

“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



This is a month when changes happen. Children are now on summer break from school. Now that could be a bit different for families who homeschool. This is also the time of year when many families take time for vacations. Those could be sightseeing places of interest or they could be seeing relatives who they don't get to see very often. There are many other activities that go on during this time of year as well. Far too numerous to go in-depth in the space that I am allowed here.

Change also happens this month within the liturgical calendar that we follow. From the beginning of Advent until Pentecost Sunday, the focus on my messages most weeks are about the life of Jesus on Earth. There is the season of Advent, which is the season of anticipation, preparing for Christ's birth and second coming. This is followed by the Christmas season. This season is celebrating the Incarnation, God becoming flesh in Jesus.

The Epiphany season highlights Christ's revelation to the world, including the visit of the Magi. That is followed by the season of Lent. Lent is our time of repentance, fasting, and reflection on Jesus' sacrifice, which leads to Holy Week and Easter. That is where we remember His passion, His death and His glorious resurrection. Our focus on Jesus for six weeks after Easter leads us to Pentecost, which is on June 8th this year. Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

The time between Pentecost and Advent is referred to by some denominations as Ordinary Time. We more commonly today refer to it as 'After Pentecost' (that what the lectionary calls it). During this time the focus shifts to the church. There are five notable events during this half of the year.

The first is Trinity Sunday, which celebrates the mystery of the Triune God. Next is the season of Kingdomtide. This is where the emphasis is on Jesus' reign and on social justice. Following Kingdomtide is Ordinary Time, which explores Jesus' teachings, the mission of the Church, and living out faith. Toward the end of the focus on the church, we have All-Saints Sunday. On the first Sunday in November we take time to honor those who have been called Home in the previous year. And then just before Advent begins again we have Christ the King Sunday, which affirms the sovereignty of Jesus.

More information on this can be found at www.umcdiscipleship.com if anyone is interested. I will share that there are times I personally will stray away from the lectionary. Mother's Day, Father's Day, our annual service in the park are just a few examples of when I may share a different focus on my message for a Sunday. But every message that I share is Scripture based.

May the month of June be Blessed for every one of you!

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) or call 1-800-227-2345 and select option 4. All Survivors must register every year. (Any ?s...Jill Grant has more info.)



June Memory Verse

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

Bible Quiz

Who said to the prophet Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD?"

- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king



Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 12:13.)

Puzzle!

A FATHER'S INSTRUCTION

Although babies don't come with instructions, God tells parents how to raise their children.

Directions: Fill in the blanks with letters, using the number grid to find the correct coordinates. The first number goes across, the second one goes down.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	a	L	d	i	j	g	r
2	m	b	o	k	h	u	s
3	e	n	c	x	t	p	f

"... 2,2 7,1 4,1 2,3 6,1 5,3 5,2 1,3 1,2

6,2 6,3 4,1 2,3 5,3 5,2 1,3

5,3 7,1 1,1 4,1 2,3 4,1 2,3 6,1 1,1 2,3 3,1

4,1 2,3 7,2 5,3 7,1 6,2 3,3 5,3 4,1 3,2 2,3

3,2 7,3 5,3 5,2 1,3 2,1 3,2 7,1 3,1

Ephesians 6:4, NIV

Answers: "... bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4, NIV



“Summer Flowers”

Behold the flowers of June!
How fair and bright their buds appear,
as, opening to the summer air,
our eyes and hearts they cheer!

Who would have thought there could abound
such beauty and delight
beneath the cold and wintry ground
that hid those flowers from sight?

That power which made and governs all —
the mighty power of God —
alone could life and beauty call
out of the lifeless sod.

And he, who from the winter’s gloom
can summer thus disclose,
shall one day make the desert bloom,
and blossom as the rose.



Spend time with God this summer



FATHERS OF FAITH

Fathers do amazing things for their families, but the greatest
gift our dads can share with us is their faith in God.

Complete this puzzle to read Isaiah's advice to fathers.

*Directions: Working left to right, first write down all the 1's in the word blanks.
Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's.*

1 The	2 as	3 tell	1 living
2 I	3 their	1 the	2 am
3 children	1 living	2 doing	3 about
1 they	2 today	3 your	1 praise
2 parents	3 faithfulness	1 you	



_____, _____,
_____; _____
_____.

Isaiah 38:19, NIV

Answers: The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness. Isaiah 38:19, 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

At College
Gretchen Brinkman
Isabell Lowey

Villas at Herscher
Ralph Grob
Randy Riegel

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:
June 8 & 22, July 13 & 27.

Contact Ryan at 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+

RIVER — In the Bible, rivers (and other bodies of water) often represent deliverance, salvation, freedom and cleansing. The Jordan River is especially prominent: The Israelites crossed it to enter the Promised Land after God delivered them from slavery, and John baptized Jesus (and many other



people) there. The image of crossing the Jordan River has long been a metaphor for death — crossing from earthly struggles to the bliss of God's kingdom, from physical ailments to the wholeness of a resurrection body.

APRIL 2025 ATTENDANCE

	4/6	4/13	4/18	4/25
Evangelical	42	60	49	37
Grand Prairie	22	27	21	21
Total	64	87	70	58



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 -

2025 Hostesses are: 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: July 9, September 10, November 12, & December 10



Handling grief: When a Southern Christian woman became a widow, several people asked what she was going to do. She always answered by saying, “I’m going to do Proverbs 3:5-6 and Philippians 4:4-7.”

Both passages provide wonderful doses of strength and encouragement. (If you aren’t familiar with the verses, look them up to see for yourself.) When we completely trust in God for guidance and peace, he not only sees us through difficult times but allows us to rejoice rather than worry.

Constant and unchanging: Summer’s arrival feels positive to many people but may not be smooth for all. Families who rely on regular school meals for their children must stretch grocery dollars further. Heat poses risks for elderly people who lack air conditioning. Work can be difficult to find in the summer months, and uncertainty looms for recent graduates. Meanwhile, concerns such as wars, natural disasters and health problems don’t take a summer break.

St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) prayed, “May you be blessed forever, Lord, for being constant and unchanging, amidst all the changes of the world.” Her prayer is as appropriate today as nearly 500 years ago. When all around us is unstable and unreliable, God’s love and faithfulness are constant and trustworthy.



The origin of Father's Day: One Sunday in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. Dodd wondered why there wasn't a day to honor fathers, so she arranged a tribute to her father at a church in Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many people believe this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another account holds that a West Virginia church held a tribute service for fathers in 1908, following a mine explosion that killed 360 men. Regardless of which story is correct, President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to designate a special day to honor fathers. In 1924, he proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

A Prayer for Fathers:

Heavenly Father,

Today, we lift up all fathers before You—those who nurture, guide, and love with a strength that reflects Your own. We thank You for their sacrifices, their wisdom, and the unwavering presence they bring into our lives. Bless them, Lord, with patience and grace. Grant them courage in times of challenge and joy in the moments of triumph. May they be reminded that their love and leadership leave a lasting impact, shaping hearts and futures in ways beyond measure.

For those who are grieving or missing their fathers today, bring comfort. For those who long to be fathers, bring hope. For those who have taken on the role of a father in any way, may Your strength uphold them.

Guide all fathers in Your ways, Lord, so that their love may reflect the love You so generously pour into us. We give thanks for their lives and ask that You continue to bless them abundantly.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



The Lord of the rings: Did you know that July and August are now more popular wedding months than June? During all these ceremonies, wedding rings play a prominent role.

An almost universal tradition dating back millennia, rings in general and wedding rings in particular have various meanings. Glimpsing the ring on one's finger, one is prompted anew to live out the vows made years ago: to love and be faithful to one's spouse in ways big and small. Others are reminded of the precious gift given to them, when the one placing the ring said, "I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness."

Wedding rings carry added meaning for those inviting Jesus to be the heart of their union. They signify not only the couple's (hopefully) unending love for each other but also Christ's (definitely) unending love for them, individually and together. The Lord's eternal grace encircles Christian marriage, even as wedding rings encircle the fingers of those who exchange them.



June 1 Eric Raymond, Diane Lawrence
 June 2 Dana Dittus, Deandra Dittus,
 Laura Haberzette
 June 4 Logan Gronert
 June 5 Alyssa Williams, Christine Lade
 June 7 Rita Overacker, Mark Ouellette, Justin Vaughn
 June 8 Timothy Holohan, Marcia Jackson,
 Michael Panozzo, Randy Charter
 June 10 Kyle Buente, Peyton Riegel
 June 11 Alan Buckley, Zachary Jensen, Jen Spinale,
 Denise Fecke
 June 12 Jared Sikes
 June 14 James Messer, Jimmy Vilt, Jr., Sarah Meyer,
 David St. Germaine, Lucy Spinale
 June 15 Beth Meyer
 June 16 Burt Taylor, Somar Powell, Ryan Coffman,
 Ceri Dorsey-Tyler
 June 17 Leigh Ann Turro, Lee Ann Kenley,
 Logan Kuipers
 June 19 Annette Riegel, Tami Lockwood,
 Michael Kingsland
 June 20 Ruth Laird, Mary Katherine Buckman,
 Isabelle Lowey
 June 22 Vanessa Longtin
 June 23 Emmerly Rice
 June 24 Paige Meyer, Bryce Overacker
 June 25 Susan Diefenbach
 June 26 David Wilson
 June 27 Dale Dittus, Patterson Friese
 June 28 Eric Hawks, Mark Reising, Debbie Nielsen
 June 29 Mike Bland, Lori Marquis
 June 30 Ann Meyer, Derek Brinkman

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



High School -
 Serena Cruse, Landon Hertz,
 Connor Lowey

College -
 Kamden Lockwood



This hit me...

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.



JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	3 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30am	4	5	6	7
8 - Pentecost - Youth Group at 6:30PM	9 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	10	11	12	13	14 - Flag Day
15 - Trinity Sunday - Father's Day - Peace with Justice Sunday	16 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	17	18	19	20 - First Day of Summer	21
22 - Youth Group at 6:30PM	23 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	24 - Newsletter Article Deadline at 9AM	25	26	27	28
29	30 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM					

"Sin cannot be undone, only forgiven."

—Igor Stravinsky

* * *

"Every problem has a soft spot. If it is too big for us, we can take it to God. No problem is too big for God."

—Brother Andrew

* * *

"I choose love ... No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness."

—Max Lucado

* * *

"God is like a friend, full of loving care; someone you can trust who's always there."

—Natalie Sleeth

* * *

"Loved the wedding; Invite me to the marriage."

—God (on a billboard message)

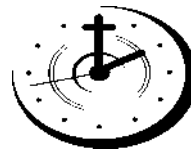
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"Live in the world as if only God and your soul were in it; then your heart will never be made captive by any earthly thing."

—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, June 3 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 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

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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
Website - www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

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Email: bonfieldgp@gmail.com

Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9AM - 1:30PM

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Bonfield, IL 60913

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Bonfield, IL 60913

Important Update: Church Newsletter Moving Online!

Dear Church Family & Friends,

We want to inform you that the June edition of our church newsletter will be the last one mailed. Moving forward, all newsletters will be available exclusively on our church website.

This change will help us stay connected in a more efficient and environmentally friendly way. **To continue reading the newsletter and staying up-to-date with church events, please visit www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org and click on the Newsletter tab.** Thank you for your understanding and support as we transition to this new format.

Blessings, Bonfield - Grand Prairie Parish
(Bonfield Evangelical UMC & Grand Prairie UMC)