



“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



What a difference a year makes! Last year we were facing the reality that for the first time in most (if not all) of our lifetimes, we were not observing Holy Week, including Easter Sunday, inside the church buildings. While it did bring some pleasant surprises, like Bart walking through Bonfield carrying across on Good Friday and the Easter parade of vehicles driving through the village, it was a quite different way to observe the Last Supper, the death of Jesus and His resurrection than ever before.

While we were not able to do everything I would have liked to do this Lenten season, it has been uplifting for me personally to take you along the journey this year. As this newsletter reaches you we will be beginning the Holy Week services in-person. Not all the services will be online, but it will be wonderful to have services inside the buildings this year. And next year hopefully we will be able to have all the Lenten services AND a Bible study through this season.

Thank you for all who are praying for me with my “changes” this year during the Lenten season. I hope on Easter to be able to make an announcement that has been in my mind as a mini goal for me. Now closing in on two months since I began to work on me, I am seeing so many examples of things I never thought would be possible. I give all praise and glory to God, as well as all of you for respecting and encouraging me with the changes I am making. I would not be where I am today without ANY of this.

So now we look ahead to the days, weeks and months after Easter Sunday. We are starting to see that light shining at the end of the tunnel as God helps us to be at a point when we can refer to the pandemic in history books. But we also need to remember that just over 100 years ago there was a pandemic that lasted for two years. We need to be cautious and patient as this one hopefully is officially ended. Remember the words of Jeremiah in Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

We have been through a lot in this world over the past year. What saddens me as a Pastor is the hatred that has been going on with no immediate end in sight. Many have lost the vision that God taught in loving everyone. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is something I have turned to as I see the reporting on TV. 1 John 4:20 reminds us: “Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.” It is my hope that more and more people each day can be drawn to this Scripture as well as others that talk about this.

May you enjoy Holy Week this year and may we do what is needed to be able to put the life changing events of the past year behind us while remembering that God loves ALL of us daily. And may we allow the Lord to make us servants of his to reach out to others in need 24/7/365.

God Bless all of you,
Pastor Keith

Inside this issue:	
Puzzle & Bible Quiz	2
Mission Trip Update	3
Prayer List	4
UMW	5
UMW	6
Birthday List	7
Calendar	8
Contact Info & Service Times	9



Bonfield Lions will be having their annual **Chicken Supper** on **April 17, 2021** at the **Lions Hall** from **4 - 7 PM**



Cost - 1/4 Chicken Dinner is \$7.00
1/2 Chicken Dinner is \$9.00

Herb Foltz has tickets to purchase or you can contact any Lions Member and they will get tickets to you. Herb's phone number is 815-953-5959. Tickets will also be available to purchase at the door.

Dine in and Carry-outs both will be available.



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

April Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

~ John 3:16

Bible Quiz

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

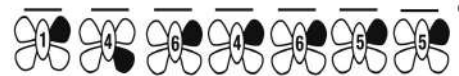
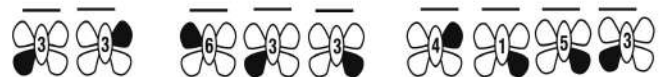
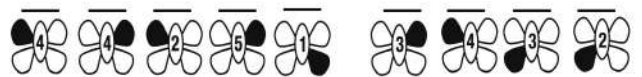
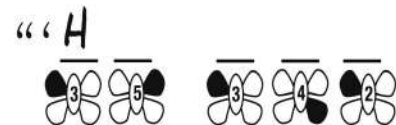
- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:18).

Puzzle!

Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



Answer: “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.”



Mission Trip 2021

The Red Bird Mission Trip scheduled for June of 2021 has been pushed back until June of 2022. We are saddened that we can not go this year but we also

want to be cautious and safe. We made the decision to postpone 1 more year in the hopes that the Pandemic Climate will allow us to travel safely. Please keep our team in your prayers as we still need to raise funds to finish paying for the trip. Keep watch as the pandemic conditions improve we will be making plans.

God is Good!

Drive Thru Pork Chop Meal

May 1, 2021

at Bonfield Evan from 4 - 7 pm

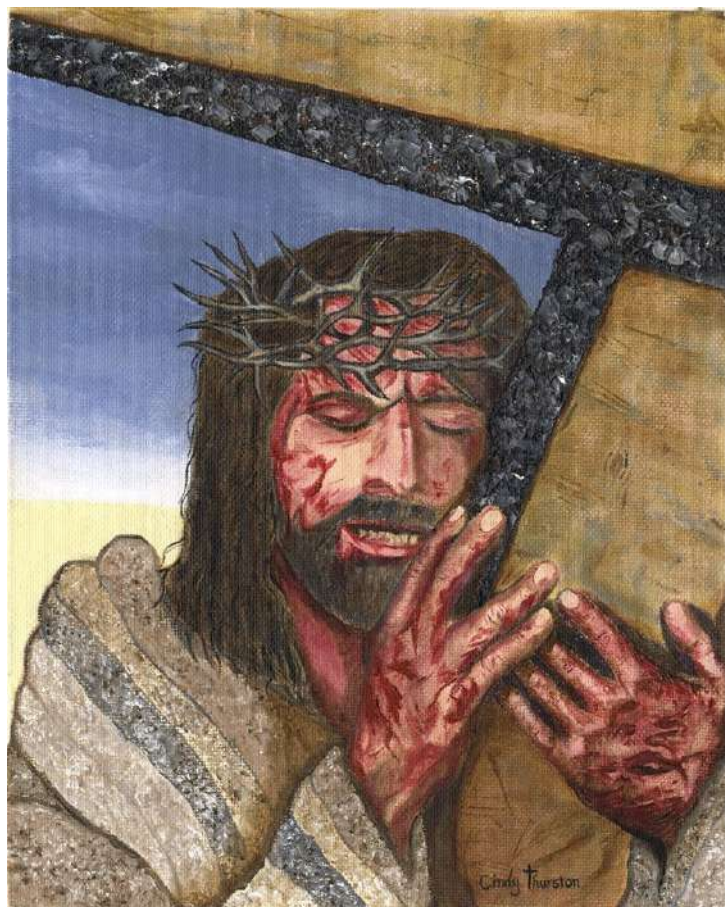
Cost of meal is \$7.00

which will include a pork chop sandwich, bag of chips, cookie and drink (choice of water or pop)

Pork chop sandwich only is \$4.00



Proceeds will be split between the Sunshine Circle and UMW and will benefit their missions.



A Fitting Tribute

When Christ entered into Jerusalem, the people spread garments in the way. When he enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves.

—Augustus Toplady (1740–1778)


Encourage Wonder

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you've heard over and over, play "I Wonder" with children and adults alike. Similar to "I Spy," it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren't detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase "I wonder." For example:

- I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back *not* mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?
- The day after Jesus' ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there's likely no right answer. Playing "I Wonder" can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote.

Add meaning to this year's Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you're eager to gain new insights on the "old, old story ... of Jesus and his love." —Janna Firestone



Please be Praying for...

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, 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 Riverside Senior Living

Bob Grob Jackie Wagner

At College

Becca Coffman
Brianna Dayton
Kylie Lockwood

Compassion International Kids

Ebenezer Forson.....Ghana
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.



Festival of Quilts to be hybrid event June 4-5

Cunningham Children’s Home has announced that the 17th Annual Festival of Quilts will be a hybrid (part online, part in-person) event on Friday, June 4 and Saturday, June 5. For a suggested donation of \$5 for admission, the Festival of Quilts, our signature fundraiser, features something for everyone:

- Quilt Show with hundreds of hand and machine quilted pieces including contemporary designs as well as antique quilts on loan for the show
- Quilt Auction featuring traditional and contemporary quilts and wall hangings
- Gift Shop packed with generously donated hand-crafted items
- Bake Sale with homemade goodies and treats
- Quilt Boutique with quilts, wall hangings, and table runners for purchase
- Patchwork Café where guests can enjoy a cup of coffee or an inexpensive lunch and visit with friends
- Walking Tours of Cunningham’s Urbana campus to learn more about the mission and ministry of Cunningham Children’s Home
- Featured speakers detailing their quilting expertise

To discuss becoming a sponsor or donating to the event, please contact Ardis Messer 815-953-9723 or Christine Meyer 815-939-2912.

FEBRUARY 2021 ATTENDANCE

	02/07	02/14	02/21	02/28
Evangelical	0	0	16	19
First	0	0	9	6
Grand Prairie	0	0	24	22
Total	0	0	49	47



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

Martha Circle - The Bonfield Grand Prairie Martha Circle met on March 10, 2021 for the first in person meeting in a long time. We were very excited about being able to meet face to face and socialize a little bit more. There were 10 people in attendance. Kim opened our meeting with a wonderful devotional that helped to set the tone for our meeting. We were able to decide on where to send our Mission money and set the dates for our meetings this year as well as our Gift of God meal schedule. We decided to not reveal our 2020 Prayer partners. We will be keeping the same ones for 2021 and revealing them at our Christmas meeting in December. We have also decided to try and get a date set for volunteering at the Midwest Distribution Center sometime in the near future and taking a day trip to the Shrine of Christ's Passion when the weather turns warmer. After the business meeting concluded we all enjoyed snacks! God is Good!

First Church UMW - The group met on March 18 for the first time since Fall 2020. It was wonderful to be together again! Jill Grant shared stories from the Prayer Calendar and Response magazine and also presented "Caring for Each Other in Community," from the new program book. The group discussed how we as women are "knitted" together in order to help other women and children in our community. Upcoming events were discussed with the hope that the group will be able to carry out mission work for MMDC and other organizations. For two weeks in March, the congregation participated in "March Freshness for Cunningham" by donating money to be spent on personal hygiene products for residents. The new meeting time, 1 pm, seemed to work well for most of the members. As the year progresses, it will be determined if this will be a permanent change. The next meeting is April 15 (Prayer & Self-Denial offering taken), and all women are welcome!

First UMW meets the third Thursday at 1PM at First UMC (no meetings in Jan/Feb/Aug)
 April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, September 16, October 21, November 18, &
 December 12 (Sunday Potluck)

Sunshine Circle - Sunshine Circle was held on Feb. 18 with 8 members present in the upper room; Jan Green and Rita Overacker were hostesses. A nice dinner was served while devotions were given by Jan Green. Readings by our Bishop and Pastor Keith were read. \$100 was sent to the Salvation Army for our Christmas mission. Election of officers were elected: President - Donna Diefenbach, Vice President - Jan Green, Secretary - Donna Diefenbach, Treasurers are Kim Metzka and Ardis Messer and Cheer Committee is Ardis Messer. Street Church dates are March 10, 2021 - Jan Green and Donna Diefenbach made a meal, July 14, 2021 - Jan Green & Nov. 10, 2021 - Kim Metzka and Ardis Messer. Secret Pals were drawn and we started to plan the Drive-Thru Pork Chop meal for May 1, 2021.

United Methodist Women of the Parish continued

Sunshine Circle - Sunshine Circle was also held on March 18, 2021 in the upper room with Donna Diefenbach hosting with 7 members and 1 guest were present. Devotions were given by Donna. Egg trivia, colors of Easter eggs meanings and an Easter skit were presented; two Easter lilies will be purchased and given to two of our shut ins. Three \$100 checks will be given to three missions we are supporting for Easter: Street Church, Living Alternative and Harbor House. Planning of the Drive Thru meal was completed.

Sunshine Circle Meetings 2021

April 15, May 20, June 17, September 16, October 21, November 18, & December 16

Evan UMW - The Bonfield Evan UMW met at 9:30AM in the upper room. There were 6 members and pastor present. The group planned out the year and discussed the up coming pork chop drive in dinner. A treasurers report was given by Ardis, who discussed giving a donation of money to the organizations instead of individual donations of materials. We will continue to serve dinners for Gift of God Street Church this year. Contacting shut ins was discussed. Ardis discussed reading program and new books. Carol will contact the executive board about the meeting that was planned for May 13 here at Evan.

Evan UMW Meetings & District/Conference Meetings 2021

April 1: Meeting in the upper room at Evan at 1:30 PM, Chris hosting & Carol giving the lesson
 April 30: VRD UMW Spring Gathering 8:30am—12:30pm on Zoom
 May 1: Drive-thru pork chop dinner at 4-7PM
 May 6: No meeting
 May 12: Serve at Gift Of God Church
 May 13: District executive meeting on Zoom
 June 3: Meeting at Joyce Riegel's at 1:30PM, Joyce hosting & Chris giving the lesson
 June 4 & 5: Festival of Quilts at Cunningham
 *We will collect school supplies
 July: No meeting
 July 16-18: Mission U on Zoom
 July 18-21: Mission U on Zoom
 August 5: Meeting at Ardis Messer's at 1:30 PM, Ardis hosting & Dayle giving the lesson
 August 11: Midwest Distributing Center
 September 2: Meeting in the upper room at Evan, Lorraine hosting & Pastor giving the lesson
 September 8: Serve at Gift Of God Church
 September 18: Fall Meeting at Fairbury UMC
 September 19: UMW Sunday
 October 7: Meeting in the upper room at Evan, Dayle hosting & Joyce giving the lesson
 October 21: Mini Mission
 October 23: Make A Difference Day at Evan at 9:00AM
 November 4: Meeting at Chris Meyer's home at 1:30PM, Chris hosting & Carol giving the lesson
 November 14: Thank Offering
 December 2: Christmas Luncheon



- April 1 Tiffany Peters, Thaddeus Miller,
Miyake Meyer, Andrew Jacubowski
- April 2 Brock Pfeiffer, Gerald Fecke (Trey),
Marsha Bauer, Wilma (Diefenbach) Jones
- April 3 Mary Messer, Wendell Meyer
- April 4 Emily Meyer, Michelle (Martin) Moore
- April 5 Cherrie (Deschand) Diefenbach
- April 6 Michelle Dahn, Kenzie Grob,
Connie (Wood) Dato, Billy Pitkin
- April 7 Amanda Werner, Danny Gagnon
- April 8 Rob D. VanVoorst
- April 9 Stacey (Wenzelman) Mitchell
- April 10 James Voigt, Benjamin Kuipers,
Diane (Schafer) Charter,
Mary Grace Brinkman, Matthew Marcotte
- April 11 Chuck Voigt,
Candace (Borschnack) Overacker
- April 12 Brian Svenkeson, Joann Schwark
- April 14 Kyle LaMore, Kelly LaMore,
Austin Jones, Dylan Charter, Lyle Turro
- April 16 Roscella (Wesemann) Piper,
Aaron Wells, David Laird, Marilyn Ohrt
- April 19 Amanda Davis
- April 20 Jeff Werner, Marilyn (King) Handley,
Carolyn (King) Souders,
Lisa (Gagnon) Gronert, Gary Schwark
- April 21 Allison Gates, Dave Wood,
Kayla Schwark, Steven Schwark
- April 22 Norma (Voigt) Dettman
- April 23 Aaron Holmes, Brian Grob
- April 24 Alexandre Overacker, Tyler Fritz,
Christine (VanDerVliet) Meyer
- April 26 Roscoe Hall, Heath Overacker
- April 27 Lauren Goodman, Rob White,
Ronda (Wildman) Hawks, Larrin J. Nottke,
Cindy White, Andrea Lemenager
- April 29 Virginia (Nottke) Dittus,
Jackson Graham, Molly Mickelson

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



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 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.




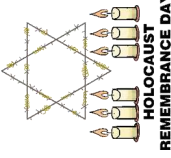




Be a Caremonger

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, a mutual-aid movement dubbed as “caremongering” quickly spread throughout Canada. Within 72 hours, 35 Facebook groups were launched so people could request and offer assistance.

This altruistic effort is essentially the opposite of fearmongering. “We wanted to switch that around and get people to connect on a positive level,” says Mita Hans, who helped set up the first group. The movement, she adds, “spread the opposite of panic in people, brought out community and camaraderie, and allowed us to tackle the needs of those who are at-risk all the time — now more than ever.”

One disabled man in Halifax who received aid through a caremongering group said it felt “like a hug.” That’s intentional, says participant Valentina Harper. “I think it is really showing people there is still hope for humanity.” When the pandemic is history, may we all continue to be caremongers in our communities.

APRIL 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>*ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO FOLLOW REGULATIONS*</p>				<p>1 - Evan UMW at Evan at 1:30PM - Service at Grand Prairie at 7PM </p>	<p>2 - Roman Soldier Drama at Grand Prairie at 7PM </p>	
<p>4 - Holy Communion - Sunrise Service at Grand Prairie at 6AM </p>	<p>5 - Pastor Off - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM</p>	<p>6 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM</p>	<p>7 </p>	<p>8 </p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 - Youth Group at Evan at 6:30PM</p>	<p>12 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM</p>	<p>13 - Evan NOW Meeting at Evan at 6PM - Parish NOW Meeting at Evan at 6:30PM</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 -First UMW Meeting at 1PM - Sunshine Circle at 6:30PM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 - Lions Chicken Dinner at 4-7PM</p>
<p>18 - Native American Ministries Sunday</p>	<p>19 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Parsonage Trustee Meeting at parsonage at 7PM</p>	<p>20 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM</p>	<p>21 </p>	<p>22 - Print Newsletter </p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM</p>	<p>27 - Fold Newsletter at Evan at 8AM</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 </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:

“The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies.”

—Kate McGahan

* * *

“Easter is very important to me. It’s a second chance.”

—Reba McEntire

* * *

“The earth laughs in flowers.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Image of a clock and text: 'Time For Church'

Service times for Bonfield First, Bonfield Evangelical, and Grand Prairie.

Pastor Keith Blankenship’s Information: Email, Cell, Office Hours, Mailing Address.

Parish Office Information: Secretary, Address, Phone, Email, Website, Hours.

Decorative floral border containing an Easter Prayer.

An Easter Prayer : From the grave’s depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.

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

Bonfield / Grand Prairie Parish
prayerful Box 66
Bonfield, IL 60913

Non Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Bonfield, IL
Permit #2


Return Service Requested



Bonfield Box Holder
Bonfield, IL 60913

Worship Schedule for **HOLY WEEK**

Join us for our Easter Service




EASTER SUNDAY
April 4

At 8:00am
Grand Prairie
12408 W State Rt 17


At 9:15am
Bonfield Evangelical
348 Smith St.

At 10:30am
Bonfield First Church
172 N. Church St.




MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 1
At 7:00pm
At Grand Prairie
UMC Bonfield, IL

- Holy Communion
- Short Message



GOOD FRIDAY
April 2
At 7:00pm
At Grand Prairie
UMC Bonfield, IL

- Roman Soldier Service



Sunrise Service
April 4
At 6:00am
At Grand Prairie
UMC Bonfield, IL

- Breakfast After Service