

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...

Part 10 - Of Good Works

When I was in college, one of the courses I was required to take (and took with great fervor) was dendrology - tree identification. One of the main aspects of a tree that aids in the identification of that tree is the leaves it produces. Leaves of a particular shape and color and size help the dendrologist tell one living tree fro another living tree, even within the same family. When we take kids in the woods during our camping trips, I often try to trick them by pointing to a very-obviously dead tree and asking them what kind of tree it is. After I did this a few times, noting that the tree had no leaves (and sometimes no bark), the kids learned to respond that the tree was dead!

Just as we can tell whether or not a tree is alive or dead by the presence of leaves on the tree in season, we can tell some things about the outward expressions of someone's faith by the "fruit" they produce - their leaves. In our Christian doctrine, the outward expressions of our faith are called good works. When we do good works, we express our faith in tangible ways. We aren't saved because of good works, by any means, but we respond to our salvation through faith and good works in balance.

Here's what Article of Religion 10 says about this: Although good works, which are fruits of faith, and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgment; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and spring out of a true and lively faith, insomuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit. (From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2004. Copyright 2004 by The United Methodist Publishing House.)

There has been a historical criticism of the Methodist Church through the ages because of what might appear to be an emphasis on good works. Some outside the Methodist Church historically claimed that it appeared that the Methodists thought that they could earn their way to heaven if they did enough good works. John Wesley and his societies did have a significant emphasis on doing good works of charity for the poor and the widows - not

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

to earn a way to heaven, but to follow the Biblical mandates of Jesus. John Wesley and his followers knew full well that justification came only by faith in Jesus Christ. They also knew that Christian living could not stop there. It had to be expressed in good works.

As Christians living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ today, we are called to repent and believe the good news about Jesus for salvation. In response (and not before salvation) we are to express our salvation by being involved in the ministry of the church - ushering in the kingdom of God.

Just as a tree is known by its fruit or its leaves, we Christians are known by the fruit we bear, the colors we show. This is simply to respond to the compelling desire that God places in us to witness to Jesus Christ by loving, serving, sharing, and giving. This is not to earn our way to heaven - Jesus is the only one that can do that for us - but to surrender our lives to God.

Shalom, Pastor Steve

Next: Article 11 - Of Works of Supererogation

Don't forget to pick up your Road Trip Lenten Devotional

This year, during Lent (March - April), several people from Panama UMC and Park UMC will be providing daily devotionals for us to read and on which we will reflect.

Our Lenten Theme is <u>Road Trip - A Disciple's Journey</u>, so we pray that as you read and reflect on these daily readings and devotionals, the Holy Spirit will do some renewing and refreshing in you! These devotionals will be available by March 3 in worship... don't forget to get your copy!

Ash Wednesday Worship

On Wednesday, March 6, we will kick off the season that leads to Easter (April 21) by Worshipping. This day is known as Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It falls 40 weekdays before Easter (Sundays aren't counted in the 40 days of Lent). Ash Wednesday takes its name from ashes, a traditional Jewish sign of penitence. In some traditions, palm fronds or palm crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned, and then the ashes are applied to the worshiper's forehead on Ash Wednesday as a token of their commitment to observe a "holy Lent.".

Ancient Christian tradition was to observe Lent with fasting (a discipline of going without food at certain times), study, self-examination, confession and prayer. During this time, candidates for Holy Baptism were prepared for baptism on Easter Eve. Many churches continue those traditions.

Join us for worship at 7pm on Wednesday, March 6!

This year, again, we will join our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the region for worship on Holy Thursday (4.18.19) at 6:30pm at the Reg Lenna Civic Center in Jamestown.

On Easter morning (4.21.19), we will offer two identical worship services (at 8am and 10:15am).

There will be a wonderful breakfast from 9-10am for everyone in Fellowship Hall!

It'll be a great morning of celebration and fellowship!

Come worship the risen Christ!

SUNDAY Morning Team - MARCH USHERS

Buck and Kristine Seekings Don and Tabby Butler

NURSERY HELPERS March 3

<u>Birth-2</u>: Amanda Kolstee and Kim Bajdo <u>March 10</u>

<u>Birth-2</u>: Andrew Lescynski and Madie Pearson March 17

Birth-2: Kathy Foulk and Lisa Waller
March 24

<u>Birth-2</u>: Julia Nelson and Debbie Donelson March 31

Birth-2: Ken and Katie Braun

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.

<u>VBS</u> (Vacation Bible School)

Our first VBS planning meeting will be on April 4 at 6pm.

We welcome new ideas and new faces!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

<u>FREE Blood Pressures</u> and Fasting Blood Sugars

are offered in
Jody's office which is located just
past theelevator on the right.
(fast 4 hours prior)



Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

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, before and after Sunday School. We go through a lot of coffee and lots 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.

It has been suggested that we make an attempt to be environmentally and financially responsible by bringing our own travel mugs each week. We go through a LOT of disposable cups and tops weekly and therefore, the PUMC Hospitality team is encouraging you to "LUG A MUG" on Sunday mornings. If you forget your travel mug, there will be other options available. Comments? Questions? We welcome your input!

We are not sure of additional Hospitality needs at this point but we DO know that we will be looking for more Sunday morning café helpers. We are hopeful that YOU will want to be a part of it! Please sign up at the Hospitality table at the Ministry Fair on March 3rd or catch up with Julia or Pam for further information.

CAMPAIGN CORNER

In January, we received \$19,159.17. That makes of total of \$575,170.73 which is 63 percent of our new goal of \$915,993.82.

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

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE <u>SEASON OF EASTER 2019</u> (March 6 - April 21)

3.31.19	Celebration of the Triumphal Entry (Palms)
4.7.19	Celebration of the Last Supper (Passover)
4.14.19	Celebration of Crucifixion of Jesus (Passion)
4.18.19	One In Christ Worship (Holy Thursday) 6:30pm; REG LENNA CIVIC CENTER, Jamestown
4.19.19	Good Friday Worship 7pm; PUMC
4.20.19	Community Easter Egg Hunt 10am; PUMC
	Walk to the Crosses Worship 6pm; corner of Randolph Rd., and North St., Panama (uneven terrain)
4.21.19	Resurrection Sunday! Worship at 8am and 10:15am; Easter Breakfast 9-10am

Looking ahead...Mark your calendars!

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

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

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

MARCH Birthdays and Anniversaries

A look ahead to March...

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

A look ahead to April...

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

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!



God's Groceries Food Pantry

The Pantry has moved back to PUMC!!

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...

CAMPING

Thank you to everyone who made soup, decorated, scooped ice cream and ate at the Super Sundae lunch! I'm also thankful for the campers and their parents who were there helping out during the lunch.

It was a very successful fundraiser (over \$1000 raised!) for the PUMC camping scholarship fund.

Our next fundraiser will be taco in a bag on May 5 - right after worship!

SEE YOU THERE! Stacy

Looking For Something To DO?

Please check the PUMC March 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.



Safe Sanctuaries® Guidelines Summary Panama United Methodist Church

Our congregation has established Safe Sanctuaries® Guidelines in order to provide a safe environment for children, youth and vulnerable adults. Our Guidelines seek to provide an atmosphere where adults are free to teach and love children, youth and vulnerable adults, in a Christ-like manner, and children, youth and vulnerable adults can pursue their journey to know, love and serve God freely without fear.

The Safe Sanctuaries® Guidelines includes:

Guidelines

- Staff/volunteers must be 18 or at least 5 years older than the oldest minor
- Volunteers must have a relationship with the church prior to supervising children
- Those working with children must complete appropriate information forms
- Supervising Volunteers and employees must consent to a background check
- All employees and volunteers must read and agree to abide by the SSP
- "Two person rule" shall be observed
 - o Two persons will be present at each event/activity
 - The presence of an adult "roamer" may be the second person
- Persons convicted of sexual abuse will not work with children
- Training on Child Abuse prevention and detection will be provided

Physical Surroundings

• All facilities must be clean and safe and open to view

Transportation

- Any event/activity involving transportation requires
 - o Written permission forms signed by parents
 - o Drivers who are at least 21 years old

Response and Reporting Plan

- Adults making good faith reports have immunity from liability
- The Guidelines will be disseminated and explained
- Training programs will be provided on child abuse awareness and response
- Abuse allegations will be reported promptly
- Confidentiality is necessary to protect the victim and the accused
- The Annual Conference Director of Communications will handle media questions

Anyone interested in reading and/or having a copy of the entire Safe Sanctuaries® Guidelines may request a copy from the church office.

- TO REPORT ABUSE: Contact the NY State Central Registry at 1 -800-342-3720 or any Law Enforcement Agency at 911.
- To report New York State Office of Children and Family Services Adult Abuse Hotline: 844-697-3505

Additionally, you may contact Child Advocacy Program (CAP) at 716-338-9844 to obtain information about resources available in our county to help with advocacy, treatment, and legal help.

BIBLE QUIZZING



The Living Water team continues to work hard and their diligence has paid off! At the February quiz, Jubal finished as the top rookie AND the top overall quizzer! Juliana and Josiah finished 3rd and 6th place, respectively, as rookies. Tami Brewer is leading the team while the Cables are in Bangkok and she will be taking the team to the Crystal Tourney in Corning on March 1st and 2nd. Please continue to pray for the team as this tourney is a good time of preparation for nationals.

Speaking of nationals, all six quizzers are committed to participating in the national tournament in Wisconsin, April 23 - 28th. Family Life Ministries will be sending 21 quizzers divided into three teams. The cost is approximately \$475 per quizzer.

Our spaghetti dinner and silent auction on April 6 from 4:30 - 7pm is very important to help these kids compete at the national level. Please plan to enjoy Julia's spaghetti and meatballs and let Living Water serve you!



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...

Gabriel Fadi Ibrahim

was born on February 13, 2019
in Los Angeles, CA. to
Dr. Freddie and Stacy (Furlow) Ibrahim.
Gabriel weighed 3 lb., 2 oz., and was 17" long.
Mother and baby are doing great!
Grandparents are
Dennis and Cindy Furlow.
Gabriel and his parents' address is:
3682 North Mills Ave.
Claremont, CA 91711

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.

With Sympathy...

Barbara D. Hart

was born on May 4, 1926. She passed away on Monday, February 18, 2019 in PUMC Chautauqua. Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence in 1990. She is survived by a son, John, two grandchildren, three great grandchildren, her sister, Wyona (Lester) Wevers, her sister-in-laws, Patty Dole and Myrna Dole, as well as four foster daughters, and several nieces and nephews. Barbara became a member of PUMC on September 5, 1937.

A private family funeral will be held at a future date.

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.

CONNECTIONS

It's been a rough winter at Connections with school cancellations and snow piling up but when the kids are there it's been a great time of ministry!
Plans are underway for a Spring picnic for our
Connections' families.
If you are interested in being a part of this team,
please see Stacy Taylor.

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.

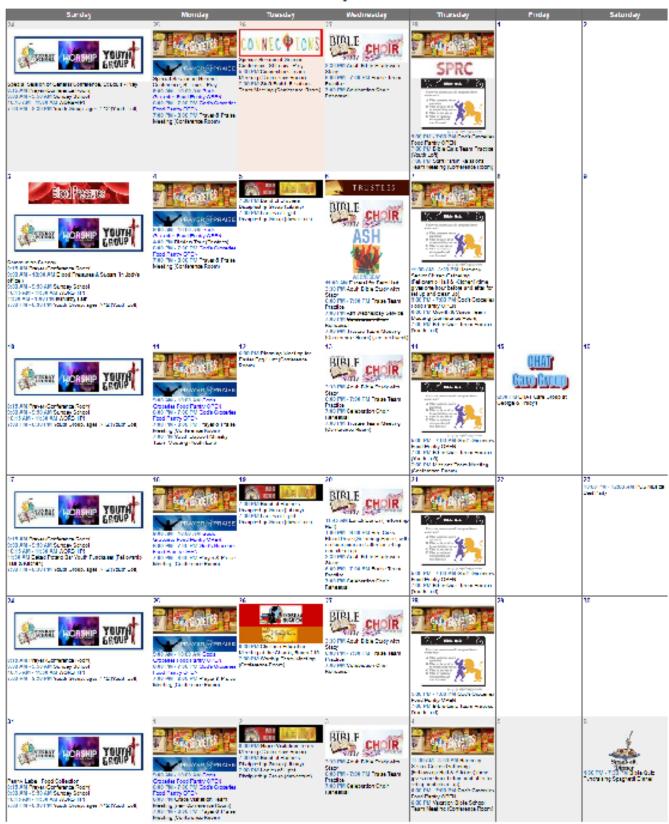
<<<< Just One 4 Others >>>>

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 MARCH item of the month is HAIR CONDITIONER.

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

March, 2019



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 March.

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



Church Phone (716) 782-4031
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