



GRACENOTES - February 2018
Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
Panama United Methodist Church

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Welcome to GraceNotes! 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!

Rehab

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Building a new house is usually easier than rehabilitating one that may have good 'bones' but has fallen into disrepair over the years. Updating paper covered electrical wiring buried deep in the walls, removing plaster and lath walls in clouds of dust, tearing down tired wallpaper, and patching uneven corners are just some of the things that pose a challenge to making something new again. Yet, what we have is also familiar and known, even though it's in need of rejuvenation.

The promise in 2 Corinthians 5:17 is that no matter where we are right now in our faith, with Christ active and alive in us, there is new creation - daily or even minute-to-minute. As followers of Jesus, we're called to change. We're called to follow Jesus closer this year than we did last year. We're called to be more forgiving, more holy, less greedy, less sinful, and more like Jesus this week than last week. If we're not, then we're putting some kind of barrier in the way of the Holy Spirit's work in us because the Spirit doesn't ever leave things the way they are.

Rehab is a process by which we honestly assess our spiritual lives and then allow God to do the heavy lifting in whatever areas of our lives He is choosing to change. It may be that there's an area of your life that you're unaware of that needs transformation. Maybe there's a relationship that needs reconciliation. Attitude adjustment is always on the table. Lent is the perfect time to stop and reflect on God's still small voice encouraging us to rehab. Sometimes, that rehab is minor. Other times, it's a major overhaul. Whatever the area, now is the time.

The 40 days of Lent are a time for starting something new. You can fast something if you want, but adding something can be more inspiring. As we walk together through these 40 days, may the Holy Spirit be ever-present and working in you, young or old, male or female, big or little. Whatever the Holy Spirit leads you to, there is hope in Jesus - His life, death, and resurrection! Let's rehab!

In His Grip,
Pastor Steve

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.

Don't forget to pick up your REHAB Lenten Devotional

This year, during Lent (February - April), several people from Panama UMC and Park UMC will be providing daily devotionals for us to read and on which we will reflect. Our Lenten Theme is REHAB, so we pray that as you read and reflect on these daily readings and devotionals, the Holy Spirit will do some renewing and refreshing in you! These devotionals will be available on February 11 in worship...don't forget to get your copy!

Ash Wednesday Worship

On Wednesday, February 14, we will kick-off the season that leads to Easter (April 1) by worshipping. This day is known as Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It falls 40 weekdays before Easter (Sundays aren't counted in the 40 days of Lent). Ash Wednesday takes its name from ashes, a traditional Jewish sign of penitence. In some traditions, palm fronds or palm crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned, and then the ashes are applied to the worshiper's forehead on Ash Wednesday as a token of their commitment to observe a 'holy Lent.'

Ancient Christian tradition was to observe Lent with fasting (a discipline of going without food at certain times), study, self-examination, confession and prayer. During this time, candidates for Holy Baptism were prepared for baptism on Easter Eve. Many churches continue those traditions.

Join us for worship at 7pm on Wednesday, February 14!

HOLY WEEK 2018 (March 25 - April 1)

3.25.18 ***Palm Sunday*** 10:15am

CenterPoint Groundbreaking Ceremony; 11:15am

Community Easter Egg Hunt (date/time/place TBD)

3.29.18 ***One in Christ Worship*** (Holy Thursday); 6:30pm;

REG LENNA CIVIC CENTER, Jamestown; Come and join our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the region.

3.30.18 ***Good Friday Worship***; 7pm; Panama UMC

3.31.18 ***Walk to the Crosses Worship***; 6pm; corner of Randolph Road and North Street, Panama; (*uneven terrain*)

4.1.18 ***Resurrection Sunday!*** Worship at 8:15am and 10:15am; Two identical services will be offered. It will be a great morning of celebration and fellowship! Come worship the risen Christ!

4.8.18 ***Confirmation and Baptism Sunday!*** 10:15am

SUNDAY MORNING TEAM for February

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless

Ted and Sharon Passarelli

Nursery Helpers

February 4

Birth-2: Tina Akam and Gracie Cable

February 11

Birth-2: Jenn Johnson and Dawn Sard

February 18

Birth-2: Ken and Katie Braun

February 25

Birth-2: Julia Nelson and Alex Scarem

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!!

Tax Statements
are available from an usher
or
pick yours up at the
Welcome Table.

LENTEN Small Group Study

Jon Cable

Please join us on Monday nights at 6:45pm starting February 19th for the small group study called, "Rehab". It is a 5 week study during Lent that will compliment Pastor Steve's sermon series by the same title. "Rehab" is a study that will deal with what Pastor Steve preaches on and will also guide us into a deeper walk with Christ.

Please join us for this short term study.

Miscellaneous Messages

Stacy Taylor

CAMPING NEWS:

It was a sad day when I realized there would be no Souper Sundae on the first weekend of February this year. Sad, indeed! However, we still have kids that will be attending Christian summer camp this year - and PUMC would like to do its best to help fund this for all the children. If you would want to help - please designate "camping" on your envelope. If you want an ice cream sundae in exchange for this donation - just let me know, and I'll see what I can arrange!

But, alas, we are very excited for the construction of our new building - and Souper Sundae **WILL** return in 2019!

VBS:

We are thinking outside the box (building) this year for VBS. Our initial planning meeting will be held on Monday, February 19, at 6pm. If you are interested in helping with VBS this year, please let Stacy know.

CONNECTIONS:

What a blessing Connections continues to be! We regularly have around 20 kids in attendance. Thank you for your snack donations. Please consider items such as apples, cheese sticks, applesauce, fruit cups, carrot sticks, or meat sticks as snack donations. Bring them in anytime and place them in the tub by the coat racks. The more unique, healthy and fun - the better.

THANK YOU!

SIDE NOTE: No animal crackers or goldfish, please. Idea postcards are available on the Welcome Table.



CENTERPOINT

CAMPAIGN CORNER

The total amount committed to the CenterPoint Campaign, through the end of January 2018, is \$875,756.66. A total of \$27,851.67 was received during the month of January, with total donations to this point in time of \$320,489.28. Praise God!

We are grateful for the faithfulness of the congregation to the campaign.

HOUSEKEEPING NOTE:

You may have noticed that there is a "line item" for CenterPoint on our 2018 weekly giving envelopes. You can use this for your CenterPoint giving or continue to use the pink envelopes or utilize the convenience of online giving. In addition, if you utilize a separate plain envelope (pink) for CenterPoint donations, please make sure that your name is on it so we can assure that proper credit is given to you. If the donation is in cash rather than a check, we have no way of knowing to whom it belongs. Thank you!

*****If you have not received weekly giving envelopes, and/or you would like some, please call the office and let Debbie know, or see Cindy Cartwright on Sunday morning for help.*****



Sunday School Fun

Becky Cable

My Sunday School Class of 3rd-6th grade consists of all boys, which can be challenging but also delightful. We had been learning why God's word can be trusted and we had just read John 21:24-25 which says that John's testimony is true and that Jesus did many more things than what John wrote down, but it was the Holy Spirit who inspired him to write what he did. It was like John was giving the highlights. And one of the boys exclaimed, "It's like Sport Center! They don't have time to replay the whole game, so they only show the best and most important plays!"

I am thankful for those children God has given me.....for I know that HE is teaching me through them, even though I am the one who is supposed to be doing the teaching.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Classes are in full swing and there is room for you! Classes are available for every age and our teachers are prepared and excited to share the enduring truths of God's Word.

Pre-K to Grade 2: Candy Scarem

Grades 3-6: Becky Cable

Grades 7-12: Adam and Tory Irgang

Adults: George Anderson, Horizontal Jesus by Dr. Tony Evans

Adults: Jon Cable, Answers Bible Curriculum

Adults: Denny and Cindy Furlow, Complicated Topics and Passages; searching the scriptures for God to reveal the answers

Adults: Stacy Taylor, meeting Wednesdays-3:30pm

Adult Women: Marge Vollmer, Battlefield of the Mind by Joyce Meyer

Come early, grab a cup of coffee and join us!

Blood pressures and sugars will be offered the first Sunday of every month in Pastor's office. Please use the office door across from the coat rack.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Carol Hay

If I were able to ask each person on a given Sunday, "Why did you join or why do you attend the Panama United Methodist Church?", some of those responses might include - it is convenient, my family has always come here, I like Pastor Steve, my friends attend, and a few would say because I am a Methodist. We have choices when it comes to attending church and our reasons for going one place over another vary greatly.

I was raised in a Methodist Church - my family attended on a regular basis and we were part of *everything*! I went to Adrian - a Methodist College. If you ask me what makes us Methodists, I would mention John Wesley, a faith rooted in God's Grace, a structure that focuses on the local church, and the Commandment to go out and make disciples of all men. Methodists share attributes with other denominations, so a careful comparison is necessary to accurately define the differences in beliefs.

We are all well aware of the diversities in our world - race, beliefs, values, expectations; the list is endless. I prefer to look at similarities. We all want justice, peace, and the ability to live a meaningful life. We want to live in hope, not fear. We want opportunities to come together rather than exist alone. We want to learn from the past and invest in the future.

As with any organization, the United Methodist Church has undergone many changes since the mid 1700s. Methodists were separate churches labeled as Wesleyan, Episcopal, Evangelical, and Brethren and then we came together as the United Methodists. We will continue to experience changes and we need to remember we are all God's children, we are to love each other, and our similarities are more important than our differences.

No matter your reason, we're glad you are part of the Panama United Methodist Church. As part of the United Methodist Church, you are connected to people all over the world who believe in God's grace and the goodness in others. With God's guidance, the Church Council will continue to perform our administrative responsibilities with input from every board, committee and team represented. If you have questions or concerns related to PUMC, share them and we'll find answers and solutions.

INDOOR WALKING

with Parish Nurse Jody!

WHERE?

Panama Central School

WHEN?

Beginning Monday, February 5th
from 6-7pm

Meet at the Concession Stand

Wear comfortable clothing
and walking shoes

We will walk upstairs and will
break into groups according to
walking speed.

See you there!



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 Julia, Pam or Debbie

This does not tie you into an every week commitment.
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, welcom-
ing face newcomers encounter when they
first enter God's house in Panama.



**W.A.M.
(Women. And. Missions)**
Kathy Foulk

Just a reminder that W.A.M. will not meet again until April.

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 know and we will arrange for some meals to be taken in.

CONNECTIONS

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



God's Gro-
ceries Food Pantry
(at the 4 corners of Panama)

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

Questions? See Tina Swineford

February Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Joel Keefer
- 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Eckman
- 3 Eric Scolton, Anna VandeVelde
- 4 Willson Baer, Meghan Price, Howie Wheeler
- 5 Jeff Enlow, Bill Schneider
- 6 Carl Davis III, Brenda Ireland, Braden Topolski
- 8 Alexandra Baer, Gail Dallas
- 11 Anna Cartwright
- 12 Devin Ireland, Paige Munson, Richard King
- 13 Trudy Anderson, Joe Edwards, Emily Baker
- 14 Marissa Topolski
- 16 Haley Holmberg, Bob Tordella
- 18 Dean Sprague
- 19 Natalie Odell
- 20 Adam Rupczyk, Diane Johnson, Averie Seekings
- 21 Scotty James, Wyona Wevers, Leah Irgang
- 24 Corinne Edwards, Joan Hinderer
- 25 Sara Waller
- 26 John Elfvin, Bryce Ireland, Emily King, Mark Akam
- 27 Chase Hartnett, Marcia King
- 28 Zoe Kester
- 29 Briana Johnson

A look ahead to March...

- 1 Dylan Peck, ***Keith/Cindy Miller***
- 8 Jennifer Johnson, Wende Lescynski
- 9 Sally Baer, Gregory Ireland

SUNDAY FLOWERS

Please sign up on the 2018 flower calendar if you would like flowers placed in church to honor a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The calendar can be found on the bulletin board by the "kitchen" door.

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 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 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.

**Discipleship is a lifestyle filled with relationships;
a life of pouring yourself out for others.**

What is a Scholarship?

Winston Simplified Dictionary #3: financial support for a student supplied by an educational institution or by an individual; **New Vest Pocket, Webster's Dictionary #2:** money given to help a student

Hart-Button Pastor & Missionary Scholarship Fund **(Originated 1994)**

The Memorial Scholarship Fund is in memory of Lawrence D. Hart, his parents, Clayton S. and Norah S. Hart, and his aunt, Edith S. Button.

The purpose of the Memorial Scholarship Fund is to provide financial assistance to dedicated members of the Panama United Methodist Church, who have felt the call to go into Christian Service, either as a United Methodist pastor or a United Methodist missionary.

The Memorial Scholarship Fund will be managed by the Panama United Methodist Church Finance Committee. The Finance Committee and Barbara D. Hart, as long as she lives, will make all decisions as to who may receive financial assistance and the yearly amount to be awarded to each applicant.

Any Panama United Methodist Church member over the age of 17 years, who has been a member for at least two years, and is dedicated to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a pastor or missionary, may apply. Financial assistance from the scholarship fund will be awarded for study in a United Methodist related college, seminary or two year preparatory college.

Applicant will be awarded assistance in the form of a grant. However, the grant is contingent on the applicant performing five years of Christian service after completion of his/her education. If the applicant fails to perform the mandatory service, repayment of funds is required. The depletion of the fund is not to exceed \$5000 per year. This amount may be awarded to an individual or to multiple persons within the year. This amount is not a guarantee, nor should it be an expectation, of the award. Grant value will be determined individually and annually. Requestor will apply by application and interview with the Finance Committee.

Any interested persons who wish to support this Memorial Scholarship Fund are welcomed and appreciated. It is my wish that this Memorial Scholarship Fund be updated and printed in the January issue of the church newsletter each year.

In my Precious Savior's Name,
Barbara Hart
February 2018

Mission Team Highlights....St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

Ted and Sharon Passarelli

A message from St. Pauly Textile, Inc.:

Thank you for continuing to collaborate with us at the St. Pauly Textile clothing drop-off shed project! In 2017, roughly 12,826 garments of clothing were donated to your shed. This was enough to clothe an estimated 1,555 people. This clothing is being used right now by people in one or more of 44 different countries (including the US) to which our clothing is likely to have been donated this past year.

Your congregation raised \$767.33 in 2017 through hosting this shed.

We ask that you continue to spread the word about the clothing shed to other community members. Thank you for your support, and please feel free to reach out to us at any time!

STRONGER.....TOGETHER.....in PRAYER

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

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, 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 February.

Cornerstone District Office

Christ First UMC

663 Lakeview Ave.

Jamestown, NY 14701

(716) 665-2423

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