

CHURCH STAFF

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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!

"Follow Me!"

The New Year is a great time to stop and take stock of our lives and our faith. We've experienced the birth of Jesus, coming to the manger and hearing the angels sing! We've been to the parties and celebrations and concerts and now we're ready to look forward and step up as disciples of Jesus.

When the first disciples were working their daily jobs, they probably thought they had everything they needed - jobs, families (some of them), homes and community. Then, one day, this Jesus guy that they had heard about around town came walking right toward each one of them. They may have looked up from their nets or their tables or wherever they were, to see Jesus walking their way. They may not have paid it their full attention until Jesus began to speak...to each one...by name. Jesus' message was pretty simple, really: "Follow me." (see Mark 1:17) He didn't ask them for their money or their time or their devotion. He commanded them to **follow him**. Funny thing is, once they did that, all the rest of that stuff came with them.

Maybe we think that stories like that in the Bible are inspiring. Maybe we're encouraged by Peter and James and Andrew and the others. The truth is: WE are those disciples today. And when they said yes to Jesus when commanded to follow him, they went. Of all the ways to describe discipleship in the Bible and in the church (loving Jesus, devotion, walking in His footsteps), none of them is as accurate as *following him*.

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As we begin 2015, we'll be spending time learning what it means to follow Jesus TODAY. We'll be asking what we need to leave behind (pride, selfishness, greed, fame, comfort, etc.) in order for the Kingdom to be more evident in you, me and the world!

Happy New Year!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Happy New Year!

The Lord bless you and keep you;

*The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;*

*The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor Steve's January Schedule



- 1 Happy New Year!
- 2 6pm: Wedding Rehearsal (Seekings/Hummel)
- 3 3pm: Wedding
- 4 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 5 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 6 6:45am: Breakfast Mtg; 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Stepping
Up Men's Bible Study
- 7 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir
Rehearsal
- 8 4pm: Skiing
- 9/10 Sabbath and Day Off
- 11 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 12-14 Preaching Seminar (Casowasco)
- 13 6:30pm: Church Council
- 14 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir
Rehearsal; 7pm: PCS Band Concert
- 15 4pm: Skiing
- 16/17 Sabbath and Day Off
- 18 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 19 Men's Group Trip to Cabela's
- 20 12pm: Clergy Gathering; 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Stepping
UP Men's Bible Study
- 21 12pm: Lunch Bunch; 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal
7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 22 4pm: Skiing
- 23/24 Sabbath and Day Off
- 25 8:30am-12p: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 26 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 27 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Band of Brothers
- 28 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir
Rehearsal
- 29 4pm: Skiing
- 30/31 Sabbath and Day Off
- 31 Friends of Findley Leadership Team Mtg

January Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Carl Anderson, *Dean/Rebecca Sprague*
- 3 Caroline Apthorpe, Reese McGaffick, Erin Miller,
Pam Sali
- 4 Isaac Landin, Cliff Reardon, Jr.
- 5 Kimberly Barton, Betty Johnson, Ruth Russ
- 6 Jeff Ireland
- 7 Andrew Apthorpe, David Rowe
- 8 Claire Apthorpe, Mathis Baehr
- 9 Aubriana Dominey, Dennis Furlow, Jan Wheeler
- 10 Jacob Caldwell, Patrick Caldwell
- 13 Amanda Peckelnicky
- 15 Bruce Crist, Sarah Umberger
- 16 Allene Dole, Bob Gleason, Sharon Vandavelde
- 17 Bronson Edwards
- 18 Jonathan Komarek
- 19 Donald Garfield, Gladys Wood
- 22 Marcey Larson
- 24 Ian Ellsworth (Peck)
- 25 Kevin Beckerink, Linda Wood
- 26 Shawn Reardon
- 27 Alexandria Davis
- 28 Michael Sard
- 29 ***Mert & Janet Osborne***



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

Sunday Morning Team - January

Ushers

George and Trudy Anderson
Pat and Kristy Catanese

Nursery Helpers

January 4

Birth-2: Clint and Jen Apthorpe
3-4: Carrie Munsee and Katie Braun

January 11

Birth-2: Becky, Amelia and Josiah Sprague
3-4: Tina Akam and Logan Hickman

January 18

Birth-2: Jessica Keefer and Riley Seekings
3-4: Adam and Tory Irgang

January 25

Birth-2: Tina and Katie Swineford
3-4: Kelly and Sarah Osborne

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

Prayer Chain

If you have a concern for which you would like others to pray, please call Susie Davis (782-4611) or Jean Edwards (782-2800). This request will be passed down the chain to 20+ others who will pray for your concern.



Visitation Ministry

January 4

Kathy Smith TW 218

Trudy Anderson

January 11

Kathy Smith TW 218

Thea Kester

January 18

Kathy Smith TW 218

Julia Nelson

January 25

Kathy Smith TW 218

Sharon Passarelli

No CDs or DVDs - just a visit and a bulletin



SUNDAY MORNING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

CAMPBELL LABELS for the Red Bird Mission School in Kentucky (also look for labels on Swanson products, Pepperidge Farm, Prego and V8). To those of you who take the time to cut just the UPC code and logo from the product for us, we thank you. (2014 = \$131.65)



PENNIES for the Domestic Abuse Program offered by the Salvation Army in Jamestown. As you read in the papers and media, you know that Domestic Abuse is on the increase and it is important to help when we can. Please drop your pennies and other small change in the container in the narthex. (2014 = \$50.75)

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS for **God's Groceries**

- things like toilet paper, soap (all kinds), toothpaste and brushes, shampoo, and anything else that you feel would help those that are having a difficult time making their money go further. The use of the Food Pantry is growing and we thank you for your support.



WELCOME BABY!!!

Landon Jeffrey Miller

Born December 29, 2014

Son of Michael and Erin (Ireland) Miller

Big Brother is Graham

Grandparents are Jeff and Brenda Ireland

Great Grandparents are Joe and Jean Edwards

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



WOMEN AND MISSIONS

(W.A.M.)

2014 in Review

Speakers:

- Katie Crossley, Costa Rico trip
- Pauline Edsall, The Many Hats of Women
- Cindy Miller, Quilts and Quilting
- Susie Davis, Jail Ministry
- Bonnie Hurley, Mission to India

Contributions:

- Katie Crossley - \$25.00
- Bonnie Hurley - \$150.00
- Pennies for the Salvation Army - \$50.75
- Red Bird Mission - \$131.65
- (13,165 points from labels and box tops = \$131.65)

*We hope you will consider joining us in the **SPRING** for a time of fellowship. Our next meeting will be the **2nd Monday in APRIL.** Be watching for reminders starting in March.*

HOT SPINACH DIP
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse



- 10 oz. frozen, chopped spinach, thawed, squeeze excess liquids
- 1/2 c. light sour cream
- 5 Tbsp. light mayonnaise
- 1/3 c. reduced fat Parmesan Reganno
- 1/4 c. chopped scallion
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1 c. shredded part skim mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine all ingredients. Place in oven proof dish and bake for 0-25 minutes, until hot and cheese has melted. Serve right away.
Serves 10 (1/4 cups)

Cal: 92; Fat: 7g; Carbs: 3g; Fiber: 1g; Protein: 5; WW pts: 3

With Sympathy to the Family of...

Lois Seeley

who passed away on December 3, 2014

Mother of Kathy (Bill) Peck
Grandmother of Rob Peck,
Melissa Topolski and Ryan Peck



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.

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Carol Hay

Don't miss this opportunity!

Safe Sanctuaries Training will be held on Saturday, January 24 at the Clymer United Methodist Church from 10am - 2pm. Anyone who works directly with children and youth should have this training. Please contact the church office for more details and to register.

There is NO cost to participants from our church.

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 \$5000 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 2015

(Small Groups, Continued)

Ladies of Light (Cindy Furlow)

2nd and 4th Monday of each month, from 7:15 to 8:30pm.

Child care is provided.

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's group

One Saturday a month

kbhinsdale@windstream.net; 716-355-4382

STEPPING UP Men's Group

Starting January 6

They say there's strength in numbers! Starting January 6 (1st and 3rd Tuesday until May 19th) a NEW short-term men's study will be launched at Panama UMC called ***Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood***. This 10 week video based series will strengthen bonds with fellow PUMC men, form godly habits, help us claim more personal victories, share testimonies and establish accountability.

We would like ***EVERY MAN*** at PUMC to be part of this short-term men's group. Even if you've been part of a men's group before, or are now, this is a short-term effort, led by Pastor Steve. This is your call to courageous manhood! Begin inviting men now to join in! A sign up sheet will be on the Welcome Table in the lobby so sign up today!

Discipleship (Small Group) Note

Jon and Becky Cable

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. Please call the church office if you would like further information.

Preparing for Rain (Jon and Becky Cable)

Every other Tuesday night from 6:30-8pm.

jonbec95@gmail.com; 716-543-5050

Do you ever feel like you are a follower of Jesus, but from a distance? “Follow a Rabbi, drink in his words, and be covered with the dust of his feet,” says the ancient Jewish proverb. In Jesus’ day, disciples followed their Rabbi so closely that they would be covered with the dust kicked up by the Rabbi’s feet. Come, discover how you can get dusty and be closer to your Rabbi, Jesus, by doing what he does.

Our group will be using the video study called, “In The Dust of the Rabbi” by Ray Vanderlaan. These faith lessons are filmed on location in the Middle East and will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

Please consider joining us.

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

Meeting (1/8) at the Enlow’s

ganderson@windstream.net; 716-782-3252

We Care (Thea Kester)

Every other Thursday at 12pm at Rowdy Rooster

rtkester@windstream.net; 716-782-4620

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

This group normally meets the

1st and 3rd Saturday of each month.

appleoakstreefarm@yahoo.com or suesue5@windstream.net

716-782-4611 or 716-640-7043



May 2015 be filled with promise & peace.

With thanks and blessings from Village of Hope.

We are so grateful for your prayers and your support.

We enjoyed our brief visit home for the holidays. We wished we had more time here but we are hopeful for a return later this spring. Village of Hope has identified a couple to join the mission team in Haiti. We ask for continued prayers for them and for us as we prepare to serve our Lord in the New Year.

Blessings to all,
Bert & Roberta

Corner...

Happy New Year Panama UMC!

I hope that all of you had a very Merry Christmas and that you were able to relax while celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Youth: December was a short, but great month for the Youth Group. We completed our Bible study on the book of Ruth and we looked forward to having our annual Christmas party, but we were not able to because of the rescheduled PCS Chorus Concert. Because of this, we will be having our Christmas party with a “White Elephant” gift exchange at our first Youth Group meeting of the New Year on Wednesday, January 7th.

Our next DCYM event will be on Sunday, January 25. We will be heading out to Jamestown to go ice skating at the Ice Arena. We will meet right at 3pm that Sunday afternoon (right after Confirmation is concluded) and will arrive back in Panama around 7pm. Please make sure you have this on your calendar since these events are an excellent opportunity for our youth to make connections with new friends and youth from around our district!

Our Jr. and Sr. High Impact Groups at PCS are thriving and have enjoyed doing a variety of things this past month. We had the opportunity to raise money for the Fuller family who lost their home in a house fire. We gave their two daughters a \$50 gift card each to help buy new things to replace what was lost. We are still averaging nearly 50 students per week between the two groups! Praise God that we have 50 students who are willing to miss a lunchtime with their friends in order to fellowship with their fellow believers!

Confirmation: Our Confirmation class continues to grow and learn and we’re enjoying the chance to explore our faith together. Please remain in prayer for our ten Confirmation students, their mentors, their parents, and for Pastor Steve and myself as we lead these students on their Confirmation journey.

Sunday School: Sunday School classes are going well and I am excited that each class has had good things to report. If you have not yet taken advantage of the opportunity to attend a Sunday School class, please come out Sunday morning at 9am! We have classes for all ages!

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(Sunday School, continued)

Our classes this year are:

- Pre-K - Karen Morton and Buck Seekings
- K-1 - Jan Wheeler and Linda Sturges
- 2-4 - Becky Cable
- 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
- Sr. 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!

Family: Our next Family Fellowship Night will be on Saturday, January 17. We will be having another Movie Night at 6:30pm. Bring a comfy chair or pillow and a blanket and enjoy a movie together with your church family! We have not decided which movie we will watch yet, but I can assure you it will be a good one! We will have movie popcorn, candy, and drinks, as well! Invite a friend and bring your family, too!

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.

Have a Blessed and Happy New Year!
Pastor Dan <>