



“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



We have reached the final month of 2020!!! When this year began, I'm pretty sure that nobody could have imagined the year that we've had. I know I never envisioned having to spend 3 months of the year recording online messages and not filling the pulpit on Sunday mornings. And once we returned to in-person services in June, seeing smaller numbers of people each Sunday which still have not recovered as of writing this.

There were some bright spots I have to share for this year. Watching a member of the Parish walking through town with a cross on Good Friday, despite having a knee in need of surgery to replace it. And as long as I have left on this Earth I will never forget the caravan of 30 vehicles going through town, especially driving in front of the parsonage, with so many of you on Easter morning. This was a great example of creativity and using imagination, as I talked about in a recent sermon, showing your talents.

To wrap up this unique year, I'm going to be doing a series of messages for Advent tying in the preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus with what we are still currently facing. The first message will focus on having hope in this time of uncertainty and then continue with messages on Peace, Joy, Love and Christ on Christmas Eve. These will be shared (as long as we are still allowed to have in-person services) each Sunday beginning on Nov 29th with the Christmas Eve message given at First church. For those who will not be at one of the in-person services, the messages will be available for viewing on the Parish Facebook page as well as the Parish website (www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org).

What will 2021 bring for us? Only one person has that answer, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As I've been sharing the past few months, we need to keep our faith in the Lord that He will help all of us through the uncertainty surrounding us currently. This is not the first time in history when there have been huge challenges and it won't be the last. But God will get us through this as He has previously and will continue to do so in the future.

My hope is that everyone reading this will have a wonderful Advent season as we prepare for our annual remembrance of a mother and father in a simple stable, welcoming the baby who changed so much while He was on Earth.

Stay safe and may God Bless each of you,

Pastor Keith

*** All church services, meetings, and gatherings have been cancelled until Sunday, December 20th by the direction of Bishop Frank Beard. The church office will also be closed during this time. Please contact Pastor Keith at 309-830-0875 for any information needed. ***

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The offering envelopes for 2021 are available for First Church. They can be picked up at church by writing the number on the box and your name on the paper provided. If you are unable to come to the church, call the office and we will get them to you. Thank you.



Seasons of Hope



The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity — hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory — because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross.

—J.I. Packer

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 dropped off at the Parish office during business hours. We appreciate your gifts and tithes during this unprecedented time.

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.

CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21
 11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13
 6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21
 12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1
 22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13
 14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16
 15 10 3 17 14 1 25 1 18 23 12 14
 24 15 25 14 10 12 14
I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V

Bible Quiz

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four





Why Advent?

Waiting can be hard, and not just for children. But I do love Advent: this four-week time when the Christian church prepares for Christmas.

Maybe I like Advent so much because it involves active waiting, not thumb-twiddling. It is a gift the church offers the world, to be active (which isn't the same as busy) in ways that open our hearts — and the hearts we touch — to the true meaning of Christmas.

Mother Teresa said, "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

When I take time during Advent to remember in prayer and with gifts of money and time those who have less food than I do, those who are lonely, those without a home; when I pause to share love with a child or an elder, or gratitude for a healthcare worker, pastor or teacher; when I wait for justice to replace oppression but, while I wait, find ways to work for that result ... the Spirit's warmth fills my waiting heart. I am ready to welcome Jesus.

—Heidi Mann

Christmas presence

Amid the secular trappings of the holidays, we can lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, until we lament with Charlie Brown, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?"

These reminders call us back to where it all began — in the heart of God.

"The giving of gifts is not something [people] invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of his Son." —Robert Flatt

"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life." —Corrie ten Boom

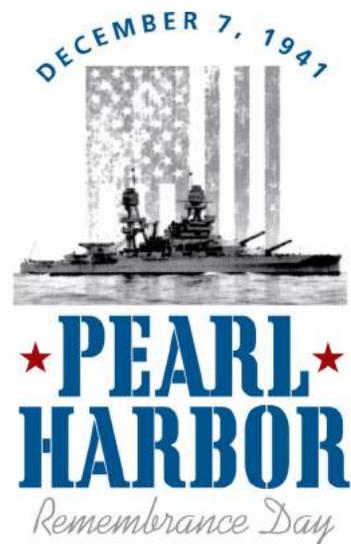
"The great challenge left to us is to cut through all the glitz and glam of the season that has grown increasingly secular and commercial, and be reminded of the beauty of the One who is Christmas." —Bill Crowder

"If we do not set aside time to focus together on what God's word tells us about the promise of Christ, on Christmas morning we can find ourselves surrounded by mounds of torn gift wrap, our laps full of presents, but with hearts that are empty and unprepared." —Nancy Guthrie



Through the Bible in a year

- 1. Romans 11:25-15:33
- 2. Romans 16; 1Cor. 1:1-4:13
- 3. 1Cor. 4:14-7:40
- 4. 1Cor. 8:1-12:11
- 5. 1Cor. 12:12-15:28
- 6. 1Cor. 15:29-16:24; 2Cor. 1-2
- 7. 2Cor. 3-7
- 8. 2Cor. 8-12
- 9. 2Cor. 13; Gal. 1:1-4:11
- 10. Gal. 4:12-6:18; Eph. 1:1-14
- 11. Eph. 1:15-5:14
- 12. Eph. 5:15-6:24; Phil. 1-2
- 13. Phil. 3-4; Col. 1
- 14. Col. 2-4; 1Th. 1 - 2:12
- 15. 1Th. 2:13-5:28; 2Th 1-3
- 16. 1Tim. 1-5
- 17. 1Tim. 6; 2Tim.
- 18. Titus; Philemon; Heb. 1:1-2:10
- 19. Heb. 2:11-6:20
- 20. Heb. 7-10
- 21. Heb. 11-13
- 22. James 1:1-4:10
- 23. James 4:11-5:20; 1Pet. 1:1-3:12
- 24. 1Pet. 3:13-5:14; 2Pet. 1-2
- 25. 2Pet. 3; 1Jn. 1:1-3:12
- 26. 1Jn. 3:13-5:21; 2Jn.; 3Jn.; Jude:1-16
- 27. Jude 1:17-25; Rev. 1-4
- 28. Rev. 5:1-9:11
- 29. Rev. 9:12-14:8
- 30. Rev. 14:9-18:24
- 31. Rev. 19-22





Please be Praying for...
 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 and Keith Bauer, Janet Boyer's son Keith Bauer, Harley Buente, Marian Buente, Owen Buente, Carl & Kurt Boesen, Shirley Brunner, Carol Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Virginia Dittus, Bart Durbin, Pearl Evans, Bob Grob, Ralph Grob, Anna Hertz, Bill Hertz, Marjorie Kersch, Kevin Kirchner, Peggy Lane, The Logsdons, Mike & Theresa Mau, Allen Messer, Dorene O'Connor, Betty Osenga, Chuck & Kathy Quick and Kurt Quick, Kevin & Rob Reiniche, Danette & Tim Sparenburg, 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>OCTOBER 2020 ATTENDANCE</u>				
	10/04	10/11	10/18	10/25
Evangelical	28	29	25	28
First	14	11	12	10
Grand Prairie	18	16	22	12
Total	60	56	59	50

**Don't just ATTEND your church - LOVE your church.
 Serve, give, invite, worship, post, join, engage, participate!**



December Memory Verse
 Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. ~ 1 John 4:21



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: December 1, January 5 and February 2 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.

Evan UMW -

Make A Difference Day was held at Bonfield EVAN on Saturday October 24 with 14 women present. Blankets going to Lessie Bates Community House were tied and distributed to ladies who will finish by binding the edges. The blankets will be blessed and sent to Lessie Bates next year. Lunch was served by Christine Meyer. We thank everyone who attended and all that helped to make the day a success. Dayle Seitz, secretary EVAN UMW.

Evan Bonfield UMW met in the upper room November 5th at 11:30 am. Our Shepherdess Nancy Jennings was present and gave an update on the district. Pastor Keith, Gave the lesson on "thankfulness". He said it is not a one time of the year thing. Thankfulness should be every day. He quoted Ephesians: 5:19-20. Thanking God daily should be the first words said in the morning. Thankfulness for Jesus who came to earth in the flesh to die for our sins. What a great gift we were given by God. So remember thanking is not a one day thing. The Secretary report was given by Dayle Seitz.

3 member went to Midwest Distribution Center and a 104 lb donation of items was delivered.

On, October 24th, make a difference day, 42 quilts were tied for Lessie Bates Community Home and 14 women were present. The lunch was provided by the officers. Christine Meyer showed the 3 quilts that will be going to Cunningham Children's Home for their residential children. Chris also reminded us to get the Christmas Cards and Calendars to church to be signed and delivered to the Veteran's home in Manteno. December 6th is the last day to get them to church. Treasurer's report was give by Ardis Messer. Lunch was served by Ardis, Christine, and Dayle. The next meeting we'll be December 3 at 11:30 at the Bonfield Kitchen Table.

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

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

First Church UMW - November means that the UMW and the entire congregation collects and donates winter items for the Salvation Army. Homemade and store bought hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves beautifully adorn the small tree set up for that purpose in the sanctuary. In addition, gift cards for The Dollar Tree, Amazon, Walmart, and more also accompany the winter items to make the Christmas tree burst with goodness for others. An ongoing donation opportunity involves the Gift of God Street Church and men's homeless shelter which is in constant need of paper products like toilet paper and paper towels, and also cleaning products, especially anti-bacterial wipes. Men's socks, t-shirts and underwear are also appreciated. If you are unable to attend church at this time, please call Jill (815.351.5455) , and she will gladly pickup your donations!

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

***All events are subject to change* First UMW Meetings 2020: December 13: Christmas Potluck @ 5**

Martha Circle -

Martha Circle Meetings 2020:

December 9: Meeting at 6pm hostesses
Kim & Marilyn,
Gift of God Street Church Meals:
December 9: Linda S. & Janet

Sunshine Circle -

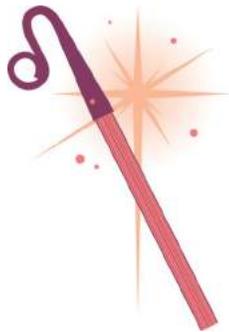
Sunshine Circle Meetings 2020

December 17

A sacred summary

The simple shepherds
heard the voice of an angel
and found their Lamb;
the wise men
saw the light of a star
and found their Wisdom.

—Fulton J. Sheen



The angel said to [Mary],

**"THE HOLY SPIRIT
WILL COME UPON YOU,
and the power of
THE MOST HIGH
WILL OVERSHADOW YOU."**

LUKE 1:35, NRSV



Answers for Quiz & Puzzle on page 2

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7.)



Youth Group meets every
second Sunday of the month at
Evan at 6:30pm. If you do not
feel comfortable coming in
person there is so an option to
attend through Zoom. Contact Ryan at
coffmanry@gmail.com for more info.

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 (coffmanry@gmail.com). Ryan is a
member of Grand Prairie UMC.



Feeling blue this Christmas?
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

Please contact Pastor Keith at
309-830-0875 to talk and pray.



DECEMBER

Birthdays

December 2 Shane Robert Buente, Dave Spinale
 December 3 Laura Hanson
 December 4 Mark Meyer, Jerry Wells,
 Larry Hansen, Bill Kohl
 December 5 Kylie Lockwood, Greg Graham
 December 7 Donna (Baylor) Osenga, Braden Cordes
 December 8 Gina Hansen
 December 9 Judy (Orwig) Mau, Barry Messer,
 Lee Bauer
 December 10 Ellynnor Grace Julia Ruckman
 December 11 Dale Schroeder, Matthew Martin Loyd
 December 12 Danielle Norton
 December 13 Steve Buente
 December 14 Justin Fritz, Joshua Fritz, Dave Osenga,
 Brittany Ricketts
 December 15 Brian Clemans, Ed Buente,
 Shirley (Hanneford) Hertz, Alex R. Berghouse,
 Pat Vilt, Tom Shimmin
 December 16 James Moody, Mandy McMurray,
 Glenn Wulff, Bruce Philips,
 Kaylynn Renee Buente
 December 17 Ryan Charter, Vicki (Buza) Brinkman,
 Brock Wenzelman
 December 18 Mila Osenga, Ralph Rice, Jr.,
 Miria Lee (Lehnus) Hester,
 Shelly (Gates) Messer
 December 19 Gary Wood, Susan (Vilt) Mickelson,
 Brian Wells
 December 20 Daisy (Johnson) Rice, Michele Wilson
 December 21 Kathi Nichols,
 Angela (Diefenbach) Kirk, Christian Hansen,
 Tina (Miskiewicz) Pitkin
 December 23 Rick Overacker
 December 24 Keith Bauer, Jeff Nottke, Francis Rice
 December 25 Greg Hertz,
 Tara St. Germaine, Jessica (Dixon) Gagnon
 December 26 Rory Havener
 December 27 Madison Turner, Lester Lambert
 December 28 Daniel Meyer, Justin Corden Ruckman
 December 29 Cindi Young, Aamira Dato
 December 30 Sarah Rieke, Jamie Diefenbach,
 Dale Schreffler

+Christian Symbol+

Advent Wreath



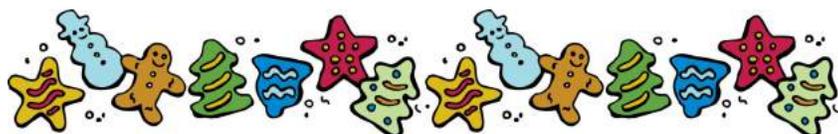
The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.

Fear not!

On that first Christmas night, the angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid" (Luke 2:10). What is there to fear from a baby? A baby is powerless, with no guile, no anger and no judgment, only needing from us without fearing we will not provide: simply trusting, and content to be resting in our arms. This is how God came. This is Christmas. This one child, and for a time, perhaps too brief, our fears are taken over by our love for this child, and he is able to change our hearts. ...

In Jesus, we are free to live life as fully and as joyfully as we will allow ourselves. For it is only we who hold ourselves back. God does not. For God has forgiven us in this baby and will not restrain us from living with sheer abandon, trusting in this gentle and gracious God, who keeps telling us: "Do not be afraid."

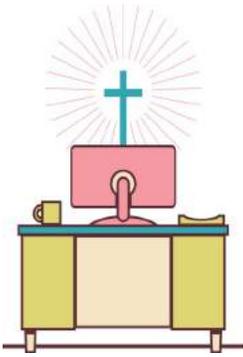
—Gary Westgard, *At Break of Day*




Make ROOM
 IN YOUR Heart
 for JESUS

DECEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>*ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO FOLLOW REGULATIONS*</p>		<p>1 - IHOP breakfast at 8:30AM</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 - Evan UMW Christmas lunch at Kitchen Table at 11:30AM</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 - Holy Communion</p>  <p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>7 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM</p>	<p>8 - Evan NOW at 6PM - Parish NOW Meeting at 6:30PM</p>	<p>9 - Martha Circle at 6PM</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 - Youth Group at Evan at 6:30PM</p>  <p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>14 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM</p>	<p>15 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 - Sunshine Circle - Print Newsletter</p>	<p>18 - Charles Wesley's Birthday</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p>  <p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>21 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM</p>	<p>22 - Fold Newsletter at Evan at 8AM</p>  <p>First Day of Winter</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 - Office closed</p>  <p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>New Year's Eve</p>		<p>*ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO FOLLOW REGULATIONS*</p>



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:

“Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.”

—Neal A. Maxwell

* * *

“Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind.”

—Helen Steiner Rice

* * *

“Invisible in his own nature, [God] became visible in ours. Beyond our grasp, he chose to come within our grasp.”

—Leo the Great

* * *

“Christmas is best pondered not with logic but with imagination.”

—Max Lucado

* * *

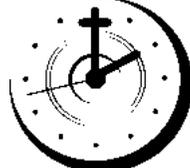
“To prepare our hearts for Christmas, we must cultivate the spirit of expectancy.”

—Handel H. Brown

* * *

“Youth is when you’re allowed to stay up late on New Year’s Eve. Middle age is when you’re forced to.”

—Bill Vaughan



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

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Bonfield, IL 60913



**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!**

We welcome you to join us at our
Christmas programs this year:

Sunday, December 13 at 7:00PM

At Grand Prairie UMC 12408 W State Rt. 17 Bonfield, IL

Sunday, December 20 at 9:15AM

At Bonfield Evangelical UMC 348 E. Smith Street Bonfield, IL

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve at 7:00PM

At Bonfield First UMC 172 N. Church St. Bonfield, IL

All events are subject to change due to regulations