

CHURCH STAFF

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Dr. Mark and Diane Abbott, Spain
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Rev. Paul D. Caseman, Alaska

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!

ILLUMINATE!

A single candle burned dimly in the shadow-scattered cave. Hay was strewn chaotically on the cold, hard floor. Livestock of various kinds were carelessly grazing on what they could reach from the make-shift stalls hewn out of the rock. In the midst of the rustling of hooves and the random sounds from the animals, the shadows of two people were cast on the wall next to the baby in a feed trough. The mother and father were not ready to be parents, although God knew them better than they knew themselves. The process of giving birth was harder than either of them could imagine. Before them was a small child. This child was supposed to be the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. This child was supposed to be the Messiah - Emmanuel, God with Us. It seemed to Mary and Joseph that this child was just, honestly, a baby. They named him Jesus, because they were told to give him that name. They still weren't quite sure, but those angels HAD come and talked with them. In the stillness of that moment, as Mary looked into the eyes of this helpless babe, what she saw would change the world - a Light, shining like no light ever before.

“During this time of year we celebrate the good news that the Light of Jesus has pierced the darkness of evil. At first the Light was only a dim glow, a point of light envisioned by prophets. But then it sparkled to life as a baby in a manger. From this small beginning, the Light has grown and spread, overtaking the darkness, so that someday that darkness will be no more. The world will wake up to the dawn of a new day. It will be reborn as a new creation. During Advent we celebrate the coming of the Light and look forward to it illuminating the entire world.” (Illuminate Devotional, 7)

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

As we prepare, once again, to celebrate the birth of this Light, let your heart and head and hands be joined together for Him. Let the passion for Jesus in your heart be liberated. Let the knowledge of God’s glorious gift of love and light bring thoughts of joy and hope. And let your hands be open and active to show the world this Light.

The Light has come! Let it illuminate the world through you!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

RESCHEDULED
REGIONAL CHURCH CONFERENCE at PUMC
Thursday, December 4; 6:30 - 9 p.m.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to each and every one of you who packed a box or boxes, donated items, prayed for the givers and the receivers of the boxes, or gave money for extra items or postage for shipping of the boxes. With your help, we were able to gather and send 190 boxes for Operation Christmas Child 2014.

Special thanks to Ken and Katie Braun who organized this year’s project (from beginning to end), and for hosting the box packing party at their home on November 16.

***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 are available in the Narthex. The devotionals are being provided by the Worship Team. Come, let’s ILLUMINATE this advent season - the COMING of The King!

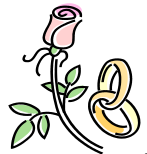
Pastor Steve’s December Schedule



- 1 11am: Staff Mtg; 6pm: Sanctuary Decorating; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
 - 2 6:45am: Breakfast Mtg; 1pm: Visitations
 - 3 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
 - 4 6pm: Church Conference
 - 5/6 Sabbath and Day Off
 - 7 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
 - 8 11am: Staff Mtg; 6pm: Growth and Vision Team Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
 - 9 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Band of Brothers
 - 10 7pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
 - 11 7pm: Winter Choral Concert (PCS)
 - 12/13 Sabbath and Day Off
 - 14 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship; 4pm: Chili Cook-Off and Caroling
 - 15 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
 - 16 12pm: Clergy Shepherding Group; 1pm: Visitations
 - 17 12pm: Lunch Bunch; 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
 - 18 4pm: Skiing
 - 19/20 Sabbath and Day Off
 - 21 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
 - 22 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
 - 23 1pm: Visitations
 - 24 4pm: Worship; 11pm: Worship
 - 25 Merry Christmas!!! Emmanuel has come!
- December 25 - January 1 Vacation

December Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Bert Anderson, Brianna Marsh
- 2 Arianna Seekings
- 3 Judy Parkman
- 5 Rob Peck, Paige Weise, ***Dennis/Cindy Furlow***
- 6 Lindsay Lombardo, Eloise Smith
- 7 Roger Kester, Evan VandeVelde
- 8 Andrea Gleason, Kathy Peck
- 10 Rebecca Sprague
- 11 Ann Schnars, ***Larry/Gay Ostrander***
- 12 Christopher Brown, Warren Crouch, Amanda Anderson,
Cam/Scotty James
- 14 Rebecca Dominey, Debbie Loveless, Michelle Osborne
- 15 Alyssa Jaeger
- 16 ***Mike/Kelly Range, Jan/Howie Wheeler***
- 18 Olivia Nagel
- 20 ***Steve/Krista Odell***
- 22 Bruce Scolton, ***Bob/Sarah Collins***
- 23 Jamie Halpainy
- 25 Peg Naetzker
- 26 Becky Cable, Marie Dole, David Munsee
- 29 Jessica Keefer, Rachel Steffan, ***Greg/Carrie Edwards,***
Jim/Rose Hunt
- 30 Lee Kester, Janette Weaver



Happy Anniversary!!

A look ahead to January...

- 1 Carl Anderson, ***Dean/Rebecca Sprague***
- 3 Caroline Apthorpe, Reese McGaffick, Erin Miller,
Pam Sali
- 4 Isaac Landin, Cliff Reardon, Jr.

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 - December

Ushers

Don and Tabby Butler
Ted and Sharon Passarelli

Nursery Helpers

December 7

Birth-2: Julia Nelson and Tena Dills
3-4: Carm Catanese and Abby Taylor

December 14

Birth-2: Marge and Graham Vollmer
3-4: Jason and Jolene Ayres

December 21

Birth-2: Jen and Claire Apthorpe
3-4: Carrie Munsee and Carolyn Hughesman

December 28

Birth-2: Cathy Erhard and Natalie Odell
3-4: Susie and Kim Davis

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

THANK YOU!

Many, many thanks to my church family for the great retirement celebration - to all of you who came, for the cards, gifts and joined in the happy occasion. It has always been a "labor of love" and I have not only enjoyed being around a part of every day to serve the PUMC, but also those who come in for funerals, weddings and other special things going on at the church. I will miss this, but I will be around every Sunday (as long as God allows) to greet those that come through the church doors and give and receive all of your hugs.

God bless you every one!
Art Osborne

Visitation Ministry

December 7

Kathy Smith TW 218 Bill Peck

December 14

Kathy Smith TW 218 Eloise Smith

December 21

Kathy Smith TW 218 Jack/Linda Sturges

December 28

Kathy Smith TW 218 Lester/Wyona Wevers

No CDs or DVDs - just a visit and a bulletin

WELCOME BABY!!!



Asher Emerson Landin
was born to
Pastor Dan and Stephanie Landin
on November 3, 2014.
Asher weighed 6 lb. 11 oz. and
measured 19.25 inches length.
Isaac is the very proud big brother.

We congratulate you on the birth of Asher and we pray
God's blessings on you all as he grows in the love of Christ.

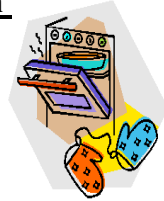
W.A.M. (Women and Missions)

The December meeting of W.A.M. will be held on Monday,
December 15 at **11:45** at the Rowdy Rooster. We look forward to sharing a time of fellowship with you. We hope you will join us.

This will be the last meeting until Spring! Start watching for a start-up announcement once the snow begins to melt!

Honey Mustard Glazed Chicken

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse



1/4 c. low sugar apricot preserves
1 Tbsp. honey
1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
2 Tbsp. prepared mustard
8 skinless chicken thighs

1. Preheat broiler. In a small bowl, mix together the apricot preserves, honey, oil and mustard. Place chicken thighs on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray.
2. Broil for 20 minutes turning halfway through cooking. Remove the chicken from the broiler and cover with the honey mustard sauce.
3. Place the chicken back under the broiler and cook for 2 to 3 minutes, or until the honey mustard sauce is hot and has glazed the chicken.

Serving: 2 thighs, Cal: 225; Carbs: 9g; Total Fat: 9g; Protein: 27g

STEPPING UP Men's Group - Starting in January

They say there's strength in numbers! Starting January 6 (1st and 3rd Tuesday until May 19) a NEW short-term men's study will be launched at Panama UMC called ***Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood***. This 10 week video based series will strengthen bonds with fellow PUMC men, form godly habits, help us claim more personal victories, share testimonies and establish accountability. We'd like ***EVERY MAN*** at PUMC to be part of this short-term men's group. Even if you've been part of a men's group before, or are now, this is a short-term effort, led by Pastor Steve. This is your call to courageous manhood! Begin inviting men now to join in! A sign up sheet will be on the Welcome Table in the lobby so sign up today!

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 Family of...

Evelyn Ann Pricskett
 Sister of Charles Loveless
 who passed away on November 22, 2014

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.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

On November 23, 2014, we welcomed two new members to the PUMC. While they have been attending and involved in the church and church activities for awhile, they are now “official.” Welcome, Emily Baker and Kathy Foulk.

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SPRC Announcement

The SPRC would like to announce the hiring of Robert Burkholder as the new church Custodian, who began on Monday, November 24. Robert has big shoes to fill; however, we are excited about the gifts that he brings to the position.

We look forward to how God will use Robert in his new role to grow the Kingdom of God. Please congratulate Robert on joining the PUMC staff.

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FOOTNOTES from the Library

Tabetha Butler

Well, it's been while since you read anything from the library so I hope you have a comfy chair, because I have a lot to tell you! So, sit back and put your feet up and here we go!!! I have added a considerable amount of material for your reading and viewing pleasure. Hopefully, there is something here for everyone!

Recently added Adult Fiction: The Calico Trail - Kristin Eckhardt; The Sound of Sleigh Bells - Cindy Woodsmall; The Protector - Shelley Shepard Gray; The Half-stitched Amish Quilting Club - Wanda Brunstetter; Abby Finds Her Calling - Naomi King; Christmas Letter - Debbie Macomber; What She Left For Me - Tracie Peterson; Threads of Grace - Kelly Long; Amish White Christmas - Wanda Brunstatter; A Voice in the Wind - Francine Rivers

Recently Added Non-Fiction: 220.2w The Bible Knowledge Commentary (O & N Testaments); 242.5M At the Throne of Grace - John MacArthur; 242.64K The Love Dare - Stephen Kendrick; 232.8B Forever in Love With Jesus - Dee Brestin (Bible Study includes book, DVD's, and workbook); 248.3L 107 Questions Children Ask About Prayer - Daryl Lucas; 242K Life From the Upside - J. Ellsworth Kalas; 242.5L Cast of Characters - Max Lucado; 242.65O Help Lord! I'm Having a Senior Moment! - Karen O'Connor; 248.8T What Happens When Women Say Yes to God - Lysa Terkeurst

Adult Audio Series by Joyce Meyer: Believing God; Overcoming Fear With Faith; Walking in Love; Pressing In and Pressing ON; Free Indeed; Do You Have a Crack in Your Foundation?; The Price of Progress

Recently Added Children's Fiction: Board Books: Dear God, Thank You For Friends - Annie Fitzgerald; Dear God, Thank You for Making Me Special - Annie Fitzgerald; Good Night Gorilla - Peggy Rathman; Good Night Bible Stories - Leslie Lindecker

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WHAT A GLORIOUS NIGHT

Julie Nagel, Music Director

What makes a great song? A catchy tune, great harmonies, meaningful words - all of these elements make a great song.

On December 21, the PUMC Celebration Choir will present "What a Glorious Night". This presentation is a compilation of several great songs, interspersed with spoken words of the message of love and redemption, inviting all of us to celebrate the birth of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In the presentation, one of my favorite songs, "Behold the Savior", contains all of the elements of a great song. Great harmonies and meaningful words work together to provide such comfort and reassurance.

Here is the Promise we have waited for; He will not leave us in the dark;

He is the Promise we have waited for; the cry of every searching heart.

He will bear our weight, He will wear our shame; come, lift Him high, behold the Savior.

Jesus Christ, law of love and light, come, lift Him high; behold the Savior.

How absolutely amazing that we are loved and blessed by a Savior who will bear our weight and wear our shame! We don't have to carry our burdens, faults, and failures - because Jesus does that for us. Our Savior, who was born without fault, loves every one of us so much that He gladly carries our baggage. What incredible love!

There will be two opportunities to worship with the PUMC Celebration Choir on December 21. Our first presentation will be here at PUMC at 10:15 a.m. At 6 p.m., we will join with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Healing Word Ministry Church on 3rd Street in Jamestown to share our message of joy and celebration with their church and community.

Please don't miss these opportunities to praise and celebrate the best Gift of Christmas! Invite your family, neighbors, friends, and strangers - the Promise is for all.

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. Please call the church office if you would like further information.

Preparing for Rain (Jon and Becky Cable)

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. Every other Tuesday night from 6:30-8 p.m. jonbec95@gmail.com; 716-543-5050

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

This group will meet on Thursday, December 4 at 6 p.m. for soups and more!
ganderson@windstream.net; 716-782-3252

We Care (Thea Kester)

Every other Thursday at 12 p.m. at Rowdy Rooster
rtkester@windstream.net; 716-782-4620

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

This group normally meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month.
appleoakstreefarm@yahoo.com or suesue5@windstream.net
716-782-4611 or 716-640-7043

Ladies of Light (Cindy Furlow)

2nd and 4th Monday of each month, from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.
Child care is provided.
cfurlow@chautauquamachine.com; 716-782-2775

Band of Brothers (Howie Wheeler)

2nd Tuesday of the month
wheelerhoward55@gmail.com; 716-763-0879

Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale's group

One Saturday a month
kbhinsdale@windstream.net; 716-355-4382

(Footnotes, Continued from page 6)

Hardcover Children's: The Parable of the Lily - Liz Higgs; The Big 10 for Little Saints - Matt Jacobson; Bear Stays Up for Christmas - Karma Wilson; Are Angels Real? - Kathleen Bostrom; Who Is Jesus? - Kathleen Bostrom; What About Heaven? - Kathleen Bostrom; What is God Like? - Kathleen Bostrom; Tomie dePaola's Book of Bible Stories - Tomie dePaola

Children's Non-Fiction: J 220.5b The Beginning Reader's Bible; Numerous Children's Paperback Books (too many to list!)

Recently Added DVD's: God's Not Dead; Apostle Peter and the Last Supper; The Book of Esther; Revelation Road

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Carol Hay

Don't miss this opportunity - Safe Sanctuaries Training will be held on Saturday, January 24, at the Clymer United Methodist Church from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Anyone who works directly with children and youth should have this training. Please contact the church office for more details and to register. There is NO cost to participants from our church.

Just a reminder, there are two surveys we'd like completed by the appropriate groups or people. There is one survey if you are a caregiver for older adults and another survey if you are an older adult. Information gleaned from the surveys will help us utilize the resources in our church and community to meet the needs of both groups. Surveys were in the November Grace Notes and have been in church bulletins. You may request a survey from the church office as well. Your participation is encouraged.

If you have any questions about the Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines or if you have suggestions for the Committee, please contact any member of the Team.

Corner...

Pastor Dan's

Happy Wintery Greetings, Panama UMC!

I've gotta say, November was an awesome month! So many awesome things happened in ministry, and, we also got our first real snow! I know not everyone is as excited about that as I am, but it always brings to mind God's faithfulness in continuing to breathe life into all of creation!

YOUTH:

November, as I have already said, was a great month. We started a new Bible Study in Youth Group on the book of Ruth, and I look forward to finishing that in the early part of December. Our final study in this series will look at how the arrival of little baby Obed to Boaz and Ruth not only showed God's favor towards them for their faithfulness, but also was integral to God's plan to eventually arrive on earth in human form as a descendant of Boaz and Ruth, of Obed, and King David, Obed's grandson.

We enjoyed a great DCYM games and worship night at Trinity UMC in Olean this past month. We played a giant version of Battleship and even flew paper airplanes from the balcony in the sanctuary at Trinity! Our next DCYM event will be on January 25. We will be heading out to Jamestown to go ice skating at the Ice Arena. We will meet right at 3 p.m. that Sunday afternoon (right after Confirmation is concluded) and will arrive back in Panama around 7 p.m. Please make sure you have this on your calendar since these DCYM events are an excellent opportunity for our youth to make connections with new friends and youth from around our district!

Here is my monthly update on the Impact Campus Fellowship 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 had the opportunity to pray for all the elementary school teachers, giving each of them a card signed by both groups and a Hershey's Chocolate Bar. One fun devotion from this past month for Thanksgiving was a lesson on "unthankfulness". We looked at how the prophet Jonah's unthankfulness was addressed by God and that we should take that example and do the opposite by being thankful always to the God who has given us new life! We are still averaging nearly 50 students per week between the two groups!

(Continued on next page)

(Youth, continued)

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 their fellow believers!

CONFIRMATION:

We had our first two Confirmation sessions this past month and they have been great! Please remain in prayer for our ten 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.! We have classes for all ages! I hope and pray that you find a Sunday School class that will help you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

FAMILY:

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! 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! Also, if you're up for it, bring your favorite version of chili to share with everyone who comes!

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 <>