

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



Have you ever seen any of Nature's beauties and said to yourself something like this: “This is truly the work of God!” Recently I was on vacation with my two youngest children in Buffalo, NY. For my youngest daughter, this was her first opportunity to see Niagara Falls in person. She was amazed by the beauty of the falls, along with the rapids that send the water rushing to the river below.

I have been blessed to see many of God's creations like this over the years. And each time, I am amazed by what God creates. And God does a wonderful job in creating each one of us as well (Sounds like the makings of a sermon in the future, doesn't it?)!

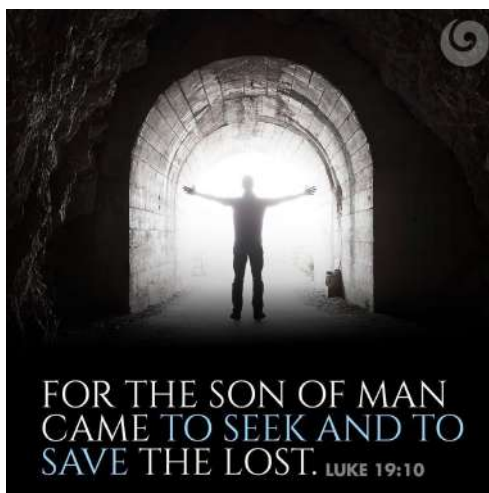
Spring has come to our little area of the world and that brings opportunities for outdoor events to happen. Our NOW committee is working on events where we can nurture, provide outreach to others as well as witnessing to others. There is some information below on this if you look. I know there is also good information filling the pages, so please take a look inside.

Back to my recent viewing of the beauty that nature provides. This was my first chance in six months to step back for a week to recharge and renew myself. I couldn't do that without the help of the Lay Leader from each church in the Parish. We also have other “servants” in each church who volunteer their time and efforts for others in various capacities. If you get the chance, please thank them for all they do for this Parish. It's the little things that hopefully help us to grow and bring others to know that Jesus is Love.

Your humble servant,
Pastor Keith



Save the Date:
Join us on Sunday, August 6
at Bonfield Quarry Park for
a parish service.



Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Bible Quiz & Puzzle | 2 |
| Kids Puzzle | 3 |
| Prayer List | 4 |
| UWF | 5 |
| Palm Sunday | 6 |
| Birthday List | 7 |
| Calendar | 8 |
| Contact Info & Service Times | 9 |
| God is Peace | 10 |



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!



May Memory Verse

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." Philippians 4:4-7

Bible Quiz

According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.



Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)



Puzzle!

Find these words — all from the book of Acts — forward, backward or diagonally in either direction.

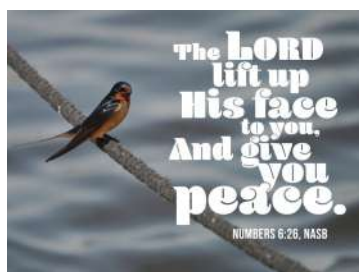
N K C B T I R I P S Y L O H
O J N A R E Y I R W E N C G E O
M T H E S E L I C J P U B U M I
S T R A I G H C H I R I G H T G
G T C P T O I D S A L I H
C N G T I R I S A G I H
N R O Z X L A S I N P E T
P T K E A Y E A S Y M E
B H J K A B A N A B A S E
R L E T P A O V Q M Z A S
L U A P S H M D R O D S
J I O L A S Z A B G D
U H S R C S T E P H E L

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Ananias | light |
| baptize | Paul |
| Barnabas | Peter |
| basket | Philip |
| chariot | prayer |
| church | prison |
| Damascus | Samaria |
| Dorcus | Sanhedrin |
| Ethiopian | Saul |
| Gaza | Simon |
| Gentiles | sorcery |
| Holy Spirit | Stephen |
| Jerusalem | stones |
| Jesus | Straight |
| Joppa | synagogue |

Final exams: A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women's Bible studies. She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, "Why do you work so hard on these lessons when you're so old and it doesn't matter?" Little Bess Elkins looked up and said confidently,

"I'm cramming for my finals."

—Florence Littauer, *Women's Devotional Bible*



"Universal Praise"

See how nature now rejoices
in this sunny month of May;
Still to God from all its voices,
giving praises day by day. ...

In the glad green woodland alleys,
every bird its anthem trills!
While flocks feeding in the valleys,
herds upon a thousand hills.

Join with every creature living,
here on land, in air, or sea,
In one great worldwide thanksgiving,
yielding praise, O God, to thee!

All around us swells the chorus,
from this goodly world of ours,
And earth's altar stands before us,
sweet with incense from her flowers.

So with nature still confessing,
his great goodness, let us pay
Grateful homage for each blessing,
of this sunny month of May.

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.

PUZZLE

Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost,
when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next.
Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. HEAV
2. ABLE
3. AY OF PENTECOS
4. ONGUE
5. PIRI
6. OGETHE
7. ES
8. ONGUE
9. A
10. IND



"When the _____ came, they were all _____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from _____ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____ what seemed to be _____ of fire that separated and came to _____ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____ and began to speak in other _____ as the Spirit _____ them."

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind



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.



Jokes only a mother could love

Why is a computer so smart?

It listens to its motherboard.

Why did you chop the joke book in half?

Mom said to cut the comedy.

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?

Because their kids have to play inside!

What did the mother rope say to her child?

"Don't be knotty."



THANK
YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE

*** WE LOVE OUR VETERANS ***

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 in advance of the holidays.

- Janet Boyer

+Christian Symbol+

TONGUES OF FIRE — Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2 when “tongues of fire” rested on the disciples’ heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background — other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian’s life.



MARCH 2023 ATTENDANCE

| | 3/5 | 3/12 | 3/19 | 3/26 |
|---------------|-----|------|------|------|
| Evangelical | 35 | 41 | 40 | 41 |
| Grand Prairie | 22 | 21 | 17 | 26 |
| Total | 57 | 62 | 57 | 67 |



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 Bonfield United women in Faith met in the upper room with 6 members present. Carol Buente opened the meeting with the call to prayer and self-denial. The discussions was around racial injustice with focus on the school to jail pipeline. They talked about past experiences from their lives. Reports were given and accepted. Vicky served a nice spring luncheon after the meeting.

Next meeting will be May 4th at 9:00 AM in the upper room. Shepherdess will lead the lesson. Anyone is invited to come, you do not need to be a Methodist to attend.

The district Spring gathering will be April 22 at 8:30 AM at the Chatsworth United Methodist Church. 510 S Fourth Street. Chatsworth IL.

Dayle Seitz, secretary



Martha Circle

May 10 - Hostess Janet B.

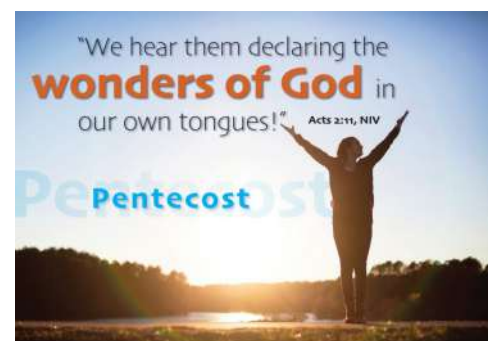
July 12 - Hostess Becky C.

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.



Come as you are:

As a young pastor, Stan Purdum de-husked black walnuts one Saturday, not realizing his hands would be badly stained. They looked filthy, he recalls, and the marks would not wash off; they'd have to wear off. Then Purdum realized he'd be serving Holy Communion the next day.

Before distributing the elements, the pastor apologized to congregants, explaining that his hands were washed but just stained. Years later, Purdum reflected: "Now that I have a fuller grasp of theology under my belt, I think a better thing for me to say would have been, 'Nobody comes to Communion with clean hands.'"

We're all unworthy to receive Jesus' body and blood, but that's exactly why he offers it. Thanks be to God for redeeming and forgiving us — wiping away the stain of our sins!
—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Prepare to be empowered:

Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas.

After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and "enabled" (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

"A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community," writes Suzanne de Dietrich in *Free Men*. "These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them."

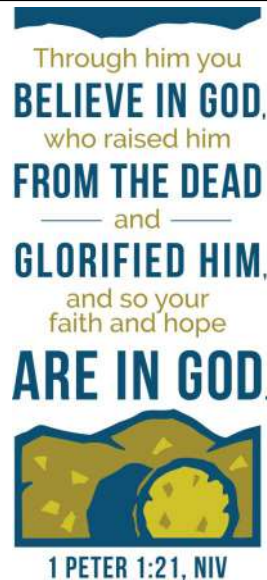




MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1 Craig Brinkman
 May 3 Michelle Kuipers, Cheryl Bauer
 May 4 Sharlene Parr
 May 5 Vi Morse, Victoria Rice
 May 6 Dawson Pastorel, Cynthia Clemans, Laine Elizabeth Gagnon, Erika Svenkeson
 May 7 Jamie Sikes, Kerri Robinson
 May 8 Jackie Wagner, Harold Pfeiffer
 May 9 Jennifer Werner
 May 10 Mary Schroder
 May 11 Traci Davis, Jonah Vaughn
 May 12 Cade Fecke, Delores Ohrt
 May 13 Meagan Peters, Christopher Wells, Paition Cordes, Sandy Jackson
 May 14 Myron Riegel, Cody Lemenager, Mark Adams, Gwendolyn Meyer
 May 15 Kim Meztko, Allen Pfeiffer, James Barnett, Zoe Tapp,
 May 16 Sandra LaMore, Samuel Shimmin, Kenny Mitchell
 May 17 Aimee Simbeck, Denise Schlenz
 May 19 Joe Ohrt
 May 20 Katherine Mecklenburg
 May 21 Mary Ann Jensen, Heather Thurston
 May 22 Jeremy Bauer, Jason Sauer, Gretchen Brinkman, Danielle Dahn
 May 24 Aidan Gagnon, Rodney Graf, Kristina Brunner
 May 25 Pastor Keith Blankenship, Ryan Howard
 May 27 Ruth Kingsland
 May 28 Scott Vaughn, Carol Buente
 May 29 Brian Norton, Meri Bauer, Kelly Buente
 May 30 Clair Dau, Vickie Gaffield
 May 31 Shila Kingsland, Eric Dahn, Joshua Friesse

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



Memorial Service:

Sunday, May 21 at
Grand Prairie at 7pm



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.





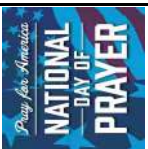






Join us for a
Community Youth
Group meeting, Youth
Group meets every
second Sunday of the
month at Evan at
6:30pm.

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).

MAY 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|-----------|---|--------|---|
| | 1 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM  | 2 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM  | 3 | 4 - Evan UWF at Evan at 1:30pm  | 5 | 6 - Signing cards at Evan at 9am  |
| 7 | 8 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM | 9 - Ad Board at Evan at 7pm | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14  | 15 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM | 16 | 17 | 18 - Sunshine Circle at 6:30pm | 19 | 20  |
| 21  | 22 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM | 23 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM | 24 | 25 - Printing the Newsletter | 26 | 27 |
| 28  | 29 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM  | 30 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM | 31 | | | |



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

“God has not called you to your life mission in spite of who you are; he has called you precisely because of who you are.”

—Reggie McNeal, *Practicing Greatness*

* * *

“You shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back.”

—Maya Angelou

* * *

“Happiness is like jam. You can’t spread even a little without getting some on yourself.”

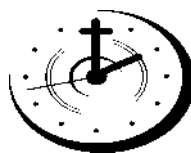
—Unknown

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:
May 2 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



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

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Bonfield, IL
Permit #2



Bonfield Box Holder

Bonfield, IL 60913

*For God is not a God
of disorder but of peace.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:33, NIV