

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 God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God’s holy people. 1 Corinthians 14:33 (NLT)

As you receive this month’s newsletter, the delayed United Methodist General Conference of 2020 will be in their final days of meeting. My deadline to submit this article was on the opening day of the conference.

I share the translation of the scripture from Paul’s first letter to the church in Corinth at the top as I feel it fits what will happen in Charlotte, NC from April 23rd – May 3rd . My prayer is that the conference will not have the heated discussions that took place in February 2019 when a special conference was held in St. Louis.

So much has been anticipated about this conference, especially with the pandemic delays that pushed back the dates to have people from around the world convene again. We will soon know the voting results on legislation items from the conference that could change the United Methodist denomination forever.

As the Pastor who loves serving Bonfield Evangelical and Grand Prairie UMC’s for nearly five years, I have prayed a lot about this conference. I have made it known to District and Conference leadership that I pray God’s will is going to allow me to be the Pastor here until I decide to retire. The first half of each calendar year is when all of the District Superintendents and our Bishop discuss appointments to each church in our conference, which are then voted on at our Annual Conference in early June.

Why do I share this information? How legislative items are voted upon at General Conference could have an impact on my future as a Pastor. How legislative items are voted upon could affect local churches, including the two churches that make up this Parish, moving forward.

Again, by the time this arrives in your mailbox, hopefully the future of the United Methodist Church will be clearer. Will you please join me in praying that those who are voting on items at the conference listen to God and how He wants this denomination to move going forward.

Blessings, Pastor Keith

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God knows when to send exactly what you need, trust Him




The other day, I told God: “I’m done.”

He replied: “Good. Now I can begin.”

Calling All Cancer Survivors...
WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!
 Register to join us at the Relay for Life of Kankakee
 County on June 8, 2024 at 2 pm
 at Bishop McNamara High School.

All registered Survivors will receive a FREE survivor
 t-shirt mailed directly to their homes soon after
 registering! You must register online
 (www.relayforlife.org/kankakeeil)
 or call 1-800-227-2345 and select option 4.
 All Survivors must register every year.
 (Any questions contact Jill Grant for more info.)



We have received many thank you
 letters at different times from
 Manteno Veterans Home. I want to
 thank everyone who has donated
 calendars, cards, money, suckers
 and time. We received so many different gifts for
 the veterans and the veterans are so grateful!
 This newsletter is distributed to all Bonfield
 addresses and we appreciate all people who have
 donated. Thanks to everyone, we couldn't do it
 without your help! - Janet Boyer

May Memory Verse
 For the word of God is alive and active.
 - Hebrews 4:12

Bible Quiz

What two rivers that we still know
 today are named in the Creation
 account in Genesis 2?

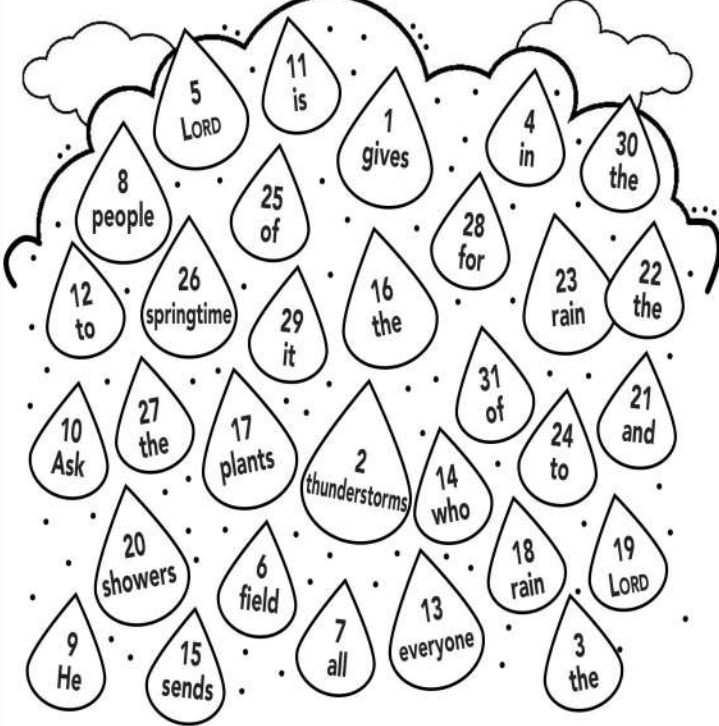
- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates



Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14.)

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

a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



What you do:

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about 1/2-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.



UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment. How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong. Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.

flower, stem, bee, leaf

—○—

pink, red, yellow, blue

—○—

mother, sister, brother, aunt

—○—

purple, dress, skirt, blouse

—○—

necklace, ring, bracelet, braid

—○—

diamond, emerald, heart, ruby

—○—

orange, cherry, potato, kiwi

—○—

my, our, she, your

—○—

faith, family, love, hope

—○—

sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature

—○—

cookie, cake, pie, sandwich

—○—


silver, white, gold, bronze

—○—

“Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a g _____ and qu _____ p _____, which is of great worth in God’s sight.” 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

Answers: bee; pink; brother; purple; braid; heart; potato; heart; bracelet; braid; purple; brother; sister; aunt; skirt; blouse; necklace; ring; bracelet; braid; diamond; emerald; heart; ruby; orange; cherry; potato; kiwi; my; our; she; your; faith; family; love; hope; sunny; rainy; snowy; temperature; cookie; cake; pie; sandwich; silver; white; gold; bronze





Please be Praying for...

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, Stan Stone, Marion Wenzelman, Lorraine Wildman & Ronald Wildman.



VBS Save the Date:
 Monday, July 15
 Wednesday, July 17
 & Friday, July 19
 at 6 - 8pm
 At Bonfield
 Evangelical UMC
 Theme: Camp

Firelight (camping). As the Campers experience the stories through music, drama and storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and even snacks, they learn ways to connect with and trust God.



+Christian Symbol+

GREEN — Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany).



The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.

Arden Courts
 Mel Brinkman

At College
 Kamden Lockwood
 Isabell Lowey

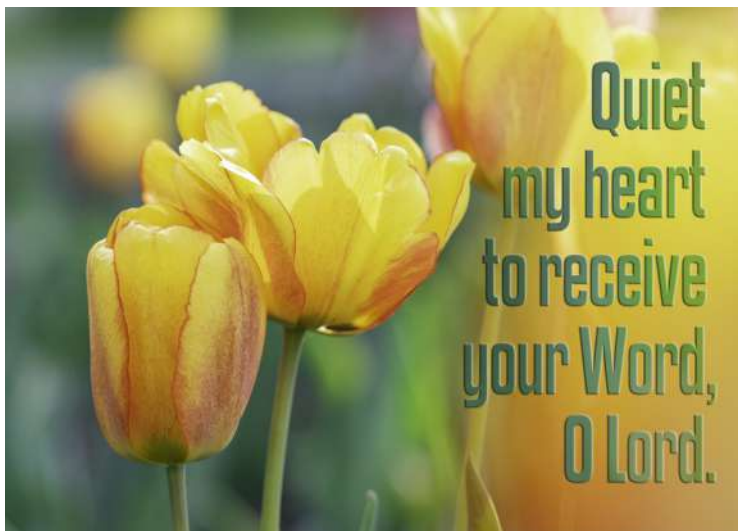
Courtyard Estate of Herscher
 Marjorie Kersch
 Randy Riegel
 Ralph Grob

Heritage Woods
 Vi Morse

Compassion International Kids

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



MARCH 2024 ATTENDANCE					
	3/3	3/10	3/17	3/24	3/31
Evangelical	37	36	37	52	36
Grand Prairie	25	23	21	24	33
Total	62	59	58	76	69



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 - Sunshine Circle-2024 officers hosted a delicious potluck dinner. Our thanks to all who contributed! Our meeting was in the Upper Room at 6:30 pm on March 21, the fifth Thursday of Lent. Jan opened with prayer and recited devotions, as Pres. Donna conducted the meeting. 6 members and 2 guests were present, 3 were absent. Our prayers are still with Vickie and Lorraine. Minutes were read and the treasurer's report was given. Both were approved as read. All wore green and table decorations were green with shamrocks. Devotions included much information about the life and history of St. Patrick, including legend and lore. The "Breast Plate" prayer was explained as well as the meaning of the shamrock. St. Patrick used the shamrock, with it's 3 leaves, to explain the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) Pretty ingenious, huh?. Donna won the door prize. Jan ended the meeting with prayer and reminded everyone of the cross walk on March 29th at 10:00 am.

Sunshine Circle-April 18th.hostess was Kim. All present enjoyed a delicious meal at 6:00 p.m. The Upper Room was transformed into a Spring garden. Decorations included pastel colors, flowers and butterflies. Kim began her devotions with scripture "John 4:18", followed by two readings from Ideals -"Spring is Coming" and "April". After devotions, Pres. Donna brought the meeting to order. Roll Call was taken- 6 members were present, 3 were absent. Minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved. Old and new business was addressed. A rummage sale, with breakfast and lunch is being planned for Sat. June 22- "A SAVE OUR WINDOWS" campaign at Evan- More info. to come! Kim ended the evening with a game and door prizes for everyone. May 16 hostess is Ardis. We'll meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Room. All are welcome!!

Sunshine Circle Meetings & Hostesses 2024: May 16 - Ardis M., Jun. 20 - Dinner Out (TBA),
Sept. 19 - Dannette S., Oct. - Rita O., Nov. - Donna D. & Dec. - Vickie G.

Evan UWF - The Bonfield United Women of Faith are having a Breakfast meeting on May 2 at 9:00 a.m. The guest speaker will Debbie Dodt, from ACOM. a non-profit corporation that serves the Kankakee and Iroquois. They provide emergency assistance, provide a food pantry and access to a Kids Closet every Saturday, fill in the gaps between other agencies. We invite all who would be interested to come join us for breakfast and learn about the help that can be provided in the county of Kankakee for those in need. This is information that you can pass on to others that you may know, that might be in need some type of assistance.

The Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Women of Faith met on April 11, 2024. Carol Buente gave a lesson on World Day of Prayer and the history of the World Day of Prayer. Talking about how we believe "prayer is rooted in listening to God and to each other." Listening requires a stillness that can allow another to speak, and us to hear and feel another's pains and joys. Our conviction is that World Day of Prayer opens a window to the voices of women in different parts of the world each year, the focus this year is the Israel conflict. We prayed for everyone involved, especially Christians and focusing on Christian women. The business meeting was held after the lesson for the May breakfast meeting mentioned above.

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



Sunday School Prayer Paper Chain











- May 1 Craig Brinkman
- May 3 Michelle Kuipers, Cheryl Bauer
- May 4 Sharlene Parr
- May 5 Vi Morse, Victoria Rice
- May 6 Dawson Pastorel, Cynthia Clemans, Laine Elizabeth Gagnon, Erika Svenkeson
- May 7 Jamie Sikes, Kerri Robinson
- May 8 Harold Pfeiffer
- May 9 Jennifer Werner
- May 10 Mary Schroder
- May 11 Traci Davis, Jonah Vaughn
- May 12 Cade Fecke, Delores Ohrt
- May 13 Meagan Peters, Christopher Wells, Paiton Cordes, Sandy Jackson
- May 14 Myron Riegel, Cody Lemenager, Mark Adams, Gwendolyn Meyer
- May 15 Kim Metzka, Allen Pfeiffer, Zoe Tapp
- May 16 Sandra LaMore, Samuel Shimmin, Kenny Mitchell
- May 17 Aimee Simbeck, Denise Schlenz
- May 19 Joe Ohrt
- May 20 Katherine Mecklenburg
- May 21 Mary Ann Jensen, Heather Thurston
- May 22 Jeremy Bauer, Jason Sauer, Gretchen Brinkman, Danielle Dahn
- May 24 Aidan Gagnon, Rodney Graf, Kristina Brunner
- May 25 Pastor Keith Blankenship, Ryan Howard
- May 27 Ruth Kingsland
- May 28 Scott Vaughn, Carol Buente
- May 29 Brian Norton, Meri Bauer, Kelly Buente
- May 30 Claire Dau, Vickie Gaffield
- May 31 Shila Kingsland, Eric Dahn, Joshua Friese



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

MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			 1	2 - Evan UWF Meeting  3	4	
5	6 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM 	7 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30AM 	8 - Martha Circle	9	10	11
12 - Youth Group at 6:30pm at Evan 	13 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	14 - Pastor Keith on vacation May 14-20	15	16 - Sunshine Circle	17	18 - Armed Forces Day 
19	20 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM - Earth Day 	21 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM	22 - Administrative Assistant Day	23 - Printing the Newsletter	24	25
26 - Peace with Justice Sunday	27 - Memorial Day 	28 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	29	30	31	

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

—Anne Bradstreet

* * *

“None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience.”

—Martin Luther

* * *

“In times of stress, the best thing we can do for each other is to listen with our ears and our hearts and to be assured that our questions are just as important as our answers.”

—Fred Rogers

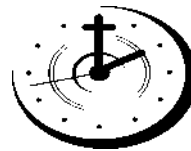
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“Walk lightly in the spring; Mother Earth is pregnant.”

—Native American proverb



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.



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

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.



Facebook - www.facebook.com/bonfieldgpparish
Website - 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

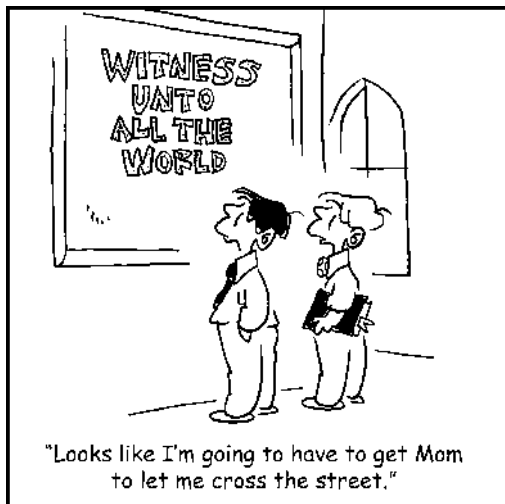
Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

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



Bonfield Evangelical UMC is having a
Rummage Sale on
Saturday, June 22nd from 8am to 2pm.
Sponsored by the Sunshine Circle and UWF.

Breakfast will be available from **8 to 10:30am**
and **Lunch** from **11:00 to 2pm.**

And there will be a **Bake Sale** from 8am until sold out.

All proceeds will be going towards the repair
of our Stained glass windows.

If you have any questions please contact
Donna Diefenbach at 815-370-9841.

