

CHURCH STAFF

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Julie Nagel, Music Director/Accompanist
Krista Odell, Accompanist
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse
Robert Burkholder, 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!

The WAY

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through e. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have see him.’” John 14:6-7

We are getting ready to head into a holy **season**. The tradition of the Christian church calls this season Lent. More practically, it's the 40 days (plus Sundays) that come directly before Easter, which this year is April 5th. This season is a time of reflection, preparation, and celebration. We *reflect* on who we are as followers of Jesus and what we're called to do and be. We *prepare* to make a deeper commitment to Jesus - following him more closely. We *celebrate* the freedom and redemption that God offers to us (His grace and mercy) through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is a holy season.

It's also a holy **journey**. This season leading up to Easter has been depicted as a road leading to the cross and beyond. It starts on Ash Wednesday and leads us to the cross, the empty tomb, and keeps moving us forward. John Wesley would say this is a season of *sanctification*. Our confirmation class knows now that this is a process that changes us more and more into the image of Christ. On this Lenten road, we have the opportunity to be changed - made more whole and faithful through the events of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. On this Lenten road, we will encounter Jesus himself

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

and will be asked to reflect, prepare, and celebrate in worship, devotional times, prayer, and learning. We will meet Jesus' suffering, faith, wisdom, freedom, and obedience. We will go to the Last Supper, the crucifixion, the empty cross, the empty tomb, and see Jesus face-to-face. We will, as John says, be on The Way! Come along on this journey together, to the cross and beyond!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

***Don't Forget to Pick Up Your
Lenten Devotionals***

This year, during Lent (February - March - April), several people from the Panama UMC will be providing daily devotionals for us to read and on which we will reflect. These devotionals will be available on February 15th in worship... don't forget to pick up your copy.

SAVE THE DATE, MEN!

The 2015 Cornerstone Men's Retreat will be
Friday - Saturday, June 5-6 at
Camp Mission Meadows.
More information will be coming but...

SAVE THE DATE!

Pastor Steve's February Schedule



- 1 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship/Souper Sundaes
- 2 11am: Staff Mtg; 6pm: Growth/Vision Mtg; 7pm: Prayer/Praise
- 3 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Stepping Up Men's Bible Study
- 4 6pm: Praise Team; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 5 10am: REUNY Team Mtg (Farmington); 4pm: Skiing
- 6/7 Sabbath and Day Off
- 8 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship; 11:30am: The Story Mtg at PBC
- 9 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 10 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Church Council
- 11 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7p: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 12 4pm: Skiing
- 13/14 Sabbath and Day Off; Confirmation Retreat
- 15 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 16 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 17 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Stepping UP Men's Bible Study
- 18 12pm: Lunch Bunch; 7pm: Ash Wednesday Worship
- 19 4pm: Skiing
- 20/21 Sabbath and Day Off
- 22 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 23 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 24 1pm: Visitation; 7pm: Band of Brothers
- 25 6pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 26 4pm: Skiing
- 27/28 Sabbath and Day Off

Red Bird Mission Trip

If you are interested in going on the August mission trip to Kentucky, you might be in luck!
Contact Ted to see if there are still spots available!

February Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Joel Keefer
- 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Trisket
- 3 Eric Scolton, Anna Vandavelde
- 4 Willson Baer, Howie Wheeler
- 5 Jeff Enlow
- 6 Carl Davis III, Brenda Ireland, Braden Topolski
- 8 Alexandra Baer, Gail Dallas
- 11 Anna Cartwright
- 12 Devin Ireland, Richard King, Paige Munson
- 13 Trudy Anderson, Emily Baker, Joe Edwards
- 14 Marissa Topolski
- 15 David Barr
- 16 Haley Holmberg, Bob Tordella
- 18 Dean Sprague
- 19 Natalie Odell
- 20 Diane Johnson, Adam Rupczyk, Averie Seekings
- 21 Scotty James, Wyona Wevers
- 22 Lorelei Bailey
- 24 Corinne Edwards, Joan Hinderer
- 25 Sara Waller
- 26 Mark Akam, John Elfvin, Bryce Ireland,
Emily King
- 27 Chase Hartnett, Marcia King
- 28 Zoe Kester, Jon Wood
- 29 Briana Johnson



Sunday Morning Team - February

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless
Howie and Jan Wheeler

Nursery Helpers

February 1

Birth-2: Jen and Claire Apthorpe
3-4: Marge and Graham Vollmer

February 8

Birth-2: Stephanie Landin and Thea Kester
3-4: Dawn Sard and Jenn Johnson

February 15

Birth-2: Buck and Kristine Seekings
3-4: Stacy Taylor and Kylie Schnars

February 22

Birth-2: Barb Tordella and Sue Woods
3-4: Becky and Gracie Cable

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.



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 up to date and correct
as the information we are given.

Visitation Ministry

February 1

Kathy Smith TW 218 Bill Peck

February 8

Kathy Smith TW 218 Jack/Linda Sturges

February 15

Kathy Smith TW 218 Lester/Wyona Wevers

February 22

Kathy Smith TW 218 Trudy Anderson

Happy Valentine's Day!!



SUNDAY MORNING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

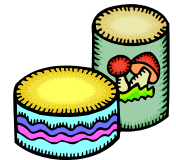
CAMPBELL LABELS for the Red Bird Mission School in Kentucky (also look for labels on Swanson products, Pepperidge Farm, Prego and V8). To those of you who take the time to cut just the UPC code and logo from the product for us, we thank you. (2014 = \$131.65)



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!!!

Fiona Elizabeth
6lb. 11oz; 19 3/4 inches long
Born on January 13, 2015

to

Megan Feldt and Rob Cortright
Great Grandmother is Ruth Eggleston
Grandparents are

Betsy Eggleston and Curt Miceli
(of course, Uncle Ricky is pretty excited, too!)



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

Safe Sanctuaries Committee

Carol Hay

We are often asked or required to do things we don't want to do; sometimes it is job related or it may just be part of our daily lives. Our attitude as we complete these responsibilities can make the task less disagreeable, give us new learning, or even provide us with an opportunity to help others. I personally don't like to dust but I have found that praying for the individuals connected with what I'm dusting keeps my mind focused on pleasant memories and makes the chore go very quickly.

Because of our church commitment to *Safe Sanctuaries*, adults in our congregation are encouraged to attend the church conference's training on identifying, reporting and dealing with abuse of children and vulnerable adults. Many adults attending church and participating in adult activities do not see the training topic as something that impacts them. Also, this is a training that many of us have had as a result of our professional responsibilities. Participating in a four-hour training may be in the category of "things I don't want to do" - it was for me!

The training is primarily for the purpose of ensuring that those who work with children and vulnerable adults have the knowledge and skills to deal with an abuse issue. It does that, *and so much more*. The training is done through the use of scripture to remind us of our commitment to protect those who need our help. It offers a chance to network with people from other churches to share ideas on a topic of great importance. Because the training curriculum is written for church people, it challenges us to deal with the abused and the abuser. Participants in the training often provide insights that personalize the training materials. The training provides a meaningful experience in different ways for each participant.

This four-hour training is really four hours of learning about our roles as servants of our Lord. It is more about discussing how God wants us to behave when faced with situations we want to avoid. It forces us to consider our views of people who do horrible things. It challenges us to be good observers and listeners so all of God's children feel loved. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer.

It is still the hope of the *Safe Sanctuaries Committee* that all of the adults in our church will want to participate in the abuse training, not just to satisfy a requirement, but to grow as Christians who care about and want to help all of God's children.

Wedding Congratulations

Amy Seekings and Shaun Hummel
were united in marriage by
Pastor Steven M. Taylor
at the Panama United Methodist Church
on January 3, 2015.

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.

January 2015 Tithes and Offerings - \$20,822.17

Envelopes - 17,981.09
Plate - 419.02
Sunday School - 113.00
Missions - 695.00
Red Bird Mission - 171.56
Initial Offering - 110.00
Flowers - 17.50
Building Rent - 200.00
Upper Room - 24.00
Study Books - 150.00
Camp - 35.00
Connections Tuition - 425.00
Connections Donations - 100.00
Family Life Center - 20.00
Food Pantry - 70.00
Music Ministry - 40.00
White Gift - 251.00
Trustees' Fund - 575.00

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

Friends of Findley
Work Weekend at Camp Findley



This May, (May 15-17), 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.

See Pastor Steve for details.

HUGS (Helping Us Grow Strong)

George Anderson

HUGS Sunday School class is beginning a new Bible Study and we'd like to invite you to be a part. "Life Lessons from Jesus" is a Bible Study from authors Bill Hybels and John Ortberg.

When Jesus was walking the earth, everyone had a different idea about who he was. There was one thing no one could deny. Jesus was a teacher, a rabbi, and whatever else the crowds thought of him, they couldn't get enough of his words.

If your mind is ready to be expanded, if your heart is hungering to be touched, then we invite you to join us and help us grow strong while we study parables and lessons Jesus taught.

All are welcome and we look forward to having you join us. We meet upstairs at the end of the hall beyond the church

(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

HOT FIESTA DIP
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse



10 oz. frozen corn kernels
1 1/2 c. fat free salsa
3/4 c. reduced fat Mexican style blended shredded cheese
2 Tbsp. chopped scallions
Baked Tortilla Chips

Microwave frozen corn, according to directions and drain.

Combine corn and salsa in a microwave safe 9 inch pie plate.

Cover and microwave on high until bubbly, about 2 minutes.

Sprinkle cheese over corn mixture, cover and let stand until cheese melts, about 5 minutes.

Sprinkle with scallions and serve with Baked Tortilla Chips.

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 February 5 at 6pm at the Anderson'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

REGIONAL SCHOOL OF PRAYER

Becky Cable

Each year the School of Prayer, sponsored and facilitated by The Better Place, Inc., is presented in four full-day sessions. Each session stands alone, so participants may come to one, two, or all four. The School is held from 8:30am-4:00pm on Saturdays.

The cost is \$45 for the first session anyone attends and \$35 for subsequent sessions. For example, if the first session attended is Session #2, the cost is \$45 and subsequent sessions attended will cost \$35. Lunch, snacks, and a 3-ring binder with note taking materials are included in this cost.

During 2015, all sessions of the School will be held at Park Church, near the geographic center of Chautauqua County, NY in Sinclairville. The address is 49 Sinclair Drive, Sinclairville, NY, 14782.

SESSION ONE - February 21, 2015

First teaching: Discerning Our Call to Prayer Ministry and Jesus Our Model
Second teaching: Releasing the Power
Third teaching: Persistence
Fourth teaching: Vision for Transformation and Prayer Mapping Primer

For more information, check out <http://thebetterplace.org/equipping-school-of-prayer.html> or contact Becky Cable at **543-5050** or jonbec95@gmail.com. Scholarships are available upon request.

SAVE THE DATE

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Corner...

Hey, Panama UMC!

I hope that all of you are having a safe, warm, and productive 2015 so far! God is faithful and has been very active in our Youth and Family Ministries so far this year. I'm excited to see what he has in store for our church this coming month and throughout the coming year!

Youth: January was a great month for our Youth Ministries here at PUMC. We got to have our postponed Christmas party to kick off the New Year and we started a new Bible Study series on the book of James! So far, we have made it through James 1 and 2. We will finish up chapters 3-5 and then move on to one of my favorite books of the Bible, Jonah! We had a blast at our most recent DCYM event when we went ice skating at the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena and thankfully, no one got injured (well, I suppose some egos and bums got injured, but those will heal!).

Our next DCYM event will be on Sunday, March 15. We will be heading over to the Gateway Center in Jamestown to play laser tag, human foosball, SPAZ, eat some pizza, and worship with singer Jessa Anderson. This even will run from 4-8pm, so we will be meeting here at PUMC at 3:15pm that Sunday and will make it back around 8:15pm. Please make sure that you put this event on your calendar since these DCYM events are an excellent opportunity for your youth to make connections with new friends and youth from around our district!

Here is my monthly update on the Impact Campus Fellowship ministry that I am a part of at Panama Central School. Our Jr. and Sr. High groups are continuing to have a great year and we have even seen some growth in our Jr. High group, which has been very encouraging! It's awesome to see how God is at work in our school! We are now averaging nearly 55 students per week between the two groups! Praise God that we have 55 students who are willing to take a stand for Christ in their school and 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. Our Confirmation Retreat will be taking place at Camp Casowasco on February 13-14, so please keep us in prayer as we travel up there and spend the weekend together. Also, please continue to pray for our ten Confirmation students, their mentors, their parents, and for Pastor Steve and myself as we lead these students on their Confirmation journey.

(Continued on page 9)

(Pastor Dan's Corner: continued)

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!

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 Friday, February 27. We will be having our annual pool party over at the Panama Central School from 6-9pm! Bring your swimsuit, water wings, and beach balls and come enjoy a nice warm summer-like activity during the heart of winter! We will have pizza and other snack foods at the pool. Invite a friend and bring your family, too! Remember, we're all part of the Panama United Methodist family, so everyone is invited to this event!

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 Safe and Warm February, PUMC!

Pastor Dan <><