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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!

### **Why I Believe the Easter Story**

Are you ready? Are you prepared? I've asked that question quite a few times lately from the pulpit and in small groups. It's Lent and we are fast approaching the glory and wonder of Easter morning. Let's be ready!

This month, we have the awesome task of celebrating Easter! In the Apostle's Creed, we affirm together the climax of the journey, as far as our earthly Jesus goes. He's been beaten and murdered, put in the grave, been to hell and back, and now he does something that has transformed the world. Jesus is raised from the dead...when dead wasn't really dead for good!

*...On the third day he rose again...*

The resurrection account of Jesus is recorded in the Gospels from the eyewitnesses to the event. Various men and women witnessed the empty tomb, the missing guards, angels, and the linens that had been wrapped around Jesus' body. More importantly, they witnessed the risen Christ himself, talking and standing with them. This truth claim is essential to the Christian faith and central to the validity of Jesus' words, which claimed that he would rise after three days. It also represents victory over Satan, fuels our hope in God's promises, and provides a tangible idea of our coming destiny.

Three days after Jesus had been placed in the tomb, he was risen from the dead and took on a glorified human body. The act of rising from the dead is not something that Jesus himself accomplished, but he "was raised" from the dead by the divine power of the Triune God. The disciples and those that were following Jesus had not completely understood the breadth of his role in God's plan. The resurrection was the new beginning that convinced the disciples that Jesus was truly the Messiah. It proved that he triumphed over death, and was divine. This added validity, also then, to the other

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claims of Jesus, his description of the kingdom of God, and his commandments and teachings.

Jesus appeared to the men and women that he encountered just after the resurrection and was in a glorified human body. Resurrection is not simply a matter for Jesus of returning to the completely divine nature from whence he existed prior to the incarnation. Following the incarnation and his life and death, Jesus is resurrected in bodily form, albeit glorified. We see evidence that the body Jesus has after the resurrection exhibits scars and holes that were made during the crucifixion. However, the major internal damage and causes of death have been restored and Jesus is resurrected into a renewed body.

The effect of this truth claim is that just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, will be raised from the dead. Just as Jesus lives in heaven as a human and divine being, we, too, will live as glorified humans when Jesus returns.

The ultimate focus of Easter is our hope for the future, when we will come into our own glorified bodies, bowing before our Lord and Savior, placing at his feet all that we have stored up in heaven! Eternally praising him, worshipping him, and basking in his love. May it be soon!

So, why do I believe the Easter story? Because *dead* doesn't mean *dead* for good! Holy Week is coming...be prepared!

In His Grip,  
Pastor Steve

On Good Friday, April 18, at 7 p.m., the combined choirs of the Panama Baptist and Panama United Methodist Churches will present, "**Jesus, Son of God**", a dramatic Easter Presentation. This exciting collaboration will be held at the Panama Central School auditorium.

God sent us Jesus Christ, His only Son, so that sin and death could be defeated. We have eternal life because of God's great love for us.

Please don't miss this opportunity to invite a friend, co-worker, neighbor, or relative to this uplifting presentation.

**JESUS, Son of God**

**Pastor Steve's April Schedule**



- 1 1pm: Visitations
- 2 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Choir Rehearsal
- 3 12pm: CRM Teleconference
- 4/5 Sabbath and Day Off
- 6 8am-12pm: Sunday School/Worship; 6pm: 7 Mile Miracle Bible Study
- 7 10:30am: 7 Mile Miracle Bible Study; 2:30pm: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise Team
- 8 7am: Breakfast Meeting; 1pm: Visitation; 7pm: Band of Brothers Gathering
- 9 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Choir Rehearsal
- 10 6pm: VBS Planning Meeting
- 11/12 Sabbath and Day Off; 4/12: Friends of Findley Leadership Team Meeting
- 13 8pm-12pm: Sunday School/Worship; 6pm: 7 Mile Miracle Bible Study
- 14 10:30am: 7 Mile Miracle Bible Study; 2:30pm: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise Team
- 15 1pm: Visitations
- 16 12pm: Lunch Bunch; 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Choir Rehearsal
- 17 6pm: Holy Thursday Meal and Worship
- 18 7pm: Good Friday Worship at Panama Central School
- 19 6:30pm: Walk to the Crosses; 11pm: Easter Vigil
- 20 8am-12pm: Sunday School/Worship
- 21 Day Off
- 22 1pm: Visitations
- 23 Cattaraugus County Envirothon
- 25/26 Sabbath and Day Off
- 27 8am-12pm: Sunday School/Worship
- 28 11pm: Staff Meeting; 7pm: Prayer and Praise Team
- 29 12pm: Pastors' Gathering (Clymer); 1pm: Visitations
- 30 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Choir Rehearsal

## April Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Caleb Caldwell, Adyn Hay, Megan Malinoski,  
Rex Marsh
- 2 Joshua Cable, *Joe/Joanne Miktuk*
- 3 Kylie Schnars, Jean Vanderkooi
- 4 Bill Caldwell, Sam Catanese, Tara Hosier, Ben Taylor
- 6 Janice Franklin
- 7 Derek Hosier, Kyle Hosier, Kollin Sturges
- 8 *Jon/Becky Cable*
- 10 Maddeline Wheeler
- 11 Shawn Chapman, Alexandria King
- 12 Emily Waller
- 13 Pastor Steve
- 14 Kennadee Woods
- 15 Chad Fredd, Paula Komarek
- 16 Tom Baer
- 17 Tina Swineford
- 18 Hannah Calcaterra, Megan Hinderer, Rebecca Jaeger, Hunter  
Kester, Donovan Schnars, Lester Wevers
- 19 Dave Sturges (younger), *Art/Jeanette Osborne*
- 20 Donna Peterson
- 21 Orlo Jackson, Tim Middleton
- 22 Cam James, Jeff Ostrander, Chuck Parkman  
Jean Trisket, *Bob/Diane Johnson*
- 23 Larissa Enlow, Cherry Gleason, Tyler Marsh, Ted Rokey
- 24 Gracie Cable, Kate Kester, Elinor Sturges
- 25 Joanne Fisher, *Dave/Joan Hinderer*
- 26 Bob Collins, Paula McCordic
- 27 David Auge, Calvin Carr
- 28 Cindy Cartwright, *Warren/Cindy Crouch*
- 29 David Sturges (older)
- 30 Jolene Ayres, *Dan/Paula Wesolowski*



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

### April Ushers

Doug and Cindy Weise  
Tim and Tena Dills

### Nursery Helpers

#### April 6

Birth-2: Adam and Tory Irgang  
3-4: Julia Nelson and Barb Tordella

#### April 13

Birth-2: Kennadee and Sue Woods  
3-4: Tina and Michaela Swineford

#### April 20

Birth-2: Karen Morton and ?  
3-4: ?

#### April 27

Birth-2: Kimberly and Susie Davis  
3-4: Julia Nelson and Catherine Erhard

We are always looking for help in both nurseries. Please check out the sign up sheet on the Welcome Table if this is a ministry in which you might be interested.

### FLOWER CHART

There is still plenty of room on the 2014 Flower Chart! Please feel free to sign up to place flowers in honor of or memory of loved ones. The chart is located on the bulletin board next to the main-level nursery. The cost is \$20 and can be marked as "Flowers" and placed in your weekly offering envelope.

Thank you!



## Visitation Ministry

### April 6

David Sturges Hultquist 2242  
Kathy Smith TW 218

Sharon Passarelli  
Thea Kester

### April 13

David Sturges Hultquist 2242  
Kathy Smith TW 218

Jack/Linda Sturges  
Diane Johnson

### April 20

David Sturges Hultquist 2242  
Kathy Smith TW 218

Julia Nelson  
Trudy Anderson

### April 27

David Sturges Hultquist 2242  
Kathy Smith TW 218

Lester/Wyona Wevers  
Eloise Smith

**No tapes - just a visit and a bulletin**

## Friends of Findley Work Weekend

This May (16-18), there is an opportunity to serve God with your hands and feet outside the walls of the church. The Friends of Findley are having a work weekend to get the camp ready for the summer season.

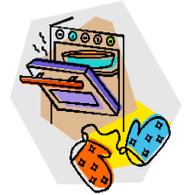
The work weekend will be held from Friday through Sunday. Projects will include light construction, cleaning, trails maintenance, and gardening, along with food, fun, fellowship, and getting away from home for a few days at Camp.

Lodging and food are provided for anyone who comes to work.

See Pastor Steve for details.



## Chocolate Caramel Cake Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse



1 box Devil's Food cake mix  
10 oz. Diet Coke  
1 egg white  
6 oz. fat free caramel ice cream topping  
7 oz. reduced fat sweetened condensed milk  
1 c. Heath Bar Bits  
1 container fat free Cool Whip

Mix cake mix, Diet Coke and egg white.

Bake as directed in a 9x13 pan.

During the last few minutes of baking, put caramel and condensed milk in a saucepan and stir over medium heat until smooth.

Take cake out of oven and poke holes all over the top with the handle of a wooden spoon.

Pour caramel/milk mixture over warm cake filling in holes. Sprinkle with 1/2 c. Heath Bar Bits over top.

Cool completely.

Cover with Cool Whip and sprinkle with remaining 1/2 c. Heath Bar Bits.

Keep in refrigerator until served.

## W.A.M.

(Women and Missions)

The April 14 meeting of W.A.M. will be held at the Rowdy Rooster at 11:45 a.m.  
Hope to see YOU there!

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

*Do you have any boxes packed yet?  
It's never too early to get started!  
November will be here before you know it!*

**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.



**March Tithes and Offerings**

- Envelope Checks - \$23,917
- Envelope Cash - \$735
- Plate Cash - \$974.50
- Trustees - \$465
- Sunday School - \$276
- Missions - \$729.22
- Flowers - \$126.50
- Connections Tuition - \$1,221.50
- Camp - \$120
- Food Pantry - \$385
- Chris Enlow's Mission Trip - \$700
- White Gift - \$248
- Connections - \$250

Thank you for your continued support of the budget and ministries of Panama UMC.

*With Sympathy to the Family of...*



*Carmen Miceli  
Father-in-law of Betsy Eggleston  
Father of Curt Miceli  
who passed away in Florida on  
March 19, 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.

*You are invited to a Memorial Service for  
John R. Hay, father of Doug Hay,  
on Saturday, May 3, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.  
at the Panama United Methodist Church.*

*Everyone is invited to stay for a brunch  
to be served in the church fellowship  
hall following the service.*

**CONNECTIONS SNACKS**

Early in the school year, a plea went out for donations of snack items for the Connections After School Program. It has come to our attention that the snack cupboard needs to be restocked.

If you would like to make a donation of snack items, please mark them for CONNECTIONS and leave them in the orange tote under the coat rack, on a table downstairs or on the island in the kitchen.

THANK YOU, in advance, for your generosity!



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer will be observed on Thursday, May 1, and we are planning a prayer breakfast, with Greg Edwards as our speaker. The sanctuary will be open throughout the day for anyone who would like to come in and pray. We'd like to have prayer coverage all day. If you are willing to be available in the sanctuary, please sign up for a half hour time slot.

We will close out the day with praise and thanksgiving in worship at 7pm, led by the Praise Band. Contact Becky Cable at 543-5050 or jonbec95@gmail.com for further information.

## SAVE THE DATE, MEN!

The 2014 Cornerstone Men's Retreat will be Friday-Saturday, June 6-7, 2014 at Camp Mission Meadows.

More information will be coming, but...

**SAVE THE DATE**...mark your calendars today!

*Thank You!*

*Jane Nagel would like to thank you for your cards, visits, phone calls and especially your prayers, during her recent hospitalization and time of recuperation.*

*She is pleased to be part of such a loving church family.*

## *VBS - Vacation Bible School*

Our first VBS meeting is April 10 at 6 p.m. The theme is SonTreasure Island. We have new ideas for this year - some of which involve several of PUMC's ministry teams. This will be an incredible outreach for our Panama community!

Vacation Bible School will be held July 13 - July 17, 2014. If you are interested in helping - please attend the first meeting, or contact Stacy at 782-2461.

## **CAMPING NEWS!**

Long hikes in the woods, toasty campfires, swimming in the lake, games in the meadow. Ahh...Camping time will be here soon!!

Campers from last year have received this year's brochure, and are already choosing their favorite camp for this summer. PUMC is again helping to pay a significant portion of the camp fee for **EVERY** camper this year. Last year, over 20 children and adults attended camp! We will hear from some of them on May 4 during worship.

The 3rd annual **TACO IN A BAG** lunch will be held after worship on May 4. Donations will be accepted for this delicious meal. You won't want to miss this absolutely fabulous lunch.

Thank you for your support and continued donations. Camp is an amazing way for kids and adults to meet God in a beautiful setting. We are so blessed to be able to offer this opportunity to all!

## **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 Fur-low**. This group meets at the church on the 2nd and 4th Monday nights at 7:15pm. The current study is entitled "What Happens When Women Say Yes to God" and explores how to recognize God's leading and live in His will and how to receive His blessings and have transforming faith. We'd love to see you.

**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 7pm. 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.

The **Cable's Discipleship Group** is now called "**Preparing For Rain Discipleship Group**". It has to do with giving God our best and leaving the results up to Him. It has to do with Jesus feeding the 5,000 with a few loaves of bread and fish. God has and will do great things in our lives, we just need to trust Him and give Him what we can. Rain will be more beneficial when the field is prepared for it. With God, all things are possible, but we need to prepare our hearts and lives to receive what God has for us.

We are also starting a new **Bible Study** on the **Psalms**. Each week, we'll be looking at four different Psalms that go together and using Bring the Bible to Life study guide. It will be a great time of looking at certain Psalms that we have read many times or possibly not spent much time on as well. We meet every other Tuesday night at 6:30-8pm at the Cable's home.

For more information, please talk to Jon or Becky Cable. They can be reached at 543-5050 or at jonbec95@gmail.com.

We hope you will check out one of these discipleship groups.

## **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday, April 13 - 10:15 a.m.**

Palm Sunday - *HOSANNA!*

### **Thursday, April 17 - 6 p.m.**

Holy Thursday Meal and Cleansing Worship Service  
(to include opportunity for foot/hand washing)

### **Friday, April 18 - 7 p.m.**

Jesus, Son of God Dramatic presentation with combined  
Panama Baptist and Panama United Methodist choirs at  
Panama Central School

### **Saturday, April 19 - 6:30 p.m.**

Walk to the Crosses (Route 33 and Randolph Rd., Panama)

### **Saturday, April 19 - 11 p.m.**

Easter Vigil led by our Youth

### **Sunday, April 20 - 8:30 a.m.**

Easter Breakfast!

### **Sunday, April 20 - 10:15 a.m.**

Resurrection Celebration led by Celebration Choir  
*ALLELUIA!*

## **Mark Your Calendars**

HOLY WEEK - See schedule above

May 1 - National Day of Prayer (see p. 6)

May 4 - Taco in a Bag lunch following worship

May 16-18 - Friends of Findley Work Weekend

June 6,7 - Men's Retreat at Mission Meadows

July 13-17 - Vacation Bible School

**Check out the online calendar at [www.panamaum.org](http://www.panamaum.org)**