

# 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



Summer, much like the entire year, has been flying by. It is now August and kids will be headed back to school in just a few weeks! Before you know it we will see the temperatures and leaves start to fall and, well...you know where this will take us.

Inside this month's newsletter you will find information on the very successful Vacation Bible School we had in July! I want to give a shout out to the committee that did all of the work planning the three days, as well as all of the volunteers that helped during the event.

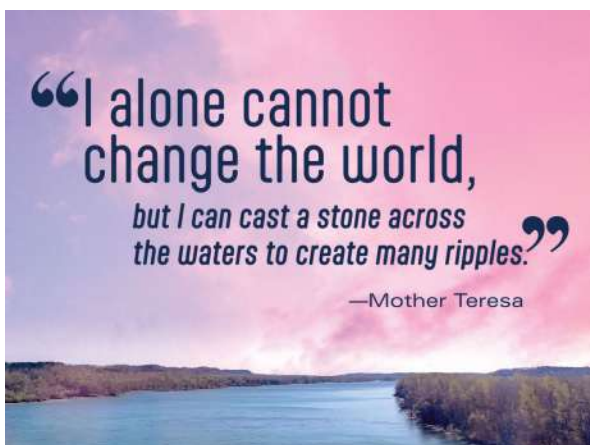
There are plenty of other events happening in the coming weeks to look forward to. On the day this newsletter mails there will be a group from Grand Prairie heading to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Pawnee, IL. Approximately \$200 was given in offerings collected during VBS that will be delivered to MMDC. There will be photos and information in the September newsletter about the work day there.

Sunday August 6th is our annual Service in the Park at Bonfield Quarry Park. Inside this newsletter you can find more information about the service and potluck. All are welcome, this would be a great opportunity for anyone seeking a church to see what we offer with our Parish!

Save the date for Evan's annual Pork Chop Drive-Thru Dinner in September. There will be more information coming, so be on the lookout! Our Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW) committees are working to put together more events as the year continues into autumn.

May each of you reading this newsletter enjoy the last full month of summer. I continue to be Blessed as God's servant in this Parish and pray for all of you.

Pastor Keith



The devil does not fear a big church, he fears a humble church, a praying church, he fears you when you resist him, and he fears two or three gathered together in Jesus' name

Inside this issue:	
Bible Quiz & Puzzle	2
Kids Puzzle	3
Prayer List	4
UWF	5
Back to School	6
Vacation Bible School	7
August Holidays	8
Birthday List	9
Calendar	10
Contact Info & Service Times	11
Church in the Park	12

**Drive Up Pork Chop Dinner Sandwich Dinner**

Saturday, Sept. 30 at 4:30 - 7PM

at Bonfield Evangelical UMC 348 E. Smith St.

\$9 per meal, includes chips,  
cookie and drink

(Extra sandwich \$5)

All Proceeds Go to Missions

**August Memory Verse****Be kind to one another.****Ephesians 4:32****Bible Quiz**

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches. Which list includes a city that is not among those seven?

- A. Ephesus, Thyatira, Philadelphia
- B. Smyrna, Laodicea, Galatia
- C. Pergamum, Thyatira, Smyrna
- D. Sardis, Ephesus, Laodicea



Answer: B (See Revelation 2-3.)

# Puzzle!

Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then transfer the letters to the numbered boxes below to complete Psalm 107:1, NIV.

Shape that symbolizes love

31 15 7 18 5

Part of a stove used for baking

12 3 24 39

Color made by red and yellow

28 42 7 8 27 37

A present

1 32 20 11

Clothing a girl wears

19 22 43 44 33

Something you open to go into a room

40 29 17 47

Opposite of soft (sound)

34 17 41 30

To take a long walk

14 2 9 38

A high body temperature

45 50 49 48 42

Items used to build or fix things

13 35 21 16 26

Edge of the sea

10 23 46 51 4

Home for a bee

6 25 36 4

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9	10		11	12		13	14	15
	16	17	18	19		20	21	22
	23	24		25	26		27	28
29	30		31	32	33		34	35
36	37		38	39	40	41	42	43
44		45	46	47	48	49	50	51

love endures forever. Psalm 107:1, NIV  
tools, shore, hive, Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his  
Answer: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, door, loud, hike, fever,



Use simple ingredients and your imagination to bake these fluffy, cloud-like treats.

#### What you need:

- 3 egg whites
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Mixer
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Parchment paper

#### What you do:

1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a mixing bowl, combine egg whites and vanilla. Mix at medium speed until frothy.
2. While whisking, gradually add sugar and cornstarch. Keep whisking at high speed until stiff peaks form.
3. Spoon mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Create fun shapes.
4. Bake 20 minutes. Cool and enjoy!

**August:** God in his own right hand doth take each day — each sun-filled day — each rare and radiant night, and drop it softly on the earth and say:

“Touch earth with heaven’s own beauty and delight.”

—Jean Blewett (1862-1934)



## Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God’s amazing power and creativity.

*Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.*

God determines this and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4)

○ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The heavens are the work of God’s what? (Psalm 8:3)

\_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_

What does God bring out one by one? (Isaiah 40:26)

\_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_

God made two great lights to do this. (Genesis 1:16)

○ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (Genesis 15:5)

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_

The sun, moon and stars have this. (1 Corinthians 15:41)

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_

The lights in the sky serve as what? (Genesis 1:14)

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_

The heave\_\_s declare the \_\_lory \_\_f \_\_od;  
the ski\_\_s \_\_roc\_\_aim the wo\_\_k of his ha\_\_ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV



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

**From Our Church Bulletin:** Candy Bauer,  
Mel Brinkman, Jay Buente, Kyle Buente,  
Steve Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Donna  
Diefenbach, Virginia Dittus, Herb Foltz, Gale Jensen,  
Marjorie Kersch, Roger Kuipers, Sharon Lowey,  
Maggie Maxwell, Allen Messer, Mike O'Hearn,  
Marilyn Ohrt, Dave Parks, Sunshine Powell,  
Dorothy Riegel, Stan Stone, Marion Wenzelman,  
Stan Wenzelman, & Ronald Wildman.

**Arden Courts**

Mel Brinkman

**Miller**

Mary Krieg

**Heritage Woods**

Vi Morse

**At College**

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

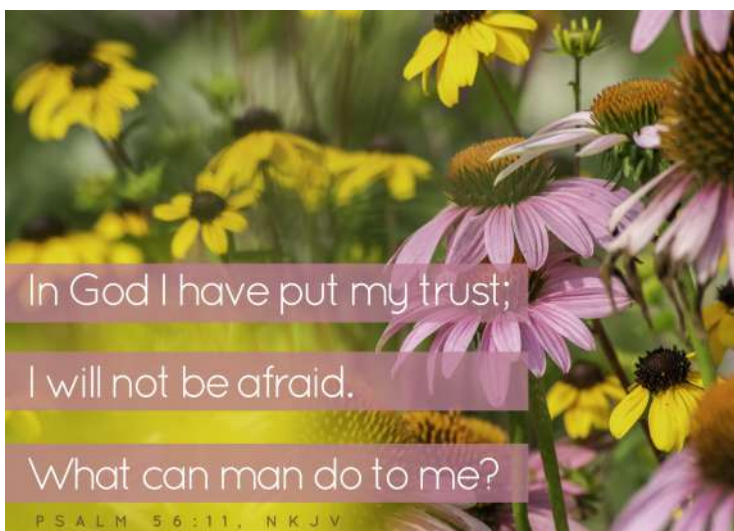
Janny Boya.....Ecuador

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.



**Ingredients for true success**

How far you go in life depends on your being  
tender with the young, compassionate with the  
aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of  
the weak and strong. Because someday in your life  
you will have been all of these.

—George Washington Carver



+Christian Symbol+

**HARP** — This multi-stringed musical  
instrument is associated with David, who  
played to soothe King Saul and later wrote  
many Psalms. The harp also represents praise  
music in general, as well as all the instruments  
people use to glorify God (see Psalm 71:22). The  
idea that angels play harps comes from Revelation  
14:2 (“And I heard a voice from heaven like the  
sound of ... harpists playing on their harps”).

**JUNE 2023 ATTENDANCE**

	6/4	6/11	6/18	6/25
Evangelical	45	48	41	30
Grand Prairie	27	18	38	21
Total	72	66	79	51



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** - The Grand Prairie United Women of Faith met on July 19, at the home of Becky Cruse with 8 members present. A delicious meal was prepared by Becky Cruse. The Secretary and Treasurer reports were given. Donations for Operation Christmas Child are going very well. The outing to Shrine of Christ Passion was a fun day and enjoyed by everyone. A group of volunteers will travel to Midwest Mission Distribution to volunteer for the day on Tuesday, July 25. Plastic grocery bags were cut into strips to take to Midwest Mission. These strips will be woven into sleeping mats to be distributed to those in need. Vacation Bible School was a huge success with 30 children attending. Grand Prairie Women of Faith officers will remain the same for 2024: President – Tricia Coffman, Vice-President – Kim Ohrt, Secretary – Cindy Erdmann, - Treasurer- Cheri Dayton. Women of Faith District Spiritual event will be August 19 in Manteno. It was decided to host breakfast after church on September 17 and October 15. United Methodist Women Day will be Sunday, September 17.  
2023 Meetings: September 13 - Hostess Jenny C. & Joyce C. November 8 - Hostess Tricia C. December 13 - Hostess Kim O. & Marilyn O.

**Evan UWF** - The United Women In Faith met on June 1st. The meeting was opened by Carol Buente giving a devotional about the colors of God's nature. God wants us to share all he has blessed us with, including His Grace. Are you willing to ask God first before you act? Chris Meyer gave the lesson based on Thessalonians 5:13-15. She spoke on liberty. The Declaration of Independence and the preamble. She gave a book reviews on racial justice. "Cousins" and "I Am A Man". A discussion on human rights followed. As a Christian we need to consider how we represent ourselves. Secretary report was give by Dayle Seitz and accepted as read. The treasures report given by Ardis Messer was accepted as read. Tricia Coffman, our Shepherdess, talked about the district information. She said we are working toward the merger for 2024. On Aug 19 at Manteno UMW Spiritual growth fall retreat. Joyce Riegel read from Response "Eye Opener" She said a congregation took an offering, blessed it and gave it back to the congregation who gave it. She said that is like UWF when you give an offering it blesses not only the giver but so many others. There were 8 members and 1 guest present. Diane Wells served a delightful lunch just right for a hot day. There is no July meeting. The next meeting will be Aug 3 in the upper room. Diane closed with prayer. Everyone is invited to UWF. You do not need to be a member of the UMC. Dayle Seitz, Secretary  
2023 Meetings: August 3 at 1:30pm in the upper room, September 7 at 1:30pm in the upper room, October 5 at 1:30pm at Joyce's house, November 2 at 1:30pm in the upper room, December 14 at 11:30am at Butter & Berries

**Sunshine Circle** - 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.

2023 Meetings: October 19 Donna Hostess, November 16 Rita, Jodi, & Lorraine Hostess, & December 21 Christmas Party (tba)



PRAY FOR STUDENTS GETTING  
READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL  
OR ALREADY HAVING STARTED.  
BLESS THEIR LEARNING AND  
GROWTH IN ACADEMICS, LIFE  
SKILLS AND FAITH.



**THANK YOU  
FOR VOLUNTEERING**

**"VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE  
THE TIME; THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART."  
- ELIZABETH ANDREW**

### When we least deserve love

"Love me when I least deserve it," says a Swedish proverb, "because that's when I really need it." My mom recounts how my 1-year-old sister, scooting around in a walker, somehow got hold of and spilled a loosely capped bottle of cooking oil. As Mom cleaned up, my sis scooted into the bathroom and unwound all the toilet paper.

Mom went to investigate the ruckus, and as she re-spooled the TP, my sister went back to the kitchen, pulled crackers out of a lower cupboard, tossed them on the floor and drove over them — in the remaining oil. At that point, Mom decided it was nap-time! Yet I know Mom laid her little one in her crib with tender love. After a rest, they'd start afresh.

In John 21, the risen Jesus addresses Peter, who had denied him three times the night of Jesus' arrest. But Jesus didn't treat Peter harshly. In love, the Savior offered his disciple a fresh start. So too, when we're at our worst, hurting God's heart by hurting others and creation, God loves us all the more. He loves us into a fresh start — even, and especially, when we least deserve it.

### Christ still calls us

The rugged hills of Galilee drop down to meet the sea Where burly men still mend their nets, still fish there eagerly.

The sea's the same place where Christ said, "Lay down your nets and heed My call to love all people, and serve them in their need."

"I'll help you fish for humankind," he told them long ago. His call's still heard, His help's still real today, as we well know.

Yes, people still are leaving "nets" wherever they might be, And as disciples still go forth to serve Christ willingly.

—Peggy Ferrell

This year's Vacation Bible School, *Pets Unleashed*, was held at Grand Prairie UMC on July 10, 11, and 12. We were excited to have 30 kids attend! The children enjoyed Bible stories, crafts, music, games, and snacks all while learning about Jesus each night. Family and friends were invited to attend a closing program on Wednesday night where the kids sang songs and shared what they learned. We collected an offering of \$200.87 which will be donated to the Midwest Distribution Center. Thank you to the parents for entrusting us with your kids. We enjoyed being able to share Jesus with them and were truly blessed by the joy they brought into our church. Our hope is that each child left VBS knowing that God cares "FUR" each one of them every day and that God's love is "PURR-FECT." We would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who helped this year. Whether preparing activities, decorating, helping lead the kids every night, donating your "noisy change," or praying for a successful week, each one of you played an important part in making this year's VBS a success! Thank you!



The following items serve as “little guideposts on the footpath to peace,” according to author and pastor Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933):

- to be glad of life, because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars;
- to be satisfied with your possessions but not content with yourself until you have made the best of them;
- to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice;
- to covet nothing of your neighbor's except [their] kindness of heart and gentleness of manners;
- to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends and every day of Christ;
- to spend as much time as you can with body and with spirit in God's out-of-doors.



**Daily reasons to celebrate:** Poor August, the only month without holidays! Still, there's lots to celebrate these final weeks of summer. Enjoy some summer flavors: August 1 is National Raspberry Cream Pie Day; August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day; August 3, National Watermelon Day; August 10, National S'mores Day (have a bonfire!); and August 24 is National Peach Day. If you share life with young kids, have a water balloon fight on — you guessed it — National Water Balloon Day, August 6! Head out for a final (National) Beach Day on August 30. Or head out for an intergenerational hike on National Trail Mix Day, August 31.

And don't forget to celebrate God's precious gifts of friends — National Friendship Day is the first Sunday in August; creation — Global Sleep Under the Stars Night is August 8 (prime time for meteor showers!); laughter — National Tell a Joke Day is August 16; and the opportunity to put God's love into action by serving others — on August 22, National Be an Angel Day, or August 28, National Thoughtful Day, and, for that matter, every day of the year — holiday or not.

**Thy will be done:** Placing ourselves completely into God's hands can be challenging. If you need help in that area, pray these words from Thomas à Kempis: “Lord, you know what is best. May your will decide what shall be done. Give what you will, how much you will and when you will. Do what you know is best for me. Do what pleases you and brings your name most honor. “Put me where you will, and deal with me in all things as you please. I am in your hand — turn me backwards and forwards, turn me upside down. Here I am, your servant, ready for anything, for I have no desire to live for myself but only to live perfectly and worthily for you.”



Savior,  
teach me  
day by day  
love's sweet lesson  
to obey,  
sweeter lesson  
cannot be,  
loving him who  
first loved me.

—Jane Eliza Leeson (1842)





## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1 Matthew Diefenbach  
 August 2 Dorothy Riegel  
 August 3 Faith Powell, Cameron Aldridge,  
 Sharon Lawrence, Samantha Nottke,  
 Russ White  
 August 4 Stacey Shimmin  
 August 5 Emma Werner  
 August 7 Jason Berns, Carol Kuipers, Ardis Knight,  
 Britton Kirk, Sheila Kirchner  
 August 8 Mel Brinkman, Adam Messer  
 August 10 Orlin Buente, Sharon Pfeiffer  
 August 13 Ronda Wenzelman  
 August 14 Linda Rink, Ben Kirchner  
 August 16 Angela Van Voorst, Reid Butler,  
 Jordyn Reginer  
 August 17 Kim Jensen, Laura Sackett,  
 Robert Rice, Jr., Gracyn Cordes  
 August 18 Cheri Dayton  
 August 19 Dawn St. Germaine, Stacy Ireland,  
 Deanna Brinkman  
 August 20 Kelly Turner  
 August 21 Michael Rice, Christopher Wulff,  
 Kyle Wenzelman  
 August 22 Darlene Charter  
 August 23 Cole Wildman, Alexa Rae Colston  
 August 24 Amanda Meyer, Tyler Werner  
 August 25 Nathan Lindley, Brian Kingsland,  
 Barbara Paetsch, Buffy Kuipers,  
 Megan Bradford  
 August 26 Mary Meyer, Ean Dittus  
 August 27 John Brinkman  
 August 28 David Mickelson, Connor Thorsten  
 August 30 Criss Crabb  
 August 31 Rachel Jensen

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



The fields are growing  
 ripe for harvest.  
*Spirit*, continue  
 to cultivate  
 your *fruits*  
 in my life, too.

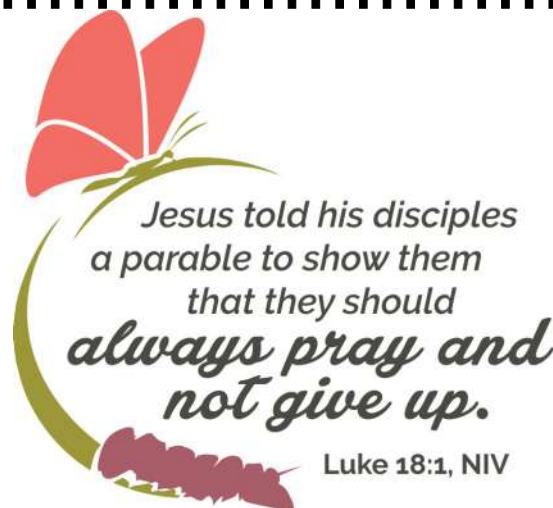


Join us for a  
 Community Youth  
 Group meeting.  
 Youth Group meets  
 every second Sunday  
 of the month

at Evan at 6:30pm. Contact Ryan at  
[coffmanry@gmail.com](mailto: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 he is a member  
 of Grand Prairie UMC.

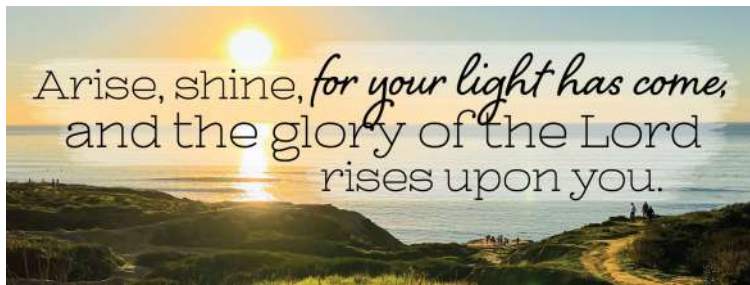


Jesus told his disciples  
 a parable to show them  
 that they should  
*always pray and  
 not give up.*

Luke 18:1, NIV

# AUGUST 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	2	3 - Evan UWF at 1:30PM	4	5
6 	7 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	8	9 -	10	11	12
13 - Holy Communion	14 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	15	16	17	18	19 - UWF Spiritual Retreat at Manteno UMC
20	21 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	22 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	23	24 - Printing the Newsletter	25	26
27	28 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	29 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	30	31		



“Make the world a better place one person at a time. Start with yourself.” — Linda Poindexter

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“Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.” — Miles Kington

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“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.” — attributed to Vincent van Gogh

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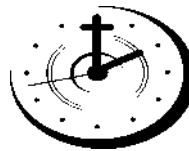
“Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.” — Rainer Maria Rilke

### 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:  
August 1 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](mailto: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](https://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](mailto:bonfieldgp@gmail.com)

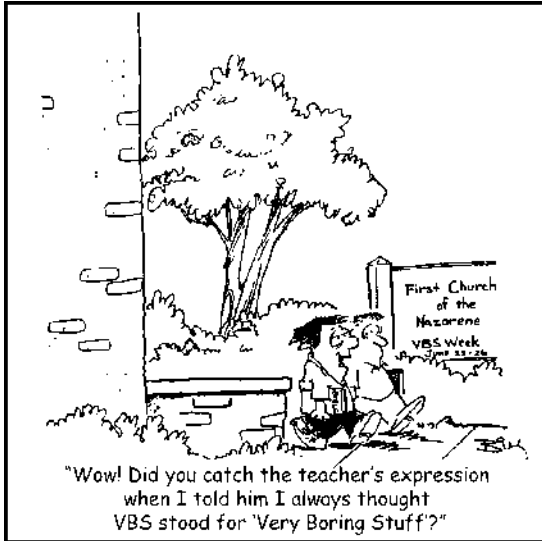
Website: [www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org](http://www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org)

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

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Bonfield, IL 60913

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### PLEASE JOIN US

**The Bonfield-Grand Prairie Parish invites you to:  
WORSHIP IN THE PARK**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023 – 10:30 am**

WHERE: PAVILLION LOCATED BY THE BONFIELD QUARRY IN  
BONFIELD

**PRAISE MUSIC, SPECIAL NUMBERS, MESSAGE, OLD HYMNS,  
FELLOWSHIP, FOOD AND FUN  
BRNG A LAWN CHAIR FOR THE SERVICE**

**JOIN US FOR A POTLUCK DINNER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE.**

**Hamburgers, hotdogs, beverages and table service will be provided.**

**Please bring a dish to share. No dish, no problem. We will have plenty.**

**Play ground for the kids and bags will be available as well.**

**Everyone is invited to attend.**

**IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT DAY FOR FELLOWSHIP  
AND WORSHIP!!!**

**Questions, call Joyce at 815-671-3003**

