



“Time is still the best answer, forgiveness is still the best pain-killer and God is still the best healer.” --Anonymous



We are now halfway through 2020. In some ways it has happened quickly but in many ways it seems like it has been two years or longer already. While we first heard about COVID-19 near the end of last year none of us could have imagined the effect it has had and, to some extent, still has on the world. It changed the way we worship. While we are now getting back into the buildings, only God knows if we will ever get back to the way things were before. One thing I believe is that the past few months have brought me back to my roots in my relationship with Jesus and I hope it has done the same for many of you.

The easiest way to get back to your roots in your relationship with Jesus is by reading what has sold more copies than any other publication in history, the Bible. Each time I read the Bible, whether it be by dedicating a year of daily reading or by researching Scripture that fits a situation, something comes to me that I had missed previously. Another suggestion I can give you, if you don't do this already, is to set aside some time each day for one on one time with the Lord. It doesn't have to be a long time, if you can only fit 5 minutes in that is okay. Whatever you can give to be intentional with God will help you. There was a time in MY life I did everything possible to avoid the Lord. Its when I started spending quiet time in reflection and prayer that an inner calm took place. Now it won't happen overnight but if you stay with it over time you can feel that as well.

I'm amazed that this month starts my second year with all of you. Once again, I must thank EVERYONE who has shown me so much kindness over the past year, especially during these past three+ months. As things hopefully continue to move towards a more normal for all of us, I look forward to being able to help teach more the love Jesus has for everyone here. And that love carries all around the world! We all need to do our part to share with just one person that Jesus IS Love.

50 years ago, Ray Stevens wrote a song that I would like to share some of the lyrics with you, as they are a reminder for us in uncertain times:

Jesus loves the little children, all the little children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world

(Chorus) Everything is beautiful in its own way
Like a starry summer night or a snow covered winter's day

Everybody's beautiful in their own way
Under God's heaven, the world's gonna find a way

There is none so blind as he who will not see
We must not close our minds, we must let our thoughts be free
For every hour that passes by, you know the world gets a little bit older
It's time to realize that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder

(Chorus)

We shouldn't care about the length of his hair or the color of his skin
Don't worry about what shows from without but the love that lives within
We're gonna get it all together now and everything gonna work out fine
Just take a little time to look on the good side my friend
And straighten it out in your mind

(Chorus)

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world; Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in his sight; Jesus loves the little children of the world.

(3x)

God Bless, Pastor Keith



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Hello everyone, I hope you are all doing well. The Bonfield Youth Group is looking to help out the people in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. To practice

social distancing, we would like to do yard work for our neighbors and help with odd jobs around homes. Contact us either through the church office at 815-802-9805 or through our church Facebook page Bonfield-Grand Prairie Youth Group.

~ Ryan Coffman (coffmanry@gmail.com)

GAMES – SNACKS – FUN

A TIME TO TALK ABOUT GOD IN AN OPEN, HONEST, AND REAL WAY!

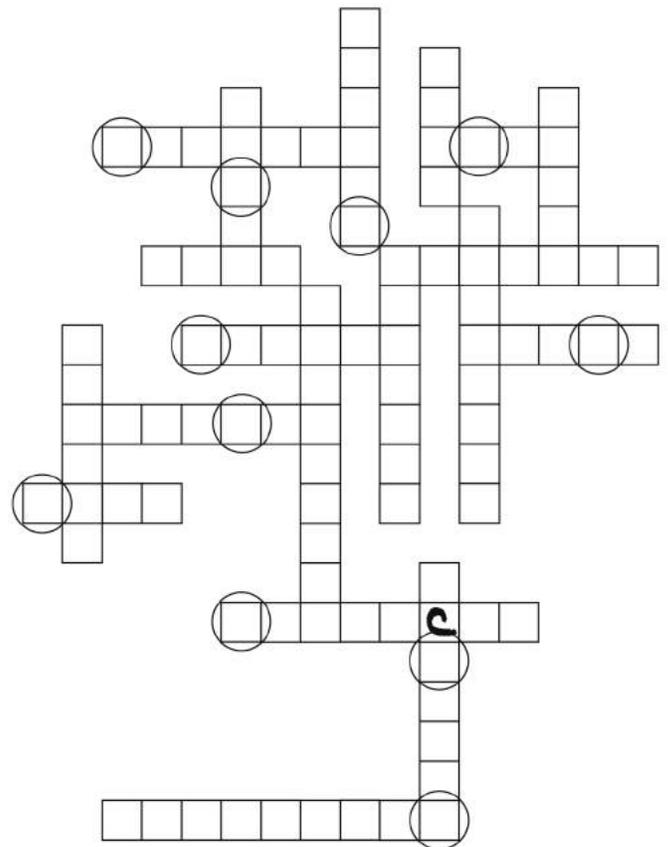
Our Community Youth Group is open to all youth in 6th through 12th grade and all denominations. Our Youth Leader is Ryan Coffman. Ryan is a member of Grand Prairie UMC.



Puzzle!

Fit the names of these Bible-times places in the puzzle. Then write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found, to find out where your citizenship is.

Tyre	Sidon	Kedesh	Ephesus	Philippi
Cana	Berea	Sychar	Corinth	Bethlehem
Rome	Lycia	Galilee	Iconium	Jerusalem
Gaza	Athens	Ephraim	Damascus	



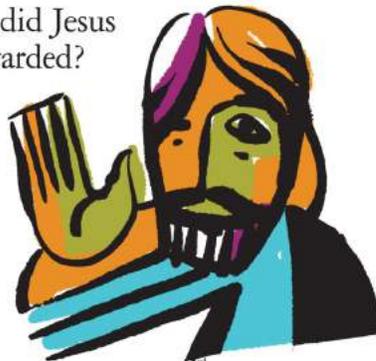
Remember the Sabbath

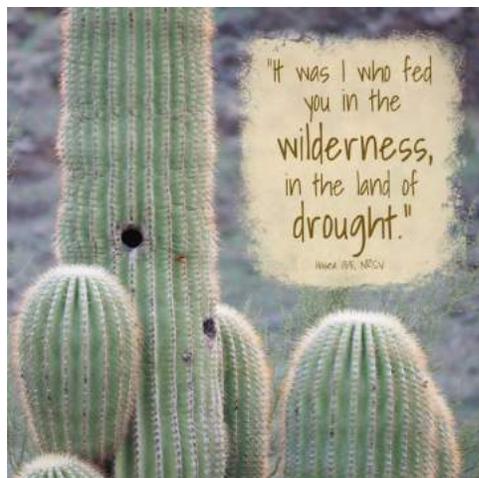
O day of all the days the best,
 When — laid aside each earthly care —
 We meet with God’s dear saints so blest,
 And in their praise and worship share.
 Not by a rigid code we’re bound
 With death to all who disobey;
 But through God’s love within us found,
 We keep this precious worship day.
 —Charles W. Naylor

Bible Quiz

What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?

- A. Giving a child a toy
- B. Giving a lost traveler directions
- C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
- D. Giving a sad person a hug





The Desert Shall Blossom

Where there is need, God is always bringing new life, often working through the church but sometimes using Christians and others in the secular realm.

At England’s University of Sheffield, scientists have learned to grow gardens from discarded mattresses in refugee camps. In Jordan and other dry regions, the foam “soil” soaked with a nutrient solution lets vegetables, fruits and herbs grow with far less water than usual. Syrian refugees who were already farmers “have made the project their own, growing things we never thought ... possible in the desert,” says professor Tony Ryan.

But more than plants are flourishing! The greenery amid a barren landscape boosts mental health. The work experience will help people land jobs. Families learn new skills and eat more healthfully. And the gains go both ways, as scientists learn to apply research in the real world.

As God promises, “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert ... shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing” (Isaiah 35:1-2, ESV).

Religion in the republic



Despotism may govern without faith, but liberty cannot. Religion is much more necessary in the republic which they set forth in glowing colors than in the monarchy which they attack; it is more needed in democratic republics than in any others.

How is it possible that society should escape destruction if the moral tie is not strengthened in proportion as the political tie is relaxed? And what can be done with a people who are their own masters if they are not submissive to the Deity?
—Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)



Through the Bible in a year

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 79-82 | 11. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 106:34-107:38 | 21. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 135:15-138:3 |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 83-86 | 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 107:39-109:31 | 22. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 138:4-140:13 |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 87:1-89:37 | 13. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 110-113 | 23. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 141:1-145:7 |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 89:38-91:13 | 14. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 114:1-118:9 | 24. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 145:8-148:6 |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 91:14-94:16 | 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 118:10-119:40 | 25. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 148:7-150:6;
Prov. 1:1-2:9 |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 94:17-98:3 | 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 119:41-96 | 26. <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 2:10-5:14 |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 98:4-102:7 | 17. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 119:97-160 | 27. <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 5:15-8:11 |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 102:8-104:4 | 18. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 119:161-124:8 | 28. <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 8:12-11:11 |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 104:5-105:24 | 19. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 125-131 | 29. <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 11:12-13:25 |
| 10. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 105:25-106:33 | 20. <input type="checkbox"/> Ps. 132:1-135:14 | 30. <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 14-16 |
| | | 31. <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 17-20 |

C.O.V.I.D. - 19
 Christ over viruses and infectious diseases

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua **1:9**



**There is POWER
in PRAYER**

Pastor Keith 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 &
- Riverside
- Senior Living
- Jackie Wagner
- Harvest View
- Roscella Piper
- Randy Riegel
- Manteno
- Veterans
- Bob Grob

From Our Church Bulletin

Candy and Keith Bauer, Carl & Kurt Boesen, Bradley Boor, Shirley Brunner, Carol Buente, Owen Buente, Ron Cordes, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Anna Hertz, Bill Hertz, Peggy Lane, The Logsdons, Mike Mau, Dorene O'Connor, Marion Panozzo, Fred Prestinario, Chuck & Kathy Quick, Kurt Quick, Kevin & Rob Reiniche, Jackie Wagner, Jodi, Richard & Ronald Wildman and continuing prayers for those in nursing homes, assisted living, or the home bound.

Compassion International Kids

- Melany Samantha.....Aguilera
- Sonaton Soren.....Bangladesh
- Saray Morales.....Columbia
- Janny Boya.....Ecuador
- Witney Juarez.....Guatemala
- Janny Boya.....Ecuador

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.

<u>MAY 2020 ATTENDANCE</u>					
	05/03	05/10	05/17	05/24	05/31
Evangelical	0	0	0	0	0
First	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Prairie	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

July Memory Verse

The Lord does not look at the things people look at, People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
~ 1 Samuel 16:7

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, read and come to discuss. Make sure to check the Parish Facebook page for updates on dates, times, and book choice for July.

Community Lunch
(subject to change due to regulations)
at Bonfield Lions Building on Wednesday, July 15 at Noon. 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
(subject to change due to regulations)
Come enjoy a great breakfast and fellowship with other Parish members and friends at IHOP in Bourbonnais on the first Tuesday of the month: July 7, August 4, & September 1 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.



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.

Sunshine Circle -

Sunshine Circle Meetings 2020

September 17, October 15, November 19, and December 17

First Church UMW -

Our group will finally be able to gather on Thursday, July 16, for our first meeting of 2020! The annual Prayer and Self-Denial program will be presented by Barbara Cordes. Information regarding the 2020 Reading Program will be available as well. All women are invited to this 7 p.m. meeting at the church.

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

First UMW Meetings 2020

July 16: Meeting, September 17: Meeting, October 15: *World Thank Offering* program, November 19: Meeting, December 13: Christmas Potluck @ 5
Special dates: September 20 UMW Sunday, October 8 UMW program @ Evan w/soup & sandwiches

Martha Circle -

Theme for 2020 - Christmas All Year Round. We will be giving financially/physically all year.

Martha Circle Meetings 2020: July 15: Meeting at 6PM at Cheri Dayton, September 9: Meeting at 6PM hostesses Jenny & Joyce, December 9: Meeting at 6PM hostesses Kim & Marilyn

Gift of God Street Church Meals: August 12: Cheri & Jenny, October 14: Marilyn & Kim, December 9: Linda S. & Janet

Evan UMW - Anyone interested in going to work at Midwest Distribution Center on August 12 please contact Christine Meyer or Dayle Seitz for more information The next meeting is scheduled for August 6th at Christine Meyer's house at 1:30PM.

Evan UMW Meetings 2020 *All events are subject to change*

July: No Meeting

-District: Mission U Weekend in Springfield

August: 6th meeting at Chris Meyer's at 1:30PM

-District: 20th-Spiritual Growth Retreat at Forrest-Chatsworth UMC

September: 3rd meeting in the Upper Room at 1:30PM

-District: 19th-Fall Gathering at Fairbury UMC

-Tentative date September 7 for pork chop Dinner

October: 8th meeting in the Upper Room 6PM, soup and sandwiches meal with a guest speaker

-District: 22nd-Mini Mission U at Atlanta UMW at 9AM

November: 5th Meeting in the Upper Room at 11:30AM brunch with speaker

-8th Thank Offering

December: 3rd Christmas lunch at the Bonfield restaurant at 11:30AM

*Gift of God Street Church date to serve a meal is Sept. 9. You are welcome to help on any dates. If you would like to help prepare meals or serve please contact Christine Meyer at 815-939-2912. Meals are served at 5PM.

Reflection -

“Your worth consists in what you are and not in what you have. What you are will show in what you do.”

—Thomas Davidson

* * *

“If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life.”

—Author unknown

* * *

Taking measure of prayer

Fluency [in prayer] is a questionable endowment, especially when it is not accompanied with the weight of thought and depth of feeling. Some [people] pray by the yard, but true prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.

—Charles Spurgeon

The Weight of Hate

Word lovers, delight! The lexicon has tongue-twisting terms that describe hatred for just about anything.

According to Mental Floss, if you’re a misodotakleidist, for example, you hate practicing the piano. Misogelasts hate laughter, while misopogonists hate beards and misophonists hate certain irritating sounds. There’s even a word for someone who hates hatred (in the form of war or strife): a misopolemist.

Some of these words may make us smile, yet hate is deadly serious. No matter the target, hatred weighs us down and distracts us from Godly living.

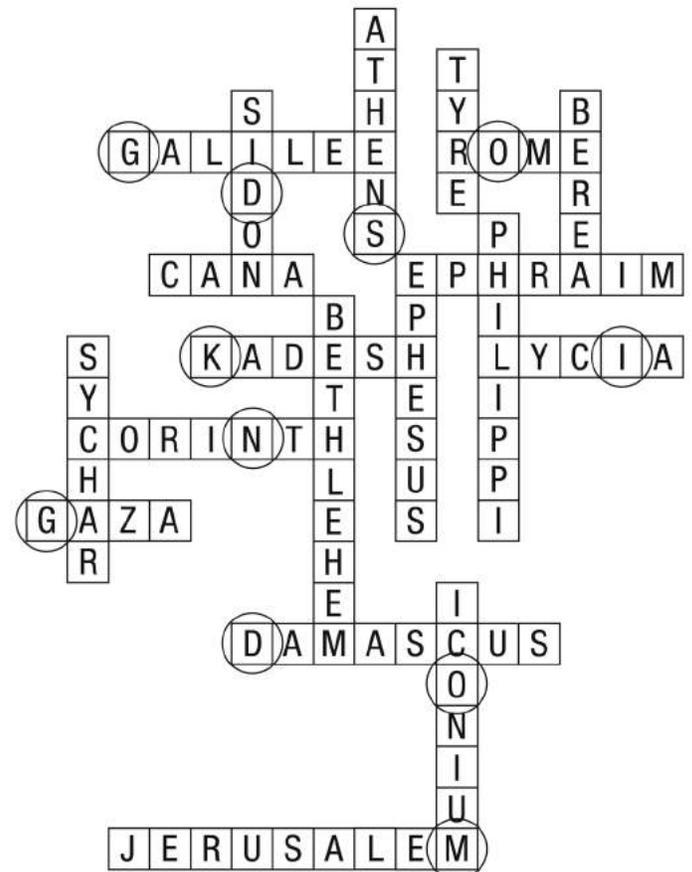
That’s why Paul instructs followers of Jesus to “put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice” (Ephesians 4:31, NRSV). Once that hateful weight is gone, we’ll be freed up to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you” (verse 32).

Answers for Quiz & Puzzle on page 2
Answer: C (See Matthew 10:42.)

Puzzle!

Fit the names of these Bible-times places in the puzzle. Then write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found, to find out where your citizenship is.

Tyre	Sidon	Kedesh	Ephesus	Philippi
Cana	Berea	Sychar	Corinth	Bethlehem
Rome	Lycia	Galilee	Iconium	Jerusalem
Gaza	Athens	Ephraim	Damascus	



K _ _ _ G O D ' S _ _ _
 _ _ _ I _ _ N _ _ G _ _ D _ _ O _ _ M





JULY Birthdays

- July 1 Tawni (Grable) Buente
 July 2 Barbara (Voigt) Cordes
 July 3 Richard Diefenbach, Joyce (Schultz) Orwig,
 July 4 Marian (Mascher) Buente, Dianne Wells,
 Betty Ann (Kirchner) Osenga, Jason Hawks
 July 5 Tricia (Cochran) Coffman, Jordan Peiffer,
 Chrissy (Sharper) Riegel, Joeseeph Sharper,
 Suzanne (Voigt) St. Germaine
 July 6 Norah Meyers, Megan Kay Van Voorst,
 Sherry (Pfeiffer) Peters
 July 7 Ralph Grob, Hailey Heath, Lauren Kohl,
 Katelyn Overacker, Martin Powell,
 Laurie (Gagnon) Vaughn
 July 8 Lovice (Petty) Brinkman, Randy Meyer,
 Bruce Messer
 July 9 Kyle Dahn, Brian Laird,
 Tabitha Fowler, Paige Wildman
 July 10 Ashton Rae Diefenbach
 July 11 Vicky (Ravens) Dubie
 July 12 Mark Hanson
 July 13 Nikolas Kirchner, Evan D. Davis
 July 14 Kevin Cochran, Colton Roy Hertz,
 Cole Jackubowski, Maverick Lemenager
 July 15 Charlotte Ditterline, Quentin Swaite
 July 16 Lorraine (Shreffler) Wildman
 July 17 Evan Howard, Ricky LaMore
 July 18 Duane Sharper
 July 19 Judy (Fecke) Graf,
 Amy Lynn Strahan, Megan Meyer
 July 20 Heather Buente, Leah Havener,
 Cole Lemenager, Aaron Meyer,
 Sarah Marcotte, Rev. Steve Friese,
 Laurel (Palmer, Norgard) Walter
 July 21 Olivia (Nottke) Koerner,
 Vernon Daniel Dittus
 July 22 Brandon Kuipers
 July 23 Harley Buente, Edie Friese, Payden Strahan
 July 24 Kim (Schultz) Heath,
 Theresa (Cunningham) Meyer
 July 25 Joshua Vaughn
 July 26 Candice Bauer, Claire Bitner,
 Jennifer (Dampzt) Overacker, Lucy Raymond
 July 28 Todd Cordes, Roger Marcotte
 July 29 Carra Mau
 July 30 Sharon Nottke, Amy (Orwig) Moody
 July 31 David Nottke, Regan Marcotte,
 Walter Marcotte

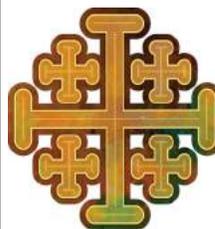


SAVE THE DATE: We are having pictures taken for a new Bonfield—Grand Prairie Parish photo directory. The original dates, due to the pandemic, have been changed to August.

Tuesday, August 6 at Evan in the fellowship hall (basement) at 2:00—9:00pm is for families with college students that will be leaving for college. Tuesday, August 25 and Wednesday, August 26 at Evan in the fellowship hall (basement) at 2:00—9:00pm is for all who would like to have their photos in the Parish directory. There will be more information to come in the church bulletins and check our Facebook page Bonfieldgpparish on how to reserve your time slot, prices for packages to purchase pictures and what items are free with your photo sitting.

+Christian Symbol+

Jerusalem Cross



This complex cross, also called the Crusader's Cross or Fivefold Cross, has several interpretations. The main cross is composed of four tau (T) crosses representing the Old Testament law. The four small Greek crosses symbolize the fulfillment of the law in the gospel. The five crosses together represent the church's mission: to spread the gospel to the four corners of the earth. They're also said to symbolize Christ's five wounds (hands, feet and side).

JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO FOLLOW REGULATIONS	*PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE & FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES*		1 - Canada Day - Pastor Keith on vacation	2 - Pastor Keith on vacation	3 - Pastor Keith on vacation	4 
5 - Holy Communion	6 — Online VBS - Journey Prayer Group at Evan UMC at 10AM	7 — Online VBS - IHOP breakfast at 8:30PM	8 — Online VBS	9	10	11
12	13 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan UMC at 10AM	14 - AD Board at Evan at 7PM	15 - Martha Circle at Cheri's at 6PM - Community Lunch at the Lions Hall at Noon	16 - First Church UMW at First Church at 7PM	17	18
19	20 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan UMC at 10AM	21 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	22	23 - Print Newsletter	24	25
26 - Parent's Day	27 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan UMC at 10AM	28 - Fold Newsletter at Evan at 8AM	29	30	31	*ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO FOLLOW REGULATIONS*

2020 Annual Conference going online

Bishop Frank J. Beard, all 10 district superintendents, the extended cabinet and the Annual Conference Sessions Committee announce today that the 2020 Annual Conference will be held online on Saturday, Aug. 15.

While a complete agenda is still in development, plans are for IGRC clergy to gather for the online Clergy Session from 10 a.m. to noon with a lunch hour to follow. The full session of the Annual Conference will begin at 1 p.m. and be completed that afternoon.

Persons who have hotel reservations may want to contact their hotel to ensure cancellation of their reservation. Some Peoria hotels have already begun notifying persons of the cancellation.

The agenda will include only the minimal amount of legislative business that is required for our Annual Conference to continue operating. Bishop Beard, in consultation with the IGRC Board of Ministry, will announce plans for ordination and commissioning in the near future.

Reports, presentations, and addresses will be prepared on video and available for members to review in advance. We will surround our work in worship and prayer, but we will not have our traditional worship services.

To ensure that the online session is legally permissible under the provisions of the Illinois General Not For Profit Corporation Act (805 ILCS 107.10), a ballot will be prepared, asking all lay and clergy Annual Conference members to approve a special set of standing rules specifically to govern the online session. The Sessions and Standing Rules committees have collaborated with the Area Office as they seek to support the following principles:

- Ensure that every member has an appropriate and secure vote
- Provide for efficient and orderly conduct of Conference business
- Clearly and simply express the means of member participation
- Provide participation options for members who do not have reliable internet access

A ballot will be announced and persons will have several weeks to complete voting either by mail or online during June.

With these new rules applied, the Annual Conference Session will be conducted using a combination of website streaming video of the session for the general public, video conferencing for members, and a means of online voting. Small satellite viewing and voting centers will be set up throughout the districts for those who cannot access the video stream or online voting portal.

The announcement follows several meetings, including approval of the change of venue. Bishop Beard and the Cabinet approved the measure unanimously May 19 and the Sessions Committee May 27. The process of change is outlined in ¶603.3 in the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Bishop Beard will also be convening virtual district meetings in the next few weeks to allow persons to ask questions about process and prepare for the online session.

Tears from a bedside lament by Bishop Frank Beard — 6/1/2020

I sat on the side of the bed and I wept.

These were emotion-filled tears of relief, anger, joy, pain, and disbelief. The tears I cried that night were not just for me. I cried for the generations of folks that were so broken and systematically oppressed that they never thought a day like today possible.

I cried for my grandmother, on my father's side, whose parents were born into slavery and suffered through reconstruction and the institution of "Jim Crow" laws. I cried for the thousands of teenage boys, like Emmett Till, ruthlessly battered and brutally murdered for no reason, other than racial hatred, and crossing a line of taboo.

I cried for the Civil Rights workers abused, cursed at, spit upon, disrespected, bombarded and soaked with fire hoses, attacked by dogs, assaulted with rocks and bottles, and jailed simply because they were seeking to dismantle a cruel unjust system.

I cried for my own father, who never learned to read or write, who was discouraged and denied access to an education because, in the words of his dad's Mississippi boss, "all he needs is a good strong back, and a willingness to work hard."

Yes, I cried when the projections were all in and it was announced that the 44th President of the United States was a man of African-American descent.

Don't get me wrong. My tears were not because I thought that black folks had finally "arrived" at some mythical place where hundreds of years of racism, animosity, and injustice would magically disappear. I've lived and dealt with enough challenges, in my own lifetime, to know better. But I did think that this historic election was a turning point, a Zeitgeist moment signaling a change of direction.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a black man, was arrested for suspicion of using a counterfeit \$20 bill to purchase a pack of cigarettes. Details of his arrest are sketchy, but the nation and the world have seen the video of a man handcuffed face down on the pavement, clearly not resisting as a police officer pinned him down by placing his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for over eight minutes.

"I can't breathe," Mr. Floyd said repeatedly, before becoming nonresponsive and dying.

It has become increasingly clear that despite the significant gains in race relations, America still has a long way to go. Could this latest assault become the true zeitgeist that we need? Will George Floyd's name and story simply become the latest addition to an ever-growing list of African American men that have died because of this nation's racial intolerance? Will our nation continue to unravel and spin out of control because of this recent tragedy?

It's time for THE CHURCH to step-up and to lead the way forward. I know that the church has been more problematic than problem-solving, but I still believe that the Church of Jesus Christ can and should lead our nation and our world into a brighter future. The healing balm that is needed right now has always resided within the church's capabilities. It's time for the church to put on our work clothes and to get busy dismantling racism.

Even as I write this, I am aware that the battle within the church will be harder than the battle outside of its sacred walls. As a black man serving in a majority-based denomination I've seen the underbelly of the church and have experienced institutional racism from within for over 40 years of ministry. God has not given up on the church and I believe and trust that God can and will turn things around and the church will be the instrument used to accomplish the world that we seek.

Continued on the next page...

It's time to confess the sins of our past, repent, embrace reconciliation and begin to chart a new path for moving forward as sisters and brothers rooted in the sustaining love of Jesus Christ. I know that it sounds simple enough, but it is hard work.

I've spent my entire working life around The United Methodist Church, so I know that the work we need to do runs deeper than just singing a few verses of Kum Ba Yah, and shedding a few crocodile tears. I am not opposed to Kum Ba Yah, because we need a fresh visitation from the Lord. And I am definitely not afraid of tears that flow from genuine remorse and repentance. I am suggesting that to simply begin and then abruptly end when this current crisis subsides is not sufficient.

We need continual, intentional holy disruptions that keep us from returning to our comfort zones. As Christ followers we must stop accepting any behavior that is not Christ-centered. This will mean that we quit normalizing racism and prejudice in the body of Christ. It is no longer acceptable for churches to deny people because they happen to be of a different ethnic origin. It has never been God's intent that racism should exist, let alone thrive, within the body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit, poured out at Pentecost, was given to teach us and lead us in the ways of Christlikeness. Unity is a central core of becoming more and more like Jesus. We were promised that the Holy Spirit, Jesus' powerful presence in a different form, would assist the church in becoming triumphant witnesses and world changers. Let's not settle for anything less.

I cried over the death of George Floyd. I cry today over the mayhem that has ensued. I cry and I pray, "Lord, break my heart with the things that break your heart." I cry knowing that the church, especially the people called United Methodist, have a long way to go before we are where God desires. I cry, but not as one without hope for a better tomorrow.

I cry with the calm and confident assurance, anchored by the faith and same belief in Jesus Christ, as those who have gone before me, that: "We shall overcome. We shall overcome. We shall overcome some day. Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day!"

~ IGRC Bishop Frank J. Beard



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 Sunday service that works best for you and/or your family at the times listed.



Time For Church

Below are the worship times as of July 5th

Bonfield First

at 172 Church Street Bonfield, IL
8:00 am Sunday Worship Services
No Sunday School

Bonfield Evangelical

at 348 Smith St. Bonfield, IL
9:15 am Sunday Worship Service
No Sunday School

Grand Prairie

at 12408 W Rt.17 Bonfield, IL
10:30 am Sunday Worship Services

Pastor Keith Blankenship's Information

Email: imredeemed59@gmail.com

Cell: (309) 830-0875

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

Mailing Address: 225 Country Lane
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: Tuesday & Thursday 9AM - 1:30 PM

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"I DON'T THINK REV. JONES WAS READY
FOR SUMMER TO END!"

Bonfield Box Holder

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**"NOW THE LORD IS THE SPIRIT,
AND WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE
LORD IS, THERE IS FREEDOM."
— 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17**