

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 15 - Of Speaking in the Congregation in Such a Tongue as the People Understand

At first glance, this entry in the Articles of Religion of the United Methodist Church appears to have something to do with the spiritual manifestation of speaking in tongues as discussed by Paul in 1Corinthians 14. However, for John Wesley and the early Methodists, "speaking in the congregation in such a tongue as the people understand" had more to do with praying, preaching, and talking in English rather than Latin. Latin was the official language of the Roman Catholic Church, which most people did not understand, making worship a passive experience. This is something the early Methodists wanted to ensure was not the case in the churches in the tradition.

Here's what Article of Religion 15 says about this: *It is a thing plainly repugnant to the Word of God, and the custom of the primitive church, to have public prayer in the church, or to minister the Sacraments, in a tongue not understood by the people.* (From *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* - 2004. Copyright - 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House.)

John Wesley firmly believed that in order for people to respond to the salvation offered in Jesus Christ, worship, prayer, and the practice of their faith in everyday life must have ownership for the person on the Christian journey. In the churches whose traditions firmly held to using the ancient languages for worship and the administration of the Sacraments, the people, who could not read, write, or understand much of those ancient languages, were left in the dark. Using a language that people understand opened each believer to the pathway of understanding the Gospel message of salvation for themselves and not relying on intermediaries.

Even though, however, this article is about languages used in worship, what about speaking in tongues or Christian-ese (using church words that people don't understand)? Well, because the main conduit for the Good News about Jesus is, was, and always will be, verbal, inter-personal communication, speaking about Jesus in words that the hearer can fully understand would be the foremost method of communication. If I, as the pastor, were to always use long theological words in my sermons, some might not understand - not because they are ignorant, but because they haven't heard of the words (they don't exactly get used a lot). If someone with the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues utters that language in worship as a declaration, then interpretation is needed from within the body for that to edify the church. Without the understanding, the words are lost and the experience becomes confusing. This is exactly what John Wesley and the early Methodists wanted to avoid.

(Continued on the next page)

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

The bottom line for the church today is that there must not be barriers for people to HEAR the Word of God in worship. Whatever we do or say must strive to be accessible to the people who have come to seek after Christ as his followers. Only by personal faith can we come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, by God's grace and the leading of the Holy Spirit. If we do anything by our own deeds that makes that more difficult, it stands in the way of God's grace. Real communication happens best when we are looking someone in the eye, with love and compassion, and speaking the words they truly understand.

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Next: Part 16 - Of the Sacraments

Looking ahead...Mark your calendars!

August 14 - Back to School Bash; 6-8pm;
(PCS playground; for students of the Panama Community)
August 18-24 - Mission Trip to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky
August 29 - Connections Family Picnic; 5:30pm
October 26 - Harvest Dinner (PUMC Community Room); Watch for details!!!!
September 8 - Sunday School Kick-Off!!

Coming this Fall.....Next Course for New Members and Baptisms

In October/November, 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 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 either before or after worship, depending on the will of the participants.

Baptisms and new members will be welcomed in November during worship. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Welcome Table soon.

See you there!

Panama United Methodist Church MissionStatement

We seek to love the Lord God by introducing people to His Son, Jesus Christ, and helping these relationships to grow.

SUNDAY Morning Team - August

USHERS

Craig/Marge Vollmer
Buck/Kristine Seekings

NURSERY HELPERS

August 4

Birth-2: Tina Akam and Kim Bajdo

August 11

Birth-2: Andy Lescynski and Susie Davis

August 18

Birth-2: Adam and Tory Irgang

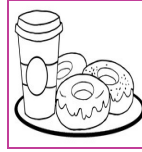
August 25

Birth-2: Amanda Kolstee and McKenna Kolstee

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**
will be starting again in October.



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, even with no summer Sunday School. The coffee is ready to go by 8:30am. 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.

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, Debbie or Roberta.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Carol Hay

As the Panama United Methodist Church grows, so do our opportunities to serve others. The Community Room and Gallery are used for meetings and church activities almost daily. Additionally, members of the church family and community organizations have used these spaces for private events and activities. As a result of having this new space, we have expanded our hospitality ministry to include providing hosts to welcome and assist those using our facilities. What a great way to serve and react to opportunities to "fish for men" - as Pastor Steve's recent sermon series encouraged us to do.

Our Growth and Vision Team, under the leadership of Tory Irgang, is looking at how we grow disciples in the church and what systems we have in place to provide each person what he or she needs to grow in faith and serve others. It has been eye opening to see all that we do at PUMC - and then to reflect on what more we could be doing.

During the month of August, we have a team set to go off to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky to serve the people of that area. We've done this trip before as well as having sent teams to Haiti and individuals to other countries where they served and learned. Mission trips are one way to experience a strong sense of faith, grace and mercy!

Church Council is made up of all the teams of our church. According to the Book of Discipline, our role is planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness and resources in the church. We are to envision, plan, implement and evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. There are two more pages of instructions for the Church Council.

As teams plan and respond to needs and the leaders of those teams meet as the Church Council, the "work" of the church gets done. We continually strive to learn and grow and we pray that our meetings, programs, activities, and events are focusing on the teachings of Christ - offering our service to others and reaching out to "fish for men" and make disciples of Christ.

Back to School Bash Donations Ide-

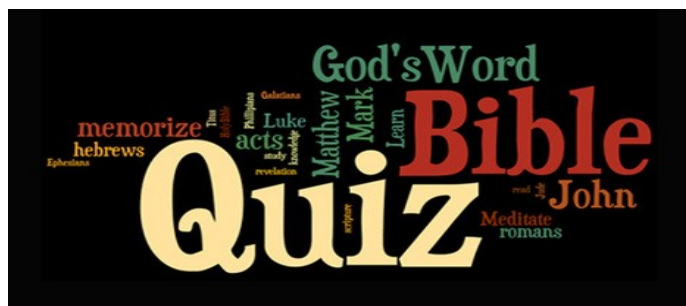
Supplies needed for kids:

Glue Sticks (Elmers)
Erasers
Pencils (Ticonderoga)
Crayons/Colored Pencils/ Markers (Crayola)
Dry Erase markers and erasers/socks
Pencil Boxes or bags
Scissors

Teacher's bonus supplies:

Baby wipes
Tissues
Small paper cups
Hand Sanitizer (Non-alcohol)
Fruit Snacks
Pretzels

**See Dawn Sard before August 10
for further information about supplies
or if you would like to volunteer to help!**



We will be having our first meeting on Thursday, August 22 for those interested in quizzing this season. We are studying the books of Mark, Hebrews, 1 Peter and 2 Peter. Our first quiz will be on Saturday, September 28 at Hornell UMC.

Our team from last season earned \$500 by serving at a wedding reception in July. That money will go towards our National Tournament to be held at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square, April 14-19, 2020.

Please see Jon or Becky Cable if you are interested.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS was a huge success this year. Volunteers went above and beyond to make sure that the 80 plus kids had a fabulous time!

Thank you to the many volunteers who work so hard before, during and after
(and the clean up crew rocks!)

It was all super fun and a huge blessing.

What an incredible ministry to our community!

THANK YOU!

CAMPING

Another great ministry...summer camp!
18 of our youth enjoyed time at a Christian summer camp. Many of them had life changing experiences. Make sure to ask the youth about their adventures!

During worship on September 15, the kids will be sharing some of their experiences.

Thank you to everyone who help support our Camping scholarships.

CONNECTIONS

We will begin our Connections year with a picnic on August 29. Our three leaders are returning and we expect a full group of students in attendance - school starts on September 4!

Please continue to keep this ministry in your Prayers all year long!

Zucchini Casserole

Jody Marsh

- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 1 Tbsp. flaked onion or 3 Tbsp fresh chopped onion
- 1/2 c. Almond Milk
- 2 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 c. zucchini, sliced

1. In oven proof skillet over medium heat, melt the butter. Then add garlic and onion and cook until brown and fragrant.
2. Add the almond milk and simmer until it starts to boil. Slowly add in 1 c. of shredded cheese and stir until melted.
3. Stir in zucchini until all are covered with sauce. Stir and cook for another 5 minutes.

Sprinkle remaining cheeses on top. Bake at 400 in oven until brown (usually another 20 minutes).



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

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

**The AUGUST item of the month is
TOOTHPASTE.**

Thank you all for supporting this ministry. 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.

Looking For Something To DO?

Please check the PUMC AUGUST 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.

W.A.M. (Women and Missions)

Women and Missions is in desperate need for more women to join our group. We operate on the money that we donate and we don't have many women in our group.

If we don't get more women, we will have to disband our group.

Please join us on August 12 at 11:45am in the conference room.

Don't forget your lunch!

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

LUNCH BUNCH

. We will resume our monthly gatherings in September.
See you then!

With Sympathy to the Families of...

M. Althea Kester

June 17, 1949 - June 25, 2019

Thea is survived by her husband of almost 51 years, Roger Kester.

She is also survived by her daughter, April (Dave) VanBrunt;

two sons, Lee Kester and Adam (Tia) Kester;

and two daughters-in-law, Stephonie DiMaggio and Tabitha Kester.

She is further survived by 10 grandchildren, Nick, Alyssa, Paige, Riley, Zoe, Jack, Kate, Derek, Hunter and Kila; a great grandson, Isaac, and godson, Symon.

Also surviving Thea are her sisters Jackie and Mikki,

and her nieces and nephews, Sauntia, Shauna, Josh and Jaime.

Funeral services were held at the Panama United Methodist Church
on July 7, 2019.

Memorials may be made to the Ashville Fire Department, 3558 Stow Ferry Road, Ashville
or the PUMC, 22 E. Main St., PO Box 218, Panama.

and

Phyllis McNitt

Formerly of Panama, Phyllis passed away on June 27, 2019.

Phyllis is survived by her sons, Terry (Angie) McNitt and Scott (Judy) McNitt

and her daughter, Betty (Bruce) Privett.

She is also survived by her sister, Betty (Lee) Crosby and

her brother, Sherwood (Jeanne) Potter.

16 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and

2 great-great grandchildren also survive her.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband, Harry "Red" McNitt

and her children Roxanne, Deborah and Jerry.

A celebration of her life was held on July 21, 2019.

*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.*

THANK YOU!

To my dear friends Susie, Pam, Mary, Roberta, Darlene, Marge, and others,

Thank you so much for the wonderful job you did of greeting at the door and serving in the kitchen for my husband's 80th birthday party. It allowed our family to interact with family and friends we hadn't seen in a long time.

We are so thankful for the Body here at PUMC. Please know that a bench will be placed in the new entryway as a token of our appreciation.

God's blessings to all of you from the Edsall family.

Pauline, Skip, Barb Emory and family,
Cindy Edsall and family, and Pam McJunkin and family

Community Helping Hands

Carol Hay

I've been on a few mission trips to foreign countries and within the United States. Each trip was meaningful and made an impact on me and I would encourage others to "do" a mission trip. However, there are other options for serving.

Recently, I was asked to take a position at the *Community Helping Hands* organization at the Gateway Center in Jamestown. Most of us have at least heard of CHH - some have given the organization donations of clothing, furniture or miscellaneous items or maybe a monetary donation. CHH uses the donations in their sales rooms and the money earned goes back into the organization to maintain the facilities and pay the limited staff. Many of the donated items are given to individuals and families who are referred to CHH by other agencies and churches. These people may be struggling and have needs that they cannot meet in any other way other than to ask for help. There is a system in place with limits and oversight.

Additionally, *Community Helping Hands* offers jobs to those who are in need of employment to fulfill a requirement for public assistance or who have approached other agencies with a willingness to work. CHH has a staff member who interviews those seeking work, places each person in an appropriate position within the warehouse, sorting rooms, and retail outlets and continuously monitors the workers to ensure their success. The jobs provide opportunities to learn skills, acquire good work habits, and develop social skills. The jobs require folks to learn how to work as a team and how to cultivate relationships. The hope is these individuals will move on to employment outside of CHH.

Besides the limited staff and the workers paid by outside agencies, CHH relies on volunteers. There is a Board of Directors setting policy and guiding the actions of the organization. Volunteers help in all the areas - from the office to the warehouse. Did I mention the sewing room where donated fabric and related sewing materials are turned into items to be sold in the retail shop? If it weren't for the volunteers, the organization couldn't survive.

We cannot all go to foreign countries to do mission trips. But we can help others close to home. The needs in our community are vast and varied. *Community Helping Hands* is a local organization meeting the needs of people who need a Hand UP. Your donations help and your time could help CHH serve more people. A few hours each week - in the office, sewing room, warehouse, Christmas room, sorting room, or retail outlets - would be appreciated. Or, if you want to do a specific project - even a project that can be done at home—we can accommodate that as well.

Consider how you might be a missionary in your own community. If you are interested in learning more about *Community Helping Hands*, please contact me.

Baby Congratulations

Wyatt Krauss
was born to
Logan and Courtney Hickman
on July 29, 2019, at 3:34pm.
He weighed 9lb. 12 oz. and
was 22.4 inches long.

Grandparents are Tina and Mark Akam.
Great grandparents are Charlie and Debbie Loveless.

***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.***

MISSIONS

Village of Hope
Haiti
www.villageofhopehaiti.org

Village of Hope (VOH) School is located in the countryside 15 miles east of Port au Prince. The thirty acres of mountainside overlooking the beautiful Haitian county provide VOH with ample room for its school and health center. Many from the PUMC have traveled in work groups to Haiti and helped with the building of the School and the Health Center.

The school has eight buildings that house seventeen classrooms (pre K through secondary), kitchen, dining hall, chapel, showers and toilets, offices and storage. The school offers quality Christian education including a mid-day meal to approximately 640 children.

The Health Center provides access to primary health care not only to the students, staff and teachers at VOH but to their families and community members as well. Primary Health care services included laboratory testing and pharmaceutical services, all provided by Haitian medical professionals. The current staff has the potential to serve more than 50 patients per day.

The VOH ministry of education and health care is literally the hands and feet of Christ for the children at VOH. In the name of Jesus, we are bringing healing and health to God's children in Haiti.

This is one of the ministries that our mission team supports each year. We have sent several mission teams to Haiti over the years.

You can make a donation by going to the website listed above. If you would like more information on how you can help, talk to Ted or Sharon Passarelli. They can put you in touch with people from the PUMC that would be happy to talk to you about their Haitian experience. We thank you, in advance, for helping to make a difference in the lives of the Haitian children.

AUGUST Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 **Dan/Stephanie Landin**
- 2 Jenna Rappold, Bryce Hinsdale,
Earl/Kathy Foulk
- 4 Harrison Osborne, Ray Cartwright
- 6 **Rex/Jody Marsh**
- 7 Tabettha Butler
- 9 **Jon/Julie Dilley**
- 10 **Don/Linda Wood**
- 11 Connor Range, **Mike/Dawn Sard**
- 13 Joe Sturges
- 16 Matthew Kolstee
- 17 **John/Pam Brown**
- 18 Dawn Comstock
- 19 Eleanor King, Gerrit Hinsdale
- 20 **Jerry/Pam Ireland, Chris/MaryAnn Blose**
- 22 George Anderson, Barb Tordella, Kellen
Reardon, **Bill/Amy Caldwell,**
Bryan/Shelly Rupczyk
- 23 Bill Peck
- 24 Wendy Trisket, **Peter/Paula Komarek**
- 25 Cole Gleason, Nathan Gleason,
Ken/Katie Braun
- 27 Kelly Osborne
- 29 Elizabeth Baehr, Willa Rupczyk,
Glenn Topolski
- 30 Meredith Rupczyk

A look ahead to **SEPTEMBER:**

- 2 **Ann/Shawn Schnars**
- 4 Pam Brown, Jane Nagel, **Sam/Carm Catanese**
- 5 Kim Davis

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! a

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 August.**

**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