

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
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: 9am - Noon

PASTOR DAN'S OFFICE HOURS

M, W, F: 9am - 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!

Faith: One to One

The Bible doesn't specifically talk about personal evangelism or sharing one's faith so much as it talks about living so others can see evidence of your faith in Christ. Yet, the Great Commission commands us to go into the entire world, baptizing others in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In addition, the Apostle Paul names evangelist as one of the jobs within the body of the Church (Ephesians 4:11).

Now, we're all a little hesitant to run out into the street and proclaim with a big bullhorn that, "Jesus Loves You!" This is usually followed by the handing out of a piece of paper that invites them to have a relationship with God believing that Jesus died for their sins and is The Way, The Truth, and The Life (John 14:6). Yet, I can't help but think I sometimes fail to see the open doors in the relationships I currently DO have, through which I am being called to walk to invite others into the Christian walk of faith in Jesus.

Personal evangelism and building relationships are inseparable. There is very little chance for us to share the good news of Christ without first building a relationship in some way. Some are friendships...some are relationships built around work, or sports, or hobbies. Some are neighborhood associations or family relationships. There are many different flavors of connection to others which can allow each of us to share our story of why Jesus is important in our lives.

In order for us to fulfill Jesus' command for us to make disciples, we have to know why we are disciples, and we must be actively growing as disciples ourselves. When someone new comes to worship, he/she will not automatically know what it means to be a disciple. When we talk with someone from work or at the market, they won't necessarily know what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Our first challenge is to know why WE are disciples and be able to tell someone our story. Only then can we share our story and invite others into that relationship with the One who is transforming our lives.

One of the ways that we can practice being in ministry is to be part of a small group of believers who can encourage us and with whom

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we can be safe as we try out ministry. Throughout August we heard testimonies of what it looks like to be in one of our small group meetings. Small groups started the movement that has led to the United Methodist Church. Each of us has a serious decision to make - we will step forward and join or even start a small group which will meet in the homes of some of our leaders. Each will have its own personality. Each group will be an encouragement, and accountability, and a learning time. From there, we are equipped and freed to build the relationships we have by sharing our faith with others.

It's not a bullhorn, but it's way more effective in reaching the lost and transforming lives by, "...loving God, introducing people to Jesus Christ His Son, and helping these relationships grow". Begin praying about our Discipleship Ministry. Begin asking God to open a door for you to walk into and risk forging new relationships within a small group opportunity this fall and beyond. Come expectant to be transformed.

In His Grip,
Pastor Steve

DISCOVERY COURSE FOR NEW MEMBERS AND BAPTISMS

In October and November, Pastor Steve will be leading a new members and baptism course for anyone interested. The course will be six weeks and will discover the basics of the Christian faith, what it means to grow in Christ, and your place in the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ here at Panama UMC. If you have not been baptized and would like to be, this course is for you. If you are interested, or have questions, please let Pastor Steve or Debbie in the church office know.

The first class will be October 5th at 9am (during the Sunday School time). Baptisms and new members will be welcomed on December 7th during worship.

A sign-up sheet will be available on the Welcome Table.
See you there!

Pastor Steve's September Schedule



- 1 Office closed for Labor Day
- 2 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Nominations Team Mtg.
- 3 12:30pm: Lunch Mtg; 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal;
7pm: Trustees Team Mtg
- 4 6pm: Premarital session
- 5/6 Sabbath/Day off; Annual Conference Session (9/6)
- 7 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 8 11am: Staff Meeting; 7pm: Prayer
- 9 6:45am: Breakfast Meeting; 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Band
of Brothers
- 10 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Re-
hearsal
- 11 9am-12pm: Pastors' Fall Meeting (Sinclairville)
- 12/13 Sabbath/Day Off; Friends of Findley Leadership
Team Meeting (9/13)
- 14 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 15 11am: Staff Meeting; 7pm: Prayer
- 16 1pm: Mtg at District Office; 1pm: Visitations;
6PM: Growth and Vision Team Mtg; 7pm: Church
Council; 8pm: Safe Sanctuaries Team Mtg
- 17 12pm: Lunch Bunch; 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal;
7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 19/20 Sabbath/Day Off
- 21 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 22 Visit Houghton with Abby; 7pm: Staff/Parish Team Mtg
- 23 6pm: Premarital Session
- 24 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Re-
hearsal
- 25 7pm: Connections Team Mtg
- 26/27 Sabbath/Day Off; CCRM Retreat (Casowasco 9/26,27)
- 28 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 29 11am: Staff Meeting; 7pm: Prayer
- 30 10am: REUNY Mtg (Livonia); 1pm: Visitations

September Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 2 *Shawn/Ann Schnars*
 3 *Brian/Janice Franklin*
 4 Jane Nagel, *Sam/Carm Catanese, Jim/Sharon Rea*
 5 Kim Davis, *Steve/Stacy Taylor*
 6 *Duane/Emily Baker, Jerry/Gloria Scholton*
 7 Kila Kester, *Bert/Roberta Anderson*
 8 Jeanette Osborne
 10 Julie Dilley
 11 Casey McGaffick
 13 Robert Cartwright, *James/Ashley Dempsey*
 15 Peter Komarek, Joan Miktuk, *Jeff/Larissa Enlow*
 16 Alyssa Woods
 17 Roberta Anderson, Jerry Scholton, *Christopher/Carolyn Hughesman*
 18 Aiden Keefer, Jim Rea
 19 Daniel Cartwright, Carrie Munsee
 23 Tony Sali, *Lester/Wyona Wevers*
 24 *Jonathan/Jessica Komarek*
 26 *Todd/Amanda Kolstee*
 28 Charlie Auge, Dave Hinderer, Michael Range
 29 Greg Edwards, *Jack/Linda Sturges*
 30 Arthur Osborne, *Jon/Carolyn Wood*



Happy Anniversary!!



Looking Ahead to October...

- 1 Matthew Komarek, *Glenn/Melissa Topolski*
 2 Dave Calcaterra, Amy Caldwell
 3 Pam Ireland
 4 Steve Halpainy, *Pat/Joyce Dole*
 5 Kyle Hinsdale, Ariana Range
 6 Krista Odell, *Don/Tabetha Butler*

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

Sunday Morning Team - September

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless
 Howie and Jan Wheeler

Nursery Helpers

September 7

Birth-2: Barb Tordella and Kylie Schnars
 3-4: Buck and Kristine Seekings

September 14

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

September 21

Birth-2: Becky and Gracie Cable
 3-4: Julia Nelson and Abby Taylor

September 28

Birth-2: Sue Woods and Sarah Osborne
 3-4: Becky, Amelia and Josiah Sprague

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

ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER/BAZAAR

October 25th

- Please sign up to help on the sheet at the Welcome Table.
- We hope you are putting your crafty ideas to work for items to sell at the bazaar. Please make sure you also include a price that should be charged for your items.



With Sympathy to the Family of...

David J. Sturges

who passed away on August 25, 2014

Father of Sharon (Ted) Passarelli,
Jack (Linda) Sturges, Laura Mae (Larry) Nelson
and Richard (Barbara) Sturges

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.

Visitation Ministry

September 7

Kathy Smith TW 218

Trudy Anderson

September 14

Kathy Smith TW 218

Thea Kester

September 21

Kathy Smith TW 218

Julia Nelson

September 28

Kathy Smith TW 218

Eloise Smith

No CDs or DVDs - just a visit and a bulletin

The Lightbulb Just Went On!

We have all had aha moments in our lives - times when a sudden revelation is revealed. According to best selling author Kyle Idleman, we can experience these same kind of aha moments in our spiritual lives.

AHA outlines biblical transformation and how it works in a simple yet profound way. Do you want to change, improve, or grow?

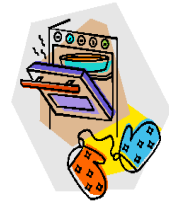
With personal stories, humor and biblical truths we will discover what it means to say AHA. We'll discover that when God's truth and the power of the Holy Spirit collide, anything can happen!

Please Join the H.U.G.S. (Helping Us Grow Strong) adult Sunday School class led by George Anderson. We will begin this new study on September 14th at 9am. All are welcome to join us!

Slow Cooker Root Beer BBQ Chicken

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse

- 1 c. sugar free root beer
- 1 c. reduced sugar ketchup
- 2 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp. liquid smoke
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/8 tsp. paprika
- 2 1/2 to 3 lb. skinless chicken breast



1. To make the sauce, whisk together all the sauce ingredients in a medium saucepan.
2. Bring to a simmer and cook for 10 minutes.
3. Place the chicken in a slow cooker and pour 3/4 c. of the sauce on top. Cover and cook for 3-4 hours on high or 7-8 hours on low. Heat the remaining barbeque sauce for 10-15 minutes or until thick enough to coat the back of a spoon.
4. Serve with cooked chicken.

POWERFUL TOOLS for Caregivers

Do you care for a loved one, older relative or friend? Maybe you help them with errands or tasks at home. You may even manage their medication or provide emotional support.

If you are a caregiver, you may be experiencing the stress of balancing your own life with their needs. Whether your loved one lives with you, down the street, or across the country, it can be a challenging role that can have a major impact on your own health and well-being.

This program consists of six, 2 1/2 hour sessions, held weekly. The next FREE class sessions will be held at: Heritage Living at the Chautauqua Mall. The first session is Thursday, September 11th, from 9:30 to 12 noon.

You will learn to:

- + reduce stress
- +improve self-confidence
- +better communicate your feelings
- +balance your life
- +increase your ability to make tough decisions
- +locate helpful resources

Pre-registration is required! Register today! Call (716) 338-0010 or email: gillis@cchn.net.

This opportunity is supported by The Office for the Aging, Heritage Ministries and the Chautauqua County Health Network.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

*Do you have your boxes ready for the collection?
November will be here before you know it!*

W.A.M. (Women and Missions)

The September meeting of W.A.M. will be at the Rowdy Rooster on Monday, **September 8**, at 11:45am. We hope you will be able to join us for this time of fellowship.

We have sent Campbell's labels and GM box tops totaling 4,970 points to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky to benefit their school. Thank you to all that continue to help us support this mission project. **KEEP THEM COMING!**

We are looking forward to October when we meet with the women from the Clymer area at the Dutch Village. Please mark **October 13th (noon)** on your calendar. Joyce Winner and Berta Mae Ives will be sharing their mission experiences.

Friends of Findley Work Weekend At Camp Findley

We've been to Red Bird. We've been to Haiti. We've been lots of places In Jesus' name. Here's an opportunity to go over the hill to Camp Findley, to be the hands and feet of Jesus.



This October (17-19), there is an opportunity to serve God outside the walls of the church, and nearby. The Friends of Findley are having a work weekend to get the camp ready for the winter retreat season. The work weekend will be held from Friday through Sunday, but you can come anytime.

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.

We would like to challenge the PUMC to send 15 people out from this church to Camp Findley for this local mission work camp. See Pastor Steve for details. Registration materials will be available in September on the Camp Findley website.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Sunday School)

Pastor Dan

This year, we will be having our *Sunday School Kick Off Event* on September 7th, starting at 9:00am. We will have an awesome **TREASURE HUNT** for the kids and a **COFFEE HOUSE** and discussion time for the adults. Please come and join us as we start the new Sunday School year!

We have been blessed with a growing group of pre-schoolers at our church, so this year, we will be offering a separate PreK Sunday School class for ages 3 and 4. We are still nailing down who our teachers will be and we are also looking for a helper for Becky's K-1 class, as well. If you are feeling called to teach, please talk to me ASAP...don't delay!

Classes this year will be:

PreK - ??? And ???

K-1 - Becky Cable and ???

2-4 - Jan Wheeler and Linda Sturges

5-8 - Carl Davis and Howie Wheeler

9-12 - Pastor Dan and Dean Sprague

Adult - Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale

Adult - George Anderson

Adult - Denny and Cindy Furlow

Senior Adult - Stacy Taylor

I hope and pray that you find a Sunday School class that will help you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

(Discipleship Groups, continued)

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

This group, which normally meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, will be meeting at 7pm on September 13th and 27th due to the Labor Day Holiday. They will be starting a new James MacDonald series entitled, "Drop the Rock". The following is a description from Walk in the Word website: "Chances are you are not seeing clearly... especially when it comes to your sin and how you react to the sins of others. And chances are you will soon face a situation where you need to *Drop the Rock*. Let this message from John 8 show you how to avoid the modern-day stoning: labeling, condemning, and the kind of judgement that Jesus hates. The Word of God and the example of Christ give you the only perspective you really need: His."

appleoakstreefarm@yahoo.com or

suesue5@windstream.net

716-782-4611 or 716-640-7043

Ladies of Light (Cindy Furlow)

LoL will begin on September 29th with a new study and meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. All women are invited to "Come Grow With Us" with fellowship, food, laughter, and anything else that God directs.

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

One Saturday a month

kbhinsdale@windstream.net

716-355-4382

Discipleship (Small Group) Note

Jon and Becky Cable

Please consider joining one of the discipleship groups. The leaders (and their contact information) are listed on the following page.

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.

If you have any questions about discipleship groups at PUMC, contact Jon and Becky Cable at 543-5050 or at jonbec95@gmail.com. You could also call the church office at 782-4031 or at debbie.johnson@panamaum.org.

Panama UMC Discipleship Group Information

Preparing for Rain (Jon and Becky Cable)

This group will be resuming their study of the Psalms starting September 16th. On September 2nd, they will be having a picnic for their first small group meeting. Anyone interested in joining this group is welcome to come that night to find out more information regarding it.

Every other Tuesday
jonbec95@gmail.com
716-543-5050

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

One Saturday a month
gaanderson@windstream.net
716-782-3252

We Care (Thea Kester)

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



August 2014

Dear Friends at PUMC,

Hard to believe that a month has passed already since we arrived in Haiti. Some things are different yet many seem the same. It has been great renewing old friendships, seeing the progress on some areas, and enjoying the warm sunshine. (I heard 48 degrees in Panama in August!)

We have had our first team, a small group of eight. There were three parents and five youth (junior high school age) among them. The kids were hard workers. They painted blackboards (actually, they're green), kindergarten tables, and several classrooms. It was their first time here and first time travelling out of the country for the kids. What an initiation to international travel!

The youth took turns leading devotions. It is so rewarding to hear young people speaking about their faith.

Our next team is the Professional Development Team. A small team of 5 will provide an in-service to the teachers at the school.

Please keep us in your prayers. You are in ours.

Blessings,
Bert and Roberta

Preparing for the new school year



Hello, Panama UMC!

It is so exciting to be entering into another school year and to be getting back into the swing of things after a busy summer. Summer was great, but bring on the school year season! We had a few great Youth and Family summer events, highlighted by a tailgating party at a Jamestown Jammers game and also a youth group trip to Holiday Valley to try out their Sky High Adventure Park. Now, let's dive into what is coming up in the next month and beyond!

YOUTH:

We will once again be having Youth Group on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30pm. All Youth Group events, except for DCYM or retreats will be on this night, so please mark Wednesday nights for Youth Group for the school year. We will be kicking off Youth Group with a fun night on Wednesday, September 3 from 7-8:30pm. All parents are invited to join us so that all parents, youth and leaders can get on the same page with Youth Group guidelines and also with the schedule for the year.

Some DCYM events to get on your calendars ASAP are: Youth Worship at Bemus Point UMC on 10/12, Friends of Findley Work Weekend at Camp Findley on 10/17-10/19, Youth Worship at Trinity UMC in Olean on 11/9, Ice Skating at Jamestown Ice Arena on 1/25, Games at the Gateway Center of 3/15 and finally, Fun Night at Panama UMC on 5/3. I hope that you can encourage your youth to attend these awesome district youth events as well as our regularly scheduled youth group nights on Wednesday nights!

We're looking forward to the beginning of Impact again at PCS for both Jr. and Sr. High. This year, the student leaders for both groups will be meeting on Wednesdays during lunch and then the Jr. and Sr. High groups will be meeting for Impact on Thursdays during lunch. Please pray that God would continue to work in the lives of these students and help them to spread the good news and love of Jesus Christ around the school. Pray for our administration and teachers so that we can continue to meet without resistance.

See You At The Pole will again be on the fourth Wednesday of September, which is the 25th this year. Students, teachers, parents, and pastors will be gathering around the flagpole at PCS and schools around the country to pray for the schools, teachers and administration, for our state, country and the world. Invite anyone who is able to come and pray with us, as well.

(Continued on next page)

(Youth, continued)

parent, pastor, or employed by the school to be able to come and pray with us. There will also be a SYATP Rally, sponsored by Impact Campus Fellowship, at the Gateway Center in Jamestown on Sunday, September 21, from 5:30-8:30pm. Our youth group will be going again this year, and will be meeting at church at 4:50pm in order to get there early to sign up for laser tag!

CONFIRMATION:

We will be offering Confirmation class for anyone in grades 6-9 starting in October. The class will run every other week from October through the end of March. Parents, if you and your student are interested in doing Confirmation, please sign up with me before the end of September. If your student is interested, please have them start thinking about who they want to ask to be their Confirmation Mentor.

FAMILY:

We had some great Family Fellowship Nights this past summer and now we get to look forward to fall! We are still in the planning stages for some great Family Fellowship Nights for the fall, so please stay tuned to the announcements in the bulletin and on Facebook.

One thing that I want to begin offering each month in Grace Notes will be suggestions for you to make a part of your family devotion times. The resource that I want to highlight this month is the daily family devotional from Josh McDowell at <http://www.josh.org/resources/daily-devotional/todays-family-devotional/>. The devotions start with a story and then end with some scripture and good discussion questions that will help you and your family engage in scripture and the daily topic covered. Please let me know which resources are the most helpful and which ones weren't so that I can offer the best resources.

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 <>