

GRACE NOTES - April 2016

Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor

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.

Mark Your April Calendar

April 8 and 9

The Wizard of Oz at PCS

April 15, 16

Community Musical at PCS

April 22

Family Swim with Pizza at PCS
6-8pm

April 28

Safe Sanctuaries Training starting
With dinner at 5:30pm - 9:15pm

April 30

Church Spring Cleaning Day
8am-2pm

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Welcome to this edition of the 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 UMC and our community is in here...enjoy!

Cultivating Change

I like what Diane Frolov said in the following quote: *"Listen, can you hear it? Spring's sweet cantata. The strains of grass pushing though the snow. The song of buds swelling on the vine. The tender timpani of a baby robin's hear. Spring."* I sense that so much of our human life can be captured in the nuances of the creation around us, if we were to pay attention. Although, I also know that what e.e.cummings wrote is true as well: *"The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful."*

You and I are part of a Church that is changing. And when I say "Church", I mean the global Christian Church and the Panama United Methodist Church right here. In some ways, the cliché is true that the Church is changing because we can't do the same things we used to do in the same ways and get the same results. Winter turns to Spring as the seasons roll on. In other ways, the people of the church are more like the spring buds and spring grass straining to be revealed by the God who made us and the Church.

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Unfortunately, we find ourselves in a world that we've made mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful. We take the circumstances we have, read the paper, watch the news, and try, as best we can, to jump in puddles and make mud pies, all while groaning for everything to be revealed by God, finally. Paul writes this in Romans 8:18-25 (NRSV):

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

We are changing, church! Spiritually, we are growing and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us more and more into the image of Jesus. We are starting a process and LEAD (Leaders Equipped and Advancing Discipleship) to train up leaders to lead us. Physically, we are preparing to enter into a new building project that will allow us to minister to our community and church in brand new and improved ways - to welcome, gather, meet, and minister like never before! We're like the tulips that are busting out of the rich ground that has been prepared for such a time as this. Change is never easy (ask the flowers!). Yet, change is what God equips us for. Change that leads to continued growth and requires patience and prayer and participation.

Enjoy the Spring that is slowly coming. Watch this joy as the grass begins to grow and the birds begin to sing. Enjoy, too, the growth of your spiritual life and the life of the Church. It's a new season, and God has us JUST where He wants us! Glory!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Coming again to PUMC!!

Propelling Panama to Action is a mission-minded summer ministry. It was such a great success last year - we've decided to do it again! Kids and adults will put God's love into action by helping others by collecting items and packaging them each Sunday morning. Acts 17:28 says, "In God we live, move, and exist." Starting on July 3 at 9 a.m., PUMC will be in action with various interactive service projects, including filling flood buckets (back by popular demand!), collecting items for children and hospice, prayer walks, and serving the community breakfast. Items will be collected through the summer. Lists for requested donations are available NOW and can be found on page 6 of this newsletter so you can begin shopping early! A schedule will be posted so you know what is happening each Sunday, so that you can help! We are the body of Jesus Christ - and we want to be in action to show God's love to our community and our world.

With Sympathy to the families of...

Leo Lescynski

10/29/19 - 3/5/16

Leo is survived by his wife, Rita, 5 children, 14 grandchildren including Amanda (Andy) Anderson, Christine (Jody) Olson and Andrew (Wende) Lescynski.

He was also survived by 22 great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the North Harmony Sr. Citizens or to the Ashville Fire Department.

Kenneth M. Johnson

12/9/34 - 3/8/16

Kenneth is survived by his sister, Eleanor King, 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Assn. and Palliative Care (Charlotte, NC Region) or a local hospice facility of choice.

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.

APRIL
SUNDAY MORNING TEAM

Ushers

Pat and Kristy Catanese
Howie and Jan Wheeler

Nursery Helpers

April 3

Birth-2: Kim Davis and Tena Dills

3-4: Betsy Eggleston and Tina Swineford

April 10

Birth-2: Becky, Amelia and Josiah Sprague

3-4: Becky and Gracie Cable

April 17

Birth-2: Kelly Osborne and Cameryn Eggleston

3-4: Julia Nelson and Stacy Taylor

April 24

Birth-2: Amanda Kolstee and Riley Seekings

3-4: Adam and Tory Irgang

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!!



Welcome to the family...



Brooke Melissa-Lourdes Wiggers

February 24, 2016

6 lb., 13.75 oz.; 20 inches long

Proud parents are Joel and Tracy Wiggers.

Big sister is Niomi.

Grandparents are Steve and Melissa Wiggers.

and

Margaret Josephine Keefer

(aka Maggie Jo)

March 23, 2016

1lb., 10 oz.; 12 inches long

Proud parents are Joel and Jessica Keefer.

Big brother is Aiden.

Grandparents are Jerry and Pam Ireland and Jim and Sylvia Keefer.

We congratulate you on the birth of these precious children and we pray God's richest blessings on you all as they grow in the love of Christ.

LUNCH BUNCH

Did you know - that for several years our church has been providing a "senior luncheon" for folks over 55 and/or retired?? We call it LUNCH BUNCH and meet on the third Wednesday of each month (Except July and August). Just a time to visit and meet new people, because it is open to the community. We probably have as many come that are not from the PUMC family as those that are!

Peter Komarek is head chef and the menu is up to him, but we always have peanut butter and jelly and dessert!! The coffee is always ready by 11:30 with lunch being served at noon.

NO DUES...no pressure...just some nice conversation! We ask for a donation of \$1.50 - so if you haven't tried it, bring a friend and join us!!

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 782-4031.

Hope to see you there...April 20th!

SAFE SANCTUARIES ...The “shoulds” in life...

My list of things I should do is so long, it will take me years to get every item crossed off the list. I should go through that box from college and then toss it all out. I should exercise more. I should...well, you get the idea! We all have lots of “shoulds” in our lives.

Here’s a “should” that we pray you won’t put off any longer. We all should care so much about our children and youth that we want to attend the *Safe Sanctuaries Training*. Honest, the training is interesting and will certainly help to ensure children and youth in our church and community are surrounded by adults who recognize signs of abuse and neglect and know how to deal with the issues.

The intent of the *Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines* is to protect children and ensure they are safe when at church or attending church activities. In addition, the *Training* provides insights into abuse and neglect that really does occur locally. Many of our church members have been trained through their occupations and we are thankful for that and know that is following the intent of the *Guidelines*. Still, attending the *Safe Sanctuaries Training* is an opportunity to see the issues from the church perspective and offers an opportunity for trained people to enrich our *Training* with their perspectives.

The *Safe Sanctuaries Team* is sponsoring an approved training on **April 28th**. The *Training* will be preceded by a supper, offer childcare to those attending, and our in-house trainer, Roberta Anderson, will do it. If you work with children through VBS, Sunday school, or nursery, please be sure to sign up. The training is more than a lecture on what to do in specific abuse and neglect situations, it is a reminder that we are God’s children - He protects us and we must do all we can to be protective of others.

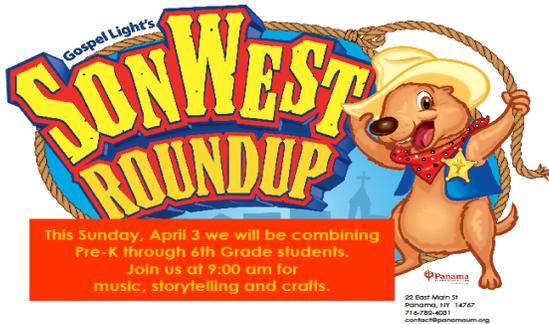
Get out your “should” list, put *Safe Sanctuary Training* on it, then sign up for the April 28th Training. On April 29th - you can cross off one of your “should” items! How great is that?

April Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Caleb Caldwell, Adyn Hay, Rex Marsh | 21 Tim Middleton, Orlo Jackson |
| 2 Joshua Cable | 22 Cam James, Jeff Ostrander, Chuck Parkman
Jean Trisket, Bob/Diane Johnson |
| 3 Kylie Schnars | 23 Larissa Enlow, Tyler Marsh |
| 4 Bill Caldwell, Sam Catanese, Tara Hosier
Benjamin Taylor | 24 Kate Kester, Elinor Sturges, Gracie Cable |
| 6 Janice Franklin | 25 Joanne Fisher, Dave/Joan Hinderer |
| 7 Derek Hosier, Kyle Hosier | 26 Paula McCordic |
| 8 Jon/Becky Cable | 27 Calvin Carr |
| 10 Maddeline Wheeler | 28 Cindy Cartwright, Warren/Cindy Crouch |
| 11 Alexandria King | 30 Jolene Ayres |
| 12 Emily Waller | |
| 13 Pastor Steve | A Look ahead to May..... |
| 14 Kennadee Woods | 4 Barbara Hart (a little bird told me this was a
special birthday...90!!) |
| 15 Paula Komarek | 5 Kathy Smith, Jon Cable |
| 16 Tom Baer | 6 Jason/Jolene Ayres |
| 17 Tina Swineford | |
| 18 Hannah Calcaterra, Megan Hinderer,
Rebecca Jaeger, Hunter Kester,
Donovan Schnars, Lester Wevers | |
| 19 Dave Sturges, Art/Jeanette Osborne | |
| 20 Donna Peterson | |

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

As of April 3, we'll be introducing some changes in our Sunday morning youth and children's ministry. Carl Davis will be leading the 7-12 graders in the youth room at 9 a.m.



Children Pre-K thru 6th grade will be joined together at 9 a.m. to experience SonWest Round-Up. We'll be traveling down the trail through the Old Testament stories of Moses to discover God's ultimate plan of salvation in Jesus, because "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever," Hebrews 13:8. We'll be learning through music, storytelling, games, and crafts.

We'll continue this new adventure through June 26 after which we will begin our Propelling Panama to Action (PP2A).

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016

The 65th annual National Day of Prayer, **May 5, 2016**, will have profound significance for our country. It is an unprecedented opportunity to see the Lord's healing and renewing power made manifest as we call on citizens to humbly come before His throne.

The theme for 2016 is **Wake Up America**, emphasizing the need for individuals, corporately and individually, to return to the God of Fathers in reverence for His Holy Name. To further highlight the theme, **Isaiah 58:1a** has been chosen as the Scripture for this year.

"Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet."

Come join us for a prayer breakfast from 6:30 - 7:30am with Dave Diffenderfer as our speaker. The church sanctuary will be open all day so you are welcome to stop in for prayer.

The poster features a patriotic theme with a red, white, and blue color scheme. At the top, it reads 'NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER' in blue capital letters, followed by a small American flag icon. Below this, the Panama UMC logo is displayed. The central text 'WAKE UP AMERICA' is written in large, bold, blue and red letters. To the right, the date 'May 5, 2016' is shown, along with the event details: 'Breakfast—6:30 to 7:30 am', 'Speaker, Dave Diffenderfer', and 'Sanctuary OPEN all day Prayer Vigil'. At the bottom, the text 'SHOUT IT ALOUD, DO NOT HOLD BACK. RAISE YOUR VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET. ISAIAH 58:1A NIV' is written in blue. The date 'MAY 5, 2016' and 'At Panama UMC' are prominently displayed in red and black. The background of the poster shows a firefighter in a yellow jacket and a young girl on the left, and two women in prayer on the right, all set against a backdrop of an American flag.

Propelling Panama to Action

Propelling Panama to Action is back for this summer! It was such a blessing to so many last year! This year, we have more people to bless! Remember that Acts 17:28 says, "In God we live, move, and exist."

As a church, we need to be in action for all those around us.

This is a simple way to give back, say thank you - and show God's love to our community.

The summer schedule of service projects as are follows:

July 3 - Honoring Those Who Serve, Emily Baker, Leader

July 10 - Chalk Walk, Becky Cable, Leader

July 17 - Helping Hospice Home Health Aids, Susie Davis, Leader

July 24 - Community Breakfast, Mark Morton, Leader

July 31 - Green Clean, Carrie Munsee and Sharon Passarelli, Leaders

August 7 - Eternal Reward Bags, Katie Braun, Leader

August 14 - Flood Buckets, Kathy Foulk, Leader

August 21 - Nurse Necessities, Barb Tordella and Dawn Sard, Leaders

August 28 - Teacher Bags, Carolyn Hughesman and Kim Davis Leaders

PP2A LISTS OF SUPPLIES, to get you started

Honoring Those Who Serve **(Needed by July 3)**

Sunscreen
Lip Balm
Beef jerky
Hard candy
Paperback books/activity books
Dental hygiene supplies
i-tunes gift cards
Instant soup mix
Travel size personal items
Pop top canned fruit (not plastic)
Individually wrapped snacks/food
Water enhancers
White calf-high athletic socks (no logo)
White cotton crewneck t-shirts (M or L)
ZipLoc Brand bags (all sizes)
Pocket tissues
Granola bars
Ground coffee or instant coffee packets
lotion

Helping Hospice Home Health Aids **(Needed by July 17)**

Twin bed sheets
Twin blankets
Towels
Gift cards for grocery stores

Green Clean **(Needed by July 31)**

Paper towels
Toilet paper
Dish soap
Dish towels
Dishcloths
Trash bags
Hand soap
Laundry soap
Light bulbs
Small flashlight with batteries
Scotch tape
All-purpose cleaners
Toilet bowl cleaner
Reusable grocery bags
White vinegar
Magic erasers
Baking soda
Lemon juice
Bon Ami
Salt
Empty spray bottles

Nurse Necessities **(Needed by August 21)**

Underpants: boy and girl, all sizes
Elastic waist pants/shorts: boy and girl,
all sizes
T-shirts, size 5T and up
Deodorant
Toothpaste
Tooth brushes
Hair ties
Boys' jeans, size 6-8 and 8-10
Girls' jeans, size 6-8
Belts

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 a.m. - Noon: M, T and W

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Church E-mail – contact@panamaum.org
Church website - www.panamaum.org
www.facebook.com/panamaum

Mark Your Calendars...

May 5
National Day of Prayer
See details inside

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

Cornerstone District Office
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