

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



50, a wonderful milestone! My first article for this newsletter was June, 2019. This article is the 50th one I have composed! And it also comes as I start my 5th year of serving this Parish.

This month is also when we will have Vacation Bible School at Grand Prairie. If you look inside this newsletter, you will find out more information on what should be a very fun three nights for kids and volunteers. It's not too late to register your kids for the fun, and volunteers are always welcome to help. This will also result in some changes to meeting schedules, so please look at the calendar to find those changes.

Something else I want to touch on is the monthly Fellowship breakfast that we have at IHOP in Bradley. It is a wonderful time to sit and talk with others from the Parish and enjoy a good meal. Normally this is held on the first Tuesday of the month, but with that day being July 4th, we are moving it back one week (another calendar change).

We have other activities that will be taking place as the summer continues, look inside this newsletter to read more about them. It won't be long before we have our annual combined service in the park on August 6th, anyone is welcome to attend!

I want to personally invite anyone who is seeking to connect with a church to give one of our churches a try. At both Grand Prairie and Bonfield Evangelical you will find friendly people who will greet you. I give my promise that the only 'agenda' in the messages you will hear is how God loves each one of us as His children.

Once again, I would like to say how Blessed that I am to begin year number five as God's servant to this Parish. If you need to talk to me in private for any spiritual needs, my information is located inside the newsletter. May your summer be filled with fun and Blessed.

Your humble servant,
Pastor Keith



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



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Put your tractor in gear...



Harley Buente's 80th Birthday

is almost here!

Sunday
July
23

Dessert Open House
1 - 4:00pm
Bonfield Community Building &
Lions Club - 148 Stanford St
Bonfield, IL 60913

RSVP via text to Kris Van Doren
815-955-6958

July Memory Verse

A heart at peace gives life to the body,
but envy rots the bones.

Proverbs 14:30

Bible Quiz

In what land and at what age
did Moses die?

- A. The land of Israel; 100 years old
- B. The land of Canaan; 70 years old
- C. The land of Moab; 120 years old
- D. The land of Judah; 102 years old



Answer: C (See Deuteronomy 34:5, 7.)

SUMMER CHURCH

Join us every Sunday

Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

BWJITJHQHOB LZDGBBOOK

DKFQROMTBHJOBSQEXZT

OKXWJHOBMIZTIJSDQKU

EWXBHEQNITKISIZNYOU

RPJZOWBEQRTOAXCZTXJ

DO NOT _____

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27, NIV



I would like to thank all of my church family and friends for the calls, cards, gifts, messages, and well wishes for my birthday! Hearing from you, makes me feel grateful for the wonderful people that I have in my life. You made my special day even better!
~ Vickie Gaffield

Prayer for July 4th

The following lines are from a long prayer, "That America Fulfil the Promise of Its Founding," by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. Though written in 1945, it rings true yet today.

O God, who is Liberator and Redeemer, Law-giver and Judge, ...

May America remain loyal to the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and extend their application to ever-widening areas of life.

Keep out of our life all manner of oppression, persecution, and unjust discrimination; save us from religious, racial and class conflicts; may our country be a haven of refuge to the victims of injustice and misrule.

Instruct us in the art of living together, of reconciling differences of opinion and averting clashes of interest, of helping one another to achieve a harmonious and abundant life ...

That the Star-Spangled Banner, the symbol of our American democracy, may ever wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave. Amen.



Gayle Brunner
490 Fortress Blvd
Apt 18 - B
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

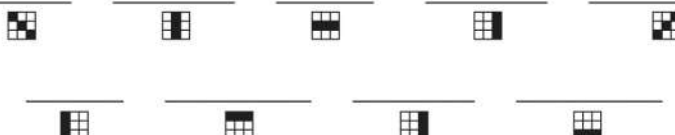


SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion.
What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

FROM as is can	NORTH from far	at the EAST FROM
is South AS	do far EAST	the THIS up as
WEST THAT is East	far down WEST	THE be AS West



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west



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



Pastor's Vacation:

Wednesday, June 21-Tuesday, July 4

From Our Church Bulletin: The Kirchner Family, Candy Bauer, Mel Brinkman, Jay Buente, Kyle Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Donna Diefenbach, Virginia Dittus, Herb Foltz, Gale Jensen, Marjorie Kersch, Roger Kuipers, Sharon Lowey (Kim Metzka's Mom), Maggie Maxwell (Bob Nichols' sister), Allen Messer, Kim Metzka, Dave Parks, Sunshine Powell, Dorothy Riegel, Stan Stone, Marion Wenzelman, Stan Wenzelman, Lorraine Wildman & Ronald Wildman.

Arden Courts

Mel Brinkman

Miller

Mary Krieg

Heritage Woods

Vi Morse

At College

Mary Grace Brinkman

Jenna Kenning

Isabell Lowey

Kamden Lockwood

Courtyard Estate of Herscher

Marjorie Kersch

Randy Riegel

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.

It's a miracle!

I believe in miracles. While I believe in the possibility, under God, of any kind of miracle, I am committed especially to the miracle of the changed life. When a human being goes from despair to hope, when a lost soul comes home, or when a mean and destructive person becomes kind and fruitful, the greatest of all miracles has occurred.

The gladdest thing of all

Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all. Amen, and come Lord Jesus.

+Christian Symbol+

DOLPHIN — Because dolphins often swim alongside ships, they've been used to symbolize Christ's presence, guiding people through earthly life and into eternal life.

Although they're mammals, dolphins have been depicted as the fish that swallowed Jonah. Jesus compared his three days inside the tomb to Jonah's three days inside the fish, so dolphins also came to symbolize resurrection.



MAY 2023 ATTENDANCE

	5/7	5/14	5/21	5/28
Evangelical	56	48	35	26
Grand Prairie	21	29	25	19
Total	77	77	60	45





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.

Tricia Coffman Grand Prairie United Methodist Church
Spiritual Growth Leader District United Women in Faith
Vermillion River District

“It only takes a spark, to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That’s how it is with God’s love,
Once you’ve experienced it
You spread his love to everyone,
You want to pass it on.

This hymn is one of my favorites. It brings me back to so many memories growing up at Grand Prairie United Methodist Church. This song was written by a man from Chicago named Kurt Kaiser, as the closer for a Christian musical he was collaborating on called “Tell it Like it Is.” This musical was written to get young people more involved in the church. He came up with the idea when watching the fire in his den. The first line of the song was born from there and the entire song was completed in 20 minutes. Mr. Kaiser is quoted as saying: “I am always amazed how the Lord can take a little song and use it to reach so many people.”

(<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-pass-it-on>)

I have sung this so many times and each time it makes me think of something different. Sometimes I am thinking about “How” I am passing it on. What am I actually doing to pass on the word of God? Am I doing enough? Sometimes I am thinking about “if” I am passing it on. Did I pass it on? Who did I pass it to? Sometimes I am thinking about “What” I am passing on. Am I passing on the blessings that God has given me?

Am I passing on his story to those who need to hear it? No matter what the song is clear... “it only takes spark to get a fire going.”

Many of us have felt the sparks and we have ignited sparks. We have passed on the message of God through our programs, our prayers and our actions. Sometimes it is hard to “keep the fire going” we get burned out and we are tired. It is in those times we only need to remember God’s love... once you’ve experienced it ...you spread his love to everyone. Because we have experienced God’s love we are given the honor of passing it on to everyone we meet. We as Christians are always looking for ways to show our compassion. We look for the opportunity to show empathy and care for those in the world who are in need. We pass it on everyday through our giving, praying, smiling, hugging, food making, and planning a program we are spreading his love. The love that began with a spark.

John 15:12-13. “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

United Women of Faith of the Parish

Martha Circle

July 19 - 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.

Grand Prairie UWF – Grand Prairie is chair for Vacation Bible School this summer. Dates will be July 10, 11, 12, from 6:00-8:00PM, at Grand Prairie Church. Several members will be volunteering at Midwest Mission Distribution on July 25. Our next meeting will be rescheduled in July due to VBS. Watch for announcements.

Everyone is welcome to attend our events, you need not be a member to participate!

Cindy Erdmann, Secretary

Sunshine Circle - Thursday, June 16th was our "dinner-out" meeting. 8 members and 3 guests met at Oliver's North at 6:30 pm.

A brief meeting after the meal was followed by a prayer written by Norman Vincent Peale.

The date for the drive-thru Pork Chop Meal event has been changed to Saturday, Sept. 30 due to a conflict in scheduling.

Ardis will host the Sept. 21st meeting.

Thanks Jan

Evan UWF - No Meeting in July, next meeting is August 3.

An abundance of gifts: In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen wearing 4-inch heels walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you're good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace. You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love.

Welcomed back to the fold: When her beloved dogs "returned home from an adventure smelling of eau de skunk parfum," Pastor Joanna Loucky-Ramsey refused to let them in the house. Instead, she cleaned and cared for them outside, slowly reintroducing them to "full participation in family life" once the stink eased. "The odor left by the skunk could serve as a metaphor for our sin or for the sin others perpetrate against us," she writes. "As much as God loves us, he hates the sin that hides the lovely fragrance of the image of God within each of us. God wants to welcome each of us into his family and into the heavenly home he has prepared for us, but we need to be 'deodorized' from the eau de sin parfum that would mar the entire experience of being in God's fragrant presence." Loucky-Ramsey continues: "Just as our dogs needed our help to get rid of the smell of skunk, we need God's help to purge us from the offense of sin that permeates our nature and masks who God created us to be. That's what Jesus accomplished by his death and resurrection: to make us new and whole."



**Register me for *Pets Unleashed!***

Dates: July 10-12, 2023

Time: 6-8:15 p.m.

Ages: 3 Years Old through Completing 5th Grade

Location: Grand Prairie United Methodist Church

Located on Route 17 West (Just West of Herscher Road)

Child's name _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Birthdate ____/____/____ Last Grade completed ____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parents/Guardian _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____

Emergency contact _____

Relationship to child _____ Phone _____

Name of person picking up and dropping off your child _____

Name of home church _____

Food allergies Y ☐ N ☐

List _____

Medical concerns Y ☐ N ☐

Explain _____

PHOTO RELEASE APPROVAL:

I hereby grant The Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish and specifically the Vacation Bible School leadership permission to take photographs of _____ (child's name) to be used in photo displays, websites, and other materials the parish creates.

Parent or legal guardian signature

Please scan and email this form to: bonfieldgp@gmail.com

Or Mail this form to: VBS Registration
c/o Joyce Cochran
P.O. Box 66
Bonfield, IL 60913

Follow the Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish
Facebook Page or visit our website at
bonfieldgrandprairie.org for more
information and updates



On Sunday, May 21st there were 8 kids to celebrate the end of Sunday school for the school year 2022-2023. They enjoyed snacks, singing, scripture reading and a bible story. Sunday school will start again on Sunday, Sept. 10 for the school year of 2023-2024. A big thank you to the teachers Kim & Ivy!

Prayer brings heaven to earth:

When you received Jesus as your Savior, you began to live in two homes — earth and heaven. You were born the first time into your earthly family. Now you have been born again into the family of God. You are a citizen of both worlds. Your new heavenly home is the biggest one. It is God's home. It is yours because you are united to Jesus, and heaven is where he lives.

But we don't need to wait until we die to visit heaven. Prayer is the airline to our heavenly homeland. We walk heaven's streets and view its wonders each time we fellowship with the Lord.
—Ben Jennings



Finding freedom: What does freedom look like to you? In *GraceLaced*, Ruth Chou Simons lists examples such as running unhindered, viewing a mountaintop overlook and enjoying iced tea with lemon. Because our good, creative God made us each different, our descriptions of freedom vary too. I think of deep breaths, an unhurried pace, genuine smiles, lack of regrets and deep belly laughs.

I love to laugh. Recently, during a demanding season of family celebrations, hardships and surprises, I realized I was laughing less. I felt bound to the next task on my long to-do list, but even good efficiency can shackle our spirits. A good laugh — beyond a quick chuckle — offers many physical and emotional benefits. According to the Mayo Clinic, laughter relieves stress and pain, boosts the immune system and stimulates organs and endorphins. So today I'm determined to laugh loudly and joyfully while remembering my freedom in Christ.





JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1 Tawni Buente
 July 2 Barbara Cordes
 July 3 Richard Diefenbach
 July 4 Dianne Wells, Betty Ann Osenga, Jason Hawks
 July 5 Jordan Peiffer, Chrissy Riegel, Tricia Coffman,
 Joseph Sharper, Suzanne St. Germaine
 July 6 Megan Kay Van Voorst, Sherry Peters,
 Norah Meyer
 July 7 Hailey Heath, Laurie Vaughn, Ralph Grob,
 Katelyn Overacker, Martin Powell
 July 8 Randy Meyer, Bruce Messer, Lovice Brinkman
 July 9 Brian Laird, Kyle Dahn, Tabitha Fowler,
 Paige Wildman
 July 10 Ashton Rae Diefenbach
 July 11 Vicky Dubie
 July 13 Nikolas Kirchner, Evan D. Davis
 July 14 Colton Roy Hertz, Kevin Cochran,
 Maverick Lemenager
 July 15 Charlotte Ditterline
 July 16 Lorraine Wildman
 July 17 Evan Howard, Ricky LaMore
 July 18 Duane Sharper
 July 19 Judy Graf, Amy Lynn Strahan, Megan Meyer
 July 20 Laurel Walter, Leah Havener, Cole Lemenager,
 Aaron Meyer, Rev. Steve Friese
 July 21 Vernon Daniel Dittus, Olivia Koerner
 July 22 Brandon Kuipers
 July 23 Edie Friese, Payden Strahan
 July 24 Kim Heath, Theresa Meyer
 July 25 Joshua Vaughn
 July 26 Candice Bauer, Claire Bitner, Lucy Raymond,
 Jennifer Overacker
 July 28 Roger Marcotte, Todd Cordes
 July 29 Carra Mau
 July 30 Sharon Nottke, Amy Moody
 July 31 Regan Marcotte, David Nottke, Walter Marcotte



THANK
YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE

*** WE LOVE OUR VETERANS ***

Veterans Cards:

We are collecting Thank
 You cards for the
 Veteran's. Manteno
 Veteran's Home now
 has 202 veterans.
 Any questions contact
 Janet Boyer.



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).



JULY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						 I Pastor Keith is away til July 5.
2 - Bart Durbin filling the pulpit at both churches	3 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	4 - Office Closed for the Holiday 	5 - Pastor back from Vacation	6	7	8
9 - Holy Communion	10 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - VBS at Grand Prairie at 6-8:15PM	11 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM - VBS at Grand Prairie at 6-8:15PM	12 - VBS at Grand Prairie at 6-8:15PM	13	14	15
16	17 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	18 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM - Ad Board at Grand Prairie at 7PM	19 - Martha Circle	20 - Printing the Newsletter	21 - Joliet Slammers Game	22
23 - Parents' Day - Harley's B-day Party ----- 30	24 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM ----- 31 - Journey Prayer	25 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM - Martha Circle trip to MMDC	26	27	28	29



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

“You are here to enrich the world, and you
impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.”
—Woodrow Wilson

* * *

“Instructions for living a life. Pay attention. Be
astonished. Tell about it.”
—Mary Oliver

* * *

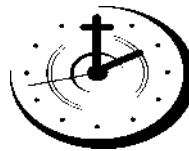
“Don’t tell me the sky’s the limit when there are
footprints on the moon.”
—Paul Brandt

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:
July 11 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



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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Return Service Requested



Bonfield Box Holder

Bonfield, IL 60913



Vacation Bible School: This year's theme is Pets Unleashed

Date: July 10, 11, & 12

Time: 6 - 8:15 pm

Place: Grand Prairie UM Church

Ages: 3 years old thru students
completing 5th grade

Look for a sign up form inside on page 7.



The NOW committee is planning an Event. We are making plans to attend a **Joliet Slammers game in Joliet on Friday evening, July 21.**

This event is open to you and your friends and families.

Ticket cost is a low **\$5 each.**

For more information & to sign up contact the Parish office at
(815) 802-9805 or by email at bonfieldgp@gmail.com.

Plan to join in on all the fun of a summer ball game!