



“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



For part of the 1990’s I was making a living by driving a semi. While it was great seeing 48 states and part of two other countries it was demanding and at times uncertain. Lyrics from a song that ironically was recorded in September 50 years ago helped me get through the struggles of that profession. Part of the lyrics fit pretty well with the

past almost six months we have been through:

Sometimes the light's all shinin' on me
 Other times, I can barely see
 Lately, it occurs to me
 What a long, strange trip it's been

I think we can agree the past six months have been a long, strange trip for most of us. How many of us thought six months ago we would be wearing masks to into businesses? Into restaurants? Into church? I, for one, never imagined things to be the way we are today. And for some, life is still not back where it should be. Many people who not only lost jobs and still are not working but some have never received the first penny of assistance for whatever reason. Sadly, there seems to be no short-term solution in sight.

Churches are feeling the effects of not having in-person services, some of which falls back on the previous paragraph but also with some not tithing during the 3 months we worshipped online only. I’m saying this in general, not pointing out any specific churches. I lift praise up to those within the churches in this Parish who continued to send offerings while services were online only and have continued now that we are back to in-person and online.

I’ve said before, while the church buildings were not allowed to be open for services for three months, the church itself was NEVER closed. There is nowhere in the Bible that refers to church as a building. WE are the church! Jesus taught through the parables that church is a Kingdom of God. Just recently I preached the message on how Peter referred to Jesus as the solid rock, the cornerstone of the church. Jesus occasionally said that when there are two or three gathered, they are a church. Paul told the church in Corinth that we are the Temple. There are other references as well mentioning us as the Church.

It has gradually moved through time that buildings have become a focal point where we can worship with God. It really is good to have a building to be in on a cold winter Sunday instead of worshipping outdoors. The same can be said about worshipping in 90+ degree heat. To be able to keep these buildings as the place to worship, as well as places to provide outreach to those less fortunate, tithing as you can provide is very important. The most important words are, “as you can provide.”

Recently I also made mention in a sermon that “This is not your Grandfather’s Church.” In current times, this is more true than ever. We need to keep mind that for churches to continue, younger generations need to become more involved. Call it a form of the Circle of Life. I pray constantly for the present AND the future of all churches. And I pray daily for everyone in Bonfield, the surrounding area and anyone affiliated with this Parish near and far. God will get us through the current pandemic, In His Time. Just remember He has never left us, nor will He ever do so!

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Blessings,
 Pastor Keith

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Offerings can be mailed to: PO Box 66 Bonfield, IL 60913 and they will be given to the church designated on the envelope or offerings can be drop off at the Parish office during business hours. We appreciate your gifts and tithes during this unprecedented time.



Puzzle!

After looking up each Bible passage, find and circle the location in the word search. (If a verse lists more than one place, figure out which one is hidden.) Answers can be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

- Genesis 2:15
- Genesis 11:9
- Genesis 35:1
- Exodus 13:18
- Ruth 1:1
- 1 Kings 18:19
- 1 Chronicles 11:4
- Isaiah 23:1
- Isaiah 23:2
- Isaiah 23:3
- Jonah 1:2
- Matthew 3:6
- Matthew 4:18
- Matthew 26:36
- Luke 24:13
- John 2:1
- Acts 8:5
- Acts 11:22
- Acts 17:16
- Romans 1:15

T I G M E L A S U R A E J S
 O J H F A R A M A S J I
 W E N A M E S H T E G O D
 E M O R D S N E H T A R O
 R B A S E R Y T B B A D N
 O N E D E F O N E D R A G
 F A S U A M M E T C C N N
 B H C O I T N A H D A R I
 A M E H E L H T E B N I L
 B H E V E N I N L E A V E S
 E E L I A G F O A E R O
 L M R A C N U O M R O



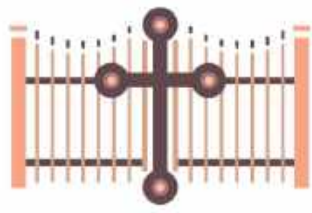
Marjorie Kersch has moved into Harvest View in Herscher, visitors are not allowed, but she would love cards & notes.

Harvest View - Marjorie Kersch
 100 Harvest View Lane, Herscher, IL 60941

Bible Quiz

In John of Patmos' vision, what is special about the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem?

- A. They are made of gold and always closed.
- B. They are made of amethyst and onyx.
- C. They are closed by day and open by night.
- D. They are made of pearl and never closed.






The GP Martha Circle met for a ladies day on August 8. We were originally scheduled for the ONU ladies day in April. As that was canceled we came up with our own version. A craft day. We had a lot of fun making Fall pumpkins and getting creative making prayer cards. Thanks to everyone who joined us. We look forward to doing it again.



Through the Bible in a year

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 34-36 | 11. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 13:1-16:43 | 21. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 44-47 |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 37:1-41:10 | 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 16:44-20:17 | 22. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 48; Daniel 1:1-2:30 |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 41:11-45:5 | 13. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 20:18-22:12 | 23. <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 2:31-4:27 |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 46-48 | 14. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 22:13-24:27 | 24. <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 4:28-7:12 |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 49:1-51:10 | 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 25:1-26:10 | 25. <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 7:13-11:13 |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 51:11-52:34 | 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 28:11-31:18 | 26. <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 11:14-12:13; Hosea 1-3 |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Lam. 1:1-3:51 | 17. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 32:1-34:24 | 27. <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 4-9 |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Lam. 3:52-5:22; Eze. 1-2 | 18. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 34:25-38:9 | 28. <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 10-14; Joel 1:1-2:17 |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 3-8 | 19. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 38:10-40:49 | 29. <input type="checkbox"/> Joel 2:18-3:21; Amos 1-4 |
| 10. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 9-12 | 20. <input type="checkbox"/> Eze. 41-43 | 30. <input type="checkbox"/> Amos 5-9; Obadiah 1:1-9 |





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

From Our Church Bulletin

Chuck Blankenship, Pat Bland, Candy, Cheryl and Keith Bauer, Janet Boyer's son Keith Bauer, Owen Buente, Carl & Kurt Boesen, Bradley Boor, Shirley Brunner, Joanne Coffman, Carol Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Bob Grob, Anna Hertz, Bill Hertz, Marjorie Kersch, Peggy Lane, The Logsdons, Mike Mau, Dorene O'Connor, Chuck & Kathy Quick and 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>JULY 2020 ATTENDANCE</u>				
	07/05	07/12	07/19	07/26
Evangelical	22	22	21	20
First	13	15	12	12
Grand Prairie	21	27	25	22
Total	56	64	58	54



This too shall pass.

September Memory Verse

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone, forgive as the Lord forgave you.
~Colossians 3:13

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 September.

Community Lunch
Cancelled for the rest of 2020.

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: September 1, October 6, and November 3 at 8:30am. 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.



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 - Pork Chop Drive Thru Meal on Saturday, September 12 at Evan at 4:30-7pm, see back page for more info.

Sunshine Circle Meetings 2020
September 17, October 15, November 19, and December 17

First Church UMW - Finally! First UMW was able to meet August 6, at the church (using proper social distancing and masks) for the first official UMW meeting of 2020. Barbara Cordes presented the annual Prayer and Self-Denial program and a collection was taken. The group will accept donations any Sunday if anyone interested in donating was unable to attend. After a few Prayer Calendar stories were shared, it was noted that the universal theme was “sharing the light” and making the lives of the marginalized better in some way. After all, that’s what UMW tries to accomplish every single day! The group donated school supplies and hand-knit sweaters to MMDC and is grateful to Evan UMW for delivering them on their workday at the location. The nomination was made, and the vote for the slate of 2021 officers was accepted. Book lists and schedules for the remainder of the years were made available. Please contact Jill (815.351.5455) if you have any questions.

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

First UMW Meetings 2020

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 - See page 3 for a special article with pictures.

Martha Circle Meetings 2020:

September 9: Meeting at 6PM hostesses Jenny & Joyce
December 9: Meeting at 6PM hostesses Kim & Marilyn

Gift of God Street Church Meals: October 14: Marilyn & Kim
December 9: Linda S. & Janet

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

September 3: meeting in the Upper Room at 1:30PM
September 12: Pork Chop Drive Thru Meal at Evan at 4:30-7pm, see back page for more info.
September 19: VRD Annual Fall Gathering Virtual (on computer—more info will come)
October 8: meeting in the Upper Room 6PM, soup and sandwiches meal with a guest speaker
November 5: Meeting in the Upper Room at 11:30AM brunch with speaker
November 8: Thank Offering
December 3: 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.



Hello everyone! As most of you know our mission trip was canceled due to the events of Covid-19. We have been volunteering in the community by doing yard work.

With the school year approaching we will not be taking any more jobs. Thank you all for the support and thank you to those who requested our help.

~ 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.

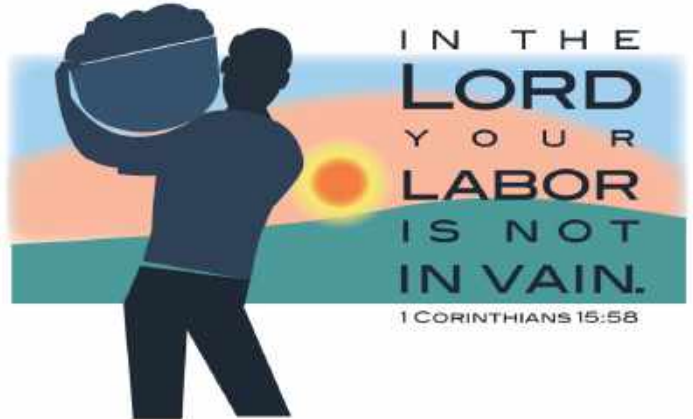
Pictured: Becca Coffman, Ryan Coffman, Becky Cruse, Connor Lowey, & Justin Ruckman.



Answers for Quiz & Puzzle on page 2

Answer: C (See Exodus 7:14–12:32.)

Answer: Talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)



SEPTEMBER Birthdays

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

Save the Date: Charge Conference will be on Sunday, October 4 at 7pm. It will be done virtually through Lifesize. Please do your best to have your paperwork done and back to the Parish office by September 6 or done in time for Ad Board approval on September 8. If any questions about Charge Conference please contact the Parish office.

+Christian Symbol+

Cross Crosslet



This cross is formed of four smaller Latin crosses joined at their overlapping bases. The cross as a whole represents the spreading of the gospel to the four corners of the earth. This cross is often used in connection with missions.



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,
Mary J. Motelith -Anderson

SEPTEMBER 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 - IHOP breakfast at 8:30PM	2	3 - Evan UMWV meeting at Evan at 1:30PM	4	5
6 - Holy Communion	7 	8 - AD Board at First Church at 7pm	9 - Martha Circle at 6pm	10	11 	12 - Drive Thru Pork Chop Dinner at Evan at 4:30-7pm. See back page for more info.
13 	14 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	15	16	17 - First UMWV meeting at 7PM at First church - Sunshine Circle	18	19
20	21 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	22 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	23 - Community Lunch at the Lions Hall at Noon	24 - Print Newsletter	25	26
27	28 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	29 - Fold Newsletter at Evan at 8AM	30			



Join us for Sunday services online on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish, or our Parish website, www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org.



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.

Reflection:

“Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith.”

—Henry Ward Beecher

* * *

“When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.”

—Peter Marshall

* * *

“Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art.”

—Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

* * *

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”

—Anthony J. D’Angelo



Time For Church

Bonfield First
 at 172 Church Street Bonfield, IL
 8:00 am Sunday Worship Services
 9:15 am Sunday School

Bonfield Evangelical
 at 348 Smith St. Bonfield, IL
 9:15 am Sunday Worship Service
 10:30 am Sunday School

Grand Prairie
 at 12408 W Rt.17 Bonfield, IL
 10:30 am Sunday Worship Services
 9:15 am Sunday School

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

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

Bonfield / Grand Prairie Parish
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Bonfield, IL 60913

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Bonfield, IL 60913

Pork Chop Drive Thru Meal

Saturday, September 12
At 4:30 - 7pm



At Bonfield Evangelical
United Methodist Church
348 E. Smith St.
Bonfield, IL 60913



The meal is \$7 and includes:
pork chop sandwich, chips, cookie, and drink.

Sponsored by Sunshine Circle, Evan UMW, and Evan Men's Group