

GRACE NOTES - November 2016

PANAMA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Reverend Steven M. Taylor Lead Pastor

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 and our community is in here...enjoy!

Thank God!

The Apostle Paul had a pretty big task keeping the churches of the Ancient Near East all moving forward while they were growing in faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. He would begin a church in a particular setting as the Holy Spirit led, and then would move on, writing letters to those churches as needed. To the church in Thessalonica, he wrote this encouragement: "We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring." (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4)



Paul was giving thanks for a church that was under some difficult circumstances, but were growing in faith in spite of it! He praised them for their steadfastness, their faith, and their love. **As the pastor of the Panama UMC, I witness and proclaim the same things as Paul:** I thank God for your steadfastness over the years, the faith with which you engage in worship, bible study, and mission, and the love you show to one another. None of those things is done perfectly, but we're growing and increasing! As we do those things in Jesus' name and by the power of the Holy Spirit, God will bear fruit in our church! Thank God!

In November, we get another chance to experience a season of gratitude. We are reminded by Thanksgiving, at the end of the month, that we have been given so much by our loving and faithful Heavenly Father. In response, we turn to give thanks and praise for all the blessings in our lives. The challenge is that we stop long enough to
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Panama United Methodist Church Mission Statement
We seek to love the Lord God by introducing people to His Son Jesus Christ and helping these relationships to grow.

From Pastor Steve's Desk...(Continued from page 1)

Count them, list them, and speak them. As the weather turns and the leaves wither, let it remind you of a loving and faithful God who provides. And then, in all things, Thank God!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Coming soon...
to a Fellowship Hall near you!



Saturday, November 5th
PANAMA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH's
Annual Harvest Dinner
(with all the trimmings!)

4:30 - 7:00pm
COST is by donation

You won't want to miss it!

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 20th 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! Invite your friends and family to come to this Harvest of Praise!

SUNDAY MORNING TEAM for NOVEMBER

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless
Craig and Marge Vollmer

Nursery Helpers

November 6

Birth-2: Amanda Kolstee and Tina Akam
3-4: Susie Davis and Kylie Schnars

November 13

Birth-2: Barb Tordella and Riley Seekings
3-4: Andrew Lescynski and Lilly Odell

November 20

Birth-2: Kelly Osborne and Natalie Odell
3-4: Adam and Tory Irgang

November 27

Birth-2: Betsy Eggleston and Gracie Cable
3-4: Marge and Graham Vollmer

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
(M-TH) by calling 782-4031.

THANK YOU!!

Our Sympathy to the family of Caryl Butler

Caryl was born on February 16, 1929.

She died on October 10, 2016.

Surviving are her sons, Don (Tabby) Butler
and David Butler.

Caryl is also survived by five grandchildren, including
Michael, Peter and Molly Butler,
and five great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Duane.

Memorials may be made to the Chautauqua County
Humane Society, 2825 Strunk Road, Jamestown, NY.

*The love and prayers of the church and
community are with you and your loved ones
as you continue through this time
of grief and adjustment.*

PUMC BLOOD DRIVE

**Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, November 9
2pm - 6pm**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS
or visit redcrossblood.org
to schedule an appointment.
All presenting donors will be entered to
win a \$50 VISA gift card to use
towards their Holiday feast!
One winner each day in November.



**Thanks
For
Giving!**

W.omen A.nd M.issions

We want to thank all of you who
have been putting your spare change in the
container on the Missions Table during Oc-
tober for National Domestic Violence month.
The bag is pretty heavy and will not go to
the bank for counting until the end of the
month. I will give you a total next month.

WAM has been saving pennies for
several years and sending the money to the
local Salvation Army to be used for their
abuse program. The container is on the ta-
ble all the time, so any time you want to
help us with one of our missions programs,
we would be grateful and so would those
that benefit from this program.

One of our other missions projects it
to save Campbell labels and box tops that
are sent to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. If
you have some that need to be brought in,
please do so as we will be sending them in
November.

Thanks again to all who help with
these projects.

CONNECTIONS

We are still in need of snacks
and we thank you in advance for
your generosity!

Thank you to those who have provided snacks for our Connections Ministry. The kids continue to gobble up the Bible stories and snacks they are receiving everyday after school. Tabby Butler is leading a story hour once a week, and the kids are checking out books from the church library. This has been a great addition to the ministry!

The ipads which were purchased with grant money last year are being put to use - allowing the children to complete homework assignments.

We would always appreciate extra help, if you have a free afternoon! Please call Stacy at 782-2461 if you'd like to drop in for a visit. This is an amazing ministry which is reaching right to the hearts and souls of these children.

Thanks!
Stacy

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Coming this Advent: Re:Verse Christmas!

This December, the Panama UM faith community will be engaging in a four-week mission project called Re:Verse Christmas! We'll be taking each day in the season leading up to Christmas to share ourselves with those in need through an intentional effort to give. Instead of getting gifts, we'll be giving them away.

More information will be coming soon!

Christmas Eve Worship Announcement

This Christmas Eve, we will again worship at 4pm and 11pm. At 4pm, we will gather to praise the Lord and experience the Christmas Story in an upbeat celebration 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 11pm, or anyone who wants an additional chance to worship on that special day.

At our 11pm Candlelight worship, we'll reflect on the love poured out on the world through Jesus coming as the incarnation of God!
See you there!

Safe Sanctuaries

As I walked outside in the dark, early morning cold and rain to do “chores” (feed and water the barn cats) and get my newspaper, I realized I was thinking about my safety (I grabbed a flashlight) and comfort (I put on a jacket, hat and gloves). Safety and comfort are two important feelings in our lives. We cannot focus on what we need to if we don't feel safe and comfortable.

The Methodist Church Conference asked each local church to establish a team for the purpose of writing guidelines that would keep children, youth and vulnerable adults safe and comfortable while at church and church related events and activities. This includes environmental conditions (i.e. no mold in rooms where babies are being cared for), appropriate facilities for the event or activity, and adequate supervision.

Ensuring the comfort of everyone is also part of the charge and this can be a bit more difficult because we need both physical and emotional comfort. Physical comfort is person specific so we do what is good for most and individuals might need to adjust their own clothing or bring a cushion to be comfortable.

Emotional comfort is actually what the church is all about. Each time a child, youth or adult walks into our building or attends an event or activity, he or she should feel welcome and comfortable. Our hospitality team does a great job of welcoming people each Sunday and we hope new people are greeted before and after church. We know Sunday School teachers and youth leaders intend their time together with children, youth, and adults to be a time where each person feels confident in participating.

The *Safe Sanctuaries Team* surveyed senior adults a few years back to ascertain what needs are not being met and how our church might help. We followed up by providing information on what services are available to senior adults in our county and we connected seniors who needed transportation in bad weather with those willing to drive.

Our Team is currently looking at another issue affecting senior adults - Internet, phone and face-to-face scams. We will be discussing this issue at our next meeting to decide what our role might be in helping with this stressor in the lives of individuals.

Although the *Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines* pertains directly to the church and related events and activities, we also recognize that some individuals may not be able to focus on worship or fully participate in learning about Jesus because they are under stress or have problems that are overwhelming to them. How do we reach out to these individuals so they may experience God's love and know that He will care for them? How can our church bring physical and emotional safety and comfort to individuals in our church community? Does our responsibility to ensure safety and comfort start and end on church property?

What children, youth and adults need to feel safe and comfortable should be a concern for each of us. How we help depends on us knowing the needs and finding solutions. We are God's servants and when we help each other, we are doing God's work. We encourage you to watch for opportunities to be God's helper in our community.

Panama UMC Library Additions for 2016

DVD's

Mary Magdalene: Close to Jesus
Joseph: Close to Jesus
Judas: Close to Jesus
Thomas: Close to Jesus
Thomas: Close to Jesus
Healed by Grace
Family Heartwarmers: Uncle Nino; The First of May;
Safe Harbor; Windrunner
Family Adventures: The Sign of the Beaver; The
Legend of Tillamook's Gold; The Adventures
Of the Swiss Family Robinson; The Treasure
Seekers
Original Family Classics: The Proud Rebel; Where
The Red Fern Grows; Seven Alone
Gift of the Magi
Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning
Seven Days in Utopia
Heaven is Waiting
The Christmas Candle
The Mark
The Mark 2
The Pledge
Family Outdoor Adventures: The Last Great Ride;
Little Heroes
Veggie Tales: The Toy That Saved Christmas

ADULT FICTION

Stranger Things - Erin Healy
The Patmos Deception - Davis Bunn
Jefferson Burke and the Secret of the Lost Scroll -
Ace Collins
Critical Reaction—Todd M. Johnson
The Brotherhood (Precinct 11) - Jerry B. Jenkins
The Betrayal (Precinct 11) - Jerry B. Jenkins
The Breakthrough (Precinct 11) - Jerry B. Jenkins
Persecuted - Robin Parrish
Network of Deception - Spencer E. Moses

LARGE PRINT

Streams of Mercy - Lauraine Snelling (Song of
Blessing #3)
Refining Fire - Tracie Peterson (Brides of Seattle #2)

KIDS' NON-FICTION

J 226.9 W The Lord's Prayer - Richard J. Watson
J 232.96 L Jesus: His Last Days - Carolyn Larsen
J 232.9 L Jesus: The Early Years - Carolyn
Larsen
J 220.95 S For Such a Time as This - Angie Smith
(Stories of Women in the Bible, retold
for girls)

ADULT NON-FICTION

306.85 L Have a Happy Family by Friday - Dr.
Kevin Leman
649.64 L Parenting Your Powerful Child - Br.
Kevin Leman (Bringing an End to Every-
Day Battles)
249 N Creative Family Prayer Times - Mike and
Amy Nappa
249 H Family Prayer Made Easy - Teresa
Herbic
234.1 S Discover Your Kid's Spiritual Gifts -
Adam Stadtmiller

KID'S FICTION

The Imagination Station: The Redcoats are Coming;
Trouble on the Orphan Train and
Surprise at Yorktown - all by Marianne
Hering
Diary of a Real Payne: True Story by Anne Tipton
The Berenstain Bears The Very First Christmas -
Jan Berenstain
Once Upon a Christmas - Roberta Simpson
God Gave Us Love - Lisa Tawn Bergen

YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 4th: Come support the youth as
they journey to prepare for Kingdom Bound 2017.
They will be hosting a baked potato and salad bar
after worship by donation. Cookie samples will also
be available to place your orders for the December
18th delivery.

Sunday, December 18th: Cookie Delivery - if you
place orders for cookies with the youth, they will be
available for pickup after worship. Last day to place
your order is December 11th. Be sure to watch for
further information. This is a great way to have cook-
ies for your Christmas gatherings and support the
youth at the same time.

A separate youth newsletter, **Student Ministry
Moment**, is available on the welcome table. Please
pick one up to be up to date with the latest happen-
ings of our youth and a schedule of their meetings
and activities.

PUMC Discipleship Group Information

CHAT

George and Trudy Anderson
First Thursday of every month
gaanderson@windstream.net; 782-3252

RADICAL

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

Ladies of Light

Cindy Furlow
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month; 7pm
cfurlow@chautauquamachinecom; 782-2775

Band of Brothers

Craig Vollmer
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month; 7pm
craig.vollmer@gmail.com; 763-0879

Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale

One Saturday per month
kbhinsdale@windstream.net; 355-4382

We Care

Thea Kester
Every other Thursday at noon at the Rowdy Rooster
rtkester@windstream.net; 782-4620

Women and Missions (WAM)

Kathy Foulk
2nd Monday monthly at the Rowdy Rooster (April - December)
ofoulks2@windstream.net; 782-4467 or 499-6437

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

Discipleship is a lifestyle filled with relationships;
a life of pouring yourself out for others.

BAND OF BROTHERS

HOPE/PRAY/ACT

Do you have hopes and desires (even small ones) or need direction? Do you give them to God through prayer? I imagine we all do. But, it can be frustrating when our wishes aren't fulfilled (or at least at the speed we want), or when we find ourselves at a cross road and aren't sure which way to turn. We neer quite know God's plan, do we? I suppose that can be frustrating, too. Maybe it's just one of the ways He teaches us to trust and be patient. God reminds us in Jeremiah 29:11 that He knows the plans He has for us, plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future.

When we think God hasn't answered our prayers or given us direction, is it possible that perhaps we are so Focused on the outcome we want, or expect instant results that we outright miss, misinterpret, or second guess His answer? Are we patient or aware enough to recognize that sometimes it is not a direct answer, but a path - a set of stepping stones to the answer instead? God does not always and us what we want on a sliver platter. Sometimes he makes us work for it. God tells us in Proverbs 3:5-6 to "Trust in [Him] with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." But, you won't see that path if you're not watching for it or trusting God.

Lay your hopes and desires and need for direction at the feet of God, pray boldly, be watchful for the signs leading the way to His answer, for He has empowered you to take action - to take to the path, but trust that the answer at its end, is the right answer for you.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Band of Brothers meetings are held every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, beginning at 7pm. They will be held upstairs in the library. An elevator is available, if necessary. The November meetings will be the 1st and the 15th.

OUR PURPOSE AND MISSION...

The Band of Brothers are committed to Prayer, Mission and Bible Study. Each time we gather, we'll spend time lifting up people and circumstances to prayer because we know that God hears and answers prayer. We'll spend time in mission, spreading the love of Christ to brothers and families in the church and community with cards and other hands-on expressions of love. And, what would a bible study be without opening our bibles to gain wisdom, insight and transformation through God's word. Join us as we gather in Jesus' name! Be encouraged.

OUR CURRENT BIBLE STUDY...

We are currently finishing a two-session Bible study on the creation of the universe and our place in it, Starting next session, we will begin a new study, so now is the time to join the Band of Brothers.

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
steven.taylor@panamaum.org

Debbie Johnson, Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst.
debbie.johnson@panamaum.org

Candy Scarem, Student Ministry Director
candy.scarem@panamaum.org

Julie Nagel, Music Director/Accompanist
Krista Odell, Accompanist

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse

Robert Burkholder, Custodian

Sandy Crossley, Connections

Joan Monroy, Connections

Dr. Mark and Diane Abbott, Spain

Blog: www.markabbott007.com

Rev. Paul D. Caseman, Alaska

Pastor Steve's Office Hours
9:00am - Noon: M, T and W

Church Phone (716) 782-4031

Church Fax # (716) 782-2326

Church E-mail – contact@panamaum.org

Church website - www.panamaum.org

www.facebook.com/panamaum

Please check the calendar inside and
PUMC website online for
weekly meetings and activities
for the month of November.

Cornerstone District Office
Christ First UMC
663 Lakeview Ave.
Jamestown, NY 14701
(716) 665-2423

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