

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held February 8, 2024 with 9 members present.

Lay Leadership

- On hiatus until Fall 2024

Disaffiliation

- Two trustees will take the Quick Claim to the lawyer who will complete and notarize the form
- NYS Tax Exemption form requires submission of the Avoca Methodist Church by-laws within 60 days
- Application for membership in Global Methodist Church to be completed
- Northeast Jurisdiction of the Global Methodist Church will hold a General Conference later this year

Lay Leader

- Nothing to report

Worship

- March 1 – First Friday 7PM @ Avoca Methodist Church
- March 6, 13, 20 – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Lenten Devotions @ 6PM
- March 7, 14, 21 – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Lenten Devotions @ Noon
- March 14-17 – Men’s Closer Walk #122 Weekend @ Williamson UMC
- March 24 – Palm Sunday
- March 28 – Maundy Thursday 7PM @ Mitchellsville
- March 29 – Prayer Vigil – 6AM – 6PM
- March 29 – Crosswalk 1PM, meet at Parsonage
- March 29 – Good Friday service 7PM @ Avoca
- March 31 – Easter Sunrise service 7AM @ Avoca, continental breakfast to follow
- March 31 – Easter Sunday service 11AM @ Avoca
- April 11-14 – Women’s Closer Walk #122 Weekend @ Williamson UMC

Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

- Nothing to report

Trustee’s

Projects Completed:

- Two new windows @ parsonage have been caulked
- Fire & Ambulance Assessment bill for parsonage paid
- Narthex TV traded for Fred & Marge Wood’s 65” set

Old Business:

- Front door panic bar – still being explored
- Church sign at end of expressway – on hold until NY state approves property transfer
- Paint for trim on church has been purchased; stain postponed until Spring
- Dining room floor repair – on hold

New Business:

- Latch Protectors cannot be installed the way the doors are made
- Kick plates for the Dining Room doors – on hold
- Replacement of 2 low toilets in ladies’ room with higher models – on hold
- Purchase of portable Oxygen unit in case of an emergency – on hold

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 4-7 there each week
- Great discussions
- Additional people always welcome

Finance Committee

- A quote has been received from Maple City Financial Services for personal, liability and materials insurance after complete disaffiliation
- Thanks to Ron Salles for great job as AMC Treasurer

Membership Committee

- Current membership is 84
- Membership status letters will be mailed in either March or April

Puppets

- Gary Weldy & Shelly Cagle will do the puppets on March 17th

Chatter on the Ladder

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

Lighthouse Christmas 2024

- Team met with ACS Guidance Counselor & Steuben County Home School Coordinator to explore ways to partner with their Christmas program
- Contact will be made with National Guard Buffalo office to see if they will donate backpacks with various items for each Lighthouse family
- ACS Guidance Counselor will include our Lighthouse invitation in approximately 50 of their backpacks for our programs

OLD BUSINESS

- **Active Shooter Policy** – Nothing new to report
- **Alternate Sunday School Teachers** – in progress
- **Purchase of replacement garment bags for choir robes** – pending
- **Replacement of Piano Player**
- **Security Camera Update**

NEW BUSINESS

- Disposable vs non-disposable place settings for pancake breakfast – tabled until Bill & Sharron return
- Glenn Davis will check expiration dates on AED pads and order replacements if needed

PASTOR'S TIME

- Everything already covered

FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$136.05

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
- Dave Burdick – December 14, 2024, Saturday @ 3:00PM, dinner to follow

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2024 – Ron Salles

We carried forward a reserve from 2023 in the General Fund. This reserve was large enough to be able to transfer some funds to the Mission Fund to start 2024 with some areas funded. Normally 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 will continue to pay some retiree and retirement fees to the conference until the disaffiliation is final.

On the Mission Fund side, we have taken some of the 2023 General Fund reserves and funded some mission reserves for 2024. Again for 2024, we are concentrating on our local missions this year as our missions' projects; The Campership Fund, The Ramp Mission, (The Ramp Guys), The Lighthouse Mission, (The Lighthouse Christmas), and The Avoca – Kanona Food Pantry. We are also looking into a yet to be determined mission project for 2024.

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 new media accounts leaving out the “united, umc” and the flame and cross logos.

Please visit our NEW webpage at www.avocamethodistchurch.com and find the links to our NEW Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AvocaMethodistChurch and NEW YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/@AvocaMethodistChurch. They are up and running now. **Please subscribe to the new Facebook and YouTube channels.** We also have a new email address for the church at avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com. Please update your contact list.

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).

RAMP MINISTRY **Glenn Davis, Coordinator**

The 2024 Ramp Season has already started and will continue as the weather will permit. We have recovered two ramps that were no longer needed and reinstalled them for a couple of our "neighbors-in-need". God saw to it that they both fit perfectly in their new locations. We start this year welcoming two new volunteers to our list of dedicated Ramps Guys. They will bolster our workforce. We have several with medical concerns, so new help is really appreciated. We all know – many hands make light work. There are currently 23 ramp requests on our "to do list", and more will surely be added as spring arrives. It appears 2024 will be a very demanding year.

We thank God for blessing us so we may help people in need and we ask for Prayers for our

wonderful volunteers, their good health, mild weather and sufficient funds to carry out this Ramp Ministry. GOD is GOOD

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP **Fred Groner**

PRACTICE - The study guide which is presently being used in Men's Fellowship is titled "Treasures of the Transformed Life." The beauty of this study guide is that it is a reduction to practice guide. It helps us understand how to reduce GOD's will to everyday practice.

All too often study guides are mainly involved with studying the Bible as though it were an interesting historical book or bestselling novel but falls short of teaching that GOD's will must be practiced in our everyday lives. We as Christians must not only to talk the talk, we must walk the walk. We must study, but we must learn to practice.

The guide has numerous chapters discussing a wide variety of everyday real world situations. These include dealing with your neighbor, dealing with living in the present world, GOD's influence in life decisions, temptation, commitment and many other situations we encounter in our everyday life.

Men's group is blest with people with many years of experience with life and resolving real world situations and do an excellent job relating GOD's will to practice.

Included in the study guide are quotes from some well-known people which express their wisdom at how to reduce GOD's will to practice:

"If you're going through hell, keep going" - Winston Churchill

"Life is the sum of all your choices" - Albert Camus

"Every happening, great and small, is a parable whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is to get the message" - Malcolm Muggeridge

"A man with GOD is always in the majority." - John Knox

These quotes are very thought inspiring.

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

**UMCOR SUNDAY
MARCH 10, 2024**

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides disaster response, relief, and development assistance worldwide. This offering helps fund UMCOR's vital work in disaster recovery, health, and sustainable development. Envelopes will be placed in the March 10th bulletins to collect funds for UMCOR Sunday – a church-wide Special Sunday of the Methodist Church. Please give if you are able.

**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES
SUNDAY - APRIL 14, 2024**

This offering supports Native American congregations, ministries, and scholarships. It aims to strengthen Native American communities within the church and foster cultural understanding. Envelopes will be placed in the April 14th bulletins to collect funds for Native American Ministries Sunday - a church-wide Special Sunday of the Methodist Church. Please give if you are able.

Birthdays

March

3 Barry Anderson
3 Don Wise
4 Joe Lawrence Jr
16 Earl Sherwood
29 Justin Palmer
29 Eva Slayton

April

2 Sharron Heard
6 Sue Rook
8 Mike Wasserman
18 Connie Kearns
19 Sande Thomas
20 Gabriel Barkley
25 Clay Ovenshire

Anniversaries

March

29 Bill & Sharron Heard

April

24 Bruce & Janet English

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Christian elementary school for lunch. At the beginning of the table was a large bowl of apples with a note attached, "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies with a note attached written by a child, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

**PALM SUNDAY
By Alice Kennelly Roberts**

His path led to Jerusalem
Upon that sunlit day,
Hosannas ringing in the air,
Palms strewn along the way.
His path led to the city
Where mobs would shout and cry,
And then as quickly turn on Him,
And cast Him out to die.
He wore no kingly raiment,
No jewel-encrusted crown,
And chose a little borrowed colt
To take Him through the town.
The longest week in history
Was crowding to be born...
The shadow of a cross was there,
And finally, East Morn!

**THE EASTER MESSAGE
By Margaret Roke**

Of all the words that have been said
Throughout recorded time
The angel's news: "He is not dead!"
Is, doubtless, the most sublime,
It underscores Christ's work and worth;
It proves His promise true
And offers hope to all on earth
Like nothing else can do,
Apostles bowed by loss and grief,
By shaken faith and fear,
Sought evidence before belief
Like many now and here,
He gave them proof – the proof we heed
On every Easter Day
The proof Christ lives and is, indeed,
The Truth, the Life, the Way.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

The greatest handicap: fear
The best day: today
The most useless asset: pride
The greatest mistake: giving up
The greatest comfort: work well done
The most disagreeable persons: the complainers
The worst bankruptcy: loss of enthusiasm

WHEN GOING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES

- Everything can and will change.
- You've overcome challenges before.
- It's a learning experience.
- Not getting what you want can be a blessing.
- Allow yourself to have some fun.
- Being kind to yourself is the best medicine.
- Other people's negativity isn't worth worrying about.
- And there is always, always, always something to be thankful for.

WHAT IF ??????????????????

- What if God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank Him yesterday?
- What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today?
- What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain?
- What if God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?
- What if God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?
- What if God took away His message because we failed to listen to the messenger?
- What if God didn't send His only begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin?
- What if the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door to our heart?
- What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?
- What if God would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him?
- What if God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?
- What if God met our needs the way we give Him our lives?

Think about the judgement we would have to face if all the above "What if" questions were to become a reality.

RECIPE CORNER

Creamy White Chicken Chili

Pastor Barre Butts

Ingredients:

1 pound boneless chicken breasts, cut into ½ inch cubes
1 medium onion, chopped
1 and ½ teaspoons garlic powder
1 tablespoon canola oil
2 cans (15.5 oz) great northern beans, rinsed & drained
1 can (14.5 oz) chicken broth
2 cans (4 oz) chopped green chiles
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon dried oregano
½ teaspoon pepper
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 cup sour cream
½ cup heavy whipping cream
Optional: tortilla chips, shredded cheddar cheese, sliced seeded jalapeno pepper

Directions:

In a large saucepan, sauté the chicken, onion and garlic powder in oil until chicken is no longer pink. Add beans, broth, chiles and seasonings. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer uncovered, for 30 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in sour cream and heavy cream. If desired, top with tortilla chips, cheese and jalapenos.

Macaroni Coleslaw

Beverly Young

Ingredients:

1 package (7 ounces) ring macaroni or ditalini
1 package (14 ounces) coleslaw mix
2 medium onions, finely chopped
2 celery ribs, finely chopped
1 medium cucumber, finely chopped
1 medium green pepper, finely chopped
1 can (8 ounces) whole water chestnuts, drained & chopped (optional)

Dressing:

1 and ½ cups Miracle Whip Light
1/3 cup sugar
¼ cup cider vinegar
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

Directions:

Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain and rinse in cold water. Transfer to a large bowl; add the coleslaw mix, onions, celery, cucumber, green pepper & water chestnuts.

In a small bowl, whisk the dressing ingredients.

Pour over salad; toss to coat.

Cover & refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Yield: 16 servings

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| <p>FRIDAY - MARCH 1ST FIRST FRIDAY @ AVOCA</p> |
| <p>WEDNESDAYs - MARCH 6, 13, 20 6:00 PM LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH WITH DEVOTIONS</p> |
| <p>THURSDAYs - MARCH 7, 14, 21 NOON LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH WITH DEVOTIONS</p> |
| <p>SUNDAY - MARCH 10TH PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM</p> |
| <p>SUNDAY - MARCH 10TH UMCOR SUNDAY</p> |
| <p>SUNDAY - MARCH 24TH PALM SUNDAY</p> |
| <p>THURSDAY - MARCH 28TH MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 PM (MITCHELLSVILLE)</p> |

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| <p>FRIDAY - MARCH 29TH PRAYER VIGIL 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM</p> |
| <p>FRIDAY - MARCH 29TH CROSS WALK 1:00 PM MEET AT PARSONAGE</p> |
| <p>FRIDAY - MARCH 29TH GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM (AVOCA)</p> |
| <p>SUNDAY - MARCH 31ST EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 7:00 AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW</p> |
| <p>SUNDAY - MARCH 31ST EASTER SERVICE 11:00 AM</p> |
| <p>SUNDAY - APRIL 14TH PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM</p> |
| <p>SUNDAY - APRIL 14TH NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY</p> |
| <p>SATURDAY - APRIL 27TH FINAL HARVEST CONCERT 4:00 PM</p> |

