

CHURCH STAFF

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PASTOR STEVE’S OFFICE HOURS

M, T, W: 9 a.m. - Noon

PASTOR DAN’S OFFICE HOURS

M, W, F: 9 a.m. - Noon

Cornerstone District Office
Christ First UMC
663 Lakeview Ave.
Jamestown, NY 14701

From Pastor Steve’s Desk...

Welcome to Grace Notes! We’re so glad you opened this copy of the Panama United Methodist Church newsletter! Everything you need to know about what is going on at Panama United Methodist Church is in here...enjoy!

New Vision and New Growth

I looked out the window at my garden the other day and thought...*only a few more months and we’ll see some new growth back there.* At the time, it was snowing pretty hard, and I could barely see the new garden fence that we constructed last spring. My vision for the new growth was real, but the actual growth wasn’t yet happening - at least not from what I could SEE.

Our lives are a lot like that. We strive for growth in our lives - growth that we hope will bear fruit for Jesus Christ. We have dreams and visions about it, but can’t always SEE it. It helps, I think, to know the goal. As believers, we have but one aim. We want to glorify God and build the kingdom. Or, as our Mission Statement says it: We seek to love the Lord God, introduce people to his Son Jesus Christ, and help those relationships GROW. There’s that word again: growth! Growth is about what’s going on NOW, and what’s going to happen in the future.

When the early church was growing, there were some pains and lessons that had to be learned. That’s no different today. It just takes on a different medium and culture. Here’s what Paul wrote to Timothy, one of the younger church leaders that was raising up the church to bear fruit and grow the kingdom:

...Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time - he who is blessed and only Sovereign, the King of

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Pastor Steve's January Schedule



(continued from page 1)

kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

It's all about Jesus for Paul and for (he hopes) Timothy. What if they were alive today...at the end of 2013? 2013 was a fine year. On Facebook, you can go back and review the year in about 30 seconds, based on the most popular postings for that year - weddings, events, pithy comments, holidays, etc. I took that trip today as I was thinking about 2014. I asked myself questions like: Have I pursued righteousness? Am I fighting the good fight of the faith? Am I keeping the commandments of Christ? Am I looking always for Christ to return? In 2013, we did some of that together, for which I feel blessed - a mission trip to Red Bird, preaching on the pillars of the church, hospital visits, Care Groups, music and worship, and so much more. It's been a good year.

Yet, I have even more hope and anticipation for 2014! Not only are we stronger and healthier, but we have some new leadership to build on the great leadership of last year. We have new believers in our midst. We have new ideas, partnerships (Love INC., Connections, Red Bird, and many more), and Spirit-led ministries. In a word, we have a new VISION. And that vision leads to more growth.

Just like the early church, we have a mission to fulfill for Christ. 2014 will be a time to take the work of the church from generations passed - and even last year - and grow. Grow to include those who are here, and grow to include others who will come. Grow outside the walls and inside the walls (maybe even get some new walls). We must grow to be God's transforming love to our communities and our families. The new vision is coming into focus. Let's see it and be growing for Christ!

I may have to wait to plant my peas, but God's on the move at Panama United Methodist and we're ready to go! Happy New Year!

In His Grip,
Pastor Steve

- 1 Office Closed
- 2 Ski Night
- 3/4 Sabbath and Day Off; 4 p.m.: District Pastor's Gathering
- 5 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; 11:30 a.m.: Lunch; 12:30 p.m.: Take down decorations
- 6 11 a.m.: Staff Meeting; 7 p.m.: Prayer and Praise Team
- 7 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7 p.m.: Growth and Vision Team Meeting
- 8 9:30 a.m.: Food Truck Delivery; 6 p.m.: Praise Team
7 p.m.: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 9 12 p.m.: CRM Teleconference; Ski Night; 7 p.m.: Missions
Team Meeting
- 10/11 Sabbath and Day Off; Ski Day at Holiday Valley
- 12 8am-12pm: Sunday School/Worship
- 13 11 a.m.: Staff Meeting; 7 p.m.: Prayer and Praise Team
- 14 7 a.m.: Breakfast Meeting; 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7 p.m.: Band of
Brothers Gathering
- 15 12 p.m.: Lunch Bunch; 6 p.m.: Praise Team Rehearsal;
7 p.m.: Celebration Choir Rehearsal; 7:45 p.m.: Church Council
- 16 Ski Night
- 17/18 Sabbath and Day Off
- 19 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 20 11 a.m.: Staff Meeting; 7 p.m.: Prayer and Praise Team
- 21 12 p.m.: Pastors Gathering; 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7 p.m.: Worship
Team Meeting; 7 p.m.: Safe Sanctuaries Team Meeting
- 22 12 p.m.: Men's Retreat Planning Meeting; 6 p.m.: Praise Team
Rehearsal; 7 p.m.: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 23 Ski Night; 7 p.m.: Grace Visitation; 7 p.m.: Connections Team
- 24/25 Sabbath and Day Off; 8 a.m.(1/25); Band of Brothers Breakfast
- 26 8 a.m.-12p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 27 11 a.m.: Staff Meeting; 7 p.m.: Prayer and Praise Team
- 28 10 a.m.: REUNY Meeting; 1 p.m.: Visitations
- 29 6 p.m.: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7 p.m.: Celebration Choir
Rehearsal
- 30 Ski Night
- 31/1 Sabbath and Day Off; Friends of Findley Leadership Team
Meeting

January Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Carl Anderson, Scott Neilans, *Dean/Rebecca Sprague*
- 2 Adam Dole
- 3 Caroline Apthorpe, Erin Miller, Reese McGaffick, Pam Sali
- 4 Isaac Landin, Cliff Reardon, Jr.
- 5 Kimberly Barton, Betty Johnson, Ruth Russ
- 6 Jeff Ireland
- 7 Andrew Apthorpe, David Rowe
- 8 Claire Apthorpe, Mathis Baehr
- 9 Aubriana Dominey, Dennis Furlow, Jan Wheeler
- 10 Jacob Caldwell, Patrick Caldwell, Ashley Senske
- 13 Amanda (Sard) Pekelnicky
- 15 Bruce Crist, Sarah Malinoski-Umberger, Scott Simmes
- 16 Allene Dole, Bob Gleason, Bob Miller, Sharon Vandevelde,



Mark/Carolyn Stow

- 17 Bronson Edwards, Jim Loomis
- 18 Jonathan Komarek, Taylor Shreve
- 19 Donald Garfield, Gladys Wood
- 22 Marcey Larson, *Mike/Luella Sard*
- 24 Ian Ellsworth
- 25 Kevin Beckerink, Linda Wood
- 26 Shawn Reardon
- 27 Alexandria Davis
- 28 Michael Sard
- 29 *Mert/Janet Osborne*
- 30 Anna Sobolewski



A look ahead to February...

- 1 Joel Keefer, Dennis Scheller
- 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Trisket
- 3 Eric Scolton, Anna Vandevelde
- 4 Willson Baer, Meghan Gooch, Sheila White, Howie Wheeler
- 5 Jeff Enlow, Bill Schneider
- 6 Carl Davis III, Brenda Ireland, Braden Topolski
- 8 Alexandra Baer, Gail Dallas

Sunday Morning Team

January

Ushers

Pat and Kristy Catanese
George and Trudy Anderson

Nursery Helpers

January 5

Birth-2:
3-4:

January 12

Birth-2:
3-4:

January 19

Birth-2:
3-4:

January 26

Birth-2:
3-4:

February

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless
Tina Shaver and Mark Akam

Visitation Ministry

January 5

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Lester/Wyona Wevers
Bill Peck

January 12

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Julia Nelson
Thea Kester

January 19

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Sharon Passarelli
Eloise Smith

January 26

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Jack/Linda Sturges
Diane Johnson

No tapes - just a visit and a bulletin



RECIPE from the Parish Nurse

Jody Marsh

Mom-style Creamy Chicken and Veggies

(This recipe makes 1 serving...so increase ingredients to your desired servings)

1/4 c. canned 98% fat free cream of chicken sop
1/4 c. fat free sour cream
1/2 tsp. chopped garlic
1 c. frozen cauliflower florets
1/2 c. frozen bite sized vegetables
1/4 c. canned sliced mushrooms, drained
One 5 oz. raw boneless skinless lean chicken breast
Salt, black pepper, and additional spices you prefer.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

In a bowl, mix soup, sour cream, garlic and salt. Add cauliflower, mixed veggies and mushrooms and stir to coat.

Lay a large piece of heavy duty foil on a baking sheet and spray. Season chicken with salt, pepper and other spices you like. Place chicken in center of the foil, and top with veggie mixture. Fold and seal the top and bottom edges of the foil, and then the side edges, to create a well sealed packet.

Place baking sheet in the oven and bake for about 35-40 minutes, until chicken is cooked through. Allow packet to cool for a few minutes and then cut to release heat before opening it entirely...careful... steam will be hot!

Per serving: 307 calories; 4g fat; 881mg sodium; 26g carbs; 5.25g fiber; 10.5g sugar; 50g protein

COFFEE SALE

Thank you to all those who supported the Camping Coffee sale. We sold over one hundred bags and made a profit of \$336!! We hope you are enjoying your coffee!

Look forward to our next fun event - the **SOUPEr** **SUNDAE** party which will be held on **February 2**.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - Samaritan's Purse

How about this?

Set a goal of filling one box per month, starting in January! Think how awesome it would be for you to be able to contribute 12 boxes next year! What a blessing that would be!

Thank you, in advance, for participating in this year's Operation Christmas Child!



The children in the Art class at the Village of Hope School's Enrichment Program designed the beautiful note cards which can be found on the Missions Table in the Narthex.



The note cards are 3.5 x 4.75, blank inside, 8 cards per box for \$10. Please put payment in the offering or at the office designated for Missions.

Blessings to all from the Village of Hope.

WOMEN AND MISSIONS (W.A.M.)

Review of W.A.M.'s 2013 Missionary Gifts

January

\$50 to Haiti mission of Carol Hay and Brenda Ireland

March

\$50 to Bonnie Hurley's mission trip to India

July

\$50 to Bonnie Hurley's mission trip to India

October

\$50 to Bonnie Hurley's mission trip to India

October

\$51 to Bazaar from selling small wallets

December

\$50 to Christmas shoeboxes

We also sent 206 articles of clothing to Dress Our People.

Please continue to collect pennies for Salvation Army Family Abuse Program, labels for Red Bird Mission, and send cards to those in need of encouragement.

The next W.A.M. meeting is January 13 at 11:45 a.m. at the Rowdy Rooster. Hope to see you there!



With Sympathy...

...to Pastor Dan and Stephanie
on the loss of their unborn child
on December 23, 2013

And

...to the family of Arthur Wahlstrom
Father of Barb (Bob) Tordella
Grandfather of Andrew and Lauren
who passed away on December 29, 2013

The love and prayers of the PUMC family are with you
and your loved ones as you continue through
this time of grief and adjustment.
Your strength is a testimony to us all.

Mark Your Calendars

January 11 - Ski Day at Holiday Valley

January 19 - DCYM Tubing Party at Holiday Valley

February 2 - SOUPER SUNDAE Party

Check out the online calendar at www.panamaum.org

Pastor Dan's Corner...

Hello, Panama UMC!

What an awesome fall of 2013 we had! We started out the school year in a series called "Powerful Prayer" and then moved on to "Tiny Books in the Bible" (looking at those books that are so small, they have no chapters!), and then finished off the fall with "What Does the Bible Say?" We also enjoyed some great DCYM events and topped off the semester with a fun Christmas Party. Now, on to the New Year!

We will be kicking off our spring semester of Youth Group on Wednesday, January 8, with a Messy Games Night! Come dressed in clothes that you don't mind getting dirty and bring an extra set of clothes to go home in as well! We will be getting very messy, so be ready! On Sunday, January 19, we will be going tubing with DCYM at Holiday Valley. We will be meeting here at the church at 2:45 p.m. and should be home around 9:15 p.m. There will be a small coast (around \$10), as well.

Some dates to add to your calendar would be March 28-29 (our Spring Lock IN and Retreat with Infuzion) and August 3-6 (Kingdom Bound). Be ready to RSVP and make a small down payment for Kingdom Bound by the end of March so that we can get the early bird special!

I ask that you will come along side me, our new Youth Ministry Support Team, and the Family Ministry Support Team in prayer as we continue in ministry together. May God richly bless you and your family throughout the New Year!

May God Bless You Richly This New Year

Pastor Dan <><

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

PUMC Discipleship Groups are in full swing, but it's never too late to join in.

The ladies group, **LoL** (Ladies of Light), is led by **Cindy Furlow**. This group meets at the church on the 2nd and 4th Monday nights at 7 p.m. Their study is entitled, "Missing Pieces: Real Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense". We hope to have you join us on January 13 and 27.

Jon and Becky Cable are hosting a discipleship group at their home. This group is doing a Bible Study that goes with the movie, "**Facing The Giants**." This is a great movie about learning to give God your best and leaving the results up to Him, praising Him whether you win or lose. We all have "Giants" that we face in our lives and this study gives us encouragement when our fear and faith collide. This group meets every other Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Cables' home.

Thea Kester's discipleship group meets at noon every other Thursday. They have a fellowship lunch at the Rowdy Rooster, then adjourn to the church for their study and prayer time.

The **R.A.D.I.C.A.L.** (Rejoicing As Disciples In Christ's Awesome Love) TLC group will be meeting the first and third Saturdays of each month at 7 p.m. The location might be different each week so please check with **Carl and Susie Davis** to confirm where it will be that week. Davis' home phone number is 782-4611 or Susie's cell is 640-7043. We are looking at Christian accountability.

The **CHAT** group will meet at **George and Trudy Anderson**'s home on Saturday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m. You can give them a call for further details.

We hope you will check out one of these discipleship groups. For additional information, please call Jon and Becky at 543-5050 or email them at jonbec95@gmail.com.

Christmas Thank You...

Thank you, PUMC family, for the many gifts you have given our family this Christmas season: your presence at our Christmas party, your individual presents and cards; and your combined present of money. We are blessed to be serving you here in Panama, and it is a joy and an honor to know and love all of you.

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - Romans 15:13

Thank you and God's blessings to all.

Pastor Steve, Stacy, Benjamin and Abigail

Greetings, Worship Team 2014!

I am looking forward to working with each one of you in 2014. Our first team meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, at 7 p.m.

I hope to see you all then as we continue to make the worship experience at PUMC the very best it can be for each individual as they seek to know The Lord more and more each day.

You can always call or email me at:
suesue5@windstream.net

Blessings,
Susie Davis
Chairperson