



“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



Jesus ascended to heaven, followed by the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the missionary task of the early church.

Many of us know this statement from years of studying the Bible. We have had the annual remembrance of The Last Supper, the trial, the crucifixion and the glorious Resurrection, also known as Holy Week. In my first year of being a Pastor I served a small church between Bloomington/Normal and Peoria, one of the members of that church asked me what happens after Easter. After pondering whether or not this was a test to see if I was qualified to be a Pastor, I gave them my answer with the statement above. If it WAS a test, I think I passed because their response was a simple thank you.

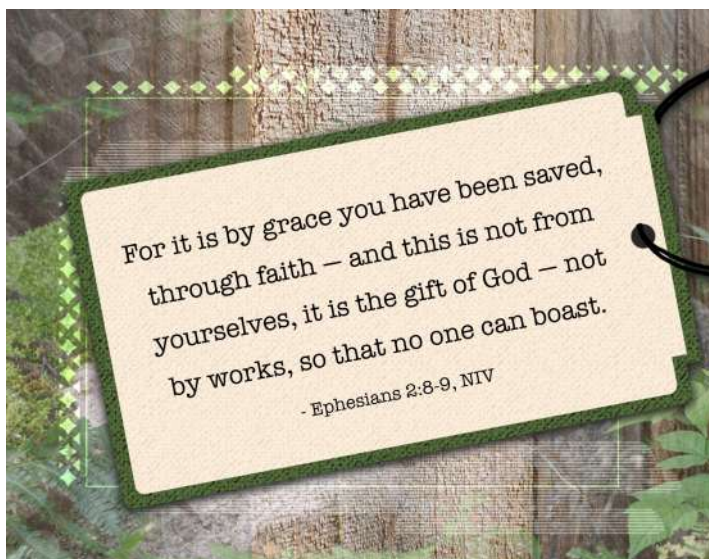
While the statement is a quick response to the question, there is a more detailed response that can be given. That response can be found in the Book of Acts. Many consider this book to be part 2 of Luke's Gospel, as he was the author of Acts. Part 1 shares the stories of Jesus and his ministry while on Earth, along with his account of we now refer to as Holy Week. Acts gives the account on what happened in the First Century. And that starts with the 40 days between the Resurrection day and the day of Pentecost, or the time when Jesus ascended to heaven until the day the Holy Spirit ascended.

My suggestion to anyone seeking for the first time is to read Luke and Acts. I also give this suggestion to anyone needing a “refresher course.” But don't try to read them in one sitting. Read at your own pace, and allow the content to soak into your mind. Hopefully it will enlighten you as you read.

We have had a wonderful Bible study this year during Lent. Max Lucado's, In The Footsteps of Jesus has brought personally for me a new perspective into the stories of Jesus and His ministry. If anyone is interested in watching the videos and borrowing the study guide for this series, just let me know. I will be happy to let you borrow it.

It is my hope that the month of April be filled with renewal for you, much like the renewal we are offered each year with the season of Spring. Until next month.

Blessings to all of you,  
Pastor Keith



Inside this issue:	
Bible Quiz & Puzzle	2
Kids Puzzle	3
Prayer List	4
UWF	5
Festival of Quilts	6
Birthday List	7
Calendar	8
Contact Info & Service Times	9
Isaiah 40:6	10



Bonfield Lions Chicken  
BBQ Dinner  
at the Bonfield Lions Hall  
on Saturday, April 27  
at 4-7pm,  
tickets are \$12 for half  
chicken with sides & a drink.

To buy tickets please contact  
Herb Foltz 815-953-5959 or  
buy them at the door.



### April Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of  
Knowledge. - Proverbs 1:7

### **Bible Quiz**

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his  
disciples – twice – when he appears in the  
locked room where they are hiding?

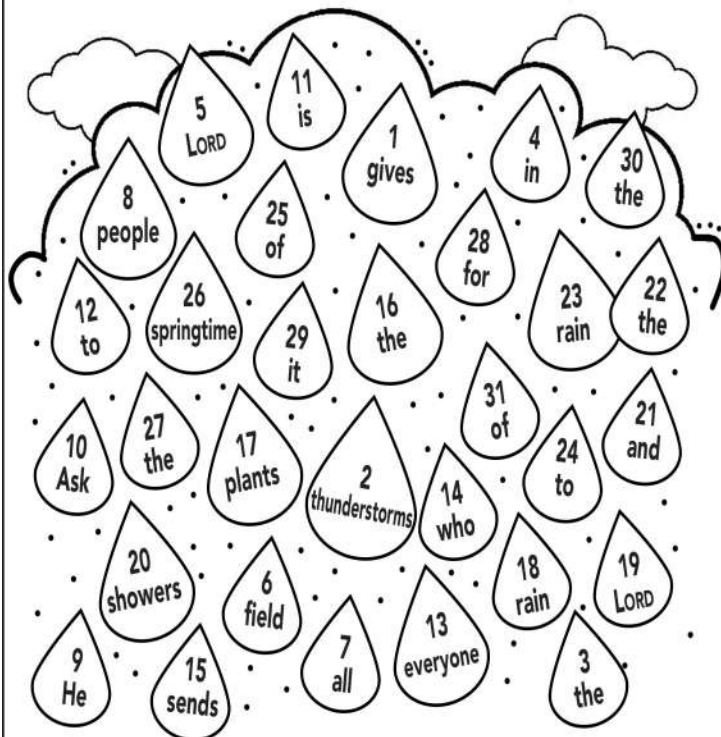
- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first  
shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"



Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)

# Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word  
from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



10      16      5      28      18

4      22      26      ;

29      11      3      19      14      15

27      2

9      1      20      31      23

12      7      8      21      17      25

30      6      24      13

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV



## SOMETHING OLD, Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

### What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!

# PUZZLE



## PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

*Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.*

### KEY



= God



= seed



= planted



= watered



= grow



= one



= anything



= only

I \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, Apollos \_\_\_\_\_ it,



but \_\_\_\_\_ has been making it \_\_\_\_\_.



So neither the \_\_\_\_\_ who plants nor the



\_\_\_\_\_ who waters is \_\_\_\_\_,



but \_\_\_\_\_, who makes things \_\_\_\_\_.



1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow



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

**From Our Church Bulletin:** Candy Bauer, Mel Brinkman, Jay Buente, Joyce Cochran, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Donna Diefenbach, Virginia Dittus, Herb Foltz, Vickie Gaffield, Marjorie Kersch, Allen Messer, Marilyn Ohrt, Dave Parks, Harry & Sharon Pfeiffer, Sunshine Powell, Dorothy Riegel, Stan Stone, Marion Wenzelman, Lorraine Wildman & 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**  
Vi Morse

**Compassion International Kids**

Ebenezer Forson.....Ghana  
Melany Samantha.....Aguilera  
Sonaton Soren.....Bangladesh  
Janny Boya.....Ecuador  
Witney Juarez.....Guatemala  
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.



**VBS Save the Date:**

Monday, July 15  
Wednesday, July 17  
& Friday, July 19  
at 6 - 8pm  
At Bonfield  
Evangelical UMC

Theme: Camp Firelight (camping)  
Volunteers are needed contact Kim Metzka.



+Christian Symbol+

**VICTOR'S CROSS** — Also called the conqueror's cross, the victor's cross is composed of the Greek cross, recognized by its four equal arms, adorned with Greek letters in each quadrant. The top left letters stand for *Jesus* and the top right letters stand for *Christ* (the horizontal lines above them indicate that they are abbreviations). The four letters across the bottom spell the Greek word for *conqueror*.



**FEBRUARY 2024 ATTENDANCE**

	2/4	2/11	2/18	2/25
Evangelical	34	27	43	38
Grand Prairie	27	22	19	14
Total	61	49	62	52





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.

**Sunshine Circle** - The 2024 Officers will be hosting a "potluck" dinner-meeting on March 21st at 6:30pm. Anyone interested may attend. The event will be in the Upper Room at EVAN. All attending have been asked to wear "green". After the business meeting, there will be prayer, scripture and devotions. Find out who the real St Patrick was and why shamrocks are a symbol of this day. The April 18th meeting will be hosted by Kim. Happy Spring! Happy Easter!!

2024 Hostesses: Apr. 18 - Kim M., May 16 - Ardis M., Jun. 20 - Dinner Out (TBA),  
Sept. 19 - Danette S., Oct. - Rita O., Nov. - Donna D. & Dec. - Vickie G.

**Martha Circle** - United Women in Faith Sunday will be September 15.

Martha Circle 2024 Meetings: May 8 – Meet at restaurant, July 10 – Becky Cruse,  
September 11 – Jenny Cochran & Joyce Cochran, November 13 – Tricia Coffman, &  
December 11 – Kim Ohrt & Marilyn Ohrt

**Superimposed love:** Maybe you've heard how salvation is like a total solar eclipse: God doesn't see our sins because Jesus' holiness covers them completely. Or maybe you've heard how trials can cause an "eclipse of faith."

At WorldChallenge.org, Pastor Gary Wilkerson explains that in Greek, *eclipse* means "I am absent" or "I cease to exist," because people once thought the gods temporarily extinguished the sun. "For Christians, a 'spiritual eclipse' is a dark hour when God seems to be absent from our lives," Wilkerson writes. Wilkerson points to Peter being sifted like wheat, Elijah and Jeremiah facing extreme discouragement, and David collapsing morally. Amid Satan's attacks, "God seems completely absent," writes the pastor. "In that dark moment of eclipse, the devil has created such chaos we can't possibly see a way out." During times of testing, Christians must cry out to God and trust his faithfulness. Completing the eclipse analogy, Wilkerson shares Titus 3:4, the "love of God our Savior appeared" (NIV). The Greek meaning of *appeared* here is *superimposed*, he writes. God looks on our fraught-filled times of eclipse and "superimposes his divine love over us."


**Living discipleship:** Christian theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was hanged by the Nazis in April 1945, taught that Christianity and discipleship are intertwined. "Discipleship means adherence to Christ," he wrote in *The Cost of Discipleship*. "An abstract Christology, a doctrinal system, a general religious knowledge ... render discipleship superfluous ..." Bonhoeffer continued, "With an abstract idea, it is possible to enter into a relation of formal knowledge, to become enthusiastic about it, and perhaps even to put it into practice; but it can never be followed in personal obedience. Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ."



**20th Anniversary**  
**Festival of Quilts**

Friday, April 12, 2024 / 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. &  
Saturday, April 13, 2024 / 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

IN-PERSON and ONLINE  
1301 N. Cunningham Avenue, Urbana / [cunninghamhome.org](http://cunninghamhome.org)

 **Cunningham**  
Children's Home  
*hope begins here.*

# FESTIVAL of QUILTS

## United Women in Faith Ticket Reservation Form

## In celebration of the 20th Anniversary Festival of Quilts, we're honoring YOU!

Starting this year, suggested admission donations at the door will be \$10 but we are offering **YOU** the classic \$5 admission with an advanced ticket reservation and payment! To reserve your admission at the \$5 classic price, complete and return the form below with your payment, or contact Brooke Buzard Watson at [bbuzard@cunninghamhome.org](mailto:bbuzard@cunninghamhome.org) to make arrangements, by **Monday, April 8th**.

*Purchased tickets can be mailed, if time allows, picked up at Cunningham's Spiritual Life Center in advance or at "will call" when you arrive at the Festival.*

**Questions? Contact Brooke Buzard Watson at [bbuzard@cunninghamhome.org](mailto:bbuzard@cunninghamhome.org) or (217) 337-9073.**



### 2024 FESTIVAL OF QUILTS ADMISSION RESERVATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of tickets  
at \$5 Classic Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am enclosing a check

☐ I will pay online at:  
[cunninghamhome.org/give-now](http://cunninghamhome.org/give-now)

☐ Please mail my Festival tickets at address above

☐ I will pick up my tickets at the Spiritual Life Center (Mon-Fri, between 8 am - 5 pm)  
at 1301 N. Cunningham Avenue in Urbana before April 11th

☐ I will pick up my tickets at "will call" at the Festival on April 12th or 13th

**Please clip form and return to:**

Festival of Quilts Tickets, Cunningham Children's Home  
1301 N. Cunningham Avenue, Urbana, IL 61802

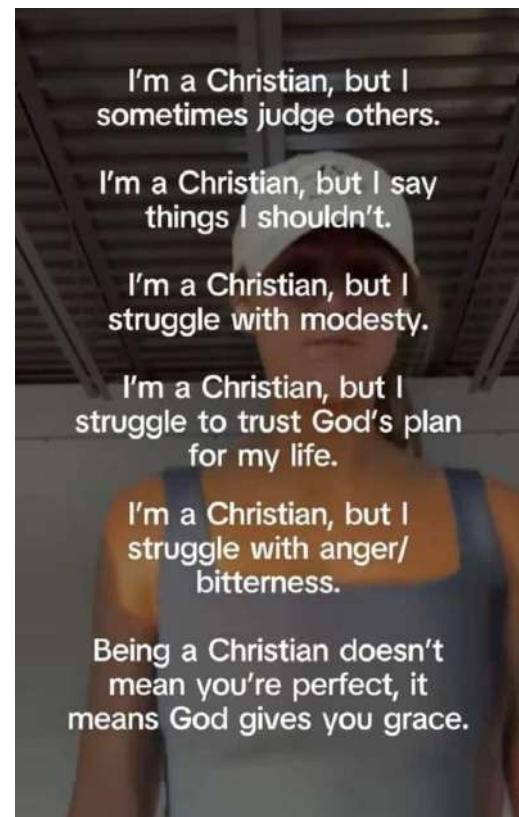
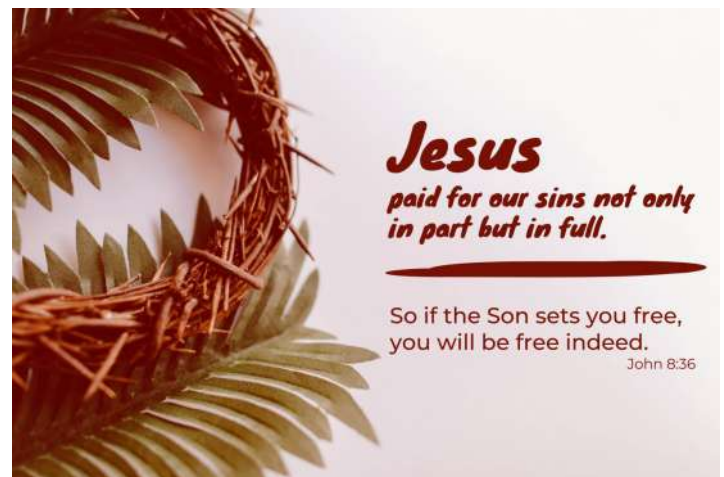
**Please make checks payable to:**

Cunningham Children's Home  
**OR pay online at [cunninghamhome.org/give-now](http://cunninghamhome.org/give-now)**



April 1 Tiffany Peters, Thaddeus Miller,  
 Miyake Meyer, Andrew Jacobowski  
 April 2 Brock Pfeiffer, Gerald Fecke (Trey),  
 Wilma Jones  
 April 3 Mary Messer  
 April 4 Emily Meyer, Michelle Moore  
 April 5 Cherrie Diefenbach  
 April 6 Michelle Dahn, Connie Dato, Billy Pitkin  
 April 7 Amanda Werner, Danny Gagnon  
 April 8 Rob D. VanVoorst  
 April 9 Stacey Mitchell  
 April 10 James Voigt, Benjamin Kuipers,  
 Diane Charter, Mary Grace Brinkman,  
 Matthew Marcotte  
 April 11 Chuck Voigt, Candace Overacker  
 April 12 Brian Svenkeson, Joann Schwark  
 April 14 Kyle LaMore, Kelly LaMore, Austin Jones,  
 Dylan Charter, Lyle Turro  
 April 15 Coraline Raymond  
 April 16 Aaron Wells, Marilyn Ohrt,  
 Dannette Sparenberg  
 April 19 Amanda Davis  
 April 20 Jeff Werner, Marilyn Handley,  
 Carolyn Souders, Gary Schwark, Lisa Gronert  
 April 21 Allison Gates, Dave Wood, Kayla Schwark,  
 Steven Schwark  
 April 22 Norma Dettman  
 April 23 Aaron Holmes  
 April 24 Alexandre Overacker, Christine Meyer  
 April 26 Heath Overacker  
 April 27 Lauren Goodman, Rob White,  
 Ronda Hawks, Cindy White,  
 Andrea Lemenager  
 April 29 Virginia Dittus, Jackson Graham,  
 Molly Mickelson

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



# APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	2 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM	3	4 - Evan UWF Meeting	5	6
7	8 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	9 - Evan NOW Meeting at Evan at 6pm - Parish NOW Meeting at Evan at 6:30pm	10	11	12	13
14 - Youth Group at 6:30pm at Evan	15 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	16	17	18 - Sunshine Circle	19	20
21	22 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Earth Day	23 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	24 - Administrative Assistant Day	25 - Printing the Newsletter	26 - National Arbor Day	27
28	29 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	30 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM				



"The cross is both the symbol of our salvation and the pattern of our lives." —Brennan Manning

\* \* \*

"Blossom by blossom the spring begins." —Algernon C. Swinburne

\* \* \*

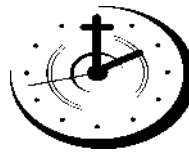
"If you are ignorant of God's Word, you will always be ignorant of God's will." —Billy Graham

\* \* \*

"Do something you really love in the most adventurous place you can and make sure it helps other people." —Diane Sawyer



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, April 2 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).

### 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

Bonfield / Grand Prairie Parish  
prayerful Box 66  
Bonfield, IL 60913

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**Bonfield, IL 60913**

