



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

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Ordinary People...Extraordinary Lives

Part 1: Ordinary People

The term *ordinary* is not exactly an exciting word. The very definition of the word means normal or plain. No one really likes to be called ordinary, especially those who pride themselves with their uniqueness or who are trying to stand out. Ordinary people are just the people you see on the street in a crowded city. Ordinary people are the people who aren't especially smart or strong or funny or unusual. Ordinary people are you...and me!

So what's the big deal?!?! We're ordinary! As Christians, living in a post-Christian world, bombarded by amoralism, relativism, and individualism, our culture requires that we all think up our own brand of ordinary, even if we can't agree on a standard look or ideals or lifestyle. So that leaves us confused and frustrated...not sure what it means to BE ordinary as Christians - or even if we should.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 reminds us:

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

For God's holy purposes, we see ordinary people doing incredible things with the power of God. Women like Queen Esther, Sarah, and Mary, men like David, Abraham, and Peter, are all reminders that ordinary people can do extraordinary things. Each of their stories are inspiring and challenging...curious and enlightening.

I encourage you to spend time thinking about the text above in the warmth of summer. The rest of this chapter in 1 Corinthians says this:

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

What's one simple thing that you can do this week, this month, or even today that will have a huge impact on someone, all for God's glory? A phone call? A note of encouragement? A new friend? All that we have and all that we do is for God's glory. I'm calling all ordinary people to do extraordinary things in their lives. Won't you join me?

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Next month: Part 2...Extraordinary Lives

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.

COMING THIS FALL.....

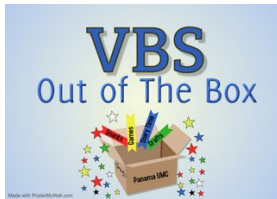
In October/November, Pastor Steve will be leading a new members and baptism course for anyone interested.

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.

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.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - 2020
(Stacy Taylor)**

A HUGE thank you goes out to the VBS Team and their amazing efforts to get VBS Out of the Box up and running! We delivered 74 boxes to children in our community. THANKS so much to the efforts of Christopher

Hughesman who chose and purchased the music videos, Katie Braun, Wyatt and Rhett who put together all the crafts, Sandy Crossley who videoed a craft, Becky Cable who told and videoed 5 Bible stories, Jon Cable who picked 5 games and then videoed 5 different families playing these games and Gracie and Josh who filmed and edited these videos, Tori Irgang who selected and purchased snacks, Jessica Keefer who suggested the mission project, Adam and Pastor Steve who acted completely silly, yet again, for 10 short videos, Cindy Cartwright who updated the PUMC website with the correct links (on her anniversary, even!), Summer Wolcott for her creative thinking, Debbie Johnson who put together the storytelling booklet and made countless copies, Jackie Haines who drove to Buffalo to pick up the boxes, Kim Davis who used her decorating gifts with Carl, Roberta, Jackie, Megan Levi, Bill, Lucy, Ashley, and Marlie to decorate the boxes, Gracie the photographer, the packing people, Jerry Ireland who created the delivery routes, the delivery people, Christopher and Carolyn Hughesman, Carrie Munsee, Jessica and Andrew Nelson, Lucy Hill, Ava, Bill Lachner, Amy Peterson, Megan and Curtis Reynolds, those that adopted a box - and the entire TEAM who discussed, listened, offered suggestions and thought "outside the box" and the parents, and grandparents who ordered boxes, picked them up and shared the fun with their kids!!

Of course - it's dangerous to list people by name - and I certainly hope I didn't forget anyone! This was an amazing team effort and so many did many jobs to make this all happen.

It is amazing what can be accomplished when you listen to each other, and especially God's voice when faced with a new and unknown experience. We listened, we created and we did all that we could to make VBS a reality this year. The responses from the families were positive - and I believe Jesus was present in each box. Let's continue to listen to God's voice and hear how to reach people in our community during these unprecedented times.

(Special thanks to this whole TEAM, spearheaded by Stacy Taylor, who went above and beyond to make this year's VBS certainly one to remember.)

Worship RESTART Reminders...

We were so excited to announce that we were able to restart in-house worship on July 19th at 10:15am. As you are aware, this came with some restrictions with which we were being asked to comply as we came 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, 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. These procedures seem to be working well and all who enter are graciously complying with them.

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 LUNCH BOX PROGRAM

(Roberta Anderson)

PUMC is serving the community with its Lunch Box Program for the summer. Each week we are delivering boxes of food to those who have signed up for this ministry. Boxes include snacks, drink boxes, macaroni and cheese, as well as any other donated food items.

We need your help to keep it going. Please drop off individually wrapped, single serving size snacks to the church. Thanks in advance!

We are also accepting cash donations. Make a note on the memo line that it is for Food Distribution. Examples of food items we can use include:

cookies	pretzels	chips
Pudding cups	fruit cups	juice boxes
Cereal bars	fruit snacks	cheese and cracker packages

Zucchini Fries

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse

2 medium zucchini	1/4 c egg whites
1/2 c whole wheat Panko breadcrumbs	3/4 tsp garlic powder
3/4 tsp onion powder	1/2 tsp Italian seasoning
1/4 tsp salt	1/8 tsp black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Spray a large baking sheet with nonstick spray.
2. Slice off and discard the ends of the zucchini. Cut zucchini into French Fry shaped spears.
3. Place in a large bowl. Top with egg whites, and flip to coat.
4. In a medium bowl, mix breadcrumbs with seasonings.
5. One at a time, shake zucchini spears to remove excess egg and lightly coat with seasoned crumbs.
6. Evenly lay spears on the baking sheet and top with any remaining seasoned crumbs.
7. Bake for 10 minutes.
8. Carefully flip spears. Bake until lightly browned and crispy, about 10 more minutes.

1/2 recipe (about 20 spears): 114 calories, 1g total fat, 359mg sodium, 21.5g carbs, 4g fiber, 6.5g sugar, 6.5g protein



A bit of trivia..... The world's heaviest recorded zucchini weighed nearly 65 pounds!! That would make a LOT of zucchini fries!

ENJOY!!

With Sympathy to the families of...

Lynn J. "Skip" Furlow

September 20, 1939 - June 29, 2020

Skip passed away at the Heritage Green Rehab and Skilled Nursing Facility. Prior to his retirement, he was employed by Cummins Engine as a machinist. He was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Panama Volunteer Fire Department and the Celoron Rod and Gun Club.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Pauline and three daughters, Barbara (Wayne) Emory, Cindy Edsall and Pam (Rhett) McJunkin. Skip is further survived by 9 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, several step grandchildren and step great-grandchildren, a brother, Gary, and many nieces and nephews. Memorials may be made to the Panama Volunteer Fire Department.

Jane Elizabeth (Perkins) Nagel

September 4, 1931 - July 5, 2020

Jane passed away at Heritage Green Rehab and Skilled Nursing Facility.

She was the widow of Bryan D. Nagel, whom she married May 19, 1951 in Bear Lake, Pa. Jane was a member of the PUMC. She and her husband both drove bus for the Panama School System for a combined 61 years...and a proud Panther fan!

She is survived by her daughters, Paula (Pete) McCordic, Patricia (George) Petrella and her son, Richard (Julie) Nagel. Jane is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her sisters-in-law, Linda Malcolm and Dorothy Nagel and several nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, Bryan, she was preceded in death by her son, David, three brothers, Leo, Marvin and Alec and her two sisters, Martha and Margaret.

Memorials may be made to PUMC or Chautauqua Hospice and Palliative Care of Lakewood.

Louis E. "Pete" Loveless

April 23, 1957 - July 14, 2020

Pete passed away at his family homestead in Dewittville, the family honoring his last wish.

Pete enlisted in the US Army and proudly served his country from 1974-76.

He was self employed as a dry wall finisher until he was forced to retire due to ill health.

Pete is survived by his wife, Charlene Putnam Loveless, his son, Brian Loveless, and stepchildren Jennifer (Mark) Bush and Rich (Lisa) Johnson. He is also survived by his sisters, Alice Glose, Mary (David) Ahlstrom, Grace (Jon) Rowe and a brother Charlie (Debbra) Loveless, 8 step-grandchildren, one step great-grandson and many nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, Pete was preceded in death by his sisters, Cynthia Henry and Evelyn Pricskett and a niece, Jennifer Loveless.

Donations may be made to the Kidney Foundation of WNY, 4444 Bryant and Stratton way, Williamsville, NY 14221.

Ashley Korene Dole

June 19, 1976 - July 25, 2020.

Ashley attended Panama Central School, JBC and JCC.

Along with her mother, Deborah A. Wells, Ashley is survived by her two daughters, Korene and Lillie. She is also survived by her paternal grandmother, Patricia Dole, as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father, Thomas G. Dole, her paternal grandfather, Ernest D. Dole, and her maternal grandparents, Harold and Lois Rounds.

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

AUGUST Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 **Dan/Stephanie Landin**
- 2 Jenna Rappold, Bryce Hinsdale,
Earl/Kathy Foulk
- 4 Ray Cartwright, Harrison Osborne
- 6 **Rex/Jody Marsh**
- 7 Tabetha Butler
- 9 **John/Julie Dilley**
- 10 **Don/Linda Wood**
- 11 Connor Range, **Mike/Dawn Sard**
- 16 Matthew Kolstee
- 17 **John/Pam Brown**
- 18 Dawn Comstock
- 19 Eleanor King, Gerrit Hinsdale
- 20 **Jerry/Pam Ireland, Chris/MaryAnn Blose**
- 22 George Anderson, Barb Tordella, Kellen
Reardon, **Bill/Amy Caldwell, Bryan/ Shelly
Rupczyk**
- 23 Bill Peck
- 24 Wendy Trisket, **Peter/Paula Komarek**
- 25 Cole Gleason, Nathan Gleason, **Ken/Katie Braun**
- 27 Kelly Osborne
- 29 Elizabeth Baehr, Willa Rupczyk, Glenn Topolski
- 30 Meredith Rupczyk

A look ahead to **September...**

- 2 **Ann/Shawn Schnars**
- 4 Pam Brown, **Sam/Carm Catanese**
- 5 Kim Davis

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!



The Joy of the
 Lord is
 my strength.
 Neh. 8:10

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.

We have White Gift funds available.

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



American Red Cross

**PANAMA
 UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH**

**WEDNESDAY
 AUGUST 5th**

2pm - 8pm



GIVE BLOOD....GIVE LIFE!



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/panamaum>). 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.panamaum.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.](#)

...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

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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