

From Pastor Steve...

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!

(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, human sexuality, and what that means in the world and in our church. 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 3 - Of the Resurrection of Christ

Easter is pretty cool! I mean, with the joy and tradition of the Easter worship, with the breakfast and the flowers and all - you can't help but have fun! Yet, in the midst of all that, the reason we celebrate this HOLIEST of holy days, is because of a simple confession that we make as followers of Jesus. Article III of the Articles of Religion of the United Methodist Church states this confession clearly: Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he returns to judge all men at the last day.

Some of the language in the Article is old English, but we get the point. Jesus really <u>did</u> rise from the dead and took on a glorified and <u>perfected</u> version of his earthly body. Then, he ascended (went up) to heaven to be with the Father and right now reigns there as King of Glory until the day (at some time in the future) when he will return to be judge and jury for all the people. At that time, Jesus will usher in the final earthly kingdom of God and we will live in the kingdom.

Now, we could go into incredible detail about each of those ideas, but in the Easter Season (from Easter to Pentecost), we give attention to the confession that Jesus did rise from the dead and ascended to heaven. That confession is not only for Jesus, but is a promise for us, as well.

Pastor Steve's Desk...(continued)

The fact that Jesus was dead and then rose again is proof that God is Lord over life and death. Jesus' time on earth was short, but because he is currently alive gives us hope for our daily living. And living doesn't have to be in fear of dying, because as we believe in Jesus and his resurrection, our own resurrection is a future reality.

The story of Easter, however, is not all about new life from death. The point to the 'rest of the story' is that Jesus ascended and so will we. Now, many people may have heard terms like rapture to describe what will happen when Jesus returns. And we may think that we go to heaven forever when we die. The Bible is clear that our final home is not in heaven, as is the trendy idea from certain sources these days. There is a wonderful article worth reading by N.T. Wright on www.christianitytoday.com entitled "Heaven is Not Our Home". Wright is correct in saying that there is disagreement of what happens when we die (heaven, hell, or other), but we know that when Jesus returns, the believers who have died will take on glorified bodies (just like Jesus), will meet with Jesus face-to-face, and usher Jesus to the new earthly kingdom created by God to live in worship and mission.

As a church, we are called to live faithfully in the belief that Jesus died, was bodily resurrected, and will come again. That doctrine is clear in the UMC and is another point of unity that we must embrace together

Resurrection is our hope of eternal life with God. We are secure in this life because of the hope for the eternal life in Christ. Next Easter season, may the resurrection echo in your heart and mind every day. Give thanks to God who made the way straight for you and me.

Shalom, Pastor Steve

Part 4 - Of the Holy Spirit

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.

A look ahead...Mark your calendars!

<u>August 9</u> - Back to School BASH; 6-8pm; Panama Central School Playground and Cafeteria Free food...free school supplies...fun and games ...for UPK - 6th grades...must be accompanied by an adult

August 18 - Annual Golf Outing; 3pm; Timber Creek in Blockville; sign up sheet on the Narthex table

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

September 9 - Christian Education classes begin

October 6 - Road Rally; 4-8pm

SUNDAY Morning Team - AUGUST

<u>Ushers</u>

Buck and Kristine Seekings
2 Youth chosen by Candy each week

Nursery Helpers

August 5

Birth-2: Andrew Lescynski and Jessica Keefer August 12

Birth-2: Amanda Kolstee and Lilly Odell

August 19

Birth-2: Kathy Foulk and Gracie Cable

August 26

Birth-2: Carolyn Highesman and Lisa Waller

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!!

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:



TWENTY-ONE (21) youth attended A Christian Summer camp this year, and for all 21, PUMC paid the ENTIRE COST (for a total of \$8,000!) What an incredible outpouring of love to our youth! This could not have been possible without the faithful-

ness of our church community and a gift from an anonymous donor. We look forward to hearing from the campers about their Christian camping experience.

Next year, plans are being made to bring back the Souper Sundae and Taco in a Bag fundraisers, so that we can continue to support our youth.

Thank you all!

<u>CHURCH PICNIC</u> What are you doing to close out the summer?

Earl and Kathy Foulk are having a picnic on Sunday, September 2nd, and would love for you to join them! Come anytime after church, but we will be eating around 12:30pm. Hot dogs, sausage, condiments, plate settings and drinks will be provided. Just bring a dish to share and serving utensils.

You may want to bring a lawn chair as our table space is limited. The yard is large, so if you want to play football or any other lawn games, bring them as well.

If you know of someone who may be considering joining us at church, start out with this off-site event.

What better way to end the summer season than to fellowship with our church family.

Hope to see you there. Watch your bulletins for reminders.

CENTERPOINT

July Construction Pictures



<<< West wall windows in Fellowship Hall

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West wall windows in Fellowship Hall, looking northeast from parking lot





West side of new build; entrance and Fellowship Hall



New entrance



Ready to start brick work



Brickwork on east side of Fellowship Hall



Brickwork continues on the east side of Fellowship Hall; Food Pantry windows



New office windows and the opening for the windows in the gathering space on west wall

Centerpoint Campaign Update

Cindy and Ray Cartwright

This campaign update was presented on July 1st, to reflect the status of the project, monetarily, as of the end of June.

Summer is fully upon us. Outdoor activities are abundant. We think of baseball and the "boys of summer". At PUMC, we can think of our campaign as a baseball game. On first base, we have our committed total of \$883,710.60. On second base is our total received in June of \$15,792.34. Third base is our total amount received of \$436,984.48. At the plate, our batter is the total needed to reach the 50% mark in the campaign, which is \$4.870.82.

Our bases are loaded. We need only a single, but we are swinging for the fences and looking for a homerun.

God is surely at work at Panama United Methodist Church. If you get a chance before you leave some Sunday morning, take a look at the progress in our new addition.

We thank each and every one who has sacrificed for the CenterPoint project. Surely, with your faithful giving, we'll go beyond the 50% goal with a grand slam for the August report.

Refreshing Summer Drink

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse

1 c. cubed ice 2 bananas 1 c. chopped strawberries 1/2 can of diet 7 Up

Blend all in a blender and enjoy!

WALKING...

with Parish Nurse Jody!

WHERE?

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

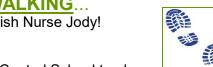
...or maybe just offer to make some coffee on Sunday mornings.

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!





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.

> Get Ready.... Christian Ed classes begin September 9!



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

...Missions and Outreach...

AUGUST Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Dan/Stephanie Landin
- 2 Jenna Nagel, Bryce Hinsdale, Earl/Kathy Foulk
- 4 Ray Cartwright, Harrison Osborne
- 6 Rex/Jody Marsh
- 7 Tabetha Butler
- 8 Lee/Stephonie Kester
- 9 Janet Osborne, Jon/Julie Dilley
- 10 George/Donna Peterson, Don/Linda Wood
- 11 Connor Range, Mike/Dawn Sard
- 13 George Peterson, Joe Sturges
- 16 Matthew Kolstee
- 17 John/Pam Brown
- 18 Dawn Comstock
- 19 Eleanor King, Gerrit Hinsdale
- 20 Chris/Mary Ann Blose, Jerry/Pam Ireland
- 21 Dan/Pat Sobolewski
- 22 George Anderson, Barb Tordella, *Bill/Amy Caldwell* Shawn/Julie Chapman, Bryan/Shelly Rupczyk
- 23 Bill Peck
- 24 Wendy Trisket, Peter/Paula Komarek
- 25 Cole Gleason, Nathan Gleason, Ken/Katie Braun
- 27 Kelly Osborne
- 28 Pat Sobolewski
- 29 Elizabeth Baehr, Willa May Rupczyk, Glenn Topolski
- 30 Meredith Rupczyk

A look ahead to September......

- 2 Ann/Shawn Schnars
- 4 Pam Brown, Jane Nagel, Sam/Carm Catanese
- 5 Kim Davis



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.

Vacation Bible School - 2018

VBS was a success once again! And how do you measure success? Was it that we had around 50 kids, 50 adult and youth helpers, a fun and well written skit, being at the school, upbeat and lively music, storytelling that was meaningful and pertinent to kids' lives, bird house making, free gifts of plastic hard hats with goodies, ice cream sundaes, laughter during game time, satisfying snacks, play time and LEGO building, creative crafts, the smile on the children's faces or the shining love of the registration ladies? Yes, it was all of these things......and much more!!!!!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make VBS 2018 a success!

NEXT Course for New Members and Baptisms

In October, Pastor Steve will be leading a new members and baptism course for anyone interested. The course will be three weeks and will discover the basis of the Christian faith, what it means to grow in Christ, and your place in the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ here at Panama UMC.

If you are new to Panama UMC, this is the course for you. If you have not been baptized, and would like to be, this is the course for you. If you are interested, or have questions, please let Pastor Steve or Debbie Johnson (n the office) know. The first class will be either before or after worship, depending on the will of the participants. Baptisms and new members will be welcomed in November during worship. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Welcome Table soon.

See you there!



Saturday, August 18; 3pm

TIMBERCREEK Golf Course; Blockville, NY

\$17/person (golf and cart)

Sign up sheet is on the Welcome Table or call 716-782-4031

Bring a dish to pass; hot dogs, burgers and lemonade will be provided

Back to School Bash

Carol Hay

This year, the Back to School Bash will be held on Thursday, August 9, from 6 to 8 pm at the Panama Central School. Our church and the Panama Baptist Church have once more joined forces to plan and implement this event for the Panama community.

The hope is to supply children in the UPK program through grade six with new backpacks and school supplies. We want to assure families with young children in the community that we see their needs and want to offer our help in preparing for a new school year.

The evening isn't just about giving our a backpack and school supplies though. There will be games, snack food and drinks, and information tables of interest to families. The 4-H and scouting programs will be on site to provide information on how to get involved in their organizations. The County Health Department will be on hand to give our information on healthy eating and avoiding ticks! Other organizations as well as the Sheriff's department and the local firemen will also be there to offer safety tips and encourage children to make good decisions.

Of course, Panama Central School personnel will also be at the event to answer questions about school procedures and activities. The school support group - Parents For Panama - will be on hand to talk about their activities and how parents can be involved in the school.

The event planning is underway and details are being finalized. We still need two things - volunteers from the church to help the day of the event and families to attend! If you are willing to help with set up in the afternoon, work with others during the event, or clean up afterwards, please contact Carol Hay at 761-6572. If you know a family that has children in the age group from UPK through grade six, please be sure they know about the Back to School Bash and encourage them to attend. Offer to take them if necessary and enjoy the event together.

This is one more way we can show our love for each other.

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Back to School Bash and Connections

Stacy Taylor

Our church continues to support our community by reaching out with gifts and services. Thank you for helping to support the Back to School Bash on August 9.

We look forward to the school children attending our after school ministry, Connections, which will start again in the Fall. Our three wonderful leaders will be back: Sandy Crossley, Joan Monroy and Tara Hosier. If you see them - wish them well, and thank them for their wonderful ministry to our children. We will begin to accept snack donations in September.

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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Church E-mail – contact@panamaum.org
Church website - www.panamaum.org
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Please check the calendar inside for weekly meetings and activities for the month of August.

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