

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!

**HOLY WEEK 2016!**

**3.20.16**

**Palm Sunday, 10:15am**

**3.24.16**

**One in Christ Worship (Holy Thursday), 6:30pm**

Reg Lenna Civic Center, Jamestown

Bus will leave PUMC at 5:30pm

**3.25.16**

**Good Friday Worship, 7pm, PUMC**

**3.26.16**

**Walk to the Crosses, 6pm,**

Corner of Randolph Rd., and North St., Panama

(uneven terrain)

**3.27.16**

**Resurrection Sunday!**

Breakfast, 8:30 - 10am

Made to order eggs and pancakes, as well as a  
continental breakfast, juices, coffee and more!

Celebration Worship, 10:15am

**PUMC 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...**

## **The Power of the Chiseled Cross**

It starts as a seed. Then it's a shoot from that seed. Then a sapling. From there it starts to grow leaves and branches and bark, as the roots reach down into the earth to grab whatever nutrients it can for more growth. Over the decades, it grows taller, wider, and stronger. If we were to calculate the amount of power in a single tree, we might be tempted to talk about how much energy would be released if we were to burn it in a wood stove. We might talk about it becoming a useful tool, paper, or even a plank of wood. It also has the power to give shade and shelter birds and animals. So much potential has been gained by that seed that has now become a tree. Yet, one tree became a cross and all the power it had for those other things paled in comparison. In order for that tree to become a cross, it had to be chiseled - shaped by the Hand of the Master into the most powerful piece of wood in the entire universe!

As we journeyed with Jesus toward the cross and the empty tomb during this month, we proclaim for the world to hear that, "There's POWER in that cross!" The cross was once a tree, and once a sapling and a seed. And just like the transformation that took place in order for that seed to become a cross made from that tree, our lives are being transformed by the power of that chiseled cross. Our sin is being identified, if we're listening, and the Holy Spirit is inviting us to stop hurting ourselves and those around us. We're breaking down the barriers to trusting God fully. We're asking God to remove our spiritual apathy and light up our passion for Jesus. Our spiritual gifts are welling up in us, and the Holy Spirit is undergirding our passion for ministry. God is chiseling away our entitlement and replacing it with faithful gratitude. God is healing our spiritual blindness and calling us deeper in ways to follow Jesus. The chiseled cross is powerful!

Paul wrote this, "...the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18) The power of the chiseled cross brings our lives into the kingdom that unleashes the power of God into the world. That power will lead us to the hardest and most joyful places we can imagine. It leads us to deny ourselves every day and follow Jesus. It asks us to give up sin, love God and others, and serve sacrificially. The power of the chiseled cross is the power to give real life from real death and spiritual life from spiritual death.

During this journey with Jesus, be ready to be chiseled by the power of the cross that was chiseled in order for Jesus to carry it for your life from death. Be grateful for the seeds and the saplings in your life that are growing into the fruits of the spirit for ministry and mission. The power of the chiseled cross is ready to be your today.

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve

### **2nd Annual Ministers' March Mania Basketball**

(Local Pastors from all denominations)

Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 2 p.m.

Frewsburg High School Gymnasium

Proceeds support Love In the Name of Christ (LoveINC).

Come and support Pastor Steve in his effort to help raise funds for this national organization that focuses on mobilizing the Church to help meet the needs of the poor. Sponsorship forms for the free throw competition are available on the Welcome Table.



### **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 who has been to camp or anyone who 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.



*With Sympathy to the families of...*

*Marilyn (Jean) Vanderkooi*

April 3, 1932 - February 28, 2016

Preceded in death by her husband, "Dutch" Vanderkooi, in 2009

Survived by daughter Denise (Geary) TeWinkle and  
daughter Rhonda (Jim) Dorsey

3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren

Memorials may be made to the Panama United Methodist Church  
or the Clymer or Panama Fire Departments

*Kay G. Anderson*

February 2, 1935 - February 19, 2016

Preceded in death by his wife, Marie Jordan Anderson, in 2010

Survived by his son George (Trudy) Anderson

20 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren

Memorials may be made to Hospice Chautauqua County  
or Roswell Park Cancer Institute

*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.*



*Births*

*It's a boy!!*

Christopher Hank Pekelnicky  
was born on February 7, 2016.

Hank's happy parents are  
Chris and Amanda (Sard) Pekelnicky.

(Vital Statistics: 8lb. 5 oz.; 22 inches)

Quote from mommy: "He's got bright blue eyes  
and big feet like his daddy."

Grandparents are Mike and Dawn Sard  
and Rose Pekelnicky.

Great Grandparents are Frances Sard,  
Lizzy Montagna, and Leonard Montagna.

*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.*

**SUNDAY MORNING TEAM**

*Ushers*

Peter and Paula Komarek  
Buck and Kristine Seekings

*Nursery Helpers*

*March 6*

**Birth-2:** Jenn Johnson and Dawn Sard

**3-4:** Tina Akam and Kylie Schnars

*March 13*

**Birth-2:** Kathy Foulk and Cathy Erhard

**3-4:** Andrew and Wende Lescynski

*March 20*

**Birth-2:** Thea Kester and Lilly Odell

**3-4:** Jason and Jolene Ayres

*March 27*

**Birth-2:** Barb Tordella and Natalie Odell

**3-4:** Marge and Graham Vollmer

Thank you for volunteering to take care of our  
little ones during the worship service. We ap-  
preciate 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!!

**VISITATION MINISTRY**

*March 6*

Kathy Smith - Tanglewood 235

Jean Trisket - Corry Manor C44

Kathy Peck - Corry Manor D56

Thea Kester

Trudy Anderson

Trudy Anderson

*March 13*

Kathy Smith - Tanglewood 235

Jean Trisket - Corry Manor C44

Kathy Peck - Corry Manor D56

Sharon Passarelli

Bill Peck

Bill Peck

*March 20*

Kathy Smith - Tanglewood 235

Jean Trisket - Corry Manor C44

Kathy Peck - Corry Manor D56

Trudy Anderson

Jack/Linda Sturges

Jack/Linda Sturges

*March 27*

Kathy Smith - Tanglewood 235

Jean Trisket - Corry Manor C44

Kathy Peck - Corry Manor D56

Thea Kester

Bill Peck

Bill Peck

**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 Easter*

## Safe Sanctuaries

Carol Hay

One of our grandsons called to “interview” me about being an “expert” – part of a home-work assignment. I’m not sure I am an expert in anything, but we talked about me being an educator – the necessary preparation, the important skills and knowledge, and experiences. One of his questions prompted my answer that an educator needs to truly care about each child.

We are all teachers in various circumstances and learning never ends. In our church, the teaching and learning opportunities are both intentional, such as Sunday school classes, Bible study and messages during worship, and also unintentional - we never know when our statements and actions will make an impact on another person.

As part of the *Safe Sanctuaries Team*, I am often reminded of how good ideas grow when groups of people, concerned about others, work together. Since the inception of the church’s *Safe Sanctuaries Team*, we have improved the facilities where children and youth meet in order to provide a safe environment and we have provided opportunities for everyone to learn more about caring for and helping children and youth. Additionally, the *Team* has sought opportunities to help vulnerable adults with care and safety issues.

During the coming spring and summer, the *Safe Sanctuaries Team* will be providing learning opportunities and partnering with other church activities to show love and concern for our community. The *Team* is sponsoring training on **April 28<sup>th</sup>** to allow adults an opportunity to learn about child abuse and our church’s responsibilities in those situations. The training will be preceded by a supper, offer childcare to those attending, and our in-house trainer, Roberta Anderson, will do it. Please watch for further details and if you work with children through VBS, Sunday school, or nursery, please be sure to sign up. The training is more than a “how to”; it is a reminder of our obligation to serve others by being a caring person.

Everyone is an expert in something – and we all can be experts in loving and caring for each other.



***From the Parish Nurse's Desk...***

*The following list is a compilation of the March National Health observances. Should you need up-to-date information and outreach materials, contact information is included for your use.*

**March 1-31**

National Cheerleader Safety Month  
6745 Lenox Center Court  
Suite 300, Memphis, TN 38115  
(888)899-8964  
[www.cheersafe.org/about/national-cheerleading-safety-month](http://www.cheersafe.org/about/national-cheerleading-safety-month)

**March 1-31**

National Nutrition and Dietetics  
120 S. Riverside Plaza, Ste. 2000  
Chicago, IL 60606-6995  
[www.eatright.org/nnm](http://www.eatright.org/nnm)

**March 2-6**

National School Breakfast Week  
School Nutrition Association  
120 Waterfront St., Ste. 300  
National Harbor, MD 20745  
(301)686-3100  
[www.schoolnutrition/nsbw](http://www.schoolnutrition/nsbw)

**March 16-22**

Brain Awareness Week  
Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives  
505 Fifth Ave., 6th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
(212)401-1689  
[www.dana.org/brainweek](http://www.dana.org/brainweek)

**March 1-31**

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month  
1600 Duke St, Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(800)227-2732  
[www.preventcancer.org](http://www.preventcancer.org)

**March 1-31**

Save Your Vision Month  
American Optometric Association  
243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., First Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63141-7881  
(800)365-2219  
[www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)

**March 8-14**

Patient Safety Awareness Week  
National Patient Safety Foundation  
268 Summer St., 6th Floor  
Boston, MA 02210  
(617)391-9900  
[www.npsf.org/?page=awarenessweek](http://www.npsf.org/?page=awarenessweek)

**March 23-27**

National Youth Violence Prevention Week  
National Association of SAVE  
322 Chapanoke Rd., Ste. 110  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
(866)343-7283  
[www.nationalsve.org](http://www.nationalsve.org)

**March 1-31**

National Kidney Month  
National Kidney Foundation  
30 E. 33rd St  
New York, NY 10016  
(800)622-9010  
[www.kidney.org](http://www.kidney.org)

**March 2-8**

National Sleep Awareness Week  
National Sleep Foundation  
1010 North Glebe Rd., Ste. 310  
Arlington, VA 22201  
(703)243-1697  
[www.sleepfoundation.org](http://www.sleepfoundation.org)

**March 15-21**

National Poison Prevention Week  
Poison Prevention Week Council  
American Assoc. of Poison Control Centers  
515 King St., Ste. 510  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703)894-1858  
[www.aapcc.org](http://www.aapcc.org)

**March 24**

American Diabetes Alert Day  
American Diabetes Association  
1701 N. Beauregard St.  
Alexandria, VA 22311  
(800)342-2383  
[www.diabetes.org/on-my-Community/program/alert-day](http://www.diabetes.org/on-my-Community/program/alert-day)



## 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)

## 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; 716-782-4611;  
appleoakstreefarm@ yahoo.com or suesu-  
e4@windstream.net;

**Ladies of Light**...Cindy Furlow; 2nd and 4th Mon-  
day of each month; 7pm; 716-782-2775;  
cfurlow@chautauquamachine.com

**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; 716-355-4382;  
kbhinsdale@windstream.net

**We Care**...Thea Kester; every other Thursday; Row-  
dy Rooster; Noon; rtkester@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.

## March Birthdays and **Anniversaries**

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

A look ahead to April...

- 1 Caleb Caldwell, Adyn Hay, Rex Marsh
- 3 Kylie Schnars
- 4 Bill Caldwell, Sam Catanese, Tara Hosier
- 6 Janice Franklin
- 7 Derek Hosier, Kyle Hosier

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  
to date as the information we are given.

## **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.

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



## **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

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

## **Mark Your Calendars...**

On **Monday, MARCH 14 at 7:00pm**, the movie, **WAR ROOM**, will be shown at PUMC. There is no charge. Popcorn, chips, and bottled water will be offered. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors. Everyone is welcome! This is a powerful story that will encourage you to spend even more time in prayer. See you there!

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

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

Panama United Methodist Church  
22 East Main St., PO Box 218  
Panama, NY 14767  
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