



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 12 - Of Sin after Justification

The German Pietists with whom John Wesley had a relationship in the middle of the 18th century believed that once a person was born again, that person could not sin. If they did sin after conversion, it was a sign that they were not truly saved. John Wesley had a issue with that, knowing that he himself continued to be a sinner, but who was also assured of his salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. The next Article we will examine is number 12 - sin after justification.

Here's what Article of Religion 12 says about this: *Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore, the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after justification. After we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and, by the Grace of God, rise again and amend our lives. And therefore the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.* (From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House).

After the Fall of humans, sin entered the world and became a huge problem for all those who came after Adam and Eve. Sin is pervasive and enters into everything that we do. Prior to the new birth that comes from believing in your heart that Jesus died for your sin and that you can be forgiven, sin is all you know. In fact, you aren't really even aware that sin dominates and reigns in your life. It's as if we all just take it for granted.

After accepting the free gift of God's grace for salvation through Jesus Christ, sin becomes apparent in your life. You awaken to the fact that you're a sinner and that sin destroys the relationship you have with God. You are unholy, unclean, and yet have a desire to change that status. Enter Jesus. God gave us His only son so that we could be free from the punishment of our sin, not so that we would never sin again. It's just not practical.

Now, does this mean that we can sin as much as we want, since we'll sin anyway? I mean, if we are sinners, why don't we then just sin? NO! When we are regenerated by Jesus, we are made holy by the blood of Jesus. Being holy compels us to stop sinning and express our righteousness with signs of that salvation. The outward signs of that holiness are the love of God and love of our neighbors.

When we are born again, though we continue to sin, that sin does not reign over us...we are freed

(continued on next page)

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

from the bondage of sin. So even though we sin because of the Fall's affect on us, that sin is reduced as we increase in faith. God gives us the free gift of salvation...our response is to increase in faith throughout our lives.

May this season be the beginning of something wonderful in your life. May your sin decrease, may your hold living increase, and may the love of God be cast abroad in your heart and life. Blessings!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Next: Part 13 - Of the Church

CAMPING FUNDRAISER

TACO IN A BAG lunch
is back by popular demand!!
This fundraiser
will be for camping scholarships
and will be held on May 5,
right after worship.
Please plan to attend and enjoy a
delicious taco in a bag!

Mother's Day Worship Invitation

On Sunday, May 12, we invite YOU to be part
of this special Sunday worship service.

Invite your mom or that special mom in your
life. We will have special gifts
for all of the women present.

...A Concert Opportunity...

The Johnstown Christian School Tour
Choir and Hand Bell Choir, under the direction
of Ms. Kristen Lloyd, will be in concert at
Panama United Methodist Church at 7pm on
Friday, May 3rd. The evening's concert is enti-
tled "**Outshout the Lies with God's Truth**"
which features hymn arrangements, new choral
pieces, accompanied and a cappella selec-
tions. All songs are a testimony of our faith in
Jesus Christ. The choirs are comprised of 40
high school students from JCS who will be
sharing choral and hand bell music such as
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, The
Blood Will Never Lose Its Power, Be Thou My
Vision and The Perfect Wisdom of Our God!

**Come for an inspiring time
of worship and praise!**

SUMMER CAMP.....

If your child is interested in attending a Christian Camp this summer -
please let Stacy Taylor or Susie Davis know! It's not too late to register!
Christian camping is an amazing way to grow in your faith and have a really
great time! There are camps available from grades 1 until 12.

Family Bible Camp is also available at Camp Findley from July 21 - 27 for all ages! Attendees
can stay at Camp Findley, or commute daily. It's a great way to spend quality time with the
family and get some great Bible teaching too!



SUNDAY Morning Team - MAY

USHERS

Tim and Tena Dills
Craig and Marge Vollmer

NURSERY HELPERS

May 5

Birth-2: Tina Akam and Kim Bajdo

May 12

Birth-2: Adam and Tory Irgang

May 19

Birth-2: Stacy Taylor and Jessica Keefer

May 26

Birth-2: Amanda Kolstee and Andrew Lescynski

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!!!

VBS

(Vacation Bible School)

To Mars and Beyond will be coming to PUMC the week of July 14-18!

Dinner will be served from 5:30 and the Bible stories, music, crafts, games and fun go from 6:00 - 8:00pm.

Look for our float in the Panama Memorial Day parade!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FREE Blood Pressures and Fasting Blood Sugars

are offered in
Jody's office (fast 4 hours prior).
Check the monthly calendar for details.



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.

We are making 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!

You don't have to be a "member" of the hospitality team to offer your services occasionally. If you are interested in helping, check on the welcome table for a listing or see Pam in the café on Sunday mornings.

We are not sure of additional Hospitality needs at this point but we DO know that we are always looking for more Sunday morning café helpers. We would love to show you how to use the new coffee pot! It is awesome...and it makes great coffee!

CAMPAIGN CORNER

April showers bring May flowers. We've all heard that saying a time or two. I am happy to share the showers of blessings with you here at Panama United Methodist Church at the beginning of each month. Each of you is a blessing to this congregation and you continue to bless each other as we watch the totals grow in the CenterPoint campaign.

During the month of March, we received \$33,892.75. That makes a total of \$632,472.91 which is 68% of our new goal of \$928,818.57.

Your faithful giving to the CenterPoint project is appreciated.

Cindy Cartwright

CONNECTIONS

We are winding down another great year at Connections! Please thank a teacher for their continued dedication to the education of our children.

Thank you to our Connections' leaders: Sandy Crossley, Joan Monroy and Tara Hosier.

Blessing of the Bikes - June 9 from 12-3pm

On Sunday, June 9, the Panama UMC is hosting a Blessing of the Bikes. If you know anyone with a motorcycle, invite them to come and plan to stay to enjoy some lunch and see all the bikes. We will be serving a free lunch from noon - 1pm.

At 1:15pm, Pastor Steve will be blessing the bikes and sharing the gospel. There will be a 1 hour ride following the blessing. If you can volunteer to serve as a host, help with food, setup or cleanup, please call the office. Thanks!

Looking ahead...Mark your calendars!

May 3 - Johnstown Christian School Choir Concert, 7pm

May 26 - Chicken BBQ (Red Bird Fundraiser), 11:30 am

June 9 - Blessings of the Bikes

June 30 - Bake Sale (Red Bird Fundraiser), 8:30 & 11:30am

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

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.

MAY Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 5 Jon Cable
- 6 **Jason/Jolene Ayres**
- 8 Andee Anderson, Matthew Apthorpe, Brittany Lenart, Bryan Rupczyk
- 9 Sarah Osborne, Colin Cross
- 10 Jessica Komarek, **George/Trudy Anderson**
- 12 Aleena Anderson, Michaela Swineford
David/Carrie Munsee
- 14 Brynne Hinsdale
- 15 Kristy Catanese
- 16 **Joel/Jessica Keefer**
- 17 Anna Irgang, **Carl/Susie Davis, Mike/Sara Beebe, Yvonne Calcaterra**
- 18 Grace Munsee
- 19 Isabella Anderson, Michael Butler
- 20 Molly Butler, **Tim/Connie Middleton**
- 22 Gabbi Calcaterra
- 23 Brad Osborne, Shelly Rupczyk, Don Wood
- 25 Cindy Furlow, **Doug/Cindy Weise**
- 26 Connor Tremblay
- 27 Jonathan Sturges
- 28 Cole Munson
- 29 **Nick/Katie Sard**
- 30 Jonathan Anderson
- 31 **Mike/Erin Miller**

A look ahead to June...

- 1 Kathy Foulk
- 2 **Ted/Sharon Passarelli, Eric/Jenn Scolton**
- 3 **Chuck/Judy Parkman**
- 5 Ryan Peck
- 7 Cindy Crouch

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

has returned to PUMC. 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

Looking For Something To DO?

Please check the PUMC **May** 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 a busy month.
We hope you can find something of interest to you.

W.A.M. Women And Missions

We meet at the church at noon with your lunch, we fellowship over lunch and then we find ways we can be a blessing to our community. We don't have very many members, so please join us if you can. This doesn't mean you are committed to coming every month - just when you can!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

With Sympathy to the Families of...

George A. Peterson, Sr.

Born August 13, 1933

Passed away April 10, 2019

George is survived by his wife, Donna,
and three children:

G. Allen (Cindy) Peterson, Joyce Peterson, and Francis Peterson (Diane Shirey) as well as a stepdaughter, Teena (late Craig) Towner.

George is also survived by 6 grandchildren, Jennifer, Devon, Amanda, Chelsea, Dalton and Bryce and 4 great-Grandchildren, Lexus, Jasper, Raelynn and Teagan.

Memorials may be made to the Chautauqua County Hospice and Palliative Care (Lakewood), the Panama Fire Department or the Panama United Methodist Church.

Bruce S. Scolton

Born December 22, 1948

Passed away April 24, 2019

Bruce was preceded in death by his wife Joanne.

He is survived by his daughter, Krista (Stephen) Odell and his son, Eric (Jennifer) Scolton.

and by his grandchildren, Natalie and Lillian Odell and Danielle and Jackson Scolton.

He is also survived by his brother, Hugh Scolton and sister, Peggy Hinson.

Memorials may be made to the Musical and Athletic Departments at Panama Central School, or to the Panama Fire Department.

*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.*



Bible Quiz Nationals!

We had an amazing six days together at the National Bible Quiz Fellowship Tournament in Green Lake, Wisconsin. We had 21 quizzers and 13 adults from the Family Life Quiz League form three teams with coaches and table officials (time keepers, score keepers, and quiz masters). We enjoyed worship and speakers each morning followed by lots of quizzing. Every one of our quizzers answered at least two questions correctly. We learned to function as a team and to persevere even when faced with teams that just blew our socks off! There were 278 total quizzers on 41 teams. Our three teams finished 11th, 19th. And 33rd. All of our quizzers will be back next year and some have even started looking at the material! We will be studying Mark, Hebrews and 1st and 2nd Peter. The 2020 National Tournament will be held in Pittsburgh, April 14-18th. Thank you PUMC family for supporting and praying for us.

Building Update from the PUMC Trustees Craig Vollmer, Chair

I wanted to update you on some blessings and challenges concerning our church building. As many of you know, we had repeated problems with the sanctuary roof, but were blessed to be able to fix them during the CenterPoint construction. Despite that, we discovered a serious leak around the bell tower. You may have seen the water damage upstairs, and are wondering why we haven't repaired it yet. We fixed the bell tower roofing, but have since found a masonry problem causing continued leaking. Plans are in motion to make that repair; once fixed, we can repair the water damage inside.

A few weeks ago, we discovered that one of the tandem furnaces for the old church has some problems that cannot be repaired. This is not surprising; they are over 40 years old. While not ideal, we were able to re-task the remaining one to heat everything. The good news is that this is an opportunity to replace both furnaces with a single one that can handle the entire space and do so with much greater efficiency and lower cost. They have served us well, but have reached the end of their usable life.

With the expansion of our parking lot, we were able to upgrade our lighting, and it has never been better lit. However, we found that the new lighting did not full cover the parking lot off the end of the sanctuary, leaving a poorly lit area on the street side. While we would ideally like to add another pole to match the others, it was not planned into the budget, so we are also considering the alternative of installing a light on the peak of the sanctuary. This is important for safety and security.

We hired a landscape architect last fall to develop a landscaping plan for the entire church, new and old. Our goals were simple: we want it to be beautiful, easy to maintain, perennial, diverse, and deer resistant. The plan meets these goals and is an opportunity to bring consistency to the entire church. We are in the process of reviewing it and expect to approve it at our May meeting.

I share all of this with you because while we are entering an exciting period in the history of our church with our new addition, the old church still requires attention. Unfortunately, the costs to address these new challenges exceed available funds. We have approximately \$20,000 in the trustees capital account, but these repairs will cost approximately \$65,000-\$70,000:

- Bell tower masonry repairs - \$16,000
- Interior water damage repairs - \$15,000
- Furnace replacement - \$10,000
- Parking lot lighting - pole (\$7,000) or peak light (\$2,500)
- Landscaping - \$22,000

Sadly, Ruth Russ, a long time PUMC members, passed away last year, but I am pleased to share that she graciously blessed us with a gift of \$5,000 in her will; church council decided to deposit those funds into the Trustees capital account to help address these challenges, bringing total available funds to \$25,000. Thank you, Ruth.

Our shortfall is \$40,000 - \$45,000. But as any responsible steward is called to do, we have prioritized these projects. The furnace and bell tower masonry repairs are the highest priorities and are in process. Unfortunately, these two projects will bring the capital account balance to zero. The water damage repairs will be the next priority, but will have to be put on hold until enough funds become available. Likewise, the parking lot lighting will be put on hold. The full landscaping plan will be put on hold as well, but for now, we will mulch and maintain the existing gardens, and the new construction will have top soil and grass seed put down as is required by our contractor; we will pursue the landscaping in part or whole when funds become available. These challenges aside, for the first time that I know of, we find ourselves without a capital safety net; it will take a long time to replenish.

I know that a lot has been asked of everyone over the last couple of years; your giving has been amazing, and we have accomplished much and have much of which to be proud. I would ask you to pray on these new challenges and if you are able to offer any financial aid to this situation, we would be grateful for any contributions you can make to the Trustees capital Account. Please feel free to contact any of the trustees, or me, with questions. Thank you for understanding.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Jessica Nelson

What a JOY it is to lead the Sr. High Sunday School class! When taking on this class, I wanted to find a curriculum that the teens would enjoy and want to come back week after week. The teen years can be a time when many walk away from their faith.

I have been using the Bible in Life series by David Cook. I just love how this series is set up.

During the fall months, we looked at the following units: The God who created us; The God who corrects us; and The God who cares for us. The last few months we have been studying about Jesus. We have looked at his birth, his Mission and now his miracles. Each lesson allows us to connect to God's Word, study His Word, interact with His Word and then apply God's Word to our lives.

During our year, I have witnessed the gifts that God has given to each of our teens. I can't wait to see what they do with their gifts. It is too late to come check us out in the Youth Loft, Sunday mornings at 9!

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

The MAY item of the month is
COTTON BALLS

Thank you all for supporting this mission. 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.

Parish Nurse Recipe
Yummy Healthy Egg Salad

10 hard boiled eggs, peeled and chopped coarsely

1/4 c. Hellman's light mayo

1/4 c. nonfat plain Greek yogurt + 2 tbsp

1 tbsp yellow mustard

1/4 c. chopped green onion (optional)

1/2 tsp. celery salt

1/4 tsp. smoked paprika

2 tsp. honey or sugar (or sweetener of choice)

Salt and pepper to taste

In a bowl, combine all ingredients until combined fairly well. Cover and refrigerate 20 minutes to allow ingredients to mingle.

Serve with bread or rolls of choice.

PETER HERBERT KOMAREK

It is with great joy that we welcome Peter Herbert Komarek - born April 18, 2019 at 1:09pm, to Matthew and Amanda Komarek. Peter weighed at 8lb. 8 oz., and 19" tall.

Proud grandparents are Dwight and Cathy Schwader and Peter and Paula Komarek, as well as great grandmother Lois.

***Congratulations to you on the birth
of this child who is
God's special gift to you.***

KINGDOM BOUND

The Youth will be attending Kingdom Bound 2019 at Darien Lake, July 28 - August 1. This year students need to sign up and pay \$50 to reserve their ticket. Space is limited, We will depart from the Church on Sunday after worship. A bagged lunch will be provided. Students will return on Thursday. For non-active youth, the cost is \$150.

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 May.**

**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**