



From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Jesus in the Flesh!

*A piece of me
I give to you
I sent my own Son
To say "I love you."*

*I hope you will see Him
And trust Him someday
For He came in the flesh
On that first Christmas Day.*

Have you ever received something (a gift, a card, etc.) that came with a hand-written poem inside from someone special? Sometimes on birthdays or Christmas, I like to write a poem to my wife that tells her in prose what she means to me. I think she likes reading it as much as I like writing it.

Can you imagine getting a poem like that from the Creator of the Universe? Can you imagine what it was like for God to not only write a letter to us, but send Jesus to live amongst us to SHOW us how much He loves us? It makes my feeble attempts at poetry seem insignificant in the universal awesomeness of God and His message.

My poetry to my wife expresses my promise to always be a faithful and loving husband. God's gift at Christmas is His promise to be grace, love, and forgiveness as we turn our eyes to Him throughout our days. And the promise God gives to us to an eternity of sharing our lives with Him. This Christmas, remember the promises you make to others, and remember the ultimate promise God makes to you through Jesus Christ. He will be our God and we will be His people. What an incredible gift!

One of the amazing facets of the promise God has made with us through Jesus Christ is the fact that when Christ returns, the faithful who have died will be raised up, and we will meet with Jesus as He reigns over His kingdom here on earth. The Apostles' Creed confesses that we believe in the resurrection of the body and affirms for us that we will be resurrected just as Jesus was. Bodily resurrection for all believers is our hope in the life to come as we exist in a state of heavenly glory with God. The example of Jesus being raised from the dead gives us a vivid illustration of the expectations of this truth claim.

(Continued on the following page...)

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.

(From Pastor Steve's Desk, continued)

God made a way in the still calm of that first Christmas morning for us to hear His poetry of love. From birth to death, God draws us closer to Him through the Holy Spirit and His church. Celebrate the fact that God cares for you as an individual, that He cares for the church as Christ's body, and that all of this, even our bodily resurrection, is God's poem that says, "I Love You."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I, for one, have some writing to do before the big day...I hope to see you soon as we prepare for it together!

*Peace and Shalom,
Pastor Steve*

Blue Christmas Worship

On Sunday, December 5th, at 6pm, you're invited to a special worship service that will help all who are struggling with finding and maintaining JOY in the Christmas season. This is needed like never before. The message of hope in the coming of Christ will invite us to come to the manger and see Jesus. As we do, we will be filled with the love of God in Christ Jesus.

All are invited to come to this special worship experience.

Christmas Eve Worship Announcement

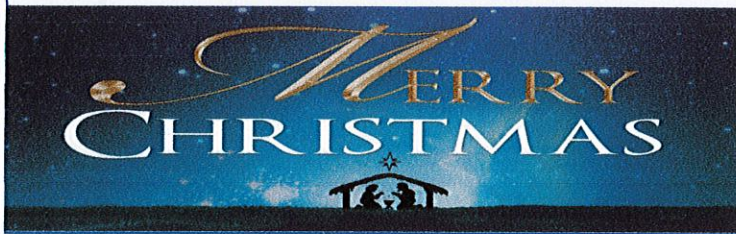
This Christmas Eve, we are planning to worship at 4pm and 11pm. In order to have adequate spacing and safe distancing, we will offer these two worship experiences for our congregation and community. Both will be livestreamed as well (www.livestreat.com/panamaum) for those who desire to worship remotely. The early worship service will be great for families and those who don't wish to stay up late. The later service will be our traditional candlelight worship, ending at midnight, welcoming Christmas Day!

White Gift Offering for December to Bless Families in Need

Our White Gift Fund is a discretionary fund setup for use by Pastor Steve to meet the needs of people in our community during times of crises or loss. For December, all donations made to the White Gift Fund will be used to bless as many families as possible for Christmas, depending on needs. If you know of a family that could use a blessing, please contact Pastor Steve (steven.taylor@panamaum.org) or call the church office at 716-782-4031. Please pray about giving generously to the White Gift Fund in December and all year long. Thank you and blessings!

Looking into December...

- Dec. 2 - Senior Citizens; Noon**
- Dec. 3 - Family Movie Night; 6-7:30pm**
- Dec. 4 - Men's Breakfast; Gallery; 8am**
Christmas Decorating Party; 9am
- Dec. 5 - Blue Christmas Service; 6pm**
- Dec. 8 - Red Cross Blood Drive; 2-8pm**
- Dec. 14 - Church Council; 6:30-8:30pm**
- Dec. 15 - Lunch Bunch; 11:45am**
- Dec. 19 - Christmas Musical during worship at 10:15am**
- Dec. 24 - 4pm; Christmas Eve Worship**
- Dec. 24 - 11pm; Christmas Eve Worship**
- Dec. 25 - *Merry Christmas***



The Missions Team Post Office is open for business for the Christmas season.

Sharing Christmas wishes brings smiles and happiness to all receivers. You simply bring your cards with the re-

cipients first and last names on the envelope to the Post Office on Sunday morning. Suggested postage for using this "service" is 25 cents per card or a flat donation to the Missions Team is also accepted. The cards must be able to be picked up at the church. There is no delivery outside the church. We have helpers available to assist you. They will stamp and file the cards into the Post Office boxes and deliver them as they are able.

We are again offering the ever popular PUMC VIRTUAL CARD! Simply send your greetings and/or picture to contact@panamaum.org asap, but no later than 12/15. The Missions Team is accepting donations for this service, as well.

Please call the office if you have any questions (782-4031).

FREE Blood Pressures and Fasting Blood Sugars

in Jody's office,
Stop in on the first Sunday of each month.

From the Hospitality Team

Coffee, tea and light individually packaged snacks, are available on Sunday mornings, from 8:30 until 10:15am. Please join us!

We would be happy to teach you how to use the "new" coffee pot...it really can't get much easier. We would love to sit and have a socially distanced cup of coffee. Would you be interested in greeting people at the door on their way to worship? We would welcome your help. It is a great way to meet and greet some PUMC friends and neighbors who you may not have seen for awhile. See Kathy Foulk to sign up!

We would also like to invite you to bring a dozen (or more) of your favorite Christmas cookies to share on the snack table. Any Sunday in December would be perfect. If you could individually bag them, that would be helpful. Otherwise, Pam and Julia can do it when you get here. We thought it would be fun to collect your recipes and share them with your PUMC family. If you would like to be included, please place your recipes in Debbie's mailbox by her office door. Once they are compiled, distribution will be sometime in January. Sound like fun? We thank you, in advance, for your participation. Please see Julia or Pam with questions.



A New Baby...

Jeff and Larissa are pleased to announce the birth of their first grandchild.

Elliot Lyle Enlow, son of Stephen and Reilly Enlow, was born on November 9, 2021. He weighed 7lbs.4 oz., and was 20 inches long.

Elliot's family includes his grandparents, Jeff and Larissa Enlow,

Kristen Franklin, Jeremy Gates and his Uncle, Chris Enlow.

The new family resides at 1584 TenHaken Road, Panama.

Congratulations and much love to you all.

With Sympathy to the Families of...

Donnell K. "Woody" Woods

9/7/57 - 10/29/21

Eleanor J. King

8/19/32 - 10/31/21

Donna J. Peterson

4/20/36 - 11/1/21

Paul E. Pearson

2/21/40 - 11/21/21

Donna W. Pearson

7/19/45 - 11/25/21

[Parents of David (Gena) Pearson]

Barry Wheeler

6/2/48 - 11/27/21

[Brother of Howie (Jan) Wheeler]

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

CONNECTIONS

So far, the 2020-2021, the Connections After school ministry is going well! To keep this ministry running smoothly, we need your support!

The snack donation buckets are in the long Choir hallway for ease of donation. In addition to donating snacks, please consider making a direct monetary donation to Connections this year. All donations will help us keep our tuition at its current rate.

Thank you for your support to the families in our community!

Stacy



Oh, Christmas tree, Oh, Christmas tree,,,

DECEMBER Birthdays and **Anniversaries**

- 1 Bert Anderson, Brianna Ford
- 2 Arianna Seekings
- 3 Judy Parkman
- 4 Earl Foulk, Aria Ireland
- 5 Rob Peck, Paige Weise, **Dennis/Cindy Furlow**
- 6 Eloise Smith, Kandi Catanese
- 7 Roger Kester, Evan Vande Velde
- 11 Ann Schnars, **Larry/Gay Ostrander**
- 12 Warren Crouch, Amanda Anderson, **Cam/Scotty James**
- 14 Becky Dominey, Debbie Loveless
- 15 Alyssa Jaeger
- 16 **Mike/Kelly Range, Jan/Howie Wheeler**
- 18 Olivia Nagel
- 23 Jamie Halpainy
- 25 Joyce Dole, Peg Naetzker
- 26 Marie Dole, Becky Cable, David Munsee
- 29 Rachel Steffan, Jessica Keefer, Landon Miller
Greg/Carrie Edwards
- 30 Lee Kester, Janette Weaver

Looking ahead to January 2022...

- 1 Carl Anderson
- 3 Caroline Apthorpe, Erin Miller, Reese McGaffick, Pam Sali
- 4 Isaac Landin
- 5 Kimberly Barton, Betty Johnson
- 6 Jeff Ireland
- 7 David Rowe, Andrew Apthorpe

If the names of your immediate family are not included on our monthly birthday/anniversary list, and you would like them to be added, please drop a note into Pam's Newsletter mailbox in the office/workroom or let Debbie in the office know. (First and last names as well as birthday and/or anniversary dates). We would like to include you and yours.

<<<<< Just One 4 Others >>>>>

The **DECEMBER** item of the month is
Dental Floss.

Thank you all for supporting this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Jody, our Parish Nurse. Please place your donations in Jody's office in the hallway just past the elevator.



The **God's Groceries Food Pantry** can be found at PUMC, next to the kitchen. If there is a need, please call the church office for more information, or see Tina Swineford.

The Food Pantry entrance is on Church Street...look for signs.

Monday Morning: 9-10am

Monday Evening: 6-7pm

Thursday Evening: 5-7pm



NURSERY SCHEDULE **DECEMBER AND JANUARY**

Dec. 5 - Wende and Megan
Dec. 12 - Gracie and Elizabeth W
Dec. 19 - Larissa and Elizabeth W
Dec. 26 - Betsy and Jessica

Jan. 2 - Summer and Gracie
Jan. 9 - Howie, Erika and Betsy
Jan. 16 - Wende and Jess
Jan. 23 - Larissa and Brenda
Jan. 30 - Stacy and Elizabeth W

Much Written

*There is much written about Christmas,
but the one wish we have for everyone is that
we remember why we celebrate this special day.*

*“...but the angel said to them,
“Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you,
which will bring great joy to all the people.*

*This very day in David’s town your Savior was born -
Christ the Lord!” (Luke 2:11-12)*

BIBLE QUIZZING!

What a great time we had last month as we hosted our "Turkey Tourney"! We had over 40 quizzers on seven teams competing over two days and the competition was fierce! We had times of worship led by the Keir Family from Belmont and a message from Pastor Steve encouraging us in the importance of PRS...Public Reading of Scripture. We had delicious meals prepared and served with love by Julia, Pam and Carol; Carl and Duane were so helpful in the sound booth; Debbie in the office and Susie with her extraordinary creativity...Thank You!

We have a church body that works beautifully together, each using their giftedness to the Glory of God and for the building up of the Body. Here is some feedback I received from one of the coaches:

"The setting was wonderful! Your church facilities were great, and everything was so well organized, efficient and quite punctual. We also sensed the support and love of your pastor and his wife and the ladies in the kitchen. The Bible verse candy favors were special extra touches, and the prizes were so adorable - and all much appreciated!"

We have an upcoming quiz on December 11th in Canisteo. Please remember our quizzers as they study Romans 4 & 6; James 4; and Revelation 7,14, & 21. If you want to encourage the team, cheer them on at one of our practices. We meet Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8pm.

For His Namesake,

Becky



Adversity...but Advent!

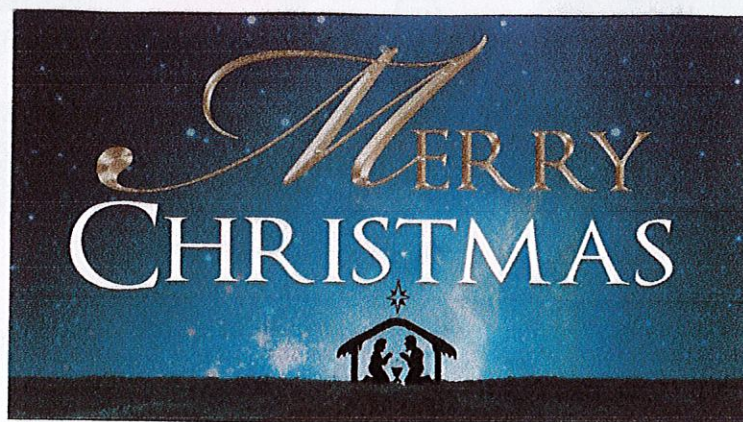
Contributed by Carol Hay

As I write letters, notes and cards to send holiday greetings to my family and friends, I see and use the words **love, joy, peace** and **hope**. Then I read and watch the news reports and I see and hear nothing that indicates we live in a world of love, joy, peace and hope. That's the bad news. The good news is I believe we have the power to create the environment we want to live in each day. We can love others unconditionally and bring joy into our lives and the lives of others by our words and actions. We can be at peace knowing what we say or do is aligned with the teachings of Jesus and we can have hope because we believe in the risen savior.











Even churches struggle with difficult situations. The global church organization has differences of opinions on how to deal with others who don't share the same values. The church organization is faced with legal proceedings related to victims from BSA activities. The church is not immune to conflicts. As our Church enters the Advent season and prepares itself for honoring the birth of Jesus Christ, I am reminded that we are responsible for how we choose to live. We can read the news and lament the injustices, fighting, and lies and we can feel burdened by complex decisions facing leaders. We often feel powerless to change these situations. But we can choose to show love, bring joy, feel peaceful, and always have hope. Making things better for one person at a time really can spread - within a church, community, and maybe even to the nation and beyond.

I'm practical and a realist - I know the hurts to the horrific actions that occur daily. I'm also a child of God and I pray for a better world. I'm grateful that the Panama United Methodist Church is a congregation of positive people seeking to show love, spread joy, be at peace, and always remain hopeful that good will overcome evil.

May the **love, joy, peace**, and **hope** you feel in this season of Advent spread into the new year as we work to make the world a better - one person at a time. Each of you is wished a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 1st Sunday of Advent 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM Blood Pressures/Sugars (Jody's office) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUMC and via Livestream and Facebook 11:30 PM - 11:45 PM Special Church Council Meeting (Sanctuary)	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 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting	30  3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Gallery) 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Rooted Craft Evening Community Room)	1 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop Meeting with Kaitlyn Froman (Community Room) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM Trustee Team Meeting (Community Room) 7:00 PM Choir Practice	2 12:00 PM Harmony Senior Citizens (Community Room/Kitchen) 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Lind's Annual Memorial Service Taping (Sanctuary) - late afternoon with Pastor and Carl 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Family Movie Night - "The Star" (Community Room)	3  6:00 PM CHAT Care Group Meeting 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Family Movie Night - "The Star" (Community Room)	4  MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Gallery) 9:00 AM Christmas Decorating Party 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Jaxon Wolcott birthday party (Community Room)
5 2nd Sunday in Advent Comunion Sunday 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM Blood Pressures/Sugars (Jody's office) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUMC and via Livestream and Facebook 6:00 PM Blue Christmas Service	6 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 - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting	7 3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Gallery) 7:00 PM Band of Brothers Discipleship Group (Gallery)	8 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive (Community Room) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Practice	9  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Bible Quiz Practice (B-4) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Stewardship Team Meeting via Microsoft Team online	10	11
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM Blood Pressures/Sugars (Jody's office) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUMC and via Livestream and Facebook	13  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 - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting 7:00 PM Safety & Security Team Meeting (Community Room)	14  3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Gallery) 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Rooted Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Church Council Meeting (Community Room)	15  11:45 AM Lunch Bunch 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop Meeting with Kaitlyn Froman (Community Room) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Practice	16 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Bible Quiz Practice (B-4)	17	18 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Phoebe Wolcott birthday party (Community Room)
19 4th Sunday of Advent 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM Blood Pressures/Sugars (Jody's office) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! CHRISTMAS MUSICAL at PUMC and via Livestream and Facebook	20 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 - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting	21 3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Gallery) 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Rooted Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Band of Brothers Discipleship Group	22 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Practice	23 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Bible Quiz Practice (B-4)	24  4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 
26 8:15 AM Prayer Meeting (Conference Room) 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM Blood Pressures/Sugars (Jody's office) 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM WORSHIP! at PUMC and via Livestream and Facebook	27 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 - 8:00 PM Prayer & Praise Meeting	28 3:30 PM Adult Bible Study with Stacy (Gallery)	29 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Practice	30 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM God's Groceries Food Pantry OPEN 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Bible Quiz Practice (B-4)	31	1  8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Gallery)

