

Panama United Methodist Church Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor Grace Notes, October 2021

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Victory in Jesus (This is part of a continuing series about the truth claims of the Apostles' Creed [AC])

There's victory in Jesus! I say "Amen(!) to that! And I pray that you do as well. There is victory in the Son of God and his presence with us. But what does that really mean? What are we to understand as Christians that would cause us to proclaim that there is victory in Jesus? Victory over what or whom?

As we continue spending some time looking more deeply to the claims made by the Apostle's

Creed (AC), we might begin to see a glimmer of what God defeated through Jesus.

Last month, we talked about the death and burial of Jesus as the fulfillment of a wonderfully mysterious plan to pull you and me out of the pit that we find ourselves in most of the time. It's a plan to rescue us from sin...a plan of salvation.

My question for us this month is: why should we care about being in the pit? What's at the end of the road? Well, the answer to that is death - and I'm not talking just any death, but eternal death and darkness and separation from God forever.

Now that we know the boundaries, let's look at the next part of the AC, which talks about Jesus going to be with the dead for a time.

...he descended to the dead...

This clause of the AC was included in the earliest forms of the creed, and seemingly was an important theological issue. The time between the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a mystery, but this truth claim asserts that Jesus was present with the people that had previously died. Two paradigms exist as to the idea of this state of being, whether a place or a condition.

The importance of this clause is found in the victory that Jesus gained over the grave, for all people, for all time. Jesus' earthly existence ended when he died, but that was the beginning of the accomplishment of the greater purpose that Jesus came to fulfill. Because Jesus overcame death and hell, we, too, have the promise that we will overcome death if Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

The pit that I mentioned earlier is someplace from which Jesus has rescued you if you put your faith (maybe as big as a mustard seed) in him. You need not worry about eternal death or eternal separation from God - it's all been made right for you. But therein lies the rub. Is it that way for all people universally? Or do some reject the attempts by the God of all creation to restore a relationship with him? Sadly the answer is Yes...many will be sad on the day of judgement.

But that's not God's plan. God wants all to be with him forevermore. God wants all to see heaven and sing praises to him.

Maybe it's time for you to take a break from your normal routine and make that phone call to someone who's hurting. Maybe it's time to give up one thing that you're DOING, and spend time in prayer for someone who is spiritually lost. Take the first step, and God will multiply anything you do.

The victory has already been won...now we just have to tell everyone else about it!

Peace and Shalom, 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.

NEXT COURSE for New Members and Baptisms coming this Fall!

In late 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!

Regional Church Conference Sunday, October 17 at 1pm

Our annual state of the church and ministry update will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 17th at 1pm. A light lunch will be served for those who wish to stay after worship to attend the gathering.

Area churches will also be present in the regional gathering. We will be providing information leading up to the meeting and look forward to your input. We will be talking about mission, vision, and what is in store for 2022 and beyond.

You're invited!

A Look into October...

10/2 - Men's Breakfast; 8am; Gallery

10/6 - Blood Drive; 2pm - 8pm

10/7 - Senior Citizens; NOON

10/17 - Regional Church Conference; Light lunch will be served; 1pm - 2:30pm 10/20 - Lunch Bunch; 11:45am 10/23 - ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER; look for

10/23 - ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER; look for further details in this newsletter

Please check the OCTOBER calendar at the end of this newsletter to find regularly scheduled meetings and additional "happenings" at PUMC.

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Rex and Jody Marsh announce the wedding of their daughter, Brianna, to Ryan Ford on August 21, 2021.

God is the author of yet another chapter in your lives.

May you be richly blessed as your future, together, unfolds.

The love and blessings from your PUMC family are with you today and always.

Thank You, God!

Thank you, God, for your many gifts you've given through the years. Forgive me, God, for the many times my lack of faith brought fears. Thank you, God, for your protective hand that keeps me safe along the way. Forgive me, God, for the many times that I forgot to pray. Thank you, God, for the many ways you have helped me grow. Forgive me, God, for the many times your love I failed to show. Thank you, God, for loving me and always being there. Forgive me, God, for the many times your glory I failed to share.

> Written and shared by Pauline Edsall (2004)

TAILGATE KICK OFF PARTY THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Sunday School Tailgate Party Kick Off on September 12. Everyone had a great time.

Thank you to everyone who helped with games, as well.

Be on the lookout for more events planned by the Christian Education Team. Sunday School classes have started but it is never too late to join a class!



Sunday School for ALL ages!

Jessica Nelson, Christian EducationTeam Leader

Have you bee thinking of joining a Sunday School class or looking for one for your children? We have classes for all ages, from age 3 to adult. Most classes meet on Sunday mornings from 9 - 10am. It is never too late to start. Our classes meet you, where you are in your walk with God. If you would like to find out more or are willing to start a new class, please call the church office.

PreK - 2nd grade: Summer and Kevin Wolcott. They are using David C. Cook curriculum (Bible In Life). Children learn songs, listen to a Bible story and complete an activity each week.

Grades 3-5: Howie Wheeler. Howie prepares lessons based off of what Pastor Steve will be preaching about that particular Sunday. This helps the kids understand what is happening during worship and they are able to get more out of the sermons.

Grades 6-8: Becky Cable. She is using the ABC Curriculum. The class focuses on why they can trust the scriptures. Students will learn to stand on God's word rather than man's word.

Grades 9-12: Jess Nelson. The David C. Cook curriculum (Bible in Life) is being used in this grade level. Students will connect everyday situations to God's Word and be able to apply God's word to their everyday lives.

HUGS (Helping Us Grow Strong) Adult Class: George Anderson. This class is using the book, The Parables Jesus Taught. Through this study they will gain new understanding about the parables Jesus taught and be able to apply it to their daily life.

Adult Class: Jon Cable. Answers Bible Curriculum. This class will learn why the Bible is to be the ultimate authority by learning about the overall themes of the Bible using the 7 C's: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophes, Confusion, Christ, Cross and Consummation.

Women's Class: Marge Vollmer. Currently they are discussing Satan and how to keep him from controlling our lives.

Classes that meet at times other than Sunday Mornings: Adult Class: Stacy Taylor. This class meets on Tuesdays at 3:30 in the Gallery. This class spends time talking a closer look at scripture.

Adult Class: Cindy and Dennis Furlow. This class will be meeting at church. There will be a Zoom option, should you desire that.

We hope you will choose a class and join us. You are not obligated to remain in the class, should you find it not suited to your liking, for whatever reason.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE Wednesday, October 6th—2pm - 8pm Panama United Methodist Church Community Room





Come and check out the

***LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, October 20th

11:45am

Make plans to join us!

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.

OCTOBER NURSERY

10/3 Larissa and Adam Irgang

10/10 Summer and Betsy (Unavailable: Brenda, Devin,

Lisa, Adam-CM)
10/17 Lilly, Howie & Erika (Unavailable: Megan)

10/24 Tory and Megan (Unavailable: Brenda. Howie-CM)

10/31 Gracie and Brenda

Weekly: Betsy, Lilly, Stacy, Summer, Brenda, Larissa, Megan, Jessica N., Adam, Tory, Howie, Wende Gracie

<u>Subs</u>: Carol, Kim, Julia, Trudy, Devin, Lisa Junior Volunteers: Erika Wheeler

COFFEE (and goodies) IN THE CAFÉ

HOPE TO CONTINUE SEEING those happy faces that we saw this summer!!! COFFEE time will continue into the fall. Coffee, tea and goodies will be ready and available by 8:15 and continuing until 10:15. Prayer time will be in the Conference Room beginning at 8:45am.

If you would like to donate a "goodie", please let Julia or Pam know. At this time, we would appreciate individually packaged cookies, crackers, etc. for our coffee time. Small sandwich ziplock bags work great for this preparation.

Thank you!

CLOTHING SHED

We ask that you spread the word about the St. Pauly'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.

JUST ONE 4 OTHERS

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 OCTOBER item of the month is MOUTHWASH.

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

OCTOBER Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Matt Komarek, Glenn/MelissaTopolski
- 2 Amy Caldwell, David Calcaterra
- 3 Pam Ireland
- 4 Steve Halpainy, Pat/Joyce Dole
- 5 Kyle Hinsdale, Ariana Range
- 6 Krista Odell, Don/Tabetha Butler
- 7 Adalynn Wiggers
- 9 Joe/Darcey Lyon
- 9 Rebecca Wheeler, Tina/Mark Akam
- 12 Jeff/Jody Hay
- 12 David Anderson, Jim Roraback
- 15 Ricky Eggleston
- 17 Lee Crosby, Buck/Kristine Seekings
- 18 Carm Catanese, Joyce Edwards
- 19 Mary Rappole, Adam/Tory Irgang
- 20 Tammy Hosier, Sue Woods
- 22 Neil/Cindy Sturges
- 23 Kandi Torres, Charlie Loveless
- 24 Stacy Furlow
- 25 Betty Crosby, Adam Irgang
- 26 Doug Hosier
- 28 Allison Halpainy, Brad/Shirley Osborne
- 30 Debbie Edwards, Joe Osborne
- 31 Dawn Sard, Melissa Wiggers

Looking ahead to November...

- 1 Mike Sard, Carol Slmmes, Cindy Sturges, Joel Wiggers
- 2 Chris Comstock
- 3 Tom/Sally Baer

Parish Nurse Recipe of the Month APPLE CRISP (Jody Marsh)

6 medium apples (honey crisp or gala), peeled and sliced 1/4 inch thick)

- 1.5 oz raisins (small box)
- 3/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 1/4 tsp honey
- 1 c quick oats
- 3 Tbsp light brown sugar (not packed)
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 1/2 Tbsp butter, melted
- 1. Heat over to 350 degrees
- Combine apples, cinnamon, raisins, lemon juice and Honey in large bowl.
- 3. Sprinkle with cornstarch. Toss until fruit is coated.
- 4. Place fruit in ungreased baking dish. Cover with foil and place in oven for 15 min. Remove from overn
- 5. Mix the remaining topping ingredients and sprinkle over fruit.
- Bake about 60 minutes or until topping is golden brown and fruit is tender.



PUMC Annual Harvest Dinner DRIVE THRU

...with all the trimmings: Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, squash, cranberries, roll, and choice of dessert (pumpkin or apple pie)

:::::WHEN:::::

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 4 - 6:30pm...(or sold out)

:::::WHERE:::::

PUMC parking lot; 22 East Main Street, Panama,NY

Please be aware of the **ENTRANCE** and **EXIT** signs!

There will be helpers in the parking to direct you.

DINNER BY DONATION

We hope to see YOU there!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! We so appreciate Pastor Steve and we wish to thank him for all he has done "above and beyond" during these last crazy months and days.

If you would like to make a donation, you may do so by giving it ot any SPRC member...

Katie Braun, Don Butler, Kristy Catanese, Sam Catanese, Carl Davis, Adam Irgang, Joel Keefer, Amanda Kolstee,

Andrew Lescynski and Marge Vollmer. If you are donating online or in the offering plate, please note Pastor Appreciation.

Bible Quizzing!

We are studying the books of Romans, James and Revelation this season.

Let me introduce our team, "Armor of Light": Adalynn ("Addie") Wiggers, Evan Lescynski, Gracie Cable, Kamaria McClendon, Levi Graham, Susannah Graham and Zion McClendon.

Our Family Ministry league is growing and we have 25 rookies! We competed on September 25th in Canisteo, coming in 5th our of nine teams. Kararia and Addie placed in the top 7 rookies and Gracie placed 3rd overall! Our next quiz is on Saturday, October 23 in Canisteo.

We will be hosting the "Turkey Tourney", November 19th and 20th, here at the church. Come and check it our and support these hardworking quizzers!



CONNECTIONS

Connections 2021/2022 is up and running!!
We appreciate any snack donations
for up to 20 children.

The list on the right includes suggestions for any snack donations you might wish to make. Donations may be dropped off in the bins which are located in the in the west side entrance hall off the parking lot.

Back to Connections...we are looking for adults who would be willing to be on a substitute list. The hours are 3-5:30pm, and the job involves playing games with children, getting snack and reading a Bible story. What could possibly be more fun?? If that could be you, please let Stacy Taylor know!

Thanks for supporting our Connections Ministry with your prayers, snacks and donations!

Needed for our After-School Ministry, please! Ritz, Townhouse Goldfish or, Club Bugles crackers · Cereal (any kind) Popcorn chips Granola Bars Pudding Pretzels · Cookies (any kind) Jello cups Chex Mix Ranch Dressing Yogurt Cheese Balls · Peanut Butter Apples · Popcorn (that we · Graham Crackers Oranges can pop) Grapes Fruit Snacks Celery Carrots Juice

Overlooking Insults Carol Hay, contributor

I recently had the privilege of attending a series of lectures over a period of five days that relate to the American Foreign Service. Speakers were senior foreign service employees and employees of the State Department. The knowledge they shared on diplomacy, foreign policy, and specific countries was insightful, interesting, and thought-provoking.

After several lectures, I was hearing one theme over and over. We cannot make progress in setting good policy, negotiation treaties, or ending wars unless we understand the history and the culture of the country. We must build relationships with individuals and countries in order to talk with and understand each other. It seems knowing why someone says or does something is just as

important in working with countries as it is in dealing with individuals.

Proverbs 12:16 says "A fook shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult." That is where I want to be - able to overlook an insult, a hurt, a slight, a caustic word. It is so easy to be kind and caring with those who treat us well, give us compliments, and act as we do. Building a relation-ship with someone who is very different from us - who jay say something we regard as unkind or who negatively responds to our friendly overturns - is very difficult. If we struggle on a personal basis with small differences or slights, imagine how hard it is to meet resistance in a very different culture with histy we don't know or cannot understand. Finding common ground to build thos relationships is such a great.

God made each of us and he made us different - He also told us to love one another. He never said it would be easy. When I give someone a pass on rude behavior and instead find common ground, we can start to build a relationship. Overlooking perceived or real insults can result in understanding his/her needs, developing a better working relationship, and even finding a new friend.

I've never had to negotiated with people who spoke a different language, valued dissimilar things and based their culture on a history thousands of years old. I leave thos challenges to others. I do have opportunities on a daily basis to overlook slights and insults and sow love to others. I can build relationships and make connections that will result in building a better, more caring community. As each of us does this, our world becomes a better place.

OCTOBER 2021

| | 2 MEN'S POUR MANAGEMENT AND | | | Annual Harvest Dimert | 30 | 6 Andrew Post wedding (tentative) 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Gallery) |
|-----------|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| | FIRE COMMUNITY ROOM) | 8 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Bible Quiz Practice (Community Room) | 15 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Bible Quiz Practice (Communily Room) | 22 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Bible Quiz Practice (Community Room) | 29 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Bible Quiz Practice (Community Room) | 5 6:00 PM Andrew Post wedding tehearsal tehear |
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