

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held February 13, 2025 with 9 members present.

### LAY LEADERSHIP

- The Committee is on hiatus until Fall

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- March 4 – Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30PM @ Avoca
- March 5 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00PM @ Avoca
- March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9 – Lenten Soup & Sandwich 5:30PM @ Avoca
- March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10 – Lenten Soup & Sandwich Noon @ Avoca
- April 17 – Maundy Thursday Service 7:00PM @ Mitchellsville
- April 18 – Prayer Vigil 6:00AM-6:00PM @ Avoca
- April 18 – Crosswalk 1:00PM @ Parsonage
- April 18 – Tenebrae Service 7:00PM @ Avoca
- April 20 – Easter Sunrise Service 7:00AM @ Avoca, breakfast to follow
- April 20 – Easter Sunday Service 11:00AM @ Avoca
- April 27 – Potluck Fellowship Dinner
- May 8-10 – First Northeast Annual GMC Conference @ Cortland NY

### PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PPRC)

- No meeting held

### TRUSTEES

- Projects Completed: both boilers were overhauled, two new toilets installed in the women's bathroom
- Old Business: Sign on 415 to be updated to Global Methodist Church - on hold
- Funds donated to date for the parking lot - \$29,879 (59.8% of goal), Parking lot paving on hold until May
- New Business: Down spout by the food pantry is loose – will be looked into

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

- With the substantial reserve in the General Fund, Bill suggested that in a couple of months the Ad Council consider not cashing in the parking lot CD but rather use

the funds on hand to pay for the paving project.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Current membership is 79
- Two individuals have requested transfer to AMC. Paperwork for one of them has been received.

### RAMP COMMITTEE

- Currently have a good fund balance
- Warehouse full of lumber
- Waiting for Steuben County to provide supplemental funds
- Upcoming changes to work schedule – Glenn has to lighten his personal load
- Need to identify storage area for the electric bed and power wheelchair

### LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS

- Funds spent for the 83 food baskets totaled \$5,648; for gifts \$4,409
- Congregation food donations and the Scouting for Food drive greatly reduced our total cost
- The gift shopping for this year is done except for toys for the children
- If we have trouble getting gift cards for the families to purchase meat for their holiday meal, Jim may look into working with Southern Tier Provisions or another local business where our families could take a voucher to pick up a ham or turkey

### OLD BUSINESS

- The distribution of “The Story” and cookies to the Caboose families Christmas Eve went very well
- Administrative Council, Trustees, Worship, Lighthouse Christmas, the Sound Room and Membership have a vice-chair or other identified back-up. Other committees and programs will be asked to identify theirs.

### NEW BUSINESS

- The Dormann Library would like to restart their Red Shelf program at AMC
- This program provides children's books for kids to take home. They do not need to be returned
- The Red Shelf will be moved to the room across from the Avoca-Kanona Food

Pantry for easier access by the children and parents who visit the pantry

- Jane Kaszczynek will bring the books from the Dormann Library
- The books will be available to the kids and parents in our congregation as well as to visitors in the church

### **PASTOR'S TIME**

- Everything already covered

### **FUNDRAISERS**

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$69.26
- Chicken BBQ – scheduled for May 26
- Pulled Pork drive-thru – scheduled for August 9

### **CONCERTS**

- Final Harvest – Saturday, June 21, 2025 @ 4PM
- The Puffers – Friday, August 22, 2025 @ 5:30PM picnic dinner for church family, @ 7:00PM concert for community
- Dave Burdick – Saturday, December 13, 2025 @3:00PM concert with dinner to follow

### **TREASURER'S REPORT January 2025 – 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 incurred, 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 no longer have any mission reserves as we distributed the funds for use last year. This year we will again concentrate 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. Jane's initial estimate of how many people she would be helping is in reality

doubled and we have increased the funding in order to help.

The Capital Project Fund campaign to repair and repave the parking lot continues. This is work that needs to be done soon in order to save the current pavement. The work was to start the end of September, but has been delayed due to weather. The expansion part, however, was completed at the end of September, with the major part now scheduled for some time in May 2025.

The accepted quote is for about \$50,000.00, so that is the goal for this capital project. As of February 16, 2025, \$29,879.00 has been raised. Because of this outpouring, the Administrative Council decided not to seek a bank loan, but to borrow from our own reserves earmarked for other projects. We will just need to replenish these reserves.

Due to the delay in construction, and with the blessing of the Administrative Council, on October 15<sup>th</sup> I purchased a \$25,000.00 Certificate of Deposit at 4.5% to mature May 15, 2025. This will help earn some money for the project.

Thank you and God bless you!

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

### **MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION Ron Salles**

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) .

Please subscribe to the NEW Facebook and YouTube channels. Please update our new email [avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto: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 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) ).

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** **Fred Groner**

The 6 session series called "EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD" by Pastor Rick Warren and led by Gary Weldy has been completed. The series involved what Pastor Warren calls the six phases of faith. Pastor Warren explains his views that GOD uses a predictable pattern and process to build our faith. Pastor Warren explains that understanding these six phases allows you to cooperate with GOD in the process of strengthening faith and building character.

Also we must learn not to trust in yourself but in GOD, and don't be hopeless but expect GOD to deliver. Jesus said, "According to your faith, will it be done to you" (Matthew 9:29). A strong faith prepares you for what GOD is about to do in your life. In the six sessions, Pastor Warren explained the process of building your faith with a dream, acting on your dream of faith, and putting it into action. Pastor Warren says that we should have patience because GOD will not fulfill your dream immediately because GOD uses difficulties to work on your faith. Also we must learn not to trust

in yourself but in GOD, and don't be hopeless but expect GOD to deliver.

In mid-January another seven-session, video-based study by Pastor Rick Warren was started called "HOW TO GET THROUGH WHAT YOU'R GOING THROUGH." Twenty-one (21) attended the initial session. Pastor Warren divides this seven session series into topics of shock, sorrow, struggle, surrender, sanctification, start seeing, and service.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

#### **March**

3 Barry Anderson  
3 Don Wise  
4 Joe Lawrence, JR  
16 Earl Sherwood  
29 Eva Slayton

#### **April**

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

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **March**

11 Clay & Rosemary Ovenshire  
26 Roy & Ruth Hann  
29 Bill & Sharron Heard

#### **April**

24 Bruce & Janet English

### **GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE**

"Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness." The service of Tenebrae as practiced in most Protestant Churches is an adaptation of medieval Roman Catholic practices for each of the days of Holy Week dating back to the ninth century. Our Avoca Methodist service will be held on Good Friday.

For most Protestants, the story of the suffering and death of Jesus from John's gospel is divided into 16 readings. After each segment of the story is read, a candle is extinguished. After the fifteenth reading, which confirms that Jesus had died on the cross, the last of the 15 lit candles is extinguished or taken away, and a loud sound (called *strepitus* in Latin) is made to convey the sense of total loss of God's presence and the effect of the death of Jesus on the universe. The final story of the burial is read in near darkness.

Worshippers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

## RECIPE CORNER

### CROCK POT CRACK POTATO SOUP

#### Ingredients:

6 medium potatoes (peeled and diced)  
1 medium onion (diced)  
4 cups chicken broth  
1 tsp garlic powder  
½ tsp black pepper  
1 block (8 oz.) cream cheese (softened)  
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese  
½ cup sour cream  
½ cup cooked and crumbled bacon (plus extra for garnish)  
Optional: ¼ cup chopped green onions for garnish

#### Directions:

**Prepare the base:** Add diced potatoes, onion, chicken broth, garlic powder, and black pepper to your crock pot. Stir to combine.

**Cook:** Cover and cook on low for 6-7 hours or high for 3-4 hours, until the potatoes are tender

**Blend (optional):** For a creamer soup, use an immersion blender to blend some of the potatoes directly in the pot. Leave some chunks for texture, if desired.

**Add the creamy ingredients:** Stir in cream cheese, shredded cheddar, sour cream and bacon. Mix until everything is melted and combined.

**Serve:** Ladle into bowls and top with extra bacon, shredded cheese, and green onions if desired.

#### Tips:

Add extra veggies like carrots or celery for a twist. Swap cream cheese with heavy cream for a lighter version.

Serve with crusty bread or a side salad for a complete meal.

### COWBOY CORNBREAD CASSEROLE

#### Ingredients:

2 packs Jiffy cornbread mix  
1 ½ lbs. ground beef  
1 can rotel  
1 can whole kernel corn  
1 can ranch style beans  
1 cup shredded cheese  
1 pack taco seasoning

#### Directions:

**Mix** cornbread according to package instructions then set aside. Preheat oven to 425°

**Brown** ground beef, drain. Add taco seasoning, undrained can rotel, undrained ranch style beans, and drained corn. Simmer for about 5 minutes. Stir into cornbread mix. Mix in shredded cheese. Stir completely. Pour into a greased 9X13 casserole dish.

**Bake** approximately 25-30 minutes until toothpick comes out clean.

**Can top** it with more cheese, sour cream, salsa, or whatever your heart desires.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Mergatroyd? Do you remember that word? Would you believe the spell-checker did not recognize the word, Mergatroyd. Heavens to Mergatroyd!!

The other day a not so elderly (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy; and he looked at her quizzically and said, "What the heck is a Jalopy?" He had never heard of the word jalopy! She knew she was old . . . but not that old.

Will, I hope you are Hunky Dory when you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology.

These phrases included:

Don't touch that dial; Carbon copy; You sound like a broken record; Hung out to dry.

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and tucker, to straighten up and fly right!

Heavens to Betsy!  
Gee Whillikers!  
Jumping Jehoshaphat!  
Holy Moley!

We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop, or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys, and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers.

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, “Well, I’ll be a monkey’s uncle !” OR “This is a fine kettle of fish!”, we discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we’ve left behind. We blink, and they’re gone. Where have all those great phrases gone?

Long gone: Pshaw, The milkman did it. Hey! It’s your nickel. Don’t forget to pull the chain. Knee high to a grasshopper.

Well, Fiddlesticks! Going on sixty. I’ll see you in the funny papers. Don’t take any wooden nickels. Wake up and smell the roses.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff! (Carter Liver Pills are gone too!)

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth.

See ya later, alligator! Okidoki.

You’ll notice they left out “Monkey Business”!!!

- E - envision His love deeply**
- A - accept His love willingly**
- S - seek His love continually**
- T - trust His love implicitly**
- E - embrace His love whole-heartedly**
- R - return His love generously**

### **A GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER**

Dear God,

We remember today, the pain and suffering of the cross, and all that Jesus was willing to endure, so we could be set free. He paid the price, such a great sacrifice, to offer us the gift of eternal life.

Help us never to take for granted this huge gift of love on our behalf. Help us to be reminded of the cost of it all. Forgive us for being too busy, or distracted by other things, for not fully recognizing what you freely gave, what you have done for us.

Thank you, Lord, that by your wounds we are healed. Thank you that because of your huge

sacrifice we can live free. Thank you that sin and death have been conquered and that your Power is everlasting.

Thank you that we can say with great hope, “It is finished . . .” For we know what’s still to come. And death has lost its sting. We praise you for you are making all things new. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

### **HOW DO I KNOW?**

**Eugene M. Harrison**

How do I know that Christ is risen?

What proof have I to give?

He touched my life one blessed day,  
and I began to live!!

How do I know He left the tomb  
that Easter long ago?

I met Him just this morning,  
and my life is all aglow.

How do I know that endless life  
He gained that day for me?

His life within is proof enough  
of immortality !

How do I know that Christ still lives  
rich blessings to impart?

I know it’s true because He lives  
and reigns within my heart !!

**A visiting minister** was very long-winded.

Worse, every time he would make a good point during his sermon and a member of the congregation responded with “Amen” or “That’s right, preacher” he would get wound up even more and launch into another lengthy discourse.

Finally, the host pastor started responding to every few sentences with “Amen, Pharaoh!” The guest minister wasn’t sure what that meant, but after several more “Amen, Pharaohs” he finally concluded his very lengthy sermon.

After the service concluded and the congregation had left, the visiting minister turned to his host and asked, “What exactly did you mean when you said “Amen, Pharaoh?”

His host replied, “I was telling you to let my people go!”

**It was Palm Sunday** but because of a sore throat, 5 year old Sammy stayed home from church with a babysitter. When the family returned home, they

were carrying several palm fronds. Sammy inquired as to what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father responded. "Wouldn't you just know it?" Sammy complained, "the one Sunday I don't go and Jesus shows up."

### AVOCA KANONA FOOD PANTRY

To help offset the increased workload and inflationary costs, a cart has been placed in the Narthex for the weekly collection of food and money for the Avoca-Kanona Food Pantry. Please give if you are able. Needed food items include:

Canned meats: chicken, spam,  
 Pancake mix and syrup  
 Peanut butter and jelly  
 Salad dressings, mayonnaise, and other condiments  
 Canned fruits  
 Canned vegetables  
 Canned soups  
 Spaghetti sauce  
 Chili, stew, sloppy Joe, hash  
 Crackers  
 Pasta: spaghetti, elbows, bowties  
 Hamburger helper  
 Baking items: flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder  
 Cooking oil  
 Cake mix, brownies, cookie mix, frosting  
 Rice: brown, white, pilaf  
 Pudding, Jello  
 Hot cocoa, coffee, tea  
 Paper towels  
 Body wash  
 Dish soap, laundry detergent

### REMINDER: WE HAVE A LIBRARY

When you are in the church, please check out our Library down the Sunday School hallway. On the left of the room, in addition to Bibles and Bible studies, Dorene has a collection of books by well-known theologians. The puzzles and novels are in the right-hand bookshelves. Choose from a collections of well-known authors (James Patterson, Debbie Macomber, Janette Oke, Beverly Lewis, Wanda Brunstetter, Nora Roberts, Mary Alice Monroe, Susan Wiggs, Raeanne Thayne, Jan Fields, and Cindy Woodsmall) to name a few. A sign-out sheet for the books in on the top of the left bookshelf. You may keep the puzzles.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### March 2025

4 Tue	5:30 PM	Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
5 Wed	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
7 Fri	7:00 PM	First Friday-N Urbana Chapel
8 Sun	8:00 AM	Pancake Breakfast
12,19 Wed	5:30 P	Lenten Soup & Sandwich
26		
13, 20, 27 Thu	Noon	Lenten Soup & Sandwich
16 Sun	12:15 PM	Potluck Fellowship Dinner
20 Thu	10:00 AM	Merchant Card Order

#### April 2025

2, 9 Wed	5:30 PM	Lenten Soup & Sandwich
3,10 Thu	Noon	Lenten Soup & Sandwich
4 Fri	7:00 PM	First Friday – Bath Baptist
13 Sun	8:00 AM	Pancake Breakfast
17 Thu	10:00 AM	Merchant Card Order
	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service @ Mitchellsville
18 Fri	6A-6P	Prayer Vigil @ Avoca
	1:00 PM	Crosswalk – Parsonage
	7:00 PM	Tenebrae Service @ Avoca
20 Sun	7:00 AM	Easter Sunrise Service
	TF	Breakfast
	11:00 AM	Easter Sunday Service
27 Sun	12:15 PM	Potluck Fellowship Dinner

*One*

*One tree can start a forest;*

*One smile can begin a friendship;*

*One hand can lift a soul;*

*One word can frame a goal;*

*One candle can wipe our 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.*