

GRACE NOTES - April 2021
Panama United Methodist Church
Rev. Steven M. Taylor
Lead Pastor

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

From the Cross...into eternity.

Starting sometime in January, pastors and worship leaders begin to think about Lent and Easter. This isn't so unique, this planning ahead, since there are others that do the same thing... greenhouse owners, chocolate makers, and those who are planning a much needed vacation. All of these people take time to plan for the season of Easter by breaking the ordinary routine and planning for the extraordinary.

Ironically, the observations we note from the cross of Jesus project the most extraordinary events into the most common setting. And we're left with an amazing display of God's love and compassion for us.

"The theological power of the [Cross] derives not from how Christ's crucifixion differs from all other crucifixions but from its essential similarity. ... Christ died in precisely the same way that so many other thousands of God's children had already died and would die in the future - many because of their loyalty to him. ...As he was given to us by means of the most common of births, he was taken from us by the most common of deaths." (**Don C. Skinner**, *A Passage Through Sacred History*.)

In the midst of our extraordinary planning and implementation for Lent and Easter, we gear up to celebrate the life and death of Jesus Christ. We remember Jesus' birth just a few short months ago. We've relived some awesome moments of Jesus' life while in worship and bible study. We've seen Jesus happy, and angry, and sad - all the emotions that we, too, experience.

And so finally, now, in April, we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. Funny that we should celebrate his death along with resurrection...no runny, ha ha, but funny, curious. This sad murder takes a prominent place in the life of the church and our beliefs. All the theological thought of the Apostle Paul is merely philosophy without the truth of the death of Jesus. And so Jesus' death on Good Friday takes its rightful place a few days before the resurrection of Easter. And we worship on both of those days. We worship and celebrate for the goodness that God provides in life, death, and resurrection in Jesus.

Are you willing to celebrate the death of Jesus...of God's divine-human son who was destined to die for your sin? Or do you want to skip right to Easter so the greenhouses and the chocolate maker's plans can be the ones we celebrate? Many in our world choose the latter, and miss the whole point.

(Continued on next page....)

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

It's not just Jesus' story, friends. It's not just God's story for Jesus. No...it's our story as well, this death and resurrection of life. Every day, in the most routine and common acts of our lives, we have the opportunity to die to ourselves and be raised into God's plan for us. Whether we're planning for worship or counting boxes, or typing a letter, we have the chance to make a difference. We can make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through lovingly providing every person in our community the opportunity to believe in and follow Jesus. We can turn the common into the extraordinary every minute with God's help.

Easter is the glorious climax of Jesus ministry on earth. Easter is the glorious beginning for us to celebrate and glorify our Lord and Savior. But it's just the beginning! Pentecost is coming! The Holy Spirit is at work! May the ordinary turn extraordinary for all of us this Easter season!

***Peace and Shalom,
Pastor Steve***

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

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.

4.2.21 Good Friday Worship; 7pm; PUMC

4.3.21 Community Easter Egg Hunt; 10am; PUMC

4.3.21 Walk to the Crosses Worship; 6pm; Corner of Randolph and North St., Panama (uneven terrain)

4.4.21 Resurrection Sunday! Worship at 8am and 10:15am

via Facebook and Livestream

Easter Reception; 9-10

On Easter morning (4.4.21), we will offer two identical worship services (at 8am 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!

(Continued on next page...)



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.

JUST ONE 4 OTHERS

We are continuing with this ministry for 2021. Each month we are encouraging you to purchase "ONE" of the items listed above. These will be offered to our Food Pantry, PCS, Love INC, and Jamestown Missions.

Questions? See Jody, our Parish Nurse.

The April item to purchase is

Q-Tips

BOY SCOUTS ANNUAL CAN DRIVE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 24
8am - 4pm**

PANAMA UMC PARKING LOT

Panama UMC BIBLE QUIZZING

Hosting our first ever quiz tournament last month was A-M-A-Z-I-N-G!! We had 31 quizzers participating in addition to coaches, table officials and spectators. The competition was intense, the fellowship sweet and the food delicious! Many thanks go out to Carl Davis, tech guy extraordinaire, for spending the day just being available and for making livestream possible; Julia Nelson and Pam Ireland for feeding everyone and serving with a smile; Debbie Johnson for helping me with the details of signs, creating lyric slides & just overall support and encouragement. I love to see the body of Christ working together to edify the body and glorify the Lord.

If you haven't checked out the livestream yet, try it out. Here is the link"

<https://livestream.com/panamaum/mapletourney>

Begin at 51 minutes into it to see the best of the quizzing.

Team *Chosen* finished 2nd for the season with Josh placing 6th and Gracie 5th overall. It was a great year and we're not done yet! Juliana, Josh, Gracie and Levi, along with 10 others quizzers, will be representing Family Life at the national tournament in Wisconsin Dells, April 20-26th. Please pray for us to finish strong.

Quizzing for Jesus!

Coach Becky



Red Cross Blood Drive
Wednesday, April 14; 2 - 8pm
PUMC Community Room



Come and check out the
*****LUNCH BUNCH*****
Wednesday, April 21;

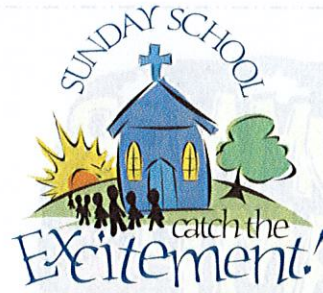
Blood pressures and sugars will be offered the
1st Sunday of every month
in the Parish Nurse's office.
Use the double doors near the coat room
and go down the hall past the elevator.

CLOTHING SHED

We ask that you spread the word about the St. Paul's Clothing Collection Shed found in the corner of the East Main Street parking lot. Proceeds from the clothing shed assist the Missions Team in their many projects, locally and around the world. Thank you for your support, and please feel free to reach out to us at any time.



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



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.

Sunday School starts at 9am.

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

Hope to see you there!

Sunday Morning Classes

PreK-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.

'Courageous Conversations'

Last spring, Church Council had to cancel an event called "Courageous Conversations" with Pastor Carmen Perry, Lay Leader Susan Hardy and Pastor Steve. This spring we will host that conversation with 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.

Last year, 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".

"Courageous Conversations" will be held at the church with limited guests and a ZOOM link to allow anyone interested to participate at home. The event will be held on Thursday, April 22 at 7pm. Please call the church office closer to the date for a ZOOM link. It will also be posted on announcements at church.

The Meal Preparation Committee

The Meal Preparation Committee is a service of the Food Security Team. Charged with providing meals to those recovering from a serious illness, surgery, injury or any need where a meal will help in the time of stress and medical decisions.

Anyone who knows of a family who will benefit from the receipt of a meal will refer the family to Pastor Steve or Jody Marsh, the Parish Nurse. When the Pastor or Parish Nurse is made aware of needs, they will refer the family to the Meal Preparation Committee. The Pastor and Nurse will confirm with the family that a meal will be accepted and will include any information regarding the number of people in the family and any food sensitivities. The referral will then be forwarded to the Meal Preparation Committee chairman.

The Meal Preparation Committee will:

1. Solicit and maintain a list of people who are will to prepare and deliver meals.
2. Accept referrals from the Pastor or Church Nurse
3. Determine who will contact individuals to prepare/deliver the meal when needed,
4. Provide the person delivering the meal with contact information so they can arrange a convenient delivery time.
5. Promote ministry through Grace Notes and the church bulletin.

If you are willing to prepare a meal for a family, please contact Kathy Foulk at 716-499-6437 or via email at cleaning.granny@gmail.com.

APRIL Birthdays and Anniversaries

With Sympathy to the family of...

Bruce H. Merle

Bruce, of Attica, NY, was born January 18, 1945 to the late Arthur E. (Florence C. Chamberlain) Merle. He passed away on March 1, 2021.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Nancy, and a large family which included his sister, Phyllis (Charles) Couture and his niece, Stacy Taylor.

The love and prayers of the church are with you and your loved ones as you continue through this time of grief and adjustment.

CONNECTIONS

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

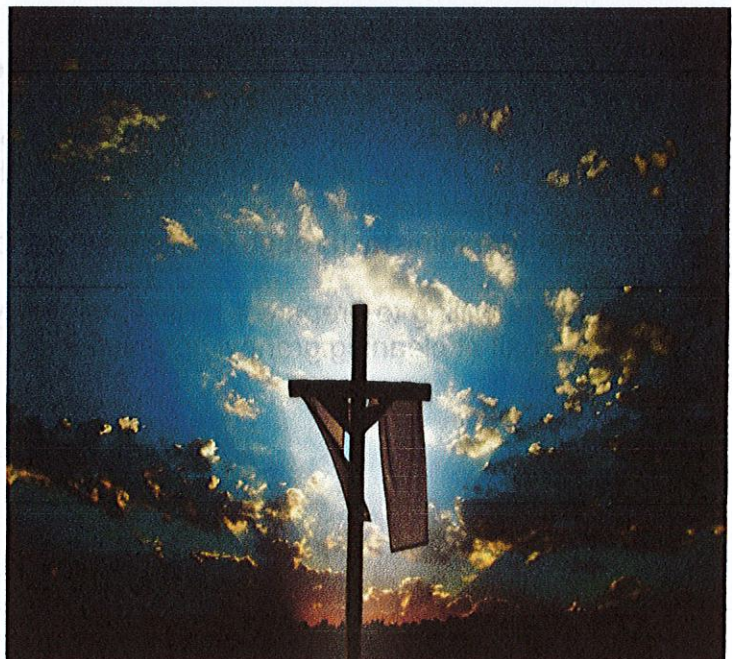
Thursday Evening: 5-7pm

Questions? See Tina Swineford














- 1 Caleb Caldwell, Adyn Hay, Rex Marsh
- 2 Josh Cable
- 3 Kylie Schnars
- 4 Bill Caldwell, Sam Catanese, Tara Hosier, Ben Taylor
- 6 Janice Franklin
- 7 Derek Hosier, Kyle Hosier,
- 8 **Jon/Becky Cable**
- 10 Maddeline Wheeler
- 11 Shawn Chapman, Alexandria King
- 12 Emily Waller
- 13 Pastor Steve Taylor
- 14 Kennadee Mosher
- 16 Tom Baer
- 17 Tina Swineford
- 18 Lester Wevers, Donovan Schnars, Hannah Calcaterra, Megan Hinderer, Rebecca Jaeger, Hunter Kester
- 20 Donna Peterson
- 21 Tim Middleton
- 22 Jean Trisket, **Bob/Diane Johnson**, Cam James, Jeff Ostrander, Chuck Parkman
- 23 Larissa Enlow, Tyler Marsh
- 24 Elinor Sturges, Gracie Cable, Kate Kester
- 25 **Dave/Joan Hinderer**
- 26 Paula McCordic
- 27 David Auge
- 28 Cindy Cartwright, **Warren/Cindy Crouch**
- 30 Jolene Ayres, **Dan/Paula Wesolowski**

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.



APRIL 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)	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		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 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service online	2	 6:00 PM CHAT Care Group Meeting 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship	3	 10:00 AM Community Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Girl Scouts with Summer (Community Room) 6:00 PM Walk to the Crosses
4	 Communion Sunday 7:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 8:00 AM Resurrection Worship! 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM Family Sunday School (Community Room) 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Easter Reception (Gallery) 10:15 AM Resurrection Worship!	5	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	7:00 PM Band of Brothers Discipleship Group (Gallery) 7:00 PM Ladies of Light Discipleship Group via zoom	7	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)	8	 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stewardship Team Meeting via Microsoft Team online	9		10	10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Baby Shower hosted by Lindsey Jackson 716-498-4491 (Comm Rm/Kitchen)
11	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)	12	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN	13	 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Church Council Meeting (Community Room)	14	 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive (Community Room) 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)	15	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)	16	 6:00 PM CHAT Care Group Meeting at George & Trudy's	17	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Girl Scouts with Summer (Community Room)
18	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	19	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN	20	7:00 PM Band of Brothers Discipleship Group 7:00 PM Ladies of Light Discipleship Group via zoom	21	 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)	22	 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 7:00 PM Courageous Conversations (Gallery)	23		24	 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Boy Scout Annual Can Drive
25	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)	26	 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 7:00 PM Sunday School Meeting (Community Room)	27	 7:00 PM Staff Parish Relations Team Meeting (Community Room)	28	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)	29	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN	30		1	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Girl Scouts with Summer (Community Room)

