

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 PUMC and our community is in here... Enjoy!

# Change

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
 a time to be born, and a time to die;
 a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
 a time to kill, and a time to heal;
 a time to break down, and a time to build up;
 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
 a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
 a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
 a time to seek, and a time to lose;
 a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
 a time to tear, and a time to sew;
 a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
 a time to love, and a time to hate;
 a time for war, and a time for peace."

**Ecclesiastes 3:18** 

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.

# CAMPAIGN CORNER

# From Pastor Steve's Desk...(Continued)

I'm the type of person that thrives on change. Actually, let me clarify that. I'm a *change agent* that likes to initiate, plan for, and implement change. Like everyone else, I don't always like change that happens TO me or AROUND me, unless I have something to do with starting it. Are you tracking with me? For all of us, change can be hard, emotionally and physically. Change can even be a spiritual challenge. Yet, change is built into the very rhythm of life itself.

The writer of Ecclesiastes 3 was very aware that there are seasons for everything in our lives. Times to celebrate. Times to mourn. Times to say goodbye or hello. There are even times to stay quiet, speak up, or simply listen. It seems that every time we think things are just the way we'd want them, it's time to change. Lots of people simply refuse to accept it, and sometimes it's for solid reasons. Some proposed changes are either bad ideas, or they are too painful to embrace - forced on us without conversation. I think about the death of someone we love, and change becomes something that isn't in our control.

At Panama UMC, change is happening. It's change we've planned for, begun to resource, and with which we've taken lots of time to think about. Yet, even though all those things are true, it's hard. It's hard to see part of the building torn down to make room for a new space. It's hard to remember, and even harder to try not to forget all the great kingdom work that we've done in the spaces we have. We stop and give thanks for the women and men that have been so faithful for so many years. We think of the children and youth and families that have served Jesus in this place. Change always comes with a price, but change always comes with new opportunities. No matter what the change, God can and will open new doors for years to come, as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our decisions from here. In the doorway of change, we say, "This is the first day of the rest of our lives. May God lead us to a future that is filled with more of Him as we faithfully respond to the Lord Jesus Christ!"

Thank you, all, for your willingness to move forward together in ministry and mission. Remember what has been, give thanks for it all, and offer yourself to God for today and tomorrow! Change us, O God, for Your glory!

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

# **CENTERPOINT**

The spring and summer here at PUMC has been exciting, busy, hectic, and God has blessed us through it all.

There are currently 90 commitments totaling \$877,971.66. During the month of August, an additional \$42,112.40 was received and the total amount received is \$263,139.33.

We thank everyone for your faithful donations.

### JUST A HOUSEKEEPING NOTE:

When using your white envelopes for making CenterPoint donations, please label them as Center-Point. Labeling them as just "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.

# SUNDAY MORNING TEAM for SEPTEMBER

# Ushers

Tim and Tena Dills Peter and Paula Komarek

# **Nursery Helpers** September 3

Birth-2: Kim Davis and Susie Davis 3-4: Andrew Lescynski and Julia Nelson

### September 10

Birth-2: Thea Kester and Lilly Odell 3-4: Amanda Kolstee and Riley Seekings September 17

# Birth-2: Jason and Jolene Ayres

3-4: Kathy Foulk and Tina Swineford September 24

Birth-2: Jessica Keefer and Natalie Odell **3-4:** Betsy Eggleston and Carolyn Hughesman

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!!**

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

In October, Pastor Steve will be leading a new members and baptism course for anyone interu ested. 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 classes will be October 22nd and 29th. 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!

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!

### SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY



Interested in joining the Sunday Morning Hospitality Team? This does not commit you to helping with additional dinners, etc. (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 bake, 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.

## 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.

# BACK TO SCHOOL BASH UPDATE

A great time was had by all Saturday, August 26, at the Panama Central School playground. Members from the Panama Baptist Church, Niobe Baptist Church, Our Lady of the Snows and Panama UMC all came together to minister to the community. Children were welcomed with a new backpack (if needed), and were given tickets to play carnival games. At each game, win or lose, the child received a school supply. All of the extra supplies and backpacks were donated to the school to use throughout the year.

Tabby, Paula and Becky, and the Ashville Library were also on hand to give each child a library card and free books.

Socks were donated by a cousin of Mary Rappole's, so every child was offered a pair of socks. A bountiful lunch of hot dogs, sandwiches, chips, fruit and drink was served.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out that day! It was truly a blessing to those who were helping and to the people of the community.

~ 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.

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

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

# <u>PARISH NURSE</u>

# **GREAT NEWS!**

Jody will be returning to Parish Nurse duties on September 14!!

BP and blood sugars will resume on the first Sunday of October, at an office to be determined.

# Our Sympathy to the family of ...

# Sarah Jeanette Osborne September 8, 1933 - August 10, 2017

Jeanette was baptized and has been a member for PUMC for 58 years. Jeanette was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Arthur Osborne on May 17, 2016. She is survived by her daughter Paula (Peter) Komarek and son Joe (Kelly) Osborne. Her surviving grandchildren include Jonathan (Jessica) Komarek, Matthew (Amanda) Komarek, Bradley (Shirley) Osborne, Corey Osborne and Sarah Osborne. Great Grandchildren include Mason and Elena Komarek and Harrison and Claire Osborne.

A memorial service will be held at the Panama United Methodist Church at a later date. Memorials may be made to the CenterPoint Capital Campaign, c/o Panama United Methodist Church or to the Paul Bridges 4-H Beef Scholarship Fund, c/o The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, 418 Spring Street, Jamestown, NY, 14701.

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.

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Carol Hay

Many of you have heard this "Beatitude" before - "Blessed are the flexible for they will not be bent out of shape." I'm sure you won't find it in Matthew 5 with all the true Beatitudes, but it does seem an appropriate reminder as we enter in the CenterPoint capital construction project.

While the construction crews work their magic, there will be dust and dirt, trucks and trash, miscommunications and inconveniences. At our church council meeting, we agreed the congregation has joint responsibilities to ensure the safety of each person in the church and there will be numerous opportunities to be helpful in so many ways.

We are asking that parents carefully watch and remind their children (especially the little ones who get excited and may not think about dangers) to stay away from machinery, avoid areas temporarily closed off, and be careful in congested spaces. Good advice for all of us! Additionally, we ask adults to alert Craig Vollmer of the Trustees or me, as a part of the church council, if you see something you feel is dangerous, a safety issue, or needs attention. Our contractors will be diligent and do their best to clean up and secure the area, but we must be cognizant of changes and help to ensure the church is a safe place and clean for services as well as all church activities. Reporting a problem may be an easy fix to a potentially dangerous situation.

Just as it takes many people to raise a child, it takes the entire congregation to be watchful and helpful as we go through this building project. And, we must be flexible, adjusting to changes for several months in order to enjoy the outcome - a beautiful new addition to the church building which houses the very best congregation!

# \*\*\*SPECIAL NOTICE\*\*\* CHARGE CONFERENCE VOTE

Pursuant to the requirements of the NYS Supreme Court in securing construction funding for the CenterPoint building project, Pastor Steven Taylor is calling a special Charge Conference to approve a \$1.2M construction loan for the purposes of construction.

The Charge Conference will be held at 8:30am on Sunday, September 10.

Because this is a *Charge* Conference (as opposed to a *Church* Conference), the members of the Church Council will be making the final vote to approve securing the loan. All interested members and constituents are invited to come to this open meeting, without vote.

# **CENTERPOINT Campaign**

Brynne and Kyle Hinsdale

Our CenterPoint campaign has been a tremendous success both spiritually and financially. At this time, \$877,971.66 has been committed to the project with \$197,476 in cash and checks received during FirstFruits Sunday. Praise God!!! These funds have allowed us to proceed forward with our CenterPoint project. Now we must remain faithful to our giving so that we can realize the challenge ahead of us.

As we move forward with this project, you have begun to see activity around the church, the most immediate and obvious has been the removal of the trees on the Riddell property and decisions regarding the removal of the house that must be completed prior to construction.

Brynne and I would like also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your involvement in the Scriptural Funding Campaign and the sacrifices made. Our job was made easy because of the support and work put in by all of you. The past four months has been a blessing to both of us and we are excited about what God has in store for us as a congregation over the course of the next 10 months as we take the next steps in growing the Kingdom of God.

Blessings, Kyle and Brynne

## 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.

# **PUMC Annual GOLF OUTING**



WHEN: September 9 3:00pm

WHERE: Timber Creek

COST: \$20 per person (Includes golf and cart)

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.

# 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.

# September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Andrew Foulk, Shawn/Ann Schnars
- 3 Brian/Janice Franklin
- 2 Pam Brown, Jane Nagel, Sam/Carm Catanese
- 5 Kim Davis, Steve/Stacy Taylor
- 6 Duane/Emily Baker
- 7 Kila Kester, **Bert/Roberta Anderson**
- 10 Julie Dilley
- 11 Casey McGaffick
- 13 Robert Cartwright, James/Ashley Dempsey
- 15 Peter Komarek, Joan Miktuk, *Jeff/Larissa Enlow*
- 16 Alyssa Woods
- 17 Roberta Anderson, *Christopher/Carolyn Hughesman*
- 18 Aiden Keefer, Andrew Lescynski
- 19 Daniel Cartwright, Carrie Munsee
- 23 Tony Salk, Lester/Wyona Wevers
- 24 Jonathan/Jessica Komarek
- 26 Todd/Amanda Kolstee
- 28 Charlie Auge, Dave Hinderer, Michael
- 29 Greg Edwards, Jack/Linda Sturges

## Looking ahead to October.....

- 1 Matthew Komarek, Glenn/Melissa Topolski
- 2 Charlotte Baehr, Dave Calcaterra, Amy Caldwell
- 3 Pam Ireland
- 4 Steve Halpainy, Pat/Joyce Dole, Betsy/Jason Baehr
- 5 Kyle Hinsdale, Ariana Range
- 6 Levi Munsee, Krista Odell, **Don/Tabetha Butler**
- 7 Jim/Linda Roraback

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**

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.

<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
 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 www.facebook.com/panamaum Please check the calendar inside for weekly meetings and activities for the month of September

> Cornerstone District Office Christ First UMC 663 Lakeview Ave. Jamestown, NY 14701 (716) 665-2423

Church Phone (716) 782-4031
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