

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

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Greetings to you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ! Welcome to summer; the time of barbecues, vacations, hot weather, and *summer ministries*. Well...sort of!

For me, summer ministries are one of the best parts of our church life. Vacation Bible School, Blessings of the Bikes, Back-to-School Bash, Christian camping, outdoor worship, and weddings, to name a few. You remember those days, right? We are blessed to be able to serve God in these exciting ways. This summer, things will be quite different as we reach out and grow for Christ. But, we are still doing what we can for Vacation Bible School. We are also finding new ways to reach out with some new ideas for lunches, online ministries, etc.

As we do that, we will need guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. In the Apostles' Creed (AC), we have a short, but powerful affirmation about what we believe as Christians. One of them is: *I believe in the Holy Spirit*.

The third person of the Trinity is God the Holy Spirit, co-eternal and co-existent and one substance with God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. The Holy Spirit was present at creation as told in the Genesis account. This truth claim expresses the belief in the Spirit of God that is active and moving in the world. The Holy Spirit works with the Father and the Son to be the guiding truth of the church as it prays and works in the world to forward the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit gives us knowledge of our spiritual gifts, those talents and traits that allow us the fullest effectiveness to reach people for Christ.

The Holy Spirit works most critically in the process of salvation. The work of Jesus Christ is ignited by the present and continuous work of the Holy Spirit. Through preaching of God's word, reading scripture, prayer, and Christian fellowship, the Holy Spirit works to guide and direct individuals and communities to salvation through Jesus Christ.

In the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism (Acts 1:5), the Holy Spirit comes into contact with us through our acceptance of those gifts. As we celebrate communion, the Holy Spirit helps us to remember Jesus' sacrifice, to be thankful for his sacrifice, and to be repentant of our sin. The Holy Spirit allows those who seek, to understand. At baptism, the Holy Spirit enters the lives of those involved (adults and children) and begins a process by which we start growing in faith and knowledge of the Triune God.

Ordained ministers are called out from the body of Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives and the life of the body. The Holy Spirit directs the discernment process (gifts and graces) in order to call those who will serve in the special role of pastor and minister. The community affirms the leading of the Holy Spirit and the ordained minister grows in understanding by the work of the Holy Spirit.

You've heard it said that you must listen to that still small voice within you that guides you and tells you the truth. That voice is the voice of God speaking in your heart and in your life. As you grow in your faith and love of God, that voice becomes very clear most of the time. I encourage all of us to practice the process of listening.

Enjoy this time of warmth and relaxation. Be engaged in ministry to your neighbors in order to bring them hope in Christ, in all the ways you can right now. Keep praying for our communities and nation. If you need anything, please let us know!

See you in ministry!

Peace and 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.

CONGRATULATIONS from PUMC
to the Class of 2020

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Cole Munson
Lauren Tordella
Joel Vollmer
Jarrett Yuchnitz

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Matthew Apthorpe
Hayden Brown
Braden Cook
Gerrit Hinsdale
Hannah Karlson
Jalyn Packer
Andrew Scarem
Kylie Schnars
Rylie Seekings
Kylie Spink
Graham Vollmer
Hannah Wheeler



Worship RESTART Announcement!

We are so excited to announce that we will be restarting in-house worship on July 19th at 10:15am. As you are aware, this will come with some restrictions with which we are being asked to comply as we come back together. These requirements and procedures are for everyone's safety as we continue to keep the cases of COVID-19 low and protect our communities.

A word to those who aren't ready to come to worship: We see you! We hear you! We are with you! We will be continuing to offer high-quality online worship, as we have been. We've made many improvements to our livestream and are excited to make even more in the weeks and months to come. Know that we love having each person with us, whether online or in person. If you have any ideas for how we can engage our online campus more, please let us know.

For those who choose to come to worship on Sunday morning, starting July 19th, here is a summary of the procedures and requirements that will be followed together. This isn't a comprehensive list, but for you and your family to be thinking about as you plan to come to worship. We are all one body in Christ and each of us will be asked to make the sacrifices together.

1. On Sunday morning, please wait in your car until 10am. At that time, you can make your way to the church building, entering only from the rear main double doors.
2. Every person (all ages) will be required to properly wear a mask while they are moving to and around the church building. If you forget your mask, the church will have a supply for you to use and take with you.
3. The door greeters will meet you at the door, open the door for you, and invite you to come in. No hugging or hand-shaking will be allowed at this time.
4. Attendants will greet you inside the building and record your name and ask a few simple questions.
5. Once you are in the church building, please proceed directly to the Sanctuary. We ask that you not spend time in the Gallery prior to making your way to your seat.
6. Ushers will seat you according to spacing available and how many are in your party. Only members of one immediate household are allowed to sit together, even though you may have had contact with your extended family over the past few weeks.
7. No food or coffee will be served.
8. When seated, you are allowed to take off your mask. While singing, we ask that you put your mask on.
9. Hand-sanitizing stations will be available for use and we encourage everyone to wash their hands upon entry and exit.
10. Please bring your bible with you to church. Pew bibles have been removed, along with the hymnals.
11. Offering plates will be available at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage everyone to continue to give online if you have been giving online during our time apart.
12. We ask that you maintain a safe 6' social distance from others not in your immediate household at all times.
13. One person at a time will be allowed to use the restrooms and appropriate signage will indicate vacancy.
14. We will have limited congregational singing during worship. If you choose to sing, we ask that you leave your mask in place and remain seated.
15. At the conclusion of worship, we will dismiss people by rows and we ask that you exit the sanctuary via the rear doors and proceed to your vehicles as soon as possible.
16. The sanctuary and areas of use in the church have been, and will be, thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before and after worship each week.
17. We will not have printed bulletins, but the worship order will be available on the church website (www.panamaum.org) for you to print and bring with you.
18. We will not have childcare, nursery, or Sunday School classes.
19. We WILL worship the LORD and praise His Name!
20. We WILL get to see each other and be in each others' presence!
21. We can't WAIT to see you!

SUMMER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

PUMC is venturing out on a new ministry this summer, which will segue into a new ministry in the Fall. This ministry began as an offshoot from those involved in delivering school lunches when school was not in the school building. A postcard was sent home regarding this ministry in all the report cards to the PCS students. Families were asked to contact the church if interested in being a part of this ministry.

We will be packing a box of food once a week (Wednesday evenings) and delivering the box on Fridays - beginning July 10. Not only will food be packed - but the love of Jesus will be very evident as we establish relationships and bless our families.

This venture can only be possible with the church's complete support! We will be looking for donated items, including money, as well as help packing and delivering.

In the Fall - PUMC will be joining a very well established ministry - called Five and Two - which is run by the Clymer community. We will be joining them in packing food bags, which are distributed to many of our local schools, including Panama, beginning in the Fall.

Stay tuned for a complete list of requested food items! Please keep this new ministry in your prayers as we continue to reach out to the Panama community!

Thank you!

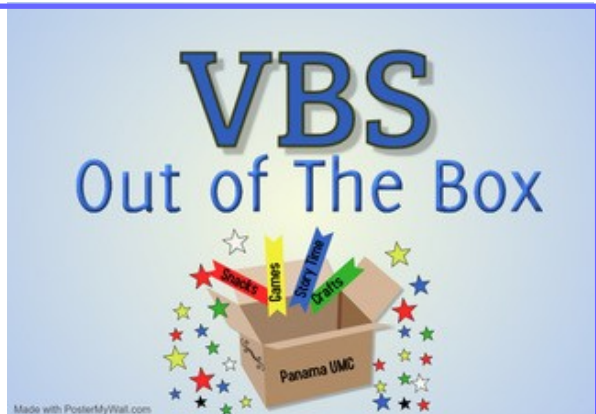
An exciting new VBS this Year!

VBS Out of The Box will soon arrive on the doorsteps of our community children. Inside the box is everything that is needed to have a 5 day VBS at home! Our leaders were incredibly creative and resourceful: Videos were filmed, Bible stories were told, games were played, music videos were purchased, crafts were created, snacks were ordered and a box will be packed and delivered (July 18 and 19)! I am so incredibly proud of the VBS team here at PUMC. They took a vision and created a masterpiece. We look forward to the feedback from the ones who really matter - the children who receive the boxes! Our prayer is that this box will be a blessing to the families, and will share Jesus and the love of God in a special way.

Thank you to all of you who adopted a box! What a difference that will make!

It may not be too late to request a box! Send an email to the church office or call the church at 782-4031 if you'd like to receive one!

Stacy Taylor



Words By Carol Hay

As a child, did you ever hear an adult conversation and misunderstand what was being said? Or interpret the conversation with your child's experiences and background?

My family lived in a small community where my Dad was the high school principal. My parents seldom talked about adult things in front of my brother and me but one day I heard Dad say he had kicked a boy out of school. My six-year-old mind was Dad at the top of the stairs leading into the building and literally kicking a high school boy out of the door and down the stairs. I burst out crying. (I still cry so easily!) I couldn't believe my gentle father could hurt anyone! The confusion was cleared up and I learned the difference between literal translation of words and figurative language.

Words are powerful. A casual comment can affect children (and adults) for the rest of their lives. An angry comment in the heat of a quarrel can have lasting effects on a relationship. Misinformation, intentional or not, can affect choices we make personally, in business, and in government.

We are bombarded with words because media is now reporting to us visually and in print all day, every day. Filling those hours means presenting facts as well as opinions. As consumers of the news, we need to be able to discern facts from opinions and fact interpretations. We need to listen to the adjectives being used, consider the source of the information, and perhaps do our own investigations to ensure we don't accept just one report as truth.

In some cases, we are all child-like or at least, inexperienced, in understanding the words we hear. When I hear "chylomicron" or "embedded derivatives" or "agile interconnected micro grids" I need to pray there isn't a quiz at the end of the conversation! If we, or those presenting information, are not educated in the meanings of all the words, misunderstanding ensues. Repeating "facts" we do not fully understand ourselves makes it even worse because children and even adults start believing what isn't true. We can complicate our lives by accepting our own interpretations or the ill-conceived interpretations of others who want to appear smart.

This sometimes applies to interpretation of the bible as well. Well meaning folks take words out of context, haven't researched the when and why those words were written to begin with, or interpret the words based only on personal experiences. All of this can lead to misunderstandings, arguments, and misdirected actions.

Whether we are trying to understand COVID - 19, the Bible, or our child's math assignment, it is wise to take the time to fully understand the message. Words are important for learning, conveying messages, and building relationships. They can also be misunderstood and hurtful.

The upshot of all this is to follow the rules we were given as children. Choose your words carefully, don't repeat something that isn't yours to tell, and if you are unsure of the intent, ask questions for clarification. Thoughtful evaluations are an important part of everything from conversations and watching the news to studying the Bible.

JULY Birthdays and Anniversaries

- A look ahead to July...
- 2 Richard Edwards, Marilyn Storms
 - 4 Jamie Ireland
 - 7 Jody Marsh, Richard Nagel, Wyatt Braun, **Jamie/Katie Ireland**
 - 9 Linda Sturges
 - 10 Zadok Hughesman, **Cliff/Rachel Reardon**
 - 11 **Steve/Jamie Halpainy**
 - 13 Jackson Scolton
 - 14 Greg Beckerink, **Ed/Barb Trisket, Ray/Cindy Cartwright, Joe/Kelly Osborne**
 - 15 Rachel (Anderson) Moro, Kayo Auge, Carrie Edwards
 - 16 Cameryn Eggleston, Bob Johnson, **Bill/Heather Schneider**
 - 17 Tory Irgang, **Daniel/Anna Cartwright**
 - 18 Dan McGaffick, Connie Middleton, Dan Landin
 - 19 Shawn Schnars
 - 20 McKenna Kolstee
 - 23 Jennie Feliciano
 - 24 Graham Miller
 - 28 **Richard/Joyce Edwards**
 - 30 Lisa Miles, Ashley Loveless, **Andrew/Wende Lescynski**
 - 31 Julie Nagel, **Jon/Jennifer Anderson**

A look to August...

- 1 **Dan/Stephanie Landin**
- 1 Jenna Rappold, Bryce Hinsdale, **Earl/Kathy Foulk**
- 4 Ray Cartwright, Harrison Osborne
- 6 **Rex/Jody Marsh**
- 6 Tabetha Butler



SUMMER CAMP

It was disappointing news to hear that our Summer Christian camps will not be holding summer camps this summer.

Our scholarship fund will be ready and available for our campers when the time is right! Please keep the camps in your prayers - as this will be a very difficult time financially.

You are loved!
God has
everything
in
control!

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. Thanks!

With Sympathy to the family of...

Stephanie Carol Auge GoodBear
October 15, 1949 - June 15, 2020

Stephanie was the daughter of Eldon Auge and
Carol Breads, who preceded her in death.

Stephanie's six children (and their spouses) survive her. They are:
Laurie Williams, Amanda (Andy) Anderson, Christine (Jody) Peterson,
Andrew (Wende) Lescynski, Melissa (Christian) Martin and Jordan (Ashley) Jantzi.

She is also survived by 10 grandchildren
and 5 siblings, Eldon Auge, Darwyn Auge, Julie (Tim) Nickerson,
Warner (Karen) Auge, and Gilbert (Sandy) Auge.

A graveside ceremony was held in the North Harmony Cemetery.
Donation can be made to the Audubon Community Nature Center
(mail or online 1600 Riverside Road., Jamestown, NY 14701).

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

Help Us, Please...

**If you have had an address change in
the last couple of years, please update
the office so we can correct our
information.**

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

**We are also interested in having the
dates of your family's birthdays and anni-
versaries, 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.**

THANKS!

We have White Gift funds available.

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



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

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship continues even through the Covid-19 pandemic. Our mens' and ladies' groups are meeting via Zoom as well as our Sunday school classes.

We have launched a recorded story hour that will be being uploaded to the Panama UMC YouTube channel, so keep your eyes open for that!



You are loved and sorely missed!

UPDATE FROM PASTOR STEVE AND THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Panama UMC friends,

Join us on Livestream at 10:15am on Sunday mornings (<https://livestream.com/panamaumc>). Once you get to the Livestream landing page, simply look for the graphic that is for the date you are watching. You can watch past worship services on this landing page as well. You DO NOT need to Log In or Go Live. This is a free service and open to all.

As you connect and prepare for worship, check in on the chat to let us know you're watching. Any prayer requests, praises, glory sightings, or greetings can be submitted through that Chat system as well.

Also, Online Giving is always available and now might be a great time to check that out. The link to online giving is on our webpage (www.panamaumc.org). Do your best to maintain giving during this time, but know we certainly understand the financial implications of this situation.

Finally, know that we are holding the church, our community, our world, our leaders, and you in our prayers during this time. If you have a need or know of a need, please don't hesitate to call the office at 716/782-4031.

...JustOne4Others...

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. [Questions? See Jody, Parish Nurse.](#)

I, (Pam), am not a writer, nor do I pretend to be one! I happened upon the following which was reposted several times on FaceBook, once by the Newark Valley First United Methodist Church (thanks, Pastor Tim!). I thought it was worth sharing...

I was at the grocery store this morning and heard a loud crash and something shattering. Being nosy, I walked towards the sound and saw some people whispering and looking back to the end of the next aisle. When I walked down that aisle, I saw an older lady had hit a shelf and many things had fallen to the ground and broke. She was kneeling on the floor embarrassed, frantically trying to clean up.

I felt so bad for her, and everyone was just standing there, staring at her. So I went and knelt beside her and told her not to worry and started helping her pick up the broken pieces.

After about a minute, the store manager came, knelt beside us and said, "Leave it, we will clean this up." The lady, totally embarrassed said, "I need to pay for all this first." The manager smiled, helped her to her feet and said, "No ma'am, we have insurance for this. You do not have to pay anything."

If you have read this far, I would like for you to give me a minute. Wherever you are, please close your eyes, and imagine God doing the same for you!

Collecting the pieces of your broken heart from all the blows life has thrown at you. The bill for your faults, sin and folly has already been paid through the precious blood of Christ. God will heal all your wounds. He wants to gently lift you to your feet again, clean up your mess, and pick up all the broken pieces. He want to heal you! He wants to take care of your soul!

We can have that same insurance and it's called GRACE!

...and all God's people said...AMEN!

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

JULY 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
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