

Panama United Methodist Church
Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
Grace Notes - February 2019

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 a 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 of 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...

Part 9 - Of the Justification of Man

The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 5:1-2, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." The concept of justification has many of us a bit confused and wondering how it can be that God makes right that which doesn't have to be right. Namely, that we can have a relationship with God, even though our sin prevents that from happening because God is holy.

Here's what Article of Religion 9 says about this: *We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith, only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.* (From The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church - 1916. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House.)

The early church knew that God was holy. Many Old Testament accounts of God judging the Israelite people tell of a God who can not tolerate sin. Those who disregarded that aspect of God usually found themselves dead. God did not want it that way. God wants us to be able to have a relationship with Him. So God sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to take on, "...the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, and being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:7b-8)

From Pastor Steve's Desk...(continued)

If you believe that to be true - if you accept the gift that God gives you in the act of having Jesus come to earth, die on the cross, and be raised from the dead, ALL for your sin, then you are entering into the *justification* by faith. To be justified means to be proven right and to be found *free of blame*. Because of our continuing sin, there's no way we can ever be found free of blame - we did it, and will again. God knows that, thought, and because Jesus became human, we know that God knows that - God became one of us in Jesus.

When you stand before God at the end of your life, God will take account. You are guilty...you will be blamed for all the good and bad in your life. As you stand before God, look to your side. There's Jesus waiting for you to *run* to him to be found blameless because of his death for you. *Run* to Jesus because of your guilt and you will not have to pay for your sin...Jesus already did.

Those who refuse to acknowledge their sin and blame before God are those who have not been justified by faith. They have not *been accounted righteous before God*. They will die. And the definition of sin has been presented to us in the Bible, which does not change.

Our comfort...our joy...our hope...comes from knowing that because Jesus rose from the grave and he is our Lord and Savior, we can be justified by our faith. That, my friends, is surely a wholesome doctrine and worthy of our thanks.

May you work out justification by faith in your own life through believing in Jesus and being assured that you will *run* to him when God takes account of your life.

Praises for sure!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Next: Part 10 - Of Good Works



Welcome, Kelsey.....

The Staff Parish Relations Team and Music Ministry Staff are excited to announce that we've hired a Ministry Intern for January until May. Kelsey Johnson will be working 20 hours per week with our Praise Team, Youth Ministry, Impact Student Ministry, Connections Team, and more...here is a message from Kelsey:

Hi, Panama UMC! My name is Kelsey Johnson and I am from Atlanta, Texas but I've been living in Houghton since 2015. I just graduated from Houghton with a BS in Music Industry. With my degree, I will be able to help with the technology side of the church but I have a passion for worship music. As a young girl, I loved being involved at church and being a worship director was something I was always interested in. While I love music, I also feel God is calling me to work with women and children who have experienced abuse. I'm excited that Panama is a part of my journey. I know that God has many great things planned for the church and it is a blessing to be a part of this growth. I am really excited to be working at your church and I'm looking forward to building relationships with each of you.

SUNDAY Morning Team - FEBRUARY

USHERS

Ted and Sharon Passarelli
Darlene Fulton/Kathy Foulk

NURSERY HELPERS

February 3

Birth-2: Stacy Taylor and Kylie Schnars

February 10

Birth-2: Adam and Tory Irgang

February 17

Birth-2: Susie Davis and Jessica Keefer

February 24

Birth-2: Carolyn Hughesman and Lilly Odell

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. You may call Debbie in the Church office (M-TH) by calling 782-4031.

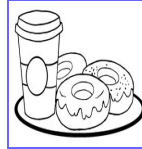
A CONNECTIONS Opportunity for YOU!

The Connections team is looking for volunteers to come to the Connections after school program and spend some time with the kids.

Do you have a craft you'd like to share? A story? A new game to play?

Please contact Stacy Taylor if you would be willing to share your time with the beautiful children who come to our church every day after school.

FREE Blood Pressures and Fasting Blood Sugars (fast 4 hours prior) are offered in Jody's office which is located just past the elevator on the right.



Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

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

The Hospitality Team is very excited about the "café" area just inside the entrance of our new building. Just today (1/30), we had a major delivery for the café. Pastor Steve, Jeff (and Pam) were like little kids on Christmas morning! We were able to purchase a coffee brewing system which will enhance our hospitality capabilities. We hope to have it operational in a couple of weeks.



The Hospitality Team would sincerely like to thank the PUMC family that made the purchase of this coffee system possible. **You are the best!**



CAMPAIGN CORNER

JANUARY OPEN HOUSE PICTURES

CENTERPOINT

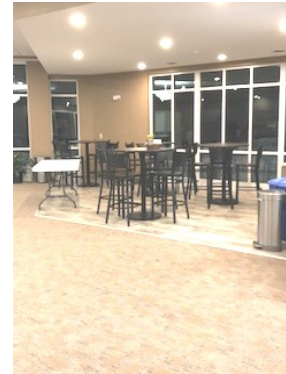


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Entry to the children's nursery area

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The café, just inside the new entrance



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The entrance into the new Fellowship Hall from the Café/gathering space

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The new Fellowship Hall during the Open House on January 20, 2019



UPDATE from Cindy and Ray Cartwright **(This Report was presented to the congregation on January 6th.)**

This morning we would like to invite you to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the use of the new addition. If all goes well, there will be a ceremony on January 20 immediately following worship. We have all watched the process of the building and furnishing of the addition. On January 20, we will celebrate and take occupancy of the new space. It will be a celebration you won't want to miss! Mark your calendars to stay a little longer after worship to celebrate all God has done through a faithful congregation.

For the month of December, we received \$15,058.92. That makes a total of \$556,011.59, which is 61% of our new goal of \$905,845.32. The goal for CenterPoint Furnishings is \$37,758. We have received \$12,625.

Your faithful giving to the CenterPoint project is appreciated and God is blessing us at PUMC.

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

If you aren't busy on Monday, February 10, W.A.M. will be meeting at NOON at PUMC. Please bring your own lunch and any ideas on how to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Join us for this time of fellowship.

We are still collecting soup labels and box tops, postage stamps and change. If you know of anyone who has been in the hospital or may need some help with meals, please let Kathy Foulk know and we will arrange for some meals to be taken in.



God's Groceries Food Pantry

The Pantry is moving back to PUMC and it should be fully operational this month. If you have any questions, please call the church office for more information, or see Tina Swineford.

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

...Missions and Outreach...

Looking For Something To DO?

Please check the PUMC February 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.

We hope you can find something of interest to you.

FEBRUARY Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Joel Keefer
- 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Eckman
- 3 Eric Scolton, AnnaVandeVelde
- 4 Willson Baer, Howie Wheeler
- 5 Jeff Enlow, Bill Schneider
- 6 Carl (TC) Davis III, Brenda Ireland, Braden Topolski
- 8 Alexandra Baer
- 11 Anna Cartwright
- 12 Devin Ireland, Paige Munson, Richard King
- 13 Trudy Anderson, Joe Edwards, Emily Baker
- 14 Marissa Topolski
- 16 Haley Holmberg
- 19 Natalie Odell
- 20 Adam Rupczyk, Diane Johnson, Averie Seekings
- 21 Scotty James, Wyona Wevers, Leah Irgang
- 24 Corinne Edwards, Joan Hinderer
- 25 Sara Waller
- 26 John Elfvin, Bryce Ireland, Emily King, Mark Akam
Hannah Fugate
- 27 Chase Hartnett, Marcia King
- 28 Zoe Kester, Jon Wood
- 29 Briana Johnson

A look ahead to March...

- 1 Dylan Peck, ***Keith/Cindy Miller***
- 2 Curtis Wood
- 8 Jennifer Johnson, Wende Lescynski
- 9 Sally Baer, Greg Ireland

If the names of your immediate family are not included on our monthly birthday/anniversary list, please drop a note into the Newsletter mailbox in the office workroom or let Debbie in the office know. (First and last names as well as birthday and or anniversary dates). We would like to include you and yours!



*Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so!*

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
February 2019

Mark your calendars....

Feb 3 - Souper Sundae @ 11:30 (proceeds support camping)

Feb 22 - Youth Bowlathon

Mar 3 - Ministry Fair @ 11:30 (with lunch); details to follow

Mar 17 - Baked Potato Bar; Youth Fundraiser; @11:30

Mar 20 - Red Cross Blood Drive; 2-8pm

April 6 - Bible Quiz Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

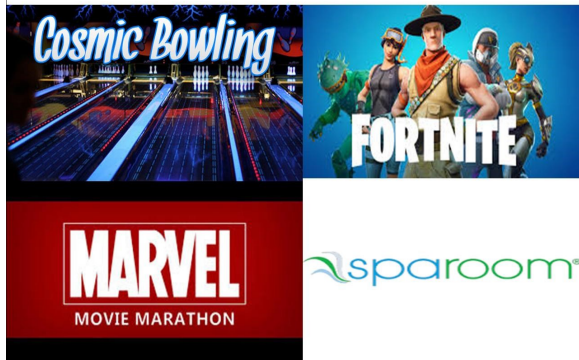
Ap 12/13 - Youth Retreat! "Prove It!"

August 18 - 24, 2019 - Mission Trip to Red Bird Mission

**Panama UMC Youth
Bowl-A-Thon and Lock-In**



Friday, February 22 at 7 pm
to
Saturday, February 23 at 8 am



The PUMC Youth is hosting a Bowl-A-Thon and Lock-In.

We will be bowling to raise funds for the Red Bird Mission. Our goal is to raise \$1000.

Please seek a youth member to support for this cause. It's sure to be a fun-filled night. If anyone is interested in helping to provide transportation to and from the bowling alley and/or providing snacks, please contact Candy Scarem at 814-873-6742.

YOUTH Meeting Update

Senior High and Junior High Youth will all begin meeting together on Sunday evenings at 7pm. There will no longer be youth meetings on Wednesday nights.

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.

Welcome to the family...

Aria Jean Ireland

Born: December 4, 2018

Weight: 9lb., 14oz. Length: 21 inches

Parents: Bryce and Katie (Stanton) Ireland

Big sister: Ella Joyce

Grandparents: Jerry and Julie Stanton

Jeff and Brenda Ireland

Great Grandparents: Joe and Jean Edwards

Lyla Jean Ireland

Born: January 8, 2019

Weight: 9.1 lbs.; Length: 21 inches

Parents: Devin and Lisa (Matteson) Ireland

Grandparents: Tim and Mary Matteson

Jeff and Brenda Ireland

Great Grandparents: Boyd and Mary Lou Matteson

Joe and Jean Edwards

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.

**Parish Nurse Recipe
Jody Marsh**

Slow Cooker Buffalo Chicken

**3 lbs. boneless, skinless
chicken breast**

12 oz. bottle Franks Wing Sauce

1 oz. packet dry Ranch mix

2 Tbsp light butter

**Place the chicken breast in slow cooker. Pour entire bottle of sauce over the chicken. Sprinkle the dry ranch mix over the wing sauce. Cover and cook on low for 7-9 hours until chicken shreds easily. Remove shredded meat and shred with 2 forks. Return shredded meat to the sauce and add butter. Stir to combine. Cook one more hour until the meat can soak up the sauce. Serve any way you like!
ENJOY!!**

CONNECTIONS

Just a reminder...

**We continue to need snacks
for the children in our
after school program.**

**You can leave your food donations
in the hallway buckets.**

**We thank you, in advance, for
your generosity.**

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

Each month, we are encouraging you to purchase "ONE" of the items we have selected for that month. These will be offered to our Food Pantry, Panama Central School, Love INC and Jamestown Missions.

The FEBRUARY item of the month is SHAMPOO.

If you have any questions, please contact Jody, our Parish Nurse. Please place your donations in Jody's office in the hallway past the elevator.

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
steven.taylor@panamaum.org
Kelsey Johnson, Worship Leader/Ministry Intern
kelsey.johnson@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 February.**

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



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Church website - www.panamaum.org
www.facebook.com/panamaum**