

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

LAY LEADERSHIP

- The Committee is on hiatus until Fall

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- September 21 – Outdoor worship service TBA
- Movie night – date and time TBA
- November 2 – All Saint's Day
- November 15 – Combined GMC Harvest Dinner & Thanksgiving Service with Mitchellsville, Hammondsport and Caton
- November 23 – Hanging of the Greens – decorate Church for Christmas
- November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PPRC)

- No meeting held

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Everything already covered

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Current membership is 80
- A membership status letter to be sent to 14 inactive members to invite them to become involved in the church
- A letter to be sent to 19 constituents who regularly attend church to invite them to become members of Avoca Methodist Church

RAMP COMMITTEE

- Ramp #738 completed
- A meeting with Steuben County Office of the Aging has been scheduled for August 20
- Looking for someone to coordinate this program
- Corning Building Supply will continue to give this program a discount on materials

OLD BUSINESS

- Administrative Council, Trustees, Worship, Finance, 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. List will be maintained by secretary when completed
- Pulled Pork Drive-Thru: income \$2650, expenses \$1374, Food/Supplies Donation \$209

NEW BUSINESS

- Christian School – Pastor Barre gathering information for Avoca Methodist Church becoming a Co-op for students' on-line learning
- AED and CPR Recertification – our certifications expired in May 2025. Mike and Shelly are contacting possible instructors who would be available to come to AMC to conduct AED and CPR recertification
- Free haircuts for Avoca Central School Students – Two beauticians have indicated they would be willing to participate in this program. Shelly is gathering information. This service would be for Avoca Central School students only

PASTOR'S TIME

- Pastor Barre needs 3 more classes before he will be ordained as an Elder
- Annual Church Conference will be Tuesday, September 30th

FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$568.78

CONCERTS

- 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
- Paul Gibbs – Friday, December 19, 7:00 PM

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 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 occurred. Currently 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 have no reserves in the mission fund as we build the funds for this

year. We are borrowing from the General Fund reserves to fund the current Mission Fund needs. This year we have concentrated 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 has tripled and we have increased our funding to help. We have also placed a donation cart for food and cash in the Narthex.

The Capital Project Fund campaign to repair and repave the parking lot continues. The work was completed the first week in June and what a blessing it is! The goal is \$50,000.00 for this capital project. As of August 10, 2025, \$41,395.40 has been raised so far. That's 82.8%. The Administrative Council didn't seek a bank loan but borrowed from our own reserves earmarked for other projects. So we still need to replenish these reserves to \$8,604.60 more. We are almost to our goal! Keep up the giving in this area!

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 webpage at www.avocamethodistchurch.com and find the links to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AvocaMethodistChurch and YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/@AvocaMethodistChurch . Please subscribe to the Facebook and YouTube channels. Please update our new email avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com . 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 also working with me on the sound system and video recording. Thank you, Mike!

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bill Heard

Trustees Meeting and follow up items from July 1, 2025, meeting.

Members present: Fred & Marge Wood, Gary Weldy, Don Loveland, Bruce English, Janet English, and Bill Heard.

- The trustees approved proceeding with the replacement of the church sign via a text vote on July 21, 2025. The sign was ordered on 29 Jul 2025 for a total cost of \$4275 pending final freight cost. As a memorial, Aaron Benton is going to make a substantial donation toward the cost of the new sign.
- The new road signs are completed and will be located at the end of Michigan Hollow Road and the end of County Rt 6/ Rt 415.
- The trustee approved via a text vote to spending \$500-\$700 to replace Pastor Barre's 20-year-old washer when it fails.
- Gravel backfill around the parking lot was completed on Wednesday, August 12, 2025.
- It has been decided to add two low rise steps and handrail to the food pantry door to help with the entryway egress.

- Don Loveland supplied a barrel and drainpipe, and Tim Hubbard donated the stone to install a barrel for the back eve downspout that was causing icing problems for the food pantry door. This was completed on August 12, 2025.
- The church and parsonage will be power washed on September 3, 2025.

The next meeting will be on September 11, 2025.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Gary Weldy

On August 3rd the Adult Bible Study began a study into the Book of Romans entitled “In the Grip of Grace” by Max Lucado. I feel he is doing an excellent presentation as he leads us through this remarkable book of the Bible. Readings help us gain a better understanding of God’s word as we go throughout the week.

September 28th will be the start of a new six-week study “You Make Me Crazy – Surviving Relationships God’s Way”. We all have relationships that drive us crazy. Whether it is a boyfriend or girlfriend, spouse, sibling, parent, co-worker, or crazy relative you see once in a year at Thanksgiving, a crazy-maker can really make life difficult.

This six-week study from Rick Warren will help bring sanity to your relationships so you can do more than just coexist. Learn how to connect with the crazy-makers in your life through these six sessions:

1. How to Be Wise in Relationships
2. Who’s Pushing Your buttons?
3. How to Resolve Conflict
4. Breaking Free From Abuse
5. Escaping the People-Pleaser Trap
6. Keeping the Crazy-Makers from Making you Crazy

If you are curious about our group, please feel free to talk to me or any of our 21 attendees. I truly feel God is very close to this group of believers as we study His work.

IN GOD’S GRACE. Gary Weldy

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

On Thursday, September 4th, Pastor Barre will begin a six-week study by Pastor Max Lucado: “What Happens Next - A Traveler’s Guide Though The End of This Age” – A Bible Study on the End Times”.

Pastor Lucado believes God wants us to be prepared, not scared; informed, not intimidated. He writes: “The future is not frightening if you know the future. And you can know the future when you know who holds it”

Whether you find yourself in the “I can’t wait,” “I’m almost ready,” or “I’m not sure about all of This” camp, you will be encouraged to ponder God’s promises for the future. In Max’s signature encouraging style, he reminds us, “It’s all about hope. It’s all about Him.”

With numerous wars, political unrest, and the increasing number of earthquakes, fires, floods and other natural disasters, we live in scary times. Come and see what the Bible says about the signs forecasting the End Times and how to prepare for the future God has planned for us. All are welcome.

MERCHANT CARD PROGRAM

Dorene Pierce

How can it be September already when it seems like Christmas was yesterday? After Labor Day, the stores, catalogs, TV and radio ads, etc. start to focus on the things we, (receiver or gift giver), can not live without this Christmas. We struggle to find the perfect item not knowing sizes, color preferences, what’s “in”, what they already have, or what they would never use. Many families have members spread all across the country where they have had to relocate to find jobs, colleges, or a better climate for health issues. Fed-ex, United Parcel Service, and the US Post Office costs are continuing to increase each year.

As we age, it is increasingly difficult to shop in the big-box stores, deal with crowds, and/or navigate the internet to make on-line purchases. Over the years many of us have moved to purchasing gift cards.

You have seen the Merchant Card due dates in the bulletin inserts and newsletters. The Avoca Methodist Church is a member of Raise Right, a fund raising organization for non-profits which

provides a easy and efficient way to earn money for specific programs or for items that cannot be purchased using regular church moneys.

Raise Right provides a list of approximately 1,000 vendors from which gift cards may be purchased. Each vendor lists the percentage of discount they provide us on each card sold. Therefore, if you purchase a gift card the amount earned by the church would depend on the type of card. If you purchased a \$100 gift card, the card you receive will be for \$100. Some examples of what the church might earn on that \$100 card:

VENDOR	%	CHURCH	YOU
Applebee's	8%	\$ 8.00	\$100.00
Burger King	6%	\$ 6.00	\$100.00
Outback	10%	\$10.00	\$100.00
Walgreens	5%	\$ 5.00	\$100.00
Walmart/Sams	2.5%	\$ 2.50	\$100.00
Tops Market	5%	\$ 5.00	\$100.00
J C Penny	5%	\$ 5.00	\$100.00
Old Navy	14%	\$14.00	\$100.00
Lowe's	4%	\$ 4.00	\$100.00
Bath/Body Works	12%	\$12.00	\$100.00
PetSmart	5%	\$ 5.00	\$100.00

Depending on the vendor, cards can be purchased for \$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100. Almost all the vendors offer a \$25 card. The master vendor list indicates which amounts their cards are available.

The Merchant Card orders are submitted the third Thursday of each month. Orders must be received in the office by 10:00 AM. The cards are normally received by the following Tuesday and are available the 4th Sunday unless you make arrangements to pick them up early.

The master list and order forms are on the table outside the office. Please feel to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Please consider using the church's merchant card program for gift giving and personal purchases. The food for the picnic before the Puffers concert and the base money for the Puffers were provided by the Merchant Card Program. Since 2015, the approximate \$13,000 earned has made possible many concerts, dinners, picnics, mission support, etc. that otherwise could not have happened.

ALL SAINT'S DAY NOVEMBER 2, 2025

On November 2nd we will celebrate the lives of our family and friends who passed during the period November 1, 2024 thru October 31, 2025. Please give the names of all you would like to remember on All Saint's Day to Dorene by **Sunday, October 26, 2025.**

BIRTHDAYS

September

7 Jessica Kaufmann
17 Dale English
17 Kaylin Slayton

October

3 Nancy Moir
4 David Billings
5 Michelle Barkley
9 Jackie Ormsby
16 Donna Sick
18 Lanny Partridge
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

9 Phil & Shirley Wilson
22 Al & Bev Belanger

RECIPE CORNER

Goopy Raspberry White Chocolate Cookies Pastor Barre

Ingredients:

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup brown sugar, packed
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup fresh raspberries
1 cup white chocolate chips
½ cup white chocolate chunks

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper
- In a large bowl, cream together the butter, granulated sugar, and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in the vanilla extract.
- In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, mixing until just combined.
- Gently fold in the raspberries, white chocolate chips and white chocolate chunks
- Scoop dough onto prepared baking sheets, spacing each about 2 inches apart
- Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until the edges are lightly golden. Allow cookies to cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

VINCENT HOUSE MISSION PROJECT

Prior to its closing, the Cohocton Methodist Church supported the Vincent House in Wayland as one of its missions. Our Administrative Council decided to continue this support by making Vincent House a mission of the Avoca Methodist Church.

In addition to monetary donations, Vincent House greatly appreciates physical donations of household needs. If you would like to help, a box will be placed in the Narthex to collect the following items to needed by Vincent House:

Kitchen Supplies

Coffee (K-Cups), Coffee creamer, Individual bottled water, Peanut butter (creamy), Baking mixes (cookies, brownies, etc.), Cans of soda, Cooking oils (vegetable, olive), Juices (cranberry, prune, orange juice), Individual snack and candy bags, Sweet n Low

Laundry and Cleaning Supplies

Paper towels. Toilet paper. Kleenex, Spray room freshener, 30-gallon trash bags, 40#

bags of large salt for water softener, Automatic dishwasher detergent, Fabric softener, Liquid hand soap/bar soap, Lysol spray, Non-latex gloves (large)

Miscellaneous

Gift cards to Staples, Walmart, Wegmans (can be ordered through AMC), Food Mart, Postage stamps, White copy paper. Light bulbs

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS – 2025

Jim Young

This year's Lighthouse Christmas will be Saturday, December 13th. The distribution will be a drive-thru morning event.

At this time, we are planning for 84 families to receive food and gifts. 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 mid-October.

A box will be placed in the Narthex through the end of November to collect food . A can to collect cash to purchase additional food (if that would be easier for you than doing the shopping) will also be on the table . Please give as you are able. The food items needed and suggested giving months are listed below. However, anything you can donate will be sincerely appreciated and put to good use. Please be sure the "best used by" date is June 2026 or beyond.

FOOD BASKET SUGGESTIONS

SEPTEMBER Fruit Cocktail, Pears, Peaches, Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Misc. Beans (Pinto, Kidney, Pork & Beans)

OCTOBER Saltine Crackers (4 stack box), Cereal (18 oz.), Chunky Soup, Condensed Soup, Cake Mix, Frosting, Meal in a Can (spaghetti, ravioli, spaghetti O's, hash)

NOVEMBER Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix, Tuna/Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese, Misc. Pasta, Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing

We sincerely 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.

AVOCA-KANONA FOOD PANTRY

When the Kanona UMC closed two years ago, the food pantry was transferred to Avoca as a new mission project here. Food and cash have been collected weekly to support this mission. Because of the other items requested during the next months, the collection of food for the pantry will be on hold through November. However, cash collections or food donations left by the pantry door during this time will be sincerely appreciated. Please give if you are able. Thank you.

One morning a grandmother was surprised to find that her seven-year-old grandson had made her coffee. Smiling, she choked down the worst cup of coffee in her life. When she finished she found three little green army men at the bottom. Puzzled, she asked, "Honey, what are these army men doing in my coffee?" Her grandson answered, "Just like it says on TV Grandma, the best part of waking up is soldiers in your cup."

YOU SAYGOD SAYS

You: "It's Impossible"
God: "All things are possible"
Bible: Luke 18:27

You: "I'm too tired"
God: "I will give you rest"
Bible: Matthew 11:28-30

You: "Nobody loves me"
God: "I love you"
Bible: John 3:16

You: "I can't go on"
God: "My grace is sufficient"
Bible: II Corinthians 12:9

You: "I can't figure it out"
God: "I will direct your steps"
Bible: Proverbs 3:5-6

You: "I can't do it"
God: "You can do all things"
Bible: Philippians 4:13

You: "I'm not able"
God: "I am able"
Bible: "II Corinthians 9:8

You: "It's not worth it"
God: "It will be worth it"
Bible: Romans 8:28

You: "I can't forgive myself"
God: "I forgive you"
Bible: Romans 8:1

You: "I'm afraid"
God: "I have not given you fear"
Bible: II Timothy 1:7

You: "I'm always worried"
God: "Cast all your cares on Me"
Bible: I Peter 5:7

You: "I'm not smart enough"
God: "I will give you wisdom"
Bible: I Corinthians 1:30

You: "I feel all alone"
God: "I will never leave you"
Bible: Hebrews 13:5

You: "I can't manage"
God: "I will supply all your needs"
Bible: Philippians 4:19

DATES TO REMEMBER

<p>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH</p> <p>GRANDPARENT'S DAY</p>
<p>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH</p> <p>PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM</p>
<p>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST</p> <p>CHURCH IN THE PARK Potluck picnic to follow</p>
<p>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12TH</p> <p>PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM</p>
<p>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH</p> <p>NAMES OF ALL SAINT'S DAY HONOREES TO DORENE</p>