



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 21 - Of the Marriage of Ministers

I'm already smiling as I begin to write this delicious article. I don't get the chance to praise marriage and my wife as much as I'd like. Since John Wesley wrote about the marriage of ministers, I'll take this opportunity to do both, and hopefully encourage everyone (married and single) with the doctrinal standard of marriage in the United Methodist Church.

Here's what Article of Religion 21 says: *The ministers of Christ are not commanded by God's law either to vow the estate of single life, or to abstain from marriage; therefore it is lawful for them, as for all other Christians, to marry at their own discretion, as they shall judge the same to serve best to godliness.* (From The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church - 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House.)

The Apostle Paul takes a slightly different angle as this when he writes in 1Corinthians 7:1-4; *Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.*

What Paul is telling us as humans is that it is better to be single in order to devote ones entire life to God and service in the kingdom of God. Yet, because there is so much temptation and propensity for immorality (defined by Paul as any sexual relations outside the bounds of marriage between one man and one woman), one should marry in order to remain within God's plan for humanity.

How does this apply to ministers? Well, ministers are just like every other human being on the planet in that we are subject to temptation. John Wesley knew that, since he himself was a priest in the Anglican Church. He wrote this article in order to contrast the practice of the Roman Catholic Church which forbids its priests to marry, and, in fact, requires them to take a vow of chastity (no sexual relations of any kind). On the surface, the Apostle Paul

(Continued on next page)

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.

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

would applaud that, as would we all, in order to focus on God. Unfortunately, we know that the chastity system fails because of sin and temptation. In response, Wesley allowed all his pastors who so chose, to marry and have families.

I'm very thankful for that! You see, Stacy is the most incredible wife, lover, friend, and companion with which I could have been blessed. She consistently supports, encourages, rebukes, and corrects me with a tender heart focused on God's intentions. She is talented, beautiful, praise-worthy, modest, and gifted. I think John Wesley knew that ministers would need spouses to work along them for the good of the kingdom of God.

That goes for all marriages everywhere. The baseline plan for marriage is a man and a woman working together to raise a family and advance the kingdom of God. Some marriages have more elements of that than others, and some are works-in-progress. Those who have chosen to not yet marry, or who are waiting for God's timing can be encouraged by knowing that God wants to use all of us no matter our marital status. If and when you marry, allow God to use all of your marriage for His will. I pray that my marriage is a model for yours and that yours is a model for others. That's a worthy goal for us all.

One more thing...Stacy: I love you and thank God every day because He sent you into my life and allowed me the opportunity to be loved by you. May the love we share be an inspiration to others who hold us in high regard as the pastor and the pastor's spouse. Everything we do, Lord, we do it for You.

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Next: Part 22 - Of the Rites and Ceremonies of Churches

Welcome 2020! It's going to be a great year!

A LOOK AHEAD into January...

- January 2** - Harmony Senior Citizens @ 12 noon
God's Groceries Food Pantry Open @ 5-7pm
Bible Quiz Practice @ 6:30pm
- January 4** - CHAT Small Group @ 6pm (Anderson's)
Bible Quiz Team meet at Hornell @ 9am-2pm
- January 5** - Praise Team Rehearsal @9am
- January 6** - Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm
- January 7** - Band of Brothers and Ladies of Light @ 7pm
- January 8** - Adult Bible Study @ 3:30pm (Gallery)
Praise Team Practice @ 6pm (Sanctuary)
Celebration Choir@ 7pm
Trustee Team Meeting @ 7pm (Conference Room)
- January 9** - Missions Team Meeting @ 7pm (Conference Room)
- January 12 and 26** - Confirmation Class (Community Room)
- January 24-25** - Confirmation Retreat @ Camp Asbury

SUNDAY Morning Team - January

USHERS

George and Trudy Anderson
Pat and Kristy Catanese

NURSERY
January 5

Birth-2: Kim Davis and Marlie Seekings

January 12

Birth-2: Jessica Keefer and Kylie Schnars

January 19

Birth-2: Dawn Sard and Jennifer Johnson

January 26

Birth-2: Carolyn Hughesman and Tina Akam

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 Particular Sunday morning.

If something comes up and you cannot serve, please trade with someone or find a replacement.

THANK YOU!!!



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. The coffee is ready to go between 8 and 8:30am. We go through a lot 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 any Sunday morning and talk to Pam, Julia, or Roberta.

FREE Blood Pressures
and Fasting Blood Sugars

in Jody's office,
Stop in on the first Sunday of each month.

...JustOne4Others...

JustOne4Others restarts for 2020!

Let's have a repeat year of helping others! Last year brought love to others by helping collect health and beauty items. Let's continue this love in 2020! Thank you to all who helped this 2019 mission possible

January - Body Soap

February - Shampoo

March - Conditioner

April - Q-tips

May - Cotton Balls

June - Lotion

July - Hand Soap

August - Toothpaste

September - Toothbrushes

October - Mouthwash

November - Deodorant

December - Floss

Each month you are encouraged to purchase and donate "ONE" of the items listed above.

These will be offered to our Food Pantry, Panama Central School, Love INC and Jamestown Missions.

Questions? See Jody, our Parish Nurse.

Please drop your donations in Jody's office.

Christian Education:

"We Believe!" Eight youth have embarked on the confirmation journey as they take their next steps in their discipleship with Christ. It is so exciting to see the energy of these students as they did into the word together along with their brave mentors. Thank you to the adults who said "yes", to be part of this journey with our students. What a wonderful opportunity to be part of a student's life. Confirmation is being led by Pastor Steve and Stacy Taylor. The opportunity for our students to sit under their teaching and get to know them is truly a blessing.

The confirmation small group will be heading to a retreat at Asbury Camp, January 24th and 25th. Keep us all in prayer as we travel and take time away to study the word and grow deeper in our relationships as a group.

Youth Ministry:

Wow, another year is here and we rang it in together. What a great opportunity to have some fun!! A special thank you to our youth volunteers, Christopher Hughesman and Caitlin Vandevelde for braving an overnight with our youth. You made the night possible with your presence!! Also, a big thank you to our youth volunteer, Marge Vollmer, who provided us with breakfast.

Youth volunteers are an important part of our youth ministry as no one person can journey alone in developing followers of Christ. It's been said, "It takes a village to raise a child". We find it takes a strong support team to raise faithful disciples in Christ. If you're interested in hearing about opportunities to plug into youth ministry, please join us at our next Youth Support Ministry Team Meeting on February 2, 2020, following worship.

Youth Calendar:

January 5 - Youth Meeting, 7-8:30pm
January 12 - Youth Meeting, 7-8:30pm
January 19 - Youth Meeting, 7-8:30pm
January 26 - Youth Meeting, 7-8:30pm
February 2 - Youth Meeting, 7-8:30pm

Kingdom Bound 2020:

Sites have been reserved for Kingdom Bound 2020, July 26 - July 30. Space is limited... so reserve your spot by February 23rd with your deposit of \$125 (Family Max is \$300).

Submitted by Candy Scarem - Director of Student Ministries

[Looking For Something To DO?](#)

Please check the PUMC JANUARY 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. There is almost always something going on at the PUMC!

CONNECTIONS

The Connections' children had a wonderful Advent and Christmas season. In the days preceding Christmas, the children opened a small box which held a symbol of the Christmas story. This Connections' tradition is a wonderful way to tell the Christmas story.

Every family received the gift of a Bible and were encouraged to complete a Christmas Scavenger Hunt. Once complete and returned, the families each received an ornament and candy. What an amazing way to bless our Connections' families.

Please continue to donate snacks to the Connections ministry. You may place them in the containers by the restrooms. We have around 25 children.

Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!
February 2 - SOUPER Sunday!!!

After Worship, please plan to stay and enjoy soup and ice cream sundaes. The event will be a fundraiser for camping scholarships. Let's plan to send many youth and adults to a Christian camp this summer!!

JANUARY Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Carl Anderson
- 3 Caroline Apthorpe, Erin Miller, Reese McGaffick, Pam Sali, **Shaun/Amy Hummel**
- 4 Isaac Landin
- 5 Kimberly Barton, Betty Johnson
- 6 Jeff Ireland
- 7 David Rowe, Andrew Apthorpe
- 8 Claire Apthorpe, Mathis Baehr, Lyla Ireland
- 9 Aubriana Dominey, Dennis Furlow, Jan Wheeler
- 10 Jacob Caldwell, Patrick Caldwell
- 13 Amanda Sard
- 16 Bob Gleason
- 17 Bronson Edwards, Calloway Anderson
- 18 Jonathan Komarek
- 19 Donald Garfield
- 22 Marcey Larson, Thomas Cartwright
- 24 Ian Ellsworth
- 25 Kevin Beckerink, Linda Wood
- 27 Alexandria Davis

A look ahead to February...

- 2 Kevin Rowe
- 3 Eric Scolton
- 4 Howie Wheeler
- 5 Jeff Enlow
- 6 Carl Davis III, Brenda Ireland



VILLAGE OF HOPE HAITI

Please continue to keep
Bert and Roberta Anderson
in your thoughts and prayers
as they await their travel time and
transition back into Haiti.

CENTERPOINT December 2019 Report

This month, we have received
\$15,854.01 for a total of
\$797,716.63
which is 85% of the goal of
\$939,525.41.

God is good...all the time!



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

LUNCH BUNCH

The next gathering of the LUNCH BUNCH will be on Wednesday, January 15 (always the 3rd Wednesday of the month) in the Community Room at NOON.

All you need to bring is a (suggested) \$5 donation and an appetite! Please invite someone to join you!

Grace Notes Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

If you are new to the PUMC (or for some reason we do not have your birthday or anniversary information), please leave Pam a note in the "Newsletter" mailbox in the office so we can add you to the list.

We would simply need your first and last name as well as your dates to be added.

THANKS!



By Faith
Quizzers

December
Meet

BIBLE QUIZZING!

By Faith continues to persevere in studying the Word of God. One of the verses this month proclaims the truth about the Word.

“For the Word of God is *living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thought and intentions of the heart.*” Hebrews 4:12

The team placed first in December’s meet with Gracie and Juliana placing 2nd and 5th respectively, of overall quizzers! Please pray for Jubal and his family as he was recently diagnosed with Type I diabetes.

We baked over 90 dozen cookies on December 17th and continue to raise funds for the April national tournament in Pittsburgh. A special thank you to Jeff Enlow, Jeff Ireland and Julia Nelson for rescuing our efforts to bake by getting the oven pilot light lit!

Our next meet is January 4th. This meet is tough as we only have three weeks to learn the material and the holidays make it more difficult to take the time to study. I am so impressed with their dedication and so very proud of each quizzer. Please keep praying for Jubal, Josiah, Jalynn, Josh, Juliana, Gracie and Levi as they study Mark 10 and 14; Hebrews 4,5 and 11 and 2nd Peter 2.

Save the date of Friday, February 14th and enjoy a special meal with a loved one in the community room. More details to come.

Happy New Year!

Becky Cable
By Faith coach

FEELING CRAFTY AND CREATIVE?

We are in the talking stages of reintroducing the Bazaar aspect of our Harvest Dinner in October/November. If you have ideas of things you would like to make and donate, we would love to see what you have in mind. If you have ideas of things we could make as a group, let us know. If you have an idea but don't know how to get started, maybe we can help you! You could get together in a small group to make things, once a month...once a week, work together during the first week of the month and work on things as your schedule permits...the possibilities are limitless, either as a group or as individuals. We would like to know what you have in mind so that others are not duplicating what you are doing.

Quilting, flower arrangements, wreaths, wood working, ornaments, jewelry, the list goes on and on! We would love to have a wide variety of quality items ready for Fall of 2020!

See Pam Ireland with your ideas and suggestions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AVAILABLE FOR ALL!

We are so blessed at the PUMC to have Christian Education classes for EVERYONE! We have Pre-K classes all the way up to our Senior Adults!

Listed below are the classes, rooms and the teachers that are available each week. If you are interested in the topics for the adult classes, you may contact Becky Cable for that information. All classes (except Stacy's) run from 9:00am - 9:50am each Sunday morning.

PreK - 2nd: Rotating leaders; Room B-2
3rd - 5th grade: Sarah Merritt; Room 214
6th - 8th grade: Becky Cable; Room 215
9th - 12th grade: Jessica Nelson; Youth Room
Denny/Cindy Furlow; Conference Room
George Anderson; Room B-1
Marge Vollmer; Room B-4
Jon Cable; Room 216
Stacy Taylor; Wednesday, 3:30pm - Gallery

What if you woke up today
with only the things you thanked
God for yesterday?

May every sunrise

hold more promise

and every sunset

hold more peace.

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
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Candy Scarem, Director of Student Ministries
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Debbie Johnson, Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst.
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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 **January**.

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