



GRACE NOTES - February 2020

Panama United Methodist Church

Rev. Steven M, Taylor, Lead Pastor

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. Later this year, it's anticipated that the UMC will divide into two or more branches. One will be more progressive/liberal and the other more traditional/conservative. 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 22 - Rites and Ceremonies of Churches

For those who have been faithfully following this two-year journey into the beliefs and doctrines of the United Methodist Church, I pray that you've learned something new, or seen something old in a new light. For those who have recently begun to follow this series, the purpose of the series is to help us understand who we are as United Methodists and appreciate the rich tradition and spirituality of our church. One of the ways we express that spirituality and our faith in each local churches to engage in worship and celebration. Sometimes, that worship takes the form of rites and ceremonies in the context of communal worship, which is unique in each time and place.

Here's what Article of Religion 22 says: *It is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same, or exactly alike; for they have been always different, and may be changed according to the diversity of countries, times, and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's Word. Whosoever, through his private judgment, willingly and purposely doth openly break the rites and ceremonies of the church to which he belongs, which are not repugnant to the Word of God, and are ordained and approved by common authority; ought to be rebuked openly, that others may fear to do the like, as one that offendeth against the common order of the church and woundeth the consciences of weak brethren.*

Every particular church may ordain, change, or abolish rites and ceremonies, so that all things may be done to edification. (From The Book or Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2016. Copyright 2016 by the Untied Methodist Publishing House.)

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, developed this Article to state that each local church can determine how and when it engages in worship, rites (such as marriage), and ceremonies (blessings and commissionings, to name two), **as long as** those do not go against the agreed upon rites and ceremonies of those gathered in that place, or the denomination. This gives the local church an incredible amount of freedom to express its spirituality in many ways, based on the dynamics of the particular church. If done not, however,

(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)

give the local church the authority to change the doctrine or beliefs of the church to suit its own needs.

This Article prevents the local church from being required to adhere to a denomination-proscribed set of worship and ceremonial liturgies that sometimes result in dead worship and lack of spirituality. This Article also clearly prevents any pastor or lay member from rejecting the agreed-upon rites and celebrations in the church, going off in a rogue direction, leading others astray.

In the current disagreements in the United Methodist Church, same-sex marriage is the center of the discussion. The current rules prevent any clergy from performing same-sex weddings or churches from hosting same-sex weddings. The current language in the Book of Discipline also prevents the ordination of practicing homosexual persons. Unfortunately, some churches and conferences have done just those, which is not in adherence to Article 22. The anticipated denominational split is a disagreement in the authority of Scripture and rules more than these two specific examples.

I am thankful for the rich traditions of the Church. I am equally thankful that we are part of a denomination that encourages creative expressions of authentic spirituality and celebrations within the framework of our Wesleyan perspective. As we join together to celebrate how Christ is alive and moving in our midst, enjoy it!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Next: Part 23 - Of the Rulers of the United States of America

A LOOK AHEAD into February...

Feb 2 - Souper Sundae Camping Fundraiser @ 11:30am

Feb 2 - Youth Ministry Support Team Meeting @ 11:30am
(or as soon as you can get your soup!)

Feb 7 - Family Fun Event - Pool Party @ 6-8pm; PCS;
Pizza, Drinks and Cookies

Feb 14 - Valentine's Dinner from 5-7 pm; Sponsored by Bible Quizzers;
Pre-sale tickets only; Call the office for tickets; 782-4031

Feb 23 - Lenten Devotionals available

Feb 26 - Ash Wednesday Worship @ 7pm

Mar 1 - Baked Potato Youth Fundraiser @ 11:30am

May 3 - Taco in a Bag Fundraiser @ 11:30am

SUNDAY Morning Team - February

USHERS

Ted and Sharon Passarelli
Darlene Fulton and Kathy Foulk

NURSERY

February 2

Birth-2: Marge Vollmer and Graham Vollmer

February 9

Birth-2: Susie Davis and Lilly Odell

February 16

Birth-2: Andrew Lescynski and Gracie Cable

February 23

Birth-2: Adam and Tory Irgang

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!!!

Parish Nurse's Monthly Recipe Jody Marsh

BROCCOLI SALAD

4 c small broccoli florets
1 1/2 c seedless green grapes, halved
1 c chopped celery
1 c raisins
1/4 c salted sunflower seed kernels
1/3 c light mayonnaise
1/4 c plain fat free yogurt
3 Tbsp sugar
1 Tbsp white vinegar

Combine first 5 ingredients in a large bowl.
Combine mayonnaise and remaining ingredients,
Stirring with a whisk.

Pour over broccoli mixture and toss well.
Chill for 1 hour.

ENJOY!

FREE Blood Pressures and Fasting Blood Sugars

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

...JustOne4Others...

Last year brought love to others by helping collect health and beauty items. Let's continue this love in 2020!

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.



The third and final Center-Point scrapbook/photo album is on the Welcome Table in the Gallery for you to enjoy!

Lenten Devotionals

This year, during Lent (February - April), several people from Panama, Park, Findley Lake and Springville UMCs will be providing daily devotionals for us to read and on which we will reflect. Our Lenten Theme is The Final Week. We pray that as you read and reflect on these daily readings and devotionals, the Holy Spirit will do some renewing and refreshing in you!

These devotionals will be available by February 23...don't forget to get your copy!

Ash Wednesday Worship

On Wednesday, February 26th, we will kick-off the season that leads to Easter (April 12) by worshipping. This day is known as Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It falls 40 weekdays before Easter (Sundays aren't counted in the 40 days of Lent). Ash Wednesday takes its name from ashes, a traditional Jewish sign of penitence. In some traditions, palm fronds or palm crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned, and then the ashes are applied to the worshiper's forehead on Ash Wednesday as a token of their commitment to observe a "holy Lent".

Ancient Christian tradition was to observe Lent with fasting (a discipline of going without food at certain times), study, self-examination, confession and prayer. During this time, candidates for Holy Baptism were prepared for baptism on Easter Eve. Many churches continue those traditions.

Join us for worship at 7pm on Wednesday, February 26!

Season of Easter 2020 (February 26 - April 12)

- 2.26.20 Ash Wednesday Worship @ 7pm
- 3.1.20 What Kind of King is Jesus?
- 3.8.20 Trouble in the Temple
- 3.15.20 Conflict and More Conflict
- 3.22.20 The Need for a Traitor
- 3.29.20 Last Supper and Gethsemane
- 4.5.20 The Crucifixion of Jesus
- 4.9.20 One in Christ Worship (Holy Thursday); 6:30pm;
Jamestown High School (NEW LOCATION)
- 4.10.20 Good Friday Worship @ 7pm; Panama UMC
- 4.11.20 Community Easter Egg Hunt @ 10am; PUMC
- 4.11.20 Walk to the Crosses Worship @ 6pm; Corner of Randolph Rd.
and North St., Panama; (uneven terrain)
- 4.12.20 Resurrection Sunday! Worship at 8am and 10:15am
Easter Breakfast @ 9-10am
- 4.19.20 Confirmation and Baptism Sunday



VILLAGE OF HOPE

After several months of delays, we finally arrived in Haiti on January 3, 2020. We were a little nervous about being here as we were not really sure what we would be walking into relative to the peace and security of the country. As it turns out, we will be safe as long as we stay away from certain areas and travel with the appropriate level of security. This is so different for us as we used to be able to get in our vehicles and go anywhere with no problems other than the usual traffic delays and crowded streets.

We have been to the School and Health Center twice. There is heavy gang activity on the road to there so we can only go when Clovis, the School Principal, is able to arrange a police escort. Despite that, the teachers and health center staff have been managing to get to work since December. They are a truly dedicated group of workers.

We have met our replacement, Maryse Sterlin. She is a Haitian who lived in the US; she went to high school and college (Adelphi University) in New York. She has experience working with non-profits in Haiti. She will be an asset as she is well versed in American and Haitian culture. We start working together on the first of February.

Later in February, we will introduce Maryse to the VOH board at a meeting in Florida. The meeting was supposed to be held here but the board is reluctant to travel here as travel insurance is not available for teams. This means that short term mission teams aren't coming either for the time being. We will learn at that meeting how long our services will be needed as well.

Our internet has been down more than usual which means we missed the live stream of church this past week. We will have to watch it now that our service has been restored.

We thank you for your prayers and ask that you continue to pray for us and for Village of Hope. Pray for peace and stability in Haiti.

Blessings,
Bert and Roberta Anderson



LUNCH BUNCH

The next gathering of the LUNCH BUNCH will be on Wednesday, **February 19** (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!

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

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 workroom 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.

Looking For Something To DO?

Please check the PUMC **FEBRUARY** 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!

**JOIN US ON SOUPER SUNDAE
FEBRUARY 2**

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

CONNECTIONS

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!

FEBRUARY Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Joel Keefer
- 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Eckman
- 3 Eric Scolton, Anna VandeVelde
- 4 Howie Wheeler, Willson Baer, Meghan Price
- 5 Jeff Enlow
- 6 Carl Davis III, Brenda Ireland, Braden Topolski
- 8 Alexandra Baer
- 11 Anna Cartwright
- 12 Devin Ireland, Richard King, Paige Munson
- 13 Trudy Anderson, Joe Edwards, Emily Baker
- 14 Marissa Topolski
- 16 Haley Holmberg
- 19 Natalie Odell
- 20 Adam Rupczyk, Diane Johnson, Averie Seekings
- 21 Scotty James, Wyona Wevers, Leah Irgang
- 24 Corinne Edwards
- 25 Sara Waller
- 26 John Elfvin, Bryce Ireland, Emily King, Mark Akam
- 27 Chase Hartnett, Marcia King
- 28 Zoe Kester
- 29 Briana Johnson



**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...or just stop in and chat!

A look into March...

- 1 Dylan Peck, **Keith/Cindy Miller**
- 8 Jennifer Johnson, Wende Lescynski
- 9 Sally Baer, Gregory Ireland

With Sympathy...

Beatrice M. "Bea" Baker Emules

passed away on December 9, 2019 in Heritage Park Nursing Facility in Jamestown, NY.

Bea was the mother of Duane (Emily) Baker, Kathy (Joseph) Walz, Karen Austin and James Baker. She is also survived by many grandchildren (including Tina Akam and Rebecca Dominey), great-grandchildren, step grands and step greats. Memorials may be made to the Lakewood Baptist Church of Lakewood, NY.

Lynnette (Lynne) Wassink James

passed away on December 29, 2019 in Virginia. Lynne was the daughter of Lawrence and Joyce Wassink of Panama. She was a 1971 graduate of PCS. She was a former member of PUMC.

She is survived by her husband, Ed., and her daughter, Bretta and son, Brady. She is also survived by her granddaughter, Taylor.

Memorials may be made to the Chautauqua Foundation or the local Alzheimer's Association.

Roger A. Wiltsie

died at home in Clymer, NY, on January 9, 2020. Roger was preceded in death by his wife, Sylvia, in 2013. He is survived by his daughters Karen (Mike) Jessup, Mary (Bill) Posker and Diane (Craig) Eaton. He is also survived by five grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. Further surviving him is his sister, Marian (Phil) Spotts and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions in Roger's memory may be made to the Clymer Volunteer Fire Department or Chautauqua Hospice and Palliative Care in Lakewood.

Kathleen A. (Baker) Walz

Passed away in her home on January 19, 2020. She was the wife of Joseph Walz and a 1966 graduate of Southwestern. In addition to her husband, she is survived by two children, two grandchildren and a great grandson. She is also survived by her brothers, Duane (Emily) Baker, and James Baker and a sister, Karen Austin.

She was also the aunt of Tina Akam and Rebecca Dominey.

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.



Bible Quizzing!

By Faith placed second in January's quiz meet. They continue to work at learning new material, but at the same time, reviewing their previous material. For each monthly quiz, the new material is called "primary" and the previous material is "secondary". The computer quizzing software pulls 60% of the questions from the primary and 40% from the secondary. So knowing the secondary is just as important as the primary. BY this time in the season, I can sense the members growing a bit weary. This memorizing scripture, word perfect, is tough stuff! Please pray for the kids by name as they study: Josiah, Jubal, Jalynn, Josh, Juliana, Gracie and Levi.

We have quiz meets on February 1 and 29. Some of our quizzers will be participating in a regional tournament near Corning, March 13 and 14 in preparation for Nationals in Pittsburgh, April 15-19. Pittsburgh is within easy driving distance if a carload of our PUMC family members would want to support our kids and experience Bible quizzing for themselves.

We are continuing to bake cookies monthly and are so thankful for your support! February's choices are Snickerdoodles, Frosted Hearts and Chocolate Chip. Sign up today! Blessings!

Becky Cable
By Faith coach

COOKIE SALES

Varieties for February 19: (Order deadline 2/14)
Snickerdoodles; Frosted Hearts; Chocolate Chip

Varieties for March 18: (Order deadline 3/13)

TO ORDER:

Call Becky Cable: (716) 543-305050
Or email Jon: jonbec95@gmail.com

FEELING CRAFTY AND CREATIVE?

We are hoping to reintroduce 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 you 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

ADULTS:

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

Valentine's Day Dinner

Fundraiser for and sponsored by our
Bible Quiz Team, "By Faith"

Friday, February 14

5:00 - 7:00 pm

at Panama UMC, Community Room, 22 East Main St.

Pre-sale tickets only - \$15/person
(see a team member or call 782-4031)

We are gearing up for the Valentine's Day dinner on Friday, February 14th from 5-7pm in the Community Room. Julia Nelson has a delicious meal planned with your choice of chicken cordon bleu or pork loin roast; spinach salad or pear w/ cottage cheese; mashed potatoes or twice baked potato; and red velvet cake or white cake w/ raspberry filling.

Pre-sale tickets only, \$15/person. Tickets are on sale until Sunday, February 9th. All are welcome so invite your family, friends and neighbors!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE... and WHY?

If I were to ask you why you are a Christian and why I should be one, too, what would you say? What if you were asked about the origins of creation and if man and dinosaurs lived together, or why we should even trust God's word in the first place, what would your answer be?

In Jon Cable's class, we discuss these and many other tough questions which lay a foundation of faith in who God is and why we need to uphold the infallible word of God as the ultimate authority over man's fallible word.

Our class will cover a general overview of the Bible: creation, where sin and death came from, topics related Noah's flood and the tower of Babel, about Christ, the cross, and the coming new Heaven and new Earth that is to come. Whether you are a new believer in Christ or one who has known Him for a long time, this class will help you with having a ready defense of being prepared with an answer for the hope that you have.

Class meets every Sunday upstairs in room 206. We hope to see you there!

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 February.

Cornerstone District Office
Christ First UMC
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