

# 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



Due to deadlines, this is being written prior to myself and 11 others leaving for Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY.

By nature, many of us are not patient when it comes to waiting. Some people, like myself, have had to learn this the hard way through the course of life. For this Parish, when I arrived here three years ago, there was a lot of talk about taking a Mission Trip to Red Bird Mission. Since this is a popular place for mission work to be done, the application for a chance to be selected to go there in 2020 had to be submitted in 2019. We were blessed to be selected to serve there in June 2020, which started the process on fund raisers, finding out how many wanted to join the trip and asking for donations.

As we all know, in March 2020 everyone's lives were changed by the COVID shutdown. The trip we were preparing for had to be canceled that year. Plans were made to go in June 2021, and early last year we were told that due to the pandemic's uncertainty at that time, we would not be able to go again. So, we were allowed to reserve our spot for June 26, 2022 arrival and departure on July 1, 2022.

That brings us to the present. What was once 16 people heading to Kentucky is now 12. But we are there as this reaches your mailbox! Needless to say, a lesson in what I have preached about (also known as In God's Time) has been lived by those who have wanted Red Bird Mission to be a place for this Parish to be God's hands for those who are less fortunate is finally reality.

I and the 11 others on the Mission Trip could not have done this without the help of so many. Monical's Pizza and Culver's were gracious enough to give us proceeds from sales at their locations. During the Christmas season of 2019 we went to homes, businesses and nursing homes singing Christmas carols to raise money for the trip. Throughout the past three years we have had so many in the Parish and in the area provide cash donations, clothing donations and food donations. We took 14 cases of cereal and Malt-o-Meal that were donated along with other items for their food pantry. We brought baby clothing and other items for their baby pantry. I am probably forgetting other specifics, but between individual donations along with Evan's UWF, First Church's UMW, Sunshine Circle and Martha's Circle, there are a LOT of thank you's to spread around. As your Pastor, I am humbled by all the generosity that has been shown in the past three years.

July brings me to the start of my fourth year serving this Parish. I am so Blessed to continue to be a part of the Village of Bonfield and the surrounding area. Look inside this month's newsletter for information on in - person Vacation Bible School returning. Look inside for news on other events that will be happening in the coming months. Finally, if there is anyone reading this that is looking for a church to attend on Sundays, please give Grand Prairie UMC or Bonfield Evangelical UMC a try. You will find some very friendly people inside the sanctuary and hopefully learn about the love God wants to give anyone who will accept it in the messages I give as His servant.

Blessings to all, Pastor Keith

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## Birthday Open House for Lorraine Wildman

On Saturday, July 16 at 1:30-4:00pm

At Bonfield Evangelical UMC  
348 Smith St. Bonfield, IL

Please join her family and friends in celebrating Lorraine on her 89th birthday.

**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!

Solve this cryptogram puzzle, using the clues R=I and M=T, to complete Psalm 111:10, NIV.

M Y L C L O Q Z C M Y L

P Z Q N R V M Y L

H L D R F F R F D Z C G R V N Z U ;

O P P G Y Z C Z P P Z G

Y R V B Q L T L B M V

Y O K L D Z Z N

J F N L Q V M O F N R F D

M Z Y R U H L P Z F D V

L M L Q F O P B Q O R V L

PSALM 111:10, NIV

*Blessed*  
IS THE ONE WHO  
*trusts*  
IN THE LORD

PSALM 40:4, NIV

### July Memory Verse

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.  
~ Galatians 5:1

### Bible Quiz

In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables. Which of the following is not one of them?

- A. The Parable of the Lost Sheep
- B. The Parable of the Lost Son
- C. The Parable of the Lost Pearl
- D. The Parable of the Lost Coin



Answer: C (See Luke 15:1-32.)

Answer: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalm 111:10, NIV



### The Soul as Soil

Gardeners who've dealt with inhospitable conditions can relate especially well to Jesus' parable of the sower. Drought, invasive critters and thorny weeds often seem to conspire against growers' efforts. Yet when seeds fall on "good soil," the crop yield is abundant — up to a hundred times what was sown (Matthew 13:8).

That parable emphasizes the need for hearts to be receptive to God's Word. But it's also a reminder to plant Scripture persistently. Just as soil and weather conditions change, so may someone's attitude toward following Jesus. Pastor J. Ellsworth Kalas writes, "Whenever we serve as witnesses to the faith, we must do so with all earnestness, because one doesn't know the season in which the soul currently abides. That uninterested, distracted or unresponsive person may be nearer the Kingdom than we — or they — realize." Kalas adds, "We dare not give up on anyone at any time — including ourselves."

### Equal in God's eyes

The faith of America's founders affirmed the sanctity of each individual. Every human life - man or woman, child or adult, commoner or aristocrat, rich or poor - was equal in the eyes of the Lord. It also affirmed the responsibility of each individual.

-Lady Margaret Thatcher



*Beyond number*  
God is all-knowing, and his thoughts toward us are beyond number.

*Directions: Solve the addition problems and use the code to complete Psalm 139:17-18, NIV.*



How \_\_\_\_\_ to me are your \_\_\_\_\_, God!  
13+10 12+6



How \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of them!  
8+11 10+3



Were I to \_\_\_\_\_ them,  
15+6

they would \_\_\_\_\_ the grains of \_\_\_\_\_ —  
3+12 4+18

when I \_\_\_\_\_, I am still with you.  
13+4



**PSALM 139:17-18, 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, Charles Blankenship, Jay Buente, Orlin Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Trish & Mike DeLucas, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Judy Gibson, Herb Foltz, Bob Grob, Marjorie Kersch, Maggie Maxwell (Bob Nichols' sister), Allen Messer, Bob Nichols, Chuck Quick, Kurt Quick, Dorothy Riegel, Stan Stone, Pattie Vilt, Jackie Wagner, & 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

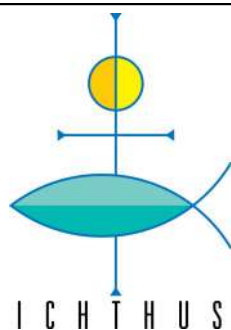
Do you or your family sponsor a compassion international kid? If so, please contact the office if you are still sponsoring a kid, 815-802-9805 or bonfieldgp@gmail.com.



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

Saturday, September 17

at Bonfield Evangelical at 4:30 -7pm.



+Christian Symbol+

**FISH**

The first letters in the Greek phrase "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior" spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith and avoid persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be "caught" for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.

**MAY 2022 ATTENDANCE**

	5/1	5/8	5/15	5/22	5/29
Evangelical	34	42	46	72	45
Grand Prairie	20	24	23	39	19
Total	54	66	69	111	64





## 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.

### 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

Sunshine Circle - 9 members and 3 guests met at Oliver's West on Thursday, June 16th. 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.

Evan UWF - On June 2, The Bonfield Evangelical United Women in Faith, met in the upper room. Carol Buente opened the meeting with a devotion from Our Daily Bread. The sunrise represents the coming of Jesus. We need to take time and meditate on how beautiful that day will be when Jesus returns to gather His Children.

Christine Meyer presented the lesson "The Narrow Doorway". Only a fraction of people in the world will be saved. We need to go through the door and take the narrow path in following Jesus. Too many Christians today walk in the middle of the road. Letting their own ideas take control and not listen to the teachings of Jesus. What is the truth or is it communal truth or is it what I believe is the truth. John 14:6. Chris closed the lesson with prayer.

There were 8 members present and 1 home visit made. Many birthday, thinking of you and get well cards were sent. The treasures report was given. A motion was made and seconded to help with expenses for 1 person to go to Mission-U. Both reports were accepted as read. Joyce Riegel presented the "message from the President" from the Response magazine. We closed the meeting with a prayer and grace for the lunch. Lunch was served by Chris M. A beautiful array of springtime decorated the table.

Dayle Seitz, Secretary

### Upcoming events

Next meeting will be August 4 in the upper Room at 1:30pm. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting you do not need to belong to the church to participate.

No meeting in July

Mission-U in Springfield July 17-20

We will collect school supplies for Midwest Mission

Aug 17 trip to Midwest Mission please have your donation at church by August 14

Aug 20 Spiritual Growth Retreat At QUARRY Park in Bonfield

## **United Women of Faith of the Parish continued**

### **Evan UWF Meetings**

July: No 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  
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

### **UWF Book Review**

“The Land Is Not Empty” by Sarah Augustine

This book is a bonus reading book along with the pod cast on United Women in Faith website. How can we dismantle “The Doctrine Of Discovery”? By Following Jesus. A fifteen century law, that gave the right for Christian governments to seize land with a moral and legal right from Indigenous people. Devastating their culture, their health, their right to live on a land that their ancestors passed down to them. All this was done in the name of Christ and it is still happening today. “What was done in the name of Christ most be undone in the name of Christ.” Sarah Augustine.

If you have never heard about the Doctrine of Discovery, I suggest you read this book. Your eyes will be opened and your heart will be changed.

Dayle Seitz, United Women in Faith, Secretary

### **Hooray for VBS!**

For many churches, vacation Bible school is a summer highlight. The event leads to lasting memories and changed hearts. It also sparks laughter. Maybe you’ve seen VBS humor online, such as the quote, “I’m tired, I mean like ... vacation Bible school kind of tired!” Another post reads, “You know you’re obsessed with VBS when ... you’re excited about cardboard on the side of the road.” And anyone with an earworm at week’s end can relate to this meme: “My parents hid my VBS CD. It’s for the best.”

For hungry young learners, snacks make an especially big impression. One excited preschooler shared that she enjoyed “juice and Billy Graham crackers” at VBS. Another boy raved about the first day, saying, “We heard stories and drew pictures. Then we went to play, and when we came inside, God had juice and cookies waiting for us!”



### Freedom of religion

President Franklin D. Roosevelt knew that freedom of religion was a necessary element in a true democracy. He believed that when there is no freedom to worship God as one chooses, democracy is not a reality.

Roosevelt said, “An ordering of society which relegates religion, democracy and good faith among nations to the background can find no place within it for the ideals of the Prince of Peace. The United States rejects such an ordering and retains its ancient faith.”



### “America the Beautiful”

Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929) wrote, edited and taught English in her native Massachusetts. Occasionally, she wrote hymns, too.

On a trip to Colorado, Bates was greatly impressed by amber waves of grain, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. She believed that God had definitely shed his grace all across this land. A visit to the summit of Pikes Peak inspired Bates to write her most famous poem-hymn, “America the Beautiful.”

Bates also realized that patriotism was an important part of America. She was grateful for heroes “who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life.” She wanted all Americans to realize how God had shed his grace on them and had crowned what was good “with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.”

Bates embodied the spirit of thankfulness to God for all she had experienced and been given.

### A prayer for July 4

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly praise you for the nation in which you have allowed us to live. We cherish its wonder and its beauty. We are thankful for its fruitful lands, its bountiful waters, its great resources and its unlimited opportunities.

We thank you for our founding fathers and mothers, and for their foresight, special wisdom, and steadfast courage in establishing freedom and a lasting document of fairness.

Stir up within each of us the will to be good stewards of all the blessings of the land we love.  
Amen.



### The Generous Sunshine of Summer

Sit in the generous sunshine of summer —  
A bright blue sky overhead.  
Join millions of leaves.  
Join grasses and trees.  
Soak up the warmth from heaven.

Pause in the generous sunshine of summer.  
Look for a cool, clear brook.  
Rest in the shade  
That summer has made.  
Rest and refresh the soul.

Bask in the generous sunshine of summer.  
Indulge in its timelessness — the quiet unfolding of nature itself,  
Abundantly giving,  
Abundantly living.  
Beauty transcends the earth, and leads to eternal worth!  
—Peggy Ferrell



## 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

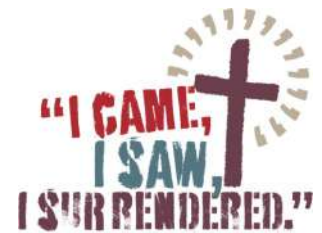
Bring a Lawn Chair

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

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

## Liberty through Surrender

To non-believers, talk of finding freedom through complete dependence on Jesus must sound foolish. How can surrendering your desires, time, heart — indeed, your entire life — lead to anything but bondage?



The answer is evident in Jesus' own life and ministry, writes Michael Card in *Immanuel: Reflections on the Life of Christ*. In a twist on Julius Caesar's motto "Veni, vidi, vici" ("I came, I saw, I conquered"), "Jesus lived by the motto, 'I came, I saw, I surrendered,'" Card notes. "By living out this unorthodox pronouncement, Jesus demonstrated that what the world regards as power is really impotence. True victory is only through surrender."

During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, St. Ignatius of Loyola wrote this prayer of surrender that's still relevant today: "Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess, Thou hast given me: I surrender it all to Thee to be disposed of according to Thy will. Give me only Thy love and Thy grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen."



On Sunday, June 5th at Bonfield Evangelical UMC, 33 members from Bonfield First Church were welcomed as transfers to Bonfield Evangelical UMC. There was a light lunch and fellowship that followed the welcoming ceremony.



July 1 Tawni (Grable) Buente  
 July 2 Barbara (Voigt) Cordes  
 July 3 Joyce (Schultz) Orwig, Richard Diefenbach  
 July 4 Dianne Wells, Betty Ann (Kirchner) Osenga,  
 Jason Hawks  
 July 5 Jordan Peiffer, Chrissy (Sharper) Riegel,  
 Joeseeph Sharper, Suzanne (Voigt) St. Germaine,  
 Tricia (Cochran) Coffman  
 July 6 Megan Kay Van Voorst, Sherry (Pfeiffer) Peters,  
 Norah Meyers  
 July 7 Hailey Heath, Laurie Vaughn, Ralph Grob,  
 Katelyn Overacker, Martin Powell  
 July 8 Randy Meyer, Bruce Messer, Lovice Brinkman  
 July 9 Brian Laird, Kyle Dahn, Tabitha Fowler,  
 Paige Wildman  
 July 10 Ashton Rae Diefenbach  
 July 11 Vicky (Ravens) Dubie  
 July 12 Mark Hanson  
 July 13 Nikolas Kirchner, Evan D. Davis  
 July 14 Colton Roy Hertz, Kevin Cochran,  
 Cole Jackubowski, Maverick Lemenager  
 July 15 Charlotte Ditterline, Quentin Swaite  
 July 16 Lorraine (Shreffler) Wildman  
 July 17 Evan Howard, Ricky LaMore  
 July 18 Duane Sharper  
 July 19 Judy (Fecke) Graf, Amy Lynn Strahan,  
 Megan Meyer  
 July 20 Heather Buente, Laurel (Palmer, Norgard) Walter,  
 Leah Havener, Cole Lemenager, Aaron Meyer,  
 Sarah Marcotte, Rev. Steve Friese  
 July 21 Vernon Daniel Dittus, Olivia (Nottke) Koerner  
 July 22 Brandon Kuipers  
 July 23 Harley Buente, Edie Friese, Payden Strahan  
 July 24 Kim (Schultz) Heath,  
 Theresa (Cunningham) Meyer  
 July 25 Joshua Vaughn  
 July 26 Candice Bauer, Claire Bitner, Lucy Raymond,  
 Jennifer (Dampitz) Overacker  
 July 28 Roger Marcotte, Todd Cordes  
 July 29 Carra Mau  
 July 30 Sharon Nottke, Amy (Orwig) Moody  
 July 31 Regan Marcotte, David Nottke, Walter Marcotte

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



### Freedom

Each one of us is born most free  
 And we alone can choose  
 To do what God would have us do,  
 To use what God would use.

Or we are also free to seek  
 The proud and selfish way —  
 A life where other gods come first  
 To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,  
 We find that freedom's place  
 Is really in God's will for us,  
 And we have chosen GRACE!




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.

# JULY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 - Mission Trip Members Return	2
3	4 	5 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	6	7	8	9
10	11 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	12 - AD Board at Grand Prairie at 7pm	13	14	15	16
17	18 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - VBS at Evan 6- 8:15pm	19 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	20 - VBS at Evan 6- 8:15pm - Community Lunch at Bonfield Lions at Noon	21 - Printing the Newsletter	22 - VBS at Evan 6- 8:15pm	23
24 31	25 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	26 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	27	28	29 - Youth Lock In at 6:30pm - 9:30am	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:

"In the cause of freedom we have to battle for the  
rights of people with whom we do not agree. ... If we  
do not defend their rights, we endanger our own."

—Harry Truman

\* \* \*

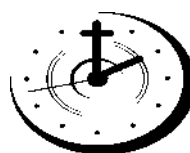
"A life without love is like a year without summer."

—Swedish proverb

\* \* \*

"What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to  
humanity."

—Joseph Addison



## 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:  
July 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](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 Box Holder**

**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-8:15pm

**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.