

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!

About the Holy Spirit

What (or Who) is the Holy Spirit? This month, as we celebrate Pentecost, let's examine what we believe about the Third Person of the Trinity: the Holy Spirit. John 14 identifies the Holy Spirit as "the Spirit of Truth", given to the church as an advocate because Jesus would not be physically present with humanity. This gift from God is essential to living our life as followers of Jesus, knowing right from wrong, being guided into greater holiness, and being moved to Christian action and service.

The Articles of Religion of the United Methodist Church give us the foundation for our belief: "The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God. He convinces the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He leads [people] through faithful response to the gospel into the fellowship of the Church. He comforts, sustains and empowers the faithful and guides them into all truth."

What does it mean to live the Christian life? To be disciples? To have faith? To keep the commands of Jesus? The answers aren't so simple.

All people, believers in Christ or not, are merely human. Because we are merely human, we don't have the capacity to remain sinless, unlike Jesus who is sinless. That may seem like a hopeless state of existence, wrought with pain, despair, and guilt. Yet, Jesus is the Savior and our Redeemer from God's wrath (deserved because of our sin). While Jesus was on earth, the disciples had every advantage to know truth and morality (although they weren't always good at it). Because Jesus isn't standing next to us, physically, we have a more difficult time discerning the truth. (continued on next page)

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)

God sent the Holy Spirit to remain in us, working for us, guiding and assuring us that God is present, and we can have knowledge of God. We can know the difference between right and wrong. We can ask God for guidance and to reveal the plan for our lives. Through the Holy Spirit, God works to perfect us and mold us into people who are useful to advance God's kingdom.

We are open to the gifts of the spirit because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. We can discern truth from lies because God shows us the truth. We can celebrate diversity, while maintaining integrity because the Holy Spirit is woven into our worship, our prayer, our ministries, and our lives. We can have confidence in God!

When we seek the presence of the Holy Spirit, we are seeking the presence of Almighty God - not a request to be taken lightly, but reverently and with awe. The real presence of the Holy Spirit in our worship and churches is evidence that God has a plan of salvation, a plan for ministry, and a plan for celebration. Church growth, building campaigns, prayer meetings, sacrificial giving, new opportunities, inspiring worship, and so much more, all happen because we seek after the presence of the Holy Spirit! Seek the Holy Spirit!

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Blessings, Pastor Steve

Mark Your Calendars

June 5 - Safe Sanctuaries Training; 6-9pm

June 9 and 10 (6pm-6pm) - 24 Hour Prayer Vigil; please sign up for an hour of prayer

June17 - Blessing of the Bikes and Breakfast (9:30am; registration)

June 17 - Youth Fundraisers; 12 noon - 4pm: Lunch, Bake Sale and Car Wash

June 20 - PCS Baccalaureate (at PUMC); 7pm; Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

July 9 - CenterPoint Firstfruits Sunday and Celebration Event!

July 10-14 - HeroCentral Vacation Bible School (Mon-Fri)

July 23 - CenterPoint Campaign Concludes

Please make sure to check out the church calendar, included in this newsletter, for additional dates and opportunities. If you receive the weekly (emailed) Churchmail, additional (updated) information can be found that may not be included in Grace Notes. If you do not receive this online weekly mailing, please contact Debbie in the office to be added to the list.



We need the names of high school and college graduates to honor.

Please contact the office: contact@panamaum.org or call 782-4031

SUNDAY MORNING TEAM for JUNE

<u>Ushers</u>

Jon and Becky Cable Peter and Paula Komarek

Nursery Helpers

June 4

Birth-2: Betsy Eggleston and Jessica Keefer 3-4: Andrew Lescynski and Riley Seekings

June 11

Birth-2: Kathy Foulk and Natalie Odell 3-4: Jason and Jolene Ayres

June 18

Birth-2: Ken and Katie Braun 3-4: Susie Davis and Kim Davis

June 25

Birth-2: Tina Swineford and Gracie Cable 3-4: Stacy Taylor and Kelly Osborne

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!!

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!



BLESSING OF THE BIKES

Please join us on
Saturday, June 17,
at the
Panama United Methodist Church
for our Annual
Blessing of the Bikes!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Registration begins at 9:30am.

10:00am: Gathering, Breakfast & Music 10:45am: Blessing of the Bikes by Pastor Steve 11:00am: Kickstands UP and 1 Hour Ride

Questions? Call the church (782-4031)
Or contact Pastor Steve at
STEVEN.TAYLOR@PANAMAUM.ORG



It's always a great day!

What is a VIP Experience?

- An opportunity to share the CenterPoint vision for the church and surrounding community.
- An opportunity to provide information and answer questions.
- An opportunity to collect prayer requests and ministry needs for the prayer vigil.
- An opportunity to connect with the Panama United Methodist Church during this exciting time of growth.



Be a part of the excitement! Say "YES" to your VIP experience when called.



Welcome to Our World, Caleb William Price



Caleb is the son of Scott and Meghan (Gooch) Price.

He was born on May 18, 2017.

His weight was 8 lb., 5 oz., and he was 20.25 inches long.

Grandparents are Kathy and (the late) Tom Gooch.

We congratulate you on the birth of this precious child and we pray God's richest blessings on you all as he grows in the love of Christ.

Safe Sanctuary Training

Monday, June 5 6:00 - 9:00pm

Please pre-register with Debbie in the church office by June 1st.

The training will be held at PUMC in room B-1 downstairs.

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!

Check out the

LUNCH BUNCH date
on the June 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!



The <u>PUBLICITY COMMITTEE</u> for the CenterPoint Project is excited about our upcoming opportunities and invites you to join in.

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in the following events:

VIP VISITS to take place in June:
Please say yes when you receive the call

PRAYER VIGIL (June 9th and 10): If you haven't done so already, please sign up for your spot!

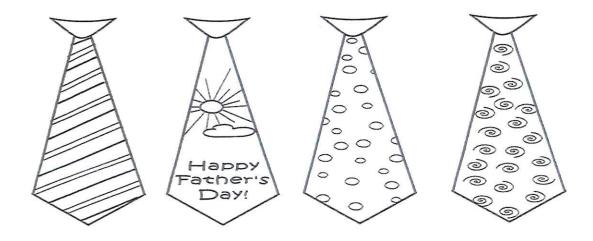
JUNE 11

There will be a presentation that you won't want to miss.

The Executive Committee will present the model of the project, and other exciting "props" to highlight the project.

And finally our RALLY #3 will be held on June 19th.
You won't want to miss this very important and informational step in our CenterPoint Project.

So, as you plan your calendar with those "must do" events, please remember to include the events above.



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.

Bert and Mary will be looking for helpers for the summer. If you would like to bake, purchase treats, make coffee, etc., please see Mary for information on how you can help.

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 (and regulars!) encounter when they first enter God's house in Panama.

You will be blessed in helping with this ministry.

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

Watch your bulletins for further information and ways that YOU can help!

helping!

The theme is HERO CENTRAL!

Be a hero and help with VBS!

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Kathy Foulk
- 2 Ted/Sharon Passarelli, Eric/Jenn Scolton
- 3 Chuck/Judy Parkman
- 4 Nancy Dallas
- 5 Ryan Peck
- 7 Cindy Crouch, Richard/Lorena Crosby
- 8 Amanda Kolstee
- 9 Christopher Enlow, Sharon Rea
- 10 Elizabeth Comstock, Jordan Range
- 11 Mike/Erica Butler
- 12 Lee/Betty Crosby
- 13 Dacota Catanese
- 14 Alyson Edwards, Lillian Odell
- 15 Scott/Wendy Trisket, Kim/Aaron Barton
- 16 Jarrett Wiggers
- 17 Carol Hay, Thea Kester
- 18 Don Butler, Kelly Range
- 19 Mason Komarek, Larry Ostrander, David Woods
- 21 Jennifer Anderson, Melissa Topolski
- 22 Gail/Nancy Dallas
- 23 Bryce/Katie Ireland
- 24 Lauren Tordella, Kyle/Brynne Hinsdale, Steve/Melissa Wiggers
- 25 Pat Catanese, Matt Sturges
- 26 Hugh Wood
- 27 Ed Trisket, Jarrett/Elizabeth Wiggers
- 28 Dave/Yvonne Calcaterra, Chris/Dawn Comstock, Rob/Wendy Peck
- 30 MacKenzie Miles, Charlie/Debbie Loveless

God's blessings on your special day!



Time - and Church Council Carol Hay

I'm almost done with Mitch Albom's book, <u>The Time Keeper</u>. IT has reinforced some of my personal thoughts about time and made me much more aware of how many conversations we have about time. Even if we aren't directly talking about time, we often refer to it in other ways.

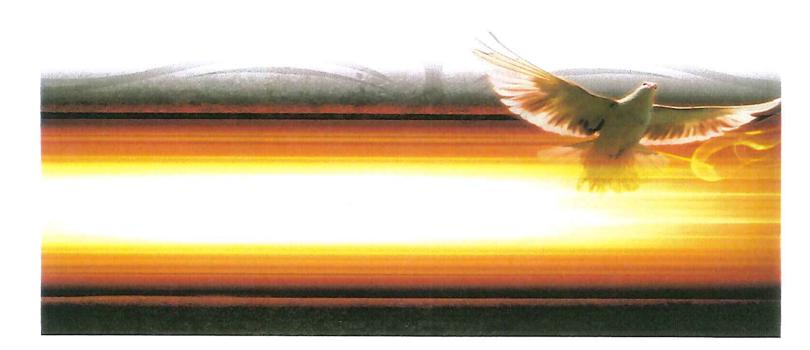
When a storm crashes around us, we wish it to past quickly. When we are with a loved one in a quiet, beautiful setting, we want time to go slowly. When kids are young teens, they want the years to hurry by so they can reach driving age and make their own decisions. When we hold our first grandchild, we want time to stand still. Much of our lives we spend wanting time to speed up or slow down.

Tin the past couple of years, I was reminded that we don't control time. God made our lives precious by giving us only a limited amount of time on earth. We know there will be an end to this life so making the best use of our time and appreciating every moment are important. We all know this to be true, but when circumstances make life shorter than expected, it is a definite "aha" moment.

How does this all relate to Church Council? I'm glad you asked! As I sat at the last Church Council meeting, I looked around the table. There were people who had come directly from work to the meeting. There were people who left young children at home to be there. There were people who left a meeting to come to another meeting. Each person was there to share their Church Team's plans, listen to others and help make decisions for our Church.

Each person at the meeting was taking time out of his or her day to serve the Lord. We look at the calendar and wonder how the days get so full and often we wonder if we need to attend yet another meeting. As a team chairperson, my goal is never to have a meeting unless it is needed to discuss an issue or make a decision that cannot wait. My goal is to be effective and efficient so that each person feels their time was not wasted, but well spent doing work for the church. Just as time with God cannot be rushed, so serving God must not be rushed, but must be used wisely.

Serving God can be complicated! When we work with others to do God's work, we have many minds (and hands!) working together. My prayer is that our time is well spent.



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

LOL are taking a break for the summer and will resume meeting in the fall. 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 Panama Diner
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>
<u>a life of pouring yourself out for others.</u>

Safurday	1 TLC VIP Experiences Period 8:00 Ali - 12:00 Pil Community Clean-up Day 7:00 Pil RADICAL tic Discipleship Group	PRAYER VIGIL 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM TLC Cempelign Prayer Vigil (Senduary)	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Blassing of the Bitkee and Ridder 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM God's Gnoodies Food Parity O'Elli 10:00 PM - 4:00 PM Lunch, car wash and bake safe (Youth Indrelsers) 6:00 PM Lunch, car wash and bake safe (Youth Chawa Comstock 78:2-8:30) 7:00 PM RADICAL to Discipleshy Group	56	1 10:00 AM - 8:00 Pth Mathsconfreland Wedding 7:00 PM RADICAL to Discipleship Group
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Tuesday	30 LC VIP Experiences Period 500 Pall Worship Team Meeting in the Ibrary	T.C.VIP Experiences Period :00 PM Band of Brothers going out for BBQ	5:16 PM Finance Team Meefing in 5:16 PM Finance Team Meefing in 5:20 PM Church Council Meefing in redoverlip Hall	98	27. 7:00 PM Staff Parish Relations Team Meeting
Monday	2.29 TIC VIP Pariod Ali Gods Groceries Food I Pario OPEN GOOP PAR GOOP PAR TOO	TIC VIP Experiences Period 6:00 AM Gods 6:00 AM Gods 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM God Scroonies Fandy OPEN God Scroonies 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM God Scroonies 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Safe Sanchusias 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pryor & Prior M Proger & Prior M Prog	All Goods All Goods All Goods All Goods Panny OPEN Women and WAM- Women and Washow at The Parama Diver Good Panny OPEN Proper & Praise Meeting	199 AM God's AM God's AM God's Amy OPAN 630 PM 630 PM 630 PM 630 PM 630 PM 700	200 AM - 10:00 AM Cods Groceries Food 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting
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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

(716) 665-2423

Jamestown, NY 14701

663 Lakeview Ave.

Cornerstone District Office Christ First UMC

for the month of June.

weekly meetings and activities

Please check the calendar inside for

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor steven.taylor@panamaum.org
Debbie Johnson, Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst.
Candy Scarem, Student Ministry Director candy.scarem@panamaum.org
Lulie Nagel, Music Director/Accompanist
Krista Odell, Accompanist
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse
Joan Monroy, Connections
Joan Monroy, Connections
Sandy Crossley, Connections
Sondy Crossley, Connections
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Pastor Steve's Office Hours W Doon T ,M :nooN - mo00:9

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Church Eax # (716) 782-2326

Church E-mail – contact@panamaum.org

Church website - www.panamaum.org

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