

Grace Notes - November 2019

Panama United Methodist Church

Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

(This is the next installment of an ongoing series of articles regarding what we believe, why we believe it, and why it matters. **In the United Methodist Church, there is change coming.** Within our global denomination, we have some serious divergent views on the authority of scripture, human sexuality, and what that means in the world and in our church. We aren't sure what the changes will look like, but we know that in order to respond to God's call to be the church in the 21st century, the anchor of our doctrinal identity, we need to know what that is. So, I invite you to join me on this journey for God's glory and to build up the church.)

...on doctrine...

Parts 18 and 19 Of the Lord's Supper

Last time, we took a deeper look at the meaning and place of baptism in the church. This month, we look at where we stand as a church on Holy Communion, or the Lord's Supper. Because there are two Articles of Religion on this one, we'll look at both.

Just as baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace, instituted by faith in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, so too is Holy Communion. John Wesley had a very high view of communion and encouraged the people called Methodists to engage in Holy Communion as much as possible.

Here's what Article of Religion 18 says about this: *The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death; insomuch that, to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ; and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ.*

Transubstantiation, or the change of the substance of bread and wine in the Supper of our Lord, cannot be proved by Holy Writ, but is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, overfloweth the nature of a sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions.

The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the Supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. And the mean whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is faith.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshiped.

In addition, Article 19 states: *The cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the lay people; for both the parts of the Lord's Supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered to all Christians alike.* (From The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church - 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House.)

(Continued on next page)

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)

Wesley was guiding the Methodists into a very meaningful and spiritual discipline of communion. He cautioned against some of the abuses and misguided understandings of communion that were evident in the Roman Catholic Church (the doctrine of transubstantiation) and for those who viewed communion as a sort of magical undertaking. In addition, some reserved communion (sometimes just the cup) for clergy. Wesley clearly believed that communion was spiritual by God's grace and was open to all who desired to *flee the wrath to come*.

The United Methodist Church has an open communion table. All who are repentant of sin, want to be in love with God, and live in peace with others can come to meet Christ at the Table. Wesley also believed that communion was a means of grace - a way for us to practice attending to our practice of faith. Wesley knew that communion could be a converting act as well - people could finally trust Christ through taking communion by faith.

I count on the fact that the Lord's Supper is mysterious and wonderful, requiring faith and humility to accept this gift from God. I'm thankful that God has provided this way for all of us to meet Christ in a tangible way as often as we come to the Table. Christ died for your sins and mine...through the Lord's Supper, we can celebrate the freedom and redemption of Jesus Christ!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

*Next: Part 20 - Of the One Oblation of Christ,
Finished upon the Cross*

CenterPoint October Update

This month we have received \$12,901.67 for a total of \$753,870.76,
which is 81% of the goal of \$933,623.41.

Next Course for New Members and Baptisms coming this Fall

Starting November 3rd, Pastor Steve will be leading a new members and baptism course for anyone interested. The course will be three weeks and will discover the basics of the Christian faith, what it means to grow in Christ, and your place in the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ here at Panama UMC. If you are new to Panama UMC, this course is for you. If you have not been baptized, and would like to be, this is the course for you.

If you are interested, or have questions, please let Pastor Steve or Debbie Johnson know. The first class will be after worship.

Baptisms and new members will be welcomed in November during worship.

You are invited to a NIGHT OF WORSHIP...

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 24th at 7pm, the PUMC family will respons. We will GATHER and WORSHIP! We will be inviting our community, the churches, the businesses, and everyone we meet to come and celebrate God in worship. We will have lots of music (Praise Team, Celebration Choir, and more)! We will hear God's promises to prosper His people! Come and invite your friends and family to this Night of Worship!

Coming this Advent: Advent Mission!

This December, the Panama UM faith community will be engaging in a four-week experience called Advent Mission! Daily devotionals, small group study materials, and more will be available near the end of November. More information will be coming soon! Let's celebrate!

Looking For Something To DO?

Please check the PUMC **NOVEMBER** calendar for meetings and events which you might like to attend. The calendar can be found on the last page of this edition of the newsletter.

Looks like it is another busy month. We hope you can find something of interest to you. There is almost always something going on at the PUMC!

CONNECTIONS

We continue to welcome our after school children each day, and boy, are they hungry when they get here!

We thank you for the snacks you have been providing. Please keep them coming, enough for 20 children. They love cucumbers, apples, and anything else nutritious!

Thank you!

BIBLE QUIZZING (October Update)

Our quiz on Saturday, October 25th was exciting! We were blessed to have Rick Snively, Family Life Ministries general manager, attend the quiz and give the quizzers a few words of encouragement. Our team, By Faith, placed 2nd. Juliana received a 3rd place award as a second year quizzer and Gracie wowed us all by earning top quizzer of the day!

I am very proud of the team and the many hours of study they put into learning God's word. I know that God will honor that diligence by making Himself known to the quizzer.

Even if our team does not receive stage recognition, the Holy Spirit is working His way in the quizzers because of the promise found in Isaiah 55:11: ***"...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to be empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."***

Six of our quizzers and Jon will be heading to East Liverpool, Ohio for the "Teapot Tournament" on November 8 and 9. The tournament is a great way to prepare for the National tournament in April. Our monthly quiz in Hornell will be on Saturday, November 23rd. Please keep praying for Jubal, Josiah, Jalyynn, Josh, Juliana, Gracie and Levi as they study Mark 2, 5 and 12; Hebrews 10; 1Peter 3 and 2Peter 1.



SUNDAY Morning Team - November
USHERS

Don and Tabby Butler
Craig and Marge Vollmer

NURSERY
November 3

Birth-2: Susie Davis and Lilly Odell
November 10

Birth-2: Andrew Lescynski and Lilly Odell
November 17

Birth-2: Adam and Tory Irgang
November 24

Birth-2: Jessica Keefer and Lisa Waller

Thank you for volunteering to take care of our little ones during the worship service.

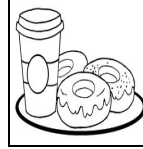
We appreciate you! Currently, we are scheduling people to serve in one nursery only. During this time, if and when it becomes apparent that we need an older nursery, too, we will be asking for additional help on that Sunday morning.

If something comes up and you cannot serve, please trade with someone or find a replacement.

THANK YOU!!!

FREE Blood Pressures
and Fasting Blood Sugars

in Jody's office,
Stop in on the first Sunday of each month.



Sunday Morning Coffee Time

Coffee, tea, and light snacks, are available on Sunday mornings, from 8:30 until 10:15am. Please join us!

The café continues to be a very busy place on Sunday mornings. The coffee is ready to go between 8 and 8:30am. We go through a lot of goodies each week. We would welcome your donations of baked goods or healthy snacks which can be brought in and placed in the refrigerator or freezer in the kitchen at any time. Please label them for the Café. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

You don't have to be a "member" of the hospitality team to offer your services occasionally. If you are interested in helping, please stop in at the café on Sunday mornings and talk to Pam, Julia, or Roberta S.

Christmas at the Pantry!



We originally had asked to have gift cards or money returned by the end of October. Since we have only received 14 from the congregation, You can purchase a \$20 gift card or give \$20 to either Tina Swineford or Kathy Foulk.

We have 89 clients that we want to bless. Please help us bless the Panama School District pantry clients that the PUMC supports! Thank you!

Kathy and Tina



VILLAGE OF HOPE HAITI

As you may know, Bert and I were asked to return to Haiti as Field Directors for Village of Hope. We were hoping to return there last month, however, the political unrest in the country made it quite unsafe. We ask for your prayers that the situation in Haiti improves. We pray for the leadership there as well as for the Haitians whose daily lives have been so disrupted by protests and demonstrations.

The school and the health center operated by Village of Hope have tried to remain open during these difficult times. Our School Director, Clovis Elias, and the Medical Director, Dr. Joseph, had to close the facilities for extended periods of time during this unrest. We respect their judgment as we want our staff and well as the students and patients we serve to be safe.

We continually monitor the activities there and are prepared to go at a moment's notice. Please join us in prayer for our safety and for the safety of the Haitian people.

Blessings,
Bert and Roberta Anderson

Christmas Eve Worship Announcement

This Christmas Eve, we will 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!

Cream Cheese Pumpkin Bread

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse

- 1 c. oats
 - 1 can pumpkin puree
 - 3 eggs
 - 1 tsp. baking powder
 - 2 tsp. pumpkin spice
 - 4 Tbsp. Stevia
 - 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
- Mix all ingredients together.

Filling:

- 1 - 8 oz. fat free cream cheese
 - 1 egg
 - 1 Tbsp. Stevia
- Beat filling. Ingredients together and swirl through pumpkin mix,

Bake in 9x13 pan at 350 degrees for 40-45 min.
Let rest at least an hour before serving.

ENJOY!



The **God's Groceries Food Pantry** can be found at PUMC, next to the kitchen. If there is a need, please call the church office for more information, or see Tina Swineford.

The Food Pantry entrance is on Church Street...look for signs.

- Monday Morning: 9-10am
- Monday Evening: 6-7pm
- Thursday Evening: 5-7pm

**W.A.M.
(Women and Missions)**

Women and Missions meets the 2nd Monday of each month. We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming women who want to join us and help us come up with some fresh ideas for ministry within our community. Please join us on November 11th at 11:45am in the conference room.

Don't forget your lunch!

If you have questions, please be in touch with Kathy Foulk.

<<<< Just One 4 Others >>>>

The NOVEMBER item of the month is DEODERANT.

Thank you all for supporting this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Jody, our Parish Nurse. Please place you donations in Jody's office in the hallway just past the elevator.

Grace Notes Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

If you are new to the PUMC (or for some reason we do not have your birthday or anniversary information), please leave Pam a note in the "Newsletter" mailbox in the office so we can add you to the list.

We would simply need your first and last name as well as your dates to be added.

THANKS!

LUNCH BUNCH

The next gathering of the LUNCH BUNCH will be on Wednesday, November 20th (always the 3rd Wednesday of the month) in the Community Room at NOON. All you need to bring is a (suggested) \$5 donation and an appetite! You could also bring a friend or two!

With Sympathy to the Family of...

LINDA M. (Carlson) LARSON
8/27/48 - 10/4/19

Linda is survived by her husband, Steve,
three sons, Scott, Christopher and Jeremy,
eight grandchildren and one great grandson.
Linda is also survived by her sisters, Susan (Dave) Lantz
and Janice (Howie) Wheeler.

Services and burial were held in Franklin, IN.

Memorials may be made to the Multiple Systems Atrophy Coalition
(9935-D Rea Road 2112, Charlotte, NC 28277) or
www.multiplesystematrophy.org/msa-donation.

*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.*

Welcome to the Family!

Alani Faith Larson

was born on October 7, 2019
to Phil and Marcey (Furlow) Larson
of Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Alani is the 5th grandchild of Denny and Cindy Furlow.

Memphis Jay Reed

was born on September 9, 2019
to Cameryn Eggleston and Kodey Reed.
"MJ" weighed 6.1 pounds and was 20.75 inches long.
The PUMC connection is his grandparents, Erica and David Dix,
and his great grandparents, Jerry and Pam Ireland.

Jayce Henry Delahoy

was born on September 12, 2019
to Paige Munson and Tanner Delahoy.
Jayce weighed 7lb., 4 oz., and was 21 inches long.
Genesis Moore is Jayce's grandmother and
his great grandmother is Julia Nelson.

*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.*



You and your family are cordially invited to the inaugural
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER.

The dinner is sponsored by Panama Central School's National Honor Society and Supported by the Community Service Club and the Food Prep Class. Students will be preparing a FREE Thanksgiving meal for PCS community members which Will include turkey, rolls, fresh mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, cranberry jelly/sauce And desserts. **((TAKE OUT WILL BE AVAILABLE))**

WHEN: Monday, November 25

TIME: 5pm - 7pm

WHERE: Panama United Methodist Church
Music and entertainment will be provided.

To ensure there is enough food prepared, RSVP by 11/22 to one of the following:
hkeefe@pancent.org; Mrs. Sperry (782-4414); Mrs. Smith (782-4469)

Sunday School
Sarah Merritt

“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.” Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (NIV)

Life can be hectic, and if you find it challenging just to make it to the worship service at church, you might not even be able to think about getting your children to Sunday School. However it's great to have the support of the church as you teach your children the truths of Scripture.

I asked my students, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, “Why do you come to Sunday School?” The responses I received were: Learn about God; Learn the Bible, Have fun; Make new friends; and my favorite - My parents make me! I love these kids!

I hope to incorporate fun activities, like crafts and skits, into the lesson so your children will be able to remember them.

If you want your children to make more friends, Sunday School is a great place to find them. As they learn and play together on Sunday mornings, they will be able to form healthy friendships with children whose parents have the same priorities as you.

If you start consistently taking your kiddos to church when they're young, they will forever learn the good habits of church attendance. For the rest of their lives, they'll benefit from the knowledge they gained in Sunday School.

The church is a community where everyone helps their neighbors. When you take your children to Sunday School, you can rest assured you have qualified help with their spiritual education.

Blessings,
Sarah

PUMC Harvest Dinner 2019 - FOLLOW-UP

As we began formulating plans and ideas for our 2019 Harvest dinner, we became very excited about the prospect of sharing God's love (and some really good food!) with our friends and neighbors in and around the Panama area. Due to our recent building project, we had not been able to gather together for this event in a couple of years. Because of the expanded gathering space in our new Community Room, we were able to VERY comfortably accommodate seating for 160 at one time! In years back, the most that we could somewhat comfortably seat at one time was about 90. We are truly blessed.

It is easy to say that PUMC Harvest Dinner 2019 was a success. We served 300+ dinners, between dining in and take outs. Our thank you's begin with the support we received from YOU, our own PUMC family and the Panama community. We couldn't have done it without you and yours attending the dinner, your donations of turkey money, the upfront grocery items that were necessary, the many hands that peeled 150 pounds of potatoes, shredded cabbage, worked tirelessly in the kitchen for 2+ days, decorated and set up the dining room, made and donated 40+ desserts and dinner rolls, served up meals, made coffee, washed dishes, donated pumpkins, advertised, graciously welcomed people, made and donated bake sale items to benefit our missions budget, and to those who came at 7pm and cleaned and got everything back in shape for Sunday morning. THANK YOU, ALL!!

Our Team Leaders worked to recruit a great group of "worker bees" to help us pull off this awesome experience. Many of you helped along the way without even being asked...you know who you are! The Youth put in a great effort to bus and reset the tables and we thank them for that. A donation to the Youth Group fund is being made as a thank you for your help.

We are looking forward to 2020 and are in the thinking stages of reintroducing the bazaar aspect of this fun event. We may have some project nights during the year where people come and help assemble items to sell. If you have an idea of something we could make, either to make with a group or to take and assemble at your leisure, we would like to hear it. If you have items that you personally would like to create on your own and donate, we would like to hear from you. Please let us know your thoughts.

"THEY" say it takes a village to raise a child. "WE" say it takes a church family like ours to come together and give all the glory to God for a venture such as this!

Julia and Pam

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Mike Sard, Carol Simmes, Cindy Sturges, Joel Wiggers
- 2 Chris Comstock
- 3 **Tom/Sally Baer**
- 4 Tina Akam
- 8 Elena Komerak
- 9 Lisa Edwards, Linda Gleason, Logan Hickman
- 10 Erica Dix, Corinne Ireland, Katie Braun
- 11 April VanBrunt, Abigail Skahan
Marlie Seekings
- 12 Jean Edwards, Connor Hickman
- 15 Sharon Passarelli, Jaik Halpainy
- 16 Genesis Moore
- 17 Merton Osborne
- 19 Stephanie Landin
- 20 Peter Butler
- 21 Evan Lescynski
- 25 Mel Eggleston II, Barb Trisket
- 26 Mary Lou Garfield, Gloria Scholton
- 27 Jack Sturges, Stacy Taylor
Tim and Tena Dills
- 29 Kevin Parkman, **Adam and Tia Kester**
- 30 Fran Sard

Looking into December...

- 1 Bert Anderson, Brianna Marsh
- 3 Judy Parkman
- 4 Rob Peck, Paige Weise,
Dennis and Cindy Furlow
- 5 Eloise Smith

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AVAILABLE FOR ALL!

We are so blessed at the PUMC to have Christian Education classes for EVERYONE! We have Pre-K classes all the way up to our Senior Adults! Listed below are the classes, rooms and the teachers that are available each week. If you are interested in the topics for the adult classes, you may contact Becky Cable for that information. All classes (except Stacy's) run from 9:00am - 9:50am each Sunday morning.

PreK - 2nd: Rotating leaders; Room B-2
3rd - 5th grade: Sarah Merritt; Room 214
6th - 8th grade: Becky Cable; Room 215
9th - 12th grade: Jessica Nelson; Youth Room
Denny/Cindy Furlow; Conference Room
George Anderson; Room B-1
Marge Vollmer; Room B-4
Jon Cable; Room 216
Stacy Taylor; Wednesday; 3:30pm - Gallery

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
steven.taylor@panamaum.org
Candy Scarem, Director of Student Ministries
candy.scarem@panamaum.org
Debbie Johnson, Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst.
debbie.johnson@panamaum.org
Julie Nagel, Music Director/Accompanist
Krista Odell, Accompanist
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse
Jon Cable, Custodian

Pastor Steve's Office Hours
9:00am - Noon: M, W and Th

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 for weekly
meetings and activities
for the month of November.

Cornerstone District Office
Christ First UMC
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