

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

### Lay Leadership

- On hiatus until Fall 2024

### Lay Leader

- Cindy Gottschall request to use copier to print 18 bulletins for Wheeler has been approved

### Worship

- January 7 – Epiphany Sunday
- January 14 – Human Relations Sunday
- February 13 – Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
- February 14 – Ash Wednesday Service at Avoca at 7:00PM
- March 14-17 – Men’s Closer Walk #122 Weekend @ Williamson UMC
- April 11-14 – Women’s Closer Walk #122 Weekend @ Williamson UMC

The six (6) Special Giving Sundays will continue for the time being.

### Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

- Meeting held December 3

### Trustee’s

#### **Projects Completed:**

- Two windows and one door replaced at the Parsonage
- Flames have been removed from the outside cross at the front of the church and the cross in the sanctuary
- Donated items from the Kanona UMC have been brought to AMC. Excess chairs were donated to the Avoca Fire Department
- Food Pantry is settled in and running well
- New lights installed behind the cross in the sanctuary

#### **Projects Approved/Pending:**

- Panic bar for front door – being explored
- Church sign at the end of the expressway – on hold until NY State approves the property transfer
- Paint for the trim on the church has been purchased; stain postponed until Spring

#### **New Business:**

- Approved request to stencil “Your walk talks louder than your talk talks” on the Narthex wall
- Mike Wasserman will secure the dangling wires attached to the security cameras

### **Other projects being considered – all on hold pending Disaffiliation:**

- Air conditioning Sanctuary and Narthex (est. cost \$14,000 - \$15,000)
- Convert church outdoor sign to an electric sign (est. cost \$4,500 - \$5,000)
- Topcoat blacktop in parking lot (est. cost \$38,800)

### Men’s Fellowship

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

### Finance Committee

- Meeting needed prior to January 1, 2024 with all responsible with management of new bank accounts. Meeting scheduled for December 17, 2023
- \$25 has been placed in each of the new bank accounts from the General Fund (charged as a disaffiliation cost)
- Checks and deposit slips have been ordered for each account
- Thanks to Ron Salles for great job as AUMC Treasurer

### Membership Committee

- Current membership is 84

### Puppets

- Attended Mitchellsville kid’s Christmas Party on December 9<sup>th</sup>
- Will be back in Avoca in January 2024

### Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Average attendance 10-15 each day
- \$750 of excess donations were transferred to the Lighthouse Christmas

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Active Shooter Policy** – Jim Young shared comments from Officer Hawk, from Steuben County Sheriff’s Dept, during “Light on the Ladder” training day:
  - AMC is more prepared than any other place in Steuben County
  - Recommends plates that cover the latches be installed on doors that open out with push bars; the door in the AMC pantry storeroom is the most vulnerable

- Recommends mesh wiring over the windows in doors to deter someone breaking the glass to enter the church
- **Alternate Sunday School Teachers** – in progress
- **Pew Bibles** – have arrived, will have name plates after Christmas
- **Purchase of replacement garment bags for choir robes** – pending

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Funding for Avoca/Kanona Food Pantry**
  - Pantry has experienced a significant increase in workload since moving to AMC, mainly due to the Caboose residents
  - An Avoca/Kanona Food Pantry line will be added to the budget plan. \$3,000 (\$250 per month) was approved to support this mission.
- **Funding for Bernestine Burnett who lost everything in a fire**
  - AMC provided Mrs. Burnett \$500 cash soon after her fire
  - Additional support will be provided after her needs are determined
- **Piano replacement for Judy Aho** – no update at this time

## FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$1508.55 for the year as of December 14th
- Many thanks to everyone who participates in this project during the year
- Jim Young will contact the new Pizza Hut in Corning when it opens to see if AMC can resume as a fundraiser

## 2024 CONCERTS

- Final Harvest – April 27, 2024, Saturday @ 4:00PM
- The Puffers – August 23, 2024, Friday, AMC congregation dinner @ 5:30PM, concert for community @ 7PM

## TREASURER'S REPORT November 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. We will continue to pay some retiree and retirement fees to the conference until the disaffiliation is final.

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. The Lighthouse completed their annual mission for 67 families on December 16th . The Ramp Guys completed ramp number 687 before closing the year out. As a church, we have added a new local mission. The Avoca – Kanona Food Pantry. Jane Kaszczynek (Jane K) is here on Thursdays, from 3:00 – 6:00 giving to those that are food insecure.

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. We have met the current requirements of the conference and are currently waiting on the New York State Courts to transfer the deeds. There have been some incidental costs associated with the disaffiliation that we wouldn't have incurred otherwise, such as, new business incorporation, updating the webpage, new banking supplies, etc. In the meantime, we are transferring our business accounts to the new church entity, Avoca Methodist Church.

For those of you who have asked, yes you can make checks out to the "Avoca Methodist Church." Some of you have been leaving the "United" off for a number of years, and we can make the deposit with no issues.

Thank you and God bless you!

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

## **MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION**

**Ron Salles**

As part of the disaffiliation, we had to establish some media new accounts leaving out the “united, umc” and the flame and cross logos. Please visit our NEW webpage at [www.avocamethodistchurch.com](http://www.avocamethodistchurch.com) and find the links to our NEW Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/AvocaMethodistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/AvocaMethodistChurch) and NEW YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/@AvocaMethodistChurch](http://www.youtube.com/@AvocaMethodistChurch). They are up and running now. We also got a new email address for the church at [avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com). We continue to 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.

Mike Wasserman is now helping me with the sound system and video recording. Thank you Mike!

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

## **RAMP MINISTRY**

As 2023 draws to a close, I would like to reflect on God’s Grace. He has led us in building 33

Ramps this year – 687 since the beginning of the Ramp Ministry.

This year the Ramp Guys worked 2588.25 hours building those 33 ramps. That does not include planning, reporting and other administrative time. The value of those 33 ramps is \$22,628, but we only purchased materials totaling \$14,290.74. The utilization of recovered/refurbished materials saved \$8337.26.

I would like to personally thank every one of the dedicated Ramp Guys for their support and hard work in helping “Our Neighbors in Need”.

2024 will be another busy year as we already have 22 requests on our “To Do List”.

**Merry Christmas from the Ramp Guys.  
God is Good !!!!**

Glenn Davis  
Ramp Guys Coordinator

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Fred Groner**

CHRISTMAS - Christmas is always an interesting topic of discussion in Men's Fellowship. Christmas is an amazing example of a religious holiday which has been accepted by almost all of the believing as well as the non-believing world. This is surprising especially due to today’s apparent hatred of Jews. The popularity of Christmas has grown throughout the world by leaps and bounds. Preparations for Christmas start well before Thanksgiving. Kids love Christmas. Merchants love Christmas. People who never go to church go to church on Christmas. Almost everybody loves the Christmas holidays. Peace on earth and good will to men, and happy holidays have become the slogans of Christmas. Unfortunately, Christmas has a different meaning to different people but nevertheless is celebrated in one form or the other. Jesus, however, has become more and more absent from Christmas. What is going on with Christmas?

As we do with most of the topics we deal with in Men's Fellowship, we reach for answers which are Bible based. First there is no mention of Christmas in the Bible. Also no mention of a relevant holiday on December 25<sup>th</sup>. In fact the Old Testament practices of holidays and festivals as works for salvation ended at the Cross. Perhaps 2 Corinthians

11:4 has the answer. Here the Bible talks about Jesus being replaced by another Jesus. This other Jesus might include Santa Claus, Christmas trees, worthless Christmas presents to everybody, Chia-Pet, and even Rudolph a reindeer who will be the one going down in history. The list goes on with Jesus moving further and further down to the bottom of the Christmas celebration list.

Christians know there is no salvation in simply celebrating Christmas. Christians know enough to celebrate Christmas in spirit and truth (John 4:24). Christians know that the birth of the Savior is celebrated not just on December 25<sup>th</sup> but every day of the year. Christians know that Christmas is a special day of worship and should not be celebrated in concert with non-Christian tradition.

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

**METHODIST HUMAN RELATIONS  
DAY SUNDAY  
JANUARY 14, 2024**

Human Relations Day Sunday celebration is **January 14, 2024**. This offering is collected the Sunday before the observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and supports Community Developers and Methodist Voluntary Service and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs. Special envelopes will be placed in the January 14<sup>th</sup> bulletin to collect funds for Human Relations Sunday – a church wide Special Sunday of the Methodist Church. Please give if you are able.

**LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONS**

The Lenten devotions will begin Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 in the Narthex.

- W** Wait upon the Lord
- O** Offer our lives as a living sacrifice
- R** Rest in his presence
- S** Sing unto Him
- H** Humble ourselves before Him
- I** Intimacy with God
- P** Pleasing Him

**BIRTHDAYS**

<b><u>January</u></b>	<b><u>February</u></b>
9 Sharon Blankenship	2 Jim Young
11 Ron Rogers	4 Bev Belanger
11 Nick Wise	5 Adam Ormsby
25 Erica Wasserman	6 Forrest Slayton
	8 Lois Cagle
	12 Neil Simpson
	15 Don Loveland
	22 Al Belanger
	22 Martha Cleland
	25 Margaret Fletcher
	29 Linda Davis

**ANNIVERSARIES**

<b><u>January</u></b>	<b><u>February</u></b>
	10 Jim & Bev Young

**LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS – 2023**

Jim, Sharron, and Carol wish to thank you for your prayers these last months as we and the rest of the team prepared for the Lighthouse Christmas. Thank you for the food and money donations, the help packing the food boxes, and the volunteers who came December 16<sup>th</sup> to assist with the distribution. The Avoca Methodist Church provided food, gifts, and toys to sixty-seven (67) families in the Avoca School District.

Each family received the top and bottom of a banana box filled with can goods, pasta, etc. In addition they received potatoes (10#), onions, eggs, bread, fresh oranges and apples, toilet paper (4 rolls), paper towels, Kleenex, our church calendar, and a \$20 Tops Market gift card to purchase meat for their Christmas dinner.

Thanks too, to Amy, Vicki, Michele, and Michelle for planning and shopping for the gifts for all family members. Each family member received a blanket throw; the adult women Rubbermaid food storage containers (36 piece) and hand soap; the adult men an 18-pocket tool tote, a hammer, and a screwdriver set; each child received age-appropriate toys and games.

**I didn't know** if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something – and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself."

### **I Believe**

in the power of kindness, patience, and  
listening to others;  
that no problem is so big that it should  
cause people to hurt each other.  
I believe in the beauty of faded flowers,  
beads of rain on morning grass,  
and the light in the faces of old people.  
I believe in the power of imagination,  
hope, and hard work to create miracles.  
And I believe that love is everything.

*Margaret B. Moss*

### **One**

**One** tree can start a forest;  
**One** smile can begin a friendship;  
**One** hand can lift a soul;  
**One** work can frame a goal;  
**One** candle can wipe out darkness;  
**One** laugh can conquer gloom;  
**One** hope can raise your spirits;  
**One** touch can show you care;  
**One** life can make the difference,  
Be that **One** today.

### **JUST ONE REQUEST**

Dear Master for this coming year  
Just one request I bring;  
I do not pray for happiness,  
Or any earthly thing.  
I do not ask to understand  
The way Thou leadest me,  
But this I ask: Teach me to do  
The thing that pleaseth Thee.  
I want to know Thy guiding voice,  
To walk with Thee each day.  
Dear Master make me swift to hear  
And ready to obey.  
And thus the year I now begin  
A happy year will be !!  
I am seeking just to do  
The thing that pleaseth Thee.  
*Author Unknown*

### **LOVE NEVER FAILS**

Love is patient, Love is kind  
Through Jesus Christ, love you will find.  
Love does not envy. It is not puffed up.  
Seek Him with your heart,  
He will fill your cup.  
  
Love does not behave rudely,  
does not seek its own  
Be kind to others, for this God has shown.  
Love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things,  
Give love to all and blessings God brings.  
Love Never Fails

#### **REMINDER**

#### **NEW Church Contact Addresses Effective Immediately**

**Email Address:**

[avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com)

**Webpage:**

[www.avocamethodistchurch.com](http://www.avocamethodistchurch.com)

**Facebook Page:**

[www.facebook.com/AvocaMethodistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/AvocaMethodistChurch)

**YouTube Channel:**

[www.youtube.com/AvocaMethodistChurch](http://www.youtube.com/AvocaMethodistChurch)

Please update your computer files with these  
new addresses. Thank you.

## RECIPE CORNER

### NO BAKE PEANUT BUTTER OATMEAL BARS

#### Ingredients:

2 cups peanut butter  
1 cup honey  
3 cups old fashioned oats  
1 tsp vanilla  
¼ cup chocolate chips

#### Directions:

In medium saucepan mix peanut butter & honey.  
Cook over medium heat until melted (stir  
constantly).  
Stir in vanilla.  
Remove from heat. While hot, mix in oatmeal,  
until all ingredients are combined.  
Pour into well-greased 8x8 baking dish & distribute  
evenly.  
Sprinkle chocolate chips on top.  
Refrigerate for 1 hour or until firm.  
Slice & enjoy

### CABBAGE KIELBASA SOUP Dan Hubbard

3-4 bell peppers – diced  
3-4 onions – diced  
1 head garlic – minced  
Sauté with whole stick of butter

#### INSTA POT Directions:

½ quart vegetable broth  
2 containers baby portabella mushrooms  
1 cabbage – cut in 1 ½ inch strips - Place  
on top of mushrooms  
Add cut up kielbasa, sautéed vegetables  
Cook on high for 7 minutes  
Quick release

#### CROCK POT Directions:

Layer in crock pot as above  
Cook on high for 4 -5 hours  
Additional broth may be needed

May the sunrise of every day  
of this coming year brighten  
and enlighten your life with  
knowledge and power.

Wishing you a very  
Happy New Year blessed with  
strength and courage to win  
all the challenges and come  
out successful.

May God always bless you.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH  
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH  
PLEASE STAY TO HELP  
TAKE DOWN OUR  
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH  
HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH  
FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER  
5:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH  
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE  
7:00 PM

