

Dear Avoca Methodist Family,

May 2025

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lenten services. Whether you read the devotions, furnished for a soup and sandwich gathering, or came to a Holy Week service, your participation is appreciated. Extra events like these cause extra work in the office, so thank you to Dorene and Carol. There is also extra setup required, with thanks to Cindy, Henry, and Carol. I also want to thank the Trustees and others who worked on the cleanup day. The church building shows that we care.

As I'm thinking of things I am thankful for, I remember that at the top of the list is God's gift of His Son. Jesus chose to die in our place, to take the punishment for our sins. This causes me to think about ways of saying thank you.

Dr. Timothy Tennent reminds us, "The love of God is not a passive affection but an active, redemptive force that calls us into holy living."

Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in heaven."

How do we live out our call to holy living? How do we let our light shine?

Sometimes it is in the way we act—do we spread gossip, do we treat others fairly, are our business decisions honest, do we look for the good in people?

Sometimes it is in the words we use—are we kind when we speak to others, do we use God's name in ways we shouldn't, do we use words in our daily lives that we wouldn't use in church?

When was the last time you targeted someone to share your faith with? If someone asks you about your faith, are you prepared to answer? Can you explain why you go to church?

Are you one of those hypocrites who go to church on Sunday, but don't live it out the rest of the week? That's the way many in our culture see Christians today. Are you part of the problem, or part of the solution? Do other people notice a difference in you and want what you have?

Becoming a Christian is relatively easy:

- **Admit you are a sinner/you are not perfect.**
- **Believe that Jesus is God's Son, who came to die in our place, to atone/pay for our sins, and who rose again.**
- **Commit yourself to a life of following Jesus and serving others.**

But changing everything about our lives, denying our human tendencies (think our sinful nature thanks to Adam and Eve), and putting others before ourselves—CAN BE VERY HARD! Satan does a great job trying to distract us from our main purpose in life—sharing the GOOD NEWS.

Don't forget to **B**ee **A** Disciple!

Pastor Barre

