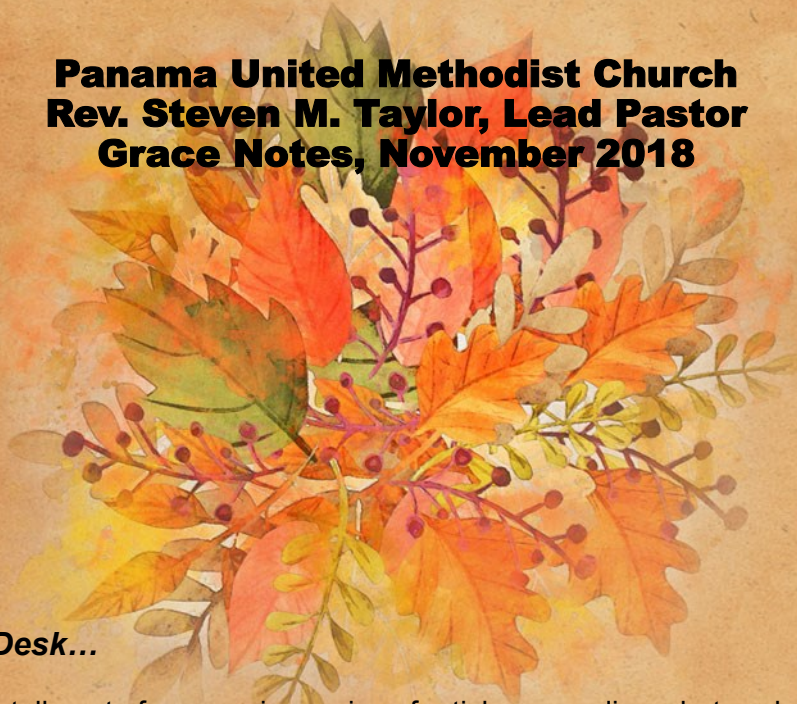


**Panama United Methodist Church
Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
Grace Notes, November 2018**



From Pastor Steve's Desk...

This is the next installment of an ongoing series of articles regarding what we believe, why we believe it, and why it matters. **In the United Methodist Church, there is change coming.** Within our global denomination, we have some serious divergent views on the authority of scripture, human sexuality, and what that means in the world and in our church. We aren't sure what the changes will look like, but we know that in order to respond to God's call to be the church in the 21st century, the anchor of our doctrinal identity, we need to know what that is. So, I invite you to join me on the journey for God's glory and to build up the church.

...on doctrine...

Part 6 - Of the Old Testament

We find ourselves at an interesting part of the doctrinal confession of the United Methodist Church - what about the Old Testament? You've heard it said that the Old Testament is, well, *old*, and doesn't pertain to Christians. Maybe you've heard it said that the Old Testament is replaced by the New Testament or that somehow, it's in conflict with it.

Well, this article will hopefully clear up any confusion regarding what we believe. This is important because of the primacy of scripture for the life of the Christian church, including the Old and New Testaments, as we learned last month. Here's what the United Methodist *Articles of Religion* has to say:

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New; for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man, being both God and Man. Wherefore they are not to be heard who feign that the old fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the law given from God by Moses as touching ceremonies and rites doth not bind Christians, nor ought the civil precepts thereof of necessity be received in any commonwealth; yet notwithstanding, no Christian whatsoever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral.

Now, there are some pretty foreign words in the *Article*, yet the point is: we are as bound by God's intent for the world as presented in the Old Testament, as we are bound by the Gospel, the letters of Paul, and the books of the New Testament. In particular, we are bound by God's commandments contained in Exodus 20, *The Ten Commandments*. If you haven't read those in a while, or reviewed them in your mind and heart, today's the day. The mighty acts of God told in the Old Testament, His continuous rescue of His people, God's mercy and forgiveness, the provision and leadership - all these things are facts of our lives as well.

The difference between the Old and New Testaments is the fact that we have the living, guiding, redeeming Jesus Christ in the flesh to once and for all satisfy the relationship between God and His people for those who choose it. Jesus was a man of the Old Testament! He said that he did not come to abolish the Law (the parts of the Old Testament pertaining to the rules and religion), but to COMPLETE the Law for all time. We are living into the completion of the Law of God to the people of Israel when we accept Jesus as Savior, live by

(continued on next page)

From Pastor Steve's Desk...(continued)

God's moral law in the Ten Commandments, and learn and grow into disciples by knowing both the Old and New Testaments.

My prayer is that we will see the whole of scripture as the inspired and directive Word of God and that it may be life for us. In addition, we must be obedient to the God who wrote it, no matter how the culture around us may want us to change it. May God pour out complete and fulfilling blessings on us as we embrace the whole of scripture for the transformation of the world!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Next...*Part 7 - Of Original or Birth Sin*

You're invited to A NIGHT OF WORSHIP!

Thanksgiving is a blessed time of year for families and friends, the church and the community. It's a time to reflect and give thanks to God for all He has brought us through and for the hope we have in Jesus. On SUNDAY< NOVEMBER 18th at 7pm. The Panama UMC family will respond. We will GATHER and WORSHIP! We will be inviting our community, the churches, the businesses, and everyone we meet to come and celebrate God in worship. We will have lots of music (Praise Team, Celebration Choir, and more)! We will hear God's promises to prosper His people! Come and invite your friends and family to this Night of Worship!

Coming the Advent: Prepare the Way!

This December, the Panama UM faith community will be engaging in a four-week experience called Prepare the Way! Daily devotionals, small group study materials, and more will be available near the end of November. Pastor Steve and Stacy are offering a bible study in their home on Monday evenings at 6:30pm starting November 26th. All are welcome (sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table in the Lobby). More information will be coming soon! Let's celebrate!

Blue Christmas Worship

On Sunday, December 9th, at 6pm, you're invited to a special worship service that will help all who are struggling with finding and maintaining JOY in the Christmas season.

The message of hope in the coming of Christ will invite us to come to the manger and see Jesus. As we do, we will be filled with the love of God in Christ Jesus. All are invited to come to this special worship experience.

Christmas Eve Worship Announcement

This Christmas Eve, we will worship at 4pm and 11 pm.

At 4pm, we will gather to praise the Lord and experience the Christmas Story in an upbeat celebration worship experience. We are planning this worship service for everyone to attend, but especially invite those who can't come out late at night, those with children who will be tucked in by 11pm, or anyone who wants an additional chance to worship on that special day.

At our 11pm Candlelight worship, we'll reflect on the love poured out on the world through Jesus coming as the incarnation of God! See you there!

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.

SUNDAY Morning Team - NOVEMBER

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless
Craig and Marge Vollmer

Nursery Helpers **November 4**

Birth-2: Stacy Taylor and Natalie Odell
November 11

Birth-2: Adam and Tory Irgang
November 18

Birth-2: Susie Davis and Jessica Keefer
November 25

Birth-2: Carolyn Hughesman and Lilly Odell

Thank you for volunteering to take care of our little ones during the worship service. We appreciate you! Currently, we are scheduling people to serve in one nursery only. During this time, if and when it becomes apparent that we need an older nursery, too, we will be asking for additional help on that Sunday morning. 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.

A CONNECTIONS Opportunity **for YOU!**

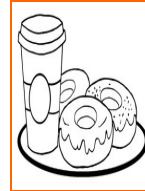
The Connections team is looking for volunteers to come to the Connections after school program and spend some time with the kids.

Do you have a craft you'd like to share? A story? A new game to play?

Please contact Stacy Taylor if you would be willing to share your time with the beautiful children who come to our church every day after school.

FREE Blood Pressures and Fasting Blood Sugars (fast 4 hours prior) are offered at PUMC, the first Sunday of every month in Pastor's office.

Please enter the Pastor's office via the hallway door across from the coat rack



Sunday Morning **Coffee Hour**

The Hospitality Team is looking for some help on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School Hour. Sunday morning duties basically include making coffee/tea and keeping the pots going from 8:30am until 10:15am and then cleaning up the "kitchen". Light refreshments (including healthy options) are also appreciated. These can be homemade or store bought. Please stop in to the "kitchen" on Sunday morning to sign up! Thank you, in advance, for your help.

We are getting excited about the "café" area just inside the entrance of our new building. We are not sure of our needs at this point but we will be looking for more helpers. We are hopeful that YOU will want to be a part of it!

This time of year tends to find you in your kitchen baking for the holidays. We are asking for some donations for the freezer in the "kitchen"...breads, cookies, coffee braids ...or whatever you might be making that would freeze well. They can be brought in at any time. If you put them in the freezer during the week, please label them as "Hospitality". We will be sure to put them to good use some Sunday morning. We thank you in advance!

CAMPAIGN CORNER

OCTOBER CONSTRUCTION PICTURES

CENTERPOINT



*We received \$15, 753.67 during the month of September.
That makes a total contribution to date of \$514,684.83.
This total is 57% of our new goal of \$903,376.57.
We thank you for your faithful giving!*

**W.A.M.
Women and Missions**

If you aren't busy on the second
Monday of the month, **W.A.M.**
is now meeting at NOON
at PUMC!

Please bring your own lunch and
any ideas on how to be the hands
and feet of Jesus.

Join us for this time of fellowship .
We are still collecting soup labels and
box tops, postage stamps and change.

If you know of anyone who has been in
the hospital or may need some help
with meals, please let Kathy Foulk
know and we will arrange for some
meals to be taken in.



**God's
Groceries Food Pantry**
(at the 4 corners of Panama)

Monday Morning: 9-10am
Monday Evening: 6-7pm
Thursday Evening: 5-7pm

Questions? See Tina Swineford

...Missions and Outreach...

WHITE GIFT FUND

Are you aware of a community need?
We have a White Gift Fund with available min-
istry dollars.

If you know of anyone with a need,
please talk to Pastor Steve.

NOVEMBER Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Mike Sard, Cindy Sturges, Joel Wiggers
- 2 Chris Comstock
- 3 ***Tom/Sally Baer***
- 4 Tina Akam
- 5 Chris Blose
- 8 Elena Komarek
- 9 Lisa Edwards, Linda Gleason, Logan Hickman
- 10 Erica Ireland, Corinne Ireland, Katie Braun
- 11 Marley Seekings, April VanBrunt, Abby Taylor
- 12 Jean Edwards, Connor Hickman
- 15 Sharon Passarelli, Jaik Halpainy
- 16 Corey King, Christine Olson, Genesis Moore
- 17 Mert Osborne
- 19 Stephanie Landin
- 20 Peter Butler
- 21 Evan Lescynski
- 22 Natalie Woods
- 25 Kim Coleman, Mel Eggleston (II), Gay Ostrander,
Barb Trisket
- 26 Mary Lou Garfield, Gloria Scholton
- 27 Jack Sturges, Stacy Taylor, ***Tim/Tena Dills***
- 29 Kevin Parkman, ***Adam/Tia Kester***
- 30 Fran Sard

December...a look ahead

- 1 Bert Anderson, Brianna Marsh
- 3 Judy Parkman
- 5 Rob Peck, Paige Weise, ***Dennis/Cindy Furlow***
- 6 Eloise Smith

If the names of your immediate family are not
included on our monthly birthday/anniversary list,
please leave a note in the newsletter box in the hall-
way or let Debbie in the office know. (First and last
names as well as birthday and or anniversary dates).
We would like to include you and yours!

Food Pantry Angels

Food Pantry Angels have been
available on the Christmas Tree in the
Narthex.

If you picked one, please purchase
a gift for the age and sex of the child
whose number is on the back. Please re-
turn your gift, with the tag attached, to the
Food Pantry bin in the hallway
(UNWRAPPED) **by November 18th.**

Thank you so much for helping to
bless the children of the pantry. You will
be blessed, as well.

C O N N E C T I O N S

**We are in need of snacks for our
after school program.
We average 20 children
per day so we use a
LOT of snacks!**

**Thanks in advance for
your generosity!**

One Pan No Peek Chicken and Rice

From Parish Nurse Jody

5 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
2 boxes Zatarans long grain & wild rice mix
1 can cream of celery soup
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1 1/4 soup can of water
1 box Lipton onion soup mix (2 packets)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all ingredients except the chicken in a 9x13 baking pan. Mix well.

Place chicken evenly on top of rice mixture. Sprinkle with onion soup mix. Cover tightly with aluminum foil and bake 1 hour and 45 minutes. Remove from oven and let rest for 5 minutes.

NOTE: Don't open the oven to peek at the chicken and for sure, don't remove the foil!!

LUNCH BUNCH

**Don't forget LUNCH BUNCH
on
NOVEMBER 21 at
Panama Baptist Church
At 11:45am.**

**QUESTIONS?
Contact Kathy Foulk**

Discipleship Corner.....Wednesday School Stacy Taylor

The "Wednesday School" Adult Class at PUMC continues to meet each Wednesday at 3:30pm, even amongst the dust in Pastor Steve's office. We have a good time with laughter and thought provoking questions and answers.

This fall we've been studying Genesis, chapter by chapter. Who knew there would be so much to talk about in a story we've heard all our life? This is why Bible study is so important. Sometimes we learn things from other people or read something we haven't read before. It's amazing!

Please join us on Wednesday afternoons at 3:30pm at the church - or on Sunday morning at 9am when we have classes for all ages.

God asks us to read and learn His word. What better way than in a study where fresh ideas are possible?

WALKING CLUB...

with Parish Nurse Jody!

WHERE?

Panama Central School halls

WHEN?

Monday nights from 6-7pm
Now that the evenings are becoming a little cooler, we will be meeting near the snack bar near the North gym for indoor walking.

Come and join us! We typically end up breaking off into 2 groups, depending on individual speed.

See you there!



*Bible Quizzing
October 27, 2018*



We had a great day of quizzing in Hornell. Living Water (PUMC) finished 3rd out of 10 teams. Gracie tied for 6th and Josh finished 8th out of all 57 quizzers! Our rookies placed 2nd, 3rd & 6th out of all rookies! We are very proud of our team, not just because they are winning awards but because they are diligently studying God's word and meditating on its truth. They will be working on John chapters 3,7,8,9 & 10 for the November 17th quiz.



**SANTISUK ENGLISH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP
JANUARY 8-MARCH 9, 2019
BANGKOK, THAILAND**

Jon, Becky, Josh, and Gracie will be going back to Bangkok, Thailand next January to teach conversational English to Thai young people. They will be participating in teaching English in the classroom and while playing games and eating meals with them, playing pickleball and badminton, worship services, and cell groups. The Cables ask for your support in prayer, following them on their facebook page: Cable Family Santisuk English School, and as the Lord leads, financially. The trip costs \$7,000 for the four of them to be in Thailand for 2 months, and they only need \$2,500 more to be fully funded for all that they will be doing. If the Lord has put on your heart to help them financially, please give to the Panama United Methodist Church and put on the check or envelope, "Thailand Mission Trip".

Mark your calendars....

- November 18** - Harvest of Praise and Worship; 7pm
- November 25** - Decorate for Advent and Christmas; 6-9pm
- December 9** - Blue Christmas Worship; 6pm
- December 16** - Joy Unspeakable Joy Musical; 10:15am and 4pm
- December 11** - PUMC Charge Conference; 6:30pm
- December 24** - Family Christmas Eve Worship; 4pm
- December 24** - Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship; 11pm
- August 2019** - Mission Trip to Red Bird Mission

The following was submitted to me by Wyona Wevers with this note...

"Is this newsletter worthy? I think every parent, guardian, grandparent, etc., should read it."

I finally had room in the October newsletter to use it but had trouble putting it online so I thought I would resubmit it for November. It comes from lovewhatmatters.com. Thank you, Wyona, for sending it to me to include in Grace Notes...and yes, I think it is 'newsletter worthy'.

"I don't want to raise church kids.

That's right.

I DO NOT want to raise church kids.

Matter of fact, it's one of my biggest fears.

That they would go to church every week of their lives and never experience what the whole purpose of the church is really about.

That they would come and learn about God, but never actually seek and find Him for themselves.

That they would come and learn the stories of the Bible, but never realize that they, too, are a Bible story waiting to happen. That their life is woven into the tapestry of life that God has created and that they are here for a greater purpose.

That they would think that God is kept inside four walls.

That they would sing the songs but never have more than a shallow appreciation for the words they sing. That those words, written by sinners turned saints by the blood of Jesus, would never penetrate their heart.

That they would sing of the light, but never know the light.

That they would hear about grace, but never know how desperately they need it.

That they would learn about mercy, but never know the One who bestows it.

That they would think worship is something that just happens on Sunday mornings and not every minute of their life.

That they would just up and walk away from church one day and never return.

No, no, no.

I want to raise Jesus kids.

That they would come to church BECAUSE they know Jesus.

That they would see themselves as a part of the church, the body of Christ. That they would work together with their fellow believers to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community they serve.

That they would see themselves in the story that was written at the beginning of time.

That they would look to Jesus when they make a mistake and be overcome with gratitude at the grace they are given.

That they would wake up in the morning thankful for the day and lay their head down every night assured of their eternal home.

That they would face the storms of life tethered to the One who came to save them.

That they would know that they never walk alone and their lives are being held in the hands of God.

That they would reach for the stars because they know the One who created them and that He has a purpose for their lives. That if they seek Him first that purpose will be fulfilled.

That they will look up when they fall down. Reach out when they need help trusting that He is always reaching back to us.

That they will be like oaks planted by His stream of living water and bare much fruit.

That they would look at their neighbors and see the image bearers of God and love them fiercely.

That they would look out at this world and see hope when everyone else sees hopelessness. That they would share that hope and bring His light into every dark corner they encounter.

Yes, yes, yes!

I want to raise Jesus kids!"

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
steven.taylor@panamaum.org
Candy Scarem, Director of Student Ministries
candy.scarem@panamaum.org
Debbie Johnson, Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst.
debbie.johnson@panamaum.org
Julie Nagel, Music Director/Accompanist
Krista Odell, Accompanist
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse
Jon Cable, Custodian
Sandy Crossley, Connections
Joan Monroy, Connections
Tara Hosier, 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, W and Th

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 November.**

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



**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**