

Here is the Weekly Church Mail 8/19/2024 from Panama Methodist Church.

Our **mission** is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

Our **vision** is to lovingly give every person in our community the opportunity to believe in and follow Jesus for life!

Devotion from Pastor Paul

Blessed Are The Peacemakers – Matthew 5:9

There is entirely too much conflict, hurt, war, and division in this world. This is a part of what we read when read the New Testament Gospels, the Apostle Paul's letters in the New Testament, and much of the Bible. Yet, the New Testament was written almost two-thousand years ago, and the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible, was written hundreds of years before that.

Someone can jokingly say, "well I am glad that we got that all sorted out back then!" While there are things in this world that are much better than centuries ago, there is still far too much conflict, hurt, war, and division in this world. How can this be though? Many of us read our Bibles every day and try to be like Jesus. How can there still be wars, and all the other hurts and harms of this world?

The humbling answer is that we live in a fallen and sinful world. Coming to Christ means that we choose peace, we choose hope, we choose mercy, and yes, we choose love. Some may think us foolish or weak for doing this, as it often cuts against the grain of this world, but this is what Jesus did.

You see, daily we get to choose Christ, and daily we get to recommit our lives to Christ. We must take up our crosses anew daily to follow him. This means that we get to choose to strive and to live like Christ every day. I have found in my young life that this involves a lot of prayer, reflection, and humility. If something harms or hurts us, most of us are not always eager to "turn the other cheek" as Jesus said. Even so, we get to choose to be like Jesus every day.

In Jesus' famous "Sermon on the Mount" in the gospel of Matthew 5:3-12, Jesus gives us many "Beatitudes". In these "blessed are" statements, Jesus tells us what deep faith in him calls us to. One of my favorite "Beatitudes," or "blessed are" statements is Mathew 5:9, where Jesus says:

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God (Mt. 5:9, NRSV).

Seeking peace and unity might mean that we look "weak" to some people, or that we are not "strong" to other people. Jesus, however, is our strength in our weakness. Living like

Jesus is hard, and if we are all honest there are times that we all want to omit some of his teachings, because they are just hard. Pursuing peace and unity though, is what Christ calls us all to do.

In my years as a pastor, I have seen families divided, years long friends stop being friends. I have seen communities divided, and wars that divide countries. Despite all of it, Jesus told us all nearly two-thousand years ago, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

I wish I could tell you that living our Christian faith is always easy, but in reality, doing what Christ wants us to do is sometimes incredibly hard. Sometimes we want to yell at the person that cut us off in traffic, sometimes we do not want to forgive, etc., but two-thousand years ago, Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers." While we will not see full peace on earth until Christ returns in glory, may we all strive this week and always to be peacemakers!

In name of Christ our Lord, the Peacemaker,

Pastor Paul W.

Upcoming Events

What's Happening This Week?

Monday, August 19

God's Groceries @ 9:00a

Francis Sard Memorial & Luncheon @ 11:30a

God's Groceries @ 6:00p

Worship Team Meeting @ 6:00p (Conference Room)

Christian Education meeting @ 6:30p (Community Room)

Safety and Security Response Team @ 7:00p (Library)

Tuesday, August 20

Band of Brothers @ 6:30p (Conference Room)

Rooted @ 6:30p (Library)

Wednesday, August 21

Staff Meeting @ 9:30a (Pastor's Office)

Lunch Bunch @ 12:30p

Adult Bible Study @ 3:30p (Conference Room)

Prayer & Praise @ 5:00p (Conference Room)

The Class Meeting (Pilot Group) @ 6:00p (Location TBD)

Thursday, August 22

God's Groceries @ 5:00p-7:00p

Praise Team Practice @ 6:00p (Sanctuary)

Saturday, August 24

Birthday Party for the Pecks @ 5:00p (Community Room)

Sunday, August 25

Prayer Meeting @ ***8:45a** (Conference Room) ***New Summer Time**

Worship! @ 10:15a

Children's Church with Maddie @ 11:30a

Our Lady of the Snows - Chicken BBQ @ 11:00a until sold out



Chicken BBQ

Visit Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church up the road for their final Chicken BBQ. They will be serving drive-thru style until sold out. Great option for Lunch after Sunday morning worship!



Sunday School!

Sunday School is starting soon! Don't miss our Kickoff event on Sunday September 8th after our morning worship service, and be sure to come at 9am the following Sunday, September 15th, for our first day of Sunday School!

Worship & Prayer Opportunities

WORSHIP TIMES: SUNDAY Mornings at 10:15am

PRAYER TIMES:

WEDNESDAY EVENING at 5pm (Conference Room)

SUNDAY MORNING at ***8:45am** (Conference Room) ***New Summer Time**

NURSERY MINISTRY:

The nursery will be staffed by Ministry Safe Trained volunteer staff, and two people will be present at all times. Please also know that all ages are always welcome to join us in the sanctuary - sitting with their family.

DID YOU KNOW? *Current and past sermons, as well as, the weekly bulletin are posted on the Church Website in audio and text-based format. Check them out and refer them to a friend. Many of you (and more) are "gathering" online and in-house for worship Sunday mornings.*

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

8/18 - 127 in-house + 42 Facebook + 23 Livestream + 9 Subsplash

8/11 - 111 in-house + 12 Facebook + 20 Livestream + 8 Subsplash

8/4 - 116 in-house + 30 Facebook + 28 Livestream + 12 Subsplash

7/28 - 108 in-house + 12 Facebook + 20 Livestream + 5 Subsplash

You definitely are NOT worshipping alone!!

*Unfortunately our livestream didn't cast to our Facebook page. Sorry for the inconvenience!

Thank you to the Tech Team and Worship Team for helping us worship online and in-house.

Online Giving/Streaming

Now is the perfect time to make the shift to online giving to Panama Methodist Church. It's secure and very easy to register and begin tithing online. This is a difficult time, financially, for our nation and community. As you can, we are encouraging everyone to continue to do what you can to give to the church and other charities.

To sign up, go to the church website (www.panamamethodist.org/giving) and click on the Give Online button on the homepage. If you need help, please call the church office (716-782-4031) for assistance.

Join us at church, if you feel comfortable gathering, or you may worship with us via Livestream, Facebook, or on Subsplash!

The link to the Livestream is www.livestream.com/panamaum

Join us on Facebook at

facebook.com/panamamethodist

Download the app here:

<http://get.theapp.co/ybt5>

Share, like, and invite others to JOIN US!

[Watch us Live Online Giving](#)

Mission and Outreach Opportunities

...serving Christ...

God's Groceries Food Pantry - The Panama area Food Pantry is hosted by our church, right here in our brand new addition. Contact Tina Swineford or call the office at 782-4031 **if you are interested in helping with this vital ministry.** Please realize that in an effort to better serve our community, God's Groceries Food Pantry will continue to keep both the

Monday morning and evening hours (9:00-10:00a and 6:00-7:00p) as well as Thursday hours from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

We are Live Streaming our worship! If you missed worship this week, or want to tune in on a Sunday to worship where you are, you can login to our [Livestream link](#) or watch on our [facebook](#) page! You can also go to the panamamethodist.org website and click on the livestream link. Also, you can watch past worship services and events.

Ministry Safe - Ministry Safe training is required for all Sunday School teachers and helpers, youth group leaders and helpers, Vacation Bible School leaders and helpers, and nursery and Children's ministry volunteers.

Sunday Morning Hospitality Team! The Sunday Morning Hospitality Team is looking for new servants! This is a great mission and ministry of welcome and invitation...please pray about how you can help. Thanks! Call the office for more information

Discipleship Opportunities

Panama Methodist Church Discipleship Group Information

C.H.A.T. (George and Trudy Anderson) First Friday of every month gaanderson@windstream.net 716-782-3252

Band of Brothers 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm (Conference Room)

Rooted 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm (Library)

Class Meeting Wednesdays at 6pm (Varies)

For more information concerning Discipleship Groups, contact the church at (716) 782-4031 contact@panamamethodist.org



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