

Dear Avoca Methodist Church Family:

January 2024

As I am writing this, I have been forced into isolation with a sinus infection/flu type symptoms. After a few busy weekends, it is apparently time to take a rest. The snow is falling outside and the Christmas music is playing softly in the background. I am taking this as God's reminder to focus on Him and the real meaning of Christmas.

Shortly, we will begin a new year. Our resolutions cause a spike in gym memberships, sales of exercise equipment, and weight loss products. Then by the end of most of those best intentions will be forgotten. I pray that's not what happens to your relationship with God. To nurture that relationship, we need to read God's Word, spend time in prayer, and serve God by serving others.

Lent comes early in 2024—Ash Wednesday is Valentines Day! Easter is on March 31st! Lent is a great opportunity to give up a harmful habit, or start a new, good habit. Maybe giving up smoking, eating unhealthy foods, or editing your vocabulary to be more pleasing to God. You might like to start volunteering at an area hospital, nursing home, or animal shelter. Lots of places need your help.

Watch for details on Fat Tuesday-the day before Lent starts, when we clean out our pantries of foods not permitted during Lent. There will also be opportunities to share several movies from Answers in Genesis, in case you want to bolster your faith in the accuracy of the Bible.

And don't forget to Bee A Disciple!

Pastor Barre

