

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Meeting was held Thursday, December 11, 2025 with 9 members present.

## LAY LEADERSHIP

- The Committee is on hiatus until Fall 2026

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- January 21 – 10AM – 2PM - Planning Session & Safe Sanctuary
- February 17 – 5:30PM – Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
- February 18 – 7PM – Ash Wednesday Service @ Avoca
- February 25 – 6PM – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Devotions
- February 26 – Noon – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Devotions
- March 4 – 6PM – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Devotions
- March 5 – Noon – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Devotions
- March 11 – 6PM – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Devotions
- March 12 – Noon – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Devotions
- March 18 – 6PM – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Devotions
- March 19 – Noon – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Devotions
- March 25 – 6PM – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Devotions
- March 26 – Noon – Lenten Soup & Sandwich/Devotions

## TRUSTEES

### Projects completed:

- Steps for the food pantry
- Bumpers in parking lot removed for winter snowplowing
- Large shrub on Jacob's Ladder removed

### Old Business:

- Outdoor sign delivered without covers. The contract states covers were included. Bill Heard has been working with contractor to resolve the issue.
- Dining Room lock has been repaired
- Coating of roof – tabled until Spring
- Letter rails for outdoor sign at Parsonage – Pending

## New item:

- Dusk to dawn light – A new light has been purchased & installed

## PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PPRC)

- No meeting held

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 2026 Budget Committee will meet mid-Jan after accounts have been closed for 2025
- Financial and operating supplies support for the Vincent House was approved earlier this year. Family Life Ministries in Kanona provides Christian programs and service to our area. Bill Snyder made a motion and Ron Salles seconded that \$1,000 be given to the Vincent House and \$1,000 to Family Life Ministries from our Mission Fund this calendar year. The motion was unanimously approved.

## 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

## LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS

- Eighty-nine (89) families with 337 family members (109) adult females, 78 adult males, 150 children under age of 18) received assistance this year.
- Seven (7) Junior Honor Society and their supervisor helped with packing the boxes
- The gift shoppers did an amazing job in selecting individual gifts and toys for the 337 family members.

## OLD BUSINESS

- AED replacement pads will be purchased
- CPR Recertification – We are looking for someone to come to the Avoca Church to conduct CPR and AED recertification classes
- Caboose Christmas – Mike Wasserman will coordinate the project. First aid kits have been purchased as a gift. There is a signup sheet on table in narthex requesting cookies.

Distribution will be made to residents at 4PM Christmas Eve. A Spaghetti/Meatball Dinner will be included with the cookies and gift to 34 residents.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A recent request was received through an Avoca-Kanona Food Pantry participant for clothing on behalf of a single mother and her four children: boy 10, girls 6, 4 and 1. Being looked into.
- Altar paraments need to be replaced. Bill Snyder made the motion and was seconded by Adam Ormsby to purchase them.

## PASTOR'S TIME

- Pastor Barre will be out of town the following dates for required meetings: - April 14-16, 2026 for International Leadership Institute Training – Syracuse NY and June 11-13, 2026 for GMC Annual Conference – Williamsport PA

## FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$1493.46 (year)

## CONCERT

- Final Harvest – Saturday, June 13, 2026 concert @4PM

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### November 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 a modest reserve in the mission fund. We transferred some funds 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), The Vincent House, and The Avoca

– Kanona Food Pantry. Jane K'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 is now closed. 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. The Administrative Council didn't seek a bank loan but borrowed from our own reserves earmarked for other projects. The Administrative Council voted to fund the remaining goal amount from our General Fund reserves. **THE PARKING LOT IS NOW PAID!**

Any money that comes in marked for the parking lot will be counted as Mission Funds from here on out. What a great blessing it was not to need to take out a bank loan! Thank you all for your contribution!

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 webpage at [www.avocamethodistchurch.com](http://www.avocamethodistchurch.com) and find the links to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/AvocaMethodistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/AvocaMethodistChurch) and YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/@AvocaMethodistChurch](http://www.youtube.com/@AvocaMethodistChurch) .

**Please subscribe to the Facebook and YouTube channels.** Please update our new email [avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ronald.salles@me.com) ) or Mike.

#### **RAMP MISSION Adam & Jackie Ormsby**

The Ramp Guys continued to move forward with good news on all fronts.

The Ramp Guys successfully hosted the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) orientation at Avoca Methodist Church on October 31, 2025. This event resulted in the registration of 11 new RSVP members into The Ramp Guys's program, which helps secure funding from The Office for the Aging and support The Ramp Guys's mission.

Outreach to the Hornell BOCES program has created a successful partnership by serving the larger Hornell area. In the process, 26 BOCES students in the carpentry program are learning new skills and The Ramp Guys share their experiences and example of "Doing Good" for those in need in our area. So far two ramps have been built in the Hornell area with their assistance.

The end of the fiscal year has resulted in The Ramp Guys using every dollar of its yearly allocation of funds from the county. Since October 2025 to present, we have completed 8 new ramps. We are looking forward to January 1st when our new contract with the Office For The Aging can be put in place. Until then, The Ramp Guys will be on winter break and considering emergency ramp builds only.

Thanks to all for a very productive and supportive year of growth. Special thanks to Jim Young, Jim Deats, Mike Wasserman, and Ron Salles for their

leadership and support during a challenging time of transition.

If you, or someone you know is interested in becoming a Ramp Guy, please contact Adam Ormsby. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn and help others.

#### **SCOUTS Mike Wasserman**

#### **Avoca – Bath Pack 1032 – Troop 32**

In the past year, our Five Rivers Council has merged with Buffalo District, and as of now we are known as the Great Falls Council. To add, as of December 1, our Cub program has increased from 6 Cubs to 11 Cubs, and our Scouting America Troop 32 will be increasing from 6 to 8 Scouts. National has approved a family program like our Cub Program.

What this means is that Girls and Boys can be in a single unit, however with this comes new rules to protect our youth. We have done away with our Youth Protection program taken every 2 years and now have our SAFE program requiring yearly certification, and that all adults (18 and over) are required to take, and are also required to go through a background check. Plus, this also requires the approval of our Charter Organization and Meeting location.

The Avoca Methodust Church has stated their approval and will provide a letter, and we should have a letter from the Avoca American Legion soon.

I would also like to state that our District is the only District in Great Falls Council to meet their recruitment requirements for 2025.

As I continue as the Cub Scouts Round Table Commissioner, I have also been asked to head up a new Explorer program for Drones. I have been asked to head this up because of my 8 ½ years of experience in Drones and my federal license for Drone Pilot. I look forward to this new adventure.

If anyone has some free time, and would like to get involved in scouting, I am currently looking for some Unit Commissioners. Unit Commissioners make visits to local units and help lead them in the right direction when they need help. If interested, please feel free to contact me. 607-794-0851 [Wassermanmichaela@gmail.com](mailto:Wassermanmichaela@gmail.com)

## WEATHER FOLKLORE

Long before meteorologists reported the weather, people made forecasts based on their observations of the sky, animals, and nature. Much of the traditional weather lore is surprisingly accurate.

### ***“Red sky at night, sailors delight.***

### ***Red sky in morning, sailors take warning.”***

People relied on this weather saying to navigate their ships, plant crops, and plan activities. It has been a common adage through the ages.

In the Bible, there is a passage in which Jesus says, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather; for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’” (Matthew 16:2-3)

This classic rhyme is based on how sunlight interacts with weather systems. A red sky at sunset means clear weather is likely ahead, while a red sunrise signals an approaching storm.

### ***“If you hear thunder in winter, expect snow soon”***

Thunder in colder months often signals a rapid change in temperature. Meteorologists recognize this as a sign of an approaching cold front, which can bring snow within a few days.

### ***“A Ring Around the Moon Means Rain or Snow is Coming”***

A ring around the sun or moon is caused by light from those bodies passing through ice crystals in the upper atmosphere (light doesn't come from the moon). These ice crystals have either been blown over the tops of high, approaching storm clouds, or from high cirrus clouds, which can be the first indication of an incoming low-pressure system. So when you see a ring, prepare for precipitation.

### ***“When Leaves Turn Upside Down, A Storm is Coming”***

Tree leaves curl or flip before a storm due to changes in humidity and wind patterns. Scientists explain that increased moisture causes the softer undersides of leaves to absorb water and curl upward.

### ***“If the Goose Honks High, Fair Weather If the Goose Honks Low, Foul Weather.”***

This proverb has nothing to do with the pitch of a goose's honk, but rather the altitude of its flight. If the goose “honks high” or is flying at high altitude it's an indication of high barometric pressure, and

therefore good weather. If it's flying lower in the sky, the barometric pressure is low and poor weather is foretold. This is because geese are incredibly adept at flying with optimum air density. When air pressure is high, that optimum level is high in the sky, and the reverse is true for low pressure.

### ***“When your joints all start to ache, rainy weather is at stake.”***

This proverb is pointing to joint pain in humans. Did you have an old uncle whose bad knee could predict a storm? While there has been research done on how weather affects humans, it's all still just theory.

The hypothesis that is most supported by the scientific community is that low pressure (meaning less force on your body/joints) allows tissue to expand, which can put pressure on your joints. So when your bum knee aches a little more for seemingly no reason, look to the skies and prepare for rain the next day or two.

### ***“Woolly bear caterpillars: winter predictors?”***

The woolly bear caterpillar, or the woolly worm, as it is sometimes known in the south, is a common “predictor” of winter weather.

According to folklore, you can predict the severity of the winter season based on the size and location of the woolly bear caterpillar's brown band. The wider the brown band, the milder the winter will be. The longer the black bands on the caterpillar, the harsher the winter will be.

Finally, the position of the widest black band is supposedly related to when in the season the harshest part of winter will be. If the widest black band starts at the head end, the beginning of winter will be harsher, and vice versa.

This is a fun way to predict the winter and see if it will come true, but the reality is that the coloring of the caterpillar is based on its age, length of feeding time, and species.

Although they cannot compare to modern meteorology in terms of scientific accuracy, these old-fashioned winter weather folklore sayings are relics of the past and are fading fast in an ever-increasing modern world. The knowledge and wisdom given to us by past generations is something we should cherish and keep alive forever.

## BIRTHDAYS

### January

9 Sharon Blankenship  
11 Ron Rogers

### February

2 Jim Young  
4 Bev Belanger  
5 Adam Ormsby  
6 Forrest Slayton  
8 Lois Cagle  
12 Neil Simpson  
15 Don Loveland  
22 Al Belanger  
22 Martha Cleland  
25 Margaret Fletcher  
29 Linda Davis

## ANNIVERSARIES

None in Jan and Feb

## RECIPE CORNER

### **THREE-BEAN CHILI**

Dorene Pierce

#### **Ingredients:**

2 lbs. ground beef  
2 medium onions, diced  
16 oz. jar medium salsa  
2 pkgs. dry chili mix  
2 16 oz. cans red kidney beans, drained  
2 16 oz. cans cannellini beans, drained  
2 16 oz. cans white kidney, or great northern beans, drained  
28 oz. can crushed tomatoes  
16 oz. can diced tomatoes  
2 tsp. sugar

#### **Directions:**

1. Brown beef and onions in skillet
2. Combine all ingredients in 6-qt. slow cooker or in 2 4-5-qt cookers
3. Cover. Cook on low 8-10 hours
4. Serve with chopped raw onion and/or shredded cheddar cheese

Note: This recipe can be cut in half without injuring the flavor, if you don't have a cooker large enough to handle the full amount. Also, any combination of small beans may be used.

**My grandson** was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "no, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

## **SLOW COOKER AMISH CORN CHOWDER**

#### **Ingredients:**

4 cups fresh or frozen corn kernels  
1 medium onion, diced  
2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced  
3 cups chicken or vegetable broth  
1 cup heavy cream  
4 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tsp salt  
½ tsp black pepper  
½ tsp smoked paprika  
2 tbsp butter  
2 tbsp all-purpose flour  
2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley (for garnish)

#### **Directions:**

1. Combine corn, onion, potatoes, broth, garlic, salt, pepper and paprika in slow cooker
2. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours until potatoes are tender
3. Make roux: melt butter, stir in flour, cook for 1-2 mins. Gradually whisk in cream
4. Stir cream mixture into slow cooker and mix well
5. Add bacon, stir, and cook on high for 30 mins.
6. Serve hot, garnish with parsley and enjoy !!

## **WHILE THERE IS TIME**

Grace E. Easley

While there is time, Lord, may I use it well.  
"Tis gone in a moment, one never can tell  
Which day is our last one, with so much to do.  
All must be in order, when summoned by You.

While there is time, Lord, and life is my own,  
Let me bring gladness to someone alone.  
Renew a small hope, rekindle a dream,  
For shadows are never as dark as they seem.

While there is time, Lord, let me not waste  
The chances you give me, I cannot replace.  
Lend me your wisdom, that I may learn  
To give of myself, not ask a return.

Let me be gentle, keep my words kind,  
In spite of the worries, crossing my mind.  
And when at long last, life's sun starts to set,  
Let me have never a cause for regret.

## NEW YEAR'S MEDITATION

Dear Lord, as I close the door on this old year  
I ponder on the things I've done;  
On the things I've said & the joys I've had  
Then I wonder, have I lost or won?

I've thought of the new friends I've made  
And the old ones, staunch and true;  
The path of the old year was made easier, Lord  
Because I walked it with You.

I think of all the many times  
When my burdens were so heavy to bear;  
And how my faith slipped away from me,  
But somehow, You were always standing there.

Now as I open the door to this New Year  
And carefully peek inside;  
I wonder what it holds for me?  
But I'll throw the door open wide.

And whatever it brings to me and mine  
I'll meet with a heart so true;  
I know that, Lord, whate'er it may be  
You'll be there to carry me through.

## ABOUT THOSE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

New Year's resolutions, although they have become a joke to many people, can be a real value, don't you think? Your resolutions may take the form of goals for the year ahead; or you may wish to establish rules for day-to-day living. Here are the seven rules for daily living which were practiced by the late F. B. Meyer:

1. Make a daily definite consecration of yourself audibly to God.
2. Tell God that you are willing to be made willing about everything.
3. Reckon on Christ to do His part perfectly.
4. Confess sin instantly.
5. Hand over to Christ every temptation and every care.
6. Keep in touch with Christ. Read the Bible and good books, pray, and seek places and people where He is.
7. Expect the Holy Spirit to work in, with, and for you.

How wonderful it is to know that God is the Lord of time, and that He will be until the stream of time is swallowed up in the ocean of eternity !!

## AVOCA-KANONA FOOD PANTRY

Sincere thanks to all who have been so generous with their financial support and food donations to the pantry as their workload continues to grow. A new record was set the first week in December when ninety-four (94) individuals came for assistance. Special thanks to Lanny Partridge and the entire crew for doing such an outstanding job while Jane is dealing with serious medical issues. A list of food items needed for the pantry are on the Narthex Table. Please continue to give if you are able. Thank you.

<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th</b> <b>UNDECORATE CHURCH</b> <b>12:15 PM</b>
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th</b> <b>PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b> <b>8:00 AM - 10:00 AM</b>
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH</b> <b>MERCHANT CARD ORDER</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>NOTE DATE CHANGE</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21ST</b> <b>PLANNING SESSION and</b> <b>SAFE SANCTUARY</b> <b>10:00 AM - 2:00 PM</b>
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH</b> <b>BATH 1ST PRESBYTERIAN</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH</b> <b>DAN REPPERT MEMORIAL SERVICE</b> <b>BATH CENTENARY UMC</b> <b>11:00 AM CALLING HOURS</b> <b>1:00 PM SERVICE</b>
<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH</b> <b>PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b> <b>8:00 AM - 10:00 AM</b>
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH</b> <b>FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER</b> <b>5:30 PM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH</b> <b>MERCHANT CARD ORDER</b> <b>10:00 AM</b>

