ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Meeting was held on Thursday, October 8, 2026, with 10 members and 2 guests present.

LAY LEADERSHIP

- The Committee has scheduled a meeting

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- November 1 – All Saint's Day
- November 3 – Election Day 6A-9P
- November 21 – Thanksgiving Service @ 4PM & Harvest Dinner to follow. Cranberry Sauce & Stuffing Mix will be requested for the Thanksgiving offering. Mitchellsville, Hammondsport & Caton MCs have been invited. Asking Caboose residents to join us or if they want a meal delivered.
- November 22 – Potluck to follow service and Hanging of the Greens to follow potluck
- November 29 – First Sunday of Advent
- December 5 – Lighthouse Christmas 9AM – 11AM
- December 12 – Dave Burdick Concert at 3PM with Love offering & Holiday Dinner to follow (need tickets)
- December 20 – Potluck Dinner
- December 20 - Blue Christmas Service @ 4PM @ Avoca
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service – 3PM @ Mitchellsville, 7PM @ Avoca
- December 24 – Delivery of cookies & Christmas literature to Caboose residents
- December 27 – Joint Service with Mitchellsville @ 10AM in Avoca. Informal in Narthex with hot chocolate & cookies.

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PPRC)

- Bill Heard made the motion and Ron Salles seconded the 2027 Pastor's Compensation Package which was unanimously approved

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Discussions continue with potential Finance Committee chairperson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Current membership is 76.
- Eight individuals who did not respond to 3 membership status letters will be presented for removal from the membership rolls during the Annual Church Conference in November

SCOUTS

- Scouting for Food Drive will be in November
- Two cub scouts and 1 boy scout registered on October 8th
- Scouts are transitioning with new leaders & new positions. Cathy Moran attended Cub Scout training for new leaders.
- Sponsorship of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be transferred from Avoca American Legion to Avoca Methodist Church
- Handbooks costing around $25 are needed for new Scouts. Mike has requested that the Church purchase the books for the Scouts. The final total number has not been determined yet. Bill Heard made motion & Ron Salles seconded motion that up to 10 books for a total cost of $250 be approved and was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- New audio equipment has been received, 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 – in progress
- Church Directory – in progress.
- Discussion about creating two teams that would alternate planning & serving funeral dinners – postponed until Dec 10th meeting
- Pulled Pork Dinner – Net profit $1245.24
- Bill Heard made motion and Ron Salles seconded that profits from Chicken BBQ and Pulled Pork Dinners go to Missions unless it was needed elsewhere. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

PASTOR'S TIME

- Annual Church Conference will be held on November 10th @ 7:00 PM at the Hammondsport Methodist Church.

FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant card program – YTD - $1126.90

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 Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:00A – Noon

TREASURER'S REPORT
September 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 occurred, currently there is enough working capital to keep our bills paid as they are received, along with any unexpected expenses that suddenly appear, like honeybee gnomes. 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 as I receive them.

On the Mission Fund side, we are carrying a modest reserve. Please keep this in mind during your giving. 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. A new mission campaign has just started, "Bibles for our Troops" to give service members free Bibles.

We are not currently projecting a Capital Project Campaign during 2026. The next hot topic to keep in mind is the roof. It is almost 30 years old and will need to be replaced in the not-so-distant future.

Thank you and God bless you!
If you have any questions please contact Ron Salles (ronald.salles@me.com).



TRUSTEE REPORT
September/October 2026
Bill Heard

Our regular Meeting was held September 10, 2026. There were 7 members in attendance including Bev and Al Belanger, Marge and Fred Wood, Gary Weldy, Don Loveland and Bill Heard.
Projects Completed:

- Cabinet from the choir room was sold on Market Place for $150.
- The two small pews in the choir room received no purchase offers on Market Place
- Furnace zone valve was replaced.
- Parking lot cracks were sealed.
- Cleanup of the weeds in the flowers and hedges was completed.
- Sally's Stiles bequest to the church was received.

Some items have been completed since the regular meeting.

- We are very happy to have the sign completed after several delays associated with acquiring the hardware. A special thanks to the Benton family and the Synder family for the monetary donations to purchase the sign. I would also like to thank Al Belanger, Don Loveland, Bruce and Janet English, Fred Wood, and Jim Young for all the help getting the sign assembled and installed in the existing frame.
- All the metal framed entry doors for the church were removed and painted. Thanks to Don Loveland, Fred Wood, Bruce English, and Sharron Heard for helping to complete this project.
- The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of new sign letters for the new sign.

Our next Meeting Will Be November 12, 2026

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 to you.

Mike Wasserman and I continue 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.

BIBLES FOR OUR TROOPS
Cathy Moran

Our collections for Bibles for our Troops has been underway for the last month and we are making strides in collecting donations.

Great News!!! To date, we have collected enough donations to supply 77 Bibles to soldiers!!! This means that when matched by our church mission fund, we will be able to send enough for 154 Bibles.

I contacted someone from the American Bible Society and she let me know that there are also Christmas cards that go with each Bible. If you would like to fill them out to be included (this gives a personal touch and support from home), I should have them by October 31 and will get them out to those who donated. As our church mission fund is matching the donations we will create general labels to go in the extra cards so that there is one for each bible.

We are doing great things here at Avoca Methodist Church and I am pleased to update you on our progress. Thank you for all your support.

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS – 2026
Jim Young

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

The registrations are closed. This year we will be providing food and gifts for 96 families (up 15.7% from last year). This represents a total of 331 individuals, including 146 children.

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. The adult females and adult males will receive a gift. This year, each individual in the family will also receive a folding lawn chair. By making all the baskets the same, we have been able to take advantage of quantity discounts.

A cart has been placed in the Narthex 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 for November 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.

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

Avoca Methodist could not do this without your generous support for this local Mission project. Because of you, ninety-six (96) families with three hundred thirty-one (331) members, who live in the Avoca School District or who regularly attend the Avoca Methodist Church, will have a nicer Christmas during these uncertain times. Sincere thanks and appreciation for all you do !!!

RAMP GUYS MINISTRY
Jim Young

The Ramp Guys have been busy.

- Ramp No. 771 has been completed. Ramp No. 772 will be completed shortly. Five (5) ramps are pending and hope to be completed this build season if the weather holds.
- BOCES (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services) students are back to class at the Hornell Wildwood Campus. They are helping in partnership to build ramp sections again this season.
- Two ramps (2) have been removed and placed back into inventory
- Sincere thanks for the support of the strong core of volunteers who keep the ramp builds going.
- We are thankful that when volunteers are not available others fill in as their schedules dictate.
- The Ramp Guys can always use more volunteers.
- More ramp requests are coming in for consideration with about a month left in the build year.
- A donation build for the Vincent house will be completed soon with help from BOCES.
- If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering to work with the Ramp Guys, please ask them to reach out to Adam or Jackie Ormsby, Ramp Guys Coordinators, at 315-706-9596.

Respectfully submitted with service, gratitude, and in one spirit.

BECAUSE OF

Bethlehem

LOVE IS BORN
HOPE IS HERE

25 Daily Devotions for the Christmas Season by Max Lucado will be available November 29th.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE and HARVEST DINNER:

Saturday, November 21st
Thanksgiving Service @ 4:00 PM
Harvest Dinner @ 5:00 PM

The Caton, Mitchellsville and Hammondsport congregations will join us this Thanksgiving. Our Thanksgiving offering this year will be cans of cranberry (sauce or jellied) and stuffing mix for the Lighthouse Christmas.

MERCHANT CARD PROGRAM
Dorene Pierce

The last two Merchant Cards orders for this year and before Christmas are due at 9:00 AM on
Thursday, November 12th
Thursday, December 10th

The stores, catalogs, TV and radio ads, etc. are focusing 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 an 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, Tops, J C Penney's, PetSmart	5%	$ 5.00	$100.00
Chili's	11%	$11.00	$100.00
Walmart/Sams	2.5%	$ 2.50	$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

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.

There is no service charge on VISA cards purchased through this program.

Money earned by the church through the merchant card program is used for unfunded needs of the church – concerts, food for special dinners, etc.

Please consider using the church's merchant card program for gift giving and personal purchases. The master list of the participating Raise Right businesses and the order forms are on the Narthex table. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Good Morning, God

You are ushering in another day, untouched and freshly new. So here I come to ask you, God, if You'll renew me too? Forgive the many errors that I made yesterday, and let me try again, dear God, to walk closer in Thy way.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

CHRISTMAS DINNER CONCERT
Saturday, December 12th
Concert @ 3:00 PM – Love Offering
Featuring Southern Gospel Soloist David Burdick

Dinner @ 4:30 PM - $10.00 ea.
Advance Sale

Come to the concert if you cannot make the dinner

Must have an advance reservation to attend the dinner

See Jim Young or stop in the office for tickets.

Dinner Reservation Deadline: 5:00 PM Tuesday, December 8th

RECIPE CORNER

Christmas (or Anytime) Bark
Cathy Moran

Prepare a cookie sheet with sides by lining it with aluminum foil and spraying with vegetable oil or Pam (11 x 18 inch fits a full sleeve).

1 sleeve of Saltines
1/3 to 1/2 bag Toffee Chips (Heath)
1 tsp vanilla
1 stick of butter - melted (1/2 cup)
1 bag chocolate chips (I like dark)
1/2 cup sugar
Coarse Sea Salt

Heat oven to 350°. Lay out the crackers end to end to completely fill the tray. Combine the butter, sugar, and vanilla and stir until sugar is dissolved and bubbly. Drizzle over crackers and spread to completely coat all the crackers. Place in oven and bake for 6 minutes. Remove tray and turn oven off. Sprinkle chocolate chips evenly over the crackers, then place back in oven for 2 more minutes. Remove from oven again and gently spread chocolate to cover all the crackers. Then sprinkle the toffee chips over the chocolate and lightly sprinkle a little coarse sea salt over all.

Place pan in freezer for about an hour. After that, gently peel the foil away then break it into pieces. Store in the fridge.

AVOCA-KANONA FOOD PANTRY

The workload at the Avoca-Kanona Food Pantry continues to grow. Any assistance with food or cash donations will be sincerely appreciated. The cash collection container for the Avoca-Kanona Food Pantry will be on the Narthex table. A collection box for food will be placed on the puzzle table through November and then on the cart from December on. Please give if you are able. Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS

November	December
7 Joe Lawrence SR	2 Marguerite English
9 Pam Andrews	2 Cheryl Wise
14 Bruce English	3 Bill Heard
16 Sarah Rogers	4 Jane Salles
19 Rosemary Ovenshire	5 Roy Shiloh
20 Chuck Cagle	7 Linda Shiloh
21 Pastor Barre Butts	13 Ron Salles
29 Carol Preston	17 Mary Weldy
29 Shirley Wilson	21 Sally Rogers
	22 Bonnie Hunt
	26 Marge Wood

ANNIVERSARIES

November

8 Bob & Earle Jean Kenville
24 Henry & Cindy Gottschall

December

2 Roy & Linda Shiloh

Christmas Is A Loving Time

Mary Z. McHenry

Christmas is a loving time,
God started it that way;
When He gave His only Son
On that first Christmas Day.

It seems the air is filled with love
The angels hover near;
Children laugh and old folks smile
For Christmas time is here.

It's God's love that makes us happy
For no greater love could be;
Than that which sent our Savior down
To die on Calvary.

Ah yes, Christmas is a loving time.
God planned it all that way;
When LOVE came down to you and me
On that first Christmas Day.

DATES TO REMEMBER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 **ALL SAINTS' DAY**
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 - 6A-9P **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 - 8:00 AM **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 **ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE** **7:00 PM HAMMONDSPORT METHODIST**
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 - 9:00 AM **MERCHANT CARD ORDER**
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - 4:00 PM **THANKSGIVING SERVICE** **and HARVEST DINNER**
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 - 12:15 PM **POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP DINNER** **DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS**
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 9:00 AM **LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS**
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 - 9:00 AM **MERCHANT CARD ORDER** **LAST ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 - 3:00 PM **DAVE BURDICK CONCERT & DINNER**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 - 8:00 AM **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 - 12:15 PM **POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP DINNER**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 - 4:00 PM **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 7:00 PM **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** **(3:00 PM @ MITCHELLSVILLE)**
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 - 10:00 AM **JOINT SERVICE @ AVOCA**
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**