



“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



As of the time this was written we have not yet had our first in-person services due to the bitter cold experienced on Sundays. But as you are reading this now, we will be back completely inside the churches again.

We are now in the season of Lent. An annual journey to help renew us as we go from the season of Epiphany and then the transfiguration of Jesus in front of His three closest disciples to the road to Jerusalem where Jesus completes His time on Earth. By the time next month’s newsletter is in your hands we will be nearing the final days with the arrest, trial, conviction, crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

Unlike previous years, we will not be having the Wednesday Lent services at various locations through County West as we still have the limits on gathering sizes. Some of the locations are just not able to have social distancing that is needed still. Hopefully next year will allow these services to resume. And unfortunately I am not having a Bible study this year during Lent due to some of the same reasons along with what I am about to share as you continue to read.

As I shared in each church on Feb. 21st, this year’s Lenten season is different for me personally. The past year, when in-person services were stopped for 6 months total, have taken their toll on me. Not being able to do many of the duties related to serving this Parish took a toll on me. Physically I didn’t handle things well during the shutdowns. Mentally I allowed myself to make decisions that were bad for my health. In trying to figure out what a new normal was, I was not as good in some areas of ministry as I needed to be. So, I came to a revelation of my own during a week of down time at the beginning of February.

As you read this, I am approximately 3 weeks into changes I have made to better myself. I’m eating a very restrictive diet (for me) which is starting to show results. I also meet with a health coach online who is helping me to change my mind for the better. She also has a Master’s in Divinity, and I hope sometime down the road she will provide the message for me when I am on vacation. And I am refocusing myself in various ways to be a better servant of God with my ministerial duties in this Parish.

Each person goes through the Lenten season differently. Please remember it is a 40-day journey to reflect, reconcile and renew. How you do that is up to you. My hope is that, after the year we have experienced, you take the time to go on this journey and at the end of it you can become closer to God and His only Son.

Finally, when you feel comfortable in doing so, we have three wonderful churches that will openly welcome you to come inside for worship. If you don’t attend a church currently, we would be glad to have you join us. Worship times are:
First UMC 8 am, Evan UMC 9:15 am, & Grand Prairie UMC 10:30 am

Blessings are lifted for all of you, especially during this season of Lent.
God Bless and stay safe,
Pastor Keith

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Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Church is looking for someone to clean the church. For more information please contact Chad Hertz at (815)260-8343.

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.

THANKS FROM THE HEART

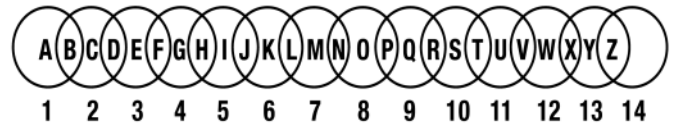
A big thank you to everyone who sent the wonderful Valentine's Day cards! It warmed my heart and brightened my day to receive so many cards from my church family and friends.

~ Pearl Evans

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10'

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10' 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11'

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer on Page 7

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March Memory Verse
 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." ~Romans 3:23



Don't be late to church on Sunday, March 14.

Daylight Saving Time Begins, don't forget to Spring Forward!

Bible Quiz

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they'd had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?



- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers

Answer on Page 7

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A Breath of Fresh Prayer

Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby described prayer as simply letting God into our lives. God “knocks,” he said, “not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer” but “in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind ... when you need him most.”



Prayer, added Hallesby, is as essential to life as air. “As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon,” he said. “Let your prayers ascend to [God] constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit.”



Setting Captives Free

Though St. Patrick’s Day has become a secular “holiday,” March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn’t very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. “The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes” in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there, and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.

St. Patrick’s Day



In *Confessio 61*, St. Patrick writes, “I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation ... except the Gospel and God’s promises.”



Laud & Honor on Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday anthem “All Glory Laud and Honor” is one of Christendom’s oldest hymns. St. Theodulf of Orleans, who helped reform the church under Charlemagne, wrote the lyrics in the year 820 while imprisoned in France.

The lyrics recount Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event the medieval church reenacted every Palm Sunday. Clergy and townspeople processed from fields through the city gates, behind a Jesus figure riding a donkey. At the gates, children began singing the hymn in Latin — *Gloria, laus et honor* — and onlookers soon chimed in.

City gates may be a thing of the past, as the website Hymnary.org notes, yet we still praise our blessed Redeemer “because we know just what kind of King he was and is — an everlasting King who reigns not just in Jerusalem but over the entire earth. What more could we do but praise him with glory, laud and honor.”

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made
sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.



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

From Our Church Bulletin

The Buente Family, The Marcotte Family, Chuck Blankenship, Pat Bland, Candy and Keith Bauer, Janet Boyer's son Keith Bauer, Harley Buente, Owen Buente, Sue Buente, Carl & Kurt Boesen, Shirley Brunner, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Bob Grob, Anna Hertz, Bill Hertz, Marjorie Kersch, Kevin Kirchner, Peggy Lane, The Logsdons, Mike & Theresa Mau, Allen Messer, Gerry Meyer, Dorene O'Connor, Betty Osenga, Chuck & Kathy Quick and Kurt Quick, Dorothy & Reuben Riegel, Kevin & Rob Reiniche, Jackie Wagner, Jodi, Richard & Ronald Wildman and continuing prayers for those in nursing homes, assisted living, or the home bound.

Arden Courts

Mel Brinkman

At Home

Pearl Evans
Dorothy & Reuben Riegel

Harvest View

Vi Morse
Mary Krieg

Heritage Village

Marjorie Kersch
Roscella Piper
Randy Riegel

Manteno Veterans

Bob Grob

Riverside Senior Living

Jackie Wagner

At College

Becca Coffman
Brianna Dayton
Kylie Lockwood

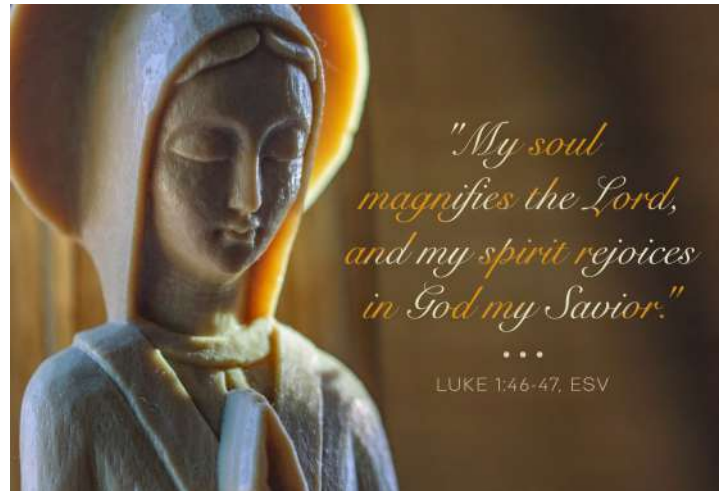
Compassion International Kids

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.

2021 Annual Conference

The 2021 Annual Conference will be held online on Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12. More info to come on the IGRC.org website.



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: March 2, April 6 and May 4 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.

JANUARY 2021 ATTENDANCE

	01/03	01/10	01/17	01/24	01/31
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



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.

All events are subject to change

Sunshine Circle - Sunshine Circle will be meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2021 to plan for the year 2021. There will be an election of officers Secret pal drawing, noting volunteers for the Gift of God Street Church (which we will be providing a meal in March) and fundraising brainstorming. We will also be signing up for hostesses for this years meetings. March 18th will be our next meeting.

Sunshine Circle Meetings 2021

March 18

Evan UMW - The Evangelical UMW will still be having “make a difference day” in October. We need help with making more quilt tops for tying on that day. If anyone would like to make tops you can call me Dayle Seitz at 815-953-6738. You do not have to be a member to participate. We also would like to give an invitation to any women who would like to come to our monthly meetings. The first meeting will in March. New books are circulating for UMW reading program. new novels are included this year. “Girl Gone Missing” is about a young Native American girl who is attending college. One of her classmates disappears and she dreams about the girl. This starts her on a journey that will lead her to..... You can also get books from the public library and through Amazon prime e-books. Start an adventure today!

First Church UMW -

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

District Events & Meetings 2021

Saturday, February 27 : IGRC UMW Spiritual Growth Study: Finding Peace in an Anxious World
10am—12pm on Zoom

Thursday, March 18: Personal Growth Seminar: Just Energy for All 10am—12pm on Zoom

Friday, April 30 : VRD UMW Spring Gathering 8:30am—12:30pm on Zoom

June 4 & 5 : Festival of Quilts, hybrid event of in-person and online events



EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA DRIVE-THRU – MARCH 27

Join the Bonfield-Grand Prairie Parish for an Easter Egg-Stravaganza Drive-Thru on **Saturday, March 27 from 10:00 am until 11:30 am**. The drive-thru will take place at the Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Church located on Smith Avenue in Bonfield.



Every child in your vehicle will receive an Easter treat bag. The Easter Bunny will also be making an appearance, so be sure to keep an eye out as you drive through so you can catch a glimpse of him!

We will be following COVID-19 safety guidelines so all of our volunteers will be wearing masks in an effort to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Follow the Bonfield-Grand Prairie Parish Facebook page or check our website, bonfieldgrandprairie.org, for any updates as the event gets closer. Hope to see you there!



+Christian Symbol+

CROSS OF TRIUMPH



Also known as the Cross of Victory, this cross symbolizes Christ's final triumph and his reign throughout the earth. The Cross of Triumph is often depicted atop Jesus' scepter when he's shown in his kingly office.

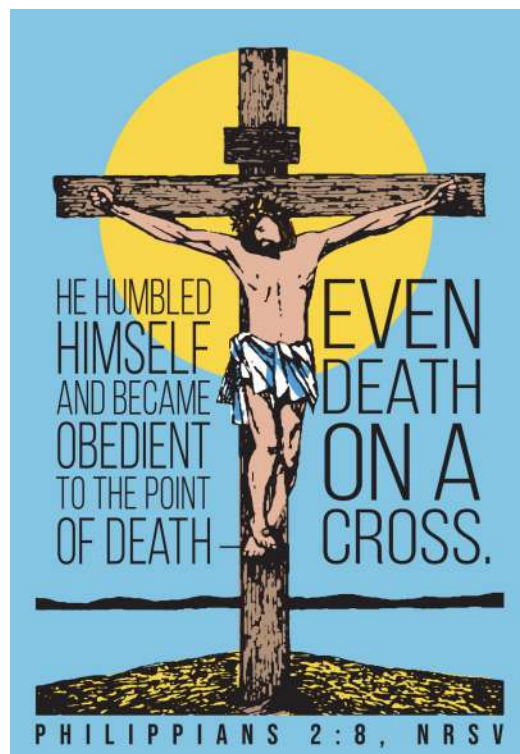




MARCH

Birthdays

- March 2 Sharon (Foltz) Howard, Jacob Brinkman,
Pam Wilking
- March 3 Janet Schroeder, Janet (Grob) Boyer
- March 4 Susan (Bradley) Schroeder, Eric Pangle,
Tom Willibey
- March 5 Bill Hertz, Mary Osenga, Norman Bauer
- March 7 Denise (Dato) Kirchner,
Lynn (Broussard) Pangle
- March 8 Alaxis Morse
- March 9 Michael (Jake) Colston, Herb Foltz,
Jennifer Rice
- March 11 Kenneth Bouk, Gina Cordes
- March 12 Dawn (Duchene) Eberl
- March 13 Jessica Brinkman, Chad Grob
- March 14 Wade Kuipers, Matthew Meyer, Dan Pitkin
- March 15 Terry Meyer, Rebecca (Kuipers) Loyd
Doreen (Burkhard-Voigt) Wendling,
Susan (Voigt) Resing, Bob Nichols
- March 16 Richard Marcotte
- March 17 Joyce (Diefenbach) Cochran,
Alexis Robinson, Susie (Evans) Clutter
- March 18 Melissa Pastorel, Tammy (Dau) Riegel
- March 19 Don Mau, Frederick Meyer, Jared Charter,
Lauren R. Davis, Virginia (Meyer) Young
- March 20 Sue (Han) Buente, Wesley Adams
- March 21 Joyce (Walter) Riegel, Wayne Buente,
Shirley (Schwartz) Larkins
- March 22 Joy (Riegel) Bland
- March 23 Patrick Lindley, Douglas Gagnon
- March 24 Ryan Dau, John (Jonnie) Pitkin
- March 25 David Buente, JoAnn (Domagalla) Hertz
- March 26 Jay Buente, Ron Charter, Jeremy Jensen
- March 27 Alison (Ohr) Paglin
- March 28 Amber Lindley
- March 29 Lecia Geiger
- March 30 Larrin Nottke, Sr., William Diefenbach,
Alexandra Meyer
- March 31 Tony Graf, Eloise (Pfeiffer) Kuipers,
Martine (Grant) Berghouse



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.





Answers for Quiz & Puzzle on page 2

Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)

Please notify the church office of any names and birthdays which need to be added, removed or corrected, 815-802-9805.

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

MARCH 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO FOLLOW REGULATIONS	1 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	2	3	4	5  World Day of Prayer	6
7 - Holy Communion THIRD SUNDAY LENT	8 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	9 - Ad Board at First Church at 7PM	10	11	12	13
14 - Youth Group at Evan at 6:30PM - UMCOR Sunday FOURTH SUNDAY LENT	15 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18 - Sunshine Circle - Personal Growth Seminar 10-12pm on Zoom	19	20  Happy First Day of Spring!
21 FIFTH SUNDAY LENT	22 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	23 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	24	25 - Print Newsletter	26	27
28  PALM SUNDAY	29 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	30 - Fold Newsletter at Evan at 8AM	31			



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:

“Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone's heart.”

—Mandy Hale

* * *


“No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown.”

—William Penn

* * *

“If we dwell upon the harms that have been wrought on us by humankind, we amputate from our mind the power of dwelling upon God.”

—Macarius of Egypt (4th century)

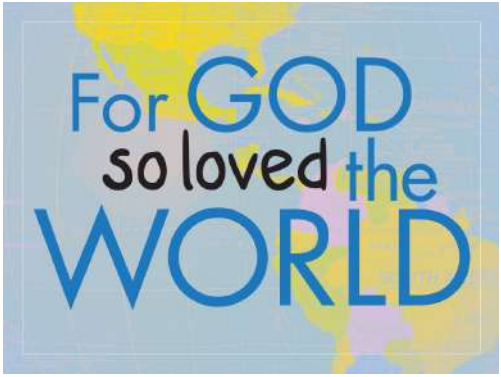


Time For Church

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.

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



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

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Bonfield, IL 60913

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

Worship Schedule for **HOLY WEEK**

 <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY April 1 At 7:00pm At Grand Prairie UMC Bonfield, IL</p> <p>- Holy Communion - Short Message</p>	 <p>GOOD FRIDAY April 2 At 7:00pm At Grand Prairie UMC Bonfield, IL</p> <p>- Roman Soldier Service</p>	 <p>Sunrise Service April 4 At 6:00am At Grand Prairie UMC Bonfield, IL</p> <p>- Breakfast After Service</p>	 <p>EASTER SUNDAY April 4</p> <p>At 8:00am Grand Prairie 12408 W State Rt 17</p> <p>At 9:15am Bonfield Evangelical 348 Smith St.</p> <p>At 10:30am Bonfield First Church 172 N. Church St.</p>
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