



“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



Overall, have you enjoyed winter thus far? I already know some will say yes and others will say no. That was something I preached about recently, our denomination not being in unity in recent times. The solution for unity is to follow what we learn from Jesus and the Cross.

This month we will begin our Lenten journey, remembering the final days of Jesus and His ministry on Earth in human form. On the back of the newsletter you will find the schedule for the Wednesday Lenten services along with the message theme and where the six weeks of offerings will be directed to. Three of the services will be held at either Evan or Grand Prairie this year. I will be leading the Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd at Reddick UMC.

Also, on Ash Wednesday I will once again offer the opportunity for anyone to come inside the north entrance of Evan to self-impose ashes. This will take place from 1-5 pm on February 22nd. Finally, I will be leading a Lenten Bible study this year. More information can be found inside the newsletter but this will be a study where a short video will be shown followed by discussion. No need to buy anything!

There are other events happening this month to look forward to. Grand Prairie will have a brunch after their worship service on Feb 19th. A sign-up sheet will be available to try and have a good variety of goodies to share. That same day Evan is having “Bring a Friend to Church day.” Not invite someone but bring someone. And there will be an enticement in bringing a friend. Look inside the newsletter to see what that is.

I am so encouraged by things I see happening in both churches lately. But, this is not the time to rest on where we are. We have room at both churches in the Parish to say HI to anyone who wants to see what we are doing. You will be greeted by friendly people and hopefully find out what it is like to Love Like Jesus! That is the way to salvation for all of us.

May God Bless each one of you!
Pastor Keith



Lenten Study - “The Walk”: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life
By Rev. Adam Hamilton

Come and join Pastor Keith for a Lenten study on Monday afternoons at Evan UMC in upper room at 1:30pm. Starting on Monday, February 27 The DVD will focus on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus’ own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

Only items needed for the study are a bible, notepad, and pen for notes.

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The outreach from Pearl's church family and friends has been so comforting during our time of grief. Thank you to everyone that has sent cards, came to the services, sent condolences, gave hugs, shared memories, and sent messages. Thank you to Pastor Keith Blankenship for speaking at the services. A special thank you to the Bonfield UMC Parish members and Bonfield Lions Club members who brought food and helped serve the luncheon.

"So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." John 16:22

~ The Pearl Evans Family

February Memory Verse

Let all that you do be done with love.

~ I Corinthians 16:14

Amazing Love - If there is one subject more than another upon which I wish ever to speak, it is the love of Christ; but if there is one which quite baffles me, and makes me go back from this platform utterly ashamed of my poor feeble words, and of the tongue which has uttered them, it is this subject. This love of Christ is the most amazing thing under heaven, if not in heaven itself.

—Charles Spurgeon



Bible Quiz



Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is _____; love is _____. ... it keeps no record of _____."

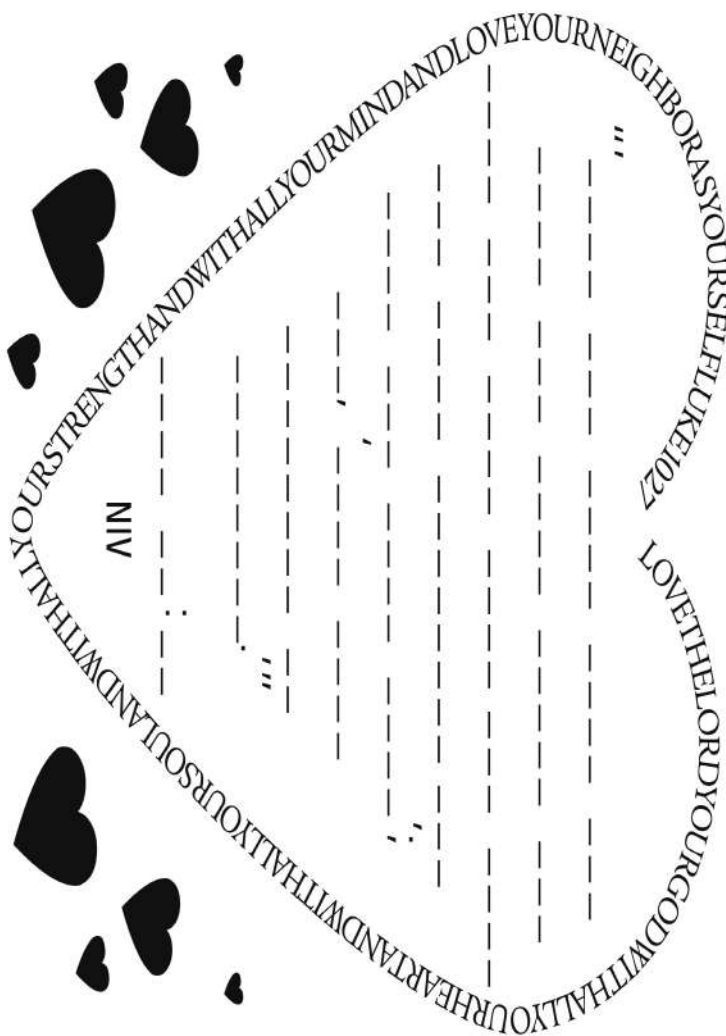
- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs

Love is...

Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV.)

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27, NIV

I want to thank everyone for the cards & well wishes for my 100th birthday. We had a grand celebration. Thank you also for your prayers during my recent hospital stay. God is very good to me.



~ Marjorie Kersch

A Daily Prayer

Since God will be my end
Let him be my beginning,
So that I may now fully live
Instead of falling, straying, sinning.
—Angelus Silesius

Lenten Signals



Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three Important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit. STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

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.



The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?

Directions:

Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.

But if we _____ in the _____, as he is in the _____,
we have _____ with one another, and the _____
of Jesus, his Son, _____ us from all sin. If we claim to be
without sin, we deceive ourselves and the _____ is not in us.
If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just and will
_____ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV

Answer: walk, light, light, fellowship, blood, purifies, truth, confess, faithful, forgive



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

From Our Church Bulletin:

The Blankenship Family, Candy Bauer,
Jay Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse,
Virginia Dittus, Marjorie Kersch, Sharon Lowey,
Maggie Maxwell (Bob Nichols' sister),
Allen Messer, Sunshine Powell, Dorothy Riegel,
Stan Stone, Jackie Wagner, & Ronald Wildman.

Arden Courts

Mel Brinkman

Bourbonnais Grove

Mary Krieg

Heritage Woods

Vi Morse

Courtyard Estate
of Herscher

Marjorie Kersch
Randy Riegel

At College

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



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 SERVICE

• • • WE LOVE OUR VETERANS • • •



173 Valentine's Day cards were signed for the Manteno Veterans. Thank you to all who donated cards and signed cards. The cards will be given to the veterans with a sucker. We are also going to be giving Easter cards to the veterans. Please bring in Easter cards and blank cards to church. The Easter cards will be signed on March 11 at Evan at 9am.

- Janet Boyer



+Christian Symbol+

ECCE AGNUS DEI — Latin for “Behold, the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist uses twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).



DECEMBER 2022 ATTENDANCE

	12/4	12/11	12/18	12/25
Evangelical	30	44	74	42
Grand Prairie	25	27	22	23
Total	55	71	96	65



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.

Martha Circle

March 8 - Hostess Cheri D.

May 10 - Hostess Janet B.

July 12 - Hostess Becky C.

September 13 - Hostess Jenny C. & Joyce C.

November 8 - Hostess Tricia C.

December 13 - Hostess Kim O. & Marilyn O.

- 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.

Sunshine Circle - Sunshine Circle met in the Upper Room on December 15, 2022 with 11 members present. Rita Overacker was hostess. She served a delicious meal. Rita had devotions. Pastor led in prayer. Rita read readings, they were Home for Christmas, Angel on a Doorstep, and The Perfect Gift. Roll Call was taken. Minutes were read and approved. Treasure report was read and approved. A gift card for \$150 was given to a needy family. A care basket was delivered to a shut in. We made up 70 goody bags for Arcadia Nursing home. They were delivered on Dec 18th. Officers for 2023 are President, Donna Diefenbach, Vice President, Vicki Gaffield, Secretary, Jan Green, Treasure, Kim Metzka, and Cheer, Ardis Messer. Hostesses for 2023 were volunteered. Vicki and Danette will be hostesses for Feb 16th. Poinsettias were given to Susie for Pearl and Sharron Mike.



Grand Prairie Brunches - 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



Let's Go Bananas!

When the baseball team in Savannah, Georgia, got new owners in 2016, it also received a new name and identity — the Bananas! Adding pep to what often seemed a long, boring game, Jesse and Emily Cole offered a creative new experience, full of entertainment and spectacle. Players wear all-yellow uniforms (sometimes kilts), and the mascot is a banana named Split. Cheering on the team are the Banana Nanas senior-citizen dancers and the Man-Nanas Dad Bod Cheering Squad. The entire organization sets out to bring hospitality and joy, sending people home thinking, “This was the best experience of my life!” What if Christians, individually and as a community, fully embraced *our* new name and identity, sharing radical hospitality and profound joy with everyone? Jesus has bought us from our former owner, sin, and given us a new name: Beloved of God. This identity may seem silly to some, just as the Savannah Bananas raised eyebrows initially. But before long, the delighted fans were *going bananas* for them! With the same wild abandon and big-hearted outreach, the church — with its much-greater message — can spread love and goodwill, and have fun doing it!



Love Aces the Test

Author Adele Calhoun describes life as “our ‘open-book’ test on love.” How can we ace it? In *Invitations From God*, she points out that daily decisions are the make-or-break factors: “Day in and day out as we plan, work, produce, commute and relate, we make life-altering choices to either love or neglect others.”

For another study guide, reflect on St. Augustine’s timeless words: “What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of [people]. That is what love looks like.”



The birthday of U.S. President George Washington (February 22) was first celebrated as a federal holiday in the United States in the 1880s. In 1968 the holiday was adapted to also honour the birth of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and moved to the third Monday in February.



What's in it for Me?

Communion takes on new meaning for me when Jesus calls himself the bread of life. The day after feeding the 5,000, Jesus explains, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life” (John 6:54, NIV). Many people stop following him after that, finding the teaching too difficult. Maybe Jesus is challenging people who claim to be his disciples but are in it just for the miracles. When I hear the Words of Institution, I ask myself if I’m a “What’s in it for me?” follower. Do I expect Jesus to merely impress me with answered prayers? Or do I trust him completely and serve him wholeheartedly? Am I like Peter, who, when asked whether I’ll leave too, replies, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (v. 68). —Julie Lee



From Death to New Life

After the inventor of the Frisbee died in 2002, family members honored his final wish: to have some of his ashes molded into a flying disk! The point, according to toy legend “Steady Ed” Headrick, was for his loved ones to have fun playing with him even after he had passed. “He lived for Frisbee,” said his widow, and now he lives on in one. Thankfully, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday aren’t cremains. But they do have special significance. They’re often made by burning branches from the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebration. By tying together seasons, the practice of receiving ashes reminds us of cycles: sin, repentance and forgiveness, plus life, death and resurrection — Jesus’ as well as our own.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1 Elizabeth LaDolce
 February 2 Brianna Dayton, Robyn Howard,
 Leslie Diefenbach, Lindsay VanVoorst
 February 3 Haley Ireland, Caitlyn Diefenbach
 February 4 Lauren Meyer
 February 7 Brian Heath, Todd Hertz, Alyssa Durbin,
 Drew Wenzelman
 February 8 Gina Phillips, David Hansen, Ronda Davis,
 Marcia Svenkson, Alex Higginbotham
 February 9 Esther Marcotte, Dennis Schwark
 February 10 Tyler St. Germaine, Catherine Schwark,
 Raleigh Turro
 February 12 Donna Voigt, Jeffrey Hertz,
 Kaleena Vaughn
 February 13 Ronald Cordes, Linda Willibey,
 Christopher Sikes, Carolyn Brinkman,
 Dayle Seitz
 February 14 Joy Fecke-Ruckman, Chelsea Kingsland,
 February 15 Bruce Wilson
 February 16 Sarah Rice
 February 17 Logan Meyer, Joseph Sikes,
 Michaela Sikes, Carolyn Schwark,
 Ruth Wheeler
 February 18 Lauren Berghouse, Richard Wildman
 February 19 Heidi Nottke Williams, Andrew Osenga,
 Brandon Brinkman
 February 20 Samuel Wilson, Matthew Wilson,
 Mark Schwark, Cheyenne Overacker,
 Oliver Miller
 February 21 Noah Sackett
 February 23 Bartlett (Bart) Durbin, Josh Wenzelman,
 Debby Bitner
 February 24 Elliott Svenkson, Trent Wilking
 Sandi Schultz, Amber Riegel
 February 25 Karen Adams, Kay Ellen Meyer,
 Connor Overacker
 February 26 Rachel Heath, Adam Riegel,
 Diane Kuipers, Anita Wendling

February 27 Rebecca Coffman
 February 28 Keith Bauer, Jill Grant

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 Community 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).

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 - Salina Fire House Breakfast	6 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	7 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	8	9	10	11
12 - Youth Group at Evan at 6:30pm	13 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	14 - Evan NOW Meeting at 6pm - Parish NOW Meeting at 6:30pm - Happy Valentine's Day	15	16 - Sunshine Circle at 6:30pm	17	18
19 - Bring a Friend to Church day with Lunch to follow 	20 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM 	21 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	22 	23 - Printing the Newsletter	24	25
26 	27 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Bible Study at Evan at 1:30pm	28 - 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.

"It is about as hard to absolve yourself of your own
guilt as it is to sit in your own lap."

—Frederick Buechner

* * *

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but
small ones surround us every day."

—Sally Koch

* * *

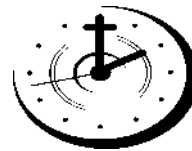
"To love another person is to help them love God."

—Søren Kierkegaard

* * *

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist."

—Indira Gandhi



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:
February 7 at 8:30am. The group orders
from the regular menu.



**BUT WE HAVE
THE MIND OF
CHRIST.**
1 CORINTHIANS 2:16

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



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

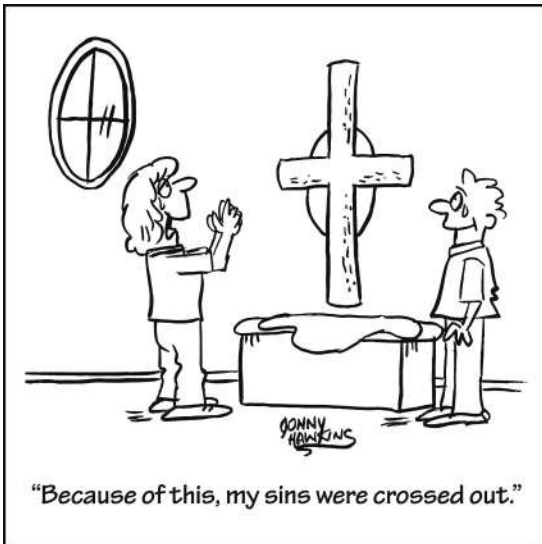
Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

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

Bonfield / Grand Prairie Parish
prayerful Box 66
Bonfield, IL 60913

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Bonfield, IL 60913



Ash Wednesday Service on February 22 at 7pm
led by Pastor Keith Blankenship
at Reddick UMC
at 359000 E 3200 N RD. Reddick, IL 60961

Self imposition on Wednesday, February 22 at 1-5pm
at Bonfield Evan UMC
at 348 E Smith St. Bonfield, IL 60913

Lenten Service Wednesday, March 1 at 7pm

led by Terry Goodwin, certified lay servant serving Essex UMC
at Bonfield Evan UMC at 348 E Smith St. Bonfield, IL 60913

“I Am” theme for the services this year.

Donations will be taken for Harbor House of Kankakee.

More services and dates to be announced in the next newsletter.

Any questions please call 815-802-9805.

