

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



As you read this newsletter, we are on our annual 40 (46 if you include Sundays) day journey through the season of Lent. The time for personal reflection of ourselves as well as a time of renewal for our spirit. Inside this month's newsletter you will find the schedule for the remaining County West Lenten services. The schedule gives you the location of each Wednesday night's service as well as who will be leading that service. You will also find information on the Bible study I am leading this year as well as information on the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Cross Walk that will take place on Good Friday.

In February Grand Prairie had a good turnout for the brunch they had after the service. On the calendar inside the newsletter you can see the date in March when they will have their next brunch. Evan hosted a Bring a Friend to Church Sunday in February with a luncheon afterward. There was a good turnout for this as well!

Many of you are aware that on January 25th my father was called Home after more than 4 years battling multiple cancers. My family and I have been overwhelmed by all who reached out to us with prayers and kind thoughts. I want to take this space to thank each of you who took time out, thinking of us as we grieve our loss and Heaven's gain. As a Pastor I try to be there to help comfort families who lose loved ones. It means so much having others lift me up when I'm the one facing the loss. So, thank you again for the thoughts and prayers as my family and I grieve.

Lifting blessings to all reading this article and THINK SPRING!!!

Pastor Keith



“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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A prayer for Lent: O Lord, open my eyes that I may see more clearly the condition of my soul. If there is darkness, mean-spiritedness, egotistic pride ... or worse within, cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Renew a right spirit within me and make me truly Christ-like in all my thoughts and actions. And when I begin to edge away from your will, please stir up my conscience until I am in harmony with you again. In Christ's name. Amen

During this 40-day period, Christians reevaluate their spiritual lives. It's a time for us to have a spiritual check-up and to strive to live the Christian life more faithfully and more intentionally. One might go on a spiritual retreat, for example, spending time with a prayer warrior, Bible expert or theologian. During Lent, attending the various church services and study opportunities can help people grow spiritually and become more informed about the Christian faith. Our pilgrimage through Lent should inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives.



Sunday, March 12

Spring Forward
We will be losing 1 hour,
don't be late to church.

March Memory Verse

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you
Lord. ~ Psalm 56:3

Bible Quiz

In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus



Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)

Puzzle!

Slow down and uncover this message
and Bible verse, using the code below.

A	B	F	G	K	L	O	R	U	V
1		2		3		4		5	
D	E	H	I	M	N	S	T	W	Y

W

5 1

3 5 4 4

4 1 3 3

4 4

2 4 1

1 3 1

3 2 4 4 1 3

2 4 4

2 4 1

"

1 1

4 4 2 3 3

1 3 1

3 3 4 5

4 2 1 4

2 1 3

2 4 1

"

know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Answer: We must talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and

Lighthearted blessings

- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you're dead!
- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.

May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.

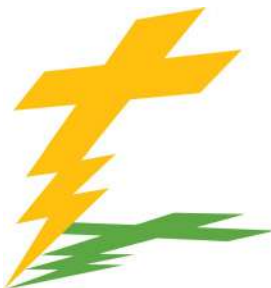
Come be energized
After some time away
from the church,
author Donald E.

Miller returned to the
fold. He writes: "One
thing that brought me

back ... was asking

simply: What are the alternatives to the church? Where are the communities that sanction the pursuit of meaning and truth as a legitimate enterprise? that have material and personal resources to assist in this search? that provide regular occasions for confession of failures? that renew and inspire? that provide a setting where children are nurtured? where family members can be buried? where births can be celebrated? where social issues can be debated?"

Miller concludes: "There are a number of institutions that deal with one or several of these questions, but historically the church has demonstrated its ability to energize all of these activities."



YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

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

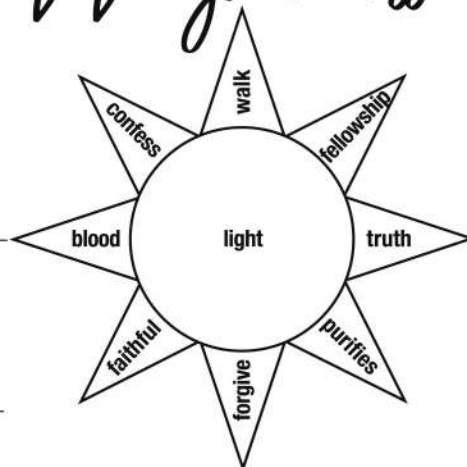
They will be given to the church designated in the envelope.
Offerings can be dropped off at the Parish office during business hours or mailed. We appreciate your gifts and tithes.



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:

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

Miller

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
Kamden Lockwood



Saturday, April 1 will be the Parish NOW Easter Egg Hunt at the Bonfield Quarry Park. The NOW committee is looking for candy

donations. Please bring candy to church and place in the designated boxes. Please NO plastic eggs.



We are 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+



Compassion International Kids

Ebenezer Forson.....Ghana
Melany Samantha.....Aguilera
Sonaton Soren.....Bangladesh
Janny Boya.....Ecuador
Witney Juarez.....Guatemala
Janny Boya.....Ecuador
Lucky Hubiaga.....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.



SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, “Is this one leaf, or three?” Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

JANUARY 2023 ATTENDANCE

	1/1	1/8	1/15	1/22	1/29
Evangelical	27	44	42	44	27
Grand Prairie	21	20	29	21	25
Total	48	64	71	65	52





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 7 - 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.

The Grand Prairie Martha Circle met at Cindy Erdmann's home for our January meeting. We held our business meeting and worked on ideas for the coming year. Some of the plans that we discussed was providing a meal and serving at Fortitude sometime in January, and having some brunches after church in January, February and March. After our business was complete Cindy Erdmann and Trish DeLucas had some delicious treats for us.

4 of us did serve at Fortitude in late January. We provided the food according to their sign up site and then stayed to serve. We served about 20 people in all age ranges. It was a pleasure to be there and participate in any way that we could. We plan on helping again sometime in the future.

This past Sunday we had our second brunch after church. There was lots of good food and fellowship.

Our next meeting will be March 7 at Cheri Dayton's home.

The Martha Circle is a group of women whose goal is to find ways to help in our churches and our community while providing fellowship along the way. All are welcome to attend. If you have questions or would like more information about our group please contact:

Tricia Coffman at coffmantricia@gmail.com ~ God is Good



United Women in Faith of the Parish

Sunshine Circle - Sunshine Circle met in the upper room on Feb. 16th, 2023. Our 1st meeting of the year was hosted by Vicki and Danette. Pastor Keith gave blessing before all enjoyed a delicious meal.

Vicki had devotions "15 Bible verses every woman should know."

Roll call was taken, minutes were read and approved, 9 members were present.

Sunshine Circle donated \$100.00 to the Parish Now Easter Egg Hunt.

The hats, gloves, mittens and scarves on the Christmas tree were delivered on Dec. 20th to the Salvation Army. There was some discussion on the Pork Chop Drive-Thru fund raiser for 2023. March 16th meeting will be hosted by Pres. Donna.

Evan UWF - The Colorado River: The fight is on for the drought stricken Colorado River. Our President will have very hard choices to decide on whether He will use century old rules or create new rules due the effects of climate change, shrinking a once abundant water supply.

This important river in the west is creating existential risks for potentially powerful states and industries. The 1,450 mile Colorado River made much of the west habitual. Now the risks of loss of water to 40 million Americans including the Gila River Community. Whose ancestors farmed with Colorado river water for millennia. These people are the most vulnerable tribe and hold senior rights for water by the Supreme Court. This is only a drop in the bucket of who or what will be effected by what our government roles in the near future.

Reference: Annie Snider 02/04/2023

Dayle Seitz, Social Action Coordinator. UWF district

Resurrection faith

In spring 2020, while Manhattan pastor Timothy Keller was writing a new book about Easter, the world — and his world — stopped. The corona virus pandemic ravaged New York City, and Keller received a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Suddenly the theologian had to confront death head-on and reassess his views on eternal life.

"I realized I only half-believed I was going to die," he tells *The Christian Post*. "In some ways, I also only half-believed in the Resurrection — not intellectually so much, but all the way down deep in my heart. I realized I needed to have a greater, a deeper faith in the Resurrection, both intellectually and mentally."

While undergoing cancer treatments, Keller took a deep dive into historical and scriptural evidence for Easter's main event. He also prayed that the Holy Spirit would make the Resurrection, which can seem abstract, real to his heart.

Facing your own mortality puts earthly things into clear perspective, says the pastor, and it's a wake-up call for Jesus' followers to act. "The Resurrection means that God has not at all given up on the world," Keller writes in *Hope in Times of Fear*. "But beyond that, it gives meaning to suffering and gives hope that through the suffering will come healing. The Resurrection guarantees that this renewal is certain and is also a call for Christians to work now against what is wrong and unjust."

A God who knows

It is easy to dismiss or ridicule the idea of God on a cross. But I would have a hard time following a philosophical abstraction. At some points in our lives, we may need a God who has entered our darkest places of uncertainty and depression. A God who can comprehend the fear of a death without significance. A God who knows the silence of God.

—Michael Gerson





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 2 Sharon Howard, Jacob Brinkman,
 Pam Wilking
 March 3 Janet Schroeder, Janet Boyer
 March 4 Susan (Bradley) Schroeder
 March 5 Bill Hertz, Norman Bauer
 March 7 Denise Kirchner
 March 8 Alaxis Morse
 March 9 Michael Colston, Herb Foltz, Jennifer Rice
 March 11 Kenneth Bouk, Gina Cordes
 March 13 Jessica Brinkman, Chad Grob
 March 14 Wade Kuipers, Matthew Meyer
 March 15 Terry Meyer, Rebecca Loyd, Bob Nichols,
 Doreen Wendling, Susan Resing
 March 16 Richard Marcotte
 March 17 Joyce Cochran, Alexis Robinson,
 Susie Clutter
 March 18 Melissa Pastorel, Tammy Riegel
 March 19 Frederick Meyer, Jared Charter,
 Lauren R. Davis, Virginia Young
 March 20 Wesley Adams
 March 21 Joyce Riegel, Wayne Buente,
 Shirley Larkins
 March 22 Joy Bland
 March 23 Patrick Lindley, Douglas Gagnon
 March 24 Ryan Dau
 March 25 JoAnn Hertz
 March 26 Jay Buente, Ron Charter, Jeremy Jensen
 March 27 Alison Paglin
 March 28 Amber Piercy
 March 29 Lecia Geiger
 March 30 Larrin Nottke, Sr., William Diefenbach,
 Alexandra Meyer
 March 31 Tony Graf, Eloise Kuipers,
 Martine Berghouse

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



Justin Schrader fundraiser March 25 at 5pm at Bonfield Lions Building. Justin is currently off work because of a tumor behind the eye and the subsequent migraines. There will be a fundraiser of chili and chili dogs, drinks, chips and desserts for \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-9, children under 5 are free. There will be a silent auction and 50/50 raffles. For tickets and to provide items for raffles and silent auction for this event, please contact Steve (brother) 815-370-5923. Tickets may be purchased in advance or mailing a donation to the Bonfield Lions, C/O Justin, P.O. Box 1, Bonfield, IL 60913.









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).

MARCH 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 - Lent Service at Bonfield Evan at 7pm	2 - Evan UWF	3  World Day of Prayer	4
5 - Salina Fire House Breakfast 	6 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Bible Study at Evan at 1:30pm	7 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM - Martha Circle	8 - Lent Service at Essex UMC at 7pm	9	10	11
12 - Youth Group at Evan at 6:30pm 	13 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Bible Study at Evan at 1:30pm	14 - Ad Board at Grand Prairie at 7pm	15 - Lent Service at Grand Prairie at 7pm	16 - Sunshine Circle at 6:30pm	17  St. Patrick's Day	18
19 	20 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Bible Study at Evan at 1:30pm	21 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	22 - Lent Service at Herscher UMC at 7pm	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	29 - Lent Service at Bonfield Evan at 7pm	30	31	



Join us for Sunday services
online at 11am on our
Facebook page,
[www.facebook.com/
bonfieldgpparish](http://www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish)

"God doesn't just give us grace; he gives us Jesus,
the Lord of grace." —Joni Eareckson Tada

* * *

"Be more concerned with your character than your
reputation, because your character is what you really
are, while your reputation is merely what others think
you are." —John Wooden

* * *

"Still round the corner there may wait / A new road
or a secret gate." —J.R.R. Tolkien

* * *

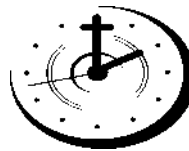
"To experience genuine human love, to be part of a
community of love is to experience the presence of
God." —John J. McNeill

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



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.



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



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

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.



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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



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

Lenten Service Wednesday, March 8 at 7pm

led by Carol Desch, certified lay servant serving Herscher UMC
at Essex UMC at 114 Waverly St. Essex, IL 60935

Lenten Service Wednesday, March 15 at 7pm

led by Linda Michel, certified lay servant serving Essex UMC
at Grand Prairie UMC at 12408 W Rte. 17 Bonfield, IL 60913

Lenten Service Wednesday, March 22 at 7pm led by TBA
at Herscher UMC at 274 N Elm St. Herscher, IL 60941

Lenten Service Wednesday, March 29 at 7pm

led by Pastor Kevin Boesen
at Bonfield Evangelical 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. Any questions please call 815-802-9805.

