

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 article finds us nearing the final stages of the Lenten season. As I say (possibly too often), it seems like it was only a few weeks ago that we were celebrating the birth of the Christ child, God in the flesh. And now we are preparing for the week in which Jesus was tried, convicted, crucified and resurrected. Inside this month's newsletter you will find information for the special Holy Week services, which will be held at Grand Prairie this year. You will also find information for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 1st, which will include an appearance from the Easter Bunny!

Now that we are in Spring, our thoughts will turn to other activities being planned within the Parish. Be on the lookout over the coming weeks at www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org or www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish for events to be announced.

There has been a lot of talk in the past year about disaffiliation from the United Methodist denomination. I want to offer you a website where hopefully some of your questions can be answered about this. Please go to www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-series-is-the-umc-really and you will find articles there that cover this hot topic. As more information becomes available I will do my best to share that with everyone.

I want to share how happy I am that we are seeing some faces new to the Parish coming to worship services on Sunday. If you are someone who regularly attends either Grand Prairie or Evan, please invite someone who knows that is looking for a church to attend to come to a service. If you are reading this and YOU are someone who is seeking to find a church to attend, here is an open invitation to try one of the churches on a Sunday. You will be greeted by warm and caring people, and you will hopefully see that God loves each one of us as His children.

May you take the time to remember the events leading to Easter Sunday and may you start, or continue to Love Like Jesus.

Pastor Keith

Join us for our Easter Service

 MAUNDY THURSDAY April 6 At 7:00pm At Grand Prairie - Holy Communion - Short Message	 GOOD FRIDAY April 7 At 7:00pm At Grand Prairie UMC - Good Friday Service	 Sunrise Service April 9 At 6:30am At Grand Prairie UMC - Breakfast After Service	 EASTER SUNDAY April 9 At 8:30am Grand Prairie 12408 W State Rt 17 At 10:00am Bonfield Evangelical 348 Smith St.
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Calling All Cancer Survivors...

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

Register to join us at the Relay For Life of Kankakee County on June 10, 2023 @ 2 pm @ Bishop McNamara High School.

All registered Survivors will receive a FREE survivor t-shirt mailed directly to their homes. More fun is planned, too.

You must register online (www.relayforlife.org/kankakeeil) or call 1-800-227-2345 and select option 4. All Survivors must register every year.

More info to follow!



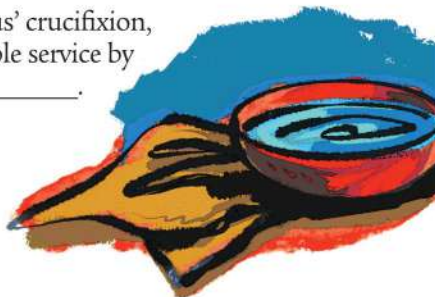
April Memory Verse

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in Him. - Jeremiah 17:7

Bible Quiz

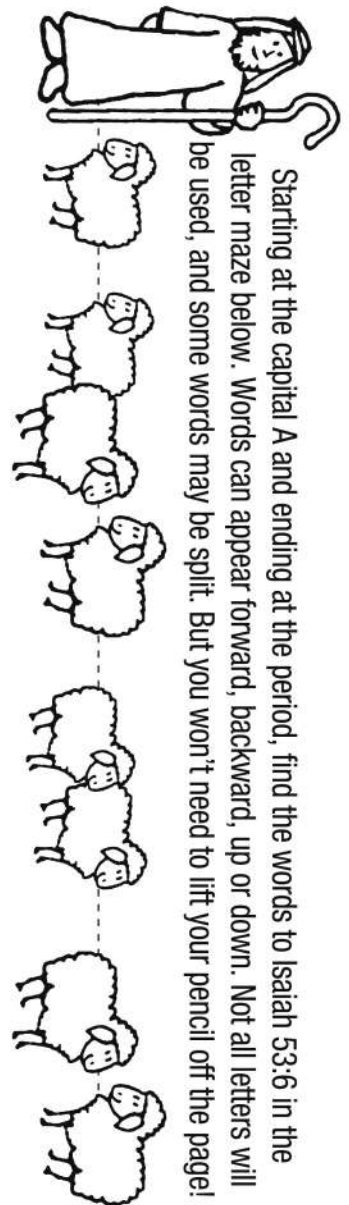
The night before Jesus' crucifixion, he demonstrates humble service by washing his disciples' _____.

- A. hands
- B. feet
- C. hair
- D. supper dishes



Answer: B (See John 13:1-17.)

Puzzle!



Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!

Allwelikesebelieveawaywecommandsodtherighteousnessof
gospelthoserevealstartestimonysalordrtheiniquty
rightasisepraisedwsiltoaputownwayapohumcornersto
heavenouerisagoneadogivisicaruotgercorlaidoirreasonsus
returncaphaventrustedeallturnedrespossesthruths.lila

Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6, NRSV



Join Bart Durbin on his walk through Bonfield to commemorate the same walk the Jesus took on Good Friday with his

cross. Starting at 10am at Evan on April 7, all are welcome to join. If you can't walk you can drive a golf cart or vehicle.



How Jesus says your name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth. Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

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

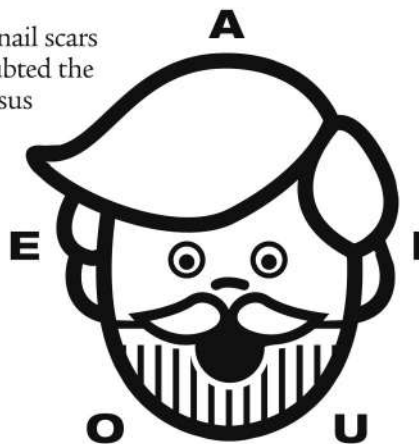
They will be given to the church designated in the envelope. Offerings can be dropped off at the Parish office during business hours or mailed. We appreciate your gifts and tithes.



SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ s _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ v _ d ;
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ v _ d ."
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV



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, Gale Jensen, 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



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.



Bonfield Lions Chicken Dinner at the Bonfield Lions Hall on Saturday, April 22 at 4-7pm, tickets are \$12.

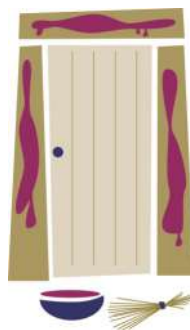
To buy tickets please contact Herb Foltz or buy them at the door.



Veterans Cards: Signing Memorial Day cards on Saturday, May 6th at Evan in the upper room. Also, handing out packets of Christmas cards to be signed, please sign them from the Parish.
- Janet Boyer

+Christian Symbol+

DOORPOSTS — The image of a blood-marked doorframe is from the Passover account in Exodus. God directed the Israelites to slaughter lambs for a final meal and paint their doorposts with the blood. God sent the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn sons of Egypt, but the blood signaled that the Destroyer should “pass over” those homes. Likewise, the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, saves us from eternal death.



FEBRUARY 2023 ATTENDANCE

	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/26
Evangelical	32	39	49	45
Grand Prairie	23	24	25	20
Total	55	63	74	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.

Sunshine Circle - Sunshine Circle met in the upper on March 16, 2023. Hosted by Donna who gave blessing before a wonderful meal. Donna read Colossians 3:2, John 11:25-26 & The Jelly Bean Prayer. Roll call was taken and the minutes were read and approved.

Discussion of Old Business: - flowers for Easter - pork chop dinner September 23 2023 with approval of UWF - stuffing Easter eggs on Monday, March 27 at 6pm, 2000 eggs

New business: - Monthly pot luck, donate paper goods - Pancake breakfast
Next Meeting April 20, 2023



Evan UWF - The next meeting will be Thursday April 6th, 1:30 pm Upper Room at Bonfield Evangelical. This year's Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering will support the ongoing racial justice work of United Women in Faith's national office. Your gift supports both our campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and our long-standing work building members' capacity to implement the Charter for Racial Justice at all levels of the organization. In giving, you are showing your support for United Women in Faith's long-standing commitment to advance racial justice in the church and in the world. Our foremothers authored the Charter for Racial Justice because they believed; in 2023, United Women in Faith continue to believe.



United Women in Faith of the Parish

Martha Circle

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.

Complete trust, even amid suffering

In a Good Friday column written during the pandemic, Michael Gerson said anguish is warranted in the face of death. As Jesus suffers on the cross, he asks why his Father has forsaken him. To Gerson, this proves that “anguish and questioning are not sins or weaknesses. They are the proper responses to the horrors of death. In the ninth hour, God gave permission for confusion. He dignified doubt.”

But Christ’s final words — committing himself into his Father’s hands — “ring a different note,” adds Gerson. “This was more than resignation; it was trust. In the end, [Jesus] found, not an answer, but a person — someone capable of reversing the verdict of Good Friday. That is all we are promised, and it is more than enough.”

**“DID NOT THE MESSIAH
HAVE TO SUFFER THESE
THINGS AND THEN
ENTER HIS GLORY?”**

LUKE 24:26, NIV

Death doesn’t win



In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter’s backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter’s foreground means death won’t win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life “isn’t all daffodils,” we have hope and eternal life through Jesus. Easter reveals that God will “give us the joy, and it’s going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well,” added the pastor. “And that just makes me draw closer to God.”

Vibrant belief



The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.

—Madeleine L’Engle, *The Rock That Is Higher*



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1 Tiffany Peters, Thaddeus Miller,
 Miyake Meyer, Andrew Jacobowski
 April 2 Brock Pfeiffer, Gerald Fecke (Trey),
 Marsha Bauer, Wilma Jones
 April 3 Mary Messer, Wendell Meyer
 April 4 Emily Meyer, Michelle Moore
 April 5 Cherrie Diefenbach
 April 6 Michelle Dahn, Kenzie Grob, Connie Dato,
 Billy Pitkin
 April 7 Amanda Werner, Danny Gagnon
 April 8 Rob D. VanVoorst
 April 9 Stacey Mitchell
 April 10 James Voigt, Benjamin Kuipers,
 Diane Charter, Mary Grace Brinkman,
 Matthew Marcotte
 April 11 Chuck Voigt, Candace Overacker
 April 12 Brian Svenkeson, Joann Schwark
 April 14 Kyle LaMore, Kelly LaMore, Austin Jones,
 Dylan Charter, Lyle Turro
 April 15 Coraline Raymond
 April 16 Roscella Piper, Aaron Wells, David Laird,
 Marilyn Ohrt
 April 19 Amanda Davis
 April 20 Jeff Werner, Marilyn Handley,
 Carolyn Souders, Gary Schwark Lisa Gronert
 April 21 Allison Gates, Dave Wood, Kayla Schwark,
 Steven Schwark
 April 22 Norma Dettman
 April 23 Aaron Holmes, Brian Grob
 April 24 Alexandre Overacker, Tyler Fritz,
 Christine Meyer
 April 26 Roscoe Hall, Heath Overacker
 April 27 Lauren Goodman, Rob White, Ronda Hawks,
 Larrin J. Nottke, Cindy White,
 Andrea Lemenager
 April 29 Virginia Dittus, Jackson Graham,
 Molly Mickelson

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

gotsneakers?
 A Sneaker Recycling Organization

Bonfield Lions Collecting: Please donate your unwanted, unworn, or well worn sneakers. Good condition sneakers will be donated to those in need of foot wear and sneakers that are well worn will be recycled. Please bring sneakers to the Bonfield Lions building and place in the entry way box.



JOIN
 THE
Youth Group

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).

APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 -Easter Egg Hunt at Bonfield Quarry Park at 9:30am
2 -Palm Sunday	3 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	4 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	5	6 - Evan UWF at Evan at 1:30pm - Maundy Thursday Service at Grand Prairie at 7pm	7 - Good Friday Service at Grand Prairie at 7pm - Cross Walk at Evan at 10am	8
9 - Happy Easter	10 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	11 - Evan NOW Meeting at Evan at 6pm - Parish NOW Meeting at Evan at 6:30pm	12	13	14	15
16	17 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	18 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	19	20 - Printing the Newsletter - Sunshine Circle at 6:30pm	21	22 - Lions Chicken Dinner at 4-7pm - UWF Spring Gathering
23 - Native American Sunday 30	24 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	25 -Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	26 - Administrative Professionals' Day	27	28 - National Arbor Day	29



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

“Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with our resurrection.”

—Watchman Nee

* * *

“For most of us, the prayer in Gethsemane is the only model. Removing mountains can wait.”

—C.S. Lewis



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:
April 4 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)



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.



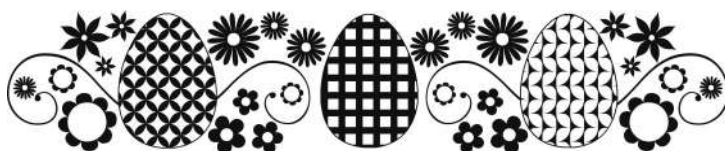
Time For Church

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

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



COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 1 at the Bonfield Quarry Park at 10:00am

Registration begins at 9:30am
Be sure to arrive early so you don't miss the kickoff!

All kids ages 0 to 10 are invited to join us for a fun Easter Egg Hunt and
take a picture with the Easter Bunny too!

Sponsored by Parish NOW Committee

