

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!

When Old Friends Disagree

The United Methodist Church (UMC) is one of the oldest and largest mainline Protestant denominations in the world. Started as a spiritual movement in the 1700s, the parent churches that became the United Methodist Church grew from small groups, to small churches in various places around the country, to a world-wide movement and network of churches, pastors, and congregations. In my lifetime, the UMC has not only been a church in the world, but it has also been a church in drastic transition.

It really should be of no surprise that we're changing. The culture, the world, and the people in it, change continuously. The church is both a reflection OF the culture and an anchor FOR the culture. I read once that the church needs to be a thermostat for the culture more than a thermometer of it. God's design for the church is for us to be the conduit through which the ministry of Jesus Christ continues on earth by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes, when I look at the church universal, I'm not sure I see that.

With the changing cultures, in which the church operates as an agent of God's grace and truth, comes the pressure for the Church to also change at the same rate and in the same ways as that culture. When the Church changes to match the culture, several problems arise. These problems are at the core of the challenges we now face in the UMC. The issues in the UMC, in particular, are wide and deep. It's like old friends that disagree. They share a love that's deeper than the shallow surface issues, they understand each other better than they think, and yet, they just can't see eye-to-eye. When that happens, they reach what they think is an impasse.

Some would say that the people of the UMC disagree primarily about human sexuality. Questions that are being asked are:
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Should homosexual persons be pastors? Should homosexual persons be married? Should they be married in the church? Is homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching, like our Book of Discipline states, and church tradition affirms? Other people say we disagree about the Bible and the person of Jesus Christ. Still others say our disagreements are mainly about the authority of God's Word in our lives.

There has been dialogue - many years of dialogue. A quick review of the minutes from the Annual and General Conferences of the UMC (the gatherings of regional and world-wide Methodists) will show that all our dialogue hasn't worked for these foundational and controversial issues. We are still like old friends who disagree.

The problem with disagreeing about the authority of scripture or human sexuality or any other issues for that matter, is that it DISTRACTS us from the Great Commission to, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you...*" (Matthew 28:19-20a) While we're arguing and trying to convince "the other side" that we're right, we're watching people walk by who don't know about this relationship we have with Jesus.

In 2016, the UMC gathers for what's known as General Conference. It's this group of people, and them alone, who can make decisions for the UMC as a whole. Any changes to the language in the Book of Discipline must be made at that world-wide gathering of pastors and lay people, which happens once every four years. To be sure, there will be loud and passionate voices at General Conference 2016 that want to change the way the church stands on the issues I mentioned above. I, honestly, don't know what will happen in the 2016. There are several groups who are attempting to offer proposals that will keep the denomination together, giving local churches more decision making power in some areas. There are others calling for a radical split in the denomination along theological lines.

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Pastor Steve's July Schedule



- 1-5 Tent Camp at Camp Findley
- 6 8am-11am: Worship/Communion
- 7 11am: Staff Meeting; 7pm: Prayer Team
- 8 7am Breakfast Meeting; 1pm: Visitations;
7pm: Band of Brothers Gathering
- 9 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal
- 10 7pm: Staff/Parish Relations Team Meeting
- 11/12 Sabbath and Day Off
- 13 8am-11am: Worship; 5pm: Vacation Bible School
- 14 11am: Staff Meeting; 5pm: Vacation Bible School
- 15 1pm: Visitations; 5pm: Vacation Bible School
- 16 12pm: Lunch Bunch; 5pm: Vacation Bible School
- 17 5pm: Vacation Bible School
- 18/19 Sabbath and Day Off
- 20 8am-11am: Worship; 7pm: Family Bible Camp
- 20-26 Family Bible Camp at Camp Findley
- 27 8am-11am: Worship
- 28 11am: Staff Meeting; 7pm: Prayer Team
- 29 1pm: Visitations; 6pm: Growth and Vision Team Meeting
- 30 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal



Bring your children to
VBS...they will be glad
that you did!
July 13-17
6:00-8:30pm

July Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 John Hart, *Andy/Peggy Malinoski*
 - 3 Dick Edwards, Marilyn Storms
 - 4 Jamie Ireland
 - 5 Camden Lombardo
 - 6 ***Roger/Thea Kester***
 - 7 Wyatt Braun, Jody Marsh, Dick Nagel,
Jamie/Katie Ireland
 - 9 Linda Sturges
 - 10 ***Cliff/Rachel Reardon***
 - 11 ***Steve/Jamie Hailpainy***
 - 12 Josiah Sprague
 - 13 Jackson Scolton
 - 14 ***Ray/Cindy Cartwright, Joe/Kelly Osborne,***
Ed/Barb Trisket
 - 15 Rachel Anderson, Kayo Auge, Carrie Edwards
 - 16 Cameryn Eggleston, Bob Johnson,
Bill/Heather Schneider
 - 17 Tory Irgang, ***Daniel/Anna Cartwright***
 - 18 Pastor Dan, Dan McGaffick, Connie Middleton
 - 19 Shawn Schnars
 - 20 McKenna Kolstee
 - 22 Doug Hay
 - 23 Jen Feliciano
 - 24 Graham Miller
 - 28 ***Dick/Joyce Edwards***
 - 30 Ashley Dempsey, Lisa Miles
 - 31 Julie Nagel, ***Jon/Jennifer Anderson***
- A LOOK AHEAD TO AUGUST:**
- 2 Jenna Nagel, Bryce Hinsdale
 - 4 Ray Cartwright
 - 6 Amelia Sprague



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.

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I have read proposals from both camps and still am unclear how it might work. I also don't have a clear vision of what it will all mean for PUMC.

What I do know is that we must remain focused on sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Not matter where we stand on issues of human sexuality or scriptural authority, we must stand strong together with our mission to "Love God, introduce people to His Son Jesus Christ, and help those relationships to grow." If we lose sight of the main mission, then we will lose sight of the kingdom.

The Growth and Vision Team is hard at work here at PUMC to continue the process of creating a place for us to launch out into ministry in our communities and into the world. We're working on improving our worship experience, increasing our outreach and evangelism, developing new leaders for ministry, increasing our ministry to youth and children, and finding ways to maximize the use of the resources and property God has given us. Those are the things that will create new places for new faces to come, to be equipped for kingdom work, and for all of us to go out into the world to tell about Jesus Christ! There's still a Holy Wind that's blowing and PUMC is still a spiritual movement for Christ! No matter what, let's keep Jesus at the center of it all.

In His Grip,
Pastor Steve

Don't FORGET!

...Change of Worship Times...

July 6 through August 31
9:15 a.m.

No Sunday School for July and August



Sunday Morning Team

July Ushers

Joel and Jessica Keefer
Mark and Karen Morton

Nursery Helpers

July 6

Birth-2: Pam Sali/Thea Kester
3-4: Marge Vollmer/Graham Vollmer

July 13

Birth-2: Becky Cable/Gracie Cable
3-4: Sue Woods/Stacy Taylor

July 20

Birth-2: Barb Tordella/Natalie Odell
3-4: Tina Swineford/Katie Swineford

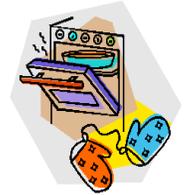
July 27

Birth-2: Jenn Johnson/Dawn Sard
3-4: Tina Shaver/Logan Hickman

We are compiling a rotating list for the ministry of Nursery Helpers. With many volunteers, we will only need you to serve in the nursery once every other month, or less (unless you specifically ask for more often). Of course, we realize flexibility is essential for us all. If you find yourself unavailable for your scheduled time, please either switch with someone or find your own replacement, if you are able. If that is not feasible, call Debbie in the office.

We invite any who are able and willing to let the office know if we can add your name to this rotation list. Please call 782-4031 or email debbie.johnson@panamaum.org.

Caprese Chicken Burger Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse



1 lb. ground chicken breast
1/4 tsp. kosher salt
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
1 clove garlic, minced
4 tsp. pesto, store bought or homemade
4 thin slices of mozzarella cheese
4 tomato slices

Combine ground chicken, salt, pepper and garlic

Shape into 4 patties and grill approximately 5 minutes on each side or until cooked through.

Top each burger with 1 tsp. of pesto, 1 slice of mozzarella cheese, and 1 slice of tomato.

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. At this time, we are in need of volunteers to fill the Monday evening time slots (6-7pm).

If you have questions, please see Peter Komarek or Tabby Butler.



...Wedding Congratulations...
 Mr. and Mrs. Jacob and Jenn (Sard) Johnson
 were married on June 28, 2014
 by Pastor Steven Taylor at the
 Panama United Methodist Church.

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.

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP

Family Bible Camp is an annual conference held
 at Findley Camp and Retreat Center in Findley Lake,
 NY. This year's conference will be July 20-26, and
 features keynote speakers Bishop Mark Webb, Unit-
 ed Theological Seminary President Wendy Deich-
 mann, and Bible professor Tim Dwyer. Programming
 is available for all ages. Register online at campfind-
 ley.org. Commuters are welcome. The camp charges
 for meals, accommodations, and waterfront activi-
 ties, but all worship services and teaching sessions
 are free and open to the public. The opening worship
 service will be held at 7pm on Sunday, July 20.

"Taylored4Praise" (Pastor Steve, Stacy, Benjamin
 and Abigail) will leading worship music every evening
 at 7 p.m.

We are hopeful that you will find some time in
 your schedule to join us at Family Bible Camp this
 summer.

Visitation Ministry

July 6

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
 Kathy Smith TW 218

Jack/Linda Sturges
 Bill Peck

July 13

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
 Kathy Smith TW 218

Diane Johnson
 Art/Jeanette Osborne

July 20

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
 Kathy Smith TW 218

Everett King
 Eloise Smith

July 27

David Sturges Hultquist 2242
 Kathy Smith TW 218

Sharon Passarelli
 Lester/Wyona Wevers

No CDs or DVDs - just a visit and a bulletin

SAVE THE DATE...Saturday, August 9



PUMC Golf Outing
 Timbercreek(in Blockville)
 3 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to play. Experience is not
 necessary. Just come and enjoy the fun! Please
 bring a dish to pass. We will have burgers and dogs
 after golf. There will be some pretty cool awards
 for everyone. A signup sheet and cost information
 will be available as the date approaches.

2014 Graduates



HIGH SCHOOL

Bronson Edwards - Jamestown

Stephen Enlow - Panama

Brianna Marsh - Panama

Ben Taylor - Panama

Emily Waller - Panama

Kennadee Woods - Panama

COLLEGE

Jessica Keefer - Houghton College,
B.S.; Business Management

Tyler Marsh - Jamestown Community College
Associates; Business

Olivia Nagel - University of Buffalo
B.S.; Health and Human Services

Adam Rupczyk - Oswego College
Journalism/Broadcasting and Coaching

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Daniel Landin
Master's of Divinity

Congratulations to our graduates.
Be the change that you want to see in the world.
We wish you all of God's best as you journey
forward in His grace!

CAMP



Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to send kids to camp. Camp is an amazing way for kids and adults to meet God in a beautiful setting. We are so blessed, with your help, to be able to offer this opportunity to all! Below is a listing of our 2014 campers and their chosen camp.

June 29-July 2:

Gone Fishin': Braden Cook; Gerrit Hinsdale

Breaking Ground: Tate Catanese; Bryce Hinsdale

Me and You: Josiah and Rebecca Sprague

June 29 - July 4:

In Tents: Ben Taylor, Abby Taylor, Joel Vollmer

Equestrian Encounter: Dale Badgely, Sean Badgely,
Amelia Sprague

July 6 - July 11

Straight Shot: Connor Hickman

July 27 - August 1

Guppies: Connor Tremblay

Equestrian Encounter: Riley Seekings

Miracle Mountain: Kylie Schnars

(101 Rodeo Dr., Spring Creek, PA 16436)

August 3 - August 8

Building Up: Natalie Odell

Breaking Ground: Gracie Cable

Defenders of Faith: Josh Cable

If you would like to send a camper a note, please use the following address (for Miracle Mountain, see above):

Camper's Name **and** Name of the Camp

Camp Findley

2334 Sunnyside Rd.

Clymer, NY 14724

W.A.M. (Women and Missions)

The July meeting of W.A.M. will be at the Rowdy Rooster on Monday, July 14. at 11:45 a.m. We hope you will be able to join us for this time of fellowship.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

There is a variety of PUMC Discipleship Groups from which to choose.

The ladies group, **LoL** (Ladies of Light), is led by **Cindy Furlow**. We are taking a break for the summer during July and August and will start up again in the fall with a new study.

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 **Preparing For Rain Small Group** will take a break over the summer. We will resume our time together in mid September.

Please be in prayer regarding your involvement in a small group. If you are currently a part of a group, we pray it has been a blessing to you, your life, and the lives of those in your group. If you have not been able to be a part of a small group, we pray that you really think about joining one come this fall. If you are looking for more than a Sunday morning experience, one of our small groups may be the thing you are missing in your life. During the month of August, we will be talking about small groups and hearing testimonies from others who have participated in them.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

RHETT WESTON BRAUN
Born to Katie and Ken Braun
and to big brother Wyatt
June 13, 2014

12:06 p.m.; 7lb., 10oz.; 20 1/2 in.



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

Vacation Bible School

July 13 - 17, 2014

6 - 8:30 p.m.

Dinner served for everyone at 5:30.

Please call the church office
To register your child or if you
have any questions.

SEE YOU THERE!

Discover God's Love at **Southern Treasure Island**