

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Senior Pastor
steven.taylor@panamaum.org
Pastor Daniel Landin, Associate Pastor
(Youth/Family Ministries)
daniel.landin@panamaum.org
Debbie Johnson, Ministry Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant
debbie.johnson@panamaum.org
Julie Nagel, Music Director/Accompanist
julie.nagel@panamaum.org
Krista Odell, Accompanist
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse
Art Osborne, Custodian
Dr. Mark and Diane Abbott, Spain
Blog: www.markabbott007.com
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 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!

Somewhere between Resurrection and Flaming Tongues

When the disciples and the people around Jesus saw him alive after the Resurrection, their honest reaction ranged from total excitement, like the women at the empty tomb, to utter disbelief, like Thomas. Even though Jesus loved being reunited with those his people, Jesus didn't stick around very long before he ascended to heaven. I can't really blame him for that! After the events of the cross, and the whirlwind of seeing Jesus alive again, his followers were in anticipatory shock. What in the world is going to happen NEXT? Little did they know that what Jesus had promised them was ready to come about: the Holy Spirit! In those days right after Jesus ascended, the followers of Jesus found themselves somewhere between the Resurrection and Pentecost. Here's what happened in Acts 1:3-5. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

We sometimes find ourselves somewhere between the astonishing Resurrection and the delight of the Holy Spirit's presence. Our lives reflect the discouragement and feelings of a lack of purpose, like the two disciples who were walking away from Jerusalem on the day Jesus was raised (because they didn't know what to think). We sometimes are waiting for the next big thing to happen. A graduation...a wedding...a baby...a funeral... the next peak. All the while, we're in the valley. Pentecost is coming, we know, and Jesus is alive, but what about today?

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Psalm 95:7 reminds us, “For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!” It’s really more simple than I think we want it to be. If we listen to his voice today, in the glow of the glorious resurrection and in the anticipation of Pentecost, then TODAY becomes the most important day of your life. Here’s how it shakes out: the Resurrection is our promise of eternal life with God - death is defeated, sin is squashed, and we are given LIFE! Pentecost is God’s promise to be WITH us...always! Today is our chance to remember what God has done, give great thanks, and go out and tell others, show others, and love others. The kingdom has more room for the people in your life. Maybe they will be walking with you when Jesus strolls up. Maybe you will run from the empty tomb and shout, “HE’S ALIVE!” Maybe, we can find ways today, as Easter people, to not wait for the next big event, but live today in his life. God makes miracles happen every day, and maybe the next one is YOU - somewhere between the Resurrection and Flaming Tongues. Listen for His voice and live!

In His Grip,
Pastor Steve

Mark Your Calendars

May 4 - Taco in a Bag lunch following worship

May 10 - Annual Spring All Church Work Day
(8 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

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

Pastor Steve’s May Schedule

- 1 National day of Prayer (6:30 a.m. Breakfast; 7 p.m. Worship)
- 2/3 Sabbath/Day Off; Hay Memorial Service (5/3 @ 9:30 a.m.)
- 4 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; 12 p.m.: Lunch after Worship
- 5 11 a.m.: Staff Mtg; 7 p.m.: Staff/Parish Relations Mtg; 7 p.m.: Prayer and Praise Team
- 6 1 p.m.: Visitations
- 7 6 p.m.: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal
- 8 PCS Chorus Concert
- 9/10 Sabbath/Day Off; CRM Retreat (Casowasco)
- 11 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 12 11 a.m.: Staff Mtg; 7 p.m.: Prayer and Praise Team
- 13 7 a.m.: Breakfast Mtg; 1 p.m.: Visitation; 7 p.m.: Band of Brothers
- 14 6 p.m.: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal
- 15 6:30 p.m.: Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting
- 16/17 Sabbath/Day Off; Friends of Findley Work Weekend
- 18 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 19 11 a.m.: Staff Mtg; 6 p.m.: Premarital Session; 7 p.m.: Prayer And Praise Team
- 20 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7 p.m.: Church Council; 7:30 p.m.: PCS Band Concert
- 21 12 p.m.: Lunch Bunch; 6 p.m.: Praise Team Rehearsal
7 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal
- 22 Awards Banquet at SUNY Fredonia
- 23/24 Sabbath/Day Off; Dickerson Wedding (5/24)
- 25 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 26 Office Closed (Memorial Day)
- 27 1 p.m.: Visitations; 4 p.m.: Communion at Christ First UMC
- 28 6 p.m.: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal
- 29 7 p.m.: PCS Awards Ceremony
- 30/31 Sabbath/Day Off; Annual Conference (Syracuse)



May Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 4 Barbara Hart
- 5 Jon Cable, Kathy Smith, *Curtis/Patty Wood*
- 6 *Jason/Jolene Ayres*
- 7 *Everett/Eleanor King*
- 7 Andee Anderson, Matthew Apthorpe, Brittany Lenart,
Bryan Rupczyk
- 9 Jon Nobbs, Sarah Osborne
- 10 Jessica Komarek, *George/Trudy Anderson*
- 12 Aleena Anderson, Michaela Swineford,
David/Carrie Munsee
- 14 Brynne Hinsdale
- 15 Kristy Catanese
- 16 *Joel/Jessica Keefer*
- 17 Yvonne Calcaterra, Anna Jo Irgang, Patty Wood,
Carl/Sue Davis, Mike/Sara Beebe
- 18 Grace Munsee
- 19 Isabella Anderson, Michael Butler
- 20 Molly Butler, *Tim/Connie Middleton*
- 22 Gabbi Calcaterra
- 23 Bradley Osborne, Shelly Rupczyk
- 25 Cindy Furlow, *Doug/Cindy Weise*
- 26 Connor Tremblay
- 27 Jonathan Sturges
- 28 Cole Munson
- 28 *Nick/Katie Sard*
- 30 Jonathan Anderson
- 31 *Mike/Erin Miller*



Happy Anniversary!!

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

May *Ushers*

Tim and Tena Dills
Craig and Marge Vollmer

Nursery Helpers

May 4

Birth-2: Pam Sali and Kennadee Woods
3-4: Marge and Graham Vollmer

May 11

Birth-2: Natalie Odell and ____
3-4: Becky Cable and ____

May 18

Birth-2: ____
3-4: ____

May 25

Birth-2: ____
3-4: ____

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

Please feel free to sign up to place flowers in honor of or memory of loved ones for Sunday morning worship. 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

May 4

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Everett King
Bill Peck

May 11

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Sharon Passarelli
Diane Johnson

May 18

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Jack/Linda Sturges
Thea Kester

May 25

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
Kathy Smith TW 218

Trudy Anderson
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.

Register at www.campfindley.org or see Pastor Steve for details.



SKILLET CHICKEN PARMESAN

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse



1/3 c. breadcrumbs
1/3 c. grated parmesan cheese
1/2 tsp. dried oregano
1/4 tsp. garlic salt
1 large egg
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1 Tbsp. olive oil
3/4 c. marinara sauce
3/4 c. shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

1. In a shallow bowl, mix together the breadcrumbs, parmesan cheese, oregano, and garlic salt. In another bowl, beat egg until frothy.
2. Wrap the chicken breasts in plastic wrap and place on a cutting board. Gently pound each breast with a mallet to an even thickness (about 1/2 inch). Dip each chicken breast into the beaten egg to coat, then roll into the breadcrumb mixture.
3. Heat the oil in a large non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook for 4-5 minutes on each side, or until chicken is well browned and just cooked through.
4. Spoon the marinara sauce evenly on top of the chicken, and sprinkle the mozzarella on top. Cover the pan, reduce heat to low, and cook for 3 more minutes, or until the cheese melts.

Makes 4 servings.

Per chicken breast:

340 calories; 13g carbs; 14g total fat

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee met and discussed ways to distribute memorial funds as has been requested. We try to keep in mind good stewardship of these memorials.

It was decided that money given in memory of Violet Sturges be used to purchase 2 kneeling rails, as was requested by the family some time ago. Memorials for Dana Delahoy will pay for 2 kneeling rails. Brass plates are to be placed on the back of these.

A request from the worship team to purchase a new camera for the AV room, costing approximately \$1,500, was granted in memory of Joanne Scolton.

Respectfully submitted,
Eloise Smith

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.

With Sympathy to the Families of...

Linda Hayes

April 7, 2014

Mother of Jody (Jeffrey) Hay

Sister of Rita Lenart

and

Bernice Range

April 19, 2014

Wife of Dale Range

Mother of Michael (Kelly Beckerink) Range



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.



Baptism

Averie Erma Seekings

(daughter of Buck and Kristine Seekings)

was baptized on

April 6, 2014

at the

Panama United Methodist Church

by

Rev. Steven Taylor

We, as a community of believers, welcome Averie in Christian love and we pray God's richest blessings upon her as she grows and matures in her faith.

SAVE THE DATE, MEN!

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

Registration materials can be found online at
http://www.cornerstonedistrict.com/page/mens_retreat
or pick up a form in the narthex.

April Tithes and Offerings

- Envelope Checks/Cash - \$21,012.00
- Plate Cash - \$613.40
- Trustees - \$1,275.00
- Sunday School - \$231.20
- Missions - \$673.42
- Flowers - \$258.00
- Connections Tuition - \$351.50
- Connections Donation - \$25.00
- Food Pantry - \$344.66
- Chris Enlow's Mission Trip - \$345.00
- White Gift - \$499.00
- E/O Breakfast Donation - \$45.00
- Easter Breakfast Donation - \$41.00
- Family Life Center - \$20.00
- Memorials - \$160.00

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

W.A.M.

(Women and Missions)

Pauline Edsall will present "A Woman and Her
Many Hats" at the May 12 meeting of W.A.M.

We are sure you will enjoy this presentation at
11:45 a.m. at the Rowdy Rooster. We hope to see you there!

**ANNUAL SPRING
ALL CHURCH WORK DAY
Saturday, May 10; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.**



CAMPING NEWS!

Long hikes in the woods, toasty camp-
fires, 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 signifi-
cant 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 4th during worship.

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.



Footnotes from the Library

Could it actually be Spring??? I sure hope so!! Some wonderful things have been donated to the PUMC library and with this nicer weather, why not stop in for a good read to enjoy on the porch with a cup of tea or coffee???

Happy Reading!
Tabby

Here's what's new...

Fiction:

Wanda Brunstetter-The Healing; The Brides of Webster County
Beverly Lewis-The Guardian
Mindy Starns Clark-The Amish Nanny
Karen Kingsbury-Sunrise; Sunset
Denise Hunter-A Cowboy's Touch
Vannetta Chapman-Material Witness
Charlotte Hubbard-Summer of Secrets; Autumn Winds

Non-fiction:

241.4S Bless Your Socks Off (Sandra Aldrich)
235.3S When You Need a Miracle (Ann Spangler)
248.4C You Were Made for More (Jim Cymbala)
242.5L Cast of Characters (Max Lucado)
248.86V Unstoppable (Nick Vujicic)
306.89F Spiritual Divorce (Debbie Ford)

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held July 13 - July 17, 2014. If you are interested in helping, please contact Stacy at 782-2461.

From the desk of Pastor Dan...

Hello, Panama UMC!

YOUTH: One of the highlights of this spring semester so far has been our Spring Lock In and Retreat with Infuzion this past March. We enjoyed our weekend with the Infuzion team, the chance to learn more about prayer, and also to enjoy some fun lock in games and food! It was a blast and we're looking forward to the next one we have.

We will be starting out the month of May with our final DCYM event of the school year. We will be having a worship and games night at the Frewsburg Relief Zone on Sunday, May 4. The time is from 6-8pm, so we'll plan on meeting here at PUMC at 5:15pm and arrive back around 8:30pm. There is no cost - it is a FREE event!

The Youth Group has a mega-fundraising event in the works for June/July, so as we continue to nail down details, please keep your eyes open for when we announce the date and event in the near future.

Please pray for all of the youth of our church as they finish up their school year. Pray for low stress, fun study time, and success as they take finals and Regents exams.

FAMILY: Our Family Ministry Support Team is working on planning some great FFNs for the summer, but we have not nailed down dates yet. When we do, we will be announcing those on Facebook, in ChurchMail, in the bulletin, and in future Grace Notes articles. Please pray for our FMST as we continue to work on creating a great Family Ministry here at PUMC.

IMPACT: The Impact Campus Fellowship ministry at Panama Central School has been a blast so far this year. It has been a huge blessing to start the Jr. High group this past March and we're looking forward to continuing our ministry to the Jr. High age group next year as well. All donations made to our
(see next page)

(Impact, continued)

ImpactCF group have been super helpful and have helped us to be able to make Impact a fun place and a fruitful time of ministry with the students in grades 6-12 at PCS. Please pray for Pastor Kevin Hadley (Niobe Baptist), Pastor Matthew Hill (Panama Baptist) and me as we continue to work with our awesome student leadership teams in both age groups. Also be praying that the students will continue to act boldly for the cause of Christ at Panama Central School!

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.

Don't worry, it will be warm soon!

Be Blessed!

Pastor Dan <><

CONNECTIONS SNACKS

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

THANK YOU, in advance, for your generosity!

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 11

Camp Findley

12 p.m. and 3 p.m., seating times

For more information, please see

www.campfindley.org