

CHURCH STAFF

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Rev. Paul D. Caseman, Alaska

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 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!

Prepare!

"Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples." Isaiah 62: 10

In the musical, *The Music Man*, there's a classic scene where the whole town is excitedly singing about the coming of the Wells Fargo wagon. You see, the Wells Fargo wagon was the modern-day UPS truck on the week before Christmas! Your imagination ran wild when you thought about what COULD be delivered, "just for me." If you knew something was coming, you had to prepare to receive it. And then you had to wait for the wagon to come. It might have been days, but also might have been weeks.

Easter is coming! Easter, and it's resurrection power, is waiting to be delivered once again to the world - a celebration of the most incredible event in all of history! Jesus Christ is the only person to ever walk out of his own grave by his own power! After the sacrifice Jesus made for us, his triumph over the grave is the pivot point for all of history. Easter is coming! Are you ready to receive it? Can you hear the wagon coming?

This season of Lent - the season that points us to Holy Week and Easter - let's stop and listen. Look. Wonder. Believe. As Isaiah writes above, it's a time to go through the gates, prepare the way for the people, build up the highway, clear it of stones, and lift up the resurrection power for all to see. I love the metaphor of clearing the highway of stones, barriers that get in our way - that get in God's way - of delivering the full impact of Easter into our lives again. Clear the stones!

Once we clear the stones, we can enter the gates during Holy Week 2015! On Palm Sunday (3/29), we will worship at 10:15 a.m. with Confirmation/Baptism. Holy Thursday (4/2) will be a little different this year. We will worship at the One in Christ Community Worship event at 7 p.m. at the REG LENNA CIVIC CENTER in Jamestown. Good

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Friday Worship will be at 7 p.m. at Panama UMC. The annual Walk to the Crosses will be on Saturday (4/4) at 6:30 p.m. We will meet at the corner of Randolph Rd. and North St. in Panama. Be prepared for walking uphill in snow and on uneven terrain. Finally, but certainly not least, Resurrection Sunday! We will serve breakfast from 8:30 to 10 a.m. with made-to-order omelets and pancakes, as well as continental breakfast, juices, coffee, and more! We will worship with one grand celebration at 10:15 a.m. Bring the whole family!

Prepare for the celebration of the incredible sacrifice and resurrection power of Jesus Christ. Stop and listen...it's coming! Prepare!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve



Mark your calendars...
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
Thursday, May 7, 2015

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

More information will be coming...
SAVE THE DATE, MEN!

Pastor Steve's March Schedule

- 1 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School; Worship/Lunch
- 2 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 3 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Stepping up Men's Bible Study
- 4-5 Preaching Academy (Casowasco)
- 5 4pm: Skiing
- 6/7 Sabbath and Day Off
- 8 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 9-15 Vacation
- 10 7pm: Church Council
- 16 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 17 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Stepping UP Men's Bible Study
- 18 12pm: Lunch Bunch; 5:45pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 6:30pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 19 Musical Rehearsal
- 20/21 Sabbath and Day Off; PCS Musical
- 22 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship; 2pm: Ministers' March Mania
- 23 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 24 12pm: Pastors' Gathering; 1pm: Visitations; 7pm: Band of Brothers/Worship Team/NHS Induction Ceremony
- 25 5:45pm: Praise Team Rehearsal; 6:30pm: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 26 4pm: Skiing
- 27/28 Sabbath and Day Off
- 29 8:30am-12pm: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship - Baptisms and Confirmation
- 30 11am: Staff Mtg; 7pm: Prayer and Praise
- 31 1pm: Visitations



Red Bird Mission Trip (August 9-15)
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!

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Dylan Peck, **Keith/Cindy Miller**
- 2 Curtis Wood
- 8 Jennifer Johnson
- 9 Sally Baer, Greg Ireland
- 11 Tammy Thayer, Andrew Tordella
- 12 TC Davis, Rita Lenart
- 13 Lorena Crosby, Nicholas Sard
- 14 Tate Catanese, Susie Davis, Patrick Dole,
Jerry Ireland
- 16 Steve Holmberg
- 17 Joe Miktuk
- 18 Stephen Enlow, **Dave/Becky Barr**
- 20 Caleb Wood
- 21 John Cartwright, Heather Schneider, Tyce Schneder,
Neil Sturges
- 22 Asher Baehr, Bert Rappole, **Bert/Mary Rappole**
- 24 Adam Kester, Nicole Osborne, Wendy Peck
- 25 Corey Osborne, Linda Roraback
- 26 Duane Baker, Hunter Waller
- 27 Ken Braun
- 28 Johnathan Miles, **Jeff/Brenda Ireland**
- 29 **Dick/Julie Nagel**
- 30 Nicholas Lenart, Steve Wiggers



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 - March

Ushers

Peter and Paula Komarek
Buck and Kristine Seekings

Nursery Helpers

March 1

Birth-2: Carm Catanese and Julia Nelson
3-4: Tena Dills and Abby Taylor

March 8

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

March 15

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

March 22

Birth-2: Carolyn Hughesman and Natalie Odell
3-4: Carrie Munsee and Jessica Keefer

March 29

Birth-2: Cathy Erhard and Katie Braun
3-4: Adam and Tory Irgang

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

March 1

Kathy Smith Tanglewood 218
 Jean Trisket Corry Manor C44
 Jean Vanderkooi Heritage Green

Thea Kester
 Sharon Passarelli
 Julia Nelson

March 8

Kathy Smith Tanglewood 218
 Jean Trisket Corry Manor C44
 Jean Vanderkooi Heritage Green

Bill Peck
 Jack/Linda Sturges
 Lester/Wyona Wevers

March 15

Kathy Smith Tanglewood 218
 Jean Trisket Corry Manor C44
 Jean Vanderkooi Heritage Green

Trudy Anderson
 Julia Nelson
 Thea Kester

March 22

Kathy Smith Tanglewood 218
 Jean Trisket Corry Manor C44
 Jean Vanderkooi Heritage Green

Sharon Passarelli
 Lester/Wyona Wevers
 Bill Peck

March 29

Kathy Smith Tanglewood 218
 Jean Trisket Corry Manor C44
 Jean Vanderkooi Heritage Green

Julia Nelson
 Thea Kester
 Trudy Anderson



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 who 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.



**Ministers'
March
Mania
Basketball
Game**



**Sunday, March 22, at 2 p.m.
Frewsburg High School Gymnasium**

Pastor Steve is playing in a basketball game with area pastors to help raise money for Love, INC of Chautauqua County. Sponsor sheets for the free throw competition are available on the Welcome table at church.

Come out and show your support! You won't want to miss this!

February 2015 Tithes and Offerings -

- Envelopes - \$19,737.22
- Plate - \$465.40
- Sunday School - \$245.00
- Missions - \$550.00
- Red Bird Mission - \$524.68
- Initial Offering - \$12.00
- Flowers - \$20.00
- Building Rent - \$425.00
- Study Books - \$34.00
- Camp - \$265.00
- Connections Tuition - \$516.00
- Family Life Center - \$20.00
- Food Pantry - \$265.00
- Music Ministry - \$40.00
- White Gift - \$929.00
- Trustees' Fund - \$990.00
- Newsletter Donation - \$250.00
- Souper Sundae - \$677.00
- Youth Group Donation - \$20.00
- Memorials - \$50.00

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



With Sympathy to the Family of...

**Allene (Muzzy) Dole
January 16, 1913 - January 29, 2015**

Allene became a member of the PUMC on 10/30/73. She established the library at the church. The quilt, which hangs in the Narthex, was made and donated to the PUMC by Allene, in memory of loved ones.

Allene was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, her brother, Burton Muzzy and her sister-in-law, Ruth Muzzy.

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.

Holy Week 2015!

- 3.29.15 **Palm Sunday** 10:15 a.m. with Confirmation and Baptism
- 4.2.15 **One in Christ Worship** (Holy Thursday) 7 p.m. *REG LENNA CIVIC CENTER, Jamestown* - We will join our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the region for this worship.
- 4.3.15 **Good Friday Worship** 7 p.m. - Panama UMC
- 4.4.15 **Walk to the Crosses Worship** 6:30 p.m. Corner of Randolph Rd. and North St., Panama (uneven terrain)
- 4.5.15 **Resurrection Sunday!** Breakfast (8:30 a.m.) and Celebration Worship (10:15 a.m.)



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.

CAMPING NEWS



The 2015 Summer Camp Brochure is now available online at:

<http://campsandretreats.org/summer-camp-2015>.

PUMC is hoping to send at least 20 kids to camp again this summer!

Thank you for your support of the Souper Sundae. We overflowed with support, people, soup, fun, and ice cream! Our next fundraiser for camping scholarships will be on May 3 after worship - TACO IN A BAG!

If you have any questions, or would like to support our campers, please contact Susie Davis or Stacy Taylor.

(Small Groups, Continued)

Ladies of Light (Cindy Furlow)
2nd and 4th Monday of each month, from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.
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

SWEET POTATO WEDGES
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse



- 2 medium sweet potatoes, unpeeled and scrubbed
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 3/4 tsp. seasoned salt

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Cut each sweet potato in half crosswise and then again lengthwise. Turn potatoes over, cut side down, and cut into wedges.

Toss the potato wedges with the oil and salt. Spread wedges in an even layer onto a flat baking sheet.

Bake for minutes, turning once halfway through as the potatoes caramelize and brown on the underside. Wedges are done when they are tender on the inside.

Serving size: 1/2 potato

Cal: 120; Carbs: 21g; Fat: 3.5g; Protein: 2g; Fiber: 2g

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 6:30-8 p.m.
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)
Call the Anderson's for meeting information
ganderson@windstream.net; 716-782-3252

We Care (Thea Kester)
Every other Thursday at 12 p.m. 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

GOODIE BOXES
(George Anderson)



We would like to send goodie boxes to our college church friends. Please bring items such as gift cards, trail mix, peanuts, candy, gum, breakfast bars, Ramen Noodles, microwave popcorn, and other snacks that are great for college students. Put them in the college box in the foyer.

Please include a note and we will send the boxes out in a few weeks. Monetary donations are also welcomed to help pay the cost of shipping.

Thank you, in advance, for supporting this project.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - 2015
(Stacy Taylor)

New dates this summer for VBS: JULY 19-23, 2015

The theme this year is G-Force, God's Love In Action. Our VBS kids will be in action in our community - serving, giving, creating and loving - all to God's glory. It is going to be an exciting week.

The first VBS planning meeting is on April 16 at 6 p.m. Please mark your calendars, and if you would like to help, contact Stacy Taylor.