



“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



But some will come to me—those the Father has given me—and I will never, never reject them. For I have come here from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to have my own way. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them to eternal life at the Last Day. For it is my Father’s will that everyone who sees his Son and believes in Him should have eternal life—that I should raise him at the Last Day.” John 6:37-40 (TLB)

The words above are the words of Jesus. The first Sunday in November is when we remember those who have been called Home to Heaven in the past 12 months. In my time serving this Parish, I have read the names of many who helped shape each church (along with Bonfield First UMC prior to its closing in 2021). When we remember the Saints from each church, we can also remember those in our own personal families who have passed over the years. Add into the mix friends that we have lost during our lives and each of us have quite a list to think about!

The Scripture from John’s Gospel lets everyone who follows and believe in Him know where they will spend their eternal life. It is my hope that I, and many whose paths have crossed mine in my time on Earth, hear the words, “Well done good and faithful servant” when our time to be called Home happens.

November is also known for Thanksgiving, which falls on the 27th of the month this year. A time when many families gather together to share a feast and swap stories of events from long ago. Let us not forget those who won’t be able to see family. Those who are not able to afford a meal on that day. May those people be able to either go to a facility hosting a meal, or be able to go to a food pantry and receive food. We should try if we can donate to these pantries so that those in need can have the necessities that they need to survive.

Remember the Saints of before, give thanks for our families and try to help those who are in need. Believe in Jesus every day so that when each of us are called Home, we are greeted with the six words I shared.

Blessings, Pastor Keith

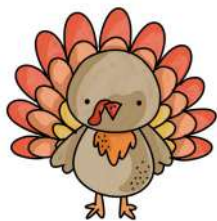
Sunday, November 2



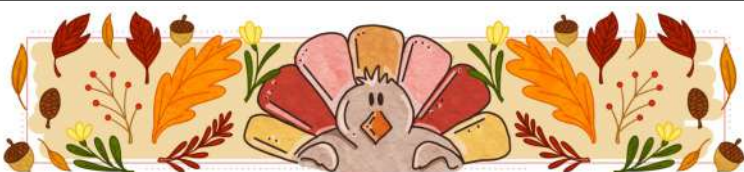
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**A Thanksgiving Prayer**

Gracious God,  
thank you for every good gift—  
for the food before us,  
the people around us,  
and the love that surrounds us.  
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice  
in Your constant goodness and grace.  
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,  
not just today, but every day.



Amen.



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.** Psalm 136:1, NIV



**November Memory Verse**

1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

**Bible Quiz**

James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

- A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
- B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
- C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
- D. The one who rewards those who are generous



Answer: C (See James 1:17)

# Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column of letters to complete the hidden phrase below.

FEAST, KHAKI, MOUTH,  
 ESSAY, LLAMA, ORBIT, CARRY,  
 UDDER, BRUSH, ITEMS,  
~~APPLE~~, LEARN, CIDER

A	P	P	L	E



P  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_!

Answer: Praise the Lord!



Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

**What you need:**

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)



**What you do:**

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.



**GIVE PRAISE**

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

**Directions:** In each group, circle the word that doesn't belong. Then write the circled words on the lines below.

1 Give Take Grab	2 peanut praise pear	3 temple house LORD	4 proclaim past present	5 name boy lad	6 ruin destroy make
7 pine acorn known	8 train nations bus	9 done donut muffin	10 Sing Sleep Yawn	11 she him girl	12 sun praise moon
13 tell fast slow	14 red all blue	15 horrible dreadful wonderful	16 acts sisters aunts		

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_;  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5

\_\_\_\_\_ among the \_\_\_\_\_ what he has \_\_\_\_\_.  
6                      7                      8                      9

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, sing \_\_\_\_\_ to him; \_\_\_\_\_ of  
10                      11                      12                      13

\_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_.  
14                      15                      16

PSALM 105:1-2, 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, Patterson Friese, Rick Gaffield, Kevin Jordan (Dana VanVoorst's brother), Ardis & Allen Messer, Mark Mulder (Kathi Nichols' son), Marilyn Ohrt, Harry & Sharon Pfeiffer, 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.



**Abundant Blessings**

There is plenitude in God. That great fact must never be lost or obscured. We must not exchange this immense graciousness for a few scraps of human morality or a few shopworn proverbs. God is a vast reservoir of blessing who supplies us abundantly.



+Christian Symbol+

**CIRCLE** — The circle is a symbol for God, as well as for eternity, due to its lack of a beginning or an end. It also reminds us of how the church year (not unlike the secular calendar) flows from season to season and moves smoothly from Christ the King

Sunday (the culmination of the liturgical calendar) to the

First Sunday of Advent (a new beginning). Indeed, the

One who rules all is the same

One whose first and final comings we anticipate anew

during Advent.



**SEPTEMBER 2025 ATTENDANCE**

	9/7	9/14	9/21	9/28
Evangelical	39	36	38	40
Grand Prairie	22	18	22	21
Total	61	54	60	61



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: November 20 -Ardis, December - Progressive Dinner

### Martha Circle -

2025 meetings: November 12, & December 10

### A Thanksgiving Hymn That Sees God's Hand Everywhere

For a hymn that captures the beauty and gratitude of Thanksgiving, All Things "Bright and Beautiful" is a perfect choice Its lyrics paint vivid pictures — flowers opening in the morning sun, birds singing, golden sunsets, purple-topped mountains and rivers rushing by. It all leads to this joyful reminder: *“He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell: How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.”*

The hymn was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), an Irishwoman with a passion for teaching children about God. She wrote many hymns for her Sunday school class, later collected in *Verses for Holy Seasons*.

But her ministry went beyond music — she spent her life serving the poor, comforting the sick, and caring for the grieving. When she passed away, “a great throng” gathered to remember her, honoring both her faith and the beauty she shared with the world.



### Remembering The Saints

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter “To all God’s beloved ... who are called to be saints” (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.

The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God’s beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are “called to be saints.”

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints’ Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.



**A Day to Honor Our Veterans**

On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country’s service and to offer Americans the opportunity “to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.”

Wanting to recognize more specifically America’s veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).



Pie Tic-Tac-Toe

Draw your favorite Thanksgiving food:

Turn the pumpkins into pie!

GIVE THANKS

I am thankful for...

1)

2)

3)

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November 1 Taylor Heath, Ron Jensen, Betsy Meyer, Allen Messer  
 November 2 Pastor Mel Nielsen, Nicholes Davis, Cindy Colston, Betty Diefenbach  
 November 3 Scott Morse, Christi Young  
 November 4 Andrea Wilson, Steven Hoffman, Hunter Michell  
 November 5 Abigale Berns, Scott Hansen, Kristen Voigt  
 November 6 Chuck Meyer-Marrietta, Marion Wenzelman  
 November 7 Jon Overacker, Benjamin Diefenbach  
 November 8 Stuart Kuipers, Madelyn Kuipers  
 November 9 Dennis Wilson, Connor Lowey, Chad Hertz, Tom Grant  
 November 10 Chuck Bradford, Cheryl Weber, Karen Noxon  
 November 11 John Cross, Craig Hansen, Rhonda Dahn, Cru Sikes  
 November 12 Wendy Pastorel, Clay Melhorn  
 November 13 Roger Boyer, Kevin Kirchner,  
 November 14 Monique Brunner  
 November 15 Paula Pangle, Randy Mau  
 November 16 Amanda Sue Wulff, Rae Anna Buente  
 November 17 Kai Tapp  
 November 19 Hailey Charter, Sunshine Powell, Cheryl Young  
 November 20 Cathy Messer  
 November 21 Andrea Werner, Andrew Ward  
 November 25 Allison Hansen, Brandon Charter, Beth Davis, Tina Wells  
 November 27 Stacey Bonnell  
 November 30 Gary Orwig, Matthew Willibey



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


### Giving Thanks for All Things

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?



# NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 - All Saints Sunday - Daylight Saving Time Ends	3 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am	4 - Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30am	5	6	7	1 8
9	10 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am	11 - Ad Board at Grand Prairie at 7pm 	12 - Martha Circle	13	14	15
16 - Community Thanksgiving Service at Evan at 4pm	17 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am	18	19	20 - Sunshine Circle	21	22
23 - Christ the King Sunday	24 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am	25 - Newsletter Article Deadline at 8am	26	27 - Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
30 - First Sunday of Advent - UM Student Day - Beginning of Lectionary Year A						



**Thoughts about Thankfulness**

"If the only prayer you said in your entire life was 'thank you,' that would suffice." —Meister Eckhardt

"O Lord, that lends me life, Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness!" —William Shakespeare

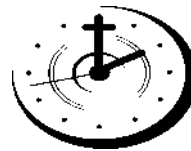
You'll become closer to God not by presenting God with your troubles, but by thanking God for your blessings.

"Thou hast given so much to me. Give me one thing more — a grateful heart." —George Herbert

Thanksgiving, to be truly Thanksgiving, is first "Thanks" and then "Giving."



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**

We are changing our monthly breakfast gathering to the FAMILY HOUSE on Kennedy Dr. in Bradley. It will remain on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:30am. Hope to see you on Tuesday, November 4.

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

**Parish Office Information**

Hope Raymond, Secretary

348 E. Smith St., PO Box 66 Bonfield, IL 60913

Phone: (815) 802-9805 or (815) 671-5590

Email: bonfieldgp@gmail.com

Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

Hours: In office- Thursday 8:30-10am

Work from home- Tuesday 8am-2pm &

Thursday 12-2:30pm

Bulletin submission deadline is Thursday 8am.



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bonfieldgrandprairie.org

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

**Take Me to the River**

God often works in unexpected ways. Just ask Naaman, the army commander in 2 Kings 5:1-14. Stricken with leprosy, he traveled to Israel seeking healing from the prophet Elisha. Instead of an impressive display or a grand ceremony, Elisha sent word for him to simply wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman was not impressed. "Aren't the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel?" he asked. Why bathe in a foreign, muddy river when the clean, sparkling rivers of home were far more appealing? It didn't make sense. Yet what seemed absurd became the very path to his healing.

We may not be told to wade into an actual river, but we all face "Jordan moments" in life — times when God calls us to take a step that feels uncomfortable, humbling or completely illogical. It is in those moments that trust and obedience matter most.

Naaman's story reminds us that God's power is not limited by appearances or human reasoning. Sometimes the action that feels least likely to work is the one that opens the door to blessing. When God invites you to take the plunge, step into the water. You may find healing and hope waiting there.

**Gratitude Shift**

When we look at what we want, and then compare that with what we have, we shall be unhappy.

When we think about what we really deserve, and then compare that with what we actually have, we shall thank God.



The Bonfield-Grand Prairie parish will be holding a **Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 16 at 4PM**. The service will be held in Bonfield at the Bonfield Evangelical church. Plan to join us for a service of praise and Thanksgiving. We will be collecting much needed canned goods and an offering for ACOM at the service. A potluck dinner will follow in the church fellowship hall. Chicken, table service, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Plan to attend and let us give thanks together.

