

**GRACE NOTES - April 2018**  
**Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor**  
**Panama United Methodist Church**

***From Pastor Steve's Desk...***

Welcome to 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 PUMC is in here...enjoy!

***But, the tomb was empty!***

Each of the Gospel writers has an account of the empty tomb of Jesus on Easter morning. In each case, women and men went to the tomb in grief. The women went with the purpose of anointing the body of Jesus, which they weren't able to do properly before Jesus' body was placed in the tomb. In each case, no matter why they went, they all had the same reaction. They said, "...but, the tomb was empty." They didn't all say that, but they went with one expectation, from different places and with different motives, and they went away with one, single message: *The tomb was empty.*

Easter is an incredible day in the life of the church. In fact, without Easter and the bodily resurrection of Jesus, there would be no church and those of us who gather in the name of Jesus would simply experience what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:14, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." Easter is THAT critical to God's story!

As disciples, let me ask you: From whence are you coming to the tomb, today? Are your expectations such that Jesus is still dead? Or are you coming with the full assurance of Jesus' words...that He's been raised from the dead and is alive forevermore? Are you ready to embrace the fact that the tomb is empty and be changed? See, it doesn't matter from where you're coming to the empty tomb. It matters, though, that you're there, and that it changes you. Let the empty tomb change you again this Easter. In order to do that, let the cross be God's final word of his love and on your sin. Let Jesus be your Lord and Savior...King! Let the wonder of God's story echo from Easter to Pentecost and beyond. Every day, say, "Yes...but the tomb is empty." "Yes, I'm tired of the struggle, but the tomb is empty!" "Yes, I'm broken, but the tomb is empty!" Fill in the dots for your own life. Then, come to the tomb today...and leave transformed forever! Happy Easter!

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.

### **Mark Your Calendar...**

- 4.1.18 **Christ Arose Worship!** 8:15am and 10:15am with a Continental breakfast served in the lobby from 9-10am. It will be a great morning of celebration and fellowship! Come worship the risen Christ!
- 4.8.18 **Confirmation and Baptism Sunday!** 10:15am
- 4.13.18 **Pool Party** for everyone! PCS pool; 6-8pm; watch for additional information
- 4.14.18 **Spring Cleaning Work Day** for all; 8am-3pm
- 5.3.18 **National Day of Prayer Breakfast;** 6:30am
- 5.20.18 **Pastor Ron Qualley**, VOH, here to speak

### **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@chautauquamachine.com; 782-2775

#### **Band of Brothers**

Craig Vollmer  
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month; 7pm; craig.vollmer@gmail.com; 763-0879

#### **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.**

## **SUNDAY Morning Team - APRIL**

### **Ushers**

Darlene Fulton and Kathy Foulk  
Howie and Jan Wheeler

### **Nursery Helpers**

#### **April 1**

**Birth-2:** Andrew Lescynski and Natalie Odell

#### **April 8**

**Birth-2:** Thea Kester and Kylie Schnars

#### **April 15**

**Birth-2:** Jessica Keefer and Amanda Kolstee

#### **April 22**

**Birth-2:** Carolyn Hughesman and Riley Seekings

#### **April 29**

**Birth-2:** Kathy Foulk and Tina Swineford

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!!**

**Come and check out the**

**\*\*\*\*\*LUNCH BUNCH\*\*\*\*\***

**Find it on the April calendar  
and make plans to join us!**

### **Vacation Bible School**

The VBS team is “thinking outside the walls” to make plans for this year’s VBS. The theme is Built for a Purpose. Each day will focus on 4 themes: loving, learning, serving and telling.

In anticipation of PUMC construction, VBS 2018 will be held at Panama Central School July 8-11 (Sunday—Wednesday) from 6-8pm (note shorter time period). We are excited about our new ideas and look forward to this fabulous week!

The next VBS meeting will be April 24 at 6pm. Come and join us!

### **Women And Missions (W.A.M.)**

WAM will resume meeting this month. If you aren’t busy on the second Monday of the month, come to the Panama Diner at 11:45am and have lunch with us!

### **CONNECTIONS:**

What a blessing Connections continues to be! We regularly have around 20 kids in attendance. Thank you for your snack donations. Please use the list below for snack suggestions. You can bring them in anytime and place them in the tub by the coat racks. The more unique, healthy and fun - the better.

THANK YOU!

**Ritz, Townhouse or Club Crackers**

**Bugles**

**Cereal (any kind)**

**Graham Crackers**

**Granola Bars**

**Cheese Balls**

**Ranch Dressing**

**Popcorn (that we can pop)**

**Peanut Butter**

**Oranges**

**Fruit snacks**

**Carrots**

**Popcorn**

**Chips**

**Pretzels**

**Pudding**

**Chex Mix**

**Jello Cups**

**Cookies (any kind)**

**Yogurt**

**Apples**

**Grapes**

**Celery**

**Juice**

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

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.



## CENTERPOINT

### CAMPAIGN CORNER



**BEFORE**  
**March 6, 2018**



**Groundbreaking Service**  
**March 25, 2018**



**Dignitaries**  
**Groundbreaking Service**  
**March 25, 2018**



**Steve and Stacy Taylor**  
**Breaking Ground**  
**March 25, 2018**

## MISSION TEAM Highlights

Ted and Sharon Passarelli

**REDBIRD**, a United Methodist Mission, Beverly, KY, is eclipsing poverty by:

1. Preparing Christian leaders at Red Bird Christian School for post secondary education and life
2. Feeding the hungry through food pantries at Red Bird Mission Community Outreach
3. Creating safe and healthy housing
4. Clothing those living in and just above the poverty line
5. Preparing 3 and 4 year olds for school success through the Early Education Program
6. Encouraging family gardening through Red Bird Mission's Grow Appalachia
7. Developing local Work Camp Crew Leaders to improve community housing
8. Marketing crafts across the United States to help families
9. Teaching students to serve God through serving others
10. Providing clean water and water education to 6000 people
11. Building Christian character and leadership in children and youth through safe, educational, after school and summer programs
12. Repairing and replacing failing septic tanks for families
13. Providing nutritious meals, home care, and personal care services to isolated, frail, and aging residents
14. Awarding scholarships for post secondary education
15. Promoting positive parenting skills through training, and providing vital basic needs for mothers and babies
16. Providing furniture and household items to families experiencing catastrophic loss
17. Helping build life-long skills for self-sufficiency through case management
18. Creating economic opportunity for women and families through educational assistance and economic development initiatives
19. Resourcing the construction of new homes for low-income landowners through partnerships
20. Fostering local leadership through employment of teachers and staff
21. Building a sustainable community

*Guided by Jesus Christ, this mission empowers individuals and advocates justice by providing spiritual, educational, health and community outreach ministries.*

### INDOOR WALKING

with Parish Nurse Jody!

#### WHERE?

Panama Central School

#### WHEN?

Monday nights  
from 6-7pm

Meet at the Concession Stand near  
the North Gym doors.

Wear comfortable clothing  
and walking shoes

We have varied walking groups...

Slow pace and faster pace, so it's your  
choice how fast you prefer to walk.

Come and fellowship while we exercise.

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**

We will resume meeting this month.  
If you aren't busy on the second  
Monday of the month, come to the  
Panama Diner at 11:45am and  
have lunch with us.

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.

**CONNECTIONS**

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



**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

**April Birthdays and *Anniversaries***

- 1 Caleb Caldwell, Adyn Hay, Rex Marsh
- 2 Josh Cable, **Joe/Joanna Miktuk**
- 3 Kylie Schnars
- 4 Bill Caldwell, Sam Catanese, Tara Hosier, Ben Taylor
- 6 Janice Franklin
- 7 Derek Hosier, Kyle Hosier, Kollin Sturges
- 8 **Jon/Becky Cable**
- 10 Maddeline Wheeler
- 11 Shawn Chapman, Alexandria King
- 12 Emily Waller
- 13 Pastor Steve
- 14 Kennadee Woods
- 15 Paula Komarek
- 16 Tom Baer
- 17 Tina Swineford
- 18 Hannah Calcaterra, Megan Hinderer, Rebecca Jaeger,  
Hunter Kester, Donovan Schnars, Lester Wevers
- 19 Dave Sturges
- 20 Donna Peterson
- 21 Tim Middleton, Orlo Jackson
- 22 Cam James, Jeff Ostrander, Chuck Parkman, Jean Trisket,  
**Bob/Diane Johnson**
- 23 Larissa Enlow, Tyler March
- 24 Kate Kester, Elinor Sturges, Gracie Cable
- 25 Joanne Fisher, **Dave/Joan Hinderer**
- 26 Paula McCordic
- 27 David Auge, Calvin Carr
- 28 Cindy Cartwright, **Warren/Cindy Crouch**
- 30 Jolene Ayres

A look ahead to May...

- 4 Barbara Hart

**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. You may pay for them using your weekly offering envelopes.

***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.



## Safe Sanctuaries

Carol Hay

When I travel and am gone over a weekend, I usually attend church either alone or with family or friends. Over the years and miles of travel, I've gone to big and small churches, denominational and fringe, traditional and way out there, and everything in-between. What I see in almost every case is the commitment of people to join together to show their love of Jesus Christ and their desire to love and help each other. The worship service may be formal or relaxed, the people may be wealthy or poor, the missions may be local and simple or faraway and complex, but God is always the focus and everything else revolves around following the guidance provided by Jesus Christ.

This past weekend we had our groundbreaking for the *CenterPoint Project*. The comments from Pastor Steve and others from our church as well as from our Bishop and District Superintendent all reflected on Jesus being the foundation of the church. We are increasing the size of our physical plant with the hope of reaching out into the community to bring more people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. As we offer our building as a gathering place, we may need to get out of our comfort zone to meet new people and hear ideas different from our own. Just as when I travel and worship with folks I don't know, our PUMC outreach through this changed building space may give us new friends and new ways to engage with others.

Currently, through individuals and our hospitality team, we reach out and welcome visitors to our services with a smile, words of encouragement to return if possible, and certainly a prayer that their time with us is meaningful in some way and God is the focus of their time in our midst. With our *CenterPoint Project*, we will have many opportunities to bring in lots of people of all ages for many different activities and events. Through these contacts, I pray we can touch lives that need our compassion and bring more people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **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

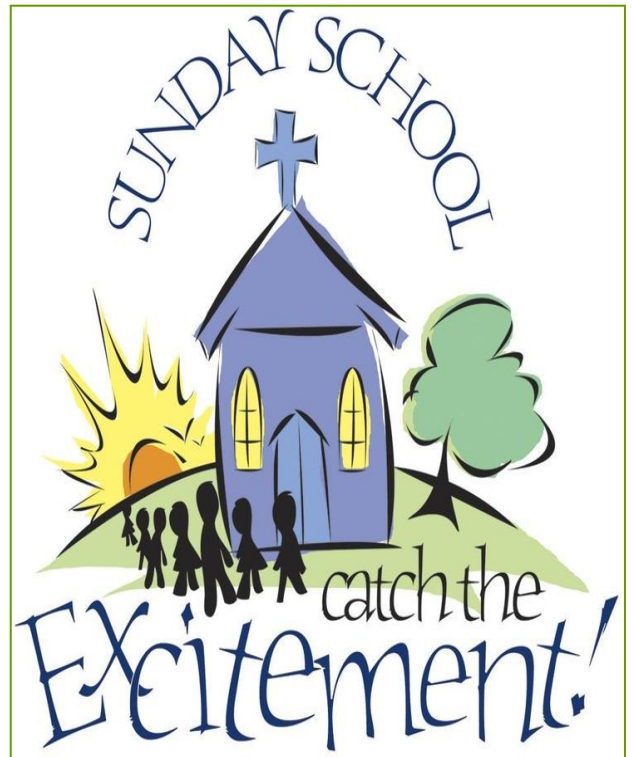
**Adults:** Jon Cable, Answers Bible Curriculum

**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!**



## Discipleship Corner

Submitted by George Anderson

For some time now, those of us in the Christian Education Department have been sharing the responsibility of a news article for Grace Notes. It just so happens it's my turn. So here goes!

As I began to formulate ideas on what to share, it occurred to me something that I say to my class quite frequently. That is, I'm not so different than you. I'll tell you where I'm heading with that. I didn't wake up one morning and say to myself, "I think I'll be a Sunday School teacher". I didn't receive any revelation or hear any voice calling me into this ministry. I did, however, accept Jesus as my Savior and ask him to be Lord of my life, and from that day to this day, I've been on a journey to grow in Christ. How do we grow in Christ? I'm certain the journey is somewhat different for each of us. I'd like to share a few things that have worked for me.

My first experience teaching was at VBS. What a great place to start. It's not a life commitment. VBS usually runs a week long and only a few hours each evening. Try teaching a class or a lesson during VBS. What a great way to get your "feet wet" or get a "taste" for teaching. I learned and grew a lot that first experience and I know you will, too. It's high energy and exciting. I guarantee you'll be blessed. I'm still trying to stay involved with VBS in one way or another, 30 years later.

Try substituting in Sunday School. Again, I didn't start out by agreeing to teach a full quarter or a full year. I started out teaching because someone asked me to fill in. Why not put your name on the substitute list today? One great benefit of teaching is that you'll learn along with your class.

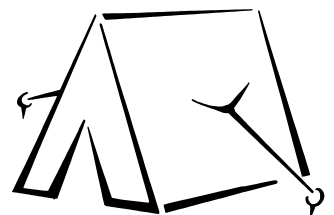
I encourage you to team teach with someone. Trudy and I taught a 3rd and 4th grade class together for many years. It's a fantastic way to learn together and grow your marriage. You'll learn each other's strengths and weaknesses and you can build upon them. I tell you, it's quite natural to talk about your class and share ideas with each other. It's an awesome way to grow closer together as a couple. The blessing is you're growing together and learning how to be better disciples.

Consider joining a small group. Men's group, Ladies of Light, choir, Sunday School class, and care groups are all perfect avenues to share the faith journey of life. If there's a ministry you don't think our church provides, talk to Pastor Steve about your idea. When I first came to PUMC, we didn't have a softball team. I thought it would be a fun ministry and was willing to coach a team. We enjoyed several seasons playing softball. While the guys were playing softball, the ladies and kids were always there to cheer us on. It was fun for the family and we grew closer together. We always shared a devotion and prayer after each game. I grow because of the brothers and sisters around me. That's how God intended it to be. A chord of three strands is not easily broken (Ecc. 4:12).

As we continue this faith journey, we grow. As we grow, we in turn help others grow. Ultimately, it's God who works in us and through us. Make a choice today to allow God to have His way in you. You will never regret it and you will not be disappointed. Philippians 2:13.



**CAMPING:** It is NOT too early to think about summer camp! We have great camps around our area and we have a wonderful scholarship fund set up so the complete cost will be covered. Please see Stacy Taylor or Susie Davis if you are interested..





## **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](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 April.

Cornerstone District Office

Christ First UMC

663 Lakeview Ave.

Jamestown, NY 14701

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*Growing people in Christ.*

[www.facebook.com/panamaum](https://www.facebook.com/panamaum)

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