



GRACE NOTES - November 2020

Rev. Steven M, Taylor, Lead Pastor

Panama United Methodist Church

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Let me start by saying a heartfelt and warm THANK YOU to the PUMC family for your expressions of appreciation for the Taylor family during October (Pastor Appreciation Month). Thank you for showing God's love for us. It continues to be an absolute blessing to be part of your lives and our community. May God keep pouring out those blessings, keep challenging us to love harder, and always turn our eyes to Jesus in ALL things!

As we turn our hearts to Thanksgiving this month, we have so much for which to give thanks. We are thankful that we have remained healthy as a congregation and community. Let's keep being diligent and vigilant together as we navigate this pandemic while loving each other in all the ways we are. We are thankful for a beautiful autumn and the promise of winter (yep, I like winter!). We are thankful for the continued financial and ministry strength at PUMC, because of all those who are faithfully engaging in ministry. We are thankful for our audio/video technology team who has done a wonderful job serving us to provide for our online worship and ministry presence. We are thankful for new faces and lots of children and families in our worship and ministries. We're thankful for staff members who have been flexible to adjust to the everchanging conditions and demands of ministry in 2020. We are thankful for the 15-20 students that attend our Connections After School Ministry each day of the week. We are thankful for our NEW Food Security Ministry, which included our Food Pantry, Lunch Bunch, Lunch Box School Ministry and our new 5&2 School Food Distribution. We're thankful that our Harvest Dinner will happen (Drive-Thru) and the proceeds will go to support our Food Security and Missions Ministry Teams. We're thankful for our Reopening Team and all the hard work to create a safe space for us to be. We are thankful for our Worship Team and the great music and worship being planned. Mostly, we are thankful for YOU, the people of the Panama United Methodist Church and all you do to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world...who are intentional disciples lovingly giving our community the opportunity to believe in and follow Jesus.

Ezra 3:11 says, "With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: 'He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid."

In ALL things, give thanks. Despite the challenges and struggles, give thanks. Today and tomorrow, give thanks. To God, give thanks. To God be the glory!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

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.

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

Confirmation Worship Experience - Nov. 16th at 7pm

Our confirmation class has been waiting a long time to finish the process and be confirmed as professing members of the church. Two of them are waiting to be baptized. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have delayed the worship experience. However, we feel it is now time! Yet, since we still have COVID-19 restrictions, the team has decided to hold a special evening worship service to confirm and baptize our students, having only families and confirmands, mentors, and a select representation from the church body present.

The worship will be livestreamed and available for viewing and participation by everyone, near and far. Please be praying for our confirmands and their families, mentors, and staff as we celebrate together to welcome our newest members!

You're Invited to a NIGHT OF WORSHIP!

Thanksgiving is a blessed time of year for families and friends, the church and the community. It's a time to reflect and give thanks to God for all He has brought us through and for the hope we have in Jesus. On Sunday, November 22nd, at 7pm, the Panama UMC family will respond. We will GATHER and WORSHIP! We will be inviting everyone to come and celebrate God in worship. We will have lots of music and more! We will livestream this worship event on www.livestream.com/panamaum and our Facebook page. We will hear God's promises to prosper His people! Come and invite your friends and family to this Night of Worship...our Harvest of Praise!

Welcoming New Members and Baptisms **Sunday, November 29, 2020**

Blue Christmas Worship

On Sunday, December 13th, at 6pm, you're invited to a special worship service that will help all who are struggling with finding and maintaining JOY in the Christmas season. This is needed like never before. The message of hope in the coming of Christ will invite us to come to the manger and see Jesus. As we do, we will be filled with the love of God in Christ Jesus.

All are invited to come to this special worship experience.

Christmas Eve Worship Announced

This Christmas Eve, we are planning to worship at 4pm and 11pm. We aren't yet sure what the formats will be, but in order to have adequate spacing and safe distancing, we will offer these two worship experiences for our congregation and community.

Both services will be livestreamed for those who desire to worship remotely. Stay tuned for more information to come!

With Sympathy to the families of...

Lynette G. Lictus

August 31, 1932 - September 25, 2020

Lynette and James R. Lictus were married on
July 9, 1953. He preceded her in death.

She is survived by 4 children, several grandchildren,
including Kyle (Brynne) Hinsdale and seven great-grandchildren,
including Gerrit and Bryce Hinsdale.

Memorial donations may be made to the Clymer UM Church,
Clymer Historical Society, Clymer Fire Dept.,
or Hospice Community Nursing Services of North East, PA.

Paula J. (Osborne) Komarek

April 15, 1954 - October 13, 2020

Paula is survived by her husband Peter,
whom she married on August 24, 1975.

She is survived by her sons,
Jonathan (Jessica) and Matthew (Amanda);
three grandchildren, Mason, Elena and Peter, and
her brother, Joseph (Kelly) Osborne.

Paula was preceded in death by her parents,
Arthur and Jeanette (Bridges) Osborne.

A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Donations in her honor may be made to the
Ashville Library, 2200 N. Maple Ave, Ashville, NY 14710.





Harvest Dinner
Drive Thru
Saturday, November 14
4 - 6:30, or until sold out.
Panama UMC Parking Lot
Proceeds will support the PUMC
Food Security and Missions Ministry

Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings!

Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes,
 gravy, squash, cranberries, roll, and choice of
 apple or pumpkin pie.

Suggested donation - \$12/dinner

LOOK for the **ENTER** and **EXIT** signs at the
 church. There will be attendants to direct you.

*In an effort to facilitate traffic flow, we ask
 that, if possible, you arrive at staggered times
 as suggested below:*

Last names, A-I, drive thru from 4-4:45;

J-R, drive thru from 4:45 - 5:30 and

S - Z drive thru from 5:30-6:30.

November Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Mike Sard, Carol Simmes, Cindy Sturges, Joel Wiggers |
| 2 | Chris Comstock |
| 3 | Tom/Sally Baer |
| 4 | Tina Akam |
| 8 | Elena Komarek |
| 9 | Lisa Edwards, Linda Gleason, Logan Hickman |
| 10 | Erica Dix, Corinne Ireland, Katie Braun |
| 11 | April VanBrunt, Abigail Skahan, Marlie Seekings |
| 12 | Jean Edwards, Connor Hickman |
| 15 | Sharon Passarelli, Jaik Halpainy |
| 16 | Genesis Moore |
| 19 | Stephanie Landin |
| 20 | Peter Butler |
| 21 | Evan Lescynski |
| 25 | Mel Eggleston II, Barb Trisket |
| 26 | Mary Lou Garfield, Gloria Scholton |
| 27 | Stacy Taylor, Tim/Tena Dills |
| 28 | Kevin Parkman, Adam/Tia Kester |
| 30 | Fran Sard |

Looking in December...

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Bert Anderson, Brianna Marsh |
| 3 | Judy Parkman |
| 4 | Rob Peck, Paige Weise, Dennis/Cindy Furlow |
| 5 | Eloise Smith |



Welcome to the world, little ones...

Kormack Nicholas Sard
was born to Nick and Katie (Hite) Sard.
on September 25, 2020.

"Mack's" family includes his big brother, Finn,
his grandparents, Mike and Dawn Sard and Peg Hite.
His great grandmother is Lizzie Montagna.

Dr. Freddie and Stacy (Furrow) Ibrahim welcomed
a daughter, Sienna Lane into their family on October 8, 2020.
She weighed 6lb., 13 oz. and measured 20 inches long.
Sienna's grandparents are Dennis and Cindy Furrow.

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 the 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
- Posses relational skills with students, parents and staff

Full Job Description can be found at www.panamaum.org.

Questions? Email contact@panamaum.org



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!!!!

Parish Nurse Recipe
(Jody Marsh)

Grace Oat Bread

3 3/4 c. regular oatmeal
2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
2 c. nonfat Greek yogurt plain
1 beaten egg

Preheat oven to 365 degrees.
Mix all ingredients.
Spray a loaf pan with nonstick cooking spray.
Press mixture into pan.
Bake at 365 degrees for 40 minutes.
Bread is very dense. Refrigerate.

You could flavor by adding: cinnamon, bananas, blueberries, raisins, rosemary, garlic, onions or flavorings of your choice.

Wedding Congratulations

Debbie Erlandson and William Peck
were united in marriage on
September 17, 2020.
Rev. Steven Taylor officiated the wedding
at the Panama United Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Peck are at home at
29 West Main, PO Box 161,
Panama, NY
14767

Congratulations to you as you begin this
new chapter in your lives.



Bible Quizzing!

Chosen had their first quiz in Hornell on September 26th where they placed 2nd out of seven teams! Levi, Gracie and Juliana received individual awards as top quizzers! Our second quiz was on October 24th where we placed 1st!! Gracie and Juliana again placed in the top 7 with Josh receiving top honors for the day! Everyone contributed and we are very much excited about this season.

We are studying the Gospel of Matthew and this coming month chapters 5,7,21 and 27 specifically. Our next quiz will be Saturday, November 21st. We appreciate your prayers as we travel to Salamanca and Falconer, alternately, for our quiz practices and as the team studies diligently their assigned portion of Matthew. May the Word and His mighty power transform our hearts and minds as we study.



In the photo are the top quizzers of the day on October 24th.

Coach Becky

...JustOne4Others...
November - Deoderant

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



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) 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

NOVEMBER 2020 **GRACE NOTES**



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Panama United Methodist Church
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