

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 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!

LOVE

Not too long ago, I had someone ask me about the different words for ‘love’ that appear in the Bible. Let’s talk about that. Actually, in the original languages of the Bible (Hebrew in the Old Testament and Greek in the New Testament) there are several words used to describe love. The English words we use for love can help us describe what the authors in the Old and New Testaments were trying to say, as inspired by the Holy Spirit. And, since it’s February and we talk a bit about Valentine’s Day this month, maybe this will help us on our faith journey as well.

The two Hebrew words for love are transliterated as *ahab* and *hesed*. *Ahab* love is used pretty much like we use the word love - as an emotion between two people or the love of people toward YHWH God. *Hesed*, on the other hand, is often used to mean God’s loving kindness for humans. Love, in the Old Testament, centers on relationships.

As we turn to the New Testament, the Greek words for love are transliterated as *eros*, *philia*, and *agape*. *Eros* is physical, passionate love, with desire and sensual longing. This is the sexual love between husband and wife. *Philia* love is often called friendship love or mental love, because it is affection for friends and co-workers and others. It has a sense of loyalty and a desire to be in the company of someone else. Finally, we get to *agape* love, which is used most often in the New Testament. *Agape* is the unconditional spiritual love we experience for God and for each other. This is a sacrificial love and is the love that God shows for us in Jesus Christ.

There may be many different words for love in the Bible, but each has its place in trying to describe what God has created in us. We are complex creations who have friendships, families, sexual desires, emotions, and love and devotion for God and each other. God has put all of these into us in order to reflect the *love* He IS.

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Pastor Steve's February Schedule



(Continued from page 1)

Valentine's Day is not all about cupids and chocolate. Those things are enjoyable and fun (and delicious)! Take this time to express your love for God and for each other in all the ways that God has given us and in the ways He knows will be best for us. I can truly say that I love you all and thank you for loving my family and me in return. Be people of love, and most importantly for God, *agape* love for Him and for each other. Happy Valentine's Day!

In His Grip,
Pastor Steve

BAPTISMS AND NEW MEMBERS

Pastor Steve baptized the following on December 8, 2013.

Terry Badgley
Sean Michael Badgley
Dale Aaron Badgley
Amy Seekings
Haven Shaun Hummel
Sophie Veree Hummel

We also welcomed new members on the same day.

Bert Rappole
Sherryl Joslyn
Mark Akam
Terry Badgley
Amy Seekings
Shaun Hummel
David Diffenderfer
Luella Diffenderfer

We welcome you in Christian love
and are blessed that you have chosen
to take this journey with us!

- 1 Day off/10 a.m.: Friends of Findley Leadership Team
- 2 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; 11:30 a.m.: Lunch after Worship
- 3 11 a.m.: Staff Mtg.; 7 p.m.: Prayer and Praise Team
- 4 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7 p.m.: Staff/Parish Relations Team Mtg.
- 5 6 p.m.: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7 p.m.: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 6 7 p.m.: Safe Sanctuaries Team Mtg.; 7:45 p.m.: Finance Team Mtg.
- 7/8 Sabbath and Day Off; Camps and Retreats Team Retreat (Casowasco)
- 9 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 10 8 a.m.: Breakfast Mtg.; 11 a.m.: Staff Mtg.; 7 p.m.: Prayer and Praise Team
- 11 7 a.m.: Breakfast Mtg.; 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7 p.m.: Band of Brothers Gathering
- 12-18 Vacation
- 18 7 p.m.: Church Council Mtg.
- 19 12 p.m.: Lunch Bunch; 6 p.m.: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7 p.m.: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 20 Ski Night
- 21/22 Sabbath and Day Off; 8 a.m. (2/22): Band of Brothers Breakfast
- 23 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 24 11 a.m.: Staff Mtg.; 1 p.m.: Dr. Appt.; 7 p.m.: Prayer and Praise Team
- 25 12 p.m.: Pastors Gathering (Westfield); 1 p.m.: Visitations
- 26 6 p.m.: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7 p.m.: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 27 Ski Night
- 28/1 Sabbath/Day Off; 3/1: Skiing at Holiday Valley

February Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Joel Keefer, Dennis Scheller
- 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Trisquet
- 3 Eric Scolton, Anna Vandevælde
- 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
- 11 Anna Cartwright
- 12 Devin Ireland, Richard King, Paige Munson
- 13 Trudy Anderson, Emily Baker, Joe Edwards
- 14 Marissa Topolski
- 15 David Barr
- 16 Haley Holmberg, Bob Tordella
- 18 Dean Sprague
- 19 Natalie Odell
- 20 Diane Johnson, Adam Rupczyk, Averie Seekings
- 21 Scotty James, Wyona Wevers
- 24 Corinne Edwards, Joan Hinderer, Kristin Johnson,
Karen Moynihan
- 25 Sara Waller
- 26 Mark Akam, Bryce Ireland, Emily King, Hannah Schneider
- 27 Chase Hartett, Marcia King
- 28 Zoe Kester, Jon Wood
- 29 Briana Catanese



Looking ahead to March...

- 1 Dylan Peck, *Keith/Cindy Miller*
- 2 Curtis Wood
- 5 Courtney Reardon
- 8 Jennifer Sard
- 9 Sally Baer, Gregory Ireland

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

Sunday Morning Team

February

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless
Howie and Jan Wheeler

Nursery Helpers

February 2

Birth-2: Dawn and Jenn Sard
3-4: Becky Cable and Helper

February 9

Birth-2: Kim Davis and Cameryn Eggleston
3-4: Marge and Graham Vollmer

February 16

Birth-2: Karen Morton and Natalie Odell
3-4: Cathy Erhard and Diane Johnson

February 23

Birth-2: Tina Shaver and Logan Hickman
3-4: Barb Tordella and Sherry Joslyn

Sign up sheets to help with child care during Sunday morning worship are available on the Welcome Table.

SELAH, in concert

Love INC and its partner churches are presenting **SELAH**, a popular Christian band, on February 16 at 6 p.m. at the Reg Lenna. Cash, check, and credit cards are accepted, but cash and check are preferred. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome Table.

Visitation Ministry

February 2

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Trudy Anderson
Lester/Wyona Wevers

February 9

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Art/Jeanette Osborne
Julia Nelson

February 16

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Sharon Passarelli
Bill Peck

February 23

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Jack/Linda Sturges
Thea Kester

No tapes - just a visit and a bulletin

The Seven-Mile Miracle is coming to Panama UMC

This year, during Lent (March and April), for seven weeks, Pastor Steve and Pastor Dan will be leading us in a unique, video-driven group study that brings the passion and resurrection of Jesus to life. We will, "...experience the last words of Christ as never before." This experience will prepare our hearts and lives for the celebration of Easter.

Sessions will be offered Sunday evenings and Monday mornings starting March 2 and March 3. The Sunday evening sessions will be 6-7:30 p.m., and the Monday morning sessions will be 10:30-12 noon. Choose whichever session meets your schedule each week. The cost of the participant's guide is \$8. Scholarships are available so everyone can take advantage of this opportunity. If interested, sign-ups are available at the Welcome Table. See you there!

WOMEN AND MISSIONS (W.A.M.)

The W.A.M. meeting on February 10 at 11:45 a.m. at the Rowdy Rooster will feature Cindy Miller sharing her knowledge of quilting and some of her collection of old and new quilts.

Won't you join us?

RECIPE from the Parish Nurse

Jody Marsh

EGG McMuggin

- 1/2 slice light bread
- 1/2 c. fat-free liquid egg substitute
- 1 1/2 oz. (about 3 slices) 97-98% fat-free ham, chopped
- 1 wedge "The Laughing Cow" light original Swiss Cheese
- 1 Tbsp. shredded fat-free cheddar cheese

Toast bread, then cut into cubes.

Spray large microwave safe mug lightly with non-stick spray. Add bread cubes, egg, ham and cheese wedge, breaking into pieces as you add. Mix gently.

Microwave for 1 minute. Lightly stir, then top with cheese. Microwave for another 45-60 seconds until scramble is just set.

Stir and enjoy!

174 cal; 3.25g fat; 8 carbs; 2.5g sugars; 25g protein





OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

**Did you set a box per month goal for yourself?
How are you doing?**

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 in 2014! What a blessing that would be!

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



Food Pantry

Remember...there is a sign up sheet on the Missions Table if you are interested in helping with this ministry of the church. If you have questions, please see Peter Komarek or Tabby Butler.

Ski Date



Did you miss the ski date to Holiday Valley? Don't worry! There is another outing on March 1. Scholarships are available. (See Pastor Steve) Sign up on the Welcome Table!

What is a Scholarship?

Winston Simplified Dictionary #3: Financial support for a student supplied by an educational institution or by an individual

New Vest Pocket, Webster's Dictionary #2: money given to help a student

Hart-Button Pastor & Missionary Scholarship Fund

Originated 1994

The Memorial Scholarship Fund is in memory of Lawrence D. Hart, his parents, Clayton S. and Norah S. Hart, and his aunt, Edith S. Button.

The purpose of the Memorial Scholarship Fund is to provide financial assistance to dedicated members of the Panama United Methodist Church, who have felt the call to go into Christian Service, either as a United Methodist pastor or a United Methodist missionary.

The Memorial Scholarship Fund will be managed by the Panama United Methodist Church Finance Committee. The Finance Committee and Barbara D. Hart, as long as she lives, will make all decisions as to who may receive financial assistance and the yearly amount to be awarded to each applicant.

Any Panama United Methodist Church member over the age of 17 years, who has been a member for at least two years, and is dedicated to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a pastor or missionary, may apply. Financial assistance from the scholarship fund will be awarded for study in a United Methodist related college, seminary, or two year preparatory college.

Applicant will be awarded assistance in the form of a grant. However, the grant is contingent on the applicant performing five years of Christian service after completion of his/her education. If the applicant fails to perform the mandatory service, repayment of funds is required. The depletion of the fund is not to exceed \$5,000 per year. This amount may be awarded to an individual or to multiple persons within the year. This amount is not a guarantee, nor should it be an expectation, of the award. Grant value will be determined individually and annually. Requestor will apply by application and interview with the Finance Committee.

Any interested persons who wish to support this Memorial Scholarship Fund are welcomed and appreciated. It is my wish that this Memorial Scholarship Fund be updated and printed in the January issue of the church newsletter each year.

In my Precious Savior's Name,
Barbara Hart
January 2014

Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines

Carol Hay

At recent meetings of the Safe Sanctuaries Committee, several topics were discussed and acted upon. A meeting with department, program, and committee leaders was suggested to ensure new people in leadership positions are aware of the *Guidelines* and the requirements. This meeting has been set for Thursday, February 6, at 7 p.m. at the church. Invitations have been sent out, but it is an open meeting so anyone may attend. The forms required from adults and forms to be used for children to ensure workers know the child and can react appropriately in any emergency will be distributed and discussed.

An additional Safe Sanctuaries Training has been scheduled for Saturday, February 8, from 9 to 2 in our church. The District provides the conference approved training which a local pastor certified as a Trainer does. This training is open to anyone in the church congregation and those who work directly with children and have not been trained are urged to attend. Lunch and childcare will be provided and the church pays for the training. We are still looking for helpers for childcare. If you can donate a couple of hours, please contact Carol Hay.

The final grant report was completed and submitted to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. The grant of \$800 was used to help cover the cost of installing windows in doors giving all rooms visible access.

All documents related to Safe Sanctuaries are on the church office computer and a hard copy is available in the church office for quick reference. Two notebooks were made – one with the *Guidelines* and forms and one with all documents related to trainings. These notebooks will be kept updated to ensure proper record keeping.

Any questions about our *Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines* or the necessary training can be directed to members of the Safe Sanctuaries Committee.

Pastor Dan's Corner...

Hello, Panama UMC!

YOUTH

We had a very fun start to the New Year this past month! We kicked off the New Year with a Messy Games Night highlighted by “Egg Roulette,” “Cheetos Toss,” and a pudding eating contest with each youth wearing a pantyhose over their face! We also had our first DCYM event of the year with a tubing day at Holiday Valley. Finally, we kicked off a new lesson series working through the books of Joshua, Judges, and Samuel.

For February, Youth Group will continue as usual, but please keep in mind some upcoming events in March. On Sunday, March 9, we will be going to the Gateway Center for our next DCYM event. We will be playing laser tag, foosball, ping pong, human foosball, pool, SPAZ, worshipping together, and eating! We will meet at the church at 3:15 p.m. and should be back around 8:30 p.m. There will be a cost, but I do not have that information yet. Also, our ***Spring Lock In and Retreat*** with ***Infuzion*** is coming up on March 28-29. More information will be available on Facebook and in the next Grace Notes article.

One more date to add to your calendar is August 3-6 which is ***Kingdom Bound***. Please 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.

FAMILY

We had an awesome first Family Fellowship Night of the New Year with a Movie Night in Fellowship Hall. We enjoyed watching “Monsters University,” eating candy and popcorn, and enjoying drinks out of Johnny’s cups! Our next Family Fellowship Night will make it feel like summer again! We’re having a ***Pool Party*** at Panama Central School on either March 8 or 15. We will let you know via Church Mail, the bulletin, and Facebook when we nail down the right date. This is your chance to get that summery feeling back after these last few very cold winter months! We hope to have you join us for another awesome time of fun and fellowship!

I ask that you will come alongside me, the Youth Ministry Support Team, and the Family Ministry Support Team in prayer as we continue in ministry together.

Be Blessed and Stay Warm!

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. The Light Café will be open on Monday, the 10th of February. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and special hot beverages will be available for an evening of fun, fellowship, and relaxation!

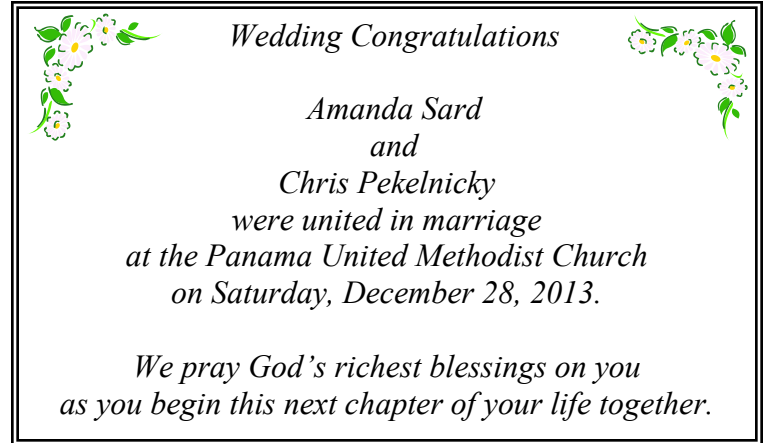
Jon and Becky Cable are hosting a discipleship group at their home. This group is doing a Bible Study that goes with the movie, "Facing The Giants," This is a great movie about learning to give God your best and leaving the results up to Him, praising Him whether you win or lose. We all have "Giants" 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 are 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. 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.



Offering Envelopes

Please let Cindy Cartwright (or the office) know if you would like offering envelopes for you and your family. ALSO, 2014 statements are on the Welcome Table. If you have questions or need help, please see Cindy.

Mark Your Calendars

- February 2 - Souper Sundae camp fundraiser following church
- February 8 - Safe Sanctuaries Training (9 a.m.-2 p.m.) - sign up
- February 10 - Ladies of Light/Light Café (7 p.m.)
- February 16 - Selah in Concert (6 p.m.-Reg Lenna)
- February 22 - Band of Brothers Breakfast (8 a.m.)
- March 1 - Holiday Valley Ski Trip
- March 2 - Lunch after worship

Check out the online calendar at www.panamaum.org