



GRACE NOTES - March 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 23 - Of the Rulers of the United States of America

The Constitution of the United States of America states that: *We, the people of the united States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

The founding fathers of our nation were intent to establish a new government, free from the government from which they came: the monarchy in England. When the people left England to find a new home in the United States, they did not leave their faith behind, but brought a new sense of freedom of religion to America. However, because politics and faith are deeply rooted in the convictions we hold as humans, what happens in politics often has an effect on our expressions of faith. In response, the Methodist Church formalized the recognition of the new government of the United States, separating from the government of England and its authority to influence religion.

Here's what Article of Religion 23 of the Methodist Church says: The President, the Congress, the general assemblies, the governors, and the councils of state, as the delegates of the people, are the rulers of the United States of America, according to the division of power made to them by the Constitution of the United States and by the constitutions of their respective states. And the said states are a sovereign and independent nation, and ought not to be subject to any foreign jurisdiction. *(From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House)*

On the surface, it would appear that this Article was strictly political in nature. However, for the Methodists in America, government control of religion was an experience in England that they did not want to duplicate in America. In addition, because they were "breaking away" from the mother Church of England, they were intent to do things differently in America.

(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)

Thus the statement above: that no foreign jurisdiction would have any authority over the government in America OR the church (it is implied).

Now, the constitution of America goes on to establish a division between the church and state. Today, unfortunately, some in our country have wrongly interpreted that as meaning the church should never have contact with anything that is of government. Our founding fathers never intended that faith and religion be expunged from our governments, but that the governments should have no authority in the expressions of faith in the church.

In America, the spirit of freedom that came from our independence from England carried over into our spirit of freedom of religion. We live in a great nation that values freedom for worship, church attendance, service and prayer. Never take that for granted, and always give thanks for your freedoms of religion. Be thankful also for the leaders in the church that were bold enough to know who they were in Christ - which is far more important than who we are as people of a nation.

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Next: Part 24 - Of Christian Men's Goods

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 are available...don't forget to pick up your copy!

Season of Easter 2020 (February 26 - April 12)

[RE]FRAME

- 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 **Preparing for the New**
- 3.29.20 **The Plan from the Start**
- 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**

****On Easter morning, we will offer two identical worship services (8am and 10:15am). There will be a wonderful breakfast from 9-10am for everyone in the Fellowship Hall! It'll be a great morning of celebration and fellowship! Come worship the risen Christ!**

SUNDAY Morning Team - March

USHERS

Curtis and Megan Reynolds
Mark and Karen Morton

NURSERY

March 1

Birth-2: Susie Davis and Lisa Waller

March 8

Birth-2: Amanda and McKenna Kolstee

March 15

Birth-2: Stacy Taylor and Kathy Foulk

March 22

Birth-2: Ken and Katie Braun

March 29

Birth-2: Kim Davis and Marlie Seekings

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 be-
comes 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

Mexican Cauliflower Rice Skillet Dinner

- 1 lb. ground beef, chicken or turkey
- 1/4 medium onion, diced
- 1/2 red pepper, diced
- 3 Tbsp taco seasoning
- 1 c diced tomatoes
- 12 oz cauliflower rice, fresh or frozen
- 1/2 c chicken broth
- 1 1/2 c shredded cheddar or
Mexican Blend cheese

In a large skillet over medium heat, brown ground
meat until almost cooked through. Add onion and
pepper and continue to cook until no longer pink.
Stir in taco seasoning. Add tomatoes and cauli-
flower rice and stir to combine. Stir in broth and
bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to medium low
and cook until rice begins to soften, 8-9 minutes
for frozen. Sprinkle skillet with cheese and cover.
Let cook until cheese is melted, 3-4 minutes. Re-
move from heat and top with your favorite toppings
(sour cream, avocado, black olives, etc.).

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!

With Sincere Sympathy to the Families of.....

Carmelia M. Howe

passed away on Saturday, February 1, 2020.

She was born on July 27, 1924 in Queens, NY,
the daughter of the late John and Elizabeth Soriano MacDowell, Sr.

She is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Montagna,
seven grandchildren, Dawn (Michael) Sard, Danielle (Wayne) Wiley,
Leonard (Deanna) Montagna, David Howe, Kara (Richard) Lyon, Lisa (Craig) Sundlov and
Bradley Howe; great-grandchildren, Amanda Sard, Nicholas (Katie) Sard,
Jennifer (Jacob) Johnson, Courtney Larson, Garrett Wiley, Evelyn Montagna
and four great-great-grandchildren.

Carmelia was preceded in death by her husband, William, Sr.,
whom she married on September 18, 1939 and who died in 1991,
a daughter, Barbara, two sons, Carl and William and four siblings.

Joe Edwards, Jr.

passed away on Monday, February 3, 2020 following an extended illness.

He was born on February 13, 1935, the son of Joe and Geneva Edwards, Sr.

Joe was a member of the PUMC

Surviving are his wife, Jean, whom he married October 12, 1957; three children: Brenda (Jeff)
Ireland, Gregory (Carrie) Edwards, Timothy (Kathy) Edwards; eight grandchildren:
Erin (Michael) Miller, J. Bryce (Katie) Ireland, Devin (Lisa) Ireland, Bronson Edwards,
Corinne Edwards, Alyson Edwards, Eric Edwards, Jessica (James) Taylor; eight great-
grandchildren; a brother, Richard (Joyce) Edwards and Adian Abromovich, a special foreign
exchange student (beloved for over 30 years).

The family suggests that memorials be made to the PUMC or to the Panama Fire Department.

Frances L. Halpainy

passed away on Monday, February 3, 2020.

She was born April 27, 1931, the daughter of the late Walter and Margaret Lehman Boyland.

Fran attended Watts Flats UMC. Fran married Karl K. Halpainy on April 30, 1949.

She was preceded in death by her husband Karl, on January 20, 2006, Fran was also
preceded in death by a daughter, Rhonda Halpainy-Livermore, a grandson, Justin Halpainy-
Livermore, as well as her five siblings. Fran is survived by her children: Steven (Jamie)

Halpainy, Maureen Casler, and Jeffrey (Mary) Halpainy; her grandchildren: Jaik (Erin)
Halpainy, Alison Halpainy (Phil Grobe), Marc (Rachael) Halpainy, Kerri (Rick) Atkins, Kristin
(Chris) Mouer, Jennifer (John) Surman and Kassidy Halpainy-Livermore. Fran is also survived
by 2 great-granddaughters and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Panama Fire Department.

*The love and prayers of the Church and the Panama community
are with you and your loved ones as you continue through
this time of grief and adjustment.*



VILLAGE OF HOPE

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

Blessings,
Bert and Roberta Anderson

Thank You!

The family of Joe Edwards would like to thank everyone at Panama UMC Church. You came along side of us as we began our grieving journey and encouraged us. We are so appreciative of the lovely meal you provided for us.

Thank you for walking with us and for loving us.

THANK YOU!



Thank you for supporting Souper Sundae 2020. Over \$900 was raised for camping scholarships! If your child is interested in attending summer camp, there are brochures in the church office or please call Susie Davis or Stacy Taylor.



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, **March 18th** (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 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 **MARCH** 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

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

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...or just stop in and chat!



After Worship on March 1st, please plan to stay and enjoy a baked potato bar and a salad bar in the Community Room. The event will be a fundraiser for upcoming activities for our youth.



MARCH Birthdays and Anniversaries

- ...
- 1 Dylan Peck, **Keith/Cindy Miller**
 - 8 Jennifer Johnson, Wende Lescynski
 - 9 Sally Baer, Gregory Ireland
 - 11 Tammy Shreve, Andrew Tordella
 - 12 TC Davis, Rita Lenart
 - 13 Nicholas Sard
 - 14 Tate Catanese, Susie Davis, Patrick Dole, Jerry Ireland
 - 16 Steve Holmberg
 - 18 Stephen Enlow
 - 21 Neil Sturges, John Cartwright
 - 22 Bert Rappole, **Bert/Mary Rappole**, Asher Baehr
 - 23 Margaret Keefer
 - 24 Adam Kester, Wendy Peck
 - 25 Corey Osborne, Linda Roraback
 - 26 Duane Baker, Hunter Waller
 - 27 Emily Lyon, Ken Braun
 - 28 Johnathan Miles, **Jeff/Brenda Ireland**
 - 29 **Dick/Julie Nagel**
 - 25 Nicholas Lenart, Steve Wiggers

A look ahead to April...

- 1 Caleb Caldwell, Adyn Hay, Rex Marsh
- 2 **Joe/Joanne Miktuk**
- 3 Kylie Schnars
- 4 Caldwell, Sam Catanese, Tara Hosier, Ben Taylor
- 6 JaniceFranklin
- 7 Derek Hosier, Kyle Hosier



The Church Council is sponsoring an event called "Courageous Conversations" on Monday, March 23 at 7pm in the Community Room. Mark your calendars and plan to join us as we host Pastor Carmen Perry from Hurlbut United Methodist Church and a Lay Leader, Susan Hardy.

These ladies will add information and opinions related to the ongoing LGBTQ debate within the United Methodist Church. Sometimes it is out of a courageous conversation that we learn and grow and that is our goal for the evening.

Everyone is welcome, encouraged to attend and ask your questions. This may be the first of many "Courageous Conversations".

BIBLE QUIZZING COOKIE SALE

We have our final cookie sale this month with Chocolate Crinkles, Gingersnaps and Peanut Butter Chocolate Chunk. [Order deadline is March 13th.](#) Sign up sheets are by the office door in the Gallery.



Bible Quizzing!

By Faith placed first in February's quiz meet! Kudos to Josh, Gracie and Juliana for placing among the top 7 quizzers of the day! These quizzers continually amaze me as they compete to "get the jump" (be the first to stand), quote word perfect or be able to formulate a question and give the answer...within 20-30 seconds!! Wow!!

We had a wonderful evening serving a Valentine's Day dinner on Friday, February 14th. Julia Nelson, Pam Ireland and Roberta Schruise worked tirelessly preparing the meal, Susie and Kim Davis were so helpful in designing the decorations and setting the ambiance. A special thanks to Conner Tremblay and Landon Moore for doing dishes, Lester and Wyona Wevers for the donation of our door prize and Debbie Johnson, Administrative Assistant Extraordinaire! The quizzers did a fine job waiting tables and learned a bit about working together in a new way!

We have our final local tournament on February 29th in Hornell and then we will be traveling the next five Saturdays (either to Hornell, Beaver Dam or Olean) practicing for the national tournament. Family Life will be sending five newly organized teams to the competition. Jubal, Josh, Juliana, Gracie and Levi will be competing and they are spread out on three different teams. We appreciate your continued prayers of support. Jon will be driving to Pittsburgh to attend the final day of the tournament on Saturday, April 18th and he would love to bring a cheering section with him!

Blessings,
Becky Cable
By Faith coach

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 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.

A look ahead... be sure to mark your calendars!

April 19: Confirmation and Baptism Sunday

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

July 12 - Pig Roast Youth Fundraiser @ 11:30am

The PUMC March calendar is included in this newsletter. Be sure to check it out!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A note from Stacy Taylor...

We are never too old to learn. On this continued road of Discipleship, learning and growing is key to becoming a true disciple of Jesus. Reading the Bible on a regular basis keeps us focused on Jesus, the history of Christianity, His word to us now, and the future hope that He brings. Regularly attending Sunday school keeps us learning! You are encouraged to join a class, there is always learning available for every age!

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 can contact Becky Cable for that additional 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

We have White Gift funds available.

***Please talk to Pastor Steve if you know
someone who is in need.***

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 **March**.

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