

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held October 12, 2023 with 7 members present.

Lay Leadership

- On hiatus until Fall 2024
- 2023 Leadership Team will be carried forward to 2024

Lay Leader

- Cindy Gottschall served on the Women's Closer Walk #121 on October 14th weekend

Worship

- November 5 – All Saint's Sunday
- November 7 – Board of Elections @ AUMC
- November 12 – Recognize Veteran's Day
- November 18 – Thanksgiving Service & Harvest Dinner
- November 19 – Potluck Dinner
- November 26 – Christ the King Sunday, decorate Church after service
- December 3 – First Sunday of Advent
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 4PM @ AUMC, 7PM @ Mitchellsville
- December 31 – Joint service @ 10AM @ Mitchellsville
- Pew Bibles on hold until Disaffiliation is approved

Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

- Completed Pastor Compensation forms were unanimously approved by phone

Men's Fellowship

- Men's Fellowship is encouraged with 3-7 there each week
- Great discussions
- Additional people always welcome

Finance Committee

- Thanks to Ron Salles for great job as AUMC Treasurer

Membership Committee

- Membership as of October 8, 2023 is 84. Lester (Clay) and Rosemary Ovenshire recently joined by Profession of Faith

Ramp Committee

- 680 ramps completed, 26 this year
- 19 ramps remain on "to do" list

- 18 ramps have been removed and updates made
- Admin Council is concerned with Glenn's and other Ramp Guys health issues

Puppets

- Nothing to report

Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Average attendance 10-15 each day

OLD BUSINESS

- **Alternate Sunday School Teachers** – in progress
- **Security cameras** – running good, may need to purchase a stronger router
- **Purchase of replacement garment bags for choir robes** – pending

NEW BUSINESS

- "Light on the Ladder" training for emergency preparedness will be held October 28th, 9 AM – Noon @ AUMC

PASTOR'S TIME

- Everything already covered

FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$933.79 for the year as of October 19th

2023 CONCERTS

- Dave Burdick - December 16, Saturday, 3PM concert with dinner to follow

2024 CONCERT

- The Puffers – August 23, 2024, Friday, AMC congregation dinner @ 5:30PM, concert for community @ 7PM

THANK YOU to everyone who has participated in purchasing merchant cards throughout the year. The funds are used for items not budgeted. This year we have spent \$650 on 3 concerts. Funds will be used for the Dave Burdick concert in December.

NOTE: Only two more orders before Christmas: November 16th and December 7th.

AUMC DISAFFILIATION INFORMATION and TEAM UPDATES: Submitted by Bill Heard

Since our Church Conference vote to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church on July 24, 2023, we have completed the necessary legal and conference requirements.

1. We have established a new religious Corporation and Board of Trustees. Our new corporate name is Avoca Methodist Church Inc.
2. We had the property abstracts updated to allow property transfer.
3. We have submitted the historical document files to UMC archives as required.
4. We submitted certified copies of 2022 and 2023 financial documents.
5. We submitted our property transfer documents and the disaffiliation agreement to UMC.
6. We submitted the required monetary funds.

With the completion of these items, we had prepared our church for the District Conference vote on October 14, 2023, to allow disaffiliation from UMC. 57 total churches were being considered and the vote approved proceeding with the disaffiliation.

We are waiting for New York State to transfer the property deeds to our new corporation, Avoca Methodist Church Inc. The UMC disaffiliation is not complete until the property is transferred. This has been taking several months.

We need to continue to keep our church, congregation, pastor, and church/conference leadership in prayer.

Once we are separated from UMC, we can look forward to our future with the Global Methodist Church.

God will bless us all!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Trustee Meeting September 7, 2023 Submitted by Bill Heard

Our Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on September 7, 2023, with the following members present: Bill Heard, Bill Snyder, Bev Belanger, Al Belanger, Janet English, Don Loveland, Fred Wood, Marge Wood, Gary Weldy, and Pastor Barre Butts.

Projects Completed:

- Survey of items at the Kanona Church for items that may be donated to AMC.
- Transfer of CD funds to Ron for disaffiliation payment.
- Replaced drive belt and deck belt on the 2011 Cub Cadet tractor.
- The former Kanona Food Pantry moved to the back left classroom.

Old Business:

- Gary to do staining on the upper trim on the church. Lower trim can be done anytime. Trying to schedule for mid to late September but this may be a next spring project.
- Church road sign replacement is on hold until after our disaffiliation is completed.

New Business:

- Approved the Board of Elections use of the Church for the following 2024 election dates: April 4, 2024; June 25, 2024, and Nov. 5, 2024--- 6 AM to 9 PM
- Approved the use of the church for the Charge Conference on November 18, 2023.
- Need to measure kitchen door and windows for new replacements at the parsonage. (update: The purchase of a new door and two new windows was approved by the Board of Trustees on October 11, 2023 by a text vote and have been purchased and installed.)
- Approved the request by Janet to borrow a table from the church, for a craft show, on October 6th.

A Special Trustee Meeting was held on October 4, 2023 to approve an Eagle Scout project for Ian Bennett. Ian presented the plan for a Prayer Garden around the flagpole. The project was approved and Don Loveland is donating the necessary funds to support the project in memory of Theresa Loveland.

ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONS

The Advent devotions will begin Sunday, December 3rd. Those in the church email group will receive the daily devotion each morning. If you would prefer a printed copy, or don't have email, please place your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 2023 – Ron Salles

We continue to carry a reserve in the General Fund. The size of the reserve fluctuates from month to month, depending on the income and debts occurred, but most of the time there is enough working capital to keep our bills paid as they are received, along with any unexpected expenses that suddenly appear. The General Fund is the money we use to pay the everyday bills, like power and heat, pastor's salary, insurance, office expenses, etc. I continue to pay our bills on time. We also have paid our ministry shares to the conference. Praise God and thank you!

On the Mission Fund side, we no longer have any mission reserves, we are concentrating on our local missions this year as our missions' projects; The Ramp Mission, aka, The Ramp Guys, and The Lighthouse Mission, aka The Lighthouse Christmas. We were able to contribute a sizeable amount to both missions in September. Praise God and thank you!

The Campership Fund is mainly earned from the empty bottle and can drive, and some direct donations. There is a reserve that is currently building.

As the disaffiliation process continues, we have paid the required fees to the conference. The Special Session has voted to allow us to disaffiliate. Currently we are waiting on the New York State Courts to transfer the deeds. In the meantime, we will be transferring our business accounts to the new church entity, Avoca Methodist Church.

Thank you and God bless you!

Thank you for remembering your Methodist Church Membership Pledge, "To faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness."

If you have any questions please contact Ron Salles (ronald.salles@me.com).

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION

Ron Salles

Please visit our webpage at avocaumc.com and find the links to our Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

We record the Sunday Service and publish it on our YouTube Channel. Unfortunately, anything that is copyrighted must be removed from the recording and things that are private (like prayer requests) are also removed. I try to only record the pertinent parts of the service, but sometimes someone may be recorded incidentally. If you don't want to be part of the YouTube recording, let me know and I'll edit you out.

If you can't attend, or are traveling, you can still see the service. I try to post it by that evening or the next day at the latest. The post goes to the church's Facebook account as well as the YouTube account. If you are a YouTube subscriber, you should get notification when you log on to YouTube. Please share with your family and friends.

The service is also recorded on DVD, so if you can't attend for any reason or you want to see the entire service with the prayers and music, etc., (or until the DVD is full, a little more than an hour), let me know and we will get a copy to you at no cost to you.

If you have any questions please contact Ron Salles (ronald.salles@me.com).

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Fred Groner

GOD's WAY - "Have it your way" was a very clever slogan by Burger King to attract customers. It doesn't take very much Bible study to realize that "Have it your way" does not apply to attracting members to the true Church or Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:14). On the contrary, the Bible says that GOD's WAY is the only WAY (Matthew 7:13, John 10:9). Our own personal way to salvation is a dead end. The reason for Bible study is to learn and faithfully accept GOD's WAY.

While slogans like "Have it your way" sound clever and welcoming to a non-believing world it is not Christian. WE must question similar slogans that some churches use such as "wide and broad tent" approaches to attracting church membership.

The Bible says the opposite in that narrow is the way and Jesus is the gate (Luke 13:24).

Believing what you want to believe to get to heaven is very appealing to many people but Bible study will again show that "broad tent" believe what you want to believe approaches to salvation are not the WAY. Regardless of what we might hear, Christians realize that GOD's WAY is the only WAY.

STUDY BIBLE, TALK BIBLE, WALK BIBLE!

Men's Fellowship meets almost every Sunday at 9:30am. Welcome.

BIRTHDAYS

November

7 Joe Lawrence SR
9 Pam Andrews
14 Bruce English
16 Sarah Rogers
19 Rosemary Ovenshire
20 Chuck Cagle
21 Pastor Barre Butts
28 Sharill Stewart
29 Carol Preston

December

2 Marguerite English
2 Cheryl Wise
3 Bill Heard
4 Jane Salles
7 Linda Jones
8 Bev Welch
13 Ron Salles
14 Lincoln Cagle
17 Mary Weldy
21 Sally Rogers
22 Bonnie Hunt
26 Marge Wood

ANNIVERSARIES

November

21 Don & Cheryl Wise
24 Henry & Cindy Gottschall

December

6 Bill & Sande Thomas

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS – 2023

Jim Young

This year's Lighthouse Christmas will be Saturday, December 16th. The distribution will be a totally drive-thru morning event.

Sixty-six (66) families responded to the invitation to participate this year. We will prepare gifts for 72 Adult females, 57 Adult males, and 99 children.

As in past years, each family will receive a banana box top and a bottom filled with food as well as a bag containing paper products. Each family will also receive a gift card from Tops to purchase meat for their Christmas dinner.

In addition, each family will receive a gift basket of household goods, gift items, tools, etc. Families with children will receive new toys for each child.

NOVEMBER FOOD BASKET IDEAS:

Cake mix, Frosting, Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix, Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti (1#), Macaroni (1#), Misc. Pasta, Cranberry Sauce

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2023

For more than one-hundred years, United Methodists have been supporting their students' educational needs through a special offering. The funds received from the offering go into the United Methodist Student Loan Fund to underwrite scholarships for United Methodist students. Scholarships are awarded to deserving United Methodist students annually. Please give if you are able.

RECIPE CORNER

EASY (Microwave) CHRISTMAS DIVINITY

Ingredients:

- 2 cups white granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/3 cup light corn syrup
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup pecans or nuts of your choice chopped

Instructions:

Combine sugar, water, corn syrup and salt in a glass casserole dish. Cover with saran wrap and microwave on high for 5 minutes. Remove from microwave and take off saran wrap. Stir well and return to microwave uncovered. Cook on high for another 4 to 5 minutes until reaches hard ball stage when a little is dropped in cold water. Remove and cool about 4 minutes. Beat egg whites until stiff with mixer.

Pour sugar mixture over egg whites beating constantly with mixer until mixture starts to lose its gloss and holds together. About 4 or 5 minutes. Stir in vanilla and nuts. Drop by teaspoonful onto wax paper. Makes about 25 pieces depending on size you make them

CHRISTMAS CHEX MIX **(Great Gifts for Neighbors or Co-Workers)**

Ingredients:

- 3 cups Chex (rice or corn)
- 2 cups Cheerios
- 1-2 cups pretzel sticks (broken in half)
- 1 cup Christmas M&M's
- 10 ounces white chocolate (I used Ghirardelli wafers)

Instructions:

COMBINE the cereals, pretzels and M&M's together in a large bowl. Mix together.

MELT the white chocolate chips or wafers in a microwave-safe bowl. Cook in 30 second intervals in the microwave until smooth. Be careful not to overcook the chocolate or it will burn.

POUR the chocolate over the cereal mixture and stir until well coated. Then spread the mixture out onto a piece of wax paper or parchment paper (I like to set on a cookie sheet).

COOL Let cool for about 15 minutes (or until the chocolate has hardened completely).

Extra Mix-In's

Use peanut or peanut butter M&M's instead of regular, or even a mixture of both.

Add in peanuts, pecans or walnuts for even more salty flavor.

Mini pretzels will work in place of pretzel sticks.

Mix in some holiday sprinkles to make it even more festive.

Sometimes I add in some mini marshmallows if we have them in the pantry.

Make this for any holiday with different color M&M's. Whether it's Halloween, 4th of July or you're making Valentine Chex Mix, this recipe works perfect!

VETERAN'S DAY TRIBUTE **Joanna Fuchs**

When America had an urgent need
These brave ones raised a hand;
No hesitation held them back;
They were proud to take a stand.
They left their friends and family;
They gave up normal life;
To serve their country and their God,
They plowed into the strife.

They fought for freedom and for peace
On strange and foreign shores;

Some lost new friends; some lost their lives
In long and brutal wars.

Other veterans answered a call
To support the ones who fought;
Their country had requirements for
The essential skills they brought.

We salute each and every one of them,
The noble and the brave,
The ones still with us here today,
And those who rest in a grave.

So here's to our country's heroes;
They're a cut above the rest;
Let's give the honor that is due
To our country's very best.

THE ABC's OF THANKSGIVING

Although things are not perfect,
Because of trial or pain,
Continue in Thanksgiving,
Do not begin to blame,

Even when the times are hard,
Fierce winds are bound to blow,
God is forever able,
Hold on to what you know.

Imagine life without His love,
Joy would cease to be,
Keep thanking Him for all the things,
Love imparts to thee.

Move out of "Camp complaining,"
No weapon that is known,
On earth can yield the power,
Praise can do along.

Quit looking at the future,
Redeem the time at hand,
Start every day with worship,
To "thank" is a command.

Until we see Him coming,
Victorious in the sky,
We'll run the race with gratitude,
Xalting God most high.

Yes, there'll be good times,
And yes some will be bad,
But Zion waits in glory . . .
Where none are ever sad!

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

R. B. Thieme, Jr.

Twass the night before Christmas, and all through
the world

A message was preached, a challenge was hurled:
Believe on the Son and thou shall be saved!
The road to heaven with His blood was paved.

Out of the darkness of sin and despair
God's salvation – the fairest of fair –
Was born in a manger; no room in the inn.
God in the flesh, He died for our sin.

The angels sang; the shepherds rejoiced,
Messiah has come! The message was voiced
By joyous believers both far and near;
Christmas has come! Immanuel is here!

A father was approached by his small son who
told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means !!
His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean,
you know what the Bible means?" The son
replied, "That's easy, Daddy. It stands for 'Basic
Instructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth'."

AVAILABLE NOW: Approximately twelve (12)
8' x 3' brown wooden folding tables. Great for
workbenches, storage, etc. They can be stacked.
Also, approximately fifty (50) folding metal chairs.
Please see Bill Heard, Gary Weldy or any of the
Trustees if you are interested.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5th ALL SAINT'S DAY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7th BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12th PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16th MERCHANT CARD ORDER 10:00 AM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th
ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

4:00 PM

HARVEST DINNER

5:00 PM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26th

UM STUDENT DAY

DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2nd

JONES-SHILOH WEDDING

11:00 AM

ALL INVITED

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7th

MERCHANT CARD ORDER

10:00 AM

LAST ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

DAVE BURDICK CONCERT & DINNER

3:00 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

4:00 PM - AVOCA

7:00 PM - MITCHELLSVILLE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st

JOINT SERVICE @ MITCHELLSVILLE

10:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

