

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Welcome to this edition of Grace Notes. We are so glad you picked up this copy of the Panama United Methodist Church newsletter. Everything you need to know about what is going on at PUMC and our community is in here...enjoy!

Dwelling Among You

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Colossians 3:16-17

At some point in the next couple months, you may either be a guest of someone or you may have someone be a guest of yours. Open houses, parties, gatherings, dinners (feasts!), shopping trips, and more are all opportunities to dwell with others. And when we dwell in the presence of those we love, we get opportunities to love and be loved. When we have houseguests dwelling among us at our house, it's always a great way to share our home, our food and ourselves.

But Thanksgiving and the holidays are more than dwelling with the people around us. Every time we connect our hearts and lives with those around us, there is also the opportunity to share the Christ that lives in us. Paul's words to the Colossians above invites you and me to allow the message of Christ to dwell among us. To dwell means to linger over, emphasize, or ponder in thought, speech, or writing. What would it look like and what impact would it have if we allowed the Good News about Jesus' salvation and new life to linger over us? To be the emphasis of our lives? To ponder that and then let it leak out into our thoughts, words, and writings? My sense is that if we were to do that, then we'd sing more because nothing lets our souls express the gratitude we have for God like music, psalms, and hymns!

This Thanksgiving season, sing a song all day long - pick your favorite one and sing it to your heart's content. Let those around you hear your song (whether you are good at singing or not!) and then tell them WHY you're singing. If you're dwelling with them or they are dwelling with you, then show them why. God was, is, and will be the God of 'dwelling among us' in Jesus Christ. Give thanks! Give praise! And SING!

Blessings, 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.

GIVE BLOOD...You can make a difference! BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, November 8; 2-6pm PANAMA BAPTIST CHURCH (North Street)

blood drives at the Panama Baptist Church. (They kindly agreed to offer their facility.) Please give as you can. All blood types are needed.

CENTERPOINT

As fall and cooler temperatures cover Western New York, the committed faithful continue to bless the CenterPoint fund. As of this writing, there are 92 commitments for a total of \$879,771. We are getting close to the \$900,000 goal. During October, \$18,541 has been received, bringing the total amount toward the goal to \$297,838.

Thank you for your faithful donations.

HOUSEKEEPING NOTE:

When using your white envelopes for making CenterPoint donations, please label them as CenterPoint. Labeling them as "Building Fund" could be interpreted as being for the Trustees' Fund, which is used for upkeep of the "Building". Also, please make sure that your name is on the envelope (whichever color that you use) so we can assure that proper credit is given.

s given.



As many of you know by now, we have elected to hold off on the start construction for the CenterPoint project until the weather breaks in the Spring of 2018. This was done for a number of reasons, mainly due to timing issues with both the financial institution and the general contractor that have been selected for this project. Although this is a minor setback from a timing standpoint, God has a plan for this project and we will look forward to groundbreak-

ing in the Spring. This delay will not slow down getting financing in place, receiving proper approvals from the State of New York, and getting other pre-construction requirements completed so that construction can begin immediately in the Spring. As of this morning and the writing of this edition of Grace Notes, demolition of the Riddell property house and barn prior to winter so that the site is 100% ready for construction, is in process.

We ask that you continue to pray for this project and God's hand in Growing the Kingdom of God in Panama and the surrounding areas.

Vision 20/20 Team

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.

SUNDAY MORNING TEAM for NOVEMBER

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless Craig and Marge Vollmer

Nursery Helpers November 5

Birth-2: Carol Hay and Lilly Odell

November 12

Birth-2: Julia Nelson and Graham Vollmer

November 19

Birth-2: Kim Davis and Julie Davis

November 26

Birth-2: Thea Kester and Stacy Taylor

Thank you for volunteering to take care of our little ones during the worship service.

We appreciate you!

Currently, we will be 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 Sunday morning. If something comes up and you cannot serve, please trade with someone or find a replacement. You may call Debbie in the Church office (M-TH) by calling 782-4031.

IT'S A HARVEST OF PRAISE!

Thanksgiving is a blessed time of year for families and friends, the church and the community. IT's a time to reflect and give thanks ot God for all He has brought us through and for the hope we have in Jesus. On SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19th at 6:30pm, the Panama UMC family will respond. We will GATHER and WORSHIP! We will be inviting our community, the churches, the businesses, and everyone we meet to come and celebrate God in a Harvest of Praise. We will have lots of music (Praise Team, Celebration Choir, and more)! We will hear God's promises to prosper His people! We will fellowship before worship and have a chance to express our THANKS and PRAISE for God's provision and blessings! Come and invite your friends and family to this Harvest of Praise!

In need of meals?

W.A.M. offers the opportunity to provide meals to those who might need a little help. If you have a need for meals, due to illness, surgery, etc., or know someone who does, please let Kathy Foulk know.

Celebration of Life

The family of Sarah Jeanette Osborne invites you to join us in a celebration of her life on Saturday, November 25th at 11am at the Panama United Methodist Church. After the service, there will be a brief committal time at the Panama Union Cemetery followed by a luncheon and time to share memories of our parents. The exact location of the luncheon will be announced soon.

All of us are all so very grateful for the prayers, cards, donations, hugs and kind words during this very difficult time. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and God bless!

Paula, Joe and family

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Classes are in full swing and there is room for you!
Classes are available for every age and our
teachers are prepared and excited to share the
enduring truths of God's Word.

Pre-K to Grade 2: Candy Scarem Grades 3-6: Becky Cable

Grades 7-12: Adam and Tory Irgang **Adults**: George Anderson, <u>Horizontal Jesus</u> by

Dr. Tony Evans

Adults: Jon Cable, Answers Bible Curriculum
Adults: Denny and Cindy Furlow, Goliath Must
Fall: Winning the Battle Against Your Giants

by Louie Giglio

Adults: Stacy Taylor, meeting Wednesdays-3:30pm
Adult Women: Marge Vollmer,
Battlefield of the Mind by Joyce Meyer

Come early, grab a cup of coffee and join us!



Baptism and New Members

On October 29, 2017, Pastor Steve baptized Roxie Jurkowski by full immersion. Welcomed into membership in the Panama United Methodist Church by profession of faith were Roxie Jurkowski and Darlene Fulton.

Transferring their memberships to the PUMC from other churches were Debbie Erlandson, Jackie Haines, Steve Haines, Lisa Ireland, and Jessica Nelson.

We welcome you in Christian love and are blessed that you have chosen to take this journey with us.

CONNECTIONS

Suggestions for After School Snack Donations

Ritz, Townhouse or Club Crackers
Goldfish Popcorn chips

Bugles Pretzels
Cereal (any kind) Pudding
Graham Crackers Chex Mix
Granola Bars Jello Cups

Cheese Balls Cookies (any kind)

Ranch Dressing Yogurt
Popcorn (that we can pop)
Peanut Butter Apples
Oranges Grapes
Fruit Snacks Celery
Carrots Juice

Snacks can be placed in the bins in the foyer and the hallway.

THANKS!!!!!

Trunk or Treat (Jenn Johnson)

Lisa Ireland and I are happy to report that the 2017 Trunk or Treat was very successful! We had around 15 cars participate in the trunk decorating contest. Kathy Foulk won first, Tabby Butler won second and Roxie Jurkowski won third. Two of the families who participated in the contest were not members or attendees of the church, which was very exciting.

Despite the cold, we had a great turnout from the trick or treaters. Many of the families that came last year, came again this year.

Additionally, the cider and donuts were a hit, yet again. Whittier Farms was generous enough to donate 5 of the 8 gallons of cider. (Thank you!)

A big thank you goes out to all who helped set up, participated in the trunk decorating, and brought their families to the event.

Another successful year in the books!

Coming this Advent: Sent!

This December, the Panama UM faith community will be engaging in a four-week experience called Sent! Daily devotionals, small group study materials, and more will be available near the end of November. Pastor Steve and Stacy are offering a bible study in their home on Monday evenings at 6:30pm starting November 27th. All are welcome (sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table in the Lobby). More information will be coming soon! Let's celebrate!

Our Sympathy to the families of...

FRANCHESCA REED

September 12, 1992 - October 4, 2017

Franchesca is survived by her mother and stepfather, Starlene Reed and Thomas Pillsbury; her sister Kayla (Matthew) Sheaffer and nephew, Nolan; her maternal grandmother, Alice Marsh and her paternal grandmother, Ethel Reed. She is also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins, including Rex, Jody, Tyler and Brianna Marsh.

Memorials may be made to the Cardiovascular Care Fund at St. Vincent Hospital on-line at https://www.supportahn.org/memorialgifts or by mail to Allegheny Health Network, Office of Fund Development, 4818 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

and

RICHARD "Dick" CROSBY

November 12, 1926 - October 5, 2017

Richard was preceded in death by his wife, Lorena, on July 15, 2017.
Surviving are his children, Joan Bertram, Robert (Cheryl) Crosby and
Russell (Deborah) Crosby and a brother Max (Sarah) Crosby.
He is also survived by seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.
Memorials may be made to Joy in the Harvest, PO Box 496, Lansing, IL, 60438.

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.

SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY

Interested in joining the Sunday Morning Hospitality Team? This is not a long term commitment (unless you would like to do so). We can use your help to greet people as they come in our doors and share a cup of coffee with them. If you would like to donate baked goods, purchase treats, make coffee, etc., please see Pam or Julia for more information.

We are also looking for door Greeters from 9 - 10:15am.

Please sign up on the Welcome Table or call the church office.

YOU can be the first happy, welcoming face newcomers encounter when they first enter God's house in Panama.

Parish Nurse Recipe Jody Marsh

Pumpkin Pie Cheesecake Squares

Crust:

3 tbsp. butter or margarine, melted

1 c. graham cracker crumbs

3 tbsp. no calorie granulated sweetener (Splenda)

Filling:

8 oz. light tub style cream cheese 1/3 c. plus 1/2 c. no calorie granulated sweetener 1 (15 oz..) can 100% packed pumpkin 1/2 tsp. ginger 2 large eggs, divided 1 tsp. vanilla 1 tsp. cinnamon 1/8 tsp. cloves

- 1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Spray an 8x8 baking dish with nonstick spray.
- 2 Mix together crust ingredients in a small bowl. Pat crumbs firmly into the bottom of the baking dish. Bake for 8 minutes. Let cool and set aside.
- 3. While the crust is baking, in a medium bowl, using an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese, 1 egg, 1/3c. sweetener, and vanilla. When crust has cooled, gently spoon the mixture over the crust and smooth. Set aside.
- 4. In the same bowl, beat pumpkin, 1 egg, 1/2 c. sweetener, and spices until smooth. Gently spoon dollops of the filling onto the cream cheese mixture and smooth the layer. Bake for 30 minutes.

Allow to cool 25 minutes at room temperature. Refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight. Cut cheesecake into 16 2x2 inch squares. Serve with light cool whip.

Calories: 90; Carbs: 9g; Total fat: 4.5g; Protein: 3g; Fiber: 1g; Cholesterol: 30mg; Sodium: 125 mg

PARISH NURSE...

Jody has returned to Parish Nurse duties and will be offering blood pressures and blood sugars (fast 4 hours for the sugars) the first Sunday of every month, at 9am.

Since Jody's office is still intact at this point, that is where you will find her.





Christmas Eve Worship Announcement

This Christmas Eve, we will worship at 10:15am and 11pm. At 10:15am, we will gather to praise the Lord and experience the Christmas Story in an upbeat celebration worship experience. We are planning this worship service for everyone to attend, but especially invite those who can't come out late at night, those with children who will be tucked in by 11pm, or anyone who wants an additional chance to worship on that special day. At our 11pm Candlelight worship, we'll reflect on the love poured out on the world through Jesus coming as the Incarnation of God!

See you there!

AmazonSmile

The PUMC is now listed as a charity under Smile.Amazon.com.

Amazon will pay 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Panama United Methodist Church.

- Anyone who shops at Amazon always needs to <u>access Amazon via</u> smile.amazon.com.
- Then you <u>choose a charity Panama</u> <u>United Methodist Church</u> (is how it's entered)
- Purchase anything you want and <u>0.5%</u> of the price of your <u>eligible</u> AmazonSmile purchases will be donated to the charity you choose.

God's Groceries Food Pantry (Tina Swineford)

WE HAVE MOVED!!!!!

The Food Pantry has moved to the old medical clinic (on the corner of Main and South Streets in Panama) This is a temporary move, due to the CenterPoint building project

Check the weekly church bulletin regarding weekly days and hours.

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

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

November Birthdays and **Anniversaries**

- 1 Mike Sard, Cindy Sturges, Joel Wiggers
- 2 Chris Comstock
- 3 Tom/Sally Baer
- 4 Tina Akam
- 8 Elena Komarek
- 9 Lisa Edwards, Logan Hickman
- 10 Erica Ireland, Corinne Ireland, Katie Braun
- 11 April VanBrunt, Abigail Taylor, Marlie Seekings
- 12 Jean Edwards, Connor Hickman
- 15 Sharon Passarelli, Jaik Halpainy
- 16 Corey King, Christine Olson, Genesis Moore
- 17 Merton Osborne
- 19 Stephanie Landin
- 20 Peter Butler
- 21 Evan Lescynski
- 22 Natalie Woods
- 25 Kim Coleman, Mel Eggleston II, Gay Ostrander Barb Trisket
- 26 Mary Lou Garfield, Gloria Scholton
- 27 Jack Sturges, Tim/Tena Dills, Stacy Taylor
- 29 Kevin Parkman, Adam/Tia Kester
- 30 Fran Sard

Looking ahead to December...

- 1 Bert Anderson, Brianna Marsh
- 3 Judy Parkman
- 5 Rob Peck, Paige Weise, *Dennis/Cindy Furlow*
- 6 Eloise Smith

Are you planning on packing a box for Operation Christmas Child this year?

Gift suggestions include:
crayons, markers, pencils, sharpeners, glue
sticks, coloring books, water color sets, play
dough, stickers, jump rope, foam balls, doll,
stuffed animal, toothbrush (no toothpaste or candy
is allowed), bar soap, washcloth, hairbrush, comb,
non liquid lip balm, yoyo, personal note, etc. Go
to samaritanspurse.org for additional suggestions.
Just a nudge to start "stocking" up!

Boxes for packing are available at the PUMC.

Check your bulletins for additional Information regarding due date for boxes.

PUMC Discipleship Group Information

CHAT

George and Trudy Anderson First Thursday of every month gaanderson@windstream.net; 782-3252

RADICAL

Carl and Susie Davis

1st and 3rd Saturday of each month
appleoaktreefarm@yahoo.com or suesue5@windstream.net; 782-4611

Ladies of Light

Cindy Furlow
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month; 7pm
cfurlow@chautauquamachinecom; 782-2775

Band of Brothers

Craig Vollmer

1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month; 7pm
craig.vollmer@gmail.com; 763-0879

Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale

One Saturday per month kbhinsdale@windstream.net; 355-4382

We Care

Thea Kester
Every other Thursday at noon at the Rowdy Rooster
rtkester@windstream.net; 782-4620

Women and Missions (WAM)

Kathy Foulk

2nd Monday monthly at the Panama Diner (April - December) ofoulks2@windstream.net; 782-4467 or 499-6437

For more information concerning PUMC Discipleship Groups, contact the church office at 782-4031 or at debbie.johnson@panamaum.org.
You may also contact Jon and Becky Cable, our Discipleship Group Leaders at 543-5050 or at jonbec95@gmail.com.

<u>Discipleship is a lifestyle filled with relationships;</u> a life of pouring yourself out for others.

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 Please check the calendar inside for weekly meetings and activities for the month of November

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