

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 quickly? It seems like we just finished the Christmas season and already we are moving into the second quarter of 2022. Another busy month full of happenings, including some returning for the first time in three years!

The Lenten season will finish this month. I am excited that we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt on April 9th ! The last one took place prior to my arrival in Bonfield so I look forward to seeing the youngsters in the park that morning. You can find more information about this inside the newsletter. On April 14th we will be having the Maundy Thursday service at Evan. This will begin at 7pm that evening. On April 15th our Parish Good Friday service will be at Evan beginning at 7 pm. We will present a program that looks at the crucifixion of Jesus through the eyes of a Roman soldier. If you missed this last year, it is a very moving view that I recommend attending. Then on Easter Sunday we will have the Sunrise Service taking place at 6:30 am. Evan will be the location for this service with breakfast served afterwards. For that Sunday only, the other service times will be reversed. Evan's service will be at 8:30am and Grand Prairie's service will be at 10 am.

Something else that I would like to write about this month, the confirmation class I have been leading since September 2021 is nearing completion. Seven teens have been attending the classes and will be ready for the graduation service in May. Next month I will share more about that service, which will take place at both churches. But I would like to ask as many of you as possible to send a card or write a note of encouragement for the teens. Inside the newsletter there will be more information regarding this. Encouraging the youth is a form of outreach that hopefully will plant a seed that, as they get older, would have them become active within each church. Having them be involved is vital to keeping the churches in the Parish alive for many years to come.


We have come a long way in the past two years from when we had to close the buildings for worship due to the pandemic. I am continuing to pray that we will continue to move forward in the coming months so that very soon we can be able to say things like, "Remember when we had to watch services online, etc?" Please continue to lift up those in Ukraine who have had their lives changed in an instant by the senseless acts that continue to happen. Pray for peace in that region of the world.


May all of you have a wonderful Easter this year as we remember Jesus paying the ultimate price in being crucified, buried and resurrected to take away all of our sins. May God's blessings be with you every day!


Blessings, Pastor Keith


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Maundy Thursday


Good Friday


SUNRISE SERVICE


Happy EASTER

April 14
At Evan
At 7pm

April 15
at Evan
at 7pm

April 17
at 6:30am
breakfast to
follow

April 17
Evan at 8:30am
Grand Prairie at
10am



Bonfield Lions Chicken Dinner at the Bonfield Lions Hall on Saturday, April 23 4-7pm, tickets are \$10.

To buy tickets please contact any Bonfield Lions member.



"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection."

Philippians 3:10, NRSV

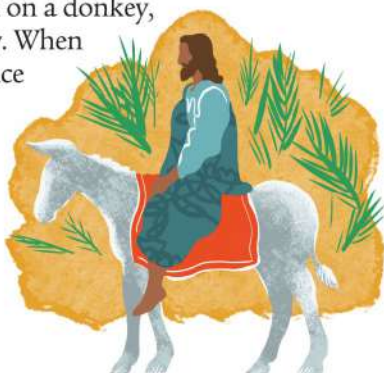
April Memory Verse

"In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God." **John 1:1**

Bible Quiz

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, crowds praised him loudly. When Pharisees told him to silence the people, what did Jesus say would shout if his followers didn't?

- A. Stones
- B. Palm branches
- C. Trees
- D. Hillsides



Answer: A (See Luke 19:40.)

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!

Using the code, complete this passage based on Ezekiel 34.

CODE

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

"As a looks after his
H S V K S V I W

 when is
H X Z G G V I V W U O L X P S V

 them, so will I after my .
D R G S O L L P H S V V K

I will them and them.
I V H X F V K Z H G F I V

I will for the and bring back
H V Z I X S O L H G

the . I will up the
H G I Z B H Y R M W R M Q F I V W

and the . You are my
H G I V M T G S V M D V Z P

 ... and I am your .
H S V V K T L W



Answer: shepherd, scattered, flock, he, with, look, sheep, rescue, pasture, search, lost, strays, bind, injured, strengthen, weak, sheep, God



Herb Foltz would like to thank everyone who sent cards and well wishes for his birthday.

We are grateful for the acts of caring from our church family this past month. We appreciate the time that Chad and Bill Hertz & Susie Clutter took to prepare the church for the service. Walter Marcotte for running the sound. Thank you to Pastor Blankenship for the service which shared memories and the legacy of our husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Thank you to the Cochrans and Coffmans for sharing their gift of music. All the ladies for decorating and preparing the church. Thank you for the donations of food and the help in serving the church meal. The cards and letters sent have meant a lot. We have enjoyed the messages of affection and respect for Reuben.

The Family of Reuben Riegel

A Dose of Humor: On the Sunday after Easter, some churches incorporate joy into worship through “holy humor.” During his four decades in ministry, Thom Rainer has collected these funny gems heard by real-life pastors:

- “Is it okay to lie if I ask for forgiveness in advance?”

- (during the offertory) “Pastor, do you have change for a twenty?”

- (during an ordination council) “What’s your view on Christian missions in space?”

- “My husband’s ashes are in two different places. Will Jesus be able to find him?”

- “Pastor, will you pray for my son? He’s wild and out of control.” (Pastor: “Sure, what’s his name?”) “Maverick.”

PUZZLE

Resurrection refresher

All four gospels confirm Jesus’ resurrection, and each one offers important details.

Directions: Complete the crossword. Then insert the circled letters (in order of the clue numbers) to complete John 20:17 below.

ACROSS

2. The women did this when they heard the angels talk about Jesus’ death. (Luke 24:8)
4. The women at the tomb did this when they saw Jesus. (Matthew 28:9)
5. The man in Jesus’ empty tomb wore this color robe. (Mark 16:5)
7. Jesus instructed his brothers to go here. (Matthew 28:10)
8. Peter saw strips of this in the tomb. (Luke 24:12)

DOWN

1. At first, Mary thought Jesus was this person. (John 20:15)
3. As an angel came from heaven, this happened. (Matthew 28:2)
6. She went with Mary to anoint Jesus’ body. (Mark 16:1)



What did Jesus want Mary to tell his brothers?

“I _ m ascen _ ing _ o my
Fat _ er and your Fa _ her,
to _ y _ od and your God.”
Joh _ 20:17, NIV

Answer: ACROSS 2. remembered, 4. worshipped, 5. white, 7. Galilee, 8. linen;
DOWN 1. garden, 3. earthquake, 6. Salome, “I am ascending to my Father and
your Father, to my God and your God.” John 20:17, NIV



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

From Our Church Bulletin: The Riegel 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, Trish & Mike DeLucas, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Herb Foltz, Bob Grob, Carol Higginbotham, Marjorie Kersch, Mike & Theresa Mau, Walter Marcotte, Maggie Maxwell (Bob Nichols' sister), Allen Messer, Bob Nichols, Chuck & Kurt Quick, Dorothy Riegel, Stan Stone, Jackie Wagner, Jodi, Richard & Ronald Wildman.

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
Whitney 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.



Confirmation class is nearing the end! It has been a long journey that started in September 2021 and will end in May. I would like to ask as many of you as possible to send

a card or note of encouragement to the confirmands letting them know you are thinking of them as they finish the journey. Please either drop these off at the church office or mail them to PO Box 66 Bonfield, IL 60913 and I will make sure they receive them. The confirmands are:

Brayden Balind, Ean Dittus, Landon Hertz, Connor Lowey, McKenzie Paetsch, Miranda Paetsch, & Justin Ruckman

Thank you! Pastor Keith

+Christian Symbol+

PASCHAL CANDLE



This large, white candle is an ancient symbol for Christ, the light of the world. The candle contains a cross and/or an Alpha and Omega to symbolize that Jesus is eternal and always present with his people. Also called the Easter candle, it plays a prominent role during Easter vigils and celebrations. Some churches also use the candle during baptisms and funerals.

FEBRUARY 2022 ATTENDANCE

	2/06	2/13	2/20	2/27
Evangelical	25	28	21	28
Grand Prairie	21	25	24	19
Total	46	53	45	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.

Evan UMW -

District & Evan UMW Meetings

- 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
- October: 1- IGRC UMW Annual Meeting
6 - At EVAN 1:30
20 - Mini-mission, Lexington UMC
22 - Make a difference day
- November : 3 - EVAN 1:30
13 - Thank offering due
- December: 1 - VRD Executive Team Meeting/Christmas Gathering at Bradley Wesley UMC
10 - UMW Christmas Party Place to be announced



United Methodist Women of the Parish continued

Martha Circle - Meeting Schedule 2022

- All meetings will begin at 6pm.
- Meetings are held at hostesses' homes or other locations.
- Watch for announcements in the bulletin and text messages
- The Hostesses will provide the devotional for the evening and small snacks are served.

May 11 ~ Kim Ohrt, July 13 ~ Tricia Coffman & Rita Overacker
 Sept. 14 ~ Becky Cruse, Nov. 9, Dec. 14 ~Kim & Marilyn Ohrt

Martha Circle Officers 2022

CO-Presidents - Tricia Coffman & Kim Ohrt

Vice President - Becky Cruse

Secretary - Cheri Dayton

Treasurer - Ronda Wenzelman

Evan UMW - On March 3, 2022 the UMW met in the upper room. Carol Buente opened the meeting with prayer and the devotion "Refuse To Worry". The Secretary's report was read by Dayle Seitz and roll call taken. There are 5 members present who made 8 sick calls. Many "thinking of you" cards were sent by members to church members who are shut in. The report was accepted as read. The treasures report was read by Ardis Messer and it was accepted as read. A report from Cunningham Children's Home was given by Carol. They would like to have donations in March for new Mattresses. The Quilt show is set for June. They have add a crafts and center pieces to the show. The dead line to enter is May 13th. The lesson was given by Ardis Messer, the topic was "Spring". "Gramma's Seed Catalog" How the catalog items represented Biblical references. "Springtime Flowers and Vegetables". Based on Job 42:5 and 1 Peter 1:3&4. How asparagus symbolizes the resurrection of Christ. Joyce Riegel and Carol gave a report on the new name for UMW. It will now be called "United Women in Faith". The Logo will also change. The new look will speak to the new generation. The mission field has grown and changed over the years. The legal name will stay the same "United Methodist Women". The UMW has had a huge impact on the world. There was 9 million dollars that was given to 226 National and International projects and partners. The UMW supports missions in 34 countries. Joyce commented on "Things never stay the same for long". We are changing but we are still committed. It has been women and faith for 150 years. Ardis closed the meeting with prayer. The lunch was served by Dayle. Next meeting is April 7th at Bonfield Evangelical United Church, in the upper room. Dayle Seitz, Secretary

Sunshine Circle - On March 17th 6 members and 1 guest were present at the Sunshine Circle in the upper room. A potluck dinner was served by all. 2 car seats were purchased and given to the Pregnancy Resource Center. We will purchase 2 Easter flowers and will be given to 2 shut ins. \$100 was donated to help with the Easter Egg Hunt. Next meeting will be held in the upper room. Jan Green will be hostess. Date is April 21st at 6:30pm. Soup and Sandwiches will be served.

Sunshine Circle Meetings: Thursday, April 21 in the upper room at 6:30pm



- 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 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, Gary Schwark
 Lisa (Gagnon) Gronert
 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.

Why Friday is good: To participate in the sacrificial life and death of Jesus Christ is to live already in his kingdom. This is the essence of the Christian message, the heart of the Good News, and it is why the cross has become the chief Christian symbol.

A cross of all things — a guillotine, a gallows — but the cross at the same time as the crossroads of eternity and time, as the place where such a mighty heart was broken that the healing power of God himself could flow through it into a sick and broken world. It was for this reason that of all the possible words they could have used to describe the day of his death, the word they settled on was “good.” *Good Friday.*

—Frederick Buechner






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.

APRIL 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 	2
3 - Confirmation Class at Evan at 1PM 	4 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Lent Bible Study	5 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	6	7 - Evan UMW at 1:30pm	8	9 - Easter Egg Hunt at 10am
10 - Youth Group - Confirmation Class at Evan at 1PM 	11 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Lent Bible Study	12 - Evan NOW meeting at Evan at 6pm - Parish NOW meeting at Evan at 6:30pm	13	14 - Maundy Thursday Service at Evan at 7pm	15 - Good Friday Roman Solider Service at Evan at 7pm	16
17 - Sunrise Service at Evan at 6:30am - Evan Easter at 8:30 - Grand Prairie Easter at 10am	18 - Pastor Keith vacation 18-25	19 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	20	21 - Printing the Newsletter - Sunshine Circle at Evan at 6:30pm	22	23
24	25	26 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	27 - Arbor Day	28	29	30



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:

"Christ did not come into the world that we might
understand him, but that we might cling to him, that
we might simply let ourselves be swept away by him
into the immense event of the resurrection."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

* * *

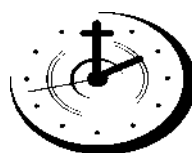
"Lent is spring training. Easter is opening day!"

—seen on a church sign

* * *

"We are each a God-carrier and a sanctuary of the
Holy Spirit."

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu



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:
April 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



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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

Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

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

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COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 9 at the Bonfield Quarry Park at 10:00am

Registration begins at 9:30am
Be sure to arrive early so you don't miss the kickoff!

All kids ages 0 to 10 are invited to join us for a fun Easter Egg Hunt and
take a picture with the Easter Bunny too!
Kids will be divided into three groups:
Ages 0-4, Ages 5-7, and Ages 8-10

