

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



Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. —Proverbs 3:5-7 (MSG)

We have reached the month when our youth will be either returning to school, or some will be starting for the first time. Many will be changing where their educations will continue. The words from the book of Proverbs I have given you apply for all who will be in school later this month, but I want to focus on those who are beginning college.

It was almost 50 years ago that I started my college experience. For me, not only was it starting college, but it was the first time that I moved away from home. One of my friends and I moved from Normal to Champaign where we attended Parkland College. I thought that I had everything figured out and knew easily how to enjoy my “new found freedom.” Boy was I completely off track!

Being a college student in the late 1970's, I had a lot of temptations thrown at me. While I was raised going to Sunday School and church most weeks, Satan was quick to find me by placing in my path new friends who helped me to experience temptations. I didn't take college seriously, especially when it came to opening books for various classes. But even though the “distractions” slowed down my education at times, I did persevere, and I achieved my Associate's Degree in Broadcast Communications.

That degree helped with my career of working many years in radio. Most of that time I was also working other jobs to make a living. And like many people I've known in life, despite Satan's best efforts, eventually God got through to me and placed me on the path, with His guidance, to be where I am today.

Parents and grandparents, please share the words from Proverbs with those getting ready for school this month. Especially share them with those who are beginning college, whether or not they are leaving home for their studies. May they not follow my example of college life, but stay firmly grounded in the words that God shares. My prayers are with all who will be furthering their education this month.

Blessings, Pastor Keith



**JESUS DIDN'T
TELL SINNERS TO
GO TO CHURCH...
HE TOLD HIS
CHURCH TO GO
TO SINNERS.**

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Thank You: The Family of Violet (Vi) Morse would like to extend their sincere appreciation for all the congregations have done while mom was in the nursing homes and hospitals. The cards, visits, & plants were all appreciated. Thank you to Pastor Keith for all he has done.

Thank you again, The Family of Violet Morse

“Summer”

'Tis summer, I know by the blue of the sky;
By the trees' deeper green, as beneath them I lie;
And more than all these, by the lovely wild rose
That now in the woodland its pink blossom shows. ...

I feel the warm west wind fan gently my cheek
As I sit on the grass, far too happy to speak;
And then in the twilight I see the faint spark
Of the fire-fly, flitting alone in the dark.

Oh! long happy days, when 'tis full of delight
To roam in the meadows from morning till night!
Oh! summer, sweet summer! glide slowly away,
For I love in your warmth and your fragrance to stay.
—H.P. Nichols

August Memory Verse

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” - Psalm 118:24

Bible Quiz

For years, King David showed special kindness to the son of King Saul's son Jonathan, because David and Jonathan had been dear friends. Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. The name of King Saul's grandson was Mephibosheth.
- B. He was lame in both feet.
- C. His feet had been injured when he was 5.
- D. He was injured while playing with his brothers.



Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-7; 21:7)

Puzzle!

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events.

Use the code to find the name of the special days the Israelites observed.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

SEASON

HOLIDAY

1. End of Summer

New Year

I L H S S Z H S Z M Z S

2. Fall

Day of Atonement

B L N P R K K F I

3. Fall

Festival of Booths

H F P P L G S

4. Winter

Festival of Rededication

S Z M F P P Z S

5. Winter

Festival of Lots

K F I R N

6. Spring

Festival of Unleavened Bread

K Z H H L E V I

7. Spring

Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

H S Z E F L G

Answers: 1. Rosh Hashanah, 2. Yom Kippur, 3. Sukkot, 4. Hanukkah, 5. Purim, 6. Passover, 7. Shavuot

Captivity transformed: In Jesus' first sermon in Nazareth, he read from Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to bring good news to the poor ... to proclaim release to the captives" (Luke 4:18, NRSV). Then he declared this Scripture fulfilled — in him. Ever since, in countless ways, Jesus has transformed captivity and dead ends into freedom and new beginnings.

A modern instance is a lovely new apartment complex built out of Lorton (Virginia) Reformatory, a prison that operated from 1910 to 2001. The beautifully renovated apartments — fittingly named Liberty Crest — opened in 2017. This project demonstrates wise stewardship by channeling new life into an old space, and care for people in need by reserving more than 25% of the units for low-income renters. Whether this project's developers are disciples of Jesus or not, the divine power of resurrection has been at work through them.

We're all held captive by something: illness, debt, oppression, violence, our own sin or another sort of dead end. But Jesus brings liberty where only prison was known. He transforms death into life, despair into hope, endings into bright new beginnings. May we who follow him do the same.



Why Christian community is key: Jesus' followers aren't meant to pursue faith by themselves. In fact, that's impossible! A *family* and *the body* signify plural members. It is among brothers and sisters in Christ that we:

- experience our Savior's presence, living and incarnate;
- unite in worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- learn — through other people's examples and experiences — what it means to live a life of discipleship; and lovingly serve together as Jesus' hands and feet.



WHO AM I?

Did you know that some Old Testament books are named after prophets? Use the clues to figure out each prophet's name and write it on the lines. Then unscramble, use the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

1. I was called to preach to Nineveh, but I ran from God instead. My book is number 32 in the Bible.

I am _____.

2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. My book is number 37.

I am _____.

3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. My book is number 28.

I am _____.

4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises of comfort. It is book 23.

I am _____.

5. I had dreams and visions. My book is number 27.

I am _____.

6. I was often in danger because of my prophecies. I angered officials. My book is number 24.

I am _____.

7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. My book is number 30.

I am _____.

8. My book contains descriptions of strange visions. My book is number 26.

I am _____.

Prophets are _____.



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, Mark Mulder (Kathi Nichols' son), Marilyn Ohrt, Harry & Sharon Pfeiffer, Aimee Simbeck, Stan Stone, & Marion Wenzelman.

Arden Courts

Mel Brinkman

Villas at Herscher

Ralph Grob
Randy Riegel

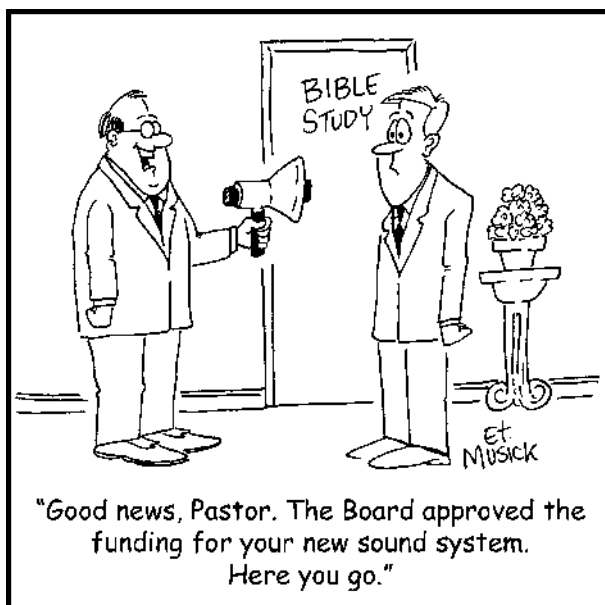
At College

Gretchen Brinkman
Isabell Lowey
Kamden Lockwood

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.



Worship in the Park will be held on Sunday, August 10, 2025. The service begins at 10:30am at the Bonfield Quarry Park. The speaker is Pastor Keith Blankenship. There will be a potluck lunch following the service. Chicken and beverages will be provided – Please bring a dish to share. Don't forget your lawn chairs (there will also be some seating available at picnic tables). Join us for a morning filled with worship, music, and fellowship while surrounded by God's beautiful creation!



+Christian Symbol+

ALTAR — This central furnishing in a Christian worship space is usually large, with a solid front that may be decorated with symbols or words. The flat surface, often covered with a cloth, is where the Communion elements are prepared and placed, reminding us of Jesus' sacrifice as the Lamb of God. In some churches, the altar looks more like a table, with open legwork. We remember that Jesus invites us into fellowship with God now and to the heavenly banquet for eternity. We place offerings on the altar to symbolize our sacrificial response to God's redeeming love.



JUNE 2025 ATTENDANCE

	6/1	6/8	6/15	6/22	6/29
Evangelical	37	35	33	35	33
Grand Prairie	19	21	19	22	10
Total	56	56	52	57	43



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: August - No meeting, September 18 - Rita, October 16 - Donna, November 20 - Ardis, December - Progressive Dinner

Martha Circle -

2025 meetings: September 10, November 12, & December 10

Need a vocation vacation? “It is not more vacation we need,” said Eleanor Roosevelt. “It is more vocation” — in other words, something that God calls you to do. God uses his people to accomplish amazing things, even during the summer! Call it a “vocation vacation.”

If you’re planning a trip, call ahead and offer to serve at a local homeless shelter or urban ministry. If you want to be outdoors, ask a Bible camp or recreation department if it needs volunteers. Other possibilities include assisting with programs that help elderly residents or people with special needs enjoy outdoor activities.

You’ll enjoy summertime fun (vacation) *and* the knowledge that God is working through you (vocation).



A walking contradiction:

A real Christian is an odd number. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen; talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see; expects to go to heaven on the virtue of another; empties himself in order to be full; admits he is wrong so he can be declared right; goes down in order to get up; is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest and happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so he can live; forsakes in order to have; gives away so he can keep; sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passes knowledge.

The [person] who has met God is not looking for anything; he has found it. He is not searching for light, for upon him the light has already shined. ... He is not a copy, not a facsimile. He is an original from the hand of the Holy Spirit.

—A.W. Tozer

Fixer-uppers: Summer is peak time for home renovations and remodeling projects. Those can be super stressful, starting with the selection of a contractor.

In a blog about her own family's construction plans, Laura Elliott explains the challenge: "It's not just any builder I want. I want one who has impeccable workmanship, is completely trustworthy and delivers our long-awaited [projects] early and under-budget." After sifting through bids and reviews, she discovered that most builders "look like they do pretty similar work for a pretty similar price."

For spiritual renovations, however, the choice is clear. "God is the builder of everything," says Hebrews 3:4 (NIV). Elliott writes, "Jesus is not only the *builder* of His Father's house, but He is the *buyer*, and the *heir* as well." And what he's building, she adds, is "a better Bride," his church.

Faith upgrades are an ongoing, lifelong process. "The renewal of our natures is a work of great importance," said 18th-century minister George Whitefield. "It is not to be done in a day. We have not only a new house to build up, but an old one to pull down." It's a good thing God oversees this project!



Lifelong learners: "If you don't have wisdom that goes with knowledge, you are only a walking encyclopedia," wrote Jack Wellman, a Kansas pastor. "A book of knowledge is useless without the wisdom to know how to apply that knowledge. ... Information without transformation leads only to frustration."

Consider the many benefits of wisdom — and how you can use what you've acquired to serve God, your church and your community. To better fulfill your calling, what wisdom might you yet need to acquire?

As another school year begins, here's a prayer for students of all ages: All-wise, all-knowing God, make us willing learners and seekers of your wisdom, not for the gain of knowledge for its own sake, but that we might handle every situation we face with the wisdom of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



No reserve, retreat or regrets: William Borden (1887-1913) was a Yale grad and the heir to his family's fortune. But he left behind a life of riches and comfort to become a Christian missionary. Before arriving in China, where he had hoped to share the gospel with the Kansu people, Borden died of spinal meningitis at just 25 years old. According to legend, the words "No Reserve," "No Retreat" and "No Regrets" were later found in Borden's Bible.

Unlike the men who told Jesus they had to handle some family business before following him (see Luke 9:57-62), Borden didn't waver or stall. Some people might say Borden "didn't make a good trade," writes Kyle Idleman in his book *Not a Fan*. Borden "gave up his family, his fortune and a future career to follow Jesus," Idleman writes, "and he died before he reached the mission field. But this man ... knew he had made the right decision."

By committing completely to Christ, Borden inspired other mission workers and pastors, including Idleman. "Say no to self and yes to Jesus every time," Borden wrote in his journal. More than a century after his death, that no-regrets message lives on.



August 1 Matthew Diefenbach
 August 3 Faith Powell, Cameron Aldridge,
 Sharon Lawrence, Samantha Nottke
 August 4 Stacey Shimmin
 August 5 Emma Werner
 August 6 Landon Mitchell
 August 7 Jason Berns, Carol Kuipers, Ardis Knight,
 Britton Kirk, Sheila Kirchner
 August 8 Mel Brinkman, Adam Messer
 August 10 Sharon Pfeiffer
 August 13 Ronda Wenzelman
 August 14 Linda Rink, Ben Kirchner
 August 16 Angela Van Voorst, Reid Butler,
 Jordyn Reginer
 August 17 Kim Jensen, Laura Sackett,
 Robert Rice, Jr., Gracy Cordes
 August 18 Cheri Dayton
 August 19 Dawn St. Germaine, Stacy Ireland,
 Deanna Brinkman
 August 20 Kelly Turner Luhrsen
 August 21 Michael Rice, Christopher Wulff,
 Kyle Wenzelman
 August 22 Darlene Charter
 August 23 Cole Wildman, Alexa Rae Colston
 August 24 Amanda Meyer, Tyler Werner
 August 25 Nathan Lindley, Brian Kingsland,
 Barbara Paetsch, Buffy Kuipers,
 Megan Bradford
 August 26 Mary Meyer, Ean Dittus
 August 27 John Brinkman
 August 28 David Mickelson, Connor Thorsten
 August 30 Criss Crabb
 August 31 Rachel Jensen

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



Back-to-School Blessing

Dear God,

Bless our students with curiosity and courage, And our teachers with wisdom and patience. May each day bring growth, kindness, and light. Guide every step, and fill this year with purpose and joy.

Amen.



AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	5 - IHOP Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30am	6	7	8	9
10 - Church in the Park 10:30am with Chicken Potluck	11 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	12 - Evan NOW meeting at 6pm - Parish NOW meeting at 6:30am	13 - Pastor Keith on vacation Aug. 13-28	14	15	16
17	18 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM	26 - Newsletter Article Deadline at 9AM	27	28	29	30

“Allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love.”—St. Teresa of Avila

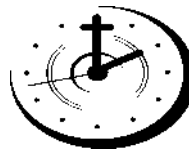
“Time spent in prayer is never wasted.”
—François Fénelon

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”
—William Arthur Ward

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” —Nelson Mandela



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, August 5 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



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Website -
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Check out the
newsletter on our
website at www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org and
click on the newsletter tab at the top.

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



BACK TO SCHOOL JAMBOREE!



Sponsored by the Bonfield-Grand Prairie UM Parish

Saturday, August 9

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

at the Bonfield Lions Club

148 Stanford Street, Bonfield, IL 60913

**Join Us for a Fun-Filled JAMBOREE
for Kids Preschool through 6th Grade!**



FREE BACKPACKS for the first **72 students!**



Games & Prizes – Win School Supplies!



Ice Cream & Cookies for everyone!



Treat Bags to take home!

**Celebrate the start of a new
school year with
FUN, FOOD, and FRIENDS!**

