

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held April 11, 2024 with 9 members present.

Lay Leadership

- On hiatus until Fall 2024

Disaffiliation

- All paperwork for the disaffiliation has been completed and we are no longer affiliated with United Methodist Church
- The church and Pastor Barre have been accepted by the Global Methodist Church (GMC).
- All funds have been paid to the Upper NY Conference for UMC. They are refunding \$148.57 to us for excess retiree fees billed
- All insurance previously with Brotherhood has been cancelled and replaced with new insurance policies
- All business accounts are currently being updated to reflect new information

Lay Leader

- Waiting for terminology and guidance for the Lay Leader position from the GMC
- Waiting for Wheeler UMC to determine if Cindy Gottschall as a member of the GMC can continue filling in at Wheeler
- The initial Northeast GMC Annual Conference met this past weekend in PA. Pastor Grace from Hammondsport GMC is being ordained by Bishop Webb

Worship

- May 12 – Mother’s Day – recommended a donation to the Elizabeth Rose ministry in honor of all mothers
- June 16 – Father’s Day – recommended a donation to the Ramp Guys in honor of all fathers
- June meeting cancelled. Next meeting will be August 8, 2024

Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

- Nothing to report

Trustee’s

Projects Completed:

- Forms have been filed for NYS Property Tax Exemption

- Four programmable thermostats have been purchased & installed
- Grab bars have been installed in the lady’s bathroom
- Both boilers have been serviced

Old Business:

- Church sign at end of expressway – on hold until NY state approves property transfer
Note: property transfer has been completed
- Church staining will be completed as Gary’s work schedule allows
- Dining room floor repair – on hold
- Oxygen tank & cart will be purchased to have in case of an emergency
- Latch protectors on the outside doors are not needed

New Business:

- Request from “Hearts” to place a clothes donation collection bin has been approved & referred to the Administrative Council
 - Replacement of glass panels in sound room with lightweight plywood approved
 - Voted by email to approve use of church for the Silver Fawn District Dinner on May 30 @ 5:30PM
- #### **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

- Nothing more to add

Membership Committee

- Current membership is 84
- Status letter to members to update disaffiliation from UMC and acceptance by Global Methodist Church

Ramp Committee

- 695 ramps completed

Puppets

- Puppets attended children's Easter party at Mitchellsville
- Gary Weldy & Shelly Cagle will do the puppets on May 19

Chatter on the Ladder

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

Lighthouse Christmas 2024

- No activity at this time
- Watching for sales on canned fruits & vegetables

OLD BUSINESS

- **Alternate Sunday School Teachers** – in progress
- **Purchase of replacement garment bags for choir robes** – pending
- **Replacement of Piano Player** – Carol Preston will play 1st & 2nd Sundays and Jane Kaszczynek will play 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays
- Disposable vs non-disposable place settings for pancake breakfasts, etc. – tabled until Bill & Sharron return
- Glenn Davis will check expiration dates on AED pads and order replacements if needed
- Memorial Day Chicken BBQ – on hold until Bill & Sharron return

NEW BUSINESS

- Avoca Central School Guidance Counselor has identified a need for personal hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, brushes, deodorant, body wash, etc.)
 - (1) Request is for us to furnish the items (rather than cash)
 - (2) Collection baskets will be available for the congregation to donate items
 - (3) A coordinator from the congregation will oversee this program, obtain quantities needed, purchase additional items when not enough donations are received, etc.
- Request from "Hearts for the Homeless" to place a clothing, shoe, and blanket donation collection bin on our property was unanimously approved

- The church will be used for the Silver Fawn District Dinner on May 30 @ 5:30PM

PASTOR'S TIME

- Request for donation to the Sheriffs' Institute Summer Camp was approved
- Suggestion to set up "Online Payment" program was tabled for further study

FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$226.79

2024 CONCERTS

- 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 are carrying a modest 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.

As of March 21, 2024 we are officially disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church. We will no longer be paying retiree and retirement fees or any other fees to the conference. Although on March 19, 2024 we have been accepted to join the Global Methodist Church (more to come as we receive it), we are currently operating as an independent church. We have a new federal ID number (EIN) and a new NYS Tax Exempt Number for the Avoca Methodist Church, Inc. This means we must change all of our business accounts over to the new name and tax numbers. We are currently working on doing just that. This will not change under the Global Methodist Church.

On the Mission Fund side, we also have some modest mission reserves as we build for the missions later in the year. This year we are concentrating on our local missions 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 mission project for the upcoming school year.

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 will eventually be closing down the old social media accounts and the old email address.

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).

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CHICKEN BBQ

Monday, May 27th @ 11:00 AM

**½ Chicken, Salt Potatoes,
Beans, Roll, Cookie**

\$12.00

**See Bill or Sharron Heard to purchase
your tickets and to take tickets to sell to
your family and friends**

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Fred Groner

LANGUAGE OF JESUS - In order to understand what Jesus is talking about in the Bible we must learn the language of the Bible and specifically we must learn the language of Jesus. Effective Bible study requires students to know the meaning of the words Jesus is speaking. Many of the words used by Jesus in the Bible have a symbolic and spiritual meaning rather than a worldly meaning as defined in Webster's dictionary. We can learn the language of Jesus only from Bible study. Not knowing the language of Jesus causes huge problems with Bible interpretation and understanding the teachings of Jesus.

There are many examples of words in the Bible used by Jesus that require Jesus' definition. One example is when Jesus encountered the lady at the well (John 4:40). Jesus spoke about water. Everybody knows the definition of water. But Jesus introduces us to the word "living water." Most new Bible readers never heard of "living water." "Living water" is not defined in Webster's dictionary. What does Jesus mean when he talks

about "living water?" Jesus begins to define "living water" by saying drinking living water allows you to live forever. Obviously when Jesus talks about "living water" he is not talking about common ordinary water which we all know will not allow us to live forever.

In Matthew 7:16 Jesus says "by their fruit ye shall know them." Again Jesus is not talking about fruit. Also when Jesus in John 21:17 commands to "feed my sheep" he is not talking about food. When Jesus says love your neighbor he is not talking about showing love to your neighbor in a worldly way such as giving your neighbor money so your neighbor could live a money free happy life as a non-believer. The list of examples of the language of Jesus goes on. It takes effort but We must all learn the language of Jesus only from the Bible.

STUDY ON!
STUDY TOGETHER.
LEARN TOGETHER.

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

BIRTHDAYS

<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
1 Glenn Davis	6 Donna Miller
7 Rosemary Loveland	13 Kathy Ballinger
12 Shelly Cagle	20 Cheyenne Capezza
16 Joyce McKeown	20 Lois Daniels
17 Judy Wightman	21 Heather Dodds
26 Rob Gerych	24 Nick Rogers
27 Gary Weldy	27 Lynn Anderson
29 Bill Thomas	30 Debra Dodds

ANNIVERSARIES

<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
3 Ron & Jane Salles	8 Chuck & Shelly Cagle
18 Glenn & Linda Davis	15 Fred & Marge Wood
25 Dale & Marguerite English	
28 Mike & Erica Wasserman	

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS FOR THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Avoca has historically supported the following six special Sunday offerings of the UMC: Human Relations Day, UMCOR, Native American Ministries, Peace with Justice, World Communion Sunday and United Methodist Student Day. Your support of these programs has been sincerely

appreciated. The final approval for Avoca's disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church has been received. Therefore, the Avoca Methodist Church will no longer be supporting these special offerings. However, if individuals wish to continue to support these special Sunday offerings, they may place the earmarked offering in the collection box and Ron will forward it to the Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church.

HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS

"I needed clothes and you clothed me ... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me!"
Matthew 25:36 & 40

Avoca Methodist Church has accepted a red donation box from Heart for the Homeless, as you may have read in the Ad Council notes. They service the Buffalo area but will meet specific needs in our area as well. Their organization collects clothing, shoes, and blankets. Among other ministries, the proceeds of their sale fund a mobile soup kitchen that provides hot meals five nights a week to people who are homeless.

Bath Centenary UMC collects kids clothing (776-3434). First Presbyterian Church of Bath collects clothing and shoes for adults (776-6464).

RECIPE CORNER

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 1/2 cups Miracle Whip Light
1/3 cup sugar
1/4 cup cider vinegar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 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

“Lazy Man’s” Pie – Peach Cobbler

1 stick butter or margarine

1 cup milk

1 cup sugar

1 cup flour

1 tsp baking powder

Dash salt

1 qt fruit, sweetened (peach, cherries, blackberries etc.)

Melt butter in baking pan.

Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and milk.

Pour batter in pan on top of butter; cover with fruit.

Do not stir; batter will rise to top as it bakes and absorbs the flavor of fruit.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Serve warm, with whipped cream or ice cream.

www.granyskitchencookbooks.com

A MOTHER’S SPECIAL LOVE

Connie Hinnen

Our heavenly Father could have sent
His Son with angels bright;
He could have sent Him fully grown
To save man from his plight.

But He who is all wisdom
Chose to place in hands of love
The future of the universe,
The glory of above.

He knew there was no other love
On earth which could compare
To the unique devotion
Of a mother’s special care.

So deep His trust in this rare love,
His faith it is so sure;
He gave a mother His own Son,
Entrusting Him to her.

In doing so, He lifted up
This role above all others;
And proved that there’s a soft spot
In His heart of hearts for mothers.

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY !!

MEMORIAL DAY

Author Unknown

Do you Remember – the REAL AMERICA?

When riots were unthinkable..

When you left the front doors open..

When socialism was a dirty word..

When the flag was a sacred symbol..

When criminals actually went to jail..

When you weren’t afraid to go out at night..

When taxes were only a necessary nuisance..

When a boy was a boy and dressed like one..

When the poor were too proud to take charity..

When the clergy actually talked about religion..

When clerks and repairmen tried to please you..

When songs had a tune and the words made sense..

When young fellows tried to join the Army or
Navy..

When people knew what the 4th of July stood for..

When a Sunday drive was a pleasant trip, not an
ordeal..

When you bragged about your hometown, and
home state...

When everybody didn’t feel entitled to a college
education..

When people expected less, and valued what they
had more..

When politicians proclaimed their patriotism, and
meant it..

When everybody knew the difference between
right and wrong..

When our government stood up for Americans,
anywhere in the world..

When you knew the law would be enforced, and
that your safety was protected..

When the law meant justice, and you felt a shiver
of awe at the sight of a policeman..

When you weren’t embarrassed to say that this is
the best country in the world..

When America was a land filled with brave, proud,
confident, hard-working people..

When God was honored and revered as GOD!..
May God help us to restore that STATE!

FOREVER REMEMBERED

In solemn silence, we gather near,
To honor heroes we hold dear.
Their courage and sacrifice we recall
On this Memorial Day, we stand tall.
They fought for freedom, gave their all,
Answered duty's unwavering call.

Remember those who served before,
Remember those who are no more.
Remember those who serve today.
Remember them all on Memorial Day

WANTED

Immediate opening for an honorable job with long hours and no time off. Must be willing to work all hours, including the middle of the night, weekends, holidays, and vacations. Required survival traits, like strength and patience, imagination, humor, flexibility, intelligence and understanding, and above all, a good heart. Must be a human being, kind and gentle, with basic goodness and fearlessness. Leadership qualities are necessary. The ability to instruct and guide is a requirement. Receive on the job training, with no pay. There will be unpredictable surprises and rewards, like joy, love, pain, fun and many difficulties. Want a challenge? Be a dad!!

FLOWERS

If you bring a potted annual or perennial plant on Mother's Day in honor or memory of a loved one Sharron will plant it in one of our flower beds. If you prefer, Sharron is also collecting cash donations to purchase additional plants needed. See Sharron Heard for more information.

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign that read: "Energy efficient vehicle; runs on oats and grass. Caution; do not step on the exhaust."

A women went to her doctor's office. She was seen by one of the new doctors, but after about 4 minutes in the examination room, she burst out screaming as she ran down the hall. An older doctor stopped and asked her what the problem

was, and she explained. He had her sit down and relax in another room.

The older doctor marched back to the first doctor and demanded, "What's the matter with you? Mrs. Terry is 63 years old, she has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant!"

The new doctor smiled smugly as he continued to write on his clipboard. "Cured her hiccups through, didn't it?"

A girl made several visits to a soldier recovering from wounds in a VA hospital. To get permission for the visit, since only relatives were allowed to see him, she passed herself off as his sister.

One day as she came for a visit she walked up boldly to an elderly lady who she thought must be the new lady in charge of that ward. "May I see Lieutenant Barker, please?"

The lady inquired. May I ask who you are?

The girl replied. "Certainly, I am his sister."

"Well, well," said the elderly lady, "I'm glad to know you. I'm his mother."

The LITTLE PROPHET says: "The only time some folks hesitate to pass the buck is during the collection."

THURSDAY 2-May NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
SUNDAY 12-May MOTHER'S DAY
SUNDAY 19-May PENTECOST (wear red)
MONDAY 27-May MEMORIAL DAY CHICKEN BBQ
SUNDAY 16-Jun FATHER'S DAY