

# 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



Is it just me, or is this year moving very quickly? This newsletter will get us to ¼ of the newsletters for 2022.

Before I look ahead, let's remember how things were two years ago this month. News had already told us about a virus that was in the US, but it was March 2020 when, among many other places, our churches had to stop in-person services due to the unknown. A lot of people stayed home; roadways were very quiet (I remember driving to the Loop with no traffic stoppages at all).

At the time I am writing this, I can share with you that we are taking another step to whatever normal can be as the County West Wednesday Lenten services will resume this month! We are trying to get the complete information on which church is having a service on what date and who is providing the message. Look inside the newsletter to see if we have the information.

I can tell you that there will be an Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd, 7pm at Reddick UMC. In addition to this service, I will have ashes available inside the north entrance of Evan (just like last year) for anyone who will not be attending the worship service that night. This will be available from 1-5pm on March 2nd and will provide instructions along with ashes to self-impose in containers.

A Lenten Bible study will begin on Monday March 7th for six weeks. Last month I asked anyone planning on attending to let me know if you would be there from 1:30 – 2:30 pm or 6:30 – 7:30 pm for planning purposes. As of this writing nobody has contacted me about this.

Looking ahead, in the April newsletter I will provide more information regarding Holy Week services. This year Evan will be hosting these services. Looking further ahead, I will be providing information on services that will be held in May for the teens who have been in Confirmation classes since September. As you see, things are getting busy in the Parish! Finally, look inside for a special message, page 6.

I am excited for plans that are coming together for this Parish as we hopefully soon can look at the Pandemic in a different light as God moves each one of us forward. Please take the time during this year's Lenten season to reflect on the past as well as renewing your faith in the One who gave the ultimate sacrifice for each one of us.

Blessings, Pastor Keith

**Self-Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, March 2 at Evan  
in the North lobby at 1-5pm.**



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Season 2 of The Chosen starting April 19 at Evan at 1:00 pm. All are welcomed to attend. People need to know, come and see.

**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.



Don't be late to church on Sunday, March 13.

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

### March Memory Verse

But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love. ~ Psalm 33:18



### **Bible Quiz**



All four Gospels tell of a woman anointing Jesus. Details vary; clearly, she isn't the same person in all accounts. In John, who is she?

- A. Jesus' mother, Mary
- B. Mary Magdalene
- C. Mary of Bethany (sister of Martha and Lazarus)
- D. None of the above



Answer: C (See Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-39; John 12:1-8.)

# Puzzle!

Complete the Scripture verses (NIV, unless marked) using letters found in the words



See! The winter is \_ \_ \_ \_ ; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

"Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it \_ \_ \_ \_ , it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you." (Luke 11:36)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the \_ \_ \_ \_ , which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them ... ? (Psalm 8:3-4)

We all, like sheep, have gone \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and members of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

Answer: past, dark, stars, astray, saints



**A prayer for Lent:**

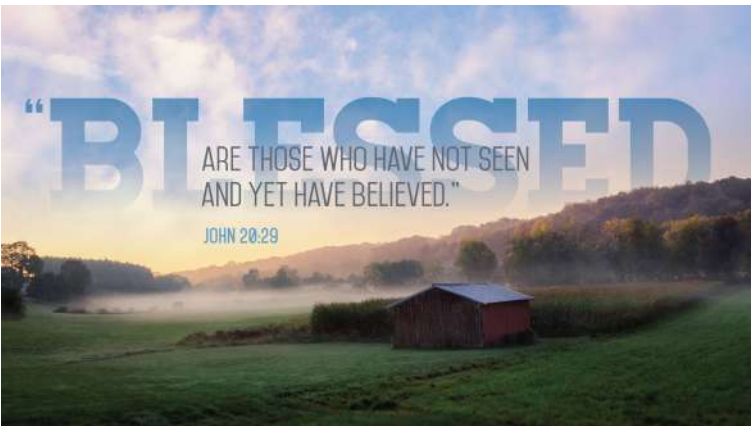
This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in

ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads. Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."

**An ancient prayer**

Lord Jesus, think on me  
and purge away my sin.  
From earthborn passions set me free  
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that when the flood is past,  
I may th' eternal brightness see  
and share your joy at last.



## A wonderful washing

David's prayer of repentance reveals a desire to be cleansed of his sin.

*Directions: Unscramble the words on the left. Then match them with the correct phrases from Psalm 51 (NIV) on the right.*

ETRCAE _ _ _ _ _	_____ out my transgressions (v. 1)
HSAW _ _ _ _	_____ away all my iniquity (v. 2)
RSEEROT _ _ _ _ _	_____ me with hyssop, and I will be clean (v. 7)
WNERE _ _ _ _ _	_____ me, and I will be whiter than snow (v. 7)
TLBO _ _ _ _	_____ your face from my sins (v. 9)
DIHE _ _ _ _	_____ out all my iniquity (v. 9)
NATRG _ _ _ _ _	_____ in me a pure heart (v. 10)
LNSECAE _ _ _ _ _	_____ a steadfast spirit within me (v. 10)
LBTO _ _ _ _	_____ to me the joy of your salvation (v. 12)
WHSa _ _ _ _	_____ me a willing spirit, to sustain me (v. 12)

Answer: blot, wash, cleanse, wash, hide, blot, create, renew, restore, grant



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

**From Our Church Bulletin:** The Cathy Quick Family, Pastor Goodin, Dora (Kim Metzka's sister-in-law), Candy Bauer, Rollie Bauer, Pat Bland, Chuck Brinkman, Jay Buente, Orlin Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Herb Foltz, Bob Grob, Carol Higginbotham, Marjorie Kersch, Peggy Lane, Mike & Theresa Mau, Walter Marcotte, Maggie Maxwell (Bob Nichols' sister), Allen Messer, Bob Nichols, Chuck & Kurt Quick, Dorothy & Reuben Riegel, Stan Stone, Jackie Wagner, Jodi, Richard & Ronald Wildman.



Beginning on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> for six weeks at 1:30-2:30 pm or 6:30-7:30 pm each Monday

At Bonfield Evangelical UMC

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. **Please** let the church office know which time you will be attending so that Pastor Keith can plan accordingly.



**Arden Courts**  
Mel Brinkman

**Riverside Senior Living**  
Mary Krieg

**At Home**  
Pat Bland  
Pearl Evans

**Harvest View**  
Marjorie Kersch  
Randy Riegel

**At College**  
Gretchen Brinkman  
Becca Coffman  
Brianna Dayton  
Jenna Kenning  
Nickolas Kirchner  
Kylie & Kamden 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.



+Christian Symbol+

### Forty

In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks significance. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. The Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

### JANUARY 2022 ATTENDANCE

	1/02	1/09	1/16	1/23	1/30
Evangelical	17	28	28	27	26
Grand Prairie	13	14	24	20	26
Total	30	42	52	47	52



## 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.

### Evan UMW -

#### Evan UMW Meetings

February : No Meetings

March: 3- At Evangelical Methodist Church at 1:30pm  
10 - Executive Meeting  
17 - Personal Growth Herscher UMC

April: 7 - at Evan at 1:30pm  
14 - Executive Meeting  
30 - Spring Gathering at Dwight UMC

May: 5 - at Evan Breakfast Meeting 9am  
12 - Executive Meeting  
20 & 21 - Assembly 2022 in Orland

June: 2- at Evan at 1:30pm  
3&4- Festival of Quilts, Cunningham Children's Home  
9- Executive Meeting  
9 to 11- IGRC Annual Conference, Peoria Civic Center  
8&9- IGRC UMW Leadership Team Meeting  
Will collect school supplies for MWDC

July: No meeting  
21- Executive Meeting  
15 to 20- Mission U

August: 4- at Evan 1:30  
17- Midwest distribution Center  
20- VRD Spiritual Growth Retreat

September: 1- at EVAN at 1:30, 2023 Officers list due  
8- Executive Meeting  
17- VDR Annual Fall Meeting  
18- UMW Sunday  
30- IGRC UMW leadership Team Meeting



**The building that housed Bonfield First UMC for so many years is for sale. If you know of ANYONE who you think might be interested in purchasing this building, please have them contact Pastor Keith. His information can be found on page 9 in this newsletter.**



**Jesus has gone there first:** Whether we gaze with longing into the garden or with fear and trembling into the desert, of this we can be sure — God walked there first! And when we who have sinned and despoiled the garden are challenged now to face the desert, we do not face it alone; Jesus has gone there before us to struggle with every demon that has ever plagued a human heart. Face the desert we must if we would reach the garden, but Jesus has gone there before us. —James Healy

**Wounded healers:** “Nobody escapes being wounded,” writes Henri Nouwen. “We all are wounded people, whether physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually. The main question is not ‘How can we hide our wounds?’ so we don’t have to be embarrassed, but ‘How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?’ When our wounds cease to be a source of shame, and become a source of healing, we have become wounded healers.” He continues, “Jesus is God’s wounded healer: through his wounds we are healed. Jesus’ suffering and death brought joy and life. His humiliation brought glory; his rejection brought a community of love. As followers of Jesus, we can also allow our wounds to bring healing to others.”

How might viewing Jesus as a wounded healer affect your relationship with him? What roles have wounds and healing played in your own faith life? How can you minister to other people from a place of brokenness?



Because your  
steadfast love  
is better than  
life, my lips  
will praise  
you. PSALM 63:3



**A Call to Prayer & Self-Denial - LOVE, JUSTICE AND SERVICE: ANSWERING THE CALL -** Creator God, thank you for the multitude of spiritual gifts, skills and talents you have given each of us. Please help us experience these giftings as blessings and work to use them for the good of all. Help us have the courage to answer with a bold cry of affirmation when you call us to serve in love, justice, compassion and truth; and help us to stand with one another, along with deaconesses and home missionaries, in that call, supporting each other to make a difference in our world. In your holy and precious name we pray, Amen.



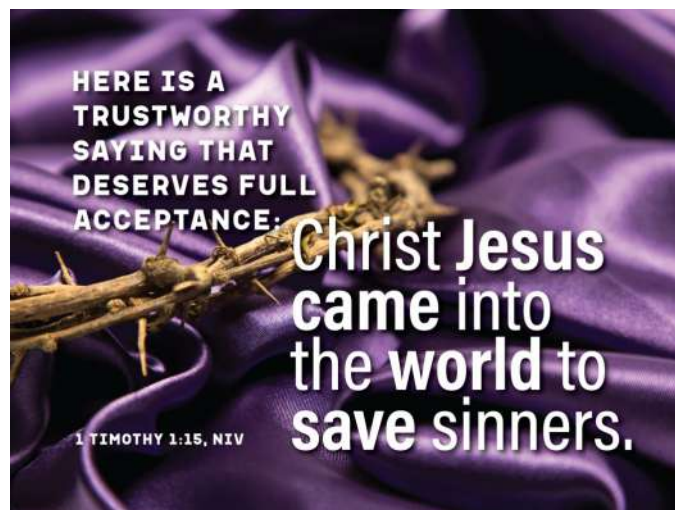
March 2 Sharon (Foltz) Howard, Jacob Brinkman,  
Pam Wilking  
March 3 Janet Schroeder, Janet (Grob) Boyer  
March 4 Susan (Bradley) Schroeder, Eric Pangle,  
Tom Willibey  
March 5 Bill Hertz, Mary Osenga, Norman Bauer  
March 7 Denise (Dato) Kirchner, Lynn (Broussard) Pangle  
March 8 Alaxis Morse  
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 Frederick Meyer, Jared Charter,  
Lauren R. Davis, Virginia (Meyer) Young  
March 20 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 (Ohrt) 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

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



**Our stain remover:** From sanitizers and soaps to solutions and sprays, many products promise to eliminate germs and grime. Unfortunately, they often fall short. Just think how many items in your closet or kitchen have been ruined by stubborn stains.

What if we were that concerned about ridding our lives and hearts of sin? What if we spent as much time confessing and repenting as scrubbing and laundering? The good news is that with one “application” (the cross), Jesus makes us “whiter than snow” (Psalm 51:7). Praise be to our unblemished Lamb, the perfect stain remover!









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](mailto: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](mailto:coffmanry@gmail.com)). Ryan is a member of Grand Prairie UMC.

# MARCH 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	2 - Ash Wednesday at 1-5pm	3 - Evan UMW at 1:30pm	4  World Day of Prayer	5
6 - Holy Communion - Confirmation Class at Evan at 1PM 	7 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Lent Bible Study	8 - AD Board at 7pm at Grand Prairie	9	10	11	12
13 - Youth Group - Daylight Saving Time begins 	14 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Lent Bible Study	15	16	17 	18	19
20 - Confirmation Class at Evan at 1PM - First Day of Spring 	21 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Lent Bible Study	22 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	23	24 - Printing the Newsletter	25	26
27 - UMCOR Sunday 	28 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Lent Bible Study	29 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	30	31		



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



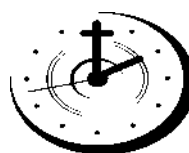
We are a Parish of  
2 United Methodist churches:  
Bonfield Evangelical (Evan) UMC &  
Grand Prairie UMC. Our minister is  
Keith Blankenship. It is our goal to  
share God's love with the world  
through our words and actions! We welcome you to  
visit us for Sunday service that works best for you  
and/or your family at the times listed.



Reflection: "Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible." —Mary McLeod Bethune

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." —Mother Teresa

"Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly." —Robert Schuller



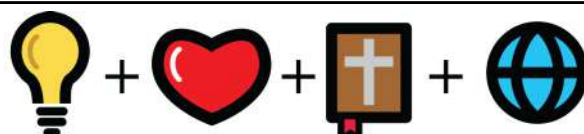
## Time For Church

### 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



## MAKINGDISCIPLES

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

### 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:  
March 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](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).



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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

Return Service Requested

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



Bonfield Box Holder  
Bonfield, IL 60913



Wednesday Evenings  
7:00 p.m.

Date	Location	Pastor/Guest Speaker
March 2 Ash Wednesday	Reddick UMC 35900 E 3200 N Road Reddick, IL 60941	Pastor Kevin Boesen Herscher/Reddick/South Wilmington Change
March 9	Herscher UMC 274 N Elm Street Herscher, IL 60941	Pastor Keith Blankenship Bonfield Grand Prairie Change
March 16	Bonfield Evangelical 348 E Smith Street Bonfield, 60913	Terry Goodwin Certified Lay Servant Serving Essex UMC
March 23	Essex UMC 114 Waverly Street Essex, IL	Carol Desch Certified Lay Servant Herscher United Methodist Church
March 30	Bonfield Grand Prairie 12408 W Rt. 17 Bonfield, IL 60913	Dianne Wells Certified Lay Servant Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Church
April 6	Herscher UMC 274 N Elm Street Herscher, IL 60941	Linda Michel Certified Lay Servant Serving Essex UMC

Lenten Love Offerings will be taken to benefit the Conference Initiative:  
"Our Conference, Our Kids" Advance #6960

Questions or transportation needs — call the Herscher United Methodist Church office at 815-426-6169.