

## **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 this edition of Grace Notes! We're so glad you picked up 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!

**Thank you to everyone in the congregation who has shown our pastors appreciation in October! It is a blessing to lead, love, and serve with you!**

### **Revival in OUR time!**

"O Lord, I have heard of your renown, and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known; in wrath may you remember mercy." Habakkuk 3:3

Habakkuk's prayer was a simple prayer for spiritual revival. Spiritual revival is defined as *an awakening, in a church community, of interest in and care for matters relating to personal religion*. Has our church's spiritual fervor or your personal passion for God grown cold? If so, we're ready for revival! But notice that Habakkuk's prayer is not for revival in God's timing - not some future hope that we don't expect to see - but in OUR TIME. Habakkuk is praying for revival to come right now!

As I reflect on a desire for revival in my own life, my prayer usually focuses on my heart and not my head. Has my heart's passion grown cold due to the day-in and day-out demands of ministry and family? Has my heart less passion for God's Word as revealed in the Bible and through Jesus? Were the fires in my heart and would just an ember or a small flame, and not a roaring blaze, powered and fueled by the Holy Spirit? I pray, "God, in our (my) time, revive me!"

There is only one thing I can control when it comes to revival: me. And, if I want revival to take place in my family, my church, and in my life, in our time, then the only prayer I can pray is, "Lord, in our time, revive ME!" Maybe when my brother or sister sees revival taking place in my heart and life, then they, too, will pray for revival to come to THEM in our time! I'm not a very patient person, sometimes, and so, when we join together to pray for revival, I pray it IS in our time and not some time in the future.

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In community, revival takes place in us and then as we come together for worship, our passion for God must spill over collectively for God. Matt Redman reminds us in his book *The Unquenchable Worshipper*, that, "...a relationship with the Living God shouldn't just fade away or wear out like an old pair of shoes. It's meant to be new every morning, just like the mercy it responds to." Revival in me. Revival in you. Revival in US! In OUR time! Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve

***IT'S A HARVEST OF PRAISE!***

Thanksgiving is a blessed time of year for families and friends, the church and the community. It's a time to reflect and give thanks to God for all He has brought us through and for the hope we have in Jesus. On SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 at 7 p.m., the Panama UMC family will respond. We will WORSHIP! We will be inviting our community, the churches, the businesses, and everyone we meet to come and celebrate God in a Harvest of Praise. We will have lots of music (Praise Team, Celebration Choir, and more)! We will hear God's promises to prosper His people! We will fellowship after worship!

Come and invite your friends and family to this  
Harvest of Praise!

***Illuminate! Devotionals available for Advent***

This December, the Panama UM faith community will be engaging in a four-week personal devotional called *Illuminate!* brought to you by the same folks that authored *Celebrate!* last Advent. Devotionals will be available after Thanksgiving. The devotionals are being provided by the Worship Team. Come, let's ILLUMINATE this advent season - the COMING of The King!

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

*Do you have your boxes ready for the collection? Boxes are due THIS month!!!! There are still OCC boxes available at the church to be filled. Stop in and pick some up!*

**Pastor Steve's November Schedule**



- 1 Day Off
- 2 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 3 11am: Staff Mtg; 6:30pm: Staff Eval; 7pm: Prayer/Praise
- 4 6:45am: Breakfast Mtg; 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Nominations Team Mtg
- 5 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal; 7pm: Trustees Team Mtg
- 6 6:30pm: Finance Team Mtg/Ministry Spending Planning
- 7/8 Sabbath and Day Off
- 9 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 10 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise; 7pm: Staff/Parish Relations Team Mtg
- 11 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Band of Brothers
- 12 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 14/15 Sabbath and Day Off
- 16 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 17 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 18 1pm: Visitations; 6pm: Church Conference
- 19 12pm: Lunch Bunch; 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 20 6:30pm: Help with Charge Conference at Park UMC; 7pm: Variety Show (PCS)
- 21/22 Sabbath and Day Off; Camps and Retreats Ministry Retreat (Casowasco)
- 23 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/ Worship; 7pm: Harvest of Praise
- 24 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 25 9am: Pastors' Advent Gathering; 1pm: Visitations
- 27/28 Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- 30 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 12/1 6pm: Sanctuary Decorating Party

## November Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Mike Sard, Cindy Sturges, Joel Wiggers
- 2 Chris Comstock
- 3 Becky Barr, *Tom/Sally Baer*
- 4 Tina Akam
- 5 Chris Blose, Jim Hunt
- 8 Elena Komarek
- 9 Linda Gleason, Logan Hickman, Lisa Wait
- 10 Katie Braun, Corinne Ireland, Erica Ireland
- 11 Marlie Seekings, Abigail Taylor, April VanBrunt
- 12 Dick Crosby, Jean Edwards, Connor Hickman
- 15 Jaik Halpainy, Sharon Passarelli
- 16 Corey King, Christine Olson, Genesis Moore
- 17 Merton Osborne
- 19 Stephanie Landin
- 20 Peter Butler
- 21 Evan Lecynski
- 22 Natalie Woods
- 24 Everett Bensink
- 25 Mel Eggleston II, Gay Ostrander, Barb Trisket
- 26 Mary Lou Garfield, Gloria Scholton
- 27 Jack Sturges, Stacy Taylor, *Tim/Tena Dills*
- 29 Kevin Parkman, *Adam/Tia Kester*
- 30 Fran Sard



Happy Anniversary!!

### *A look ahead to December...*

- 1 Bert Anderson, Brianna Marsh
- 3 Judy Parkman
- 5 Rob Peck, Paige Weise, *Dennis/Cindy Furlow*
- 6 Lindsay Lombardo, Eloise Smith

Please let Pam Ireland or the office know if we need to update/add birthday or anniversary information for your family. This list is only as up to date and correct as the information we are given.

## *Sunday Morning Team - November*

### *Ushers*

Tim and Tena Dills  
Craig and Marge Vollmer

### *Nursery Helpers*

#### *November 2*

Birth-2: Katie Braun and Jessica Keefer  
3-4: Adam and Tory Irgang

#### *November 9*

Birth-2: Kelly and Sarah Osborne  
3-4: Stacy Taylor and Riley Seekings

#### *November 16*

Birth-2: Thea Kester and Kylie Schnars  
3-4: Tina Akam and Logan Hickman

#### *November 23*

Birth-2: Dawn Sard and Jenn Johnson  
3-4: Buck and Kristine Seekings

#### *November 30*

Birth-2: Barb Tordella and Sue Woods  
3-4: Becky and Gracie Cable

Thank you for volunteering to take care of our little ones during the worship service. We appreciate you!

Former Pastor Steve and Melissa Wiggers will be relocating to Florida. They are pleased to share that Pastor Steve (#2) has accepted a position as a Hospice Chaplain at Halifax Health Center in Port Orange. They will be living close to their sons, both married, and their grandchildren.

We pray for special blessings on this new ministry position and for the Wiggers family.

## *Visitation Ministry*

### **November 2**

Kathy Smith TW 218 Trudy Anderson

### **November 9**

Kathy Smith TW 218 Thea Kester

### **November 16**

Kathy Smith TW 218 Everett King

### **November 23**

Kathy Smith TW 218 Julia Nelson

### **November 30**

Kathy Smith TW 218 Sharon Passarelli

**No CDs or DVDs - just a visit and a bulletin**



...Wedding Congratulations...



*Christina Shaver  
and  
Mark Akam*

*were united in marriage on October 11, 2014  
at the Panama United Methodist Church  
by Reverend Stephen M. Taylor*

God is the author of yet another chapter in your lives. May you be richly blessed as your future, together, unfolds.

The love and blessings from your PUMC family are with you today...and always.

### **W.A.M. (Women and Missions)**

The November meeting of W.A.M. will be held on Monday, **November 10** at **11:45** at the Rowdy Rooster. Our featured speaker will be Bonnie Hurley, missionary to India.

We look forward to sharing a time of fellowship with you.  
We hope you will join us.

### **Crustless Pumpkin Pie**

**Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse**



15 oz. can pumpkin  
1/2 c. Egg Beaters  
1 1/2 c. skim milk  
3/4 c. Splenda  
1/2 tsp. salt  
2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Mix together until smooth. Pour into pie plate sprayed with Pam. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Makes 4 servings.

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**Safe Sanctuaries Survey, continued from page 7**  
**Part II (To be completed by older adult caregivers)**

Do you provide care for an older adult occasionally or frequently?

Do you need help finding resources to help care for an older adult? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in being part of a church small group of people who are also caregivers so you can share information and help each other? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in attending a one-time meeting, hosted by our church, to learn about county services related to caring for older adults?

What could our church do for you as a caregiver of an older adult?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

*White Gift to Bless Those in Need this Christmas...*

The White Gift Fund is Pastor Steve's discretionary fund that is used specifically to meet the short-term financial needs of those in our church and community. On the first Sunday of every month, a special offering is received for the White Gift Fund. For many years, The Panama United Methodist family has generously given to the White Gift Fund. During Advent each year (this year, November 30-December 21), the donations are used to bless 3-4 families in our community. These families usually are in some financial hardship, have children at home, and receive the gifts with appreciation and joy. All donations that are given to the White Gift Fund during Advent are used directly for the Christmas Outreach. Be on the lookout for small, white, cloth bags that you can use as a family to share your White Gift. Other ways to give are by dropping off cash donations in the office, including them with your regular giving in your envelope, or placing donations in the special baskets available in the main aisle of the Sanctuary.

In addition to your donations, Pastor Steve and Stacy need help in identifying families in our community who may need some assistance with Christmas this year. Please be in prayer about your neighbors and friends and let Pastor Steve know. All contacts are kept strictly confidential. Please include phone numbers, addresses, and some information about the families, as available.

We will need all names prior to December 20.

Thank you!

**Christmas Eve Worship Announcement**

This Christmas Eve, we will again worship at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. At 4 p.m, we will gather to praise the Lord and experience the Christmas Story in an upbeat and celebrative worship experience. We are planning this worship service for everyone to attend, but especially invite those who can't come out late at night, those with children who will be tucked in by 11 p.m., or anyone who wanted an additional chance to worship on that special day.

At our 11 p.m. Candlelight worship, we'll reflect on the love poured out on the world through Jesus coming as the incarnation of God! See you there!

***With Sympathy to the Families of...***

William Morse

Brother of Roberta Anderson

Wilhelmina "Willie" Eschwie

October 25, 2014

Special friend of Ricky Eggleston

Donald Roth

October 28, 2014

Stepfather of Kristine Seekings  
Brother-in-law of Janice Franklin

James Loomis

October 29, 2014

Father of John Loomis, Chris Loomis,  
and Tim Loomis



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.

**COFFEE SALE to support Camping Scholarships**

Orders for coffee can still be taken for delivery in early December for \$9.00 per bag. This sale is in support of sending kids to camp!

***Single Origin Coffee; Blends and Decaffeinated;  
Flavored; Ground or Whole Bean***

Please see Stacy Taylor, Susie Davis, or any camper with questions or to place an order.

## **Safe Sanctuaries - A Blessing!**

Carol Hay

There are a number of reasons why we do things - there are laws requiring it, we belong to organizations with regulations governing our activities, a promise was given and we need to fulfill the obligation, etc. Often, complying with the law, regulation or promise brings added benefits. This seems to be the case with our Church's commitment to the Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines regulated by the Church Conference.

The time spent researching and writing our Church's Guidelines has given the committee time to get to know each other better and grow as Christians. Additionally, the subject of the Guidelines - keeping children and vulnerable adults safe - has provided us with opportunities to make our church facilities safer and has given us opportunities to learn about abuse of children and vulnerable adults.

Many adults and older youth in our Church have received specific training in identifying signs of abuse, appropriate reactions to abuse situations, and caring for the people involved. The training has made us more caring towards others.

In this issue of Grace Notes, there are two surveys - one to be completed by older adults and one to be completed by caregivers of older adults. If this is you, please take the time to complete the survey and return it to the church office. Our goal is to help provide for safety and comfort of all - children through older adults. The survey information will help us follow through on that promise.

We also have brochures that relate to services and care available to older adults and caregivers. These can be found in the literature rack in the church foyer.

The Safe Sanctuaries Committee was established and charged with complying with the Conference guidelines for safe sanctuaries. This added benefit is gaining more opportunities to care for others. What a blessing we have been given!

**The surveys are located on page 7 and page 13**

(Discipleship Groups, continued)

### **R.A.D.I.C.A.L.** (Carl and Susie Davis)

This group normally meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. They are using a new James MacDonald series entitled, "Drop the Rock." The following is a description from Walk in the Word website: "Chances are you are not seeing clearly... especially when it comes to your sin and how you react to the sins of others. And chances are you will soon face a situation where you need to *Drop the Rock*. Let this message from John 8 show you how to avoid the modern-day stoning: labeling, condemning, and the kind of judgment that Jesus hates. The Word of God and the example of Christ give you the only perspective you really need: His."

[appleoakstreefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:appleoakstreefarm@yahoo.com) or

[suesue5@windstream.net](mailto:suesue5@windstream.net)

716-782-4611 or 716-640-7043

### **Ladies of Light** (Cindy Furlow)

LoL meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, from 7:15-8:30 p.m. All women are invited to "Come Grow With Us" with fellowship, food, laughter, and anything else that God directs.

Child care is provided.

[cfurlow@chautauquamachine.com](mailto:cfurlow@chautauquamachine.com)

716-782-2775

### **Band of Brothers** (Howie Wheeler)

2nd Tuesday of the month

[wheelerhoward55@gmail.com](mailto:wheelerhoward55@gmail.com)

716-763-0879

Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale

One Saturday a month

[kbhinsdale@windstream.net](mailto:kbhinsdale@windstream.net)

716-355-4382

Discipleship (Small Group) Note  
Jon and Becky Cable

If you are looking to know Christ and to make Him known, if you are looking to be transformed to be more like Christ and less like the world, if you are looking for encouragement and support in your walk with Christ, then one of the discipleship groups is for you. If you have any questions about discipleship groups at PUMC, contact Jon and Becky Cable at 543-5050 / jonbec95@gmail.com. You could also call the church office at 782-4031 or at debbie.johnson@panamaum.org. The leaders (and their contact information) are listed on pages 10 and 11. Please consider joining one of the discipleship groups.

Preparing for Rain (Jon and Becky Cable)

This group will be doing Bible studies from different Max Lucado books as well as hearing testimonies from the group members as to how they came to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and what being a new creation has meant to them. On December 9, we will be having dinner together and will hear from Bonnie Hurley, missionary to India, and what God has been doing in India and through Bonnie. There is room for you in our group which meets every other Tuesday night from 6:30-8 p.m. Please call Jon and Becky Cable at 543-5050 or email them at jonbec95@gmail.com for more information.

C.H.A.T (George and Trudy Anderson)

This group meets the first Thursday of every month.  
[gaanderson@windstream.net](mailto:gaanderson@windstream.net)  
716-782-3252

We Care (Thea Kester)

Every other Thursday at 12 p.m. at Rowdy Rooster  
[rtkester@windstream.net](mailto:rtkester@windstream.net)  
716-782-4620

**SURVEY**

As part of our *Safe Sanctuaries Guildlines*, we want to ensure older adults are safe and comfortable in their daily lives, in church, and at church related activities. We ask that older adults complete **Part I** of this survey. If you are a caregiver of an older adult, please complete **Part II** of the survey. Survey information will give us a better understanding of the needs of older adults and caregivers and how we can be of help. Your information will NOT be shared with others. If you need a personal conversation related to either being a caregiver or your situation as an older adult, please feel free to contact Pastor Steve, Pastor Dan, or our church nurse, Jody Marsh. Please return your survey to the church office either in person or through the mail (P.O. Box 218, Panama, NY 14767) by January 1, 2015. Thank you for taking time to complete this brief survey.

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Safe Sancturaries Survey  
**Part I (To be completed by older adults)**

Are you an older adult who occasionally needs help from family or friends? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need help finding resources that would help you meet your needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in being part of a church small group of people who are also older adults so you can share information and help each other? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in attending a one-time meeting, hosted by our church, to learn about county services related to older adults? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you ever afraid of a caregiver? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you concerned about your care or how your money is handled? \_\_\_\_\_

What could our church do for you as an older adult in our community?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Corner...

**Pastor Dan's** Happy Fall Greetings, Panama UMC!

As we near Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to thank God for blessing our church with a thriving youth and family ministry. We are blessed with the active youth in our church and for the families that routinely come together in order to strengthen the bonds of fellowship within our church. I am looking forward to another great month of ministry!

### Youth:

October was a great month of ministry with the youth. We completed a five-week Bible Study entitled, "Living Like Christ" in which we studied the five characteristics of a Christian that Paul lays out for Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12. This month we will be beginning a four-week Bible Study on the book of Ruth. I am looking forward to this and to see how the book of Ruth will eventually lead us towards the promise of the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas!

We enjoyed a great DCYM games and worship night at Bemus Point UMC this past month and look forward to another games and worship night at Trinity UMC in Olean. This DCYM event will be on Sunday, November 9. We will meet here at the church at 4:30 and get home around 9. The event runs from 6-8 p.m. Please make sure you have this on your calendar since these DCYM events are an excellent opportunity for your youth to make connections with new friends and youth from around our district.

Because Stephanie and I are expecting our baby boy to arrive on Monday, November 3, we will not be having Youth Group that week, on the 5th. We will resume our normal Youth Group schedule the following Wednesday, November 12.

Impact Campus Fellowship is a ministry that I am a part of at PCS. Our Jr. and Sr. High groups are thriving and have enjoyed doing a variety of things this past month. We have done a prayer week, in which we prayed for all the Jr. and Sr. High teachers, giving each of them a signed card and a Hershey's chocolate bar. We also had a game day that tied in the "Telephone Game" and a devotion about avoiding gossip. Our numbers are still strong, and I am encouraged that we are averaging nearly 50 students per week between the two groups! Praise God that we have 50 students who are willing to take a stand for Christ in their school and who are willing to miss a lunchtime with their friends in order to fellowship with the fellow believers! (Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

### Confirmation:

We had our orientation session for Confirmation and look forward to starting the regular sessions on Sunday, November 16. All classes will be running from 4:30-6 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Please remain in prayer for our eight Confirmation students, their mentors, their parents, and for Pastor Steve and myself as we lead these students on their Confirmation journey.

### Sunday School:

Sunday School classes are going well, and I am excited that each class has had good things to report. If you have not yet taken advantage of the opportunity to attend a Sunday School class, please come out Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

I hope and pray that you find a Sunday School class that will help you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

### Family:

It was great carving pumpkins at our Fall Family Fellowship Night on the Wednesday before Halloween. The food was great, the fellowship was great, and the pumpkins looked great! Our next Family Fellowship Night will be on Sunday, December 14, at 4:30 p.m. We will be caroling again this year around the town of Panama and will return to the church afterwards for a chili cook-off! Our chili cook-off will begin around 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. I cannot wait to try all of the chili that people bring. We will also have salad, cornbread, drinks, and dessert as well! I hope that you can come out and join us for another awesome time of fun and fellowship as we carol and enjoy some chili.

Please remember to pray for the youth of our church as they are representing Jesus Christ at school and during their extra-curricular activities. Please pray for the Youth Ministry Support Team, Family Ministry Support Team, and the Christian Education Team as they continue to work to provide the best ministry opportunities for our church family.

Be Blessed!

Pastor Dan <><