

# 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



Sometimes the plans we make can be changed in a moment's notice. Last month in this article I talked about the Advent series I was going to preach, along with other items related to the Advent season. Early in the afternoon on November 23rd, those plans were quickly changed.

That morning I woke up feeling much like I had been for two weeks or so prior. Over that stretch of time, I had been noticing that the weight loss I achieved through most of 2021 going in the wrong direction. And this gain was affecting my ability to breath, especially when walking for any distance. Also, I could hear fluid moving around in my body, something I felt in the beginning of last year prior to starting my change in what I was eating. November 23rd, I saw a gain of 4 lbs. in 48 hours, and in my head I knew something needed to be done. So, I went to get answers on how to get rid of the excess fluid.

What happened as the day went on was finding out the reason for the issues I was having were triggered by a very low heart rate. So around 5 pm that day I found myself lying on an operating table as my new (to me) cardiologist was preparing to install a pacemaker in my upper chest. The plans I had for Advent were changed instantly. Instead of researching material I had a flurry of calls made, some by me and some by my best friend, to have the first Sunday of Advent covered for me. Two weeks of recovery suddenly were in front of me.

First, I have to thank God for pushing me to get things checked out. I've been told, after the most recent follow up with my cardiologist, that had I not done something there is a good chance I would not be here today. Next I have to thank the team of professionals that took care of me while in the hospital and are still keeping an eye on me. But I would be remiss if I didn't thank EVERYONE in this Parish who prayed for me, sent me get well cards, filled in for me on two Sundays and so much more. Thanks to Ken Miller for sharing the message on November 28th and Dianne Wells for sharing the message on December 5th .

I shared on December 12th how I am Blessed to be given a second chance by God after this health scare. As this is the article for the first month of 2022, I would like to give everyone reading this something to think about. Instead of thinking up resolutions that eventually are broken, how about this year taking a few moments to say a simple prayer to God. Ask Him to help give you a second chance if you need one. It doesn't need to be as drastic as what I went through in November. It can be something very simple. Think about making the beginning of this year the reason to come back to church if you have strayed away. Think about making this year the reason you take time out to reach out to friends and family you haven't seen or talked to for far to long and miss. Think about making this year the time you remember daily that we are only guaranteed one day at a time here on Earth and to do your best to make each day count! That is my plan for this year, will you join me?

In His Humble Service,  
Pastor Keith

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**PAYING TRIBUTE TO  
OUR VETERANS**

THANK YOU everyone for the Christmas cards and calendars for Manteno Veterans Home. Again they received 170 of each (maybe a few more). I am asking people to come to Bonfield Evan church on Saturday morning, January 15 at 9:00am to do cards

for Valentines Day. Step up you crafty people and maybe we could make a heart with construction paper for each. Remember you do not have to go to church, you just want to give some joy to a veteran. So come and help us. If you would like to buy some valentine cards, we will take those also, Please bring to church or parish office, Office hours are 9am to 1pm, Tuesday and Thursday. 815 802 9805 office or Janet Boyer 815 263 9566

### January Memory Verse

“Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth” (Psalm 57:5)

Facing the future: Don't worry about the future. Worry quenches the work of grace within you. The future belongs to God. He is in charge of all things. Never second-guess him. —François Fenelon

### **Bible Quiz**

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. What was his second wife's name?

- A. Miriam
- B. Keturah
- C. Bathsheba
- D. Tamar

Answer: B (See Genesis 25:1.)

**YOUR GIVING  
MATTERS!**

Offerings can be mailed to:  
PO Box 66 Bonfield, IL  
60913 and they will be  
given to the church

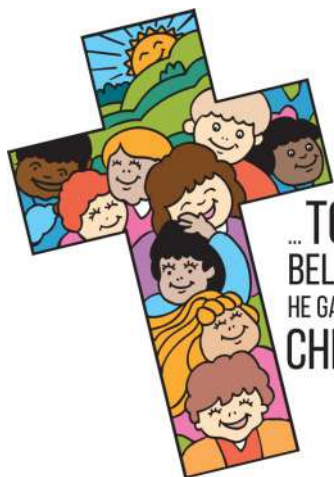
designated on the envelope or offerings can be dropped off at the Parish office during business hours. We appreciate your gifts and tithes during this unprecedented time.

# Puzzle!

Match each clue with the correct biblical dreamer.  
Use the Scripture hints if needed.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. This person's brothers were irritated to hear of certain dreams.          | A. Pharaoh<br>(Genesis 41:17-21)            |
| 2. Angels went up and down a ladder in this person's dreams.                 | B. The Magi<br>(Matthew 2:12)               |
| 3. This person dreamed about skinny cows eating fat cows.                    | C. Jacob<br>(Genesis 28:12)                 |
| 4. After an unpleasant dream, this person warned a loved one to avoid Jesus. | D. Pharaoh's cupbearer<br>(Genesis 40:9-11) |
| 5. This person saw a statue whose feet were smashed by a stone.              | E. NT Joseph<br>(Matthew 2:13)              |
| 6. A dream warned this person (plus family) to flee to Egypt.                | F. OT Joseph<br>(Genesis 37:9, 11)          |
| 7. This person saw a vine produce grapes, with juice squeezed into a cup.    | G. Pilate's wife<br>(Matthew 27:19)         |
| 8. A dream warned about Herod's evil plan.                                   | H. Daniel (Daniel 2:31-35)                  |

Answers: 1. F, 2. C, 3. A, 4. G, 5. H, 6. E, 7. D, 8. B



... **TO THOSE WHO  
BELIEVED IN HIS NAME,  
HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME  
CHILDREN OF GOD.**

JOHN 1:12, NIV



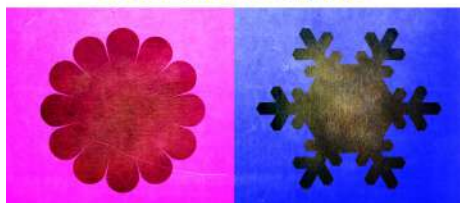
**Start the  
New Year  
with a  
Prayer**

May we welcome your lavish love. In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead. May the Lord make my New Year a happy one... Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes.



**There is a time  
for everything,  
and a season for  
every activity  
under heaven.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1, NIV



Thank you to everyone who supported Phyllis myself and our family during her illness and since her passing. Your prayers and expressions of sympathy during this difficult time. Thank you for sharing in the celebration of Phyllis' life and all the memories and stories shared.

~ Edwin Riegel & Family



## A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

*Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.*

Do not seek re\_\_\_\_\_ or bear a grudge against anyone among your \_\_\_\_\_ple, but love your neig\_\_\_\_\_ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do right; seek jus\_\_\_\_\_. Defend the \_\_\_\_\_pressed. Take up the cause of the \_\_\_\_\_less; plead the \_\_\_\_\_e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown you, O mortal, what is go\_\_\_\_. ...

To act **justly** and to love me\_\_\_\_\_ and to walk \_\_\_\_\_ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

So in \_\_\_\_\_ything, do to ot \_\_\_\_\_ what you would \_\_\_\_\_ve them d \_\_\_\_\_ to you, for this s \_\_\_\_\_ms up the \_\_\_\_\_w and the Proph \_\_\_\_\_s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

father_____
pe_____
_____venge
_____od
_____rcy
op_____
_____hbor
humb_____
cas_____
_____tice

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets





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

**From Our Church Bulletin:** The Phyllis Riegel Family, Dora (Kim Metzka's sister-in-law), Candy Bauer, Rollie Bauer, Pat Bland, Chuck Blankenship, Carol & Chuck Brinkman, Jay Buente, Owen Buente, Carl & Kurt Boesen, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Donna Diefenbach, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Herb Foltz, Bob Grob, Anna Hertz, Bill Hertz, Carol Higginbotham, Marjorie Kersch, Peggy Lane, The Logsdons, Mike & Theresa Mau, Walter Marcotte, Maggie Maxwell (Bob Nichol's sister), Allen Messer, Betty Osenga, Myron Panazzo, Chuck & Kathy Quick and Kurt Quick, Dorothy & Reuben Riegel, Kevin & Rob Reiniche, Janice Schneider, Stan Stone, 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

Randy Riegel

**Manteno Veterans**

Bob Grob

**At College**

Gretchen Brinkman

Becca Coffman

Brianna Dayton

Jenna Kenning

Nickolas Kirchner

Kylie & Kamden Lockwood

**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.

**A prayer for Epiphany:**

O Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly King, thank you for bringing both Jews and Gentiles to hear your voice.

Enable us to follow your holy Word, as those from the East followed the leading

of a star. Give us grace to confess your holy name.

Rule us by your Spirit, so that the joys of your birth may increase in us. Hear our prayers and cries.

Accept our offerings, which you yourself have given us: the gold of our faith, the incense of our prayers, and the myrrh of our contrite hearts.

Deliver us from the destructive ways of sin, and lead us in the ways of peace and in the paths of righteousness. Grant us all, when this life is done, a participation in the joys of the Year of Jubilee in heaven, where we shall praise and serve you and the Father who live and reign in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



**NOVEMBER 2021 ATTENDANCE**

	11/07	11/14	11/21	11/28
Evangelical	28	37	33	31
Grand Prairie	21	22	23	24
Total	49	59	56	55



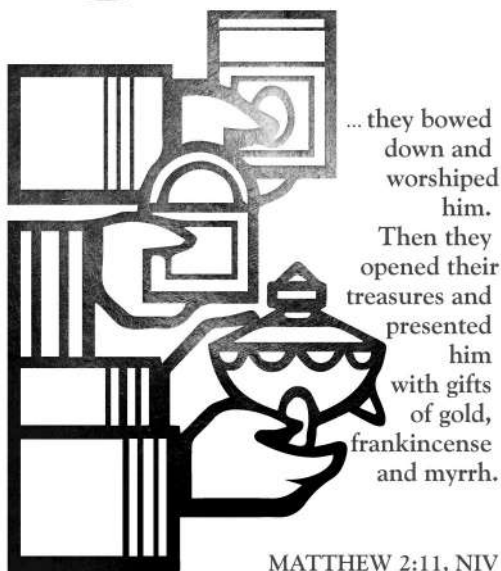
## United Methodist Women of the Parish

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.

### Martha Circle -

**Martha Circle Meetings:**  
January 12

## EPIPHANY



### So help me God

No matter how firm our resolutions, we can't make ourselves better people *by ourselves*. God empowers our good works when we rely on his aid.

H.P. Nichols, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century poet, wrote:

If I resolve, with the new year, a better child to be,  
'Twill do no good at all, I fear, but rather harm to me,  
Unless I try, with every day, no angry word to speak;  
Unless, each morn, to God I pray to keep me mild and meek.  
Then let me try with all my might, and may God help me too,  
Always to choose the way that's right, whatever act I do.

### What's in a name?

As the U.S. evacuated thousands from Afghanistan in August 2021, an Afghan woman gave birth on a plane. She named her daughter Reach — the name of the aircraft that brought her family to safety.

Many people name their children after loved ones or special events; a child born on Christmas might be called Noel or Holly. In Bible times, too, names often had meanings: Eve likely means "mother of all living"; Abraham, "father of many"; Isaac, "laughter." Moses is a play on words with the Hebrew for "draw out" because Pharaoh's daughter drew him from the Nile.

Of course, the most important biblical name is Jesus, which means "The Lord saves." As the angel told Joseph, "[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21, ESV). The Christian church traditionally celebrates Name of Jesus on January 1. But every day, as we pray in Jesus' name, we remember that what's in *this* name is the salvation God offers to all.





Thank you to all those who attended and organized Grand Prairie and Evan's Christmas programs, they were a wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth.



*"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."*  
— Ralph Waldo Emerson



January 1 Kevan Wilson, Tina (Sikes) Pfeiffer,  
Mary (Nicklas) Charter

January 2 Carla Taylor, Dale Pfeiffer, Lindsey Rice

January 3 Julia (Morrow) Fecke, Ed Diefenbach,  
Kim Ohrt

January 4 Wesley Pastorel, Troy Wilson,  
Lesley (Chouinard) Dato

January 5 Ronald Wildman

January 6 Jacob Grob, Dan Riegel

January 7 Jacob Mau, Alan Rieke, Cindy Melhorn

January 8 Paul Larkins, Michael Weber

January 9 Rachael (Frieze) Tracy

January 11 Jim Diefenbach, Chad Sullivan,  
Matthew Goodman

January 12 Elizabeth Meyer, Scott Bland,  
Stacey Bland, Michelle (Wiling) Hertz

January 13 Cade Turro, Anthony Hawks

January 14 Wayne Osenga, Terry Goodman,  
Jeanne (Clifford) Dau, Bob Scholl,  
Jenny Jensen

January 15 Stacey Alrandi, Tommy Lee Davis

January 16 Shawna (Davenport) Havener,  
Hope Raymond

January 17 Robert Buente, Valerie Evans,  
David Dayton, Marla (Pilotte) Orwig

January 18 Lori Brinkman

January 19 Jeremy Riegel, Kathy Dahn,  
Morgan Norton, Adam Weber

January 20 Gavin Milk, Scott Peters,  
Wayne Meyer, Linda Wagner

January 21 Amy (Jackson) Meyer

January 22 Alison Adams, Cyndee Meyer,  
Julia (Williamson-Goodman) Obenhauer

January 23 Jason Dahn, Rick Hoffman

January 24 Grant Wenzelman, Dana Riegel

January 25 Abigail (Pfeiffer) Allen

January 26 Ian Charter, Matt Ward,  
Judy (Pfeiffer) Bushman,  
Marie (Cooper) Brunner,  
Linda (Riegel) Lindley,  
Melissa (Orwig) Denoyer

January 27 Gerrick Weedon,

Kamden Lockwood

January 28 Andrew Pfeiffer, David Sackett

January 29 Dustin Kingsland,  
Casaundra (Casi) (Dato) Tapp,  
Timothy Messer

January 30 Andrew Wulff

January 31 McKenzie Riley Paetsch,  
Alexis Graf, Gerald Frank Fecke, Jr.,  
Jason Kirk, Randy Riegel

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

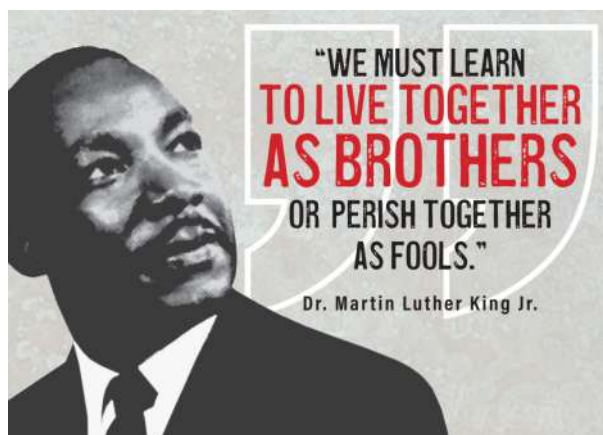


Join us for a Youth Group  
meeting, Youth Group meets  
every second Sunday of the  
month at Evan at 6:30pm.

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.



# JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 - Holy Communion	3 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	4 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	5 - Twelfth Night	6 - Epiphany of the Lord	7	1 - New Years Day ----- 8
9 - Epiphany Sunday - Baptism of the Lord - Youth Group	10 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	11 - Ad Board at Evan at 7PM	12 - Martha Circle	13	14	15 - Veterans Cards Event at Evan at 9AM
16 - Human Relations Sunday - Confirmation Class at Evan at 1PM	17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	18 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	19	20 - Printing the Newsletter	21	22
23 - Ecumenical Sunday	24 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	25 Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	26	27	28	29
30	31 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM					





Join us for Sunday services  
online at 11am on our  
Facebook page,  
[www.facebook.com/  
bonfieldgpparish](http://www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish)



We are a Parish of  
2 United Methodist churches:  
Bonfield Evangelical (Evan) 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:

"There are far, far better things ahead than any  
we leave behind." —C.S. Lewis

\* \* \*

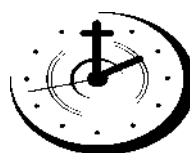
"One resolution I have made, and try always to  
keep, is this: to rise above the little things."

—John Burroughs

\* \* \*

"Deep roots are not reached by the frost."

—J.R.R. Tolkien



## Time For Church

### Grand Prairie

At 12408 W Rt.17 Bonfield, IL  
8:30 am Sunday Worship Services  
9:45am Sunday School

### Bonfield Evangelical

At 348 Smith St. Bonfield, IL  
10:00 am Sunday Worship Service  
8:30am Sunday School

### 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:  
January 4 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](http://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](mailto:bonfieldgp@gmail.com).

#### Pastor Keith Blankenship's Information

Email: [imredeemed59@gmail.com](mailto:imredeemed59@gmail.com)

Cell: (309) 830-0875

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11AM - 3PM  
& evenings upon request

Mailing Address: 225 Country Lane  
Bonfield, IL 60913



Facebook -  
[www.facebook.com/  
bonfieldgpparish](http://www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish)  
Website - [www.  
bonfieldgrandprairie.org](http://www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org)

#### 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](mailto:bonfieldgp@gmail.com)

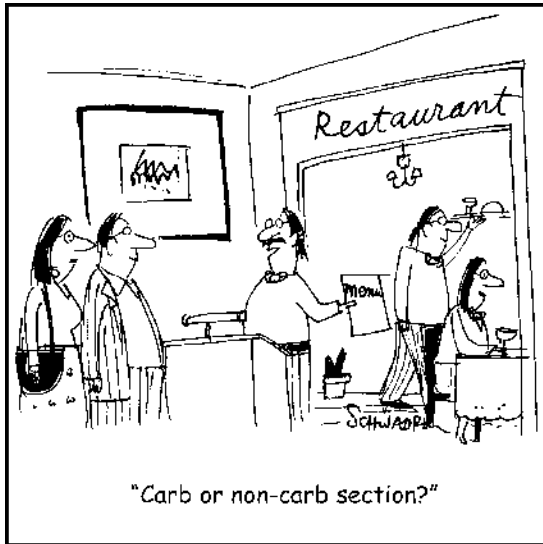
Website: [www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org](http://www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org)

Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9AM - 1:30PM

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

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**Bonfield, IL 60913**



### Biblical Resolutions

- H**old firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
  - A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
  - P**ray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
  - P**etition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
  - Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
  
  - N**otice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)
  - E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
  - W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)
  
  - Y**earn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
  - E**xercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
  - A**im for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
  - R**edeem the time, living wisely (Ephesians 5:15-16)
- Gus Nichols (adapted)