



**GRACE NOTES** - October 2020  
Rev. Steven M, Taylor, Lead Pastor  
Panama United Methodist Church

**From Pastor Steve's Desk...**

Onto the crashing waves...

We've spent time over the years talking about spiritual gifts and discipleship - talking about the gifts and passions that God has given us through the Holy Spirit and what to do with those gifts inside and outside the church. We know that Holy Spirit has touched each of us and has a special place for us in ministry with the world around us.

But if you're anything like me, doubts and uncertainty combined with the rush of life tend to squeeze out from my life the energy and passion to use my gifts. I desire to be a faithful servant and make a difference, but I don't always act. I'm sure you will agree with that statement. We're in the same boat! One of my favorite songs (albeit pretty old now) comes from Casting Crowns, and it's entitled *Voice of Truth*. The words below are fitting for us as we stand at the door, *ready to use our divinely-enabled gifts, yet scared to do so at times*.

*Oh what I would do to have  
The kind of faith it takes to climb out of this boat I'm in  
Onto the crashing waves*

*To step out of my comfort zone  
To the realm of the unknown  
where Jesus is  
And He's holding out his hand*

*But the waves are calling out my name and they laugh at me  
Reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed  
The waves they keep on telling me  
Time and time again*

*"Boy, you'll never win!"*

*"You'll never win"*

*But the voice of truth  
tells me a different story*

*And the voice of truth says,*

*"Do not be afraid!"*

*And the voice of truth says,*

*"This is for My glory"*

*Out of all the voices calling out to me*

*I will choose to listen and*

*believe the voice of truth.*

That voice of truth is the still small voice of the Holy Spirit who lives in you when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior...when you choose to have a relationship with him, repenting of your sin, and following Christ.

(Continued on the next page...)

But even then, even when we have come to Jesus and said, "I'm sorry," we still struggle with our own sin and struggle with our call to use our gifts. It's in the midst of those crashing waves of doubt, failure, uncertainty, skepticism, and apathy that God provides. Oh...does He provide!

If we are broken before God, offering ourselves for his purpose in the middle of our lives, there won't be a day that goes by when a door will not open, an opportunity will not appear, and a peace will not be present while serving others for the glory of God.

We have a choice to make...will we step out of our comfort zones...will we climb out of the boat in small ways...will we disregard our fears...will we encourage each other...will we serve Him today? I will choose to listen and believe the voice of truth...to trust and obey, there is no other way! Happy fall and blessed assurance!

Shalom,  
**Pastor Steve**

### ***Worship Update:***

Since July 19th, we've been worshipping in the sanctuary. To keep us safe, we've been using hand sanitizer, wearing masks, except when seated or singing, been keeping a safe 6' physical distance and refraining from touching each other. I'm very proud of the team, the congregation, and all who've come to worship in-house. I'm also thankful of all who have continued to worship online. Thanks, specifically, goes to our Audio/Video Ministry Team who has done such a great job with in-house and online worship presentation.

If you have any questions about returning to the building for worship, please let us know. We'd love to have you join us in-house if you haven't yet.

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve and the Worship Team

## **COMING THIS FALL.....**

### ***The 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 are new to Panama UMC, this course is for you. 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 Mission Statement**

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

## WE'RE HIRING!

Panama UMC is looking for an Associate Pastor of  
Youth and Family Ministries

We are hoping to hire someone for a part-time (16-20 hours per week) ministry position with future potential to expand position to include Associate Pastor of Contemporary Worship and Online Campus (additional 16-20 hours).

Here are the qualifications of the person we're praying for:

- Bachelor's Degree in related field or experience in pastoral ministry, especially youth
- Previous experience in pastoral ministry, especially with youth and children
- Personal and growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- Healthy family life
- Spiritual giftedness in evangelism outreach, teaching and leadership, and calling to youth and children's ministry
- Self-motivated leader
- Possesses relational skills with students, parents and staff

Full Job Description can be found at [www.panamaum.org](http://www.panamaum.org).

Questions? Email [contact@panamaum.org](mailto:contact@panamaum.org)

## WANTED: YOUR STORY!

During that last six months throughout this unprecedented and challenging time, we are sure that God has intervened time and time again for you. We encourage you to share an example that will encourage your brothers and sisters as well as be a witness to your entire greater community. (Deadline for submitting is Sunday, October 18, but please send them to [contact@panamaum.org](mailto:contact@panamaum.org) as soon as you get them written down.) We'll compile them into an online journal and trust the Lord to use them in big ways for His Kingdom. If you have questions, call 782-4031.

You may include a scripture reference and a title with your story, but it's not required. The story can be as short or long as you like. And we need your name, of course.

Please begin praying about your submission - and about this entire project glorifying God.



FLU SHOT CLINIC  
PUMC  
Tuesday, October 6  
10am - 1pm  
Bring your insurance cards

**GIVE BLOOD....GIVE LIFE!**

PUMC  
Wednesday, October 7  
2pm - 8pm



## **...JustOne4Others...** **October - Mouthwash**

Each month you are encouraged to purchase and donate "ONE" of the items listed above. **Questions? See Jody, Parish Nurse.**

COMING TO A



NEAR YOU!!!!

**PUMC Annual Harvest Dinner TO GO**

with all the trimmings: Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, squash, cranberries, roll, and choice of dessert (pumpkin or apple pie)

.....WHEN.....

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14th**  
4 - 6:30pm...(or sold out)

.....WHERE.....

**PUMC parking lot;**  
**22 East Main Street, Panama, NY**

**Suggested Donation - \$12 per dinner.**

**Watch for entrance and exit signs. There will be helpers in the parking to direct you.**

**Dinner pick up directions will be posted on advertisements and also in the November edition of Grace Notes.**

***We hope to see YOU there!***

**Due to COVID-19, the bazaar part of our annual Harvest Dinner has been put on hold until 2021.**

**October Birthdays and *Anniversaries***

- 1 Matt Komarek, ***Glenn/Melissa Topolski***
- 2 Amy Caldwell, David Calcaterra
- 3 Pam Ireland
- 4 Steve Halpainy, ***Pat/Joyce Dole***
- 5 Kyle Hinsdale, Ariana Range
- 6 Krista Odell, ***Don/Tabetha Butler***
- 7 ***Jim/Linda Roraback***, Adalynn Wiggers
- 9 ***Joe/Darcey Lyon***
- 9 Rebecca Wheeler, ***Tina/Mark Akam***
- 12 ***Jeff/Jody Hay***
- 12 David Anderson, Jim Roraback
- 15 Ricky Eggleston
- 17 Lee Crosby, ***Buck/Kristine Seekings***
- 18 Carm Catanese, Joyce Edwards
- 19 Mary Rappole, ***Adam/Tory Irgang***
- 20 Tammy Hosier, Sue Woods
- 22 ***Neil/Cindy Sturges***
- 23 Kandi Torres, Charlie Loveless
- 24 Stacy Furlow
- 25 Betty Crosby, Adam Irgang
- 26 Doug Hosier
- 28 Allison Halpainy, ***Brad/Shirley Osborne***
- 30 Debbie Edwards, Joe Osborne
- 31 Dawn Sard, Melissa Wiggers

Looking ahead to November...

- 1 Mike Sard, Carol Simmes, Cindy Sturges, Joel Wiggers
- 2 Chris Comstock
- 3 ***Tom/Sally Baer***

**HELP!**

As with any venture such as the Harvest Dinner, there are up front donations that can be made. We are looking for donations of \$25 to purchase turkeys. We will also be looking for donations of apple and pumpkin pies. Most everything else is taken care of. If you would like to make a monetary turkey donation, you can send it to the church c/o Pam Ireland or include it in your offering. I may be calling for helpers in different areas. Hope you will say "YES"!

Life is all about people. Some people come into our lives and stay as friends forever. Some people we meet briefly, but the encounter impacts us in some way. Sometimes an activity or event brings people into our lives that would not have met otherwise. Relationships with family, friends, acquaintances, and even the random passerby all impact our lives in some way.

Anyone who has attended Panama United Methodist Church in the last 60 years will have come into contact with Paula Osborne Komarek. From a child in Sunday school and youth fellowship through recent roles as treasurer and in the choir and praise band, Paula has gifted our church with her skills in accounting and music. More importantly, Paula and her family have shown us what faith looks like through joys and hardships.

Most folks know that Paula has suffered with Sarcoma (cancer) for the past few years. Through tests, surgeries and treatments, Paula has been strong and independent. She has faced good and bad news with a positive attitude and "can do" spirit. Now Paula needs us - her family, friends and acquaintances. She recently chose to utilize Hospice care and is now living at the Blair Hospice House in Warren, PA. It would mean so much to Paula if you could drop her a card of encouragement or maybe send a note sharing a memory. Your prayers for comfort and peace are sought as well. Please remember, too, that Paula's husband, Peter, is in the Heritage Village nursing home in Gerry getting the care he needs to deal with Parkinson's disease. Cards of encouragement to Peter would be appreciated, as well.

Paula's address is:

Paula Komarek  
Blair Hospice House  
301 Quaker Hill Road  
Warren, PA 16365

Peter's address is:

Peter Komarek  
Heritage Village  
PO Box 351  
Gerry, NY 14740

Should you want to and have the ability to help with the costs associated with staying at the Hospice Home, a financial contribution can be made in a couple of ways. You may write a check to Panama United Methodist Church's WHITE GIFT - and make a memo note that the money should be for Paula's care. If you already donate to PUMC through online giving, a donation may be sent through that option and marked as a WHITE GIFT. Checks can be sent to:

Panama United Methodist Church  
PO Box 218  
Panama, NY 14767

You may also write a check to the Warren County Hospice and write on the memo line that it is for Paula K's care at the Hospice House. Checks to Warren County Hospice should go to:

Warren County Hospice - Attention, Kelly  
1 Main Avenue  
Warren PA 16365

Financial help is appreciated as a way to honor a special person in our lives, but your prayers and personal notes will be an encouragement to Paula, Peter and their family.

Thank you for taking time to show Paula and Peter how they have touched your lives.

## Five & Two Ministry

Panama UMC joins with Panama Central School  
and the Five and Two Ministry to provide food for the children!

Have you heard about the Five and Two Ministry?? Panama UMC is joining up with the Panama Central School and the Five and Two Ministry (out of Clymer). This ministry provides food to students on the weekends. The food is packed once a month, and is distributed to the children every Friday at school. Parents do have the option of not receiving the food. This year, the PCS Kindergarteners will be receiving food.

If you would like more information - check out their Facebook page or website at: <https://www.5and2ministry.com>.

To support the Five and Two Ministry and PCS, PUMC will be collecting food. A few people will also join the packing night, which is held once a month in Clymer. If you would like to be part of the packing, please let Stacy know!

Here are the items that we will be collecting. You can see that the list is similar to the list we've requested for our Connections Ministry. We thank you for supporting both ministries! There are collection bins at church for both ministries in which you may place the food.

### Five and Two Food Distribution List

Macaroni and Cheese - 7oz. box

Applesauce Cups - 4 oz.

Individual cups of peanut butter - 1.5 oz.

Individual Instant Oatmeal Packets

Milk Drink (when available) - 8oz.

Fruit Snacks

Cheese and Cracker Snacks

1 oz. bag of Goldfish

1 oz. bag of Pretzels

Beef Sticks - 0.28 oz.

Fruit Cups - 4 oz.

Granola Bars

Juice Drinks - 6.75 oz. boxes

Individual Serving Size Cereal Bags

THANKS SO MUCH IN ADVANCE!!!!



*With Sympathy to the family of...*

*Joyce E. Bergman*

*March 11, 1934 - August 30, 2020*

Joyce, a lifelong area resident, passed away in the Heritage Park Rehab and Skilled Nursing Facility. She is survived by four children, Kathleen (Earl) Foulk, Judy (Jim) Burdic, Karen (Jeff) Lewis and John (Tina) Bergman.

Joyce is further survived by 13 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and her special friend, Joe Dorman.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Doris Terry, her husband, Kenneth E. Bergman, Sr., a son, Kenneth E. Bergman, Jr., a daughter, Brenda Maloy, three brothers and two sisters.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, WNY Chapter, 6215 Sheridan Dr., Ste. 100, Amherst, NY, 14221.

*The love and prayers of the church and community  
are with you all as you continue  
through this time of grief and adjustment.*

### *Bible Quizzing!*

Our season has officially begun—WooHoo!! Three of our quizzers, Jubal, Josiah & Jalyynn have all graduated, leaving us with four quizzers. There were three quizzers in our league in need of a team so we have added them to our team. So, our team of seven veteran quizzers are Josh Cable, Juliana Graham, DeShawn Smith, Gracie Cable, Lily Todd, Grace Haynes and Levi Graham. Our practices are every Thursday alternating between Salamanca & Falconer. Our first Quiz tournament will be Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at Hornell UMC. Our material this month is Matthew 1, 3, 6, 10, & 26. Our team name this season is **Chosen** taken from Matthew 22:14 "For many are called, but few are CHOSEN."





### CONNECTIONS

In addition to the snack donations for Connections, we could also use monetary donations, as we will be purchasing additional disinfectant, cleaning supplies and gloves. We are determined to keep the cost down for our Connections' families, maintain a safe environment and continue to share the love of Jesus!

Please continue to keep our three staff members in your prayers. Sandy, Joan and Tara, They go above and beyond in working with our Connections' families.

### **SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING**

Now is the perfect time to make the shift to online giving to Panama UMC. It's secure and very easy to register and begin tithing online.

This is a difficult time, financially, for our nation and community. As you can, we are encouraging everyone to continue to do what you can to give to the church and other charities.

To sign up, go to the church website ([www.panamaum.org](http://www.panamaum.org)) and click on the Give Online button on the homepage. If you need help, please call the church office (716 - 782 - 4031) for assistance.

### Help Us, Please...

If you have had an address or phone number change in the last couple of years, please make sure to update the church office so that we have your correct contact information.

If you are fairly new in attending PUMC, please make sure that we have your address.

We are also interested in having the dates of your family's birthdays and anniversaries, first and last names, please.

These additions and/or corrections can be made by contacting Debbie in the office or by leaving Pam a message in the Newsletter mailbox in the workroom.



### **God's Groceries Food Pantry**

can be accessed by using the Church Street entrance.

Look for signs.

If there is a need, please call the church office for additional information.  
(782-4031)

Monday: 9-10am and 6-7pm  
Thursday: 5-7pm

We have White Gift funds available.

Please talk to Pastor Steve  
if you know of a need.





Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor  
steven.taylor@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

## **OCTOBER 2020** **GRACE NOTES**

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