

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Meeting was held Thursday, October 9, 2025 with 8 members present.

LAY LEADERSHIP

- The Committee is on hiatus until Fall 2026

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- November 2 – All Saint's Day
- November 4 – Elections at Church
- November 9 – Celebrate Veteran's Day, pictures requested
- November 15 – Combined GMC Harvest Service and dinner with Mitchellsville, Hammondsport and Caton @Avoca
- November 22 – District Day in Binghamton
- November 22 – A Day of Prayer for Our Nation
- November 23 – Hanging of the Greens – decorate Church for Christmas
- November 30 – First Sunday of Advent
- Date TBA – Meal for Caboose residents
- December 13 – Lighthouse Christmas 9AM – 11AM
- December 13 – Dave Burdick Concert @ 3PM @ Avoca with dinner to follow
- December 19 – Paul Gibbs Christmas Concert @ 7PM @ Avoca
- December 21 – Blue Christmas Service @ 4PM @ Avoca
- December 24 – Delivery of cookies/gifts to Caboose residents @ 4PM
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service @ 6PM @ Avoca

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PPRC)

- No meeting held

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Everything already covered

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Current membership is 79
- 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

SCOUTING PROGRAM

- Currently 12 Cub Scouts, increase from 6 last year
- Scouting American has 8 scouts including 2 girls
- Scouts help with Pancake Breakfasts and Lighthouse Christmas for their community hours
- Scouts will distribute bags for their Food Drive on November 1 and will collect the food on November 8 for the Lighthouse Christmas

OLD BUSINESS

- AED replacement pads will be purchased
- CPR/AED Recertification – A person from the Scouting program will come to the Avoca Church to conduct CPR and AED recertification classes
- Free haircuts for Avoca Central School Students – Two local beauticians have indicated they would be willing to participate in this program. Time did not allow implementation of this program so it will be explored for next year
- Christian School – Avoca Methodist Church becoming a Co-op for students' on-line learning on the internet will not be pursued at this time

NEW BUSINESS

- Caboose Christmas – A first aid kit will be the gift this year along with cookies to be delivered to the Caboose residents on Christmas Eve
- Pulled Pork Dinner – net profit was \$1278

PASTOR'S TIME

- Everything already covered

FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$1086.99

CONCERTS

- Dave Burdick – Saturday, December 13, 2025 concert @3:00PM with dinner to follow
- Paul Gibbs – Friday, December 19, 2025 Concert @7PM
- Final Harvest – Saturday, June 13, 2026 concert @4PM

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 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. 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.

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 October 12, 2025, \$43,019.40 has been raised so far. That's 86%. 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 about \$7,000. 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

Project completed:

- A new memorial placard has been made and installed for the bench area in front of the church. Thanks Mike Wasserman
- Church road signs have been installed at the end of County 6 and Michigan Hollow.
- Church sign has been ordered—no delivery date currently. (Minimum of 90 days required to design and fabricate the sign—earliest ship date would be around November 1.) Donations received to cover all the cost of the sign. Thanks to the Benton family and Bill Snyder.
- Gravel has been spread around the edge of the parking lot.

- Power washing the church and parsonage has been completed.
- Boilers have been serviced.
- The steps to improve access to the food pantry door have been completed. Materials were used from the ramp ministry's stock. The bottom step has been adjusted.
- The large bush that blocked the clear view of traffic coming down Jacob's Ladder Road has been cut.

New items:

- A motion was made and carried to take \$10,000 from the Trustee's CD to cover some of the additional expenses we currently are incurring.
- The parking lot bumpers close to the church will be removed for the winter so Goodrich's plowing service does not have to avoid them and people from the congregation do not have to shovel the area not able to be plowed.

RAMP MISSION
Jim Young

The Ramp Guys are in a transition period from our amazing leader Glenn Davis's passing.

We are now reorganized to continue the Ramp program to serve the needs of our neighbors, only in a smaller service area. The new area is Cohocton, Wallace, Avoca, Bath, Savona, and Campbell. Ramp requests and funding are still received from the County Office of the Aging, as well as referrals for ramps needed in this new area that do not qualify for County support. Ramps that are no longer needed are retrieved, recycled and reused.

Adam Ormsby has volunteered to receive the ramp requests. Mike Wasserman and Jim Deats will do site evaluations and determine the ramp material needed. Jim Young, Adam Ormsby, Mike Wasserman and Jim Deats will make the decisions to build or not.

We are all dedicated to continuing this service in Glenn's memory and in service to our Lord. We will just be doing it in a little different way.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Gary Weldy

The six-week study from Rick Warren "You Make Me Crazy – Surviving Relationships God's Way" will continue through November 30th. We all have relationships that drive us crazy. This study helps bring sanity to our relationships so we can do more than just coexist.

In December we will begin another Rick Warren study: Transformed: How God Changes Us.

Transformed is a church-wide, 7-session campaign that will guide and grow your church by exploring what the Bible has to say about every essential area of our lives: Spiritual, Physical, Mental, Emotional, Relational, Financial, and Vocational. The world is shouting for our attention with answers to our relationship struggles, solutions to our financial trouble, and explanations to our search for meaning. But the world's promises leave us empty and searching for more. God's Word is the only answer that promises to transform our lives from the inside out. Unite as a church and be TRANSFORMED together.

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

The Thursday morning Bible study has completed 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. It was such an amazing study that all asked for a repeat which started October 23rd.

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

As people prepare for Christmas, the October Merchant Card order totaled \$4,570. The church earned \$160.42 to use for unfunded needs. Except during the holidays the Merchant Card orders are submitted the third Thursdays of each month at 10:00 AM. However, to ensure early delivery for Christmas, the November and December order dates will be:

November 13th (2nd Thursday) @ 10:00 AM

December 4th (1st Thursday) @ 10:00 AM

If you haven't already done so, please check this program out. It's a great fund raiser for the church and doesn't cost you anything. If you have any questions concerning the Merchant Card program, please contact Dorene Pierce. Thank you.

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 list the names of all you would like to remember on All Saint's Day on the clip board on the Narthex Table outside the sanctuary or contact Dorene by **Sunday, October 26, 2025.**

BIRTHDAYS

November

7 Joe Lawrence SR
9 Pam Andrews
14 Bruce English
16 Sarah Rogers
19 Rosemary Ovenshire
20 Chuck Cagle
21 Pastor Barre Butts
29 Carol Preston
29 Shirley Wilson

December

2 Marguerite English
2 Cheryl Wise
3 Bill Heard
4 Jane Salles
5 Roy Shiloh
7 Linda Shiloh
13 Ron Salles
17 Mary Weldy
19 Rod Travis
21 Sally Rogers
22 Bonnie Hunt
26 Marge Wood

ANNIVERSARIES

November

8 Bob & Earle Jean Kenville
21 Don & Cheryl Wise
24 Henry & Cindy Gottschall

December

2 Roy & Linda Shiloh
6 Bill & Sande Thomas

THANKSGIVING SERVICE and HARVEST DINNER:

**Saturday, November 15th
Thanksgiving Service @ 4:00 PM
Harvest Dinner @ 5:00 PM**

Food Donation & Attendance Sign-Up sheets are on the Narthex Table. Please bring your food donations to the church by Wednesday, November 12th (turkeys should be thawed). All food will be prepared and cooked at the church. The Caton, Mitchellsville and Hammondsport congregations will join us this Thanksgiving. See Cindy Gottschall for more information. Our Thanksgiving offering this year will be cans of cranberry (sauce or jellied) and stuffing mix for the Lighthouse Christmas.

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 has been in the Narthex to collect items to needed by Vincent House (a list of suggested items is on the Narthex table.)

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS – 2025

Jim Young

The registration for the 2025 Lighthouse Christmas is closed. This year AMC will provide gifts, toys, and food to eighty-one (81) families in the Avoca Central School District and those who regularly attend the Avoca Methodist Church. The totals for each category follow:

Households:	81
Total Individuals:	304
Adult Females:	99
Adult Males:	71
Children:	134
TOTAL	<u>304</u>

Our main sources of income are the mission collection the first Sunday of each month, a budgeted amount from the AMC, and donations from community individuals and organizations.

Jim Young is the Lighthouse Christmas Director. Sharron Heard, Janet English, and Carol Preston support the administrative and food side of this mission.

We are blessed to have Amy Badeau, Vicki Nichols, Michele Stanton and Michelle Barkley plan and purchase the gifts and toys. They start in January and do an amazing job finding bargains that save us hundreds of dollars each year.

This year we have worked closely with ACSD Guidance Counselor Heidi Burns. Heidi sent our registration forms home in the children's backpacks to give families the opportunity to participate in the Lighthouse Christmas.

We sincerely appreciate your support for this local Mission project. Because of you, many local families will have a nicer Christmas during these uncertain times.

We are still lacking a few items for the food boxes. Anything you can give will be sincerely appreciated

THOUGHTS TO BE SHARED

(Author Unknown)

I have a list of folks I know,
all written in a book.
And every year at Christmas time,
I go and take a look.
And that is when I realize
that these names are a part,
Not of the book they're written in,
But of my very heart . . .

For each name stands for someone
Who has crossed my path sometime.
And in that meeting they've become
the rhythm in each rhyme.
And while it sounds fantastic
for me to make this claim,
I really feel that I'm composed
of EACH REMEMBERED NAME.

And while you may not be aware
of any "special link"
Just meeting you has shaped my life
more than you can think.

For once I've met somebody,
the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word
or of a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas cards
are just a mere routine,
Of names upon a Christmas list,
forgotten in between,
For when I send a Christmas card
that is addressed to you
It's because you're on that list of folks,
I'm so indebted to.

For I am but a TOTAL
of the MANY FOLK I'VE MET
And you happen to one of those
I prefer NEVER to forget.
And, whether I've known you
for many years or few,
In some way you have had a part
In shaping things I do.

Any every year Christmas comes,
I realize anew,
THE BEST GIFT LIFE CAN GIVE
IS MEETING FOLKS LIKE YOU.
And may the Spirit of Christmas
that forever endures,
Leave it's richest blessings
in the hearts of you and yours.

VETERANS DAY

Cheryl Dyson

On Veterans Day we honor all,
Who answered to a service call.
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.

Some have lived, while others died,
And all of them deserve our pride,
We're proud of all the soldiers who,
Kept thinking of red, white, and blue.

They fought for us and all our rights,
They fought through many days and nights,
And through we may not know each name,
We thank ALL veterans just the same. !!

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. A list of food items needed for the pantry are on the Narthex Table. Please give if you are able. Thank you.

RECIPE CORNER

Cowboy Beans

Jim Young

Ingredients:

2 large cans vegetarian Bush baked beans
1 pound ground beef
1 medium onion – diced
1 green pepper – diced
6 bacon strips, cooked and chopped
1/3 cup ketchup
1/3-1/2 cup light brown sugar
½ teaspoon mustard
Splash of vinegar

Directions:

Brown ground beef and onion – drain
Add all other ingredients
Place in a casserole dish
Bake for 30-40 minutes on 350°

DATES TO REMEMBER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 ALL SAINT'S DAY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 - 8:00 AM PANCAKE BREAKFAST
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 - 10:00 AM MERCHANT CARD ORDER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 - 4:00 PM THANKSGIVING SERVICE and HARVEST DINNER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 DISTRICT AWAKING GATHERING DAY OF PRAYER FOR OUR NATION
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 - 10:00 AM MERCHANT CARD ORDER LAST ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM DAVE BURDICK CONCERT & DINNER 3:00 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 - 8:00 AM PANCAKE BREAKFAST
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 - 7:00 PM PAUL GIBBS CHRISTMAS CONCERT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 - 4:00 PM BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00 PM - AVOCA (3:00 PM - M'VILLE)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE