

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Meeting was held on Thursday, August 13, 2026, with 8 members and 3 guests present.

LAY LEADERSHIP

- The Committee is on hiatus until Fall 2026

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- September 20 – Outdoor Service @ 11 AM at Sonny's Pond with dish to pass to follow
- November 1 – All Saint's Day
- November 14 – Thanksgiving Service & Harvest Dinner

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PPRC)

- Nothing to report

TRUSTEES

Projects Completed:

- Parking lot cracks sealed
- Furnace installed

Projects Pending:

- Installation of outdoor sign – still waiting for hardware
- Sale of excess choir room furniture
- New float for children's bathroom toilet
- Roof inspection for insurance certification
- Painting of outside doors

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A new Finance Committee chairperson will be appointed prior to Fall 2026

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Current membership is 72. Of the 72 members, 54 are active, 10 are Inactive and 8 are pending Church Conference Removal
- Pastor Barre will lead a Reception into the Global Methodist Church and Reception into the Local Congregation Covenant to welcome the two individuals transferring their membership from another church and three individuals from our congregation who wish to join the Avoca Methodist Church.

SCOUTS

- Scouts had a great week at camp
- Randy Heard is retiring
- Wendy White will move up to Randy's BSA position and retain Assistant Cub Master
- Cathy Moran will become Cub Master

OLD BUSINESS

- After receipt of the new audio equipment, detailed instructions for the operation of the audio/visual equipment needs to be posted on the Audio/Visual room wall so that anyone will be able to start the sound system if both Ron & Mike are not available – in progress.
- Training of Henry & Cindy on the operation of the sweeper – Sweeper parts will be ordered shortly. Training will be conducted after new parts are installed
- Church Directory – draft will be available soon for proof reading. The directories should be received in about a month.

NEW BUSINESS

- A suggestion was made to think about creating two teams who would alternate planning and serving funeral dinners.
- Bibles for our Troops – A new mission will be led by Cathy Moran to provide Bibles to our military troops.

PASTOR'S TIME

- Pastor on vacation

FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$842.65
- Pulled Pork Drive-Thru – Saturday, September 19, 11A-1P

CONCERT

- Dave Burdick Christmas Dinner Concert – Saturday, December 12, 2026. Concert @3PM – Love offering, Dinner @4:30PM, advance tickets

SCHEDULE CHANGE:

Church office will be open Mondays and Thursdays during September and October from 9:00A – Noon

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 2026– 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, and

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 as we build our efforts for later in the year. Again for 2026 we are concentrating our efforts on our local mission 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.

We are not currently projecting a Capital Project Campaign during 2026. However, the Trustees voted, replaced the boiler system for \$12,400.00. We accomplished this and paid for it! Praise God! The next hot topic with the Trustees is the roof. It is almost 30 years old and will need to be replaced in the not-to-distant future.

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. Our email is 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.

Mike Wasserman and I are still in the process of upgrading some of the sound and recording equipment. Please be patient with us as we learn the best way to use the new items.

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

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS – 2026

Jim Young

It is a bit early to talk about Christmas. However, the next few months are going to be very busy for our church so we need to start planning for the Lighthouse Christmas now.

This year's Lighthouse Christmas will be Saturday, **December 5th**. The distribution will be a drive-thru morning event.

As in past years, each family will receive a banana box top and a bottom filled with food as well as a bag containing paper products. Each family will also receive a gift card to purchase meat for their Christmas dinner.

In addition, each family will receive a gift basket of household goods, towels, gift items, tools, etc. Families with children will receive new toys for each child. This year, each individual in the family will also receive a folding lawn chair. By making all the baskets the same, we hope to be able to take advantage of quantity discounts.

At this time, we are planning for 96 families. 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 containing Lighthouse Christmas registration cards will be placed on the Narthex table by mid-September. If you, or anyone you know who lives in the Avoca School District, can use extra help during the Christmas season, please complete the registration form and place it on Dorene's desk or in the mailbox on the bench by the front door.

New toys for children of all ages are needed for the gift boxes. It is easier for the Lighthouse shoppers to standardize the family gifts if cash or gift cards (Walmart, Target, etc.) are available for quantity purchases.

A cart has been placed in the Narthex through November to collect food. A can to collect cash to purchase toys, gifts and food (if that would be easier for you than doing the shopping) has also been placed on the cart. 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 2027 or beyond.

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

OCTOBER Saltine Crackers (4 stack box), Chunky Soup, Condensed Soup, 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 Methodist Church will have a nicer Christmas during these uncertain times.

ALL SAINT'S DAY NOVEMBER 1, 2026

On November 1st we will celebrate the lives of our family and friends who passed during the period November 1, 2025 thru October 31, 2026. Please give the names of all you would like to remember on All Saint's Day to Dorene by **Sunday, October 25, 2026.** Thank You

RAMP MINISTRY

Jim Young

The Ramp Guys have been very busy.

- Finished #758 – Completed New Builds (759-765)
- Will concentrate on the Vincent House build as soon as the BOCES students are back in session
- Corning Building Supply has been sold to another company. The Ramp Guys have secured a second account with North Main Lumber for supplies needed. Both accounts will be utilized as needed.
- Brenden Smalt, Steuben County's AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Coordinator, assisted with the Ramp #764 build to gain knowledge of our system of building ramps. He was very impressed with our system.
- During the period April – July between 13-16 Ramp Guys per month volunteered 1301 hours. Fourteen (14) ramps were constructed during that time.
- If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering with the Ramp Guys, please reach out to Jackie or Adam Ormsby, Ramp Guys Coordinators at 315-706-9596.

Respectfully submitted with service, gratitude and in one Spirit.

BIBLES FOR OUR TROOPS

Cathy Moran

The American Bible Society has a program where for every \$5 donated, a Bible is given to an Armed Service member at Christmas. They provide the Bibles - we provide the funds.

The Administrative Council has approved "Bibles for our Troops" as a new mission project of the Avoca Methodist Church. Cathy Moran will be leading this mission.

At Avoca Methodist we say "Bee A Disciple" - it is our mission to lead people to the Lord. To put the Lord's word into a soldier's hands is a wonderful thing; the Bible has all the answers that they might need and could be a comfort in moments of fear, strife, and loneliness.

All funds donated by our church family will be matched by the Avoca Methodist Church Mission Fund. The American Bible Society has an

individual/organization that will match all funds received from the churches for this program. Therefore for each individual's \$5 donated, four Bibles will be given to our service members.

Please support this mission if you are able. "Bibles for our Troops" envelopes will be available on the Narthex table. Please drop them in the Mission Fund box as you enter the sanctuary.

See Cathy Moran for additional information or if you have questions concerning this mission, either by phone at 607-684-1784 or email at cathleentmoran@gmail.com

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), cannot 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 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, Arby's, Cracker Barrel, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Texas Roadhouse, Etc.	8%	\$ 8.00	\$100.00
Burger King	6%	\$ 6.00	\$100.00
Outback	10%	\$10.00	\$100.00
Walgreens	5%	\$ 5.00	\$100.00
Chili's	11%	\$11.00	\$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
VISA	1.25%	\$1.25	\$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 normally submitted the third Thursday of each month. However, due to heavier Christmas activity the November and December orders will be placed the second Thursdays (Nov 12th and Dec 10th) to assure the requested denominations are available and the cards are received in ample time. Orders must be received in the office by 9:00 AM. The cards are normally received by the following Tuesday and are available the next Sunday unless you make arrangements to pick them up early.

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 \$15,400 earned has made possible many concerts, dinners, picnics, mission support, etc. that otherwise could not have happened.

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

**DRIVE-THRU
PULLED PORK DINNER**

**Saturday September 19th
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, Beans,
Roll & Dessert**

\$13.00

**See Jim Young to purchase your
tickets and to take tickets to sell to
your family and friends**

RECIPE CORNER

Double Chocolate Zucchini Bread

Ingredients:

2 sticks unsalted butter – melted
2 cups brown sugar – packed
4 large eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 cup cocoa powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
3 cups shredded zucchini
2 cups chocolate chips

Directions:

- Preheat the oven to 350° and grease two (2) loaf pans with nonstick cooking spray
- Mix together melted butter and brown sugar until completely smooth.
- Add the eggs and vanilla and mix well.
- Whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, salt, baking powder, and baking soda in a medium bowl
- Add to the butter mixture and mix until well combined
- Stir in the shredded zucchini and chocolate chips
- Spoon the batter into the two (2) prepared loaf pans and spread evenly.
- Bake for 60-65 minutes, or until a toothpick or cake tester comes out clean
- Let the loaf cool on a rack for about 10 minutes before turning out onto the rack to cool completely

Chicken Zucchini Casserole

Theresa Dyer

Ingredients:

1 box stuffing mix
3 cups diced zucchini
½ to ¾ cup butter – melted
2 cups cubed cooked chicken breast
1 can cream of chicken soup – undiluted
1 medium carrot – shredded
½ cup chopped onion
½ cup sour cream

Directions:

- Combine stuffing and melted butter in a large bowl. Set aside 1/2 cup for topping.
- Add zucchini, chicken soup, onion, carrot, and sour cream to the remaining stuffing.
- Transfer to a greased 9” x 9” dish.
- Sprinkle with reserve stuffing mix
- Bake uncovered @ 350° until golden brown and bubbly – 40-45 minutes

BIRTHDAYS

September

7 Jessica Kauffman
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

The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

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. The cash collection container for the Avoca-Kanona Food Pantry will be on the table leading into the sanctuary. Please give if you are able. Thank you.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

September 13, 2026

Few can bring the warmth
We can find in their embrace,
And little more is needed to bring love,
Than the smile on their face.

They've a supply of precious stories,
Yet they've time to wipe a tear,
Or give us reasons to make us laugh,
They grow more precious through the years.

I believe that God sent us grandparents
As our legacy from above,
To share the moments of our life,
As extra measures of His love.

Dear God, please bless our little girl
She's starting school today.
She's half afraid, yet wants to go...
And yet she wants to stay.

Protect her, Lord, and keep her safe,
And still that trembling lip.
And shield her from all other eyes
In case a tear should slip.

And help her make new little friends;
Be brave throughout the day.
And have her teacher understand
Her gentle little ways.

Oh Lord, please bless our little girl
And calm those anxious fears;
She is so precious and so young
Just a few short tender years.

GOD'S GRACE

Lord, growing older is not always easy.
I feel the changes in my body, the slowing of my
steps, the moments when my mind forgets what
once came quickly. There are reminders all around
me that this life is passing, that time is moving
forward whether I'm ready or not.

And yet, I am not afraid.
Because this is not the end of my story.
You have promised something greater than what I
see now. A life where what is broken will be
restored, where weakness will be replaced with
strength, and where I will finally see You face to
face. That hope steadies me in ways
nothing else can.

Help me to hold this truth gently but firmly
in my heart.
When I feel the weight of aging, remind me that I
am not fading, I am being prepared. Each step
forward is not just toward an ending, but toward
eternity with You.

You have been faithful through every year behind
me, and You will be faithful through every moment
ahead, even the final one.
There is no fear in what You have already
redeemed.

So I rest in that promise. My future is not
uncertain; it is secure in You. And when that day
comes, I will not be stepping into the unknown, but
into Your presence.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Pancake Breakfast Sunday, September 13th 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Pulled Pork Drive-Thru Saturday, September 19th 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Outdoor Service & Potluck Picnic Sunday, September 20th 11:00 AM At Sonny's Pond
Pancake Breakfast Sunday, October 11th 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

