

# 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



This month's newsletter gets us halfway through 2022 already! It also starts my fourth year of writing front page articles (my first one was the month before I began serving this Parish in 2019). I feel the same amount of excitement now that I had when I was appointed here!

What wonderful services we had in May confirming seven teens who began their “faith-journey” last fall! Most of these teens are now members of one of the churches in the Parish as well. But as I reminded them multiples times, as well as everyone at the Confirmation services, this is only the beginning for them. I am hopeful that they will come to church services regularly as their journey to heaven continues. Thank you again to family, friends and both congregations for lifting them up in prayer as well as the encouragement you gave them in cards and notes.

On June 26th we take another huge step in returning to normalcy as a group will head to Redbird Mission in Beverly, KY. I feel Blessed to be one of those going on this trip that has been three years in the making! Elsewhere in this newsletter you can find ways in which to help with supporting the trip prior to our leaving.

Something else coming back in person this year will be in July as we will have Vacation Bible School! More information on this can be found in this month's newsletter, but we are in need of volunteers as well as children ages 4-10 to join us for three evenings of fun! This was the first activity I became a part of when I arrived in 2019 and I am looking forward to this happening in person again.

As a Parish we are planning other events as the year rolls on. Things such as our outdoor service/potluck in August and a concert by a group of Pastors who will be playing at Quarry Park in September for starters. These events are open for ANYONE to join us. Another invitation I would like to offer, especially for anyone who is seeking to find a church home, is to come and try one of our churches on a Sunday morning. You can come to Grand Prairie at 8:30 am or Evan at 10 am. You will be welcomed by caring people in either church and hear messages that talk about the LOVE that God has for each one of us as children of His.

I want to close this month by thanking those who reached out to wish me a Happy Birthday, either by card, in person, or through other means. Having more than 100 people sing to me on May 22nd between two services still has me smiling. I have shared with some; this year's birthday is special to me since just over six months ago I had a huge health scare. But I have learned that God still has plans for me to serve Him and I can't think of a better place to do that than in Bonfield! May all of you have a wonderful summer!!!

God's Humble Servant, Pastor Keith



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## That's Father!

Now I think of all achievements 'tis the least  
To perpetuate the species; it is done  
By the insect and the serpent, and the beast.  
But the man who keeps his body, and his thought,  
Worth bestowing on an offspring love-begot,  
Then the highest earthly glory he has won,  
When in pride a grown-up daughter or a son  
Says "That's Father."

—from "Father," by Ella Wheeler Wilcox



### June Memory Verse

God is love; and he that dwelleth in love  
dwelleth in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:16

### Bible Quiz

Jesus was known for using a certain type of speech in his teaching. What was it?

- A. soliloquy
- B. parable
- C. lecture
- D. riddle



Answer: B (See Mark 4:33-34.)

**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!

Find the names of these fathers and  
sons from the Old Testament.

ADAM	REUBEN
CAIN	DAN
ABEL	ASHER
SETH	JUDAH
NOAH	LEVI
HAM	GAD
SHEM	NAPHTALI
JAPHETH	SIMEON
ELKANAH	ISSACHAR
SAMUEL	ZEBULUN
AARON	BENJAMIN
MADAB	JOSEPH
HUR	MANASSEH
CALEB	EPHRAIM
ABRAHAM	SAUL
ISHMAEL	JONATHAN
ISAAC	DAVID
ESAU	SOLOMON
JACOB	

M I A R L P E C I T O A N C J  
A B E L A H L G S M B I O A O  
N I A C M R A S R E S L E S  
A D A V I D A M N H M E E  
S O L O M O N C H C J M I B P  
S H A O N I A H C A S I H  
E S S E T H M H A K E M S T E  
H I O M S S S R E N E L N E N  
E S S H I L A T P A N R O O U  
S S S H M A U J A P H E T H L  
A A E U S R U J H A D U J E U  
U E H F O D J A C O B L U B  
A L E V I N A D A B E E S K E  
W R D I T T N A H T A N O J N







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, Jay Buente, Orlin Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Trish & Mike DeLucas, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Herb Foltz, Bob Grob, Marjorie Kersch, Maggie Maxwell (Bob Nichols' sister), Allen Messer, Bob Nichols, Chuck Quick, Kurt Quick, Dorothy Riegel, Stan Stone, Jackie Wagner, Jodi, Richard & Ronald Wildman.

#### Arden Courts

Mel Brinkman

#### Riverside Senior Living

Mary Krieg

#### At Home

Pearl Evans

#### Harvest View

Marjorie Kersch  
Randy Riegel

#### At College

Gretchen Brinkman

Becca Coffman

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

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.



#### Calling All Cancer

#### Survivors...

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

Register to join us at the Relay For Life of

Kankakee County on June 11, 2022. All registered Survivors will receive a FREE survivor t-shirt mailed directly to their homes. Register online or call 1-800-227-2345 option 4 or contact Beth Brosseau, our Survivorship Chair, at bethk3relay@gmail.com All Survivors must register every year.

#### Save the Date: Drive Up Pork Chop Dinner

Saturday, September 17

at Bonfield Evangelical at 4:30 -7pm.



+Christian Symbol+

#### **SEED**

The Bible often uses seeds as symbols of faith or God's Word. In the Old Testament, seeds also refer to offspring. Jesus said people who believe in him can perform mighty deeds with "faith the size of a mustard seed" (Luke 17:6, NRSV). Many of Jesus' teachings use seed imagery; for example, in the parable of the four soils, he said the seed, God's Word, can grow only when people hear it, "hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance" (Luke 8:15, NRSV).

#### APRIL 2022 ATTENDANCE

	4/3	4/10	4/17	4/24
Evangelical	55	43	64	43
Grand Prairie	22	20	40	19
Total	77	63	104	62



## United Women in Faith of the Parish

Purpose of the United Women in Faith -The organized unit of United Women in Faith 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.

### District & Evan UWF Meetings

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

**Sunshine Circle** - Sunshine Circle met on May 16th in the Upper Room with 9 members present. Kim Metzka was hostess and started the evening with a prayer and delicious meal Kim then led devotions and played some games which were very fun Minutes were read and approved. Treasure report was also read and approved. On Sept 17th, the Sunshine Circle and UMW groups will be having their annual Drive Up Pork Chop Meal from 4:30 pm thru 7pm. Next meeting will be held at Copeland's Roadhouse on June 16th at 6pm. Spouses are invited also.



## United Women of Faith 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.

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

**Evan UWF** - On May 5, 2022, the United Women of Faith met for breakfast served by the officers. Carol B. Opened the meeting with a devotional and prayer. There were 13 women present. Pastor welcomed the group. Cathy Conrad, our Shepherdess, spoke about social Action. She is the district social action coordinator. She spoke about the issues facing us and how we can help. She gave information on legislation and how to connect with the website that has ready made form letters to send. Environmental and women's right are two of the issues she presented. The United Women Of Faith are working hard to make changes to help with these issues. The meeting was closed by Carol B.



The next meeting is June 2 at 1:30 in the upper room. Diane Wells will give the lesson and Chris Meyer will serve the lunch.

June 3 & 4 is the Cunningham Children's Home Quilt show. Tickets can be purchased at the door. The unit will serve for the District Meeting on May 26th. The District Officers meeting will be held at EVAN.



## United Women of Faith of the Parish continued



Bonfield Evan UWF delivered 3 quilts for Cunningham Children's Home. Each child that comes there as a resident receives a quilt to keep. The top quilt was pieced many years ago by Myrtle Buente and finished by Dayle Seitz. The bottom quilt was pieced by Pat Bland and Marjorie Kersch and finished by Christine Meyer. Colleen Combs was on hand to receive the quilts for Cunningham. The third quilt is not pictured, but was pieced by Marjorie Kersch.

**Ways to Support the Mission Team:** The mission team is in the last week's of preparing to travel to Kentucky. We are going to be the hands and feet of God at Red Bird Mission. There are many ways you can still support our team. 1. Be in prayer for the team as we prepare and eventually travel to Kentucky. 2. You can still donate to the team. Give donations to Rich Cochran. We are thankful for any donations from our church family. All donations go to the funding of the trip and gas money to get there and back. 3. As part of the journey we will be collecting items for Red Bird's Food Pantry and Baby Pantry. If you would like to contribute bring any of the items below to either church between May 29-June 19.



Food Pantry Items: any canned or boxed food

Baby Pantry Items: baby clothes (any size), diapers, formula, & baby food

These trips would not be possible without our church family. We are forever grateful for the opportunities to be in mission. THANK YOU and GOD BLESS!



## Save the Date!

### Outdoor Concert

featuring

Rivers of Life

Clergy Band

Sunday September 11 2022 at 6pm

At Bonfield Quarry Park



**Tim  
Pate**

**Dan  
Perry**

**Mark  
Doane**

**Annelle  
Ruemmler**

**Joe  
Scheets**

Bring a Lawn Chair

A Love offering will be received to help with the Band's travel expenses.

For more info. contact Pastor Keith at (815) 802-9805

## Confirmation Graduation

The Parish is proud of the seven teens who were confirmed on May 22, 2022 at Bonfield Evangelical & Grand Prairie. They had 8 months of confirmation classes.

Brayden, Justin, Ean, Landon, Connor, McKenzie, & Miranda learned a systematic overview of the faith - our identity, our history and heritage, our practices, and our beliefs. It includes both our heritage and practices as a Christian community and as a United Methodist Family, as well as our basic beliefs and commitments.



Ean, Connor, Landon, McKenzie, & Miranda



Brayden & Justin





# JUNE 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 - Evan UMW at 1:30pm	3	4
5	6 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	7 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	8	9	10	11
12	13 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	14 - Evan NOW Meeting at 6pm - Parish NOW Meeting at 6:30pm	15	16 - Sunshine Circle at Copeland's Road-house at 6pm	17	18 Bonfield Barnyard and Tractor Pull Celebration
19 Bonfield Barnyard and Tractor Pull Celebration	20 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	21 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	22	23 - Printing the Newsletter	24	25
26 - Mission Trip members leave	27 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	28 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	29	30	July 1 - Mission Trip members return	



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:

"The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower,  
share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile  
at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me con-  
tinual spiritual exercises." —Leo Buscaglia

\* \* \*

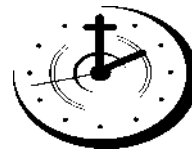
"Kindness and consideration of somebody besides your-  
self ... keeps you feeling young." —Betty White

\* \* \*

"The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose,  
but mosquitoes come close." —Unknown

\* \* \*

"Courage is fueled by the motivation to take the first step  
into the unknown." —Cheryl Nielsen



## 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:  
June 7 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)

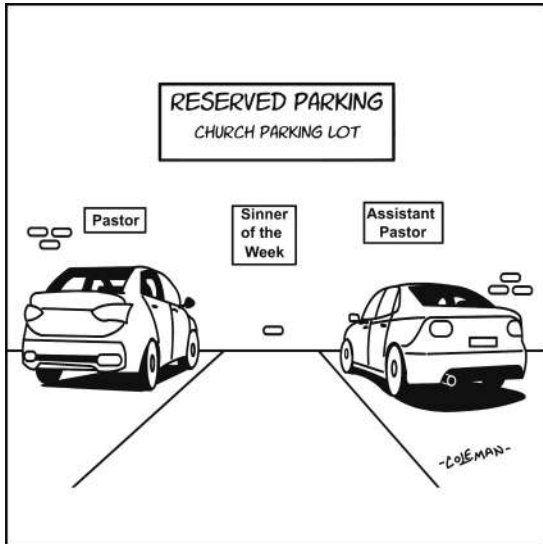
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9AM - 1:30PM



Bonfield / Grand Prairie Parish  
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**Bonfield, IL 60913**



## **Knights of North Castle Vacation Bible School**

At Knights of North Castle VBS, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they go on a quest in search of the King's Armor. They will become Knights and discover how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

Every day there will be something new to enjoy!

**Location:** Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Church 348 E. Smith St. Bonfield, IL

**Ages:** 4-10      **VBS will take place:** July 18<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, July 22<sup>rd</sup>      **Time:** 6pm-8pm

**Day 1** – Crazy hair/hat day      **Day 2** – Crazy sock day      **Day 3** – Wear blue

Our mission this year is Feed the Dragon! We are taking any can or boxed donations.

Friday night following our opening and activity we invite all family members to meet at Bonfield Quarry/Park for hotdogs chips/cookies! Around 7pm we are walking to the park with the kids. Parents can stay for opening/activity and walk with us or meet us at the park.