



“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



And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there. —1 Corinthians 7:17 (MSG)

This Scripture has a lot of meaning for me. On 7/1/19 I attended my first meeting as the Pastor of Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish. The day before that I led my final service at the church I had been appointed to for three years. Many Pastors take time off prior to a new appointment, to prepare for a move, perhaps to spiritually prepare themselves for the next step of their daily walk.

My situation was a bit different. I was going from a church I served ¼ time, while working a full-time job as well. So I left my secular full-time job 10 days prior to my start here and slowly moved things into the parsonage when I wasn't preparing for my final services in my previous appointment. There was a lot of prayer involved in all of this process, and the Scripture from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth was my guide.

The Message interpretation of the Bible sometimes explains things very clearly to me, 1 Corinthians 7:17 is one of those examples. God has placed me where I have needed to be for the past six years. Some of the circumstances in my time here have not been easy. Some have been wonderful. I have made mistakes along the way, but I have learned from each one. Each day I count my blessings to be EXACTLY where I am.

This month starts year #7 for me as God's servant in this Parish. The unforeseen stares at us all in both churches. As Paul told those in the church at Corinth nearly 2,000 years ago, I am not going anywhere until God decides there is another place I need to be in. I look forward to this year of my appointment here, despite the unknown, because I serve a wonderful God!

Blessings, Pastor Keith

Sundays in July are for sunshine, fellowship, and worship! Whether you're here every week or dropping in between vacations, we'd love to see you.

McDonald's can mess your order up 101 times and you still keep going back... One thing goes wrong at Church and you quit.

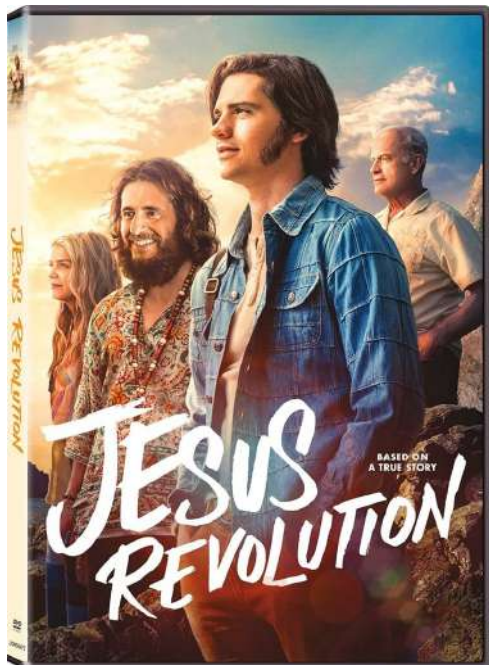
People just aren't hungry enough!



Inside this issue:	
Bible Quiz & Puzzle	2
Kids Puzzle	3
Prayer List	4
UWF	5
Gift of the Bible	6
Birthday List	7
Calendar	8
Contact Info & Service Times	9
No Printing	10

Brunner Family Community Reunion Picnic:

Saturday, July 12
 at 404 N 13000 W Rd. Herscher, IL
 815-426-2334
 Bring a dish to share for the potluck,
 dinner starts at 6:30pm.
 Meat, table service & drinks provided.
 Fireworks at dusk, bring a lawn chair.



Movie event:
 Monday, July 21
 at 1:00pm
 in the upper
 room at Evan.
 Bring your own
 drink, popcorn
 provided.
 Movie we will be
 watching is
 "Jesus
 Revolution".
 Everyone
 Welcome!

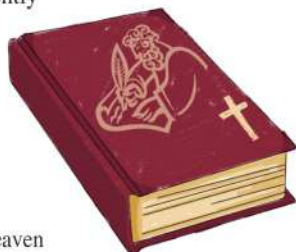
July Memory Verse

"I am the vine; you are the branches."
 John 15:5

Bible Quiz

In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke,
 someone named Lazarus features prominently
 while other characters go unnamed.
 Who is Lazarus in this story?

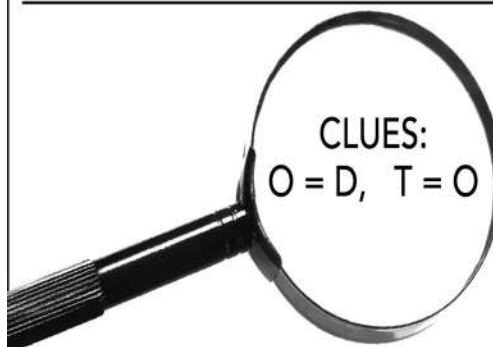
- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven



Answer: C (See Luke 16:19-31.)

Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues
 to decode Proverbs 27:1, NIV.



$\frac{O}{T} \quad \frac{OT}{FDO} \quad \frac{O}{EDBPO} \quad \frac{T}{BEDYO}$

$\frac{TO}{ODUDHHDL} \quad \frac{O}{ZDH} \quad \frac{O}{GDY}$

$\frac{O}{TD} \quad \frac{OT}{FDO} \quad \frac{O}{NFDL} \quad \frac{T}{LRBO}$

$\frac{B}{BTBG} \quad \frac{U}{UBG} \quad \frac{E}{EHA FM}$

Proverbs 27:1, NIV

Answer: Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.
 Proverbs 27:1, NIV

Even in the relaxed pace of summer, God is at work! Our Sunday services continue to be a source of joy and encouragement—join us each week for inspiring worship and meaningful community.



As we celebrate Independence Day, we thank God for the blessings of freedom—and the hope we have in Christ, who sets us truly free. “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” —John 8:36

Don’t drift away—stay anchored in faith! Join us for worship this weekend and be refreshed by God's Word and your church family.



TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.

This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. _____

A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. _____

Having deep understanding and sound judgment. _____

A person in charge of military troops. _____

A person in authority. _____

The season when daylight hours are longest. _____

A substance you eat for nutrition. _____

When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. _____



Go to the _____, you _____;

consider its ways and be _____!

It has no _____, no overseer or _____,

yet it stores its provisions in _____

and gathers its _____ at _____.

Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV



Answers: ant, sluggard, wise, commander, ruler, summer, food, harvest, Go to the ant, you sluggard, consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.



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, Rick Gaffield, Kevin Jordan (Dana VanVoorst's brother), Wendy Low-Metzka (Kim's sister-in-law), Ardis & Allen Messer, Vi Morse, Mark Mulder (Kathi Nichols' son), 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

Citadel Bourbonnais

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: 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+

PELICAN — In the Middle Ages, the pelican came to represent Jesus' sacrifice of his blood for the world. According to legend, a mother pelican, in times of famine, would pluck open her chest and feed her

young with her own blood. An alternate myth was that she fed her dying young with her blood to revive them, losing her own life in the process. The depiction of a pelican with a drop of blood on her chest is called "the pelican in her piety."



MAY 2025 ATTENDANCE

	5/4	5/11	5/18	5/25
Evangelical	40	47	47	45
Grand Prairie	27	25	15	18
Total	67	72	62	63



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 - A Big Thank You to everyone who supported our group for the Bake Sale. You may have baked or help work it in some way. Much Appreciated. We all did well. You still have a chance to win a quilt. Contact Vickie Gaffield if you want to purchase a ticket for \$5 or 5 chances for \$20.

2025 Hostesses are: 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

Perspectives on patriotism: While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus' example in Luke 19:41-44. "Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it," he writes in Christianity Today. "He didn't despise his country or wish ill upon it — instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings."



This example of "patriotism perfected" can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. "It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism — it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."

Put another way, God doesn't love America more than any other nation. And he doesn't want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.



Tips for gardeners: "Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year," said evangelist Billy Graham. "It brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul." Without summer, our gardens would disappoint, and without love, our hearts wouldn't bloom.

The warmth of summer and love aren't the only ingredients required for abundant physical and spiritual crops, however. Discernment and persistence ensure fruitful yields in both areas. "Unless we know the difference between flowers and weeds, we are not fit to take care of a garden," advised Clyde Francis Lytle. "It is not enough to have truth planted in our minds. We must learn and labor to keep the ground clear of thorns and briars, follies and perversities, which have a wicked propensity to choke the word of life."

Fire transforming us for the good: For many people, relaxing by a campfire is a favorite summer activity. Nestling into the surrounding darkness while gazing into dancing flames, we sense God's love and let the day's chaos go. In contrast, Exodus 24:17 describes, "Now the appearance of the glory of God was like a devouring fire."

Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes offers another take, writing about God using flames to change us. (The full poem is here: unfoldinglight.net/2025/02/24/fire)

God, your presence is like a consuming fire —
not destructive, but transformative,
not the fire of anger but the flame of love,
the fire of glassblowers and bakers
the grace to make us more beautiful, strong and useful.
Your glory is no tame campfire
where we sit and make s'mores.
It burns out of our control.
The furnace of your love
roars about our hearts, remaking us
Teach us to be unafraid. ...



When you bask in firelight glow — and maybe eat some s'mores! — ponder how God is transforming you with love, and for the sake of love.

The gift of the Bible: Certain parts of the Bible are hard to understand — and even harder to explain to children. But the late Rachel Held Evans made a start, and then coauthor Matthew Paul Turner completed *What Is the Bible?* This picture book can help adults as well as kids receive the gift of Scripture.

The Bible is often described as a library of books. Held and Turner explain that it's also many different kinds of writing: stories, poems, wise sayings, songs, letters. Scripture tells of Creation, good and evil rulers, miraculous events, animals that spoke or brought food to hungry people, even monsters!

The best part, the authors write, is that "in the Bible we meet Jesus, who teaches us new things about God, faith, and ourselves" — above all, that God loves us. "And if a story in [Scripture] is confusing or scary or sad, we can imagine how Jesus, who loves us, might tell us that story."

Bible scholars call this "the canon within the canon." As Christians, we read all other parts of Scripture through the lens of the Gospels, where we meet God *in person*, as Jesus. Similarly, 500 years ago Martin Luther called the Bible "the cradle that holds the Christ." That's a word-picture even children can grasp!





July 1 Tawni Buente
 July 2 Barbara Cordes
 July 3 Richard Diefenbach
 July 4 Dianne Wells, Betty Ann Osenga, Jason Hawks
 July 5 Jordan Peiffer, Chrissy Riegel, Tricia Coffman, Joseph Sharper, Suzanne St. Germaine
 July 6 Megan Kay Van Voorst, Sherry Peters, Norah Meyer
 July 7 Hailey Heath, Laurie Vaughn, Ralph Grob, Katelyn Overacker, Martin Powell
 July 8 Randy Meyer, Bruce Messer, Lovice Brinkman
 July 9 Brian Laird, Kyle Dahn, Tabitha Fowler, Paige Wildman
 July 10 Ashton Rae Diefenbach,
 July 11 Vicky Dubie
 July 13 Nikolas Kirchner, Evan D. Davis
 July 14 Colton Hertz, Kevin Cochran, Maverick Lemenager
 July 16 Lorraine Wildman
 July 17 Evan Howard, Ricky LaMore
 July 18 Duane Sharper
 July 19 Judy Graf, Amy Lynn Strahan, Megan Meyer
 July 20 Laurel Walter, Leah Havener, Aaron Meyer
 Cole Lemenager, Rev. Steve Friesie
 July 21 Vernon Daniel Dittus, Olivia Koerner
 July 22 Brandon Kuipers
 July 23 Harley Buente, Edie Friesie, Payden Strahan
 July 24 Kim Heath, Theresa Meyer
 July 25 Joshua Vaughn
 July 26 Candice Bauer, Claire Bitner, Lucy Raymond,
 Jennifer Overacker
 July 28 Roger Marcotte, Todd Cordes
 July 29 Carra Mau
 July 30 Sharon Nottke, Amy Moody
 July 31 Walter Marcotte, Regan Marcotte,
 David Nottke

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


Preventing blind spots: About 40% of any vehicle consists of blind spots, which are responsible for an estimated 800,000 accidents each year in the United States. People also have blind spots, and when they're spiritual, they can have tragic consequences.

Pastor Rick Warren suggests these steps for discovering and overcoming blind spots:

- Pray, asking God to remind you what is true about him — and about you. "Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life" (Psalm 139:24, NLT).
- Ask some trusted Christian friends or family to point out things in you that you can't see. "Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others" (Proverbs 12:15, NLT).

Finally, ask Jesus to change you. The Bible says the truth will set you free (John 8:32), and Jesus calls himself the truth (John 14:6). So the closer you are to Jesus, the more he will fill you with the truth. As God's truth helps you see clearly, you'll be less vulnerable to self-deception.

JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30am	2	3	4  INDEPENDENCE DAY	5
6	7 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	8	9	10	11	12
13 - Youth Group at 6:30PM	14 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	22	23	24	25	26
27 - Youth Group at 6:30PM	28 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	29 - Newsletter Article Deadline at 9AM	30	31		

"Liberty cannot be established without morality, nor without faith."

—Alexis de Tocqueville

"Proclaim the truth and do not be silent through fear."

—Catherine of Siena

"Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air and you."

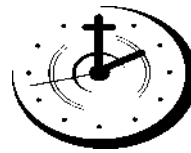
—Langston Hughes

"Wonder is the heaviest element on the periodic table; even a tiny fleck of it stops time."

—Diane Ackerman



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, July 1 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

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



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[www.facebook.com/
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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

Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

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

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)

