



## GRACE NOTES - August 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 the PUMC and our community is in here...enjoy!

### The Next Steps

*"So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' Then, they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away." Acts 1:6-12*



### [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)***

When Jesus was finished with His ministry on earth, He gave the disciples their final instructions and then ascended to heaven, from whence He came. The picture of the disciples, standing with their mouths wide open, staring into the sky is both comical and thought-provoking. The questions that were running around in their heads, no doubt, were about that they just saw and what they were to do next. In response, they went back to Jerusalem and got back to the mission on which Jesus had led them. It was time to give thanks and get to work on the next steps.

July 23, 2017 was a big day in the life of our church. It was the culmination of 4 months of planning, implementing, vision-casting, celebrating, and even some struggling and soul-searching. In the end, our CenterPoint campaign continues to be a great success, with our commitments moving upward toward that \$900,000 goal we set for ourselves. THANK YOU to everyone who has worked so hard to help lead us! Praise be to God for all His goodness and provision. In response, we could celebrate that as a win, and stare into the sky, wondering what God did. But, then again, we have work to do and the next steps are becoming clear.

The first step for all of us is to build a faithful habit of meeting our commitments to the CenterPoint campaign. You'll hear more from the Follow Up Team in the coming weeks.

Secondly, now is the time to dream big! We've cast a vision for this new part of our facility to be used for fellowship, invitation, and celebration. Ultimately, this new addition is for God's glory and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the community and the world. We want every child, youth, and adult to hear the gospel and respond, as we grow as a church in, for, and with the community. Let's begin planning NOW for what this new space will become so that when it's built, we will be ready.

Finally, give thanks for God for it all. The disciples never stopped giving thanks for the life of Jesus that intersected theirs. Our response to the movement of God among us is grateful hearts ready to serve Him in every way He calls us. Give thanks!

Go, church! Enjoy God's leading, and respond with excitement and willingness to serve. Now is the time to get ready for the next steps!

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

August 9 - Blood Drive; 2pm - 6pm; Fellowship Hall

August 13 - Outdoor Worship at PUMC; 10:15am  
(Rain date - August 20)

August 26 - Back-To-School-Bash at PCS; 10am-2pm  
Playground and Cafeteria  
\*\*Adult Supervision Required\*\*

New Members Discovery Course - Coming in October

## SUNDAY MORNING TEAM for AUGUST

### Ushers

George and Trudy Anderson  
Buck and Kristine Seekings

### Nursery Helpers

### August 6

**Birth-2:** Betsy Eggleston and Gracie Cable

**3-4:** Carolyn Hughesman and Alex Scarem

### August 13

**Birth-2:** Tina Akam and Madie Pearson

**3-4:** Candy Scarem and Azzaria Hardin

### August 20

**Birth-2:** Barb Tordella and Graham Vollmer

**3-4:** Ken and Katie Braun

### August 27

**Birth-2:** Jenn Johnson and Dawn Sard

**3-4:** Stacy Taylor and Marge 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!!**

OUTDOOR Worship at PUMC - August 13

We just don't want summer to end, do we? **NO!**

So, let's enjoy the great outdoors as we worship outside on August 13th at 10:15am. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to either sit on the grass or on the paved areas of the parking lot.

After worship, everyone is invited to stay for lunch. Bring a dish to pass and your own table setting and enjoy our beautiful pavilion.

Invite your neighbors! Invite the community! See you there!

The rain date is August 20th.

***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!***

## **Looking for a way to share God's love? Feeling hospitable?**

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. If you would like to bake, purchase treats, make coffee, etc., please see Mary Rappole.

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



## **In need of meals?**

**W.A.M. has had another opportunity to provide meals.**

**Again, if you have a need for meals, please let Kathy Foulk know.**



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WRAP UP!**



Our church was full of heroes the week of July 10! An average of 58 children and 50 helpers attended VBS every night. The church was full of energy and excitement as we heard Bible stories, sang songs, learned about science and played games. One of the new favorites this year was "Hero Time". Each day, a community hero visited us and shared about their job as hero. Special thanks to Jan Wheeler, nurse (Heroes have heart!), Jerry and Jeff Ireland, Kevin Lowe, and the Panama Volunteer Fire Department (Heroes have courage!), Dawn Sard, teacher (Heroes have wisdom!), Pastor Steve (Heroes have hope!), and Jeff Enlow, police officer (Heroes have power!).

The community dinners each night were a huge hit again this year. Tuesday night, we served over 100 people, with a special invitation to the Panama Volunteer Fire Department. What an honor and blessing to serve our neighbors. Thank you to Julia Nelson, Tina Swineford, Darlene Fulton and Peter Komarek, who cooked and served dinner. (I hope I didn't forget anyone!!).

It is a true pleasure to work with each and every one of the adults and youth who put in so much time to make VBS an amazing outreach to our community. Starting with the smiling faces at the registration table, the silliness of Flame and Captain Shield, the nurse skills of Gen, photography abilities of Kathy, the very patient voices of the class leaders, energy of the rotation leaders, creativeness of the story characters, the children felt the love of Jesus all week! Many hands make light work - but it also makes it tons of fun! Each night was filled with laughter and teamwork.

Thank you so much!!

~ Stacy ~

### **\*\*\*PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\***

#### **CONNECTIONS is adding staff!**

Connections is hiring an additional teacher! This person must be available Monday through Friday, 3:00pm until 4:30pm. Responsibilities will include assisting two experienced teachers with supervision of approximately 15 - 25 children, grades Kindergarten through Sixth Grade. Tasks will include helping with homework, serving snacks and playing games with the children.

Salary is minimum wage. Background check is required.

If interested, please send a letter of intent to Panama United Methodist Church, PO Box 218, Panama, NY 14767. Please call 782-4031 with questions.

## **Our Sympathy to the families of...**

### **Lorena Crosby**

March 13, 1928 - July 15, 2017

Lorena is survived by her husband, Richard,  
and her three children, Joan Bertam, Robert (Cheryl) Crosby and Russell (Deborah) Crosby.  
She is also survived by seven grandchildren, Erin, Ryan, Bransen, Morgan, Jenna, Kyle and Anna  
and by 4 great grandchildren, Jonathan, Lillian, Abigail and Joshua.

Memorials may be made to Joy in the Harvest, Lansing, Ill.,  
and to missionary friends, Lowell and Claudia Wertz who work in Kigoma, Tanzania.

### **Rhonda Halpainy-Livermore**

October 13, 1967 - July 17, 2017

Rhonda is survived by her mother Frances Halpainy  
and her partner, Melanie Livermore.

She is also survived by her daughter, Kassidy,  
and her siblings Steven (Jamie) Halpainy, Jeffery (Mary) Halpainy,  
and Maureen Casler.

She was preceded in death by her son, Justin.  
Memorials can be sent to the National Pancreas Foundation,  
3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 700, Bethesda, MD 20814.

*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.*

**The American Red Cross will be at the  
church on Wednesday, AUGUST 9; 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.**



### **Discovery Course for New Members and Baptisms**

In October, Pastor Steve will be leading a new members and baptism course for anyone interested. The course will be two weeks and will discover the basics of the Christian faith, what it means to grow in Christ, and your place in the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ here at Panama UMC. If you are new to PUMC, this course is for you. If you have not been baptized, and would like to be, this is the course for you.

If you are interested, or have questions, please let Pastor Steve or Debbie Johnson know. The first class will be either before or after worship, depending on the will of the participants. Baptisms and new members will be welcomed in November during worship. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Welcome table soon. See you there!

## *Wedding Congratulations...*

Caitlin Marie Evanock

and

Evan King VandeVelde

exchanged wedding vows on May 6, 2017

at the Panama United Methodist Church.

They were married by Pastor Steven M. Taylor.

*God is the author of yet another chapter in your lives.  
May you be richly blessed as your future, together, unfolds.  
The love and blessings from your PUMC family are with you today...  
and always.*

### **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!

### **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.

### **CONNECTIONS**

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

## PUMC Annual GOLF OUTING



WHEN: September 9  
3:00pm

WHERE: Timber Creek

COST: to be determined  
(watch bulletin for details)

If you choose not to golf but would enjoy a time a fellowship, please join us for a cookout following the golfing.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Burgers, dogs and drinks will be supplied. If you would like to share a dish to pass, please feel free.

A sign up sheet will be available on the table in the narthex.

Please see George Anderson with any questions you may have.

## August Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 **Dan/Stephanie Landin**
- 2 Jenna Nagel, Bryce Hinsdale, **Kathy/Earl Foulk**
- 4 Ray Cartwright, Harrison Osborne
- 6 **Rex/Jody Marsh**
- 7 Tabetha Butler
- 8 **Lee/Stephonie Kester**
- 9 Janet Osborne, **Jon/Julie Dilley**
- 10 **George/Donna Peterson, Don/Linda Wood**
- 11 Connor Range, **Mike/Dawn Sard**
- 13 George Peterson, Joe Sturges
- 16 Matthew Kolstee
- 17 **John/Pam Brown**
- 18 Dawn Comstock
- 19 Eleanor King, Gerrit Hinsdale, **Bill/Kathy Peck**
- 20 **Chris/Mary Ann Blose, Pam/Jerry Ireland**
- 21 **Dan/Pat Sobolewski**
- 22 George Anderson, Barb Tordella, Kellen Reardon  
**Bill/Amy Caldwell, Shawn/Julie Chapman,  
Bryan/Shelly Rupczyk**
- 23 Bill Peck
- 24 Wendy Trisket, **Peter/Paula Komarek**
- 25 Cole Gleason, Nathan Gleason, **Ken/Katie Braun**
- 27 Kelly Osborne
- 28 Pat Sobolewski
- 29 Elizabeth Baehr, Willa Rupczyk, Glenn Topolski
- 30 Meredith Rupczyk

## September

- 2 **Shawn/Ann Schnars**
- 4 Pam Brown, Jane Nagel, **Sam/Carm Catanese**
- 5 Kim Davis

## God's Groceries Food Pantry (Tina Swineford)

### **WE'RE MOVING!!!!**

The Food Pantry will be moving to the old medical clinic (on the corner of Main and South Streets in Panama) the last week in August. This is a temporary move, due to the CenterPoint building project.

We are going to need trucks, dollies, muscles and whatever else it takes! We have to move the shelving, the stock room and shelving, the freezer and refrigerator, as well as the pantry itself.

Please put this on your calendar and let either Tina Swineford or Kathy Foulk know if you can help.

**Watch for details regarding time and date in the weekly church bulletin.**



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

Now is a great time to start purchasing things like crayons, markers, pencils, sharpeners, glue sticks, and other school related items by taking advantage of the "back to school" savings you will find at many area stores.

Just a nudge to start "stocking" up!

## **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 (pausing until fall)**

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 August.

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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