

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held August 22, 2024 with 10 members present.

Lay Leadership

- A meeting will be held soon to develop 2025 Lay Leadership Team
- Discussion on length of terms of the church committee's ongoing

Worship

- August 25th will be the last day for Cindy filling in at Wheeler UMC
- September Communion and Cookie Hour have been moved to September 8th

Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

- Next meeting will be October 6th

Trustee's

- Christy Paving & Excavating LLC has been awarded the Parking Lot Project for \$50,185
- A Capital Project campaign is underway to raise the money
- Estimated start date is end of September
- Gary Weldy has started painting the trim on the church
- A site to dispose of the popcorn machine needs to be found
- Other projects being considered:
 - Air Condition Sanctuary & Narthex (Est \$14,000 - \$15,000)
 - Convert church outdoor sign to an electric sign (Est \$4,500-\$5,000)

Men's Fellowship

- Men's Fellowship is encouraged with 4-7 there each week
- Great discussions
- Additional people always welcome

Finance Committee

- Ron Salles has changed our thermometer to track the Capital Project funding received for the Parking Lot Project

Membership Committee

- Current membership is 84
- 1 reply received from letters mailed in April

- Admin Council approved that 7 members sent letters who have not responded to the previous 3 letters to be presented to Annual Church Conference to be removed from membership status

Ramp Committee

- 715 ramps completed
- Working with the County for reimbursement of ramps built

Lighthouse Christmas 2024

- Watching for sales on canned fruits & vegetables
- Have received good support weekly for items needed

OLD BUSINESS

- The Dunneman's and The Puffers events were highly successful with excellent donations
- 203 dinners were sold for the Pulled Pork dinner. The net profit of \$1,004.38 will go to the Parking Lot Capital Project

NEW BUSINESS

- Thirty-one week "The Story" Bible Study will begin Thursday, September 5th
- The weekly study will be preparation for the following Sunday's sermon
- A team needs to get together to clean the back Sunday School rooms
- Totes will be made available to the congregation
- The Men's Fellowship will be redesignated as the "Adult Sunday School", open to all. It will meet 9:30AM – 10:30AM each Sunday except for Pancake Breakfast days

PASTOR'S TIME

- Nothing new to report

FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$607.08

2024 CONCERTS

- Dave Burdick – December 14, 2024, Saturday @ 3:00PM, dinner to follow
- Final Harvest – July 2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 2024 – 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.

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 (Scouts), The Ramp Mission (The Ramp Guys), The Lighthouse Mission (The Lighthouse Christmas), and The Avoca – Kanona Food Pantry.

As of July 31st the Avoca – Kanona Food Pantry, Refrigerator Fund has reached \$1722.00. Thank you!

As a church we are embarking on a new Capital Project Fund campaign voted on by the Trustees and the Congregation to repair and repave the parking lot. This is work that needs to be done soon in order to save the current pavement. The work should start in October. The accepted quote is about \$50,000.00, so that is the goal for this capital project. As of the end of July \$6,150.00 has been raised so far.

Thank you and God bless you!

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

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION

Ron Salles

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.

Please subscribe to the NEW Facebook and YouTube channels. Please update our new email

avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com. 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 a 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).

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Fred Groner

ATTITUDE OF HAPPINESS - Christians should have a good and joyous ATTITUDE. The group discussed in many lessons what Christian attitude should be, especially when serving the Lord. As usual we want a Bible-based definition of Christian attitude not a worldly, man defined definition of Christian attitude. Christian attitude should be observable to yourself and others which in turn should be good witness for the Lord.

We can learn God's definition of proper attitude from the Bible. For example 2 Corinthians 9:7 says that GOD loves a cheerful giver. This means

that giving should not be a sad and painful experience. Giving cheerfully as part of serving the Lord should be a happy event. When Christians give money or do work for the Lord it should not be done for personal accomplishment and boasting (Ephesians 2:9) but should be done with an in-your-heart happy and joyous "to GOD the glory" attitude. Giving to the Lord should not be done with an attitude that giving is a necessary requirement to be a Christian, but giving should be done with an in-your-heart attitude not because you are required to do so, but because you want to do so.

The list of proper Christian attitudes explained in the Bible is numerous. Proper Christian attitude is always a topic of discussion in Men's Fellowship.

The bottom line is that Christians should project an attitude of happiness and joy. This might involve wearing a happy face or even as the old Snow White and the seven dwarf's movie clearly shows how to "whistle while you work." Perhaps Christians should whistle while doing the Lord's work. After all Christians should be joyous and happy because Christians are saved from death and the power of the devil as a result of what Jesus did on the cross.

Men's Group meets almost every Sunday at 9:30am. All welcome.

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS – 2024 **Jim Young**

It is a bit early to talk about Christmas. However, the next three months are going to be very busy for our church so we need to start planning now for the Lighthouse Christmas.

This year's Lighthouse Christmas will be Saturday, December 14th. The distribution will be a drive-thru morning event.

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. Each individual in the family will also receive a

lounge throw/blanket. By making all the baskets the same, we hope to be able to take advantage of quantity discounts.

At this time, we are planning for 84 families. This number is an estimate based on last year's participation. The current economic situation is hitting all households. We hope to have the school list and the AMC referrals in early September. Invitations will go out as soon as possible with a reply date in early October.

A cart has been placed in the narthex to collect food. A can has also placed on the cart to collect cash to buy additional food if that would be easier for you than doing the shopping. Please give as you are able. The food items needed and suggested giving months are listed below. However, anything you can donate will be appreciated and put to good use. Please be sure the "best used by" date is June 2025 or beyond.

FOOD BASKET SUGGESTIONS

SEPTEMBER Spaghetti Sauce, Pancake & Waffle Mix (2#), Cereal (18 oz,) Pancake Syrup (24 oz.), Peanut Butter (16-18 oz.)

OCTOBER Saltine Crackers (4 stack box), Cereal (18 oz.), Stuffing, Chunky Soup, Condensed Soup, Ramen Soup (6 pk.)

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

GIFT BASKET NEEDS

New toys for children of all ages are needed for the gift boxes. It is easier for the Lighthouse shoppers to standardize the family gifts if cash is available for quantity purchases. A second cash collection container has been placed on the food cart for your donations. Please give if you are able.

We appreciate your support for this local Mission project. Because of you, many families living in the Avoca School District or who regularly attend the Avoca MC will have a nicer Christmas during these uncertain times.

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

The School Nurse and Guidance Counselor keep personal care items for students in their office. In the past, they have bought them using their own funds.

This year we are coordinating our giving with the Avoca Central School. We will collect the following personal care items that are needed:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant – Men & Women’s
- Travel size bodywash
- Travel size shampoo & conditioner
- Socks – all sizes
- Feminine hygiene products – anything but no tampons with cardboard applicator
- Underwear – Girls 12/Medium
- Underwear – Women’s small, medium, large, extra large
- Leggings – Girls 12/14
- Leggings – Women’s small, medium, large, extra-large, extra-extra-large

A separate box has been placed in the narthex to collect these items. Your help is appreciated.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: The current Men’s Fellowship and the Sunday Morning Devotions will be replaced by an Adult Sunday School effective **September 15th**. This will be a general Bible study for the entire congregation.

All are welcome. The group will meet every Sunday (except Pancake Breakfast days) at 9:30 AM and continue until 10:15 AM - 10:30 AM. The format will be a short video (15-20 minutes) followed by an informal discussion. Gary Weldy will be the study leader. See Gary if you have any questions or need additional information. Please plan to attend.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: We are ready to embark on a journey through the Bible. Starting September 15th and continuing for 31 weeks, we will study one story of the Bible during our Sunday worship. Two identical adult Bible studies on that week’s story will be held: Thursdays 10:00 AM and Sunday 3:00 PM (@ Mitchellsville). All are invited to come to the session that best fits your need. “The Story” books are \$5.00 each. Please see Pastor Barre NLT September 1st when he is going to place the order

for the books. The September 5th session will be an introduction to the study.

CAPITAL PROJECT – PARKING LOT

The Trustees have had an ongoing concern that we need to take care of the parking lot before we lose it to cracks and water coming through the cracks. What we have now is a base that has been sealed the last two years. We need to finish the topcoat to stop the problems.

On July 11th a combined meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Council was held to discuss the following parking lot options:

Option #1

- Entire parking lot cleaned & prepared
- Tack-coat
- Relevel
- Resurface with 2” topcoat
- Includes stripping

Option #2 – includes Option #1 plus the following

- Prepare 10 foot x 130 foot area
- Remove sod, grade with Crusher Run as needed
- Base with 2 1/2” of Binder
- Top with 2” Top

Option 2 will square up the parking lot and gain more parking spaces

Both the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Council unanimously approved motions to present the Parking Lot to the congregation as a Capitol Project and to request their donations toward the cost. Both groups also unanimously approved motions to borrow up to \$50,000 to fund the project parking lot project.

The Parking Lot Capital Project was presented to the congregation July 14, 2024. Option 2 was approved. Christy Paving & Excavating LLC has been awarded the Parking Lot Project for \$50,185.

As of August 25, 2024, donations from the congregation and from other income sources totaled \$10,465. Please continue to support this project as you are able. The first payment of \$25,000 is due the last week of September.

BIRTHDAYS

September

17 Dale English
17 Kaylin Slayton
21 Anna Hood

October

3 Nancy Moir
5 Michelle Barkley
16 Donna Sick
17 Beverly Young
18 Lanny Partridge
21 Evelyn Barkley
21 Dorene Pierce
22 Bill Warner
25 Jamie Green
31 Larry Wise
31 Fred Wood

ANNIVERSARIES

September

1 Gary & Mary Weldy
18 Don & Rosemary Loveland
19 Nick & Sarah Rogers
26 Stephen & Debra Dodds

October

22 Al & Bev Belanger

RECIPE CORNER

Sarah's Homemade Applesauce

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 15 minutes
Total Time: 25 minutes
Servings: 4

Ingredients:

4 apples – peeled, cored and chopped
¾ cup water
¼ cup white sugar
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Directions:

Step 1

Combine apples, water, sugar and cinnamon in a saucepan; cover and cook over medium heat until apples are soft, about 15 to 20 minutes.

Step 2

Allow apple mixture to cool, then mash with a fork or potato masher until it is the consistency you like.

Cheesy Cabbage Casserole

Ingredients:

1 lb. lean ground beef
½ med onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
3 cups chopped cabbage
15 oz can diced tomatoes
8 oz can tomato sauce
2 tsp Italian seasoning
2 tsp salt
1 ½ cups shredded cheese

Instructions:

Add ground beef to large skillet, brown over medium heat, crumbling as meat cooks. When meat is about ½ cooked, add onion & garlic, continue cooking until beef is brown. Add cabbage, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, Italian seasoning & salt to skillet & stir well to combine. Cover & cook for 15 minutes or until cabbage has softened to your liking. Remove from heat, top with cheese & let set for 5 minutes

WHO GOD USES

The next time you feel like God can't use you, just remember . . .

Noah was a drunk
Abraham was too old
Isaac use a daydreamer
Jacob was a liar
Leah was ugly
Joseph was abused
Moses had a stuttering problem
Gideon was afraid
Samson has long hair and was a womanizer
Rahab was a prostitute
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
David had an affair and was a murderer
Elijah was suicidal
Isaiah preached naked
Jonah ran from God
Naomi was a widow
Job went bankrupt
John the Baptist ate bugs
Peter denied Christ
The Disciples fell asleep while praying
Martha worried about everything
The Samaritan woman was divorced, more
than once
Zaccheus was too small

Paul was too religious
Timothy had an ulcer . . . and
Lazarus was dead !!

No more excuses now !! God can use you to your
full potential.. Besides, you aren't the message,
you are just the messenger.

SOME THINGS I'VE LEARNED IN LIFE

Author Unknown

...that the best classroom in the world is at the feet
of an elderly person
...that just one person saying to me, "You've made
my day," makes my day !!
...that having a child fall asleep in your arms is
one of the most peaceful feelings in the
world.
...that being kind is more important than being
right.
...that you should never say NO to a gift from a
child.
...that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to
hold and a heart to understand.
...that it's those small daily happenings that make
life so spectacular.
...that under everyone's hard shell is someone who
wants to be appreciated and loved.
...that even the Lord didn't do it all in one day.
What makes me think I can?
...that everyone you meet deserves to be greeted
with a smile.
...that when you harbor bitterness, happiness will
dock elsewhere.
...that a smile is an inexpensive way to improve
your looks.
...that love, not time, heals all wounds.

CHILDREN'S LOGIC: "Give me a sentence
about a public servant," said a teacher. The small
boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder
pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to
correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant
means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy
confidently. "It means carrying a child."

*Forget yesterday, enjoy today and welcome
tomorrow.*

*The task ahead of us is never as great as the
POWER behind us.*

*If you can't sleep, don't count sheep, pray for our
country.*

SPOOKY HISTORY !!!

Have a history teacher explain this ---if they can.

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.
John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860.
John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.
Both wives lost a child while living in the White
House.

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday.
Both Presidents were shot in the head.

Now it gets really weird.

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy.
Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln.

Both were assassinated by Southerners.
Both were succeeded by Southerners named
Johnson.

Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was
born in 1808.

Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was
born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Kennedy,
was born in 1839.

Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy,
was born in 1939.

Both assassins were known by their three names.
Both names are composed of fifteen letters.

Now hang on to your seat.

Lincoln was shot at the theater named 'Ford'.
Kennedy was shot in a car called 'Lincoln' made
by 'Ford'.

Lincoln was shot in a theater and his assassin ran
and hid in a warehouse.

Kennedy was shot from a warehouse and his
assassin ran and hid in a theater.

Both John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald
were assassinated before their trials.

And here's the kicker . . .

A week before Lincoln was shot, he was in
Monroe, Maryland.

A week before Kennedy was shot, he was with
Marilyn Monroe.