



**GRACE NOTES - March 2017**  
Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor  
Panama United Methodist Church

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

Welcome to this edition of the Grace Notes! We're 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 Panama United Methodist Church and our community is in here...enjoy!

**Scaredy Cat**

*"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*  
2 Timothy 1:7

We have fear in our lives. It's part of our fallen nature and the world around us. We fear the most where we trust God the least. Our new worship series will help our congregation increase trust in God in five different areas, so that our fear decreases and our trust increases. Over the next 6 weeks, we will be partnering on a journey called Scaredy Cat. Our goal is to not only see what God's word says about fear, but also witness to God's grace in the midst of our fears, and the power He alone gives us over those fears when we trust in him.

Moses feared **rejection** because of his imperfections. God clearly expressed that he was with him and would do everything to make his work successful. Even after repeated signs, Moses still held to his fear more than to God. We fear rejection because we want people to like us.

Martha's fear of **criticism** was birthed out of the cultural expectations of a woman's responsibilities. We fear criticism from others because we want people to think highly of us (respect us). We can't stand the thought of being criticized.



the **loneliness** that

Peter **failed** to do what he said he would do. For that, Peter felt that he could never be restored. When we fail to succeed in action, we fear that we will never be able to restore what has been. Truth be told, it's through our failures that God wants to teach us and restore us to more than we were before.

Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman at the well one day. She was lonely. We fear

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**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 from page 1)

comes from separation or death of a loved one/spouse, but loneliness can also be found in singleness, aging, divorce, relocation, incarceration, retirement, exclusion due to physical/mental impairment, childlessness, unemployment, confinement to a nursing home, rehabilitation center or hospital, etc.

A man named Jairus sought out Jesus because he was afraid that his daughter had died, and he couldn't bear it. Jesus said that faith overcomes death, spiritually and physically. We fear **death** because we don't like pain, disease, old age, or the unknown.

As we prepare for Lent, I pray that we can walk closer with Jesus by learning to trust Jesus more. Whatever we fear, Jesus wants to walk with us through it for God's glory. He, indeed, has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power to persevere, of love to help each other, and of a sound mind to allow Jesus to defeat our fear. We are not Scaredy Cats when Jesus is our Lion! On Easter morning, we will proclaim loudly, "He is Risen! We have NOTHING to fear!"

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve

**LENT** begins on Wednesday, March 1st  
with a service at PUMC at 7pm.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS**

This year, during Lent., several people from Panama UM  
and Park UM have  
provided daily devotionals for us to read and upon which  
we can reflect.

These devotionals are available on the table  
in the Narthex.

Be sure to pick up your copy!

## SUNDAY MORNING TEAM for MARCH

### Ushers

Don and Tabby Butler  
Buck and Kristine Seekings

### Nursery Helpers

#### March 5

**Birth-2:** Jessica Keefer and Kylie Schnars  
**3-4:** Barb Tordella and Tina Swineford

#### March 12

**Birth-2:** Betsy Eggleston and Natalie Odell  
**3-4:** Jason and Jolene Ayres

#### March 19

**Birth-2:** Jenn Johnson and Dawn Sard  
**3-4:** Kelly Osborne and Kathy Foulk

#### March 26

**Birth-2:** Stacy Taylor and Gracie Cable  
**3-4:** Marge Vollmer and Graham Vollmer

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

We appreciate you!

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.

**THANK YOU!!**

Again this year, we will join our Christian brothers  
and sisters throughout the region for worship on  
Holy Thursday (4/13) at 6:30pm at the  
REG LENNA CIVIC CENTER  
in Jamestown.

Watch your bulletin for further information on  
**ONE IN CHRIST WORSHIP.**

## COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 15

PUMC

Open to people of ALL ages!!

Time will be determined.

Be looking for additional details.

***Be sure to keep updated on PUMC  
meetings and events by checking the  
online calendar and Pastor Steve's week-  
ly Churchmail.***

***The PUMC website is  
[www.panamaum.org](http://www.panamaum.org)***

***Did you know we are also on  
Facebook? Check us out at  
[www.facebook.com/panamaum](http://www.facebook.com/panamaum)***

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

## EASTER MORNING

On Easter morning, we will offer two identical wor-  
ship services (8am and 10:15am)  
and serve breakfast from 9-10am.

It will be a great morning of celebration and fellow-  
ship!

**Looking Ahead...Mark Your Calendars**

**HOLY WEEK 2017 (April 9 - 16)**

April 9 - **Palm Sunday**; 10:15am, PUMC

April 13 - **One in Christ Worship** (Holy Thursday); 6:30pm  
REG LENNA CIVIC CENTER, Jamestown

April 14 - **Good Friday Worship**; 7pm; PUMC

April 15 - **Community Outreach Easter Egg Hunt** (Time TBD); PUMC

April 15 - **Walk to the Crosses Worship**; 6pm;  
Corner of Randolph and North St., Panama; uneven terrain

April 16 - **Resurrection Sunday!** PUMC

Worship at 8am

Continental Breakfast from 9 - 10am

Worship at 10:15am

All at PUMC

**WOMEN AND MISSIONS**

Women and Missions is starting a new project. We will be providing meals to those in need after an illness, injury or surgery.

If you have a need (or know someone who does), please contact Kathy Foulk at 782-4467. Also, if you would be willing to provide a meal now and then, please sign up on the Welcome Table or let Kathy Foulk know.

THANKS!

**CONNECTIONS**

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

**Journey to the Holy Land**

with Pastor Steve and Stacy Taylor (your hosts)  
and  
Bishop Mark Webb of the UNYAC of the UMC  
**January 9-19, 2018**

Please consider being a part of this adventure in  
faith and join Pastor Steve, Stacy and Bishop  
Webb to experience this once in a lifetime  
journey to the Holy Land as you see the Bible  
come to life!

Brochures are available on the Welcome Table.

Save the date and bring a friend!

*With sympathy to the families of...*

*Debbie (Reardon) Stormer*

Debbie was born on November 1, 1959.  
She passed away on December 11, 2016.

Debbie was the wife of Russel Stormer, who survives her.  
She was the mother of Rusty (Sarah) Stormer and Jared Stormer.  
She was also the grandmother of 6 grandchildren.

Debbie is also survived by her sisters,  
Julie (Richard) Nagel and Karen (William) Pickard.  
Her parents, Don and Wilma Reardon, predeceased her.

*Frederick Schneider, Jr.*

Fred was born on April 20, 1941.  
He died on January 20, 2017

Survivors include his wife, Johanna,  
his son, Bill (Heather) Schneider and his daughter, Regina (Kevin) Merritt.  
Fred is also survived by 4 grandchildren, including Hannah (Steve) Fugate and Tyce Schneider.  
He was predeceased by his son, James, in 2000.

*Rita Lescynski*

Rita was born on April 19, 1922.  
She died on February 25, 2017.

Rita was the grandmother of Amanda (Andy) Anderson,  
Christine (Jody) Peterson and  
Andrew (Wende) Lescynski.

*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.*

Come and check out the  
\*\*\*\*\***LUNCH BUNCH**\*\*\*\*\*  
Find it on March's calendar  
and make plans to join us!



## Summer Camping

Stacy Taylor

We have another great opportunity to send kids to camp this summer. We have been given a sizable donation - specifically to send kids to a Christian summer camp.



We have many camp options available, including Mission Meadows across the lake, Miracle Mountain and Wesley Woods in Pennsylvania. If you'd like to go further away - there are some other United Methodist options in New York.

Please see Susi Davis or Stacy Taylor if you know of a child that would love to spend a week (at no cost!!) in a fabulous Christian environment.

Brochures are available on the Welcome Table, and information can also be found online. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to attend!

Summer camp can change lives for the cause of Christ. It's also a great place to find a spouse :)

## March Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

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

A look ahead to April...

- 1 Caleb Caldwell, Adyn Hay, Rex Marsh
- 3 Kylie Schnars
- 4 Bill Caldwell, Sam Catanese, Tara Hosier
- 6 Janice Franklin
- 7 Derek Hosier, Kyle Hosier

## LENT

On Wednesday, March 1, we kicked off the season that leads to Easter (April 16) by worshipping. This day is known as Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It falls 40 weekdays before Easter (Sundays aren't counted in the 40 days of Lent). Ash Wednesday takes its name from ashes, a traditional Jewish sign of penitence. In some traditions, palm fronds or palm crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned, and then the ashes are applied to the worshiper's forehead on Ash Wednesday as a token of their commitment to observe a "holy Lent".

Ancient Christian tradition was to observe Lent with fasting (a discipline of going without food at certain times), study, self-examination, confession and prayer. During this time, candidates for Holy Baptism were prepared for baptism on Easter Eve. Many churches continue those traditions.



## CONGRATULATIONS... ...and welcome to our world!



### **Calloway Andrew Anderson**

was born on January 17, 2017.

Calloway is the son of Jonathan and Jennifer Anderson.

Older siblings are Isabella and Teddy.

Grandparents are George and Trudy Anderson.

### **Thomas James Cartwright**

was born on January 22, 2017.

Thomas is the son of Daniel and Anna Cartwright.

John is the proud big brother.

Grandparents are Ray and Cindy Cartwright

### **Leah Cecile Irgang**

was born on February 21, 2017.

Leah is the daughter of Adam and Tory Irgang.

She weighed 7lb., 8 oz. and her length is 21 inches.

Anna Jo is the proud big sister.

Grandparents are Bruce Peterson,  
Amy Peterson, Jack and Sherri Irgang and  
Judy and Dan Lenz.

***We congratulate you on the birth of these  
precious children and we pray God's richest  
blessings on you all as they grow  
in the love of Christ.***

Do you receive our weekly

**Churchmail?**

If not, please leave your name  
and email address  
in the church office.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

### **SPRING:**

April 23 and 30  
Baptism on May 7

### **FALL:**

October 22 and 29  
Baptism on November 5

Please sign up at the Welcome Table.

We need to prepare materials and need to  
know numbers of interested participants.

## **Vision 20/20 - Project CenterPoint**

The Vision 20/20 Team continues to work closely with AODK and GL Olson in finalizing the building plans for the new addition. We have communicated our progress to both the District and Conference offices and they are excited about where we are in the process.

There has been very preliminary discussions with local financial institutions about their potential involvement in partnering with us on our project and the feedback has been very positive.

A fundraising Preparation Team has been created and is working closely with TLC Ministries to develop the roadmap for our fundraising efforts. You will be receiving a letter in the next week regarding the vision for our fundraising campaign.

We ask that you continue to pray for this project, and how God may be nudging you to serve. It is an exciting time to be part of Panama UMC!!!

Kyle Hinsdale

## **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 susesue5@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 Rowdy Rooster (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.

**Discipleship is a lifestyle filled with relationships;  
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

Robert Burkholder, Custodian

Sandy Crossley, Connections

Joan Monroy, Connections

Dr. Mark and Diane Abbott, Spain

Blog: [www.markabbott007.com](http://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](mailto:contact@panamaum.org)

Church website - [www.panamaum.org](http://www.panamaum.org)

[www.facebook.com/panamaum](https://www.facebook.com/panamaum)

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

Cornerstone District Office

Christ First UMC

663 Lakeview Ave.

Jamestown, NY 14701

(716) 665-2423

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22 East Main St., PO Box 218  
Panama, NY 14767

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[www.facebook.com/panamaum](https://www.facebook.com/panamaum)