

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



We have celebrated the arrival of Jesus at a simple stable in a small town just over 2,000 years ago. We have covered the story of Jesus at 12 years old answering questions from teachers that normally answer questions of those who were entering into adulthood. I also shared the story recently of the first miracle Jesus performed at a wedding of a peasant couple, in an even smaller town than where he was born.

Why do I share this with you? This is the time of year when the Lectionary will help guide us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and what these stories mean to us today. Coming up this month I am planning on stepping away from that on a couple of Sundays. One Sunday will be giving an update on how things have changed for me in the past 12 months. Another Sunday will be spent talking about something I share very often in my messages during Worship services. Something that really isn't hard to guess.

Looking ahead, we are getting very close to the beginning of the Lenten season. On March 2nd I will again this year provide an opportunity for anyone who wants to come to the north entrance at Evan and self-impose ashes on their forehead to commemorate Ash Wednesday. As I write this, no decision has been made regarding the Wednesday evening services that have been previously held for County West churches.

Starting Monday March 7th, I will be leading a Lenten Bible study. It is the same study I started in 2020 before we had to stop when the pandemic was first declared. It is a wonderful Max Lucado study that had a good response previously. I will be offering two opportunities for this study, each Monday afternoon from 1:30-2:30 pm or Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30. More information will be provided inside the newsletter.

If this isn't enough, confirmation classes are continuing for seven teens. The classes take place two Sunday afternoons each month and will lead to a confirmation service in May. I will share more information regarding that service in the coming months, but I ask that everyone please pray for the students who are in the class as they work towards completion.

A lot of things happening in the coming months that have me excited. I am so glad that this month we will reach one full year since we resumed in-person services, but we are closing in on two years of online services as well. We've had a lot of things that have happened since I first started serving this Parish and hopefully we will have more to share with everyone in the coming months. As always, I give thanks to God for sending me to serve this Parish and I feel beyond Blessed every day I am here!

Blessings to everyone,
Pastor Keith



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Biblical love notes

The following compliments from the Song of Solomon may not go over well on Valentine's Day: "I compare you, my love, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots" (1:9). "Your hair is like a flock of goats, moving down the slopes of Gilead" (4:1). "Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing" (4:2). "Your neck is like the tower of David, built in courses" (4:4). "[Your] eyes are like doves beside springs of water, bathed in milk, fitly set" (5:12). "Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat" (7:2).

On the other hand, how about this one: "You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you" (4:7).



February Memory Verse

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

~ 2 Timothy 1:7



Bible Quiz

In the book of Revelation, who or what is "prepared as a bride, adorned for her husband"?

- A. The church
- B. The Spirit
- C. Mary Magdalene
- D. The new Jerusalem



Answer: D (See Revelation 21:2.)

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!

Answer each statement (based on Matthew's gospel)
True or False by circling the letter in the correct column.
Then write each circled letter on the appropriately
numbered line below to discover why Jesus died.

- | | TRUE | FALSE |
|---|------|------------|
| 1. Jesus healed Peter's wife
(<i>Matthew 8:14</i>). | E | (N) |
| 2. Jesus fed the 5,000 with two
loaves and five fish (<i>14:17</i>). | R | A |
| 3. At Jesus' Transfiguration, Peter
saw Jonah and Elijah (<i>17:3</i>). | M | S |
| 4. The rich, young ruler decided
not to follow Jesus (<i>19:22</i>). | T | C |
| 5. Jesus said the temple had
become a "den of robbers" (<i>21:13</i>). | I | G |
| 6. Famines and earthquakes are
signs of the end of the age (<i>24:7</i>). | V | D |
| 7. Jesus tells a story of the six wise
and six foolish maidens (<i>25:1-13</i>). | F | A |
| 8. Judas betrayed Jesus with a secret
handshake (<i>26:48</i>). | P | L |
| 9. The Roman governor Pontius
interrogated Jesus (<i>27:11-14</i>). | W | O |

N

3 2 8 6 7 4 5 9 1

Answer: N, A, S, T, I, V, A, L, O; salvation



Pastor Keith will be leading a Lenten Bible study beginning on Monday, March 7th for six weeks. There will be a video to watch

each week from Max Lucado along with questions regarding the video. All you need to bring is paper and something to write with to take notes. The Bible study will be offered from 1:30-2:30 pm or 6:30-7:30 pm each Monday. **Please** let the church office know which time you will be attending so that Pastor Keith can plan accordingly. Thank you.



Thank you everyone for the calls, cards and prayers while I was in the hospital and Miller. I am home now and enjoyed Christmas with my family. ~ Pearl Evans



Thank you for remembering me with the poinsettia plant. I appreciate it. Thanks for all of the cards that have been sent to Reuben and me. We enjoy hearing from you.

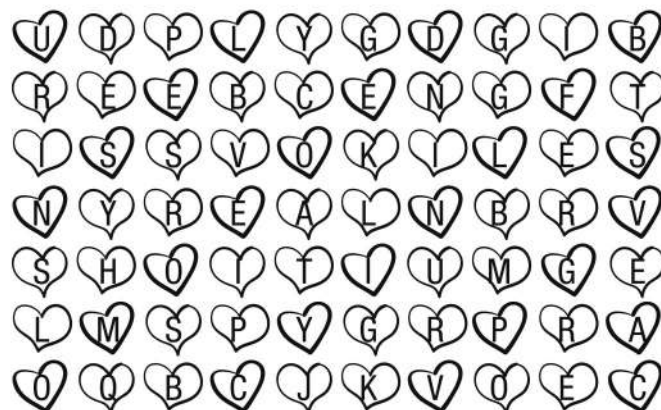
~ Dorothy Riegel



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other D , because love
 over a multitude of . Offer
 to one another without
 . Each of you should use whatever
 you have received to others, as faithful
 stewards of God's in its various forms.
 1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV



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

From Our Church Bulletin: Dora (Kim Metzka's sister-in-law), Candy Bauer, Rollie Bauer, Pat Bland, Chuck Blankenship, Carol & Chuck Brinkman, Jay Buente, Orlin & 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, Chuck & Kathy Quick and Kurt Quick, 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

At Home

Pat Bland
Pearl Evans

At College

Gretchen Brinkman
Becca Coffman
Brianna Dayton
Jenna Kenning
Nickolas Kirchner
Kylie & Kamden Lockwood

Riverside Senior Living

Jackie Wagner
Mary Krieg

Harvest View

Marjorie Kersch
Randy Riegel

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.

No regrets!

If you've ever regretted a big purchase and wondered if you could return it, you're familiar with the nagging feeling of buyer's remorse. Thankfully, our Redeemer never experienced that. As a church sign proclaims, "When Jesus bought you, he never had buyer's remorse. And he never will!" To Jesus, the payment of suffering and death was well worth the payoff. "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2, NIV).



+Christian Symbol+

VALLEY

Valleys symbolize life's dark or low points; for example, Psalm 23:4 refers to "the valley of the shadow of death" (ESV). But valleys also symbolize people who find God's favor because they're lowly and meek. As a result, valleys can be places of blessing. God lifts his people out of despair and rewards their faithfulness. He also promises to "level" conditions by raising up valleys and bringing down mountains (see Isaiah 40:4).

DECEMBER 2021 ATTENDANCE

	12/05	12/12	12/19	12/26
Evangelical	31	40	66	26
Grand Prairie	23	20	20	16
Total	54	60	86	42



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.

Sunshine Circle - Sunshine Circle met at Jan Green's home on December 16th with the officers co-hosting. This year for our Christmas mission, we supported Toys for Tots and Harbor House. We purchased 4 poinsettias and 2 were given to shut ins. We are giving \$150 to the Salvation Army to help with shelters for weekends. There will be an election of officers in February. Secret pals will be drawn also in February.

The next meeting will be held in the Upper Room on February 17th with Donna Diefenbach hosting.

Sunshine Circle Meetings: February 17 at Evan

Faith's role in love - In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, ESV). But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. "I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more." That "more," she explains, involves these paradoxes: "We love with all our heart, even when it's

broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand."

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: "When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart."



Hope-filled hearts - When Bowen Hammitt was born with essentially half a heart, the odds were stacked against him. But after three surgeries and numerous setbacks, Bowen is now an active 11-year-old who raises awareness about congenital heart disease. He's also a budding Christian musician, following in the footsteps of his dad, Matt (formerly with Sanctus Real). The Hammitts use Bowen's story to offer hope amid adversity — "a message the world really needs right now." The documentary *Bowen's Heart* features this tagline: "Is it worth giving your heart to something that can break it?" Absolutely, say his loved ones, who describe Bowen and his life as incredible blessings from God.

For Matt Hammitt, Proverbs 13:12 is now a favorite Bible verse. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick," it reads, "but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life" (NIV).

Beyond candy hearts and roses- The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”



Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine’s Day is as good a reminder as any.



Biblical love notes—The following compliments from the Song of Solomon may not go over well on Valentine’s Day: “I compare you, my love, to a mare among Pharaoh’s chariots” (1:9). “Your hair is like a flock of goats, moving down the slopes of Gilead” (4:1). “Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing” (4:2). “Your neck is like the tower of David, built in courses” (4:4). “[Your] eyes are like doves

beside springs of water, bathed in milk, fitly set” (5:12). “Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat” (7:2).

On the other hand, how about this one: “You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you” (4:7).

Honor thy teachers- When President Eisenhower invited James Michener to a White House dinner, the bestselling author replied: “Dear Mr. President, I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers.” Instead of taking offense, Eisenhower answered: “In his lifetime, a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents. But a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely.”



Fine teachers are indeed worth cherishing, whether they hold classes in churches or public schools, on Sundays or on weekdays. Let us honor and appreciate all teachers, all year long. Thank you for preparing lessons with care, for going above and beyond to meet each student’s needs, and for sparking curiosity about God and everything he created. You’re a blessing!



The gift of animals—When God made the animals and gave them to the first human being in the Garden of Eden, though they weren’t *precisely* the companion Adam needed, not all was lost. According to Genesis 2, God gave Adam the privilege of naming them all, and when you name something or someone, you bond with that being in a special way. Ever since creation, humans and animals have been connected — often for good purposes, though sometimes not; as the saying goes, “It’s complicated.”

But on the positive side, Trisha McCagh, a renowned animal communicator, writes: “Animals are the bridge between us and the beauty of all that is natural. They show us what’s missing in our lives, and how to love ourselves more completely and unconditionally. They connect us back to who we are and to the purpose of why we’re here.”

I would say animals also show us how to love other people, nonhuman beings and the earth more completely and unconditionally. And they call our attention to God’s creativity. Praise God for the gift of the vast variety of animals with whom we share this planet! — Heidi Hyland Mann



February 1 Mark Osenga, Nicole Swaite,
Elizabeth Buente Shannon

February 2 Brianna Dayton, Robyn Howard,
Leslie Diefenbach, Lindsay VanVoorst

February 3 Haley Ireland, Caitlyn Diefenbach

February 4 Rev. Andrew Noxon, Lauren Meyer

February 5 Lara Evans

February 6 Alice (Bradley) Lambert

February 7 Brian Heath, Todd Hertz,
Drew Emmerson Wenzelman,
Alyssa (VanVoorst-Miller) Durbin

February 8 Jonathan Wood, Gina (Bolatto) Phillips,
David Hansen, Marcia (Meyer) Svenkson,
Ronda (Foltz) Davis,
Alex Charles Higginbotham

February 9 Dennis Duchene, Lucas Wood,
Esther (Walter) Marcotte, Dennis Schwark

February 10 Tyler St. Germaine, Brad Williamson,
Catherine Schwark, Raleigh Turro

February 12 Donna Voigt, Jeffrey Hertz,
Kaleena Vaughn

February 13 Ronald Cordes, Linda (Rieke) Willibey,
Christopher Sikes, Carolyn Brinkman,
Dayle Seitz

February 14 Brandon Bauer, Joy Fecke-Ruckman,
Chelsea Kingsland, Charles Brinkman

February 15 Bruce Wilson

February 16 Sarah Rice

February 17 Logan Meyer, Joseph Sikes,
Michaela Sikes, Diane Boyer,
Ruth (Buente) Wheeler, Carolyn Schwark

February 18 Lauren Berghouse, Richard Wildman

February 19 Heidi Nottke Williams,
Jennine (Tooper) Wulff, Brandon Brinkman,
Andrew Osenga

February 20 Samuel Wilson, Matthew Wilson,
Mark Schwark, Cheyenne Overacker,
Oliver Miller

February 21 Noah Sackett, Allen Orwig

February 23 Bartlett (Bart) Durbin, Alan Krieg,
Debby (Mau) Bitner, Josh Wenzelman

February 24 Elliott Svenkson,
Sandi (Grumish) Schultz, Amber Riegel,
Trent Wilking

February 25 Milton Brunner,
Karen (Rice) Adams, Kay Ellen Meyer,
Connor Overacker

February 26 Rachel Heath, Adam Riegel
Diane (Prater) Kuipers,
Anita (Jensen) Wendling

February 27 Rebecca Coffman

February 28 Keith Bauer, Jill (Berghouse) Grant

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.

FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	2 	3	4	5
6 - Holy Communion - Confirmation Class at Evan at 1PM	7 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	8 - Evan NOW at 6pm - Parish NOW at 6:30pm	9 - Martha Circle	10	11	12
13 - Youth Group	14 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM 	15 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	16	17 - Printing the Newsletter	18	19
20 - Confirmation Class at Evan at 1PM	21  - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	22 Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	23	24	25	26
27 	28 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM					

Worship
with us
from
HOME

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



Reflection:

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?” —John Wesley

“Light trumps darkness, every time. You stick a candle into the dark, but you can’t stick the dark into the light.” —Jodi Picoult

“Always be kinder than you feel.”—Unknown

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:
February 1 at 8:30am. The group orders from the regular menu.

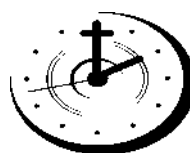
If you would like to see the newsletter in color then check out our website at www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org and click on the newsletter tab at the top. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please send an email to bonfieldgp@gmail.com.



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



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.



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



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

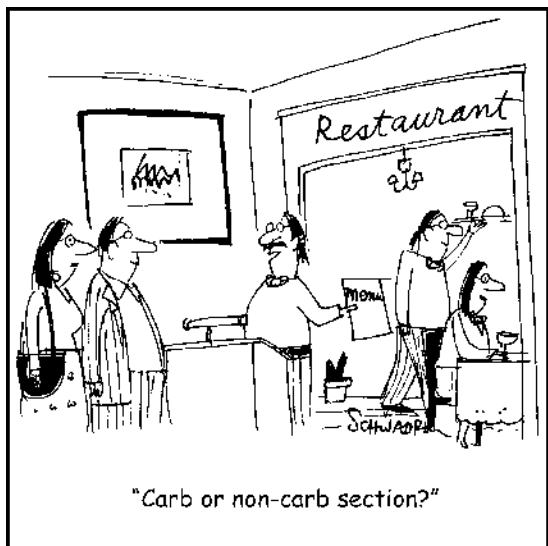
Email: bonfieldgp@gmail.com

Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

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

Return Service Requested

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Bonfield, IL 60913



February 6, March 6, & April 3
8 - 11:30 a.m.

Adults \$10.00 and Child \$7.00

At the Salina Fire Station
144 S. East Ave. Bonfield,
(815) 935-1411 if any questions

Menu items include - pancakes, sausage patties, eggs, biscuits and gravy, french toast, bacon, milk, orange juice and coffee.

