



“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



Hope Begins Here — These three words are the motto for Cunningham Children’s Home in Urbana. For 130 years they have been providing home to many children and families. They currently provide caring support for almost 1,000 youths and families, according to their website.

So why am I sharing this information? September 2025 will be 47 years that I have been involved in various ways with Cunningham. It started when the (then new) radio station at Parkland College received a letter asking if anyone at the station would be able to DJ a dance for the youth living there. At that time I was a sophomore who was doing DJ work on the side along with being involved at the radio station. That afternoon dance led to two other dances I was happy to be a part of in 1979.

After my graduation from Parkland College, I worked in radio for more than a decade at various central Illinois stations, before moving on to my next career stop as a truck driver. But over the years I spent around 20 years off and on as a play-by-play announcer for sports, mainly at a station in Farmer City, IL. During that time, when I was financially able, I would give money through my home church to help the kids at Cunningham.

When I arrived here on July 1, 2019, I was blessed to find out how much involvement this parish has had with Cunningham. From numerous quilts to other supplies and monetary gifts that have been donated, the children have been helped wonderfully! And that support continues today. I have made several trips to deliver gifts cards and other items to Cunningham that have been donated here.

There have been a few times while I’ve been here when Cunningham has provided a speaker when I have been on vacation. They share a message of hope each time they are here and I am happy to reach out to them when needed.

In late 2023 I made the decision to become a member of the Cedar’s Society at Cunningham. This group is made up of people who are providing estate money to the organization to continue their mission of providing hope for youth and families. I work with Tim Manard, the Development Officer there, and have developed a good relationship with him. On April 3rd, I was asked to be a speaker at their annual Cedar’s Society event just prior to the annual Festival of Quilts. Some of what I shared earlier in this article I shared to over 70 in attendance that evening.

Tim will be ‘returning the favor’ and speaking at the May 4th services at Evan and Grand Prairie while I am on vacation. He recently announced that he will be retiring from his role at Cunningham on June 30th, so this will probably be his last time to speak here. I know that he works with UWF groups throughout our conference, it would be nice to have a great turnout to wish him well as he goes to retirement.

Hope Begins Here. I have been blessed to be involved with Cunningham Children’s Home for so many years and hope to be able to continue for years to come. I pray that they are able to begin the process of hope for many more in the years to come, along with those they are currently helping.

Blessings, Pastor Keith

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## Calling All Cancer Survivors...

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

Register to join us at the Relay for Life of Kankakee County on June 14, 2025, @ 2 pm @ The Grove in Bourbonnais (behind the police station on Rte 102). 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](http://www.relayforlife.org/kankakeeil)) or call 1-800-227-2345 and select option 4. All Survivors must register every year. (Any ?s...Jill Grant has more info.)

**Powered by God:** God made us: invented us as a [person] invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else.

Now God designed the human machine to run on himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from himself, because it is not there.

### May Memory Verse

**1 John 4:16** "We know and trust that God is love, and everyone who lives in love lives in God and God lives in them."

### Bible Quiz

What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?

- A. Priscilla
- B. Lydia
- C. Doreas
- D. Joanna



Answer: B (See Acts 16:11-15, 40)

# Puzzle!

Unscramble the names of these biblical mothers. Look up the verse if you need help. Then use the letters on the numbered blanks to complete the message below.

VEE (Genesis 3:20)

6 11

NNAHAH (1 Samuel 1:20)

14

RBAEOD (Judges 5:7)

18 3

KREEHAB (Genesis 27:5)

16 5

EHLA (Genesis 30:14)

1

CLEHRA (Genesis 30:22)

7 12

MOIAN (Ruth 1:22)

10 17 13

RAAHS (Genesis 17:19)

8

AMYS (Matthew 2:11)

2

ZEBLEHATI (Luke 1:13)

9 15 4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
G F F G !  
13 8 14 15 4 16 10 17 3 18

Answers: Eve, Hannah, Deborah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Naomi, Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth. A mother's love is a gift from God!





### A Mother's Day hymn

Sing praise to our Creator God!  
Earth prospers from the way  
God "mothers" each new child into  
This world day after day.

God fabricates in motherhood  
A channel from above  
That longs to share with every child  
God's comfort, grace and love!

Sing praise to our Creator God,  
Who "mothers" us from birth!  
Providing what we truly need  
Throughout our lives on earth.



GOD  
is  
LOVE.

1 JOHN 4:16



## A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.



### WORD BANK

bread, household, women, laugh,  
children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue



She is \_\_\_\_\_ with strength and dignity;  
she can \_\_\_\_\_ at the days to come.

She \_\_\_\_\_ with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her \_\_\_\_\_.

She watches over the affairs of her \_\_\_\_\_  
and does not eat the \_\_\_\_\_ of idleness.

Her \_\_\_\_\_ arise and call her blessed;  
her \_\_\_\_\_ also, and he praises her:

"Many \_\_\_\_\_ do noble things,  
but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV

Charm is \_\_\_\_\_eptive, and be\_\_\_\_\_ty is fl\_\_\_\_\_eting; but a  
woma\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_o f\_\_\_\_\_rs the Lo\_\_\_\_\_d is to be prais\_\_\_\_\_d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV

Answers: clothed, laugh, speaks, tongue, household, bread, children, husband, women. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30, 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, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Donna Diefenbach, Virginia Dittus, Herb Foltz, Kevin Jordan (Dana VanVoorst's brother), Wendy Low-Metzka (Kim's sister-in-law), Ardis & Allen Messer, Marilyn Ohrt, Harry & Sharon Pfeiffer, Aimee Simbeck, Stan Stone, & Marion Wenzelman.

#### Arden Courts

Mel Brinkman

#### Villas at

#### Herscher

Ralph Grob  
Randy Riegel

#### At College

Kamden Lockwood  
Isabell Lowey  
Gretchen Brinkman

#### 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.



Join us for a Youth Group Meeting!

GAMES – SNACKS – FUN

A TIME TO TALK ABOUT GOD IN AN OPEN, HONEST, AND REAL WAY!

Youth Group Meetings schedule:  
May 11 & 25, June 8 & 22, July 13 & 27.

Contact Ryan at [coffmanry@gmail.com](mailto:coffmanry@gmail.com) for more info. Our 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.



+Christian Symbol+

**ALPHA MU OMEGA** — The Greek letters that begin the words *yesterday*, *today* and *forever* remind us of Jesus' constant presence with us personally and his eternal nature that transcends time as we know it.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, NIV). Dozens of psalms and other Bible passages also proclaim that the Lord's "steadfast love endures forever" (for example, Psalm 100:5, NRSV). What reassurance when life seems tough and fleeting!



#### MARCH 2025 ATTENDANCE

	3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	3/30
Evangelical	32	35	31	39	46
Grand Prairie	20	29	21	19	23
Total	52	64	52	58	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.

### Evan UWF - Donations:

Cunningham Children's Home - Men's Stick Deodorant, Weighted Blankets(15 lbs size), Toothpaste (full sized), Men's Body Wash, Chapstick, Body Lotion & Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Amazon, or Visa)

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House - Diapers, Wipes, & Pullups

Please contact Carol Buente for more info, 815-216-8894.



### Sunshine Circle -

2025 Hostesses are: May 15 - Vickie, June 19 - Dinner Out TBA, July - No meeting, August - No meeting, September 18 - Rita, October 16 - Donna, November 20 -Ardis, December - Progressive Dinner



### Martha Circle -

2025 meetings: May 14, July 9, September 10, November 12, & December 10

**Reflecting on resurrection:** In *Rest Your Dreams on a Little Twig*, poet Joyce Rupp finds in spring flowers the proclamation of the gospel: "we who have died / are alive today." In another poem in the same volume, she writes: "A green shoot grows / out of an old tree stump, / announcing to the world / that power lies within death."

As you move about outdoors these springtime days in the northern hemisphere, where do you see nature testifying to resurrection? Where is evidence that what seemed dead — bare branches, dry grass, inactive seeds — was not in fact the final word? What encourages you to believe in renewal, second chances, life that blossoms from death? In what ways are you, who had died, alive today? Part of your life that felt like an old stump might be sprouting green shoots after all!







**Loving my “enemies”:** In polarized times, when people view huge concepts such as justice, government policy and care for neighbors differently, how do we follow Jesus’ command to love our enemies? I prefer the word *opponents*, but our Lord’s instructions still stand.

In the Bible, “love” doesn’t mean liking someone; it means caring for them, treating them kindly. I find *The Message* paraphrase of Luke 6:27-36 helpful: “Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst,” Jesus says about one’s enemies. So, when I contact government leaders to express my opinions, I address them with respect, whether I agree with them or not. When I encounter a neighbor whose views oppose mine, I ask myself what I would want them to do for me, whether help with an errand or be friendly. Then, as *The Message* puts it, I “grab the initiative and do it for *them*.”

And this, which might be the hardest: Amid tough times, Jesus says, “Respond with the supple moves of prayer.” It’s human nature to pray that God change our enemies’ or opponents’ minds. But it’s more Christlike to pray for their health, their families and whatever *God* desires for them, not what *I* want. Can I do this? With God’s help, yes.





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.









**Death is not the end:** Loren Eiseley, an anthropologist who died in 1977, requested this epitaph for his wife and himself: “We loved the earth but could not stay.” No one can stay, of course. We’re all moving toward that final day when “the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done” (*The Book of Common Prayer*).

On Memorial Day, we remember people who have perished in war, making the ultimate sacrifice to protect others. May God hasten the day when humans can solve disputes peacefully. We also remember loved ones whose stay on earth is over.

A memorial stone at Ohio’s College of Wooster, placed by a class years ago, reads: “United in time / Divided in time / To be reunited / When time shall be no more.” Christians believe that death does not end all. When our earthly life is over, we have the promise of eternal life — and joyful reunions — in heaven.



# MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					2	3
4 - Tim from Cunningham as special speaker	5 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	6 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30am	7	8	9	10
11 - Youth Group at Evan at 6:30PM 	12 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	13 - Ad Board at Evan at 7pm	14 - Martha Circle	15 - Sunshine Circle	16	17 
18	19 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	20 - Newsletter Article Deadline at 9AM	21	22 - Printing the newsletter	23	24
25 - Youth Group at Grand Prairie at 6:30PM	26 	27 - Fold Newsletters at Evan at 8AM	28	29	30	31



"Christ is present to us in so far as we are present to each other."

—Herbert McCabe

\* \* \*

"Life is not measured by how much one owns."

—Jesus (Luke 12:15, NCV)

\* \* \*

"There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly."

—Buckminster Fuller

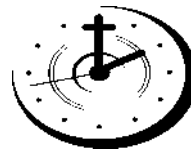
\* \* \*

"In the darkest moments, bright flows the river of God."

—St. John of the Cross



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, May 6 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](http://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  
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Bonfield, IL 60913

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**Bonfield, IL 60913**



**Grand Prairie United  
Methodist Church**

12408 W State Rt.17  
Bonfield, IL 60913

Sunday Service at  
8:30am & Sunday  
School at 9:45am

**Bonfield Evangelical  
United Methodist  
Church**

348 E. Smith St.  
Bonfield, IL 60913

Sunday Service at  
10:00am & Sunday  
School at 8:30am

