



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

This picture was taken May 30, 2018...one year ago today! As I sit in the Gallery, working on the June 2019 edition of Grace Notes, I continue to reflect on the blessings of this past year. Watching the Wiggers' family prepare the Community Room for our first wedding in this glorious space, I can't help but feel incredibly thankful for God's abundant goodness towards the PUMC and the community which surrounds us.

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 13 - Of the Church

What does it mean to be the church? Does it mean that we have lots of potluck dinners and great children's programs? Does it mean that all those who are worthy can come together to be served by the church? Or is it something else? Sadly, many churches look more like civic organizations whose main purpose is to help people, instead of providing the opportunity to be transformed by Jesus Christ.

John Wesley conceived the church on two levels. Within the church, there are those who are true Christians (the invisible church), and those who are not yet Christians. The visible church includes all those who are attending worship and are involved in the ministry of the church in some way. Within that group is the invisible church, those who do all those things, but who have true faith in Jesus Christ and have the Holy Spirit living in them. This occurs in both the local church and in the church universal around the world, no matter what denomination. Now that we have an idea of WHO is the church, WHAT is the purpose of the church?

Here's what Article of Religion 13 says about this: *The visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men [and women] in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.* (From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2004. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House.)

So it appears that the purpose of the church is simple: preach the Word and administer the two Sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism. However, just like any good job description, there is always a line that reads something like, "...and other duties as deemed necessary." In the case of the church, the *response* to preaching the Word and administering the Sacraments is the juicy part of ministry. It's where ministry is done, experienced, illumined, and received.

(continued on next page)

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

When the Word is preached in our worship and discipleship, ministry happens. When adults and infants are baptized, we walk together through the doorway to ministry. When Holy Communion is administered by the pastor for the church, we are filled with a burning desire to love God and our neighbors. There is nothing more fundamental to the mission and outreach of the church than true, faithful believers in Jesus Christ engaging in the living Word and the Sacraments. In these are the direct lines we have with Christ, the Apostles, and the early church. In these are our commands to continue the rituals of the church, as Christ did. In these are life and vitality for the church today!

Being the church today in our society is unpopular and, in many ways, counter-cultural. Yet, being the church today is diverse and exciting because Jesus is leading us into the deepwater of faith and service. Our only hope for today and tomorrow is to first, and foremost, proclaim and hear the significance of Jesus' example for the Sacraments. From there, everything else is a response to what God has done for salvation, transformation, and glorification. Praise God that we don't have to make it up on our own.

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Next: Part 14 - Of the Purgatory

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

On June 23, the Panama UMC family will honor all 2019 college and high school graduates. If you are a graduate connected with PUMC, have one in the family, or know of a graduate, please let the office know so we can honor them in worship on June 23rd. THANKS!

Looking ahead...Mark your calendars!

June 1 - Growth and Vision Team with Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens; 8am
Wiggers/Sprague Wedding; 3pm
June 3 - Prayer Gathering prior to Conference; Sanctuary; 7pm
June 9 - Blessings of the Bikes with BBQ; 12pm
June 15 - Taylor/Skahan Wedding; 3pm
June 25 - Panama CS Baccalaureate; 7pm; Reception to follow
June 30 - Chicken BBQ; 11:30am; (Red Bird Trip Fundraiser)
July 14-19 - VBS; "To Mars and Beyond!"; 5:30pm - 8pm
July 28 - Bake Sale; 8:30am and 11:30am (Red Bird Trip Fundraiser)
August 18-24 - Mission Trip to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky

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 - June

USHERS

Jon and Becky Cable
Mark and Karen Morton

NURSERY HELPERS

June 2

Birth-2: Susie Davis and Lilly Odell

June 9

Birth-2: Jessica Keefer and Madie Pearson

June 16 (Father's Day)

Birth-2: Kathy Foulk and Lisa Waller

June 23

Birth-2: Julia Nelson and Gracie Cable

June 30

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.

THANK YOU!!!

VBS

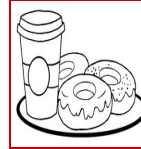
Vacation Bible School is quickly approaching! The theme is "To Mars and Beyond" and will be held at PUMC July 14-18. We will be looking for snack items for donation - please see Tory Irgang if you wish to donate.

The Memorial Day Parade float was a big hit! The robot will be making a guest appearance every day at VBS!

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. We have had some travel mugs donated...you can pick one up for your use near the coffee pots. 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.

CAMPAIGN CORNER

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 April, we received \$12,745.17. That makes a total of \$645,218.08 which is 68% of our new goal of \$928,818.57.

Your faithful giving to the CenterPoint project is appreciated.

Cindy Cartwright

CONNECTIONS

Connections is winding down for the end of the school year. We will be having a summer picnic on August 29 for all the families and potential new families. This continues to be a very important ministry of our church.

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

Thank you for supporting Connections with snacks and donation.

Have an awesome summer!

Blessing of the Bikes



On Sunday, June 9, the Panama UMC is hosting a Blessing of the Bikes (from 12-3pm). If you know someone 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 1:20pm, Pastor Steve will be blessing the bikes and sharing the gospel. There will be a 1 hour ride following the blessing at 1:30pm. If you can volunteer to serve as a host, help with food, setup or cleanup, please call the office. Thanks!

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.

JUNE Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Kathy Foulk
- 2 **Ted/Sharon Passarelli, Eric/Jenn Scolton**
- 3 **Chuck/Judy Parkman**
- 4 **Matt/Amanda Komarek**
- 5 Ryan Peck
- 7 Cindy Crouch
- 8 Amanda Kolstee
- 9 Chris Enlow, Sharon Rea
- 10 Liz Comstock, Jordan Range
- 11 **Mike/Erica Butler**
- 12 **Lee/Betty Crosby**
- 13 Dacota Catanese
- 14 Alyson Edwards, Lillian Odell
- 15 **Scott/Wendy Trisket, Kim/Aaron Barton**
- 16 Jarrett Wiggers
- 17 Carol Hay, Thea Kester
- 18 Don Butler, Kelly Range
- 19 Matthew King, Mason Komarek, Larry Ostrander,
David Woods
- 21 Jennifer Anderson, Melissa Topolski
- 23 **Bryce/Katie Ireland**
- 24 Lauren Tordella, Emily Gabriel,
Kyle/Brynne Hinsdale, Steve/Melissa Wiggers
- 25 Pat Catanese, Matt Sturges
- 27 Ed Trisket, **Jarrett/Elizabeth Wiggers**
- 28 **Dave/Yvonne Calcaterra, Chris/Dawn Comstock,**
Rob/Wendy Peck
- 30 MacKenzie Miles, **Charlie/Debbie Loveless**

A look ahead to July...

- 1 John Hart
- 2 Dick Edwards, Marilyn Storms
- 4 Jamie Ireland
- 6 **Roger/Thea Kester**

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!

W.A.M. Women And Missions

W.A.M. will meet on June 10 at noon at the church. Please come and join us as our numbers are becoming low. We can't continue this ministry without more women.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



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

YOU ARE INVITED...
...to a graduation party for
Connor Hickman!

Saturday, June 29th
11am - 2pm
PUMC Community Room

Please help us celebrate Connor's
graduation from PCS!

LUNCH BUNCH

Unfortunately, June is our last month for this season of Lunch Bunch.

If you want to know what it's all about, stop by the church on June 19th at noon.

We will resume our monthly gatherings in September.

See you then!

Looking For Something To DO?

Please check the PUMC **JUNE** 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.

With Sympathy to the Families of...

James L. Keefer

was born on December 15, 1939 in Manheim, PA.

He passed away on May 9, 2019 in Elizabethtown, PA,

where he lived with Sylvia, his wife of 59 years, who survives him.

He is further survived by 4 sons, Scott (Brenda), Steve, and Brent (all of the Elizabethtown, PA area) and Joel (Jessica) of Jamestown, along with four grandchildren, Ashley, Kendra, Aiden and Maggie Jo.

Should you wish to make a memorial, donations may be made to World Vision, PO Box 9716 Federal Way, WA 98063 (a Christian humanitarian aid organization which the Keefers supported for many years) or to the Elizabethtown Grace Church Deacon Fund, 305 Anchor Rd., Elizabethtown, PA, 17022.

Russell S. Merritt, Jr.

was born on October 16, 1926 in Corry, PA.

He went to be with his Lord and Savior on May 9, 2019.

Russell is survived by his wife, Helene, with whom he would have celebrated 63 years of marriage on June 30.

Russell is further survived by his children, Russell S.III (Sarah) Merritt, Sharon (Curt) Rhebergen, and Karen (Mark) Peters.

Grandchildren and great grandchildren,
Scott, Kristin (Nate), Katie (Jake), Ryan, Ayden, Roman, Lexi,
Bentley and Christopher, also survive him.

Memorial contributions in Russell's memory may be made to the Edwards Chapel.

*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.*

MISSIONS: Cru Global

One of the ministries supported by the Mission Team of PUMC is Cru. (It was formerly called Campus Crusaders). We directly contribute to Rachael and Shelby Abbott, two talented young people who use their spiritual gifts to communicate with college age youths and share the word of God.

Shelby is an author and public speaker on staff at the campus ministry of Cru. He serves as Cru's Communications Director for the mid-Atlantic region. He has written several books which are available at amazon.com. Find out more at shelbyabbott.com.



Shelby's wife, Rachael, is also on staff at Cru as their Senior Graphic Designer for the mid-Atlantic region. Rachael is Lester and Wyona Wevers' granddaughter. Shelby and Rachael have two daughters, Quinn and Hayden.



Over the many years we have been associated with the Abbotts, they have given us monthly updates on their activities. They make it easy to be confident that their efforts are worth our donations. Please continue to pray for this powerful ministry to our young people on college campuses.

Interested in contributing financially to this ministry? Simply mark "missions" on your giving envelopes or online. See Ted or Sharon Passarelli if you have any questions.

Christian Education

Marge Vollmer

We are finishing a wonderful Bible study called Nothing to Prove by Jennie Allen. Jennie has lead us to examine our lives and look for places we feel insecure and insignificant. Each one of us searched our hearts and explored feelings of not being enough. Only a relationship with Jesus makes us complete.

Jennie also reminds us that God is not always about great performances. I have greatly enjoyed this Bible study and know it grew myself as well as the entire class. We will be finishing with Jennie mid-month.

As we have journeyed with God in class, we found a need to refocus on growing our faith. The next study is by Beth Moore, Believing God - Experiencing a Fresh Explosion of Faith. It is funny. Who knew that even very devote Christians struggle with faith sometimes. We will be facing that challenge head on in Beth's study.

I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1Cor 10,11.

Feel free to grab a cup of coffee at the Café and come downstairs to build your foundation with our Ladies class.

If you have questions about Sunday School, feel free to reach out to Marge Vollmer.

Blessings.

.....YOUTH NEWS.....

KINGDOM BOUND

July 28 - August 1
Only a few passes left.
\$50 deposit due ASAP

YOUTH CAMP OUT

June 21st
6pm - 10am
Pizza, Camp Fire, games and prizes
COST \$5
Invite a friend:
10 new students means the Youth
Leader gets pied in the face!

RUMMAGE SALE

July 27
Youth Fundraiser
Detail to follow!

SAFE SANCTUARIES

There will be a Safe Sanctuary
training on June 12
from 6-9:30pm
in the Community Room.
Watch your bulletin
for details.



BLOOD DRIVE STATISTICS

March Blood Drive
>>> **Collected 26 units** <<<

May Blood Drive
>>> **Collected 30 units** <<<

**168 lives saved with these
2 blood drives.**

THANK YOU to all who donated!

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

**The JUNE item of the month is
LOTION**

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.

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 June.**

**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**