

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



By the time you are reading this, most will have celebrated the remembrance of God coming to Earth in human form as an innocent baby lying in a simple manger at a stable located in Bethlehem. Jesus, who came to save our lives when there was a lot of turmoil in the world.

In this first article for 2023 I want to give a glimpse of what the year will bring. In just a little more than three months we focus on Jesus from birth to His betrayal, denial, sentencing, death and resurrection. Plans are currently being made at both churches in the Parish for events that hopefully will be enjoyed by many.

Below you can find information on fellowship brunches that will happen at Grand Prairie UMC. Also, below there is information on an event happening at Bonfield Evangelical UMC that is being planned in February.

Next month we will share the details of the Lenten services for County West that will begin on February 22nd with Ash Wednesday. Hopefully next month I will announce a Bible Study that will take place during Lent. Holy Week Services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunrise) will be held the first week of April at Grand Prairie.

If you haven't attended either of the churches in the Parish for a while, we have room for you every Sunday! If you are reading this and are seeking a church to attend, we have room at Grand Prairie and Bonfield Evangelical UMC's for you as well! You will find friendly people at both churches who will welcome you with open arms and I will do my best to show you how to Love like Jesus.

So much has happened since that night over 2000 years ago when Jesus was born. We have all had trials in our lives, especially over the past three years. Jesus will be returning to Earth soon. May we be prepared for His return and may we all have a wonderful 2023!

Wishing blessings on everyone,
Pastor Keith



Grand Prairie Brunches - January 15th, February 19th and March 19th

Bring a Friend to Church - Sunday, February 19th at Evan, with a free lunch to follow the service.

Saturday, April 1 - The Parish NOW Easter Egg Hunt

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A Note From Pastor Keith:

Monday night December 19th I went to Immediate care in Bradley because I started to have breathing issues. That ended up with an ambulance ride to tour the newly expanded ER at Riverside that opened that day. Luckily they found out I had an upper respiratory infection that required me to work from home for a few days.

I want to thank the staff at Immediate Care, the Bradley EMT's and the ER staff at Riverside for their promptness and professionalism in getting me taken care of quickly! I also want to thank Rich and Jenny Cochran who helped to bring my car to Riverside as well as Rich driving me home. And thanks to Hope for having to adjust how we do the bulletin and newsletter work.

Pastor Keith



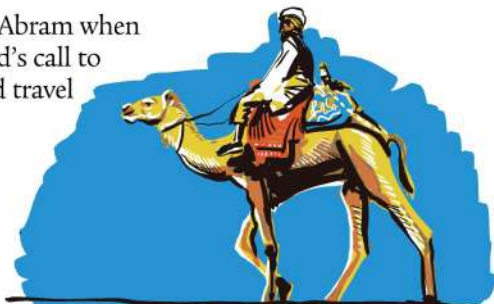
January Memory Verse

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. (NLT) ~ Jeremiah 29:11

Bible Quiz

How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

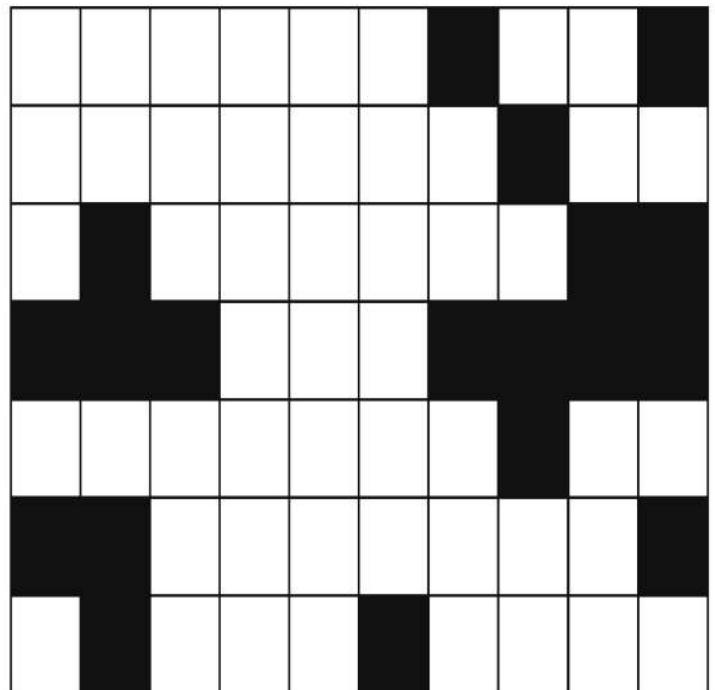
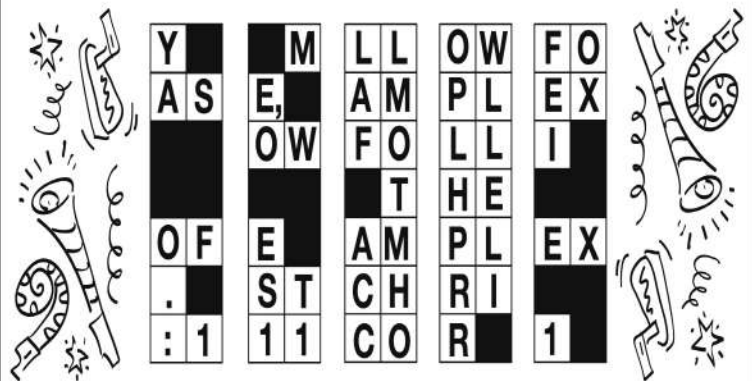
- A. 25
B. 50
C. 75
D. 100



Answer: C (See Genesis 12:4.)

Puzzle!

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to complete an NIV Bible verse about an important commitment.



1 Cor. 11:1

Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.



YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Offerings can be mailed to:
PO Box 66
Bonfield, IL 60913

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.

Pursue Jesus — and your passions

If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you’re not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you’re doing “wrong” and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God’s direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue him.

As you review the previous year, ask: What brought me joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Whether your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for him this year!



Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH
God made wild animals and livestock.					
God said, “Let there be light.”					
God gathered the waters under the sky into one place.					
God made a vault to separate the waters and called it “sky.”					
God created plants and trees.					
God separated the light from the darkness.					
God made the water teem with living creatures.					
God made the sun and moon.					
God made birds fly above the earth.					
God made stars.					
God created mankind in his own image.					

God _aw all tha_ he _ad ma_e, an_ _t was ve_y g_od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fourth, fifth, fourth, sixth, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.



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

From Our Church Bulletin:

Candy Bauer, Charles Blankenship, Jay Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Marjorie Kersch, Maggie Maxwell (Bob Nichols' sister), Allen Messer, Sunshine Powell, Chuck Quick, Kurt Quick, Patty Reeve, Dorothy Riegel, Stan Stone, Jackie Wagner, & Ronald Wildman.

Arden Courts

Mel Brinkman

Bourbonnais Grove

Mary Krieg

At Home

Pearl Evans

Courtyard Estates of Herscher

Marjorie Kersch
Randy Riegel

At College

Gretchen Brinkman
Mary Grace Brinkman
Becca Coffman
Jenna Kenning
Isabell Lowey
Kylie & Kamden Lockwood

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
Lucky Hubiagbe.....Ghana

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.



Thank you for your Christmas cards and calendars. Over 200 of each were given this year to veterans at the Manteno Veterans Home.

Our next project will be for Valentine's Day.

We will be collecting handmade or store bought Valentine's cards for the veterans. Please bring the cards to church or church office before January 14th. We will meet on Saturday, January 14th at Evan's Upper Room at 9am to sign the cards.

Thank you for helping our veterans have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a Wonderful Valentine's Day!



+Christian Symbol+

OPEN BOOK — A book symbolizes the Bible, the written Word of God. When shown open, a book represents truth or revelation. Apostles and saints are often pictured holding an open book, understood as the New Testament writings of the early Christian church.



NOVEMBER 2022 ATTENDANCE

	11/6	11/13	11/18	11/25
Evangelical	33	38	38	33
Grand Prairie	20	22	20	27
Total	53	60	58	60



United
Women
in Faith

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.

Evan UWF - The Evangelical United Methodist Church UWF met at the Herscher Restaurant for a Christmas Lunch. There were 8 members and 6 quests present. After the meal we were invited to the Herscher Historical Society for a walk through. Christmas decorations were Victorian style. Everything was beautifully decorated. There will not be a meeting in January.
Dayle Seitz, Secretary

Happy New Year  *Happy New Year*  *Happy New Year*

Sunshine Circle - Sunshine Circle met on Dec. 15th at the church. We first put together 70 goodie bags to bring to the Arcadia Nursing Home for one of our Christmas missions. Rita was hostess. Pastor Keith led in prayer. Rita prepared a very good meal. Meeting was led by President Donna. Warming shelter opened at Gift of God Street Church. We gave a gift card of \$150 for a needy family at the grade school. We also collected hats, mittens, and scarves for the Salvation Army. They were displayed on a Christmas tree in the back of the sanctuary. A care basket was delivered to Sharon Mike for Thanksgiving. Secret Pals were revealed. Election of Officers were selected. President - Donna, Vice President - Vickie, Secretary - Jan, Treasurer - Kim, Cheer - Ardis. Devotions were led by Rita, Hostesses for the coming year were selected. Next meeting will be on February 16th with Vickie and Danette as hostesses.

Missions for 2022 - We purchased 2 car seats for Pregnancy Resource enter. We gave donations to Fortitude. We purchased 2 Easter Lilies & 2 Poinsettias and gave to shut-ins. We gave a \$100 to help with candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. We had a Drive Thru Pork Chop Meal to fund our missions for the year. We donated \$150 for a needy family. We also gave a care basket for Thanksgiving. We collected mittens, hats and scarves for the homeless. We delivered 70 goodie bags for the nursing home residents at Arcadia in Clifton. It feels good to be able to help those in need. If you would like to join us, we met every third Thursday. We would love to have you join us.

Martha Circle

- 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.



On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star.

How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, “It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven’s ‘Hymn to Joy’ is joyous. If a man were to say, ‘It is not joyous to me,’ he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidness. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself.”



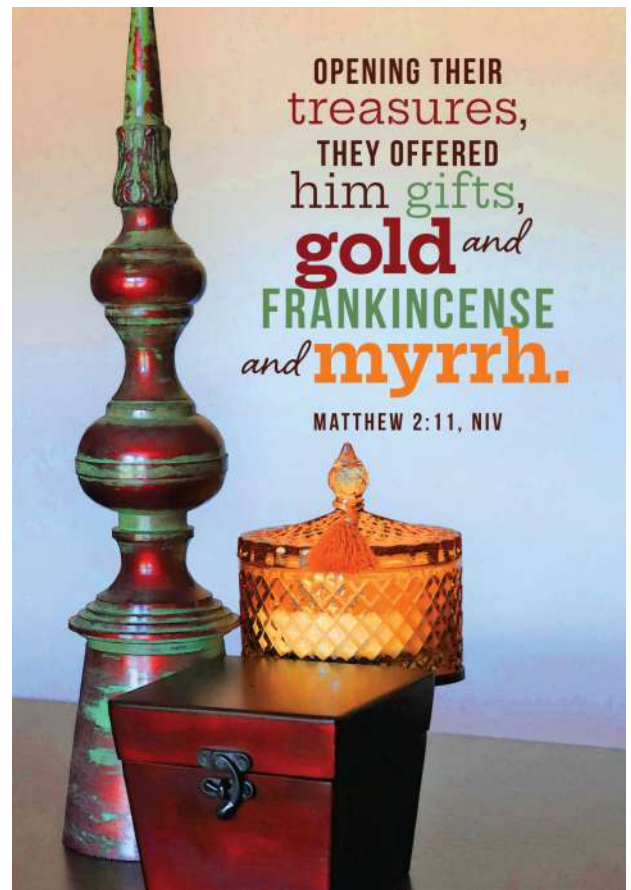
Another year for God

Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be,
in working or in waiting, another year with thee....

Another year of progress, another year of praise,
another year of proving thy presence all the days.

Another year of service, of witness for thy love;
another year of training for holier work above.

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,
on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.



Wisdom from MLK

I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism.

Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.

—Martin Luther King Jr.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1 Kevan Wilson, Tina Pfeiffer, Mary Charter
 January 2 Carla Taylor, Dale Pfeiffer, Lindsey Rice
 January 3 Julia Fecke, Ed Diefenbach, Kim Ohrt
 January 4 Wesley Pastorel, Troy Wilson, Lesley Dato
 January 5 Ronald Wildman
 January 6 Jacob Grob, Dan Riegel
 January 7 Jacob Mau, Alan Rieke, Cindy Melhorn
 January 8 Paul Larkins, Michael Weber
 January 9 Rachael (Friese) Tracy
 January 11 Jim Diefenbach, Chad Sullivan,
 Matthew Goodman
 January 12 Elizabeth Meyer, Scott Bland,
 Stacey Bland, Michelle Hertz
 January 13 Cade Turro, Anthony Hawks
 January 14 Terry Goodman, Jeanne Dau, Bob Scholl,
 Jenny Jensen
 January 15 Tommy Lee Davis
 January 16 Shawna Havener, Hope Raymond
 January 17 Robert Buente, Valerie Evans,
 David Dayton
 January 18 Lori Brinkman
 January 19 Jeremy Riegel, Kathy Dahn, Adam Weber,
 Morgan Norton,
 January 20 Gavin Milk, Scott Peters, Wayne Meyer,
 Linda Wagner
 January 21 Amy (Jackson) Meyer
 January 22 Alison Adams, Cyndee Meyer
 January 23 Jason Dahn, Rick Hoffman
 January 24 Grant Wenzelman
 January 25 Abigail (Pfeiffer) Allen
 January 26 Ian Charter, Matt Ward, Judy Bushman,
 Marie Brunner, Linda Lindley,
 Melissa Denoyer
 January 27 Gerrick Weedon, Kamden Lockwood
 January 28 Andrew Pfeiffer, David Sackett
 January 29 Dustin Kingsland, Timothy Messer
 January 30 Andrew Wulff

January 31 McKenzie Riley Paetsch,
 Alexis Graf, Gerald Frank Fecke, Jr.,
 Jason Kirk, Randy Riegel

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



If inclement weather happens, make sure to check our Facebook page or website for updates to know if church will be cancelled.

Facebook - www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish
 Website - www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org



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.

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 - New Year's Day	2 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	3 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	4	5	6 - Epiphany of the Lord	7
8 - Baptism of the Lord - Epiphany Sunday - Youth Group at Evan at 6:30pm	9 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	10 - Ad Board at Evan at 7pm	11	12	13	14
15 - Human Relations Sunday	16 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	24 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	25	26 - Printing the Newsletter	27	28
29	30 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	31 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM				



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.

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day
of the year."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

* * *

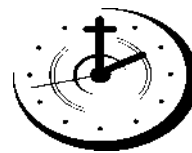
"If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you
can't walk, crawl, but by all means, keep moving."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

* * *

"Life, with its rules, its obligations, and its freedoms,
is like a sonnet: 'You're given the form, but you
have to write the sonnet yourself.'"

—Anna Quindlen, "An Appreciation," in *A Wrinkle
in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle



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:
January 3 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.



Facebook -
[www.facebook.com/
bonfieldgpparish](http://www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish)
Website - [www.
bonfieldgrandprairie.org](http://www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org)

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

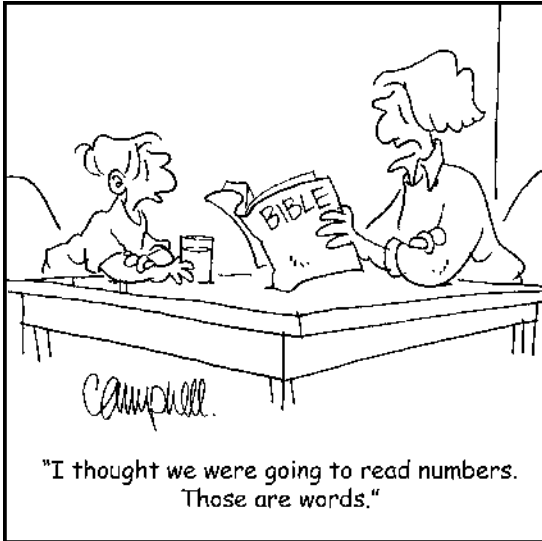
Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

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

Bonfield / Grand Prairie Parish
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Bonfield, IL 60913

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Bonfield Box Holder

Bonfield, IL 60913



On Sunday, December 18th at Evan the Sunday School children performed their 2022 Christmas program.

Afterward, we enjoyed a choice of seven different soups, turkey and ham subs, and chips. There was a variety of yummy desserts, including a birthday cake for Jesus.

Many thanks to Kim Metzka for directing the program along with her helpers, Ivy Aldridge, Andrea Lemenager, and Jen Spinale. The biggest "thanks" goes to the amazing children, ranging from pre-school to high school.

