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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Contact the Parish office for more info 815-802-9805



Worship Schedule for HOLY WEEK

 <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY April 18 At 7:00pm Bonfield First Church 172 N. Church St. Bonfield, IL - Healing Service - Holy Communion - Short Message</p>	 <p>GOOD FRIDAY April 19 At 7:00pm Bonfield First Church 172 N. Church St. Bonfield, IL - Tenebrae Service</p>	 <p>Sunrise Service April 21 At 6:00am Bonfield First Church 172 N. Church St. Bonfield, IL - Youth Skit - Short Message - Breakfast After Service</p>	 <p>EASTER SUNDAY April 21 At 8:00am Grand Prairie 12408 W State Rt 17 At 9:15am Bonfield First Church 172 N. Church St. At 10:15am Bonfield Evangelical 348 Smith St.</p>
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