

AUGUST 2021 GRACE NOTES
Panama UMC, Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor



From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Annotation of a Creed
The Suffering Messiah

(This is part of a continuing series about the truth claims of the Apostles' Creed [ACJ])

Last month, we looked at our understanding of Jesus the Son of God. This month, we look at the third statement in the Apostles' Creed: [Jesus] *who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...*

This month, we will look at Christ from the perspective of *the suffering messiah*.

Jesus Christ entered into ministry on earth, fulfilled the Messianic prophecy of the Old Testament, and presented God to creation. He preached, taught, and performed miracles. He informed humanity of the coming of the kingdom of God and rebuked those who were engaged in an ethical standard that was different from the kingdom's ethics. As a result, Jesus was loved by some, despised by some, and a mystery to many. His message was one of love and judgement, exhibiting the natures of God and God's will for humanity. Many times, Jesus' message conflicted with the practice of religion of the day and the rites and rituals of the Jewish leaders.

Jesus Christ's ministry on earth ended at the hands of the Roman leaders who were persuaded by the Jewish religious leaders to have Jesus crucified. This truth claim expresses the fact that Jesus suffered at the hands of the ruling government, which played a role in the eternal plan of God to bring salvation to the world through Jesus Christ. This suffering is the very essence of the redemptive plan that it fulfilled. This claim also brings the suffering of Jesus to a personal level (the faith) for each believer, as we read and understand this type of abusive treatment. According to the Gospel accounts of the suffering of Jesus, it included mockery and verbal abuse, torture and beatings, and finally crucifixion.

So why talk about that ugliness and not the joy of Jesus' birth or all the miracles and teachings He did? Well, precisely because when we think about Christ's birth and life, it has little meaning if we don't step back and look at the whole picture that began before the world was created. The things about Christmas that we love (the celebrations, the music, the presents, the traditions, the gatherings, the food, etc.) have very little foundation without the life, suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

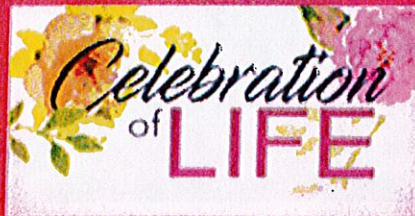
The world would like us to think that Christmas is about giving presents and eating until we are stuffed. Those things are wonderful gifts from God if done in moderation. But the hope of Christmas doesn't come from those things. The real hope of Christmas comes from knowing that the tender, little baby that is lying in the manger is more than trees and decorations. He's more than family and friends, or presents. The real hope of Christmas comes from the fact that the tender, little baby lying in the manger is the *Savior of the world*, who died a criminal's death so that you don't have to. Jesus took that pain and suffering for your sin on himself! THAT is Good News! THAT is Jesus!

Peace in our Savior,
Pastor Steve

PUMC Mission Statement

**We seek to love the Lord God by introducing people to His Son,
Jesus Christ, and helping this relationship grow.**

You're Invited



In loving memory of...

Jane Nagel

Saturday, August 28, 2:00 pm

at Panama United Methodist Church

NEXT COURSE

New Members and Baptisms

COMING THIS FALL!

In October/November, Pastor Steve will be leading a new members and baptism course for anyone interested. The course will be three weeks and will discover the basics 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 course is 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 (in 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!

A look into August.....

**Wednesday, August 4 - Red Cross Blood Drive; 2 - 8pm;
Community Room**

Thursday, August 5 - Harmony Sr. Citizen's; 12pm

Saturday, August 7 - Men's Breakfast; 8am; Gallery

Saturday, August 7 - Women's Breakfast; 8am

August 18 - Lunch Bunch; 11:45am

August 28 - Back to School Bash; PCS; 10am - 12pm

Celebration of Life (Jane Nagel); 2pm; PUMC Sanctuary

Please check the **AUGUST calendar** at the end of this newsletter to find regular monthly meeting reminders and additional "happenings" at PUMC.



We are so excited to have supported **over** 20 children as they went to summer camp this summer.

Pastor Steve and Stacy will be helping at Royal Family Kids Camp in August. This is a very special camp which our church supports prayerfully and financially. We are excited to be helping again this year. Please continue to pray for all Christian Camps and their staff this summer, as they adjust to new regulations, invite children into their space and share Jesus with their campers.

Thank you to those in Camping Ministry!

VBS 2021...ROCKY RAILWAY

We had an amazing week at VBS - Rocky Railway - Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through was a great success!

We had 40 adults who gave huge amounts of energy and time to make the week full of memories and fun. Around 70 children heard the wonderful story of Jesus.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the entire week go smoothly!

Praise God for a church that commits to loving and leading children to Jesus!

(...an "Out of the blue" quote from a 10 year old boy...) "VBS was awesome this year! I especially enjoyed building my own train car! I am looking forward to being a youth helper when I am old enough!"

BACK to SCHOOL BASH!!!!

We're excited to be hosting the Back to School Bash again this year.

August 28, 2021

10 - 12 am

...At the track at Panama Central School

We will be giving away plenty of school supplies to any students in grades K - 6! The theme is Olympics - so the events will reflect some from this year's Olympic games.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to this event—please leave your change in the bucket on the table in the gallery. Also, if you would like to help, please see Dawn Sard or Stacy Taylor.

*******CAMP THANK YOU'S*******

Dear PUMC

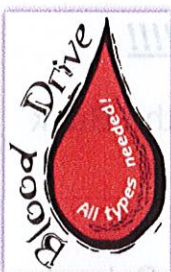
Thank you for raising money to send me to camp at Mission Meadows. I loved meeting new friends and meeting new people. Thank you again.

Love,
Evan Lescynski

Dear PUMC,

Thank you for sponsoring Nora Daniels. She is very much looking forward to her fun week at Mission Meadows.

Sincerely,
Kari Daniels



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, August 4
2pm - 8pm

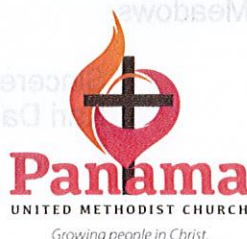
PUMC
COMMUNITY ROOM



HARMONY SENIOR CITIZENS
Thursday, August 5 at NOON
PUMC Community Room
COME...JOIN US
You will be glad that you did!

Come and check out the
*****LUNCH BUNCH*****
Wednesday, August 18
11:45am

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.



SUMMER WORSHIP **and** **COFFEE IN THE CAFÉ**

HOPE TO CONTINUE SEEING those
happy faces this summer! !
COFFEE time will continue throughout the
Summer. For now, coffee will be ready and
available starting between 8:30 and 8:45
and continuing until 10:15.
Prayer time will be in the Conference
Room beginning at 8:45am.

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 pro-
jects, locally and around the world.
Thank you for your support,
and please feel free to
reach out to us at any time.

CONNECTIONS

See you in the Fall!

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 AUGUST item of the month is
TOOTHPASTE

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

AUGUST Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Dan/Stephanie Landin
- 2 Jenna Rappold, Bryce Hinsdale,
Earl/Kathy Foulk
- 4 Ray Cartwright, Harrison Osborne
- 6 Rex/Jody Marsh
- 7 Tabettha Butler
- 9 Jon/Julie Dilley
- 10 Don/Linda Wood
- 11 Connor Range, Mike/Dawn Sard
- 16 Matthew Kolstee
- 18 Dawn Comstock
- 19 Eleanor King, Gerrit Hinsdale
- 20 Chris/Mary Ann Blose, Jerry/Pam Ireland
- 22 George Anderson, Barb Tordella, Bill/Amy
Caldwell, Bryan/Shelly Rupczyk
- 23 Bill Peck
- 24 Wendy Trisket
- 25 Ken/Katie Braun
- 27 Kelly Osborne
- 29 Elizabeth Baehr, Willa Rupczyk
- 30 Meredith Rupczyk

A look ahead to September...

- 2 Ann/Shawn Schnars
- 4 Sam/Carm Catanese
- 5 Kim Davis

AS YOU KNOW....
The MISSIONS TEAM CHICKEN
BBQ FUNDRAISER
was a
.....TOTAL success.....

There has already been chatter
about doing another BBQ.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SEPTEMBER 12
following morning worship

WHITE GIFT FUND

Are you aware of a community need?
We have a White Gift Fund with avail-
able ministry dollars. If you know of
anyone with a need,
please talk to Pastor Steve

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 cleanning.granny@gmail.com.

You will be blessed!

Welcome to the Family...



Congratulations and best wishes to Patrick and Kayla Caldwell on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Louise Caldwell on July 9, 2021. Abby Lou weighed 8lbs, 4oz and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Amy and Bill Caldwell and Sharon and Tom Gilkinson. Great grandparents are Barb and Ed Trisket, Marjorie Maleski and Jeff and Janet Caldwell.

We congratulate you on the birth of this precious little one as she grows in the love of Christ.

Food Security Team

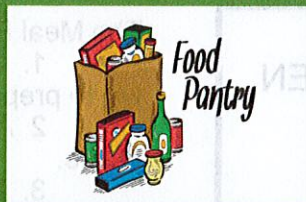
During July, several members of the Food Security Team, along with a few others, helped pack 250 bags of food snacks for the 5 & 2 Ministry food distribution program at Panama Central School. These bags will be sent home with students attending the summer program at the school.

5 & 2 Ministry will be gearing up for the school year come September. We welcome anyone who is willing to help prepare the area for packing (by opening and staging the supplies at the 5 & 2 ministry warehouse in Clymer) or on packing nights (when we pack for Panama Central School). It is a commitment of two hours twice a month. Watch for times and dates to be announced each month.

Lunch Bunch continued its meetings during the summer. This has evolved into a year round ministry that serves our community an opportunity for food and fellowship.

The Food Pantry continues its service, as well.

Please remember these vital ministries in your giving.



Monday Morning: 9-10am

Monday Evening: 6-7pm

Thursday Evening: 5-7pm

Questions? See Tina Swineford

Building Foundations

Submitted by Carol Hay

I recently spent a few days in Michigan - where I grew up. Whenever I return to the familiar (and unfamiliar) surroundings, memories of childhood activities and teenage drama remind me of how many years have passed. This was especially true this trip - besides visiting family, I attended a high school class "reunion". There were over 500 hundred in my graduating class, but only 20 of us gathered at an impromptu dinner at a local restaurant. I just happened to have plans to be in Michigan so it worked out for me to join them.

On my way back to my brother's house after the dinner and conversations, I reflected on my good fortune. I was one of the few who hadn't replaced an knee or hip and I still have hair. One of my friends left the party early - she had to get home because she cannot see to drive in the dark. We laughed since we used to scatter for home when the street lights came on - a different reason to be home before dark when you are twelve.

Memories can be good or bad - we all have some of each, I'm sure. As I thought about my early years, I realized many of my memories revolve around church. VBS, church camp, and youth fellowship not only gave me opportunities to be with friends, but they helped secure my need to be connected to church. Growing up, I heard wise ministers and Sunday school teachers. I observed adult interactions and listened to conversations that contributed to how I view moral issues, the values I hold, and my compassion for others. I was fortunate to have had ongoing exposure to a variety of ideas and interpretations to stimulate my own thinking.

PUMC provides opportunities for persons of all ages in the community to engage in activities where there is learning. Children in VBS, youth at church camp, and teens involved in their group activities all get the benefit of caring adults providing insights and interpretations of scripture and stories. Adults in classes and small groups may offer a variety of opinions on how to handle an administrative situation or interpret a scripture. Differences help us clarify our own ideas if we listen, ask questions and seek to understand.

Church not only provides memories of favorite hymns and fun times at church camp, but it gives us the foundation on which we build our lives. We owe our gratitude to the adults in our church who provide leadership for Sunday school, VBS, youth fellowship, and ensure children have camping experiences. Twenty years from now, a new parent is going to recall the impact our church made on his/her life and will search for ways to have their child build a foundation. Church will look different, changes will occur. What must continue is caring adults providing church related experiences for children and youth to build a strong foundation that will last a lifetime - and maybe even provide good memories of church and the people in it.

AUGUST 2021

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	<p>Communion Sunday 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUWC and via Livestream and Facebook</p>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	<p>8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUWC and via Livestream and Facebook</p>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	<p>8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUWC and via Livestream and Facebook</p>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	<p>8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUWC and via Livestream and Facebook</p>	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	<p>8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUWC and via Livestream and Facebook</p>	30	31	1	2	3	4