

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



For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

This is a Scripture passage that has been near to me for the past 20 years or so.

In my study Bible I'm given an example: If someone gives you a gift, do you say, "That's very nice, how much do I owe you?" No, your response should be "Thank you." Often Christians, even after being given the gift of salvation, feel they should try to work their way to God. Because our salvation and faith are gifts from God, we should respond with gratitude, praise and joy.

I will be one of the first to admit that there were times in my life in which I didn't accept the gift that God gives. I had more than one period of time when I chose to turn my back on God. In 1985 when I lost four members of my family spanning three generations in a car accident just outside of Saunemin, I questioned God while sitting in Chenoa UMC during the funeral service, why this could happen. In 1995 again I questioned God when I received a message to call home while having my semi-trailer loaded in southern Ohio, to find out my 3-year-old son was found dead in my home.

2005 saw another tragedy, with the passing of my dad's significant other. In 2015 two people near to me passed away within a few days of each other. One was an uncle who was less than 10 years older than me and the other was Patty's mom. The same again in 2017 when two people near to me, one of them my stepdad and the other was Patty's dad, passed away within two weeks of each other.

I'm not sharing this to say that I have had more tragedy around me than anyone else. I know that we all face tragedy while here on Earth. I purposely used two paragraphs to give an example of how my life changed over the years. In March 2004, I attended a Walk to Emmaus weekend at East Bay Camp. It was that weekend where I first learned about God placing people in my life who are a gift from God to help me through the personal storms I face. The same weekend when I re-dedicated my life to Jesus Christ. Also the weekend when I FINALLY learned and gave thanks for the gifts of faith and salvation God provided for me. So, unlike the events prior to 2004 where I turned my back on God, I was able to face the events in 2005, 2015 and 2017 knowing that God would help me through the pain I faced each time.

Are you someone who has been offered these gifts and not given thanks to God for them? Have you turned you back on God before, or maybe currently living your life with your back turned? I know of two churches, Bonfield Evangelical UMC and Grand Prairie UMC where you can walk inside on a Sunday and give thanks for the gifts you have been given by God. At both churches you will be welcomed by people who are very gracious. Many have accepted the gifts God has given them, while one or two might be in the process of doing that. Give us a try any Sunday and learn to Love Like Jesus.

Blessings to all of you,
Pastor Keith



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The Church should be a community where messed-up people are welcome, outcasts are loved, underdogs find a champion, the hopeless find hope, and the friendless find a friend.

In order for a pastor to fulfill the Lord's command to feed God's flock, the sheep must show up during feeding times.

Going to school with Jesus

In *Faith Takes a Name*, Dwight E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."



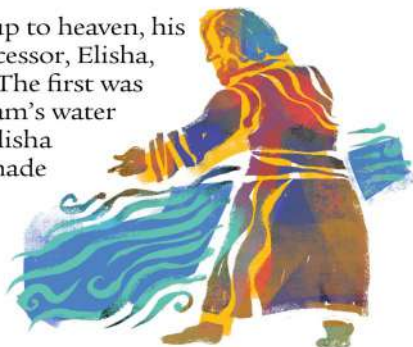
September Memory Verse

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord. Zechariah 4:6, NASB

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

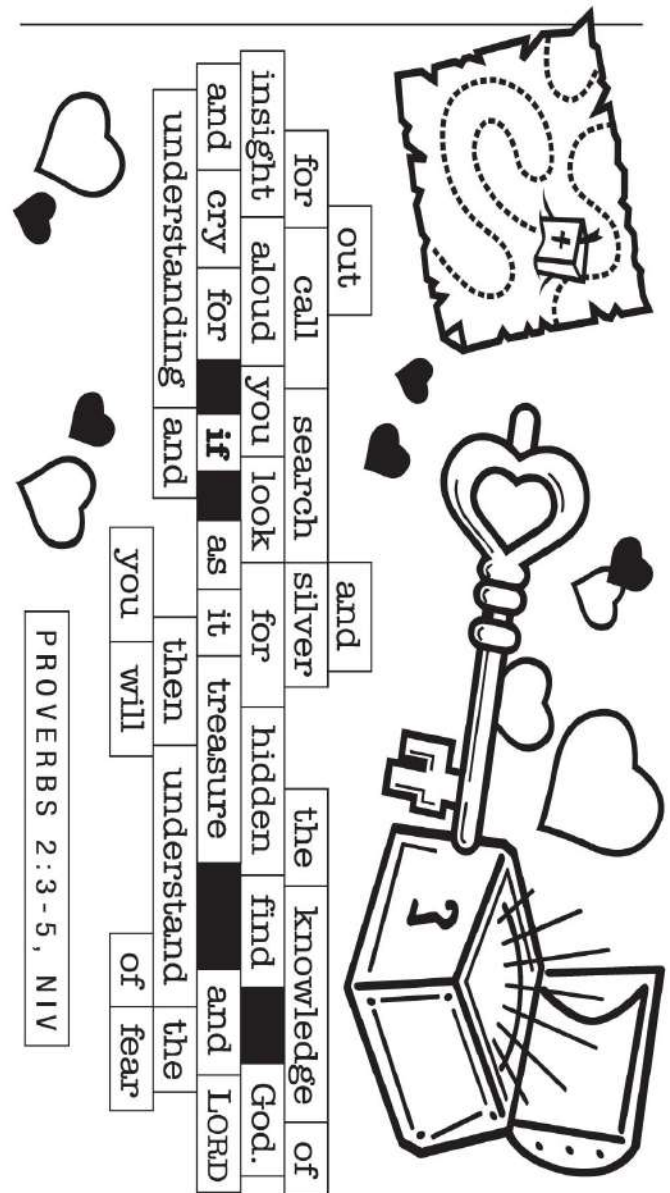
- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt



Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.



Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:3-5, NIV



Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

thank you



I want to thank everyone for their birthday wishes, cards and gifts. Special thanks to those that came to the Open House party.

~ Harley Buente



A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA



R G S Z M P N B T L W

V E V I B G R N V R

I V N V N Y V I B L F

R M Z O O N B

K I Z B V I H U L I Z O O

L U B L F , R Z O D Z B H

K I Z B D R G S Q L B

K S R O R K K R Z M H

1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, 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, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Donna Diefenbach, Virginia Dittus, Herb Foltz, Gale Jensen, Marjorie Kersch, Roger Kuipers, Sharon Lowey, Maggie Maxwell, Allen Messer, Marilyn Ohrt, Dave Parks, Sunshine Powell, Dorothy Riegel, Stan Stone, Marion Wenzelman, Stan Wenzelman, & Ronald Wildman.

Arden Courts

Mel Brinkman

Courtyard Estate of Herscher

Marjorie Kersch
Randy Riegel

At College

Jenna Kenning
Isabell Lowey
Kamden Lockwood

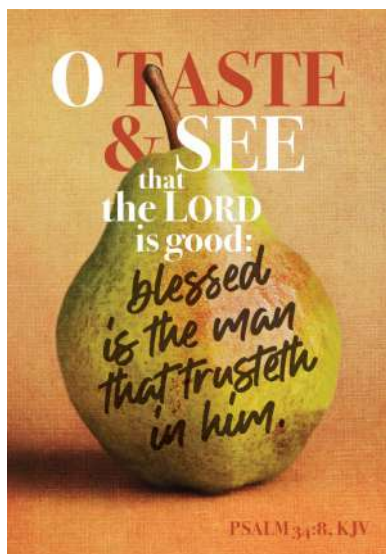
Heritage Woods

Vi Morse

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 at 815-802-9805 or bonfieldgp@gmail.com.



Being NICER as Christians at work

“As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday,” writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. “Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made.” For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus’ example.)

Excellence (“Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.”)

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)



+Christian Symbol+

STONE TABLETS — The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

JULY 2023 ATTENDANCE

	7/2	7/9	7/16	7/23	7/30
Evangelical	32	45	40	60	40
Grand Prairie	18	20	19	24	24
Total	50	65	59	84	64



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 UWF met on August 3 in the upper room. Carole Buente open the meeting with prayer and devotion. What is important to you? Paul stated, what we think is important to us is really nothing compared to our communion with the Lord. Dianne Wells gave the lesson “working in the community towards liberation.” Dianne opened with prayer. Women have been the backbone of the church and are still today. We are under an attack as people of the Lord Jesus. An attack of the world is taking place today. What can we do about it? How can we unite and fight this attack. Reading scripture, studying, and confronting ways it is being twisted, teaching children the ways to live by making sure they are strong in the Lord. A short dissuasion on can God be a woman? There is no place in scripture that says God can be. He is represented as Father or Son. John 4:1-42 Lead to a discussion on Jesus and the Samaritan women at the well. How can we reflect Jesus’ teachings from these verses. Dianne closed in prayer. The treasures report was read by Ardis Messer and accepted as read. The Secretary’s report was read by Dayle Seitz with one correction that was made. It was accepted. Dayle gave a District report. Officers for the new year will remain the same except Dianne Wells will be Vice President and Vickie Gaffield will be secretary. 2024 Officers - President Carol Buente, Vice President Dianne Wells, Secretary Vickie Gaffield & Treasure Ardis Messer. The next meeting will be September 7 at 1:30 in the upper room. Remember UWF welcome anyone to our meetings. You do not need to be a member of the UMC. The trip to Midwest distribution Center trip was cancelled due to conflicts with other activities. It will be scheduled later in the year. Upcoming dates: UFW Sunday is Sept 17, Fall annual meeting is Sept 23 at Bloomington Wesley UMC, District mini mission is Oct 21 at Roanoak UMC, Make a difference day is Oct 28, Pork Chop Dinner is set for September 30.

* Do you still have gifts to buy for Christmas, or another special event in your life? Consider giving a gift in honor of this special person to Heifer International. Gifts for a heifer might be \$500 or share the amount with someone would be \$50. A flock of Chicks is \$20. Or give a gift of clean water for \$300. Garden Seeds \$60 or maybe even fish, water Buffalo, Goat, Sheep, Pig or Honeybees too. Call toll-free 877-2heifer (877-243-4337) for more help or contact the Parish office through Pastor Keith or secretary Hope 815-802-9805. *

2023 Meetings: 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

Martha Circle - 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.

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)

United Women in Faith of the Parish

Friends of Midwest Mission,

The Brick by Brick Campaign is designated for upgrades to the Midwest Mission campus and our equipment. After prayerful consideration, we know this year's projects are critical for sustaining and growing the ministry you help drive. Creating a safe, efficient, and green working environment for staff, mission volunteers, and guests is also critical to increasing our capacity for outreach.

Together, we reached over 1.6 million people in 2022 with \$7.99 million worth of humanitarian aid. Because of our efficiencies, smart stewardship, and having the right equipment, for every \$1 spent in 2022, \$7.85 worth of supplies was sent to help people in crisis. God is paving the way for miracles to continue in our midst because of your generous hearts, dedicated service and fervent prayer. Help pave the way for the future of Midwest Mission. Your generosity allows Midwest to live out the mission of transforming God's resources into humanitarian relief. Your generosity allows us to live out the mission of transforming God's resources into humanitarian relief. Donations of \$500 or more receive an engraved brick that is placed at the Midwest Mission entrance.

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:11-12
Midwest is Dreaming of Metal Roof for the Dorm \$29,700, Midwest is Dreaming of a 20 foot Box Truck \$14,000. Give whatever gift you can whether that is \$1, \$10 or more. God looks at a cheerful giver not at the amount given.

On Saturday August 19, 44 ladies from the Vermillion River District participated in a Spiritual Growth Retreat at Manteno United Methodist Church. There were 11 ladies from our Parish in attendance. The retreat was led by Tricia Coffman the Spiritual Growth Leader for Vermillion River District United Women in Faith. Retired Minister Mary Brady was the special guest speaker.

The theme of the retreat was JOY! We reflected on scriptures and had discussions at our tables about JOY and how we feel JOY. Joy is a core feeling. It doesn't last just a day but it is with us all the time because we are Christians. We just have to remember it is there and know it will always be there even in times of sadness and stress.

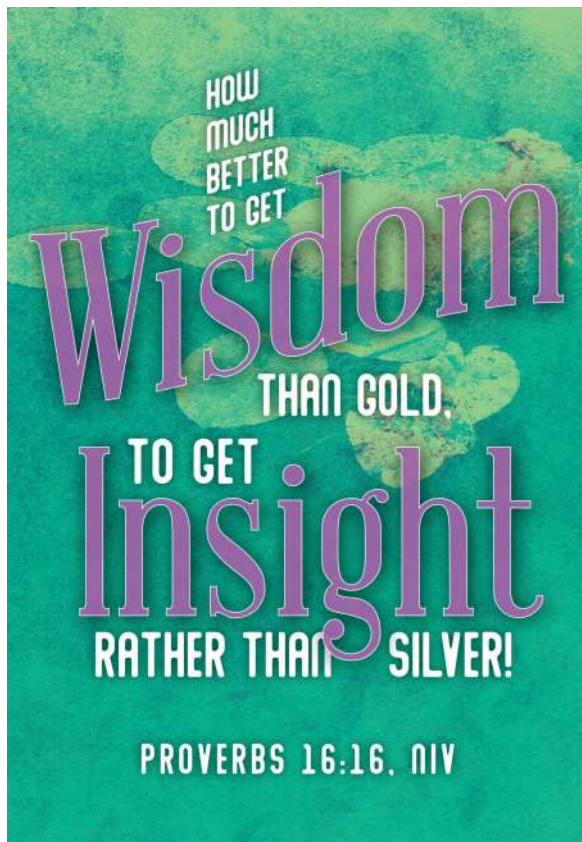
The Manteno ladies group provided a light breakfast and some snacks. We played games, made God Boxes, reflected on scripture and found a lot of JOY in being together.





Your NOW committee would like to thank everyone for coming out to the park on Sunday, August 6. There were more than 60 people in attendance. We were blessed with good leadership, beautiful music and readings, lots of laughter and great fellowship. Hot dogs and hamburgers were enjoyed along with 3 tables full of great food. Our wish to all who came is that you were blessed and enjoyed the service and fellowship as much as those who organized and prepared the event for the parish. God is Good and kept the rain away too!!!!





Today I was hanging out with my Christian friend. However, he doesn't always act or speak like a Christian should (or at least how I think a Christian should) I know he believes in God, he goes to church and tries to be a good person - but he sins, he gets angry, he fights with depression, he loses his patience - some days his life is a hot mess and he is way out of line with the Bible. I really want to say something to him about how he acts and how he should be a better Christian. No matter what I say to him it will not matter. I have decided to let God speak to his heart- because nothing that I say will have the same impact as the Father's words. So... I prayed with him, and after some time had passed, I winked at him and walked away from the mirror. I try everyday and I fail everyday. I am not perfect, - so please don't put your eyes on me because I am a work in progress and I'm thankful for God's grace and His promises to His believers.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."





SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 2 Jason Graf, Conner Wenzelman,
Becky Sikes
September 3 Jason Adams, Mary Robbins,
Ean Meyer-Marrieta
September 4 Sara Davis,
Michelle Ladonna Hobbs
September 5 Victoria Wells, Tim Holohan
September 6 Roger Kuipers
September 7 Ivan Brunner, Devynn Lynn Coffman,
Timothy Sullivan, Dorothy Powell,
Ralph Sharper
September 8 James Riegel, Emily Metzka,
Ivy Aldridge
September 9 Michael Smith
September 10 Doreen Buza, Lidia Lehnus
September 11 Chris Loyd
September 12 Stan Wenzelman, Craig Rice,
Sharon Lowey
September 13 Kristi Davis, Jennifer Davis,
David Dettman, Todd Robinson
September 14 Dean Dau, Rhae Anna Riegel
September 15 Jim Davis
September 16 Lois Jensen, Jennifer Waid,
Jason Pfeiffer, Heather Ward
September 17 Ron Fritz
September 18 Melissa White, Linda Meyer,
Michael Wells, Michelle Hanson
September 19 Susan Wilson, Doreen Ouelette,
Deanna Brinkman
September 20 Susanna Wilson, Bill Buckman,
Meredith Weber, Shawn Lawrence,
Debbie Norton
September 21 Donna Diefenbach
September 22 Kevin Buente, Janet Meyer,
Jennifer Cochran
September 23 Edwin Riegel, Adam Kuipers,
Michelle Dettman, Darin Mecklenburg,
Stacy Wood



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 he is a member
of Grand Prairie UMC.



September 24 Jordan Coiston
September 25 Landon Hertz, Troy Riegel,
Ron E. Metzka, Gayle Brunner,
Amy Wenzelman
September 26 Benjamin Grant, David Scholl,
John M. Kuipers, Sheila Berns,
Roger Hertz
September 27 Paul Meyer, Steven Robbins,
Christopher Wolch, Chelsea Goodman,
Mary Hertz
September 28 Donna Sauer,
Christine Brinkman, Payton Overacker
September 29 Tyler Lotton
September 30 Jerry Fecke,
Mary J. Monelith -Anderson

Please notify the church office of any names and
birthdays which need to be added, removed or corrected,
815-802-9805.

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 - Holy Communion	4 - No Journey 	5 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	6 -	7 - Evan UWF at 1:30PM	8	9
10 - Children's Sunday School Starts - Grandparent's Day	11 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM 	12 - Ad Board at Evan at 7pm	13 - Martha Circle	14	15	16
17 - UWF Sunday Guest Speaker	18 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	19 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	20	21 - Printing the Newsletter - Sunshine Circle	22	23 
24	25 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	26 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	27	28	29	30 - Pork Chop Drive-Thru Meal at Evan at 4:30-7PM

"Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God's help is not partial but total."

—Alistair Begg, Made for His Pleasure

* * *

"I'm a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world."

—Mother Teresa

* * *

"The best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good, and how he treats people who can't fight back."

—Abigail Van Buren

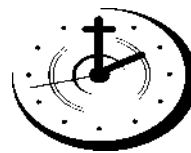
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"Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone."

—Thomas Merton



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



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:
September 5 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.

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](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

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 Box Holder

Bonfield, IL 60913



**Drive-Thru Pork Chop
Sandwich Dinner**

Saturday, Sept. 30th
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

**Children's Sunday School
Kick-Off**

Sunday, Sept. 10th at 8:30am
at Bonfield Evangelical UMC

348 E. Smith St.

Breakfast will be served.

Everyone is invited.

