

**GRACE NOTES - May 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 Panama United Methodist Church is in here...enjoy!

Over the next 18 months, I will be publishing a series of articles that get to the heart of 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 and what that means in the world. 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 (what we believe that makes us who we are), we need to know what that is. So, I invite you to join me on this journey for God's glory and to build up the church.

### *...on doctrine...*

#### **Introduction: The Danger of Not Knowing**

William Abraham writes, in relation to what United Methodists believe, "The danger is not that United Methodists will cease to think. The danger is that they will believe that thinking United Methodists can think Independently of those doctrines which are the lifeblood of their own historical faith and that of the Christian faith across the centuries."

Every once in awhile, I have to stop and think about how to make my favorite meal or what road to take to my favorite hometown hangout. Even though we know what we know, it's critical to rethink sometimes. The same can be said for what we believe as a church. That may not seem like a great topic for a newsletter article, but in this series of articles we will explore the most important beliefs of the Christian faith and the United Methodist Church. These are the beliefs of the Christian faith and the United Methodist Church. These are the beliefs that we love to love as Christians and what we affirm as United Methodists.

Let me begin by saying that I love United Methodist (UM) doctrine - the set of beliefs that shape our faith and our church. You may have heard it said that to be UM is to not have a doctrine or to be free to believe whatever you wish. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Yet unlike our Roman Catholic or Southern Baptist brothers and sisters, the doctrine of the UM Church has a slightly different emphasis. The UMC did not develop a specific doctrine of the church that one must believe in order to "be a UM." Instead, the UMC has stated our affirmation of the historical and apostolic church and has offered other emphases that are distinctly indicative of the theology of John Wesley. This affirmation is presented as binding for the church in the *Book of Discipline*, which is the foundational, guiding charter of the church, in compliment to scripture.

(Continued on next page)

#### **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...(continued)***

In the articles to follow, we will take time to present the beliefs of the UMC. This doesn't have to be like taking medicine or getting a flu shot. Think about this as eating a delicious meal or seeing a beautiful sunrise on a warm beach. What we believe is critical to who we understand ourselves to be and how we accomplish our mission to "Make disciples for the transformation of the world." Our UM vision is "To live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places."

The danger of not knowing what we believe is believing that what each of us believes is what makes us UM. As Christians, we can not afford to have the beliefs of the church be an unimportant side note to our involvement and commitment to Jesus Christ and to His church. So go with us on the journey...go with us to the center of church, the heart of Christ. I encourage everyone to talk about what we believe and ask questions and test the church.

What we think we'll find is that we will all fall in love with the beliefs of the church and with the heart of Christ Himself. The only danger is not knowing what we believe...

### ***Next month: Part I - Of Faith in the Holy Trinity***

#### **Baptisms and New Members**

April 8, 2018

Gracie Cable - Baptized and Confirmed (Mentor - Pam Sali)

Josh Cable - Baptized and Confirmed (Mentor - Carl Davis)

Cheyenne McIntire - Baptized and Confirmed (Mentor - Luella Diffenderfer)

Madie Pearson - Baptized and Confirmed (Mentor - Candy Scarem)

Mandy Brink - Confirmed (Mentor - Stacy Taylor)

Andrew Nelson - Confirmed (Mentor - George Anderson)

Lilly Odell - Confirmed (Mentor - Lisa Ireland)

We welcome you with special blessings in Christian love.

From your PUMC family, today and always.

A baby is a blessing from above! We welcome (although very belatedly)

***Ilaina Mirielle Jukes.***

She was born on February 9, 2018. She weighed 9 lb., 1 oz.

Ilaina's parents are Isaac and Stacy Jukes.

Her big brothers are Isaiah and Aurick and her big sister is Arehlyn!!

We congratulate you on the birth of this  
precious child and we pray God's richest  
blessings on you all as she grows  
in the love of Christ.

### ***A look ahead...Mark your calendars!***

May 6 - Blood Pressures and Blood Sugars, Church Office; 9am

May 20 - Pastor Ron Qualley, Board President for Village of Hope, Haiti, will be at PUMC to speak

June 16 - Blessing of the Bikes begins at Panama Baptist Church; 10am (Continental Breakfast);  
Ride is from 11am-12pm

**SUNDAY Morning Team - MAY**  
**Ushers**

Tim and Tena Dills  
Craig and Marge Vollmer

**Nursery Helpers**  
**May 6**

**Birth-2:** Lisa Waller and Gracie Cable

**May 13**

**Birth-2:** Kim Bajdo and Azzaria Hardin

**May 20**

**Birth-2:** Jason and Jolene Ayres

**May 27**

**Birth-2:** Candy Scarem and Maddie Pearson

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.

**THANK YOU!!**

**Vacation Bible School**

We're off to a great start for an exciting Vacation  
Bible School from July 8-11. The theme is "Built  
for a Purpose" - going right along with our  
construction at church. VBS will be held at the  
Panama Central School this year.

We look forward to welcoming our community!

Come and check out the  
\*\*\*\*\***LUNCH BUNCH**\*\*\*\*\*

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

**CONNECTIONS:**

What a blessing Connections continues to  
be! We regularly have around 20 kids in at-  
tendance. Thank you for your snack dona-  
tions. 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 bet-  
ter.

**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**

**Yogurt**

**Apples**

**Grapes**

**Celery**

**Juice**

**Cookies (any kind)**

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

**FREE** Blood Pressures and Fasting Blood Sugars  
(fast 4 hours prior) are offered here at PUMC, the  
first Sunday of every month in Pastor's office.  
Please enter the Pastor's office door via the hall-  
way door across from the coat rack.  
(not through the church office).



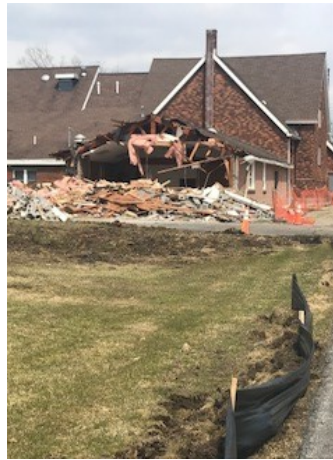
## CENTERPOINT

### CAMPAIGN CORNER

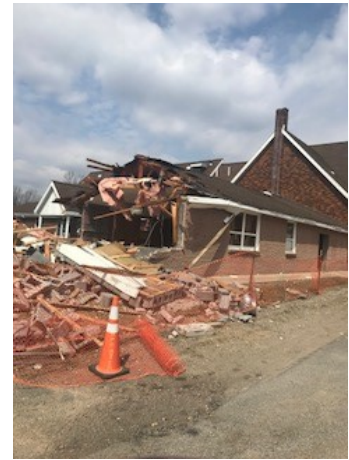
## April Construction Pictures



View of Fellowship Hall demolition from the parking lot on west side of the building.



View of Fellowship Hall demolition from where the Riddell house stood on the south side of the building.



View of Fellowship Hall demolition from Church Street on the southeast corner of the church.



Once all the construction debris was cleaned up, the contractors concluded that the cement pad from under the old Fellowship Hall was in excellent condition and could be used as the base for the new construction. Praise God! The picture on the left is taken from the back entry porch looking southeast. The picture on the right is taken from the southeast corner of Fellowship Hall.



The roof and the back porch stoop have been removed.



Digging has begun and cement work will be starting soon!!

## Safe Sanctuaries

Our congregation has established Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines in order to provide a safe environment for children, youth and vulnerable adults. Our Guidelines seek to provide an atmosphere where adults are free to teach and love children, youth and vulnerable adults, in a Christ-like manner, and children, youth and vulnerable adults can pursue their journey to know, love and serve God freely without fear.

If you plan to work with youth (VBS, Sunday School, mission trips, youth group events, etc.) and have not received the Safe Sanctuaries training, please tell Debbie in the office (782-4031) or [Debbie.johnson@panamaum.org](mailto:Debbie.johnson@panamaum.org). We will be scheduling a training in the near future.



### GREETER TEAM

Kathy Foulk

We are in the process of forming a greeter team. If you would be willing to serve periodically, please let Kathy Foulk know, or sign up on the sheet on the back table. This is a work in progress and we appreciate any suggestions you may have for its formation and continued service to the church and the people (old and new) who enter this building.

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, talk to Kathy Foulk or call the church office.

**YOU** can be the happy, welcoming face newcomers encounter when they first enter God's house in Panama.



### 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.

**When weather permits,  
we will meet at the track.**

See you there!



**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                      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

**May Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 4 Barbara Hart
- 5 Kathy Smith, Jon Cable
- 6 **Jason/Jolene Ayres**
- 8 Andee Anderson, Matthew Apthorpe, Brittany Lenart, Bryan Rupczyk
- 9 Colin Cross (Peck), Sarah Osborne
- 10 Jessica Komarek, **George/Trudy Anderson**
- 12 Aleena Anderson, Michaela Swineford  
**David/Carrie Munsee**
- 14 Brynne Hinsdale
- 15 Kristy Catanese
- 16 **Joel/Jessica Keefer**
- 14 Yvonne Calcaterra, Anna Jo Irgang, **Carl/Susie Davis,**  
**Mike/Sara Beebe**
- 18 Grace Munsee
- 19 Isabella Anderson, Michael Butler
- 20 Molly Butler, **Tim/Connie Middleton**
- 22 Gabbi Calcaterra
- 23 Bradley Osborne, Shelly Rupczyk, Don Wood
- 25 Cindy Furlow, **Doug/Cindy Weise**
- 26 Connor Tremblay
- 27 Jonathan Sturges
- 28 Cole Munson
- 29 **Nick/Katie Sard**
- 30 Jonathan Anderson
- 31 **Mike/Erin Miller**

A look ahead to June...

- 1 Kathy Foulk
- 2 **Ted/Sharon Passarelli, Eric/Jennifer Scolton**
- 3 **Chuck/Judy Parkman**
- 4 Nancy Dallas, **Matt/Amanda Komarek**
- 5 Ryan Peck
- 7 Cindy Crouch

**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.



## ...Thoughts from the Adult Sunday School Class...

Stacy Taylor

You may think you're too old to learn new things. You may think that you've read everything there is to read in the Bible, and since it hasn't changed in a few years, then there isn't any reason to read it again. You may think that you have nothing to offer in a discussion about the Bible. You may think that Sunday School has to happen on Sunday.

I am here to tell you that none of these things are true. You are never too old to learn new things. You may have read the whole Bible, and it may not have been rewritten lately - but each time you read it, you may discover something new, and God may speak to you in a new and profound way. Everyone has something to offer when discussing the Bible. And Sunday School, Discipleship time, learning time - does not only happen on Sunday.

"My" adult Bible class meets on Wednesdays at 3:30pm in Pastor Steve's office. We have a simple book that takes a few verses from the Bible, gives an explanation about these verses, and then asks questions to make you think about what you've just read. And then we have discussion. Sometimes it's relative to our Bible verses, sometimes it's completely off topic, but it's usually knowledgeable and always makes you think.

A few weeks ago, I read something that I hadn't learned before which isn't too surprising. What was surprising, is when one of the members in the class (someone who is just a tad over 90) - mentioned that he had not known that either. What? A 40 something and a 90 something person learning something new at the same time? It was amazing! I love this class. I love each member and I love their passion for Jesus and their dedication to the church. I go away from my Wednesday afternoon class with a smile on my face. What they are teaching me is that we are never too old to learn, there is still lots to know, and you will be blessed when you take the time to listen and learn.

I hope you will consider joining a class. Whether it is one that meets on Sunday, a small group that meets other days of the week - or "our" Wednesday School (as another member calls it!). You will be welcome there - and you will be incredibly blessed.

### **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 Note**

God is sovereign. He will direct our path to something, someone, or somewhere and we quite often don't even realize that we have been lead. Could it be that you have paused on this note per God's leading? Could it be that it's time for you to join a group of people who are gathering to learn more about God and his plans and purposes? We hope so! Sunday School is a great opportunity for you to grow, learn, and get to know others better. There are classes for every age group with a few options for adults. We're sure you'll find a good fit for you and yours in one of these classes.

Our class meets downstairs at the end of the hall. Our current study, Complicated Topics and Passages, consists of questions that members of our class have raised for us to look deep in the scriptures for answers. We believe that the Holy Spirit not only leads us, but also every member of our class as we study and discuss the words inspired by God. Oh, and an added bonus, we have a good time!!

Won't you join us this Sunday?

Denny and Cindy Furlow

## ANTICIPATION ON SUNDAY AT GROUND BREAKING\*

Susie Davis

**What is Anticipation?** It is an emotion involving pleasure, excitement in considering an expected event.

I'm pretty sure most of you felt it. As we study the Scriptures, we find the truth about who God is, the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts about his promises, his grace, his mercy, his forgiveness, and of his undying love for each of us. This gives us such hope; and it fills us with anticipation of being with Him for eternity. Anticipation is about preparing and making room for what we know is ours by faith. It is getting ready for what God has already promised us.

Anticipation is an expression of faith; it comes with evidence. It is visible, and it is powerful. Sunday's ground breaking was powerful. It spoke to my heart to hear our senior family members share in what is going on. How they are so excited. They could easily throw their hands up and walk away - but no - they continue to be obedient and serve our living God. We even had some visitors come just to watch the ground breaking ceremony - they are anticipating what God is doing here in the little village. Anticipation is about alignment. Anticipation is more than expectation. It is expect-action. It is faith in motion. Anticipation means taking steps forward. Pastor has done such a wonderful job in leading us through the steps of preparing for the CenterPoint project and even more so, for eternity!

This church has done a great job of emphasizing God's might and faithfulness throughout the church's history. I think about all of the Sunday School classes, day care programs, small groups, mission trips, and Bible study groups over the decades that pointed us to the awesome God that He is. We need to remember every day, every hour, that God is as awesome today as ever. Pastor has helped us look deep into ourselves; to look around us and see what God is doing today and how we as individuals can make a difference in the world. I pray that we, as a church, will continue to train people to watch for God in action today. David, our architect, said at the service that he was thrilled as he saw all the little children who will someday look back on God's faithfulness through us and how we put our faith into action; to live with the understanding that God is here, right now...ready to connect with each of us.

So.....as we anticipate the project getting started and better yet, the end result - may we continually seek God's will for our lives, our church and our community.

*\*This was a devotion that Susie gave at a recent Worship Team meeting. She simply put thoughts down on paper to share with the team. It was later suggested that it be put somewhere for others to see...and it found its way to Grace Notes. Thank you for sharing with us all, Susie.*



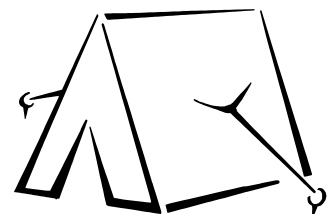
### CAMPING:

Summer Camp registration is going on now!

If you are interested in attending summer camp - please see Stacy Taylor or Susie Davis.

This can be kids or families!

There are many opportunities available!





## **CHURCH STAFF**

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor  
[steven.taylor@panamaum.org](mailto:steven.taylor@panamaum.org)

Debbie Johnson, Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst.  
[debbie.johnson@panamaum.org](mailto:debbie.johnson@panamaum.org)

Candy Scarem, Student Ministry Director  
[candy.scarem@panamaum.org](mailto: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

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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 May.

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Jamestown, NY 14701  
(716) 665-2423



*Growing people in Christ.*

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

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