



**GRACE NOTES - June 2018**  
**Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor**  
**Panama United Methodist Church**  
**(CenterPoint, First Wall, East Side; 5/30/18)**

### *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!

(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 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, 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...*

## **Part 1 - Of Faith in the Holy Trinity**

In this edition of the Grace Notes newsletter, we continue our look at the Christian beliefs that make us Christian. It is critical that we know what we know in order to be able to deepen our faith, share it with others, and understand the faith that is transforming our lives in worship, discipleship, and missional service. Our first key belief, which we share with ALL Christians everywhere in the world, is in the Holy Trinity.

What makes the belief in the Holy Trinity so difficult to grasp, I think, is the fact that God can be three things, yet one thing. The best we can do is to use metaphors to describe what the Holy Trinity is *like*. Someone recently used the metaphor of a fire to describe the Trinity: it is fire, light, and heat, yet is still one fire. That's pretty helpful to me since I like to spend time with family and friends around campfires.

The United Methodist Articles of Religion has this to say: *There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.* (Article 1 of the Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church)

No metaphors, but exciting talk about God being God. The part of the story that really gets exciting is the fact that this Triune God can be immanent and transcendent at the same time. Now why did I have to go and use those theological terms? Here's the deal: God wants to be intimate and personal to us (immanent), yet God also is sovereign and in charge of all creation (transcendent). God wants us to know that we are loved by Him (immanent). And God is not constrained by time, space, or our thoughts (transcendent). I imagine you're starting to get the picture...

### [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)*

Now, the three different natures of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) all work together in our lives everyday to allow us to know God as immanent and transcendent. God the Father is our creator (transcendent), our provider (immanent), and our rescuer. In the Old Testament, God heard the cry of his people (immanent), and rescued them, all the while entreating them to turn from their sin and worship Him.

The second person of the Trinity is Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human. Jesus is our personal Savior and Redeemer (immanent) and yet he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords as he rules in heaven right now (transcendent).

The Holy Spirit is the Advocate, Guide, and conveyor of Truth. The Holy Spirit is the very real presence of God with us today and tomorrow. This Spirit lives in us as that still small voice, our guide in times of decision, and the bringer of God's presence in worship and through God's word. This is both immanent and transcendent.

Believe in the Holy Trinity, God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All are present in our lives and work in unique ways to foster our relationship with God. All are God, Three in One.

Shalom,  
*Pastor Steven Taylor*

*Next time: Part 2 - Of the Word, or Son of God, Who Was Made Very Man*

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

May 30 - June 2: Pastor Steve and Stacy and Carl Davis @Annual Conference in Syracuse

June 3: Blood Pressures and Sugars @ 9am (Pastor's Office, use hallway door)

June 4: Indoor Walking with Jody @ 6pm (PCS North Gym)

June 8/9: Band of Brothers Men's Retreat

June 11: Women and Missions @ 11:45am (Panama Diner)

June 12: Church Council @ 6:30pm (Room B-1); Finance Team @ 6:15pm

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

June 17: Honoring our Grads and Dads during Worship

June 19: Baccalaureate @ 7pm (Panama Baptist Church)

June 20: Lunch Bunch @11:45am (Panama Baptist Church)

June 29/30: Youth Campout; 6:30pm - 9:30am

July 8 - July 11: VBS; 6-8pm; (Panama Central School)

October 6: Road Rally; 6-8pm

## SUNDAY Morning Team - JUNE

### Ushers

Jon/Becky Cable  
Don/Tabby Butler

### Nursery Helpers

June 3

**Birth-2:** Debbie Donelson and Marge Vollmer

June 10

**Birth-2:** Ken and Katie Braun

June 17

**Birth-2:** Jenn Johnson and Dawn Sard

June 24

**Birth-2:** Tina Akam and Gracie Cable

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!!**

## 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**

**Yogurt**

**Apples**

**Grapes**

**Celery**

**Juice**

**Cookies (any kind)**

**SIDE NOTE:** No animal crackers or goldfish, 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 hallway door across from the coat rack. (not through the church office).

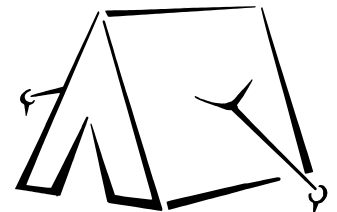
## CAMPING:

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!



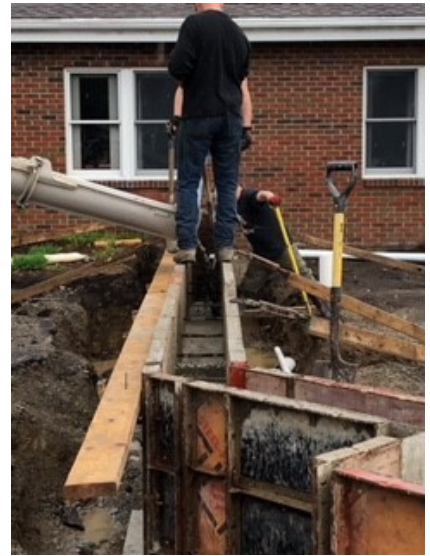




Preparing the site for concrete

4/27/18  
<<<<

5/4/18  
>>>>



Fellowship Hall Floor

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Looking from existing back double door  
4/4/18

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Parking lot view, looking north east  
5/23/18



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First Wall Section  
(East side, Church Street)  
5/30/18

>>>>

East wall sections  
(Church Street, looking from the parking lot)  
5/31/18



## 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.

### COFFEE DRINKERS...UNITE!

...or maybe just offer to make some coffee on Sunday mornings.

The Sunday morning Hospitality Team is looking for some help. Julia and Pam are looking for someone to cover for them some Sunday mornings during the summer so they can have some getaway time with their families.

Sunday morning duties basically include making coffee/tea and keeping the pots going from 8am until 10:15am and then cleaning up the "kitchen".

Light refreshments are also appreciated. These can be homemade or store bought. Bills for these refreshments may be turned in to Paula for reimbursement.

There is a sign up sheet on the back of the door near the storage shelving in the "kitchen".

Please sign up for a time or two.

Thank you, in advance, for your help.

[This opportunity does not tie you into a permanent position!](#)



### 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**

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

**JUNE Birthdays and Anniversaries**

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
- 8 Amanda Kolstee
- 9 Christopher Enlow, Sharon Rea
- 10 Elizabeth Comstock, Jordan Range
- 11 **Mike/Erica Butler**
- 12 **Lee/Betty Crosby**
- 13 Dacota Catanese
- 14 Alyson Edwards, Lillian Odell
- 15 **Scott/Wendy Trisket, Kim/Aaron Barton**
- 16 Jarrett Wiggers
- 17 Carol Hay, Thea Kester
- 18 Don Butler, Kelly Range
- 19 Matthew King, Mason Komarek, Larry Ostrander, David Woods
- 21 Jennifer Anderson, Melissa Topolski
- 23 **Bryce/Katie Ireland**
- 24 Lauren Tordella, Emily Gabriel, **Kyle/Brynne Hinsdale Steve/Melissa Wiggers**
- 25 Pat Catanese, Matt Sturges
- 27 Ed Trisket, **Jarrett/Elizabeth Wiggers**
- 28 **Dave/Yvonne Calcaterra, Chris/Dawn Comstock Rob/Wendy Peck**
- 30 MacKenzie Miles, **Charlie/Debbie Loveless**

**Looking ahead to July...**

- 3 Richard Edwards, Marilyn Storms
- 4 James Ireland
- 6 **Roger/Thea Kester**
- 7 Jody Marsh, Dick Nagel, Wyatt Braun, **James/Katie 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. 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.

## VBS - "**BUILT FOR A PURPOSE**"

The VBS theme this year is "Built for a Purpose" and the theme Verse is: **Matthew 7:24** - *Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

VBS this year will be held at the Panama Central School from Sunday, July 8 - Wednesday, July 11. We are also shortening the time from 6:00pm - 8:00pm

We are looking for a few construction type toys to use for VBS activities. If you have any gently used toys (will be returned upon request) - or would like to purchase a new toy - here are some suggestions as to what we're looking for:

- Lincoln Logs
- Tool benches
- Tools
- Large Construction trucks, bull dozers, backhoes, etc.
- Kinex toys
- Legos

If you do not wish the toys returned to you, they will be donated to our Connections Ministry.

We are so excited about this year's theme and VBS!! Thank you to everyone who is working hard on this team. And thanks to Gena and Kim for a fabulous Memorial Day float! We gave away almost 300 carpenter pencils.

## 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

## CONNECTIONS PICNIC

We are excited to provide dinner for our Connections families on June 14.

We'll be packing a takeout picnic for each family.

Thank you to the entire Connections Staff and Team.

It's been a great year!

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



Over the last few months, our *In Sympathy...* section of Grace Notes has been left out, for no good reason except space. Please accept my apologies. This section helps to keep those of our church who live out of town "in the loop". In an effort to catch people up, I will attempt to compile the list. If I have omitted anyone, please let me know so I can add it to the next edition.

*Dorothy Ruth Walton, Grandmother of Brynne (Kyle) Hinsdale, passed away on February 1, 2018.*

*Tina Guiffreda, mother of Susie (Carl) Davis, passed away on February 3, 2018.*

*Michael Seeley, brother of Jennifer Seeley, passed away on February 9, 2018.*

*William R. Fulton, brother of Darlene Fulton, passed away on March 2, 2018.*

*Diane Anderson, sister of Betsy Eggleston and Ricky Eggleston, passed away on April 29, 2018.*

*Margaret Rose Akam-Edwards, mother of Mark (Tina) Akam, passed away on May 21, 2018.*

*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.*

### SPINACH SALAD

Parish Nurse - Jody Marsh

#### (Dressing)

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

1 1/2 tsp. honey

1 pinch salt

1 pinch freshly ground black pepper

1/4 c. apple cider vinegar

3 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

#### (Salad)

9 oz. baby spinach, washed

2 ripe pears, sliced

3/4 c. pomegranate seeds

2/3 c. walnuts or pecans, chopped

3 oz. crumbled feta cheese

#### (Preparation)

In a small bowl, whisk together all the dressing ingredients.

Toss the dressing with all the salad ingredients in a large bowl and serve.

Great salad for a 4th of July picnic...yummy!



## 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](http://www.facebook.com/panamaum)

Please check the calendar inside for  
weekly meetings and activities  
for the month of June.

Cornerstone District Office

Christ First UMC

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

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