

Hello to the Avoca Methodist Family!

July 2026

My parents purchased an organ for their 25th wedding anniversary. I guess I was drawn to it, because I remember my mom saying, “If you’re going to make that much noise you’re going to learn to play it right.” And so began years of lessons and (at age 12) the opportunity to play for our church in Wheeler. It really made practice important when I knew I’d be playing those hymns on Sunday (with no chance to stop and correct mistakes)!

I have a small picture of a keyboard hanging above the piano at the parsonage. It says, “Life is like a piano: what you get out of it depends on how you play it.” It seems to me that this saying is true of much of our lives. We’re all given 24 hours a day, but some people seem to get so much more done. Some waste their time--think electronic games, social media, daydreaming, etc. Others use their time to make a difference in the lives of those around them—children, coworkers, church family, those in need.

I’m not saying that hobbies and diversions are necessarily bad, but, in excess, they eat up time that we could use to further God’s kingdom. I believe that God has a purpose for each of our lives. I also believe that, through the Holy Spirit, we are each given the resources and skills we need to accomplish God’s plans. We are God’s hands and feet. 1 Corinthians 12:27 reminds us, “now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” We are called to minister to the needs around us. Ephesians 2:10 states, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"

So, how are you “playing” your life? Do you prayerfully set priorities? Do you make sure the priorities are taken care of? Or do you get caught up in the “urgent” and never get to what is really important? Do you let others force their priorities on you, only to later regret the things you left undone?

It can be very difficult to manage our time. I would argue that it is really God’s time! We are allowed to breathe another day only by the grace of God. Therefore, we should use His time wisely—to accomplish the goals He has set before us.

The same concept applies to our church. Do our priorities get taken care of, or just the “urgent”? Does our worship focus on God or on our preferences? Do our meetings deal with the big picture or just what “needs to be done” right now? Are we accomplishing what God has set before us? In almost all cases, I would argue that there is room for improvement. There are many things that AMC does well, but that doesn’t mean we are perfect. Is God giving us a new vision? Does God have something that He is calling us to?

I trust that you will think about your own priorities and those of our church family. I trust that you will pray about them. I trust that you are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. I trust that your relationship with God is deep and constantly getting deeper. God longs to save us—and those around us. Don’t forget—you are called to “**Bee A Disciple!**”

Pastor Barre

