

NEW BEGINNINGS

BONFIELD - GRAND
PRAIRIE PARISH



“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



Another month is upon us, which is already the last FULL month of summer. But unlike a year ago at this time, this year seems to be more like they were two years ago in many ways. Hopefully we will continue to see more improvements as we move forward, and very soon we will be able to say things like, “Remember when we had to shut everything down during a pandemic?”

This month will bring more steps forward for our Parish. On the 8th we will have our annual outdoor service in the Quarry Park, something we couldn't do last year. This will also include something that is a Methodist tradition, a potluck after the service! The service will be at 10:30 am and will include all three churches in the Parish participating. But the service is NOT limited to those from the churches. EVERYONE in Bonfield and the surrounding area are welcome to join us. I can't think of a better way for anyone who is looking for a church to “check us out” than being outdoors. Plenty of music, a message, Scripture readings and more with the service portion of the morning. We ask that you bring a lawn chair to sit in and if joining in the potluck please bring a dish to share.

On August 22nd we will have the Director of Communications Ministries for our Conference, Paul Black, speaking at each church's worship service. He will be providing more information, from a neutral perspective, on the possible denomination split that will have a Special Conference in August 2022. He will also allow time for any questions that might come from his presentation to be answered.

Looking ahead to September, I will be starting a Confirmation class for those entering 8th – 12th grade this fall. As of this writing I have at least 5 who will be in the class with possibly more to be added. The class will be on Sunday afternoons through the school year.

Each of these events are giving me optimism about things as we go forward. If anyone reading this far doesn't have a church that they call home, we have room for you in our pews! Our services are come as you are, our congregations are very friendly and will gladly welcome you as will I. We love to sing, and I try each week to share how much God loves EVERYONE! Look inside the newsletter if you have any questions or need to talk, our Parish email address and phone number are listed, as is my email and phone number.

May everyone enjoy the remainder of summer safely and thank you for reading this message as well as what is on the other pages of this newsletter.

God Bless all of you,
Pastor Keith



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

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.



Thank you everyone for bringing thank you/blank cards that were sent to Manteno Veterans Home (170) for Memorial Day. We will be meeting tentatively October 9th in Evan Upper Room at 9:00 to write some cards ready to give to veterans on Veterans Day November 11. We have enough cards, but if people want to bring cards to the churches, we will get them. If you want to do some cards in your home, give me a call and I will get some cards to you to sign. Thanks again everyone. Remember we will also be doing Christmas Cards and collecting 2022 calendars in November and December for the Veterans. Janet Boyer 815 263 9566.

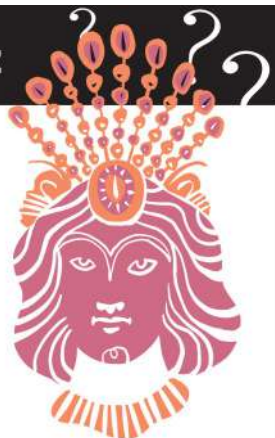
August Memory Verse

“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” - Philippians 4:13

Bible Quiz

What was the name of the queen who refused to appear before the king of Persia and his guests and, as a result, was deposed?

- A. Esther
- B. Jael
- C. Vashti
- D. Milcah



Answer: C (See Esther 1:12.)

Puzzle!

Answer each statement by circling the letter in the correct column. Then write the circled letters on the numbered lines below to complete the biblical word.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Naomi is Ruth's mother.	D	<input checked="" type="radio"/> R
2. Ruth is a Moabite.	T	P
3. Naomi wants Ruth to leave her and return to Moab.	N	L
4. Orpah is Naomi's hired hand.	H	S
5. Boaz lives in Bethlehem.	C	B
6. Boaz is a farmer.	U	V
7. Ruth makes a living begging at Bethlehem's gates.	X	E
8. Boaz instructs his field workers to leave extra grain for Ruth to glean.	E	J
9. Boaz invites Ruth to eat with the harvesters.	R	Q
10. Boaz is related to Naomi.	I	W
11. Boaz refuses to marry Ruth.	F	R
12. Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David.	O	G

R

9 7 4 6 1 11 8 5 2 10 12 3

Answer: 1.R, 2.T, 3.N, 4.S, 5.C, 6.U, 7.E, 8.E, 9.R, 10.I, 11.R, 12.O; RESURRECTION

Nutshell Philosophy

1. Be Fishers of Men.... You catch 'em, He'll Clean 'em.
2. A family altar can alter a family.
3. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
4. Don't put a question mark where God put a full stop.
5. Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.
6. Exercise daily... Walk with the Lord!
7. Forbidden fruits create many jams.
8. Give God what's right, not what's left!
9. Give satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.
10. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
11. God grades on the cross, not the curve.
12. God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts"!
13. God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
14. Having truth decay? Brush up on your Bible!
15. He who angers you, controls you!
16. He who is good at making excuses, is seldom good for anything else.
17. He who kneels before God can stand before anyone!
18. Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
19. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.
20. Never give the devil a ride! He will always want to drive!
21. Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it.
22. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
23. "Pray" is a four-letter word that you can say anywhere.
24. Prayer - Don't give God instructions - just report for duty!
25. The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.
26. This Church is "Prayer Conditioned"!
27. To be almost saved is to be totally lost.
28. WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning!
29. Watch your step carefully! Everyone else does!
30. We don't change the message, the message changes us.
31. Wisdom has two parts: 1) Having a lot to say. 2) Not saying it.
32. Worry is the darkroom in which "negatives" are developed
33. The work will wait while you look at the rainbow, but the rainbow won't wait while you do the work.





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

From Our Church Bulletin: Bonfield First UMC, Karen Batdorf, Chuck Blankenship, Pat Bland, Candy and Keith Bauer, Janet Boyer’s son Keith Bauer, Owen Buente, Carl & Kurt Boesen, Joyce Cochran, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Herb Foltz, Bob Grob, Anna Hertz, Bill Hertz, Carol Higginbotham, Marjorie Kersch, Peggy Lane, The Logsdons, Mike & Theresa Mau, Allen Messer, Betty Osenga, Chuck & Kathy Quick and Kurt Quick, Dorothy & Reuben Riegel, Kevin & Rob Reiniche, Janice Schneider, Jackie Wagner, Jodi, Richard & Ronald Wildman, and continuing prayers for those in nursing homes, assisted living, or the home bound.

Arden Courts
Mel Brinkman

Riverside Senior Living
Jackie Wagner
Mary Krieg

At Home
Pat Bland
Pearl Evans
Dorothy &
Reuben Riegel

Harvest View
Marjorie Kersch
Roscella Piper
Randy Riegel

At College
Gretchen Brinkman
Becca Coffman
Brianna Dayton
Jenna Kenning
Nickolas Kirchner
Kylie Lockwood

Manteno Veterans
Bob Grob

Heritage Woods
Vi Morse

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.



How Deep is Your Faith?

Lyrics to the Bee Gees’ 1970s hit song “How Deep Is Your Love” came to mind as I pondered the “depths” of my faith. Sometimes I prefer to stay securely in the shallow end, while other times I fearlessly launch off the diving board, ready and willing to be drenched by God’s love.

If you’ve ever tried to coax young swimmers to jump into the deep end of a pool, you may remember their excitement (and relief) after they finally take the plunge into your arms. To experience that joy in your spiritual life, evaluate your location in your own faith “pool.” Are you wading safely in the shallows or exploring the freedom of the depths? No matter where you’re at, you can jump confidently into Jesus’ outstretched arms. From the edge, hear his promises: “Jump in! I’ll catch you! I’ll keep you safe! Trust me!” —Julie Lee

JUNE 2021 ATTENDANCE

	06/06	06/13	06/20	06/27
Evangelical	26	27	25	23
First	15	17	10	16
Grand Prairie	23	21	28	18
Total	64	65	63	57



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

First Church UMW - The unit met for the last time on Thursday, July 15, 2021. Alyssa Durbin expertly presented a program entitled "The Dignity of Work." The information helped the group think about women's labor and working conditions as they explored ways to support living wage initiatives. This led to discussion regarding to cocoa production related to child labor, child slavery, and child trafficking. One way to help is to look carefully at labels and search for the phrases "fair trade" and "slave free" before purchasing items. Sadly, those in attendance then agreed to become an inactive unit as the church is closing in September. In addition, they emptied the treasury by sending donations to UMW-supported missions. President Jill Berghouse Grant, great-granddaughter of Anna Stroud, the church's first Ladies Aid Society President (September 1907), sincerely thanks all unit members past and present, congregation members and friends, and others in the parish who have helped us immeasurably through their actions as role models, by supporting and participating in our fundraisers, and by keeping us in their prayers.

Martha Circle - The Grand Prairie Martha Circle met on Wednesday July 14, 2021 at Kim Ohrt's house. There were 5 ladies in attendance. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of food and fellowship as well as attending to business. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

- * We decided to postpone our trip to Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John Indiana until September stay tuned for date and details.
- * We are going to gather with our Coffee Clutz on August 14 at 9am at Stefari Cafe in downtown Kankakee. Strictly a social time for us to gather and visit. ALL are invited.
- * We signed some cards to send out to our friends and let them know we are thinking about them.
- * We also determined that we would be doing a brunch on the 3rd Sunday of the month during January, February and March after church. More details will follow.
- * We will also be having another Crafting with Becky night. Date and details will follow soon. All are invited. Our next meeting will be on September 8 Tricia Coffman and Kim Ohrt are the hostess. Gift of God Meal will be delivered on August 11 by Tricia Coffman and Becky Cruse. God Bless

Crafting with Becky
When: Thursday August 26, 2021
Time: 6:30pm Where: TBD

Come Join us for another Crafting with Becky night. We will be making a braided wreath. The cost for supplies will be \$10. Bring a pair of scissors and your own decoration to add to the wreath once it is done. (see picture) Snacks will be provided. Bring a friend and come for the fun and fellowship. ALL are invited! Hope to see you there!



Martha Circle Meetings 2021: September 8 & December 8

Gift of God Meals: Aug. 11 Becky & Tricia, Oct. 13 Kim & Marilyn, Dec. 8 Janet & Ronda

Other Activities: August 8 - Ladies Day rescheduled: So possibly do a Prayer Book, October - Make pumpkins: Shabby Tree Pumpkins?, November - Blessing Bags

United Methodist Women of the Parish continued

Evan UMW -

Evan UMW Meetings & District/Conference Meetings 2021

*We will collect school supplies

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



Our Parish secretary Hope Raymond had a new addition to her family.

Coraline 'Cora' Pearl Raymond was born on April 15, 2021 at 9:30pm.

She was 8lbs 5oz and 21 1/4 inches long. Her older sisters, Lucy(6) and Rowena(4), were excited to have a new baby sister to love.

Daddy, Eric Raymond, was happy to welcome his 3rd healthy little girl to their little family.

AUGUST Birthdays

August 1 Matthew Diefenbach
 August 2 Samantha Weakley, Dorothy (Wood) Riegel
 August 3 Faith Powell, Cameron Aldridge,
 Sharon Lawrence, Samantha Nottke, Russ White
 August 4 Peter Dato II, Stacey (Bennett) Shimmin
 August 5 Emma Werner
 August 7 Jason Berns, Carol (Campen) Kuipers,
 Ardis (Pombert) Knight, Britton Kirk
 August 8 Mel Brinkman, Adam Messer
 August 10 Orlin Buente, Sharon (Buza) Pfeiffer
 August 13 Ronda (Grob) Wenzelman
 August 14 Linda (Buza) Rink, Benjamin Kirchner,
 Janice Cadieux
 August 15 Dennis Bushman
 August 16 Angela Van Voorst, Reid Butler,
 Jordan Mecklenberg
 August 17 Kim Jensen, Laura (Mau) Sackett,
 Robert Rice, Jr., Gracyn Cordes
 August 18 Evan Larson, Cheri (Cochran) Dayton
 August 19 Dawn St. Germaine, Stacy (Sharper) Ireland,
 Deanna Brinkman
 August 20 Kelly (Wenzelman) Turner
 August 21 Michael Rice, Christopher Wulff,
 Kyle Wenzelman
 August 22 Darlene (Riegel) Charter
 August 23 Cole Wildman, Alexa Rae Colston
 August 24 Amanda Meyer, Tyler Werner
 August 25 Nathan Lindley, Brian Kingsland,
 Barbara (Kuipers) Paetsch,
 Buffy (Hamann) Kuipers, Megan Bradford
 August 26 Mary (Carlson) Meyer, Ean Nathaniel Dittus
 August 27 John Brinkman
 August 28 Jakob Bouk, David Mickelson,
 Connor Thorsten, Stacey Alrandi
 August 30 Criss (Hoffman) Crabb
 August 31 Rachel Jensen

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

+Christian Symbol+

LION—A lion represents watchfulness and alertness. It also symbolizes Christ, the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:4-5). A winged lion is the symbol of St. Mark, whose gospel focuses on Jesus' royalty and resurrection.



Hit the sack!

Sleep is a daily reminder from God that we are not God. Once a day God sends us to bed like patients with a sickness. The sickness is a chronic tendency to think we are in control and that our work is indispensable. To cure us of this disease, God turns us into helpless sacks of sand once a day. —John Piper



It is well,
it is well

with my soul

Dear Heavenly Father


Open my eyes, Creator of the universe, that I may see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; open my ears, that I may hear what the heavens are telling me about your glory, which transcends all material bounds and yet deigns to reside with human beings.



May I ever marvel at your tender care for us, and give you thanks and praise forever. Amen.

—Prayer suggested by Psalms 8 & 19

AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 - Holy Communion	2 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	3 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	4	5 - Evan UMW at Ardis's at 1:30PM	6	7
8 	9 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	10 - Evan NOW Meeting at 6PM - Parish NOW meeting at 6:30PM	11 - Evan UMW at MMDC	12	13	14
15	16 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	17	18	19	20	21
22 - Paul Black special service	23 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	24 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM - SPPRC meeting at Evan at 6:30PM	25	26 - Printing the Newsletter	27	28
29	30 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	31 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM				



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:

“Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar.

—Bradley Miller

* * *


“The world goes on because of those who close their lips when they meet hostility from others.”

—Rebbe Nachman of Breslov

* * *

“Prayer is a moment of incarnation — God with us. God involved in the details of my life.”

—Paul E. Miller

 **Time For Church**

Grand Prairie
At 12408 W Rt.17 Bonfield, IL
8:00 am Sunday Worship Services
9:15am Sunday School
Bonfield First
At 172 Church Street Bonfield, IL
9:15 am Sunday Worship Services
10:15am Sunday School
Bonfield Evangelical
At 348 Smith St. Bonfield, IL
10:30 am Sunday Worship Service
No Sunday School until September

Fellowship Breakfast
Come enjoy a great breakfast and fellowship with other Parish members and community friends at IHOP in Bourbonnais on the first Tuesday of the month: August 3, September 7, & October 5 at 8:30am. The group orders from the regular menu.

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



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Website - www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

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Join us for Worship in the Park on
Sunday, August 8 at 10:30am.

Worship and fellowship will take place at the pavilion in the park by the Bonfield quarry. This will be a combined worship service; there will be no regular morning services that Sunday. The service will include praise and worship through scripture, music, and a message given by Pastor Keith. Please bring your own lawn chair. The service will be followed by a potluck and fellowship with friends and family. Chicken, beverages, and table service will be provided.

Please bring a dish to share. We will need help getting things organized and setting up on Saturday, August 7 at 10:00am and also on Sunday, August 8 at 9:00am. If you are available and able to help at either of these times, we would appreciate the extra help. Invite your friends and plan on joining us as we worship surrounded by the beauty of nature. We hope to see you all there!

the **TREES** of the forest
shall **SING** for joy.
Psalm 96:12