



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

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

Welcome to the **Easter** 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!

**Nothing to Fear Here**

***"The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know You're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he Was placed." Matthew 28:5-6***

One of the attractions we went to see in London last year was a bit unorthodox, off the beaten path, and not your typical tourist attraction. It wasn't 500 years old. It wasn't free. It wasn't trendy or cultural. It was a bit historical. It wasn't the London Bridge. In fact, it was UNDER the London Bridge. It was called the London Bridge Experience. And what an experience it was! It was 90 minutes of a walk-through haunted house-style tour that not only taught us a little more about the history of the London Bridge (did you know people used to live on the Bridge, and the traffic flow on the bridge is the reason people drive on the left in the U.K.?) but we were also scared out of our wits! At one point in the tour, the woman behind me, who was holding onto my shoulders, screamed so loudly that I thought I'd lose an eardrum. Finally, the thought occurred to me: "There's really nothing to fear here. This is all fake (realistic, but fake). Nothing here can hurt us." After that, I chuckled when someone jumped out at us with a running chainsaw, or when hidden actors tried to grab us from a coffin. There was nothing to fear there.

On the morning when the women who had been following Jesus went to the tomb after Jesus' death on the cross, they were pretty scared, sad, and weren't sure what was going on. When the angel appeared, their fears were ramped up and they went from perplexed to terrified. But, the angel said some pretty simple words to them: "There is nothing to fear here." (MSG) At that moment, they began to realize that everything Jesus had said was true. There was nothing fake or misleading in any of it. He HAD risen from the dead and they didn't have to FEAR anything.

In our lives, we have fears (rejection, criticism, failure, loneliness, unknown, death). We convince our-

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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)

selves that those things will be real in our lives. Yet, because Jesus is alive, and our final victory is secure, Jesus wants us to have confidence in the reality of his grace and salvation. Our sin is erased. Our fears are destroyed. We can chuckle at the lies of Satan and move confidently to the empty tomb and proclaim, "He is Risen, Indeed!"

Join me on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday, and Easter morning (see the schedule of worship experiences for Holy Week below) as we proclaim that clearly and loudly. May we shake the gates of hell, release the captives, and proclaim the Good News!

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve

**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

A bus is secured to take us as a group to Jamestown.  
The bus will leave at 5:30pm from Panama UMC and  
at 5:40pm from Ashville UMC.

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

April 15 - **Community Easter Egg Hunt**;  
10:00am; PUMC  
Open to people of ALL ages



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 **AND** 10:15am (Identical services)  
Full Breakfast from 9 - 10am  
It will be a great morning of celebration and fellowship!

**Come worship the risen Christ!**



## SUNDAY MORNING TEAM for APRIL

### Ushers

Kathy Foulk and Darlene Fulton  
Howie and Jan Wheeler

### Nursery Helpers

#### April 2

Birth-2: Ken and Katie Braun  
3-4: Tina Akam and Carolyn Hughesman

#### April 9

Birth-2: Amanda Kolstee and Riley Seekings  
3-4: Andrew Lescynski and Julia Nelson

#### April 16

Birth-2: Thea Kester and Kylie Schnars  
3-4: Jason and Jolene Ayres

#### April 23

Birth-2: Jessica Keefer and Barb Tordella  
3-4: Betsy Eggleston and Lilly Odell

#### April 30

Birth-2: Tina Swineford and Natalie Odell  
3-4: Kim Davis and Susie Davis

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!!**



### CenterPoint Project

(Connecting His Vision to Our Community)  
Bert and Roberta Anderson

If you have not received written communication about the CenterPoint Project and the upcoming spiritual gifts campaign, please contact the church office via telephone (716-782-4031) or email (debbiejohnson@panamaum.org) with your current contact information (USPS, email, phone).

If you have friends or relatives that are members of the church and want to be kept informed of the church activities, ask them to send us their contact information. We have received a number of letters marked "return to sender", so please help us update our files.

We want to keep everyone connected.

Thank you!

**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](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!**

### Summer Camping

Stacy Taylor



We have another great opportunity to send kids to camp this summer.

We have brochures available for this year's summer camp opportunities. Please see Susie Davis or Stacy Taylor if your child is interested in attending Summer camp.

The cost is FREE!

Summer camp can change lives  
for the cause of Christ



As many of you know, over the past 3 months I have been in and out of the hospital 3 times (each for several days). I was so thankful that last Sunday was the first time I have been in church since mid December.

My grateful thanks to all of you for your cards, visits and most of all, for your prayers. I still have to make some decisions regarding the bad heart valve.

Love you all and God bless.

Jeanette Osborne

### **Parish Nurse Notes...**

**The American Red Cross will be at the church on Wednesday, MAY 10th; 2-6pm**

**Watch your bulletins for further details.**

**You may register online to hold a time slot.**

**Our donations save lives all across the USA and abroad.**

**Snacks will be served to donors.**

**There will be a list on the Welcome Table for donations of treats.**

**Thank you to all in advance!**

**This is a great outreach to our community.**

**Let's spread our Love.**



### **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!

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

### **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...*

*Marilyn L. Johnson*

*August 22, 1929 - March 16, 2017*

Marilyn is survived by her daughters,  
Shelley (Fred) Croscut and Sharen (Jeff) Hilt  
and a brother, Bruce (Patricia) Limberg.

She is also survived by her grandchildren, Heather Croscut,  
Brent (Tabetha) Croscut, and Stacey (Dustin) Crandall,  
as well as three great grandchildren, Kayla, Addison and Molly.

Memorials may be made to the Lakewood UMC or  
Chautauqua Hospice and Palliative Care, also in Lakewood.

and

*Carolyn R. Sorenson*

*June 17, 1929 - March 25, 2017*

Carolyn is survived by her husband, Roger Sorenson,  
her daughter Nancy (Dale) Swanson and  
three sons, Daniel (Joanne) Sorenson, Stephen (Barbara) Sorenson  
and Keith (Lorie) Sorenson.

Grandchildren include Brynne (Kyle) Hinsdale and  
two great grandchildren, Gerrit and Bryce Hinsdale.

Memorials contributions may be made to Friends or the Rouse Home  
In Youngsville, Pa or Hospice of Warren County in Warren, PA.

*The love and prayers of the Panama United Methodist Church  
and the Panama community  
are with you and your loved ones as you continue  
through this time of grief and adjustment.*

Feeling hospitable?

Looking for a way to share God's love?

Join the Sunday Morning Hospitality Team!

We can use your help to greet people as they  
come in our doors and  
share a cup of coffee with them.

Julie Nelson is in charge of the coffee hour while  
Mary and Bert are away. If you would like to  
bake, purchase treats, make coffee, etc.,  
please see Julia.

We are also always looking for door greeters  
during the 9am hour. You can 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.

## **NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASSES**

### **SPRING:**

April 23 and 30  
Baptism on May 7

### **FALL:**

October 22 and 29  
Baptism on November 5

See Pastor Steve with questions.

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**

Kyle Hinsdale

The Vision 20/20 Team is excited about the work that is being done between AODK and GL Olson as they have progressed on engineering plans, and further discussion has been established with contractors that have an interest in working on our building project. Paperwork has been submitted to a financial institution for their review and hopefully in the next 30-45 days they will be submitting to us a term sheet so that we can further understand the financing parameters.

The Vision 20/20 Team is excited about the launch of our fundraising campaign and are looking forward to what God has in store for our church over the course of the next few months. Assuming the fundraising efforts are fruitful, we are estimating, along with AODK and GL Olson, that we may begin construction in the fall (targeting 9/1). Please continue to keep this team and the fundraising campaign in your thoughts and prayers as we move forward.

If you have questions, please let me know.

## **April Birthdays and Anniversaries**

A look ahead to April...

- 1 Caleb Caldwell, Adyn Hay, Rex Marsh
- 2 Joshua Cable
- 3 Kylie Schnars
- 4 Bill Caldwell, Sam Catanese, Tara Hosier, Ben Taylor
- 6 Janice Franklin
- 7 Derek Hosier, Kyle Hosier. Kollin Sturges
- 8 **Jon/Becky Cable**
- 10 Maddeline Wheeler
- 11 Shawn Chapman, Alexandria King
- 12 Emily Waller
- 13 Stephen Taylor
- 14 Kennadee Woods
- 15 Paula Komarek
- 16 Tom Baer
- 17 Tina Swineford
- 18 Hannah Calcaterra, Megan Hinderer, Rebecca Jaeger  
Hunter Kester, Donovan Schnars, Lester Wevers
- 19 David Sturges (younger)
- 20 Donna Peterson
- 21 Tim Middleton, Orlo Jackson
- 22 Cam James, Jeff Ostrander, Chuck Parkman,  
Jean Trisket, **Bob/Diane Johnson**
- 23 Larissa Enlow, Tyler Marsh
- 24 Gracie Cable, Kate Kester, Elinor Sturges
- 25 Joanne Fisher, **Dave/Joan Hinderer**
- 26 Bob Collins, Paula McCordic
- 27 Dave Auge, Calvin Carr
- 28 Cindy Cartwright, **Warren/Cindy Crouch**
- 30 Jolene Ayres, **Dan/Paula Wesolowski**

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)**

If you are interested in helping with Vacation Bible School this year (which will be July 10-14) - please let Stacy Taylor know.

We will be serving dinner to the community each night - so there is plenty of opportunity for helping!

Our first meeting is on April 25 at 6:30pm.

The theme is HERO CENTRAL!

Be a hero and help with VBS!

## **Upcoming events... Mark your calendars... Details to follow...**

May 4 - National Day of Prayer Breakfast

May 10 - Red Cross Blood Drive

June 17 - Youth Fundraiser  
Hot Dogs; Car Wash; Bakesale  
Following "Blessing of the Bikes"

## Church Council - What is it? Carol Hay

Besides looking at the church bulletin or the church calendar online and seeing that the Church Council has a meeting, what do you now about that Team? The United Methodist Church calls it the Administrative Board or Church Council. It lists the responsibilities in detail, but a brief summary included:

1. Oversee the administration and ministry of the congregation
2. Ensure the ministry is transformative
3. Initiate planning, establish goals, implement action plans and determine The effectiveness of congregational ministries
4. Strategize to use the disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world
5. Work with other teams to provide effective leadership
6. Make recommendation on compensation to the charge conference
7. Fill vacancies as needed
8. Provide financial support and physical facilities for the local congregation
9. Maintain connections with district and wider programs and structures

Quite a list! I'm particularly fond of #4 - and I'm all about transforming the world!

Our Church Council is made up of a representative of all other teams in the church. The reason for that is perfectly clear - one Team could not possible do all that is required. Each month, all teams submit written reports on their activities, ask for help with a particular program or project, and offer assistance to other teams.

As our Church moves into the CenterPoint Project with the goal of connecting His vision to our community, the Church Council will continue to meet and work together to nurture, reach out, and witness within the congregation and community. You may not be a member of the Church Council, but you can help us fulfill our responsibilities by praying that our plans, goals, and action plans reflect God's plan for our Church and Community.

Do you receive our weekly

**Churchmail?**

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





## **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 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 April.

Cornerstone District Office

Christ First UMC

663 Lakeview Ave.

Jamestown, NY 14701

(716) 665-2423

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

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