

# 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



Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 NIV

As a Pastor, I am like many of you who, from time to time, need to get away from the regular beat of everyday life and take a break. For me it is an opportunity to calm myself from what I do serving this Parish. I have been blessed twice this year to have the opportunity to do just that.

In late June I was able to see an Aunt I haven't seen in over 10 years. It was important for me to do this, as she is the last surviving sibling of my dad, who passed away in January. I was also able to visit with cousins and their families, some of whom I haven't seen in 40+ years. This brought a lot of joy to me, but that was just part of the trip.

The rest of the trip gave me the chance to see some of the beautiful scenery in Utah, Nevada and Arizona. I had time with God on a Sunday in Zion National Park, looking at the mountains that He created. It was a time of inner peace for me, which was amazing. Sedona, Arizona also provided a lot of beautiful scenery to see and enjoy while I was away.

This past month was my second opportunity to step away from the normal. Beautiful scenery at Lake of the Ozarks was plentiful. But there was also time to sit on the balcony of the condo that was rented and just watch the boats on the lake. Also time to spend alone with God and calm my mind. Later in the same week, it was a couple of days at Lake Geneva, WI. That portion of the trip had a lot of rain, but I was still able to see some of the simple beauties that God offers us.

So why do I share all of this with you? The Scripture from 1 Peter was written to let us know that, while we have anxieties, worries and stress from daily struggles, it takes humility to recognize that God cares about us. We can turn to him when we have these struggles. I am just like everyone else, there are times when I struggle some days. But I take time like the vacations that I had this year to have one on one time with God, who helps to calm me down and prepare for my return to my normal routine.

I encourage everyone to take a little time, especially in the midst of your own personal struggles to step away if you can. But regardless of if you can or can't get away, take time to allow God to help you through the struggles. And be thankful not just this month, but throughout the year for what you have and the opportunity to have God to turn to when you need help.

Blessings, Pastor Keith



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**Salina Fireman's Breakfast**

Adult all you can eat plates \$12 &  
Kids prices \$8

Biscuits & Gravy, Eggs, Bacon,  
Sausage, Pancakes, French Toast,  
Toast, OJ, milk, & coffee.



ALL YOU CAN EAT  
Breakfast at the station  
from 8am - 11:30am.

And as always - It's the  
BEST breakfast in town!

**November Memory Verse**

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks  
in all circumstances, for this is God's will for  
you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



~ Grand Prairie: Sunday,  
December 10 at 7pm

~ Bonfield Evangelical:  
Sunday, December 17  
during the 10am service

~ Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24 at  
Bonfield Evangelical at 4pm

## ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

**Fill in the blank:**

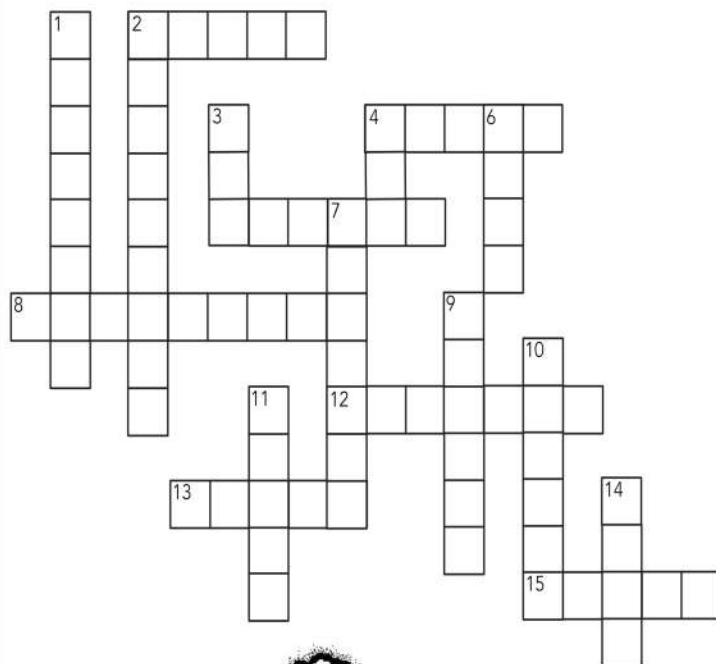
"Rejoice always, pray continually,  
give \_\_\_\_\_ in all circumstances;  
for this is God's will for you  
in Christ Jesus."

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings



Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV)

# Puzzle!

**ACROSS**

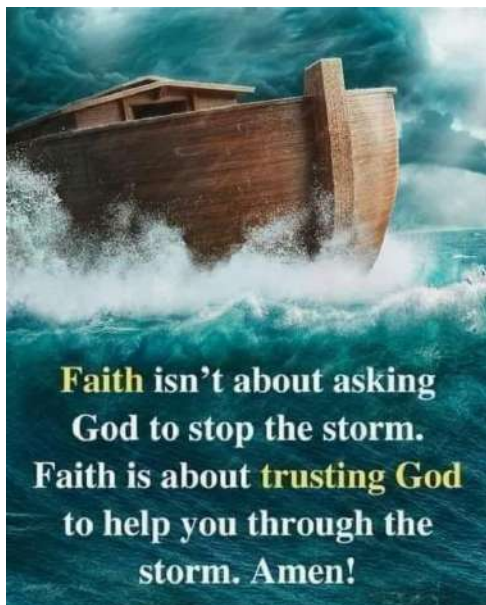
- 2. cause of Job's trouble
- 4. twinkling, heavenly lights
- 6. the Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- 8. creature of the deep (41:1)
- 12. the Temanite, a friend (2:11)
- 13. sores
- 15. Job had 7,000

**DOWN**

- 1. the One who ever lives (19:25)
- 2. affliction
- 3. had seven sons
- 4. ocean
- 5. precipitation
- 7. Job had 500
- 9. the Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- 10. Job had 3,000
- 11. Job's fourth friend (32:2)
- 12. Job had 500 yoke

Answers: Across 2. Satan, 4. stars, 6. Bildad, 8. Leviathan, 12. Eliphaz, 13. boils, 15. sheep;  
Down 1. Redeemer, 2. suffering, 3. Job, 4. sea, 5. rain, 7. donkeys, 9. Zophar, 10. camels, 11. Elihu, 12. oxen





Thank you to everyone in the Parish who sent me a note or a gift during Pastor Appreciation Month! God continues to Bless me by allowing me to be His servant serving this wonderful Parish!! Blessings to all of you, Pastor Keith

# PUZZLE

## THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

*Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.*

This becomes a plant \_\_\_\_\_



Willing to give \_\_\_\_\_

The result of planting seeds \_\_\_\_\_



The act of gratitude \_\_\_\_\_

Food made from wheat \_\_\_\_\_



Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also



supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_



of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

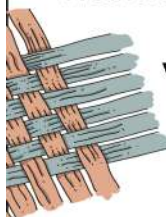
\_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result



in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV



Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



### What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

### What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!



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

**From Our Church Bulletin:** The Gene Rink Family, Candy Bauer, Mel Brinkman, Jay Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Donna Diefenbach, Virginia Dittus, Herb Foltz, Vickie Gaffield, Marjorie Kersch, Maggie Maxwell (Bob Nichols' sister), Allen Messer, Marilyn Ohrt, Dave Parks, Harry Pfeiffer, Sunshine Powell, Dorothy Riegel, Stan Stone, Marion Wenzelman, Stan Wenzelman, & Ronald Wildman.

**Arden Courts**

Mel Brinkman

**At College**

Jenna Kenning

Isabell Lowey

Kamden Lockwood

**Courtyard Estate of Herscher**

Marjorie Kersch

Randy Riegel

Ralph Grob

**Heritage Woods**

V1 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.



**HANGING OF THE GREENS**



Saturday, November 25

Grand Prairie: at 8am &

Evan: at 9am



-Sunday, December 3

-Sunday, December 10

-Sunday, December 17

-Sunday, December 24



+Christian Symbol+

**WATER** — Water flows through the Scriptures: the Flood, the Red Sea crossing, water springing from a rock to nourish Israelites in the wilderness, the healing of Naaman's leprosy when he washed in the Jordan River, John baptizing Jesus and, chiefly, our baptism into Christ. The water of baptism symbolizes cleansing from sin, the quenching of our spiritual thirst and God raising us from death (drowning in sin) to life everlasting. Just as we cannot live without physical water, neither can we truly live without the living water Jesus gives (see John 4:13-14).



**SEPTEMBER 2023 ATTENDANCE**

	9/3	9/10	9/17	9/24
Evangelical	44	45	48	43
Grand Prairie	25	22	22	24
Total	69	67	70	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 on September 7. Carol Buente opened the meeting with a Devotional "Focus on Jesus" from Sarah Young. 9 members were present, 9 sick calls and many get well, thinking of you and Birthday cards were sent. It was presented to send Cunningham Children Home and Leslie Bates Community homes each gift Cards at the annual meeting. A book report on "the Land is not Empty", was given Linda Meyer gave the lesson based on the second gospel of John. John talked about the chosen lady. She was not named but was referred to as the chosen Lady. John used the words truth and Love 9 times. John said to love one another, share love and beware of false Prophets. We all need to be chosen ladies. Christ chose us to be His Children and we should share our love for Him with others. Other verses Gal. 6:9-10 and Rev. 14:12-13. She ended in prayer. The Secretary's report was given by Dayle Seitz and was approved as read. Treasures report was read by Ardis Messer and was approved as read. Joyce Riegel read from the Response. Why do we need to make financial pledges. Midwest Distribution Center has not been rescheduled yet. The list of running officers for Conference was passed out. Dayle Seitz served a light lunch. Our next meeting will be October 5 at Joyce Riegel's home at 1:30 pm. Make a difference Day will be October 28, anyone is welcome to come tie quilts and enjoy fellowship. Start collecting hats, gloves and gift cards. United Women in Faith is open to anyone. You do not need to be a Methodist to come or join the group. Dayle Seitz, Secretary



The Bonfield United Women in Faith met on October 5, 2023, the home of Joyce Riegel. There were 6 members, Pastor Keith, and 2 quests. Carol Buente opened the meeting with prayer and devotion, "shine on" from the book of Matthew. Dayle Seitz gave the lesson, "Have you ever felt forsaken by God." Based on Psalm 22. The messianic statements from David, Psalm 22:1 and Jesus, Matthew 27:46. Clearly pertaining to Christ, the transferring of our sins onto the shoulders of Christ. Our sins were placed on Him as the final and complete sacrifice for our sin. At that moment of this placement, Jesus was banished from the presence of God, because sin cannot exist in God's presence. (See 1 Peter 3:18) God has promised us that he will never leave us, and He will destroy the wicked. A good discussion about the despair in our Nation as applied to these verses. Let's pray together every day at 3pm for our Nation, each in our own home. Dayle gave the secretary's report, and it was accepted as read. Ardis Messer gave the treasures report, and it was accepted as read. Diane Wells read from the prayer guide about justice and walking in faith. It was presented by Dianne Wells to send invitations to the women who were members of First Church for the next meeting. The meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Keith. Joyce Riegel and her daughter Joy Bland served a fall array of snacks that was enjoyed by all. The next meeting will be in the upper room at 1:30 on November 2. Make a difference day will Saturday, October 28 at 9AM in the upper room. If you like to work by tying through quilts come and enjoy good fellowship while making a difference for a child or shut with a warm quilt. The United Women in Faith is open to all. You do not need to be a member of the United Methodist Church. We welcome you to join us. Dayle Seitz, Secretary

2023 Meetings: November 2 at 1:30pm in the upper room, December 14 at 11:30am at Butter & Berries

## United Women in Faith of the Parish

**Sunshine Circle** - Sunshine Circle was on Sept 21, 2023. Ardis hosted the meeting, serving a delicious meal and reading devotions from Ideals. Topics were "One day at a Time" and "Things work out." Kim read several scriptures before leading us with a pumpkin craft. Everyone decorated their own festive pumpkin, perfect for the season! Birthday cupcakes were served in honor of Donnas' birthday. Attendance was taken, Treasurers report given, & minutes were read and approved. Old and New business was discussed - last minute plans for the Drive Thru Pork Chop dinner were made. Holiday mission projects were discussed and will be finalized at the Oct. 19th meeting, which will be hosted by Kim Please keep Donna in your prayers.

On Thursday, October 19 Kim was hostess for the month. Both Jodi and Ardis, celebrated birthdays in October. Dinner was served, devotions were given and Kim read several scriptures denoting how Jesus shows His love to each of us. We had a group discussion where each member gave an example of the power of prayer in his life. Several in the group will be having medical procedures in the near future. Jan prayed for each one and for Donna who is convalescing after knee surgery. Vice president Vickie opened the meeting. Attendance was taken & the treasurer's report was given. Old and new business was discussed including Holiday activities and pending mission projects. The November 16 meeting will be at Evan, hosted by Rita, Jodi, and Lorraine. Election of 2024 officers will take place.  
2023 Meetings: November 16 Rita, Jodi, & Lorraine Hostess, & December 21 Christmas Party (tba)



Pictures from the September meeting of the Sunshine Circle.



**Martha Circle** - Our next meeting is November 15 at Tricia Coffman's home. We will be assembling Operation Christmas Child boxes.

2023 Meetings: November 15 - Hostess Tricia C. December 13 - Hostess Kim O. & Marilyn O.





### Ascending thanks

Thy mighty hand o'er all the land  
hath still been open to bestow  
those blessings which our wants demand  
from heaven, whence all blessings flow.

Thou hast, with ever watchful eye,  
looked down on us with holy care,  
and from thy storehouse in the sky  
hast scattered plenty everywhere.

Then lift we up our songs of praise  
to thee, O Father, good and kind;  
to thee we consecrate our days;  
be thine the temple of each mind.

With incense sweet our thanks ascend;  
before thy works our powers pall;  
though we should strive years without end,  
we could not thank thee for them all.

—Excerpts from “A Thanksgiving Poem,” Paul  
Laurence Dunbar

Thank You to all of the volunteers and those who  
purchased meals on Saturday Sept. 30th during  
the pork chop sandwich drive thru!



**Thank You:** Thank you all— What a wonderful farewell party. We will miss all of you. We will think of all of you often. I'm sure there will be more tears. God has been good to us. We've lived a good long life right here. I know He will continue to be with us. What a blessing to KNOW that He is in control! Thank you for the chimes. How can we forget you? When the chimes remind us as the breeze stirs them. Much love and all God's blessings on you all.

Love in Christ, Chris & Gerry

**Thank You:** Thank you to all who sent their condolences, thoughts, prayers, food and helped with the funeral dinner for the Gaffield Family. Ricky will be greatly missed but we have comfort knowing he is with our Lord and Savior.

**Thank You:** We were touched by the donation made by the Evan UWF in memory of Pearl Evans. Thank You, the Pearl Evans Family

Thank You Bonfield-Grand Prairie Parish Area for your giving. Yes we are collecting 2024 calendars. We have a supply of Christmas cards, but we will take more. Last year we gave suckers with the cards and that was good! A 300 bag of smaller suckers from WalMart north was around \$17. Would anyone like to donate either a bag of suckers or any amount of money to help this cause? Joy Bland will collect at Evan and Janet in Grand Prairie. The smaller suckers work better for the veterans. GOD LOVES YOU!



### Three Thanksgiving prayers

Dear Lord, we beg but one boon more: peace in the hearts of all men living, peace in the whole world this Thanksgiving.

—Joseph Auslander

For what I have received may the Lord make me truly thankful. And more truly for what I have not received.

—Storm Jameson

O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.

—William Shakespeare



### Thanksgiving humor

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

Why did the turkey decline dessert?  
Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?  
To prove he wasn't a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?  
Your nose.

Why didn't the chef season the turkey?  
There wasn't enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?  
People were fighting over the drumsticks.

**REJOICE**  
ALWAYS,  
**PRAY**  
CONTINUALLY,  
**GIVE THANKS**  
**IN ALL**  
**CIRCUMSTANCES.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV





### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1 Taylor Heath, Ron Jensen,  
Betsy (Butler) Meyer, Allen Messer  
November 2 Pastor Mel Nielsen, Nicholes Davis,  
Cindy Colston, Larrin J. Nottke,  
Betty Diefenbach  
November 3 Scott Morse, Christi Young  
November 4 Andrea Wilson, Steven Hoffman,  
Hunter Michell  
November 5 Abigale Berns, Scott Hansen,  
Kristen Voigt  
November 6 Chuck Meyer-Marrietta,  
Marion Wenzelman  
November 7 Jon Overacker, Benjamin Diefenbach  
November 8 Stuart Kuipers, Madelyn Kuipers  
November 9 Dennis Wilson, Connor Lowey,  
Chad Hertz, Tom Grant  
November 10 Chuck Bradford, Cheryl Weber,  
Karen Noxon  
November 11 John Cross, Lyle Meyer, Craig Hansen,  
Rhonda Dahn, Cru Sikes  
November 12 Wendy Pastorel, Clay Melhorn  
November 13 Roger Boyer, Kevin Kirchner,  
November 14 Monique Brunner  
November 15 Paula Pangle, Randy Mau  
November 16 Amanda Sue Wulff, Rae Anna Buente  
November 17 Kai Tapp  
November 19 Hailey Charter, Sunshine Powell,  
Cheryl Young  
November 20 Cathy Messer  
November 21 Andrea Werner, Andrew Ward  
November 22 Marjorie Kersch  
November 25 Allison Hansen, Brandon Charter,  
Beth Davis, Tina Wells  
November 27 Stacey Bonnell  
November 30 Gary Orwig, Matthew Willibey

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

**COMMUNITY CHOIR:** We are inviting everyone who enjoys singing to join us as we prepare a couple of songs to be sung at our Thanksgiving Service which will be on November 12, 2023. All are welcome to participate. Listed below are the times and location of our practices.

- Thursday, November 2, 6 pm
  - Sunday, November 5, 4 pm
  - Thursday, November 9, 6 pm
- Practices will be held at Bonfield Evan. Let's get together to lift our voices in praise for all God has done for us this year. Hope to see you there!!



**The Midwest Mission current needs of the mission are:**

Current needs for collecting are: Day Pads (which can be made - patterns can be found at <https://www.midwestmission.org/kits> in the Feminine Hygiene Kits or they can be purchased at: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/CU9BQUYVR5EH/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/CU9BQUYVR5EH/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)


New receiving blankets are also needed: 32" x 32" or 28" x 28"

or complete bed kits (new) <https://www.midwestmission.org/kits>

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3AI15L5HD4ZJL/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3AI15L5HD4ZJL/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

Many of us will share a Thanksgiving with our family and friends. Many others, however, are not as fortunate. Midwest Mission is a light of hope to so many individuals as well as areas that have been hit with flooding, fires, war, and much more. Come join us and see how WE can help those in need, both here and far away. If you can't join us, please pray that Lisa's words will inspire us to open our hearts and remind us how we can help others in this season of giving thanks. We are thankful for our community and wish everyone a Thanksgiving full of blessings for you all. If you have any questions, please call Joyce Cochran at 815.671.3003.

# NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 - Evan UWF at Evan at 1:30PM	3	4
5- Holy Communion -Daylight Savings Ends	6 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	7 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM - Pastor at Riverside clergy breakfast	8	9	10	11 
12 -UWF thank offering - Thanksgiving Service at Grand Prairie at 4pm	13 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	14 - Ad Board meeting at Grand Prairie at 7pm	15 - Martha Circle	16 - Sunshine Circle	17	18
19 - Thanksgiving Sunday - International Bible Week 19-25	20 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	21 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	22 - Printing the Newsletter	23 - Happy Thanksgiving	24	25 - Hanging of the Greens at Evan at 9am at Grand Prairie at 8am
26 - Christ the King Sunday - UM Student Sunday	27 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	28 -Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	29	30		



"Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way."

—Native American saying

\* \* \*

"On Thanksgiving Day we acknowledge our dependence."

—William Jennings Bryan

\* \* \*

"People will accept your ideas much more readily if you tell them Benjamin Franklin said it first."

—David H. Comins

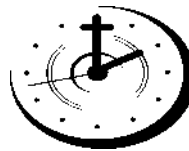
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"A rose is not its thorns, a peach is not its fuzz, and a human being is not his or her crankiness."

—Lisa Kogan



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:

November 7 & December 5 at 8:30am.

The group orders from the regular menu and  
pays for their own meals.

If you would like to see the newsletter in color  
then check out our website at  
[www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org](http://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](mailto:bonfieldgp@gmail.com).



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

### 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

### 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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## THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Bonfield-Grand Prairie UM Parish invites you to  
our annual Thanksgiving Service.

When: November 12, 2023      Time: 4 pm

Where: Grand Prairie United Methodist church  
(located on Rt. 17 just west of the Herscher Road)

Lisa Rigoni, Development Manager, from the Midwest Mission will be our speaker. Come and hear how the Midwest Mission serves throughout our world. There will be a LOVE offering taken to give to the Midwest Mission. Lisa has shared that some of the current needs of the mission are: see page 9. Many of us will share a Thanksgiving with our family and friends. Many others, however, are not as fortunate. Midwest Mission is a light of hope to so many individuals as well as areas that have been hit with flooding, fires, war, and much more. Come join us and see how WE can help those in need, both here and far away. If you can't join us, please pray that Lisa's words will inspire us to open our hearts and remind us how we can help others in this season of giving thanks.

We are thankful for our community and wish everyone a Thanksgiving full of  
blessings for you all.

If you have any questions, please call Joyce Cochran at 815.671.3003.

