



GRACE NOTES - January 2021
Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
Panama United Methodist Church

From Pastor Steve's Desk... *New Creation*

God's word says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

This is our hope for salvation and our hope for another new year. If we consider the magnitude of the lesson in this verse (a verse we may have glossed over in the past), we may quickly realize the life-changing message contained herein. Interestingly, if we begin with a look at the original text, (in Greek), we see that the idea here is not that we are simply changed into something else when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. It's much more than that. Paul is telling us here that if we allow Christ into our lives, from that point on, there is new creation. The original text reads more like this: "So if anyone is in Christ, **NEW CREATION!**" Christ begins in us a new creation and continues to mold us as we repent, grow, learn, and change into God's plan for us.

2020 is over and we can begin to look with hope to 2021. For the church, what might being made new look like? Well, in many ways, it's all ready occurred and it is continuing to occur. We've had to do just about everything in ministry in different ways. For some people, different almost always means harder or worse. But as a pastor, different often leads to new ways of doing ministry that are more fruitful, more spiritual, and even more fun! How we enter into worship, how we gather in groups, and the value of community have all been upended or brought to the forefront of our attention. The Church in North America needed a wake-up call and through our willingness to keep adapting and growing through this pandemic, we've said to the forces of evil that want nothing more than to tear God's work apart that we are standing on the promises of Jesus and being led by the Spirit to the provision and vision of God. Take THAT, Satan!

So, what can you do? Well, first, let's get back into our prayer closets and into our prayer chairs and open ourselves to the vision that God has for our mission. Our Growth and Vision Team is just about ready to wrap up our discussions about our mission and vision. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That mission gets lived out right here in our community by lovingly providing every person in our community the opportunity to believe in and follow Jesus. We continue to strive to be a church in, for, and with the community. Our CenterPoint project is a tool that is and will reach out to our entire region in the name of Jesus. This year, it's time to keep building our vision and allowing the Spirit to grow us.

I'm not one for resolutions, but I resolve to keep learning how to lead this congregation to all that God has in store for us. I resolve to be faithful in giving, teaching, preaching, and leading our teams to maximum capacity and fruitfulness. With your participation and prayer, we can share the Good News, love our neighbors, and transform the world together. Happy New Year!

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 10 - FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL; Community Room; 9am
January 10 - Take down decorations, following worship - we need your help!
January 16 - SORT AND TOSS Gathering; 9:30am; (contact
Carol Hay if interested)

See January 2021 calendar (last page) for additional weekly meetings.



**Be sure to keep updated
on PUMC meetings and events
by checking the online calendar and
Pastor Steve's weekly Churchmail.
The PUMC website is
www.panamaum.org
Did you know we are also on Facebook?
Check us out at
www.facebook.com/panamaum
There is also a January calendar on the
last page of Grace Notes.**

**You certainly wouldn't want to
miss the "happenings"
by being uninformed!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 7 - **SOUPER SUNDAY**
Watch for details of this annual event!



With Sympathy to the families of...

Randall Shampoe, Jr.

February 3, 1974 - December 8, 2020

Randy was born to Sonya (Beckerink) Shampoe and the late Randall Shampoe, Sr. In addition to his mother, Randy is survived by his wife, Carrie (Wassink) Shampoe, and their children, Sydney, Michael and Trent. Also surviving are: Nick (brother), Bailey (nephew), Jane Beckerink (grandmother), many aunts, uncles and cousins. Randy was preceded in death by Hiram Beckerink (grandfather), and by Gordon and Carol Shampoe (grandparents).
Donations may be made to the Abbe Reformed Church Food Pantry, the Clymer Fire Department or the Clymer Historical Society.

John C. Button

November 1, 1943 - December 10, 2020

John, of Conneaut Lake, PA, was the son of James and Ellen (Johnson) Button. He was the husband of Bonnie L Sager. She preceded him in death on January 28, 1914. They are survived by their three children: Penny Clark, Christopher (Alex) Button, and Keith (Valerie) Button, as well as four grandsons. John is also survived by his sister, Sharon Rea, a brother, Norman (Cheryl) Button, and a brother-in-law, Dene Lindquist.
Donations may be made to the Conneaut Lake Area Ambulance Service, the Conneaut Lake Volunteer Fire Department or to a charity of choice.

Ronald J. Blackmer

March 12, 1941 - December 14, 2020

Ron, of Russell, PA, was born to the late Marion and Gladys Atkins Blackmer. He is survived by his wife, Vicki J. Brunecz Blackmer and two daughters, Cindy (Denny) Furlow and Lisa Teboe. Ron is also survived by a son-in-law, Bret Teboe; a stepbrother, Barry (Marie) Crist; seven grandchildren, Casey McGaffick, Marcey (Phil) Larson, Stacy (Freddie) Ibrahim, Brandon, Jackson, Chase and Hunter Teboe and six great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Ron was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Jody Blackmer; brother, Norman Blackmer; stepmother, Avis Blackmer; stepbrother, Bruce Crist; and sister-in-law Judy Hottel. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of choice.

*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.*

STRONGER.....TOGETHER.....in PRAYER

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, 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 for 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

NINE FAMILIES BLESSED WITH WHITE GIFT OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER

This past December, we received generous donations to the White Gift Fund to be used to bless as many families as possible for Christmas, dependent on needs. God is SO good! We received more than we could use but were able to bless 9 families with gifts, gift cards, and gift baskets that were distributed by Pastor Steve and Stacy. For some of the families, we partnered with Panama Central School to identify and bless families in our school district. The additional funds will be used to meet the needs of families in our community in the coming months as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the winter heating season continue. Thank you so much to everyone who donated to our Christmas White Gift!

THANK YOU!

Stacy and I thank you so much for the generous gifts, cards, and goodies we received during the holidays! We continue to be blessed by your generosity and love. Let's make 2021 the best year yet! May God pour out blessings on our congregation and community as we seek to dive deeper into His word and mission.

Love,

The Taylors





NOTES

AND

REMINDERS!



LUNCH BUNCH:

Have you reached the age where you are considered a senior adult? Do you love food? Do you enjoy the company of others? Do you want to get out of the house once in a while? If you said "yes" to one or more of these questions, you could come to PUMC on the 3rd Wednesday of each month for lunch. Lunch Bunch is just that - a group of senior adults gathering for lunch. The prepared meal is served at noon, there is lots of conversation and laughter, and you don't have to cook or clean up!

Mark your calendar for the net Lunch Bunch date - Wednesday, January 20. Join us and bring a friend. If you are new to the activity, please call the office and speak with Debbie Johnson for ore details.

(782-4031)

CONNECTIONS

We are always in need of snacks
and we thank you in advance for
your generosity!

GOD'S GROCERIES FOOD PANTRY HOURS:

Monday: 9- 10am
Monday: 6 -7pm

Thursday: 5 -7pm
Call Tina Swineford or
the Church Office
with questions.

WHITE GIFT FUND

Are you aware of a community need?

We have a White Gift Fund with available ministry dollars.

If you know of anyone with a need, please talk to Pastor Steve.



On February 7th
((Super Bowl Sunday)),
we are having our
Annual SOUPER BOWL
(get it?)
(fund - raiser) -TBD
Be on the lookout as
regular details may have
changed!



January Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Carl Anderson
- 3 Caroline Apthorpe, Erin Miller, Reese McGaffick,
Pam Sali, Shawn/Amy Hummel
- 4 Cliff Reardon, Isaac Landin
- 5 Kimberly Barton, Betty Johnson
- 6 Jeff Ireland
- 7 David Rowe, Andrew Apthorpe
- 8 Claire Apthorpe, Mathis Baehr, Lyla Ireland
- 9 Aubriana Dominey, Dennis Furlow, Jan Wheeler
- 10 Jacob Caldwell, Patrick Caldwell
- 13 Amanda Sard
- 16 Bob Gleason, Sharon Reese
- 17 Bronson Edwards, Callaway Anderson
- 18 Jonathan Komarek
- 19 Don Garfield
- 22 Marcey Larson, Thomas Cartwright
- 24 Ian Ellsworth (Peck)
- 25 Kevin Beckerink, Linda Wood
- 27 Alexandria Davis

A look ahead to February...

- 1 Joel Keefer
- 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Eckman,
- 3 Eric Scolton, Anna VandeVelde
- 4 Willson Baer, Meghan Price, Howie Wheeler
- 5 Jeff Enlow, Bill Schneider
- 6 Carl Davis III, Brenda Ireland, Braden Topolski
- 8 Alexandra Baer

If you are recently new to PUMC or have not given Pam your birthdays or anniversaries, please put the updated information in the newsletter mailbox in the office...near the light switch. Thanks!

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
steven.taylor@panamaum.org

Debbie Johnson, Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst.
debbie.johnson@panamaum.org

Candy Scarem, Student Ministry Director
candy.scarem@panamaum.org

Julie Nagel, Music Director/Accompanist
Krista Odell, Accompanist

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse

Peter Komarek, Custodian

Sandy Crossley, Connections

Joan Monroy, Connections

Tara Hosier, Connections

Dr. Mark and Diane Abbott, Spain

Blog: www.markabbott007.com

Rev. Paul D. Caseman, Alaska

Pastor Steve's Office Hours
9:00am - Noon: M, T and W

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 January.

Cornerstone District Office

Christ First UMC

663 Lakeview Ave.

Jamestown, NY 14701

(716) 665-2423

www.facebook.com/panamaum

Church website - www.panamaum.org

Church E-mail – contact@panamaum.org

Church Fax # (716) 782-2326

Church Phone (716) 782-4031

Panama, NY 14767

22 East Main St., PO Box 218

Panama United Methodist Church

