

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 Jesus!

September brings many changes for us. School has already started and with that a different routine for many of us has settled in. The season of Friday Night Lights along with many other school activities, the Major League baseball season coming to an end and the NFL season beginning. It is also the kickoff for the Community Youth Group and I'm looking forward to that on September 8th! More info can be found in this newsletter. The important one for some in the Parish, the end of filling out Charge Conference paperwork!! I want to thank everyone that has been involved with this process for all of their hard work.

September is also when summer changes to fall (or autumn, whichever you prefer). I found some scripture to share with you regarding the changing of seasons which I would like you open your Bible and read (Psalm 104:19; Ecclesiastes 3:1; Galatians 6:9). The month also brings us closer to the harvest season as the crops hopefully reach maturity.

On September 15th we will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the United Methodist Women. A guest speaker from Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana will be sharing a message and the UMW groups at Evan and First along with Martha's Circle at Grand Prairie are finalizing the service. As I have been attending

the meetings for these groups I'm learning more about this organization than I already knew and look forward to the services that morning. You will find more about this elsewhere in the newsletter.

May we all find joy in the changes this month as we work our way towards the end of the year. Activities are being planned for all of us with more to come next month.

Blessings,
Pastor Keith

Back to School Humor

What kind of school do you go to if you're ...
... an ice cream man? Sundae school
... a giant? High school
... a surfer? Boarding school
... King Arthur? Knight school

Teacher: What's the chemical formula for water?

Student: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

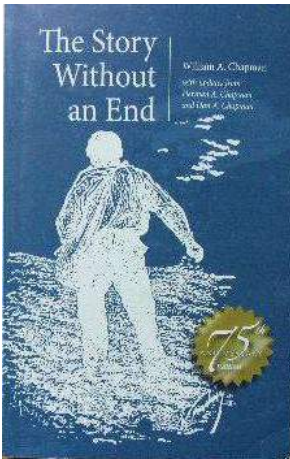
Teacher: What are you talking about?

Student: Yesterday you said it was H to O.

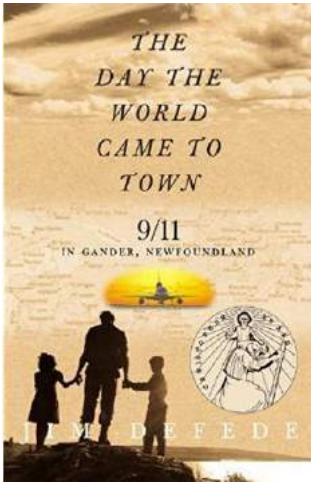
Math teacher: A person from LA drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour as a person from New York drove toward LA at 150 miles per hour. Where did they meet?

Student: In jail!

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 "The Story Without An End" by William A. Chapman. Then come on Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30PM at Tricia Coffman's to discuss.



The October meeting will be on Tuesday, October 15 at 6:30PM at Carol Erazmus'. The book to be discussed will be "The Day the World Came to Town - 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland" by Jim Defede.

The Heart of Worship

The worship to which we are called in our renewed state is far too important to be left to personal preferences, to whims or to marketing strategies. It is the pleasing of God that is at the heart of worship. Therefore, our worship must be informed at every point by the Word of God as we seek God's own instructions for worship that is pleasing to him. —R.C. Sproul

Puzzle!

Match each numbered description with the correct biblical dreamer. Use the passages as hints, if needed.

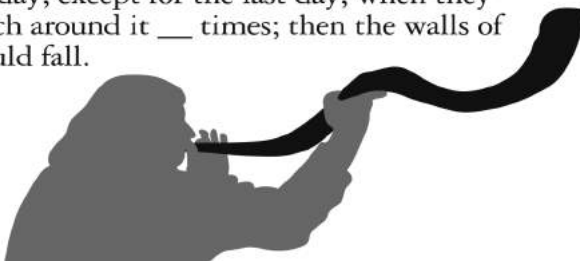
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. His brothers were irritated when he told them of his dreams. (<i>Genesis 37:5-8</i>)</p> <p>2. He saw angels going up and down a ladder. (<i>Genesis 28:10-12</i>)</p> <p>3. This ruler dreamed about some skinny cows eating fat cows. (<i>Genesis 41:17-21</i>)</p> <p>4. She had an unpleasant dream and told her husband to have nothing to do with Jesus. (<i>Matthew 27:17-19</i>)</p> <p>5. He saw a statue whose feet were smashed by a stone. (<i>Daniel 2:24-34</i>)</p> <p>6. He was warned to take his family to Egypt. (<i>Matthew 2:13</i>)</p> <p>7. He saw a vine produce grapes, and he squeezed their juice into a cup. (<i>Genesis 40:9-11</i>)</p> <p>8. They were warned in a dream about Herod's evil plan. (<i>Matthew 2:12</i>)</p> | <p>A. Pharaoh</p> <p>B. The magi</p> <p>C. Jacob</p> <p>D. Pharaoh's cupbearer</p> <p>E. Joseph (Mary's husband)</p> <p>F. Joseph (Jacob's son)</p> <p>G. Pilate's wife</p> <p>H. The king of Babylon</p> |
|---|---|

Bible Quiz

What number fits in all the blanks to reveal God's instructions to Joshua about the city of Jericho?

Israelite warriors, led by ___ priests blowing ___ ram's-horn trumpets for ___ days, would march around the city once a day, except for the last day, when they would march around it ___ times; then the walls of Jericho would fall.

- A. one
- B. three
- C. five
- D. seven





**ALL INVITED TO
ATTEND
A Drive - Thru
Pork Chop
Sandwich Dinner**

With Fixings and a Drink
at Bonfield Evan UMC at 348 E. Smith St on
Saturday, September 14, 2019
at 4:30 - 7PM.
Cost per meal is \$6.00.

Sponsored by Evan UMW & Sunshine Circle,
proceeds help with our missions.



Labors of Love

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, "It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God." As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer's end but in celebrating the ways nearly all "duties and labors of life" can empower ministry and faith.

Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they'll encounter. We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in "spiritual union with God": cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!

You Are Invited!

Bonfield Evangelical UMW and the Sunshine Circle invite anyone who would like to come to a light supper in our church Upper Room on October 3 at 6PM.

We will hear from a representative of Options Center for Independent Living. It is a non-profit community based organization that assists persons with disabilities in living independently. Assistance is available with all types of disabilities.

There is no charge for this supper. There will be a free will offering taken for our mission projects. Contact Christine Meyer at 815-939-2912 or Ardis Messer at 815-932-0180.




"Pied Beauty"

Glory be to God for dappled things —
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced — fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.

—Gerard Manley Hopkins



**There is POWER
in PRAYER**

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

Save the Date: Charge Conference will be on Sunday, October 13, 2019 at Dwight UMC at 3-5PM. **Please plan accordingly to have all of your meetings with committees before Sept. 10, Ad Board Meeting night, so that the paperwork can be approved.**

Friends and Family

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

From Our Church Bulletin

Carl and Kurt Boesen,
Bradley Boor, Shirley
Brunner, Ron Cordes,
Jean Dunn, Pearl Evans,
Julia Fecke, Janice &
Tom Logsdon,
Dorene O'Connor,
Marian Panozzo, Fred
Prestinario, Kevin & Rob
Reiniche, Jackie Wagner,
Richard & Ronald
Wildman, continuing
prayers for those in nursing
homes, assisted
living, or home bound.

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.

JULY 2019 ATTENDANCE

	<u>7/7</u>	<u>7/14</u>	<u>7/21</u>	<u>7/28</u>
Evangelical	36	28	30	33
First	25	19	15	14
Grand Prairie	26	27	24	20
TOTALS	87	74	69	67

Keep Singing

None can sing a new song who has not the new life. But many who have the new life seem to have lost the song. The first thing that goes when we begin to backslide is the joy of the Lord.
—Evan H. Hopkins

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Community Lunch

At Bonfield Lions Building on Wednesday September 18 at 12PM. It will be held on every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Come and enjoy the company of your neighbors and friends while sharing a meal for \$8.

Fellowship Breakfast

Come enjoy a great breakfast and fellowship with other Parish members and friends at IHOP in Bourbonnais on Tuesdays': September 3, October 1, November 5, & December 3 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.

Answers for Quiz & Puzzle on page 2

Answer: D (See Joshua 6:1-5.)

Answers: 1. F, 2. C, 3. A, 4. G, 5. H, 6. E, 7. D, 8. B

September Memory Verse

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

~ Colossians 4:2

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 UMW met on August 1, 2019 in the Upper Room with 7 members answering roll call having made 25 sick visits during the past month. We are happy to have Rev. Keith Blankenship with us.

Carol Buente led in devotions prior to Dayle Seitz giving our lesson on the history of the United Methodist Women having formed in 1869 in Boston. Just a very small group of ladies met to organize. This is the 150th anniversary of that event. Joyce Riegel gave a poem out of the *Response* magazine along this same theme. Our UMW was formed to aid the cause of women around the world. It means fellowship, caring, sharing, and love.

Our 2020 officers will be as follows: President - Carol Buente, Vice President - Christine Meyer, Secretary - Dayle Seitz, and Treasurer - Ardis Messer

Please contact any UMW member for more information about the above or Christine at 815-939-2912. All ladies of the community are invited to our meetings and events.

Pastor Keith suggested that we take a few minutes one time a month during worship to explain a little about the various missions that we support. We agreed this was a worthwhile suggestion and we will try to follow thru. The meeting adjourned and dessert was served.

Evan UMW Meetings & Events 2019

Sept. 5: Meeting at home of Joyce Riegel at 1PM

Sept. 8: Our own Sunday School Kick Off

Sept. 11: Serve Supper at Gift of God Street Church at 5PM

Sept. 14 Our drive -up pork chop supper fundraiser

Sept. 15: UMW Sunday with Speaker from Cunningham Children's Home

Sept. 19: VRD Annual Fall meeting at Dwight UMC: Donations are needed - school supplies for Cunningham and bar soap, towels, & body lotion for Lessie Bates.

Oct. 3: A joint meeting with Sunshine Circle inviting Grand Prairie and First Church UMW units to our church for 6PM supper. Shannon Robbins from Options will speak to us explaining the various services they have available for people with handicaps.

Oct. 26: Our annual Make-A-Difference Day tying quilts for Lessie Bates.

First Church UMW - There was no regular meeting in August; however, though September the group will continue to collect donations of men's socks and boxer briefs for the homeless shelter, Gift of God Street Church. In addition, toilet paper and towels are most needed and greatly appreciated.

Sincere thanks to all who have generously donated so far!

First UMW meets the third Thursday at 7PM at the church (not in Jan/Feb/Aug)

Sept. 15: *UMW Sunday*

Sept. 19: regular meeting: *World Thank Offering*

Oct. 17: guests of EVAN for soup & salad meeting

Nov. 21: regular meeting

Sun., Dec. 8: Christmas Potluck @ 5 pm congregation members & friends invited

United Methodist Women of the Parish (continued)

Martha Circle -

Martha Circle Events & Meetings 2019

Sept. 11: Meeting at 6:30PM,
hostess Joyce Cochran
Oct. 9: Meeting at 6:30PM,
hostess Tricia Coffman
Gift of God Street Church:
Aug. 14 Ronda & Linda S.
Oct. 9 Janet & Marilyn

Sunshine Circle -

Sunshine Circle Events & Meetings 2019

Sept. 19: at Evan Upper Room at 6:30PM,
Carol Buente hostess
Oct. 17: at TBA at 6:30PM,
Donna Diefenbach hostess
Nov. 21: at Ardis's House at 6:30PM,
Ardis Messer hostess
Dec. 19: at Jan's house at TBA,
Jan Green hostess

Stop the Hopping



A church is an imperfect mix of imperfect believers, so it's easy for members to find faults or feel disappointed. That, in turn, may tempt us to shop around.

C.S. Lewis addresses that in *The Screwtape Letters*. "If a man can't be cured of churchgoing," Screwtape advises his demon protégé, "the next best thing is to send him all over the neighborhood looking for the church that 'suits' him until he becomes a taster or connoisseur of churches." How Satan must hate when Christians maintain long-term commitment to one church!

The urge to church-hop harms congregations as well as believers. "Spiritual depth isn't fostered by satiating your sense of felt needs," writes James Emery White. "It's receiving a balanced diet of teaching and challenge, investing in service and mission, living in community and diversity that you probably would not select for yourself."

* **Reflection** - "You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed" (Psalm 128:2, ESV). God, may the primary fruit of our labors be love.
* * *

* "O LORD, you have searched me and known me. ... I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:1, 14, NRSV).
* * *

* Thank you, God, that when I feel lost, you search — focused and persistent, like a woman for her coin, a shepherd for his lamb — until I feel myself lifted to your heart. (See Luke 15:1-10.)
* * *

* Creator God, remind us that even as one season fades, another begins; you are always doing something new and bringing life out of death.
* * *

* Lord, we your people, the sheep of your pasture, enter your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise, for your goodness, love and faithfulness are everlasting. (See Psalm 100.)
* * *

* "The simplest toy, one which even the youngest child can operate, is called a grandparent."
* —Sam Levenson
* * *

* "God is not out there or back there or yet to be, but hidden in the most ordinary things of our ordinary lives."
* —Sallie McFague
* * *

* Look up — and out: The Church on earth is a cross-eyed church, with one eye on God in his heavenly benediction, and one eye on the needy world of men.
* —David Head
* * *







September 2 Jason Graf,
Conner Wenzelman, Becky Sikes
September 3 Phyllis Riegel, Jason Adams,
Mary (DeCarlo) Robbins,
Ean Meyer-Marrieta
September 4 Sara Davis,
Michelle Ladonna (Hertz) Hobbs
September 5 Victoria Wells, Tim Holohan
September 6 Roger Kuipers
September 7 Ivan Brunner,
Devynn Lynn Coffman, Pete Dato,
Timothy Sullivan, Dorothy Powell,
Ralph Sharper
September 8 James Riegel, Emily Metzka,
Ivy Metzka
September 9 Michael Smith
September 10 Doreen (Styck) Buza,
Linda Lehnus
September 11 Reuben Riegel, Chris Loyd
September 12 Stan Wenzelman,
Craig Rice, Sharon Lowey
September 13 Kristi Davis,
Jennifer (Sauer) Davis,
David Dettman, Todd Robinson
September 14 Bryan Knight, Dean Dau,
Rhae Anna Riegel
September 15 Virginia Baker, Jim Davis
September 16 Lois Jensen,
Jennifer (Orwig) Waid,
Jason Pfeiffer,
Heather (Scholl) Ward,
Tom Erazmus
September 17 Karen Diefenbach, Ron Fritz
September 18 Melissa White,

Linda (Mau) Meyer, Michael Wells,
Michelle (Panozzo) Hanson
September 19 Susan Wilson,
Doreen (Foltz) Ouelette,
Deanna Brinkman
September 20 Susanna Wilson,
Bill Buckman, Meredith Weber,
Shawn Lawrence,
Debbie (St.Germaine) Norton,
Reuben G. Lehnus
September 21 Donna (Foltz) Diefenbach
September 22 Kevin Buente, Janet Meyer,
Jennifer Cochran
September 23 Edwin Riegel,
Adam Kuipers, Michelle Dettman,
Darin Mecklenburg,
Stacy (Patti) Wood
September 24 Jordan Coiston,
September 25 Landon Hertz, Troy Riegel,
Ron E. Metzka, Gayle Brunner,
Amy (Lambert) Wenzelman
September 26 Benjamin Grant,
David Scholl, Michael Holmes,
John M. Kuipers,
Sheila (Sharper) Berns, Roger Hertz
September 27 Paul Meyer, Steven Robbins,
Christopher Wolch,
Chelsea Goodman,
Mary (Saathoff) Hertz
September 28 Donna (Hertz) Sauer,
Christine Brinkman,
Payton Overacker
September 29 Tyler Lotton, Marvin Dahn,
Kendra Bouk
September 30 Jerry Fecke, Donna Osenga,
Pat Brinkman,
Mary J. Motelith -Anderson



SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 - Holy Communion	2- Journey Prayer Group at Evan UMC at 10AM 	3 - Fellowship Breakfast at IHOP at 8:30AM	4	5 - VRD Clergy Fall Gathering at Richey UMC at 10 - 11:30AM - Evan UMW at Joyce Riegel's at 1PM	6	7
8 - Youth Group Back to School Bash  "Grand" Parents Day	9 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan UMC at 10AM	10 - Ad Board at First at 7PM	11 	12	13	14 - Drive Thru Pork Chop Sandwich Dinner at Evan at 4:30 - 7PM
15 -UMW Sunday with a speaker from Cunningham Home	16 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan UMC at 10AM	17 - Newsletter Article Deadline Noon	18 - Community Lunch at Lions Club at Noon	19 - Sunshine Circle at Evan at 6:30PM - First UMW at 7PM - Print Newsletter - VRD UMW Meeting at Dwight UMC	20	21
22	23 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan UMC at 10AM 	24 - Fold Newsletter at Evan at 8AM	25	26	27	28
29	30 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan UMC at 10AM					



Time For Church

Grand Prairie

Rt.17 Bonfield

9:15 am Sunday Worship Services

8:00 am Adult and Youth Sunday School

Bonfield First

172 Church Street

10:30 am Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am Adult and Youth Sunday School

Bonfield Evangelical

348 Smith Street

8:00 am Sunday Worship Service

9:15 am Adult and Youth Sunday School



We are a Parish of 3 United Methodist Churches: Bonfield Evangelical (Evan) UMC , Bonfield First (First) UMC, & Grand Prairie UMC.

Our minister is Keith Blankenship.

It is our goal to share God's love with the world through our words and actions! We welcome you to visit us for a Sunday service that works best for you & your family at the times listed above.

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.



Facebook - www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish
 Website - www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

Happy Birthday to — and for — You!

Birthdays are unique because they celebrate who someone *is*, not what they've *done*. Henri Nouwen wrote, "It is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone, 'Thank you for being you.' ... On a birthday we do not say, 'Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished.' No, we say, 'Thank you for being born and being among us.'"

To rejoice over someone purely for who they are is an echo of God's joy over us.

Some families celebrate "baptism birthdays" (anniversaries) by lighting candles, sharing scripture and prayer, perhaps looking at photos and recounting stories of that milestone event that marked the beginning of their faith life.

On a birthday, said Nouwen, "we lift someone up and let everyone say, 'We love you.'" In baptism, God lifts us to his very heart and declares, "You are my precious child. I love you."

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Pastor Keith Blankenship's Information

Email: imredeemed59@gmail.com

Cell: (309) 830-0875

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11AM - 3PM, & evenings upon request

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: Tuesday & Thursday 9AM - 1:30PM

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Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish Community Youth Group



Who: 6th-12th Graders & Parents
Where: 2368 N. 12250 W. Rd, Bonfield
At the Fecke Farm Pond
When: Sunday, September 8 at 5:00 pm.

Bring a dish to share. Hot Dogs will be provided.
For more info contact
Youth Leader~ Ryan Coffman at:
[coffmanry@gmail.com!](mailto:coffmanry@gmail.com)
Follow us on Facebook and our church website!

