



PUMC Mission Statement

“We seek to love the Lord God by introducing people to His Son Jesus Christ and helping these relationships to grow.”

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 PUMC is in here...enjoy!

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Chiseled

The simple definition of the word chiseled from merriam-webster.com is: *having an attractive well-formed shape; having a strong, muscular body or form.* The expanded definition is *formed or crafted as if with a chisel.* After looking those definitions up, I realized that neither the simple nor the expanded definitions included anything about wood being carved by an actual metal chisel. Maybe that's OK because for this article, I'll only be using chiseled wood as a metaphor for something much greater: our lives.

Using the simple definition leads us to think that being chiseled is about our physique. It's all about our muscles being toned and tight. It's important to be healthy and in shape, but is it important to be 'chiseled'? Hardly! It IS important, however - if we apply this to our spiritual lives - to be well-formed and strong in our faith.

Ephesians 2:10 reminds us: *"For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."* We are God's handiwork and creation. He knit us together in our mother's wombs and is very interested in making us well-formed and strong. In order to do that, we must actively allow God to shape us - to chisel us - into the image of Jesus.

Chisels are funny tools compared to other tools in the box. A saw is used to cut wood. A hammer is used to nail two pieces of wood together. A plane is used to take an entire thickness of wood from a board. A drill removes wood, leaving a hole, or drives screws to connect two pieces of wood. All those are useful, but don't have the delicate accuracy of a chisel. Chisels are used to remove targeted, close-up, pinpoint sections of wood in order to achieve a very specific shape and form. The main purpose of a chisel to remove specific pieces of wood that are not desirable.

God has a chisel in His hand and it has your name on it. Every time we listen when we pray or worship, God uses that chisel to remove something in our lives that He knows is undesirable - pride, greed, lust, anger, a hardened heart, unforgiveness...the list goes on. During this season of Lent, the 40 days that lead to Easter, allow God to chisel you, removing the undesirables, and forming you, more and more, into the image of Christ.

To help you, we will have a devotional for daily use, a sermon series focused on journeying with Jesus, and a faith community in which to experience the challenge of being chiseled! Starting on Ash Wednesday, as we gather for worship at 7pm, we'll begin the process of being chiseled. Come. Grow. Live.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

CHISELED Lenten Devotionals

This year, during Lent (February-March), several people from PUMC and the Cornerstone District will be providing daily devotionals for us to read and on which we will reflect. These devotionals will be available on February 7 in worship...don't forget to pick up your copy!

SUNDAY MORNING TEAM

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless
Ted and Sharon Passarelli

Nursery Helpers

February 7

Birth-2: Betsy Eggleston and Kelly Osborne
3-4: Adam and Tory Irgang

February 14

Birth-2: Julia Nelson and Jessica Keefer
3-4: Becky and Gracie Cable

February 21

Birth-2: Amanda Kolstee and Riley Seekings
3-4: Stacy Taylor and Tina Swineford

February 28

Birth-2: Ken and Katie Braun
3-4: Susie Davis and Carolyn Hughesman

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!!

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).

Your request will be passed down the chain to 20+ others who will pray for your concern.



CAMP FAIR

On March 13, right after worship (11:30am), PUMC Camping Coordinators, Susie Davis and Stacy Taylor, will be hosting a Camp Fair. We will be exploring the variety of summer camp options in our area.

Everyone that has been to camp or anyone that might go to camp are invited - kids and adults! We are so grateful for the donation we have received in order to send many campers to camp this summer.

Lunch will be provided.



VISITATION MINISTRY

February 7

Kathy Smith - Tanglewood 235
Jean Trisket - Corry Manor C44
Kathy Peck - Corry Manor B27

February 14

Kathy Smith - Tanglewood 235
Jean Trisket - Corry Manor C44
Kathy Peck - Corry Manor B27

February 21

Kathy Smith - Tanglewood 235
Jean Trisket - Corry Manor C44
Kathy Peck - Corry Manor B27

February 28

Kathy Smith - Tanglewood 235
Jean Trisket - Corry Manor C44
Kathy Peck - Corry Manor B27

Trudy Anderson
Bill Peck
Bill Peck

Sharon Passarelli
Thea Kester
Thea Kester

Sharon Passarelli
Jack/Linda Sturges
Jack/Linda Sturges

Thea Kester
Trudy Anderson
Trudy Anderson

Volunteers are needed...

We are in need of more volunteers for the visitation ministry. Please talk to Bill Peck if this opportunity to visit some of our PUMC friends is appealing to you.

You will be blessed!



Happy Valentine's Day!



Souper Sundaee!!

Sunday,

February 7

**After church in
Fellowship Hall**



**Enjoy soup and ice cream and help
raise money for Africa 360.**

Donations will be accepted

To keep in touch with Pastor Dan, Stephanie, and the boys, their new mailing address is:

203 South Main Street
Muncy, PA 17756

Pastor Dan's church is:
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
201 South Main Street
Muncy, PA 17756

With Sympathy to the families of...

Wayne R. Dole

October 13, 1948 - December 23, 2015

Wayne is survived by his wife Colleen (Rogers) Dole; sons Christopher, Timothy and Andrew; daughter Julie Dole; stepmother Marie Dole, sister Sheila Montigy and several grandchildren.
He was predeceased by his parents Roland and Daphne Dole.

Thomas G. Dole

October 16, 1950 - December 25, 2015

Tom is survived by his mother, Patricia (the late Donald) Dole, daughter Ashley; granddaughters Korene and Lillie; brothers Patrick and Craig; sister Cynthia McEntarfer and close friend Christine Stebbins.

Everett M. King

October 12, 1932 - January 1, 2016

Everett is survived by his wife Eleanor (Johnson) King; son Richard; daughters Marcia King and Sharon Reese; sister Lois King and 6 grandchildren.
He was predeceased by his son Roger and his son-in-law Jack VandeVelde.

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.

DORITOS TACO SALAD



- 1 lb. (95%) lean ground beef
- 1 pkt. reduced sodium taco seasoning
- 1 med/lg. head of iceberg lettuce, chopped
- 4 oz. (50% less fat or 2%) sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- 4 oz. nacho cheese Doritos, broken up into bite sized pieces
- 1 c. light Catalina or French Dressing
- Optional: black olives, banana peppers, hot peppers, kidney beans, chick peas... etc...whatever you choose to add

Brown ground beef in a skillet over medium heat, breaking it up into pieces with a wooden spoon. Add the packet of seasoning and stir until well coated. Set aside.

In large serving bowl, combine all of the ingredients except the Doritos and dressing. Toss until well mixed.

When ready to serve, add the Doritos and dressing and toss to coat.

1 cup = 150 calories; 14 g carbs; 10 g protein; 1 g fiber

PUMC DISCIPLESHIP GROUP INFORMATION

CHAT...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; appleoakstreefarm@yahoo.com or suesue4@windstream.net; 716-782-4611

Ladies of Light...Cindy Furlow; 2nd and 4th Monday of each month; 7pm; 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; rkester@windstream.net; 716-782-4620

Women and Missions...Jean Edwards; meetings are suspended until spring; 716-782-2800

For more information, contact the church at 716-782-4031. You may also contact Jon and Becky Cable, Discipleship Group Team leaders at 716-543-5050 or at jonbec95@gmail.com.

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 2016

GROWTH AND VISION...

A dream
becomes a goal when
action is taken toward
achieving it...

...FOCUS ON THE GOAL

"GROW AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE TO 200"

After reading the book "Overflow", I realized that church growth begins at home with ourselves. When I was growing up, I was expected to be in church on Sunday morning without any excuses. The only way I could miss church was if I had recently had the stomach flu - by recent I mean within the last 2 hours - or if I had a fever greater than 101!! Now maybe they weren't that strict, but it sure seemed like it to me. I knew no matter how late I stayed up on Saturday night or whatever condition I woke up with on Sunday morning, I would be in church with all of my brothers and sisters and both parents. I can also remember the few times we went on vacation, that if we were in a strange town on Sunday, we found a church and we attended! Sounds crazy, I know, but my parents were very committed to making sure I was in church every Sunday. I had a perfect attendance pin for Sunday School for 13 years...just thinking about that makes me cringe at all the times I have had "good reasons" for not coming to church since I grew up and moved away from my parent's home.

So, what I am trying to say is if we truly believe we can grow our average attendance to 200 each week, we need to do two things:

1. Make sure we are there each week.
2. Make sure we bring someone with us each week.

Tena Dills

Connecting To...

As part of the church family, you have heard of the Connections program and many of you have helped provide snacks and other miscellaneous supplies for the children who attend the after school program. Some of you choose to financially support the program through your church giving.

If you wander down into the Sunday school rooms in the basement of the church, you see the bulletin boards, artwork, games and other items related to the Connections program. If you are in the church during the afterschool hours, you can hear the laughter of the children, watch how excited they can be over a board game or an art project, and witness the patience of a high school tutor as they help a youngster with a homework assignment. You can listen while the teachers, Mrs. Crossley and Mrs. Monroy, sit with the children to read scripture, talk about Christian behaviors, and engage the children in conversation about a Bible story.

There is a small team of church members who work with the Connections teachers to make program decisions, plan, and work through any issues. Currently, Stacy Taylor directs the program and is the contact between the school, the teachers, and the church. Roberta Anderson wrote a grant and received \$2000 from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, which will be used to replace worn out games and purchase new items needed for the operation of the program. The team, with the help of other church members, put on a dinner in December to thank the families for their participation in the Connections program. A thank you picnic is being planned for June.

Our church has many programs - some directly impacting the members of the congregation and some that help people in foreign countries. The Connections program meets the needs of families right in the Panama community. It is a program that cares for children after school until their parents can pick them up. It is a program that gives children a safe place to go where they will have nutritious snacks, learn about God, get help with homework if needed, have supervised play, and enjoy a relationship with two loving caregivers.

This program has many opportunities for connecting children, high school students, adults, families, the school and church members. Most importantly, the Connections program gives children another opportunity to have God in their lives - and that is the most important connection.



CONNECTIONS KIDS



SNACK TIME at CONNECTIONS

CONGRATULATIONS

to
Aaron and Kimberly (Auge) Barton
on the birth of their son.
Brody Aaron Barton was born on
December 2, 2015.

Grandparents are Janice and Brian Franklin,
David Auge, and Dick and Joan Barton.

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



February Birthdays and **Anniversaries**



- 1 Joel Keefer
- 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Trisket
- 3 Eric Scolton, Anna Vande Velde
- 4 Willson Baer, Howie Wheeler
- 5 Jeff Enlow, Bill Schneider
- 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, Averie Seekings
- 20 Diane Johnson, Adam Rupczyk
- 21 Wyona Wevers
- 22 Lorelei Bailey
- 24 Corinne Edwards, Joan Hinderer, Karen Moynihan
- 25 Sara Waller
- 26 Mark Akam, John Elfvin, Hannah Fugate,
Bryce Ireland, Emily King
- 27 Chase Hartnett, Marcia King
- 28 Zoe Kester, Jon Wood
- 29 Briana Johnson

WON'T YOU JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL?

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

PreK: Karen Morton

K-2: Trudy Anderson

3-4: Becky Cable

5-7: Carl Davis and Howie Wheeler

8-12:

Adult: Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale

Adult: George Anderson

Adult: Denny and Cindy Furlow

Sr. Adult: Stacy Taylor

(meets every other Wednesday)

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 accurate and up

A CHURCH CHUCKLE...

A little boy's prayer:

"Dear God,
Please take care of Daddy and Mommy
and my sister and my brother and me.
And, please take care of
yourself, God. If anything
happens to you, we're gonna
be in a really big mess.
Amen."

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
steven.taylor@panamaum.org
Debbie Johnson, Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst.
debbie.johnson@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

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Church Fax # (716) 782-2326
Church E-mail – contact@panamaum.org
Church website - www.panamaum.org
www.facebook.com/panamaum

Mark Your Calendars...

- Feb. 5-7.....Fit 4 Live at Camp Findley
- Feb. 7.....Souper Sundae Lunch after Worship
- Feb. 10.....Ash Wednesday - begin preparing
by reading the Lenten devotionals
- Mar. 20.....Palm Sunday
- Mar. 25.....Good Friday
- Mar. 27.....Easter Sunday!

Please check the calendar inside for
weekly meetings and activities
for the month of February.

Cornerstone District Office
Christ First UMC
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(716) 665-2423

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