

# 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 2 - Of the Word, or Son of God, Who Was Made Very Man

This is the second installment, if you will, in an on-going look at the core beliefs of the United Methodist Church. This is important stuff because, as a church, we have to agree to agree about these basic ideas. We can spend time disagreeing about a lot of other things that have to do with "church", but these core beliefs are at the heart of our faith. They are non-negotiable. This month, we look at Jesus Christ...

So many times, you hear the Holy Bible referred to as the word of God. In a certain way, this label is accurate to describe the written testimony of the people of God throughout time. Yet, when we talk about the beliefs of the church, the Word of God has a greater and more focused meaning. The Word of God is a living Word spoken by the Triune God and is culminated in creation in the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ.

The United Methodist Church doctrine in the Book of Discipline (our guidelines) has this to say: The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided; whereof is one Christ, very God and very Man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men. (Article II of the Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church)

The important thing to remember here is that the Word of God, Jesus, is the one and only agent of transformation and reconciliation to God for all time. Now, reading about Jesus and the people of God in the Holy Bible and studying it is critical, but the living Word of God is active and present in our lives today and not merely confined to the pages of a book. Taken together, the Holy Bible and the living Word of God work to redeem the world for God's Kingdom.

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

Just a word about the Word. Jesus' human/divine natures are important for us as humans. God did not become flesh in order for us to know that God can do all things. God became flesh (the Word became flesh) in order for <u>us</u> to know that God knows how we, as humans, feel, respond to pain and joy, struggle with temptation and hardships, and how we suffer at times. The humanity of Jesus was for our sake...so that we could reconcile the sin in our lives to a holy God.

Jesus is the focus of our worship and the focus of our ministry in the Christian church. Yet, the Jesus we worship is not some guy we read about in the pages of a 1,700 year-old book we were taught to respect in Sunday School. Jesus is the living, active Word of God that touches the smallest life, the worst sinner, and the hardest heart. Responding to the Word of God as revealed also in the word of God is critical. All this in order to tell us that God loves us, that we can love God, and that the sin in our lives does not have to stain us forever. Jesus came for you and for me. Jesus loves me. Jesus loves you.

Blessings, Pastor Steve

Next time: Part 3 - Of the Resurrection of Christ

# A look ahead...Mark your calendars!

July 1 - Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner (at Camp at Findley); 12-5pm; in support of William & Alex Scarem's Mission Trip to Guatemala

July 1 - Short Greeter Training after Worship

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

July 22-28 - Family Bible Camp (Camp at Findley)

July 27: Christian Ed end of year celebration picnic; 6pm (details included on page 3)

July 29-8/1 - Senior High Youth at Kingdom Bound

August 9 - Back to School BASH; 6-8pm; Panama Central School

October 6: Road Rally; 4-8pm

September 2: Labor Day Weekend Church Picnic; 12:30pm; Earl and Kathy Foulk's Pavilion (details to follow)

September 9 - Christian Education classes begin

# **SUNDAY Morning Team - JULY**

**Ushers** 

Joel and Jessica Keefer Mark and Karen Morton Nursery Helpers

July 1

Birth-2: Jenn Johnson and Dawn Sard July 8

Birth-2: Kim Davis and Lilly Odell

July 15

Birth-2: Stacy Taylor and Alex Scarem

July 22

Birth-2: Susie Davis and Graham Vollmer July 29

Birth-2: Adam and Tory Irgang

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!!** 

# **Christian Ed Picnic**

We will be having a picnic to celebrate our year on Friday, July 27 at 6pm at the pavilion of Earl and Kathy Foulk, 2673 Panama Stedman Road.

All are invited.

Please bring a dish to pass.

Come and enjoy!

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 door via the hallway door across from the coat rack. (not through the church office).

# **CAMPING:**

The following is a list of our kids who are registered for summer camps. Under each camp listed are the kids who are attending and the dates they will be at camp.

Please be in prayer for our campers and the staff entrusted with their care.

# Mission Meadows:

Evan Lescynski 6/25-6/29 Reese McGaffick 6/27-6/30 Tate Catanese 7/9-7/13 Gracie Cable 7/15-7/21 Andrew Nelson 7/15-7/21 Damien Stiverson 7/29-8/4 Aiden Keefer 7/30-8/3

# **Bethany Camp**

Erika Amidon 6/25-6/30 Calianna Wheeler 6/25-6/30 Hannah Wheeler 6/25-6/30

# Wesley Woods

Connor Tremblay 7/1-7/7 Sophia Komenda 7/8-7/14 Halle Wilson 7/8-7/14

# Miracle Mountain

Devion Jolls 7/8-7/13 Hunter Kester 7/22-7/27 Kate Kester 7/22-7/27

Houghton Camp Josh Cable 7/22-7/26



# **CENTERPOINT**

# CAMPAIGN CORNER

# **June Construction Pictures**

## <<<<

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

# >>>>

Front (south) exterior wall of Fellowship Hall (from parking lot) 6/6/18





Interior view from existing back double entry doors 6/6/18



Roof work which connects old church to 1995 addition 6/19/18



Rafter installation has begun 6/21/18



Interior view of the entrance to Fellowship Hall from new gathering Space 6/24/18



Interior view of Fellowship Hall from south wall 6/24/18



Showing placement of floor to ceiling windows and gables on exterior walls of Fellowship Hall 6/28/18

# 2018 PUMC Affilliated GRADUATES

Josh Anderson - Panama High School Hannah Calcaterra - Panama High School

Ryder Donelson - Panama High School Alyson Edwards - Jamestown High School

Bronson Edwards - SUNY Fredonia Cameryn Eggleston - Southwestern High School

Alex Scarem - Clymer High School Jenna Straight - Panama High School

Kodey Swanson - Panama High School Michaela Swineford - Jamestown Business College

Ben Taylor - SUNY ESF Kennedy Woods - SUNY Fredonia

# 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.

# WALKING...

with Parish Nurse Jody!



Panama Central School track

# WHEN?

Monday nights from 6-7pm

Meet at the track

We will not walk if inclement weather now that school is closed for the summer.

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

See you there!

# **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 8:45am 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!



# **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.

# 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.

# **CHURCH PICNIC**

Labor Day Weekend Sunday, September 2nd 12:30pm Earl and Kathy Foulk's pavilion

Watch your bulletins and the August newsletter for details.



# 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

# JULY Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Richard Edwards, Marilyn Storms
- 4 James Ireland
- 6 Roger/Thea Kester
- 7 Jody Marsh, Dick Nagel, Wyatt Braun, James/Katie Ireland
- 9 Linda Sturges
- 10 Zadok Hughesman, Cliff/Rachel Reardon
- 11 Steve/Jamie Halpainy
- 13 Jackson Scolton
- 14 Greg Beckerink, *Ed/Barb Trisket, Ray/Cindy Cartwright, Joe/Kelly Osborne*
- 15 Rachel Anderson, Kayo Auge, Carrie Edwards
- 16 Cameryn Eggleston, Bob Johnson, Bill/Heather Schneider
- 17 Tory Irgang, Daniel/Anna Cartwright
- 18 Dan McGaffick, Connie Middleton, Dan Landin, Dan Sobolewski
- 19 Shawn Schnars
- 20 McKenna Kolstee
- 23 Jen Feliciano
- 24 Graham Miller
- 28 Richard/Joyce Edwards
- 30 Lisa Miles, Ashley Dempsey, Andrew/Wende Lescynski
- 31 Julie Nagel, Jonathan/Jennifer Anderson

A look ahead to August...

- 1 Dan/Stephanie Landin
- 2 Jenna Nagel, Bryce Hinsdale, *Earl/Kathy Foulk*
- 4 Ray Cartwright, Harrison Osborne
- 6 Rex/Jody Marsh
- 7 Tabetha Butler



# 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 2018 will be held Sunday, July 8 through Wednesday, July 11th, hosted at Panama Central School's playground area. We have shortened the time to 6:00pm - 8:00pm.

We are looking forward to the challenge of the change in venue!

Register online at www.panamaum.org!

Please invite your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews to attend!

**BUILT FOR A PURPOSE...** Seeing what God has planned for our lives.

**NOTE:** No dinner will be served this year. The location has changed because of our CenterPoint building project. VBS is only 4 days long this year and the timing has changed as well.

# **MISSIONS**

Spotlight on Mission Meadows Ted Passarelli

Mission Meadows has recently been added to the organizations that the Mission Team supports. Most of you know that it is located on the east side of Chautauqua Lake. Established in 1948, Mission Meadows has hosted thousands of campers, retreat goers and staff over the years. Many have drawn closer to God and made commitments to Christ as a result of their experiences there.

One of the things I liked best about their web site was the quotes from the kids:

"My week at the camp was the best week of the summer!"

"I want to thank the staff for all they did in helping me become closer to God!"

"I accepted Jesus into my heart as my savior. Since then, my life hasn't been the same."

Community programming activities at Mission Meadows are a great opportunity to get out during the fall, winter, and spring months to enjoy an evening at camp and have fun. These activities are open to all, and great for everyone from families with kids on up to adults

And, I kind of like it when things fit together. Recently, I came to realize Steve and Jackie Haines, two newer people at church that sit right in front of Sharon and I (do all churches have assigned seating??), both work at Mission Meadows.

# **BIBLE QUIZZING COMES TO PUMC!**

What is Bible quizzing? Simply stated: Bible quizzing is an effective tool that helps motivate young people to learn God's Word, work together as a team, and expand their understanding of Scriptures.

Each month, students memorize assigned chapters from a book/books of the Bible and compete each month over the selected material. A quiz consists of 3 teams with 5 people at a time per team seated on electronic pads. Only 7 members are allowed on a team for the Nationals Tournament, but there can be up to 9 team members at the local level. There are two 6 minute halves in a quiz. A quiz master reads questions from that month's material and when the quizzers think they know the answer, they jump up to stand from their seat. A sensor that the quizzer sits on lets the quiz master know who jumped first. The winner of the jump can score points for themselves, and their team, by correctly answering the question. There are usually five rounds each quiz meet and at the end of the day, the team with the most points wins that month's competition. There are also awards for the all star quizzers and for the top scoring rookie quizzers.

We will be joining with the Family Life Bible Quizzing ministry which is one of the seventeen ministries across the U.S. that make up the Bible Quiz Fellowship (BQF) organization. Our season begins in August, with our first competition in September, and concludes in April. We will be studying and memorizing the Gospel of John from the English Standard Version (ESV). We will meet weekly for practice locally and compete monthly in Hornell. Quizzers must be between the ages of 11 and 19.

Anyone interested, please contact Becky Cable, 543-5050 or jonbec95@gmail.com.

# **Christian Education News**

# **Becky Cable**

Praising God for another year of Sunday School! A grateful thank you to all of our dedicated teachers: George Anderson, Jon Cable, Candy Scarem, Denny and Cindy Furlow, Becky Cable, Marge Vollmer, Adam and Tory Irgang and Stacy Taylor. Also included are our substitute teachers: Carl Davis, Kim Davis, Carm Catanese, Barb Tordella, Jackie Haines, Kristy Catanese and Dawn Sard.

I am also very thankful for our students in every class. Seeing my students each week and knowing their commitment to being in class, encourages me to study and be well prepared. I am humbled by the honor and privilege of being a teacher and constantly challenged by their childlike faith and honest questions. God has give me such a love for "my boys"!

There will be no classes during the months of July and August but they will resume on Sunday, September 9th. We have teacher openings for the Pre-K-2nd grade class and the 3rd - 5th grade class. I will be creating and leading a Junior High class (Grades 6-8). We will continue to use the Answers Bible Curriculum for these classes. Please keep our teachers and students in prayer and be asking God to show you where He has gifted you to serve.

# **THANK YOU!**

A most sincere thank you for all of your support in helping us attend the Bible Quiz National Tournament in Wisconsin Falls, Wisconsin, from April 24-29. This past year of quizzing has been so good for our family. The amount of God's word that is now in our hearts and minds just astounds me! The competition was fun and spurred Josh and Gracie to study. The fellowship was encouraging and the leadership of FLN was excellent.

We were told that quizzing was great but that attending the national tournament was really the "game changer". They were so right! Aside from our time in Thailand, it was the most incredible experience of spiritual and emotional growth I've seen in my children. I could literally watch the Holy Spirit blossoming in them. He surrounded us with such a unity of spirit and bonded our group of thirty individuals into a family. We made many new friends from across the country, participated in daily worship, competed well and came home with an increased passion for Bible quizzing and the Word of God.

Thank you, church, for loving on us!

"Love, "Becky Cable

# **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
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

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

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