

Grace Notes - March 2021
Panama United Methodist Church
Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor



From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Dead doesn't mean dead....

Are you ready? Are you prepared? I've asked that question quite a few times lately from the pulpit and in small groups. It's Lent and we are fast approaching the glory and wonder of Easter morning. Let's be ready!

This month, as we continue to sit at the table of Jesus for his last meal with his disciples, what He knows (that we don't) is that he's going to die. He'll be beaten and murdered, put in the grave, go to hell and back, and then do something that has transformed the world. Jesus will be raised from the dead...when dead wasn't really dead for good!

In the Apostles Creed, we read this statement of faith: *On the third day he rose again.* The resurrection account of Jesus is recorded in the Gospels from the eyewitnesses to the event. Various men and women witnessed the empty tomb, the missing guards, angel, and the linens that had been wrapped around Jesus' body. More importantly, they witnessed the risen Christ himself, talking and standing with them. This truth claim is essential to the Christian faith and central to the validity of Jesus' words, which claimed that he would rise after three days. It also represents victory over Satan, fuels our hope in God's promises, and provides a tangible idea of our coming destiny.

Three days after Jesus had been placed in the tomb, he was risen from the dead and took on a glorified human body. The act of rising from the dead is not something that Jesus himself accomplished, but he "was raised" from the dead by the divine power of the Triune God. The disciples and those that were with Jesus had not completely understood the breadth of his role in God's plan. The resurrection was the new beginning that convinced the disciples that Jesus truly was the Messiah, that he triumphed over death, and was divine. This added validity, also then, to the other claims of Jesus, his description of the kingdom of God, and his commandments and his commandments and teachings.

Jesus appeared to the men and women that he encountered just after the resurrection and was in a glorified human body.; Resurrection is not simply a matter, for Jesus, of returning of the completely divine nature from whence he existed prior to the incarnation. Following the incarnation and his life and death, Jesus is resurrected into a renewed body.

The effect of this truth claim is that just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, will be raised from the dead. Just as Jesus lives in heaven as a human and divine being, we, too, will live as glorified humans in heaven.

The ultimate focus on Easter is our hope for the future, when we will come into our own glorified bodies, bowing before our Lord and Savior, placing at his feet all that we have stored up in heaven! Eternally praising him, worshipping him, and basking in his love. May it be soon!

Holy Week is coming...be prepared!

Peace and Shalom,
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.

**Season of Easter 2021
(February 17 - April 4)**

- 3.28.21 **Celebration of the Jesus Last Lesson (Palms/Passion)**
- 4.1.21 **Maundy Thursday On-line Only Worship; 6pm**
- 4.2.21 **Good Friday Worship; 7pm; Panama UMC**
- 4.3.21 **Possible Community Easter Egg Hunt; 10am; PUMC**
Walk to the Crosses Worship; 6pm; Corner of Randolph
and North St., Panama (uneven terrain)
- 4.4.21 **Resurrection Sunday! Worship at 8:15am and 10:15am**
Easter Reception; 9-10am line

This year, our Maundy Thursday worship will be online only and we will hear reflections and music from 4 area pastors, pre-recorded and available after 6pm on 4/1/21 via Facebook and Livestream.

On Easter morning (4.4.21), we will offer two identical worship services (at 8:15am and 10:15am). There will be a wonderful reception in the Gallery from 9-10am for everyone! It'll be a great morning of celebration and fellowship!

COME WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST!

Thank You!

On Saturday, January 16, a group of dedicated people gathered to help clean, sort, and re-arrange the storage closets and rooms at the church. There is still some work to be done, but by mutual decision-making and using the UM Guidelines, documents and items were kept and stored, taken to the landfill, put in the dumpster, or set aside for additional review. Many hands made the work go quickly and smoothly. We even had young legs there to help tote things down stairs and out. The help of each individual who gave up a Saturday morning to help clean at God's house is very much appreciated.

Thank You!

Carol Hay
Church Council Chair

Courageous Conversations

Last spring, Church Council had planned an event called "Courageous Conversations" with Pastor Carmen Perry, Lay Leader Susan Hardy and Pastor Steve. COVID cancelled the event. At our last Church Council meeting, we again discussed hosting Pastor Perry and Susan Hardy at PUMC to talk about the conflicts within the United Methodist Church related to the responsibilities of pastors to follow the Book of Discipline and the desire of those in the LGBTQ community to be loved, accepted, and married within their churches.

Pastor Steve wrote a series of articles for the Grace Notes related to this issue and the doctrine of the United Methodist Church. If you want to reread these articles, we will have a few printed copies available and you can access the pdf online. This may provide good background information prior to our "Courageous Conversations".

It was decided to host this even', "Courageous Conversations", at the church with limited guests and to provide a ZOOM link to allow anyone interested to participate at home. The even will be held on Thursday, April 22 at 7pm. Mark your calendar and watch for more information and details.

CONNECTIONS

Thank you for supporting the Souper Sunday event! We raised over \$500 for our Connections Ministry! WE hope you are enjoying your souper bowl. Hold on to it - you may need it for next year!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Plans are in the works for an in house VBS this summer. If you are interested in being part of the VBS team, please let Stacy know.

CAMPING

If you or someone you know is interested in attending SUMMER CAMP this summer - please contact Susie Davis, Stacy or Debbie (in the office).. There is scholarship money available! Mission Meadows will be holding Day Camps in July. Bethany Camp is open - and we're checking into other options. This is THE summer to get away and enjoy God in the outdoors!

Recipe for the month of March
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse

TURKEY MUSHROOM SURPRISE!!

- 1 1/4 pounds raw lean ground turkey
- 5 c sliced mushrooms
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- One 12 oz jar fat free turkey gravy
- 1 Tbsp dry onion soup mix
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch

Add all ingredients except onion soup mix and cornstarch to the crockpot. Mix well, breaking up the ground turkey as you mix. Cover and cook on high for 3-4 hours; OR cook on low for 7-8 hours. Reduce heat to lowest setting. Sprinkle onion soup mix and cornstarch into the crockpot and stir until dissolved. Allow to sit uncovered 5 minutes. Serve over your favorite pasta.

Blood pressures and sugars will be offered the first Sunday of every month in the Parish Nurse's office, which is through the double doors and down the hallway past the coatroom and the conference room.

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. There are check out our class offerings below.



Something new this year is a **FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME**.....this is held usually on the first Sunday of the month. We hear a Bible story, make a craft to take home, have a yummy snack and spend time learning about God with our families. March 7 is our next family gathering in the Community Room at 9am.

Sunday Mornings

Pre-K to Grade 2: Summer and Kevin Wolcott

Grades 3-5: Howie Wheeler

Grades 6-8: Becky Cable:

Grades 9-12: Jess Nelson

Adults: George Anderson

Adults: Jon Cable

Adult Women: Marge Vollmer.

Additional adult classes, (other than Sunday morning)

Adults: Cindy and Dennis Furlow - this class meets on Sunday afternoon at 2pm only on Zoom. They are discussing the Tabernacle (symbolisms of Jesus) through all the temples.

Please contact the church office for Zoom information.

Adults: Stacy Taylor - this class meets Wednesdays at 3:30pm in the Church Gallery and on ZOOM.

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

Sunday School Jon Cable's Class

Did you know that you can explain what the Bible is all about in 7 "C" words?

CREATION
CORRUPTION
CATASTROPHE
CONFUSION
CHRIST
CROSS
CONSUMMATION

This is what we are learning in Jon Cable's Sunday School class each week. We are learning what the Bible is all about and why it is to be the ultimate authority, not man or his ideas, in forming our world view. We also learn how to apply these areas in terms of 1 Peter 3:15, which says that we should be prepared to give a defense for the hope we have. We need to know what we believe and why. Break away from what the world says about creation, the flood of Noah's day, are we of one race - the human race or not, and other issues. We meet downstairs in the big classroom and there's room for you!

<<<<<NOTICE>>>>>

DATE CHANGED!

**Safe Sanctuaries Training
Saturday, March 27 via ZOOM
You need to register online!
QUESTIONS??
Contact Summer Wolcott**

Panama Bible Quizzing

We have been quizzing each month and the team continues to persevere in their memorizing. It is difficult to maintain such a discipline of study through the daily grind of January and February but I'm so proud of this team. Team Chosen will likely earn the 2nd place trophy for the season! They are maturing spiritually and emotionally through the competition. We have completed the book of Matthew and among our team, all 28 chapters are covered! That's 1,071 verses!

We are now gearing up for our final local quiz on March 13th in Canisteo and great news... we are hosting our very first quiz tournament on Saturday, March 27th, here at Panama UMC! We're calling it the Maple Tourney with awards of local maple syrup products for the top team and top individual quizzers. I can't tell you how excited I am to invite quizzers here to be loved on and encouraged by this awesome group of Jesus followers! The hospitality team will be offering lunch and dinner to the quizzers. Check with Julia Nelson and Pam Ireland to volunteer to serve.

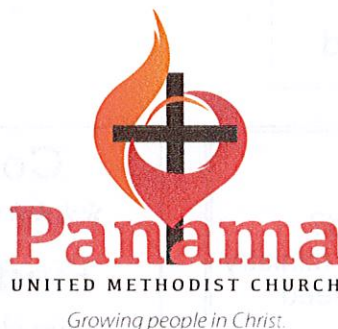
Let me know if you are interested in coming as a spectator. We do plan to livestream the Championship quiz, thanks to our super AV team.

We are also looking to the National tournament in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, April 21-24. So many exciting events in which to look forward!

Quizzing for Jesus!
Coach Becky

We ask that you continue to spread the word
that the clothing shed is back open to the Panama community .

STRONGER.....TOGETHER.....IN PRAYER



The **NURSERY IS OPEN**
during the morning worship time with
2 nursery attendants.

Just One For Others

For the month of MARCH,
donations of **HAIR CONDITIONER**
are being accepted in Jody's office.

C O N N E C T I O N S

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



God's Groceries Food Pantry

Monday Morning: 9-10am

Monday Evening: 6-7pm

Thursday Evening: 5-7pm

Questions? See Tina Swineford

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.

MARCH Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

A look ahead to March...

- 1 Dylan Peck, **Keith/Cindy Miller**
- 8 Jennifer Johnson, Wende Lescynski
- 9 Sally Baer, Gregory Ireland
- 11 Andrew Tordella
- 12 TC Davis, Rita Lenart, Carolyn Stow
- 13 Nicholas Sard
- 14 Tate Catanese, Susie Davis, Jerry Ireland, Patrick Dole
- 16 Steve Holmberg
- 17 Joe Miktuk
- 18 Stephen Enlow
- 21 John Cartwright, Neil Sturges
- 22 Bert Rappole, Asher Baehr, **Bert/Mary Rappole**
- 23 Maggie Keefer
- 24 Wendy Peck
- 25 Corey Osborne, Linda Roraback
- 26 Duane Baker, Hunter Waller
- 27 Ken Braun, Emily Lyon
- 28 **Jeff/Brenda Ireland**, Johnathan Miles
- 29 **Dick/Julie Nagel**
- 30 Nicholas Lenart, Steve Wiggers

A look ahead to April...

- 1 Caleb Caldwell, Adyn Hay, Rex Marsh
- 2 **Joe/Joan Miktuk**
- 3 Kylie Schnars
- 4 Bill Caldwell, Sam Catanese, Tara Hosier, Ben Taylor
- 6 Janice Franklin
- 7 Derek Hosier, Kyle Hosier















Come and check out the

*******LUNCH BUNCH*******

Find it on March's calendar
and make plans to join us!

March 17; 11:45am

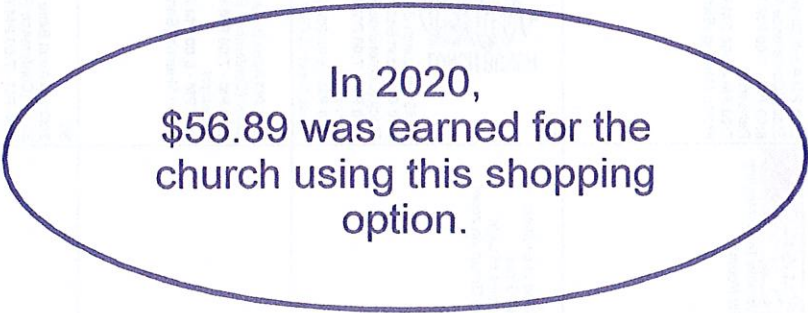
MARCH 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 9:00 AM Sunday School for Pre-K (age 4) - adults 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUMC and via Livestream and Facebook 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Youth (Community Room)	1  9:00 AM - 10:00 AM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM In The Upper Room with Jesus Lenten Study 7:00 PM Sunday School Meeting (Community Room)	2 7:00 PM Band of Brothers Discipleship Group (Gallery) 7:00 PM Ladies of Light Discipleship Group via zoom	3  3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Conference Room) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM Trustee Team Meeting (Conference Room)	4 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN	5  6:00 PM CHAT Care Group Meeting 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Imprisoned for Christ Virtual Event Simulcast (Sanctuary)	6 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Girl Scouts with Summer (Community Room)
7 Communion Sunday 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM Family Sunday School (Community Room) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUMC and via Livestream and Facebook	8  9:00 AM - 10:00 AM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM In The Upper Room with Jesus Lenten Study 7:00 PM Safety & Security Team Meeting (Community Room)	9  7:00 PM Worship Team Meeting (Community Room)	10 3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Conference Room) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting (Sanctuary)	11  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 7:00 PM Missions Team Meeting (Community Room) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stewardship Team Meeting via Microsoft Team online	12 13	13 13
14 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 9:00 AM Sunday School for Pre-K (age 4) - adults 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUMC and via Livestream and Facebook 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Youth (Community Room)	15  9:00 AM - 10:00 AM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM In The Upper Room with Jesus Lenten Study 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 141 Ceremony (Comm Rm and Kitchen)	16 7:00 PM Band of Brothers Discipleship Group 7:00 PM Ladies of Light Discipleship Group via zoom	17  11:45 AM Lunch Bunch 3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Conference Room) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting (Sanctuary)	18 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop Meeting with Kaitlyn Froman (Community Room, 2 sets of tables for 11 & 5)	19 20	20  8:30 AM - 2:30 PM Community Helping Hands Meeting with Carol Hay (Conference Room) 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Girl Scouts with Summer (Community Room)
21 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 9:00 AM Sunday School for Pre-K (age 4) - adults 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUMC and via Livestream and Facebook	22  9:00 AM - 10:00 AM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM In The Upper Room with Jesus Lenten Study 7:00 PM Food Security Team Meeting (Community Room)	23 3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Conference Room) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting (Sanctuary)	24 3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Conference Room) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting (Sanctuary)	25 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN	26 Bible Quizzers will set up for tomorrow's event	27  Bible Quiz Tournament (Becky C) (Sanctuary, Conf Rm, Comm Rm, Youth Rm, Gallery)
28 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 9:00 AM Sunday School for Pre-K (age 4) - adults 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUMC and via Livestream and Facebook 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Youth (Community Room)	29  9:00 AM - 10:00 AM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM In The Upper Room with Jesus Lenten Study 7:00 PM Sunday School Meeting (Community Room)	30 3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Conference Room) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting (Sanctuary)	31 3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Conference Room) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting (Sanctuary)	1 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN	2  GOOD FRIDAY 6:00 PM CHAT Care Group Meeting 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship	3  10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Girl Scouts with Summer (Community Room)

Do you shop online at Amazon? PLEASE CONSIDER...

smile.amazon.com

- Anyone who shops always needs to access Amazon
Via smile.amazon.com
- Then you choose a charity
Panama United Methodist Church
(This is how we are entered)
- Purchase anything you want and 0.5% of the price of
your eligible AmazonSmile purchases will be donated
to the charity you chose.



In 2020,
\$56.89 was earned for the
church using this shopping
option.