

CHURCH STAFF

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Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse
Robert Burkholder, Custodian
Dr. Mark and Diane Abbott, Spain
Blog: www.markabbott007.com
Rev. Paul D. Caseman, Alaska
Sandy Crossley, Connections
Joan Monroy, Connections

PASTOR STEVE'S OFFICE HOURS

M, T, W: 9 a.m. to Noon

PASTOR DAN'S OFFICE HOURS

M, W, F: 9 a.m. to 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!

Wow! Thank you, Lord!

Revelation 11:17 takes us into this new month - a month where we say, "Wow! Thank you, Lord!" Here's what it says, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign." The key to this verse, as the people of God, is hope - hope that comes when we give thanks to the Lord.

When I was a child, I used to love going to the barber shop (remember those?) with my Dad on a Saturday morning when haircuts were needed. In the 70's, that wasn't too often, but when we did, it was to Geno's. At Geno's shop, there was an old gumball machine that took dimes. When I went to Geno's, I would take a dime and would put the dime in the gumball machine, crank the dial, and, BAM!, out comes a gumball. That gumball was the outcome of my input of my dime.

The same goes for hope and thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is something that we have to give, and hope is the thing we experience when we do. This isn't a natural thing we learn to do without trying. This thanksgiving/hope process is something that Jesus invites us into, and something we have to be intentional about practicing every day. The reason we can enjoy times of giving thanks this month is because it gives us hope. And hope leads us into Advent, the time that leads us to Christmas. Sometimes, it's hard to give thanks to God due to the circumstances of our lives right now. Maybe we've lost someone we've loved, had a difficult season with our relationships, or are struggling in some important way. Giving thanks in the difficult times is not easy, but if we can allow the Holy Spirit to give thanks on our behalf, then the hope becomes available to us, despite our inability to give thanks in that season.

I give thanks for salvation and vocation. I give thanks for my wife and kids and family who love each other and me. I give thanks for the church we serve and the people of God gathered in this place who are gracious and faithful. I give thanks for Pastor Appreciation.

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I give thanks for the community in which we serve and to whom we go. Wow! Thank you, Lord! In ALL those things, I have hope for what God is doing.

How about you? Are you holding onto the dime, or are you ready to turn the crank? Are you prepared to give thanks to humble and expectantly wait for hope to come? Are we ready to come to the table and give thanks and praise for God's reign and rule in our lives? Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

It's a Harvest of Praise!

Thanksgiving is a blessed time of year for families and friends, the church and the community. It's a time to reflect and give thanks to God for all He has brought us through and for the hope we have in Jesus. On SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd at 7pm, the Panama UMC family will respond. We will WORSHIP!

We will be inviting our community, the churches, the businesses, and everyone we meet to come and celebrate God in a Harvest of Praise. We will have lots of music (Praise Team, Celebration Choir, and more)! We will hear God's promises to prosper His people! We will fellowship after worship!

Come and invite your friends and family to this Harvest of Praise!



Pastor Steve's November Schedule



- 1 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 2 11am: Staff Mtg; 6:30pm: Staff Evaluation; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 3 12pm: Shepherding Group; 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Staff Parish Relations Team
- 4 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal; 7pm: Trustees
- 5 6:30pm: Finance Team Mtg/Ministry Spending Plan
- 6/7 Sabbath and Day Off; Church Conferences (11/7)
- 8 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/ Worship
- 9 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 10 1pm: Visitations; 6:30pm: Church Council
- 11 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 12 1:30pm: Leadership Development Team Conference Call
- 13/14 Sabbath and Day Off; Harvest Dinner (11/14)
- 15 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 16 11am: Staff Mtg; 12-9pm: District Day with Bishop Webb; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 17 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Worship Team Mtg.
- 18 12pm: Lunch Bunch; 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 20/21 Sabbath and Day Off; Camps/Retreats Ministry Retreat (Casowasco)
- 22 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship; 7pm: Harvest of Praise
- 23 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 24 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Band of Brothers Discipleship Group
- 26/27 Office closed for Thanksgiving
- 29 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 30 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- November 7 - Regional Church Conference, Hosted by PUMC
- November 8 - Griefshare, Session 1
- November 14 - Harvest Dinner / Bazaar
- November 22—Harvest of Praise and Worship

November Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Mike Sard, Cindy Sturges, Joel Wiggers
- 2 Chris Comstock
- 3 Becky Barr, *Tom/Sally Baer*
- 4 Tina Akam
- 5 Chris Blose, Jim Hunt
- 8 Elena Komarek
- 9 Lisa Edwards, Linda Gleason, Logan Hickman
- 10 Katie Braun, Corinne Ireland, Erica Ireland
- 11 Marlie Seekings, Abby Taylor, April VanBrunt
- 12 Richard Crosby, Jean Edwards, Connor Hickman
- 15 Jaik Halpainy, Sharon Passarelli
- 16 Corey King, Genesis Moore, Christine Olson
- 17 Merton Osborne
- 19 Stephanie Landin
- 20 Peter Butler
- 21 Evan Lescynski
- 22 Natalie Woods
- 24 Everett Bensink
- 25 Kim Coleman, Mel Eggleston II, Gay Ostrander, Barb Trisket
- 26 Mary Lou Garfield, Gloria Scholton
- 27 Jack Sturges, Stacy Taylor, *Tim/Tena Dills*
- 29 Kevin Parkman, *Adam/Tia Kester*
- 30 Fran Sard

A look ahead to December...

- 1 Bert Anderson, Brianna Marsh
- 3 Judy Parkman
- 5 Rob Peck, Paige Weise, *Dennis/Cindy Furlow*
- 6 Lindsay Nobbs, Eloise Smith

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

SUNDAY MORNING TEAM - November

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless
Craig and Marge Vollmer

Nursery Helpers

November 1

Birth-2: Kim Davis and Kylie Schnars
3-4: Jason and Jolene Ayres

November 8

Birth-2: Tina Swineford and Lilly Odell
3-4: Marge and Graham Vollmer

November 15

Birth-2: Cathy Erhard and Natalie Odell
3-4: Tena Dills and Cameryn Eggleston

November 22

Birth-2: Becky, Amelia and Josiah Sprague
3-4: Jessica Keefer and Thea Kester

November 29

Birth-2: Barb Tordella and Stephanie Landin
3-4: Becky and Gracie Cable

Thank you for volunteering to take care of our little ones during the worship service. We appreciate you!
If something comes up and you cannot serve, please trade with someone or find a replacement. You may call Debbie in the Church office (Monday through Friday) by calling 782-4031.
THANK 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

November 1

Kathy Smith	Tanglewood 235	Trudy Anderson
Jean Trisket	Corry Manor C44	Jack/Linda Sturges

November 8

Kathy Smith	Tanglewood 235	Everett King
Jean Trisket	Corry Manor C44	Thea Kester

November 15

Kathy Smith	Tanglewood 235	Sharon Passarelli
Jean Trisket	Corry Manor C44	Bill Peck

November 22

Kathy Smith	Tanglewood 235	Jack/Linda Sturges
Jean Trisket	Corry Manor C44	Trudy Anderson

November 29

Kathy Smith	Tanglewood 235	Thea Kester
Jean Trisket	Corry Manor C44	Everett King

Volunteers are needed... We are in need of more volunteers for the visitation ministry. Please talk to Bill Peck (or call the office) if this opportunity to visit some of our PUMC friends/ members is appealing to you. You will be blessed!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!

Grace Visitation Team

It is the responsibility of the Grace Visitation Team to check the attendance register to determine those who have not been in church for a period of time and to contact them either by phone, in person, by email, or by USPS. We also track new folks as they come in our doors to worship with us. When we get their address from the attendance register, they receive a letter from the Pastor.

It is SO IMPORTANT for the attendance register to be passed down the row every Sunday so we know who is worshipping with us.

Most of all, if you see a visitor, please make an effort to make them feel welcome.

Remember to keep propelling Panama!

(Groups, continued)

Women and Missions (W.A.M.)

Jean Edwards

2nd Monday each month; Rowdy Rooster; 11:45am

(April - November)

(11/9 is the last meeting until spring)

716-782-2800

For more information concerning PUMC Discipleship Groups, contact the church at 716-782-4031, or at debbie.johnson@panamaum.org. You may also contact Jon and Becky Cable, our Discipleship Group Leaders at 716-543-5050 or at jonbec95@gmail.com.

PROPELLING PANAMA TO ACTION...

We are still propelling! December is coming fast, and there will be new and exciting ways for you to be in action.

Watch for details!!

Looking for feedback...

During a recent conversation, the topic of evaluating the effectiveness and necessity of producing a monthly newsletter arose. In the past, our monthly mailing was over 300. Following a change in bulk mailings from the Panama Post Office, Church Council voted to include the newsletter on the website, leave some on the Welcome Table for those who wanted to pick up a hard copy and then send out about 50 via regular mail. We do not know how many read it online. Of the 50 that are on the table each month, there are usually about 20 that are not picked up. For those receiving it in the mail, is it beneficial?

We would like to ask you to send us your feelings regarding the continuance of this dissemination of church information. Do you get needed monthly information from the website, online Church news, bulletins and Sunday morning announcements? Please respond using the church email (www.panamaum.org), to me (Pam Ireland at alama-pi@yahoo.com) or put a note in the newsletter mailbox in the hallway.

Thanks so much for your time and honest feedback!

PUMC Discipleship Group
Information

C.H.A.T.

George and Trudy Anderson
1st Thursday of each month
gaanderson@windstream.net
716-782-3252

R.A.D.I.C.A.L.

Carl and Susie Davis
1st and 3rd Saturday of each month
appleoakstreeefarm@yahoo.com
suesue5@windstream.net
716-782-4611

Ladies of Light

Cindy Furlow
2nd and 4th Monday of each month; 7:15pm
cfurlow@chautauquamachine.com
716-782-2775

Band of Brothers

Craig Vollmer
4th Tuesday of each month; 7pm
craig.vollmer@gmail.com
716-763-0879

Young Adult Group

Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale
One Saturday a month
kbhinsdale@windstream.net
716-355-4382

We Care

Thea Kester
Every other Thursday; Rowdy Rooster; Noon
rtkester@windstream.net
716-782-4620

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WELCOME BABIES!

Molly Ann Crandall
was born on October 9, 2015
to Dustin and Stacey (Croscut) Crandall.

Grandparents are
Fred and Shelley Croscut
and
Mike and Sue Crandall



Camron Michael Akin
was born on October 28, 2015
to Adam Akin and Tiarra Kelly
and big sister Macie Lynn.

Grandparents are
Tena and Tim Dills.

We congratulate you on the birth of these precious children and we pray God's richest blessings on you all as they grow in the love of Christ.

With Sympathy to the Family of...

Donna Barton
Sister of Luella (David) Diffenderfer
Donna passed away on October 15, 2015
in Florida.

The love and prayers of your PUMC family are with you and your loved ones as you continue through this time of grief and adjustment.

Regional Church Conference

Saturday, November 7
10am - 4pm

Again this year, Panama UMC has been invited to host the conference. This year, pastors and parishioners from 33 churches (including your own) will be visiting at some point throughout the day.

There are sign up sheets on the Welcome Table for ways you can be of help (greeting, nursery, etc.). You can also call Debbie in the office (782-4031) if you are willing to volunteer a couple of hours of your time. If you could donate a couple dozen cookies for refreshments, please call Pam at 782-3472.

We thank you in advance for your assistance.

GRIEFSHARE

A Journey from Mourning to Joy

Sunday, November 8, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.; PUMC Library

If you are journeying through grief, join others who are, too. This will be our first session, with 14 sessions in total. We are including "Surviving the Holidays." We encourage you to allow the Lord to carry you through this very difficult process with others experiencing the same burdens.

Please sign up on the Welcome Table or call the church office at 782-4031 to get your name on the list. There are brochures available on the Welcome Table.



W.A.M.
(Women and Missions)

WAM's next gathering is
Monday, November 9, at 11:45 am
at the Rowdy Rooster.

This will be our last meeting until Spring!

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Won't you join us for **SUNDAY SCHOOL?**

We have Sunday School classes for all ages here at PUMC! Sunday School runs from 9 - 10am each Sunday. Check out our classes and teachers for this year!

Pre-K: Karen Morton and Stephanie Landin

K-2: Trudy Anderson

Grades 3-4: Becky Cable

Grades 5-7: Carl Davis and Howie Wheeler

Grades 8-12: Pastor Dan

Adult: Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale

Adult: George Anderson

Adult: Denny and Cindy Furlow

Senior Adult: Stacy Taylor - meets every other
Wednesday at 3:30.

Need help in finding a class? Ask the door greeters!

We hope you will join us for Sunday School...
...or just come early for coffee and conversation!

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.

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.

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.



Have you started gathering items for your Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes yet?

If you haven't, there are shoeboxes available at church.

Take one...or two...or even five, fill them with age appropriate gifts and return them to church to be gathered and sent to children all over the world.

If you haven't ever packed a Shoebox, and don't know where to begin, go to www.samaritanspurse.org for help in getting you started or see Ken and Katie Braun for assistance.

We hope you will join this yearly mission project. You will be glad you did...and so will the child to whom your shoebox is delivered!

SKINNY PUMPKIN PIE for 1

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse

- 1/2 c. pumpkin puree
- 2 oz. fat free cream cheese
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 pinch nutmeg
- 2 packets zero calorie sweetener
- 1 Graham cracker sheet (crushed)
- 2 Tbsp. whipped cream



1. Crush the Graham cracker and place in bottom of a glass or small jar.
2. Using electric mixer, beat together cream cheese, pumpkin, nutmeg, and sweetener until creamy and smooth. Spoon on top of the crumbs. Chill at least 2 hours to allow flavors to develop.
3. Top with whipped cream and dash of cinnamon.



PUMC HARVEST DINNER And BAZAAR

Saturday, November 14

Serving: 4:30 - 7:00pm

Cost by Donation

Takeouts available

Dinners include:

Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, squash, rolls, homemade pies and beverage.

BAZAAR INCLUDES
(but is not limited to...)

BAKESALE
HOMEMADE GIFT ITEMS
GRANNY'S ATTIC ITEMS

If you are looking to help in some way, prior to the dinner or on the day of the dinner, there are sign up sheets on the Welcome Table. You may also call Debbie in the office and she will get you signed up!

Please join us!

October 2015 *
Tithes and Offerings

Envelopes - 18,528.02
Plate - 249.69
Sunday School - 286.20
Missions - 469.72
Red Bird Mission - 76.32
Misc. Receipts - 9.00
Flowers - 20.00
Memorials - 35.00
Camp - 33.00
Connections Tuition - 875.00
Connections Donations - 100.00
Center Point - 1816.29
Food Pantry - 380.51
88 Keys - 1220.00
White Gift - 269.00
Bread of the World - 95.00
VBS - 10.00
TOTAL: 24,472.75

Trustees' Fund - 755.00

* These totals do not reflect the online giving for October 25.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

This December, the Panama UM faith community will be engaging in a four-week personal devotional called Love Revealed. Devotionals will be available after Thanksgiving. The devotionals are being provided by the Worship Team.

Come, let's experience Love Revealed in Jesus this Advent season - the COMING of The King!

MUSIC NOTES



Julie Nagel, PUMC Music Director

Christmas is Coming...

On December 20th, the Celebration Choir and a small cast of "characters" will present "Under a Starry Sky". "Under a Starry Sky" is a dramatic musical for Christmas that takes the reality of His coming, and the telling of His story, and connects it to a cast of Biblical and modern-day characters who encounter the true meaning of Christmas.

Be watching for details regarding the presentation.

We hope that you will invite your friends and neighbors to this musical presentation. Be sure to mark this date on your calendars. You won't want to miss it! Details will be coming soon!

Christmas Eve Worship



This Christmas Eve, we will again worship at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.

At 4 p.m., we will gather to praise the Lord and experience the Christmas Story in an upbeat and celebrative worship experience. We are planning this worship service for everyone to attend, but especially invite those who can't come out late at night, those with children who will be tucked in by 11 p.m., or anyone who wants an additional chance to worship on that special day. At our 11 p.m. Candlelight worship, we'll reflect on the love poured out on the world through Jesus coming as the incarnation of God!

See you there!