

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held October 10, 2024 with 10 members present.

### Lay Leadership

- A meeting will be held soon to develop 2025 Lay Leadership Team

### Worship

- November 16 – Thanksgiving Service @ 4PM, Harvest Dinner 5PM @ Avoca. Mitchellsville & Hammondspport GMCs will be invited to join us
- December 14 – Lighthouse Christmas @ 9AM
- December 14 – Dave Burdick Concert @ 3PM with dinner to follow
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 7PM @ Avoca
- December 29 – Combined Service with Mitchellsville 10AM @ Avoca

### Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

- Meeting will be scheduled in next two weeks

### Trustee's

- Installed lights over the corner kitchen sink
- Staining of outside trim completed except for the soffits in the back of the church and three peaks. Gary Weldy will complete the peaks as his schedule allows
- A twelve foot strip has been added to the parking lot which will allow four additional diagonal spaces and three parallel spaces. The remaining part of the project (topcoat) will be completed in May. The contractor will hold the price until next year.

### Finance Committee

- The budget for the Avoca-Kanona Food Pantry will be adjusted during the next budget planning meeting.

### Membership Committee

- Current membership is 84
- Three individuals have requested their membership be transferred to Avoca Methodist Church. Letters will be sent to their current churches shortly
- Seven individuals approved during the Ad Council August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be submitted during November 9<sup>th</sup> Annual

Church Conference for removal from Avoca's membership rolls.

### Ramp Committee

- 722 ramps completed
- Funding requested from Steuben Senior Service Fund to assist with ramps and was approved.

### OLD BUSINESS

- The popcorn machine and possibly a lawn mower will be advertised for sale online. If no interest, they will be taken to landfill.

### NEW BUSINESS

- The Avoca-Kanona Food Pantry has experienced a significant increase in workload since relocation. Ron Salles made a motion and Bill Snyder seconded the motion to increase the pantry's stipend to \$5,000 annually. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Jane Kaszczynek has requested that a food collection box for the Avoca-Kanona Food Pantry be placed in the Narthex during the months collections for the Lighthouse Christmas are not being made. All were in favor.

### PASTOR'S TIME

- Robin Scouten requested to borrow Avoca's "Hymnal on CD" to use at Addison. All were in favor of this request.

### FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$694.58

### 2024 CONCERTS

- Dave Burdick – December 14, 2024, Saturday @ 3:00PM, dinner to follow
- Final Harvest – July 2025
- The Puffers – date to be determined

### THANK YOU !!!

When we drive into our parking lot, we can't help but notice how nice the church looks. A sincere Thank You to the crew that spent many Friday's painting the lower part of the trim. Special thanks to Gary Weldy who spent many days in the lift or laying on the edge of the roof to paint the peaks. It's amazing the difference a new coat of paint makes. Thanks to all for your time and dedication to this project which has enhanced the appearance of the Avoca Methodist Church.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **September 2024 – 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, but most of the time 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 no longer have any mission reserves as we have distributed the funds for use this year. This year we 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 is in reality doubled and we have increased the funding in order to help.

The Capital Project Fund campaign to repair and repave the parking lot continues. This is work that needs to be done soon in order to save the current pavement. The work was to start the end of September, but has been delayed due to weather. The expansion part, however, was completed at the end of September, with the major part now scheduled for some time in May 2025.

The accepted quote is for about \$50,000.00, so that is the goal for this capital project. As of October 13, 2024, \$24,830.00 has been raised. Because of this outpouring, the Administrative Counsel decided not to seek a bank loan, but to borrow from our own reserves earmarked for other projects. We will just need to replenish these reserves.

Due to the delay in construction, and with the blessing of the Administrative Counsel, on October 15<sup>th</sup> I purchased a \$25,000.00 Certificate of Deposit at 4.5% to mature May 15, 2025. This will help earn some money for the project.

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

Please subscribe to the NEW Facebook and YouTube channels. Please update our new email [avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:avocamethodistchurch@gmail.com) . We will eventually be closing down the old social media accounts and the old email address.

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 now helping me with 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) ).

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fred Groner

Men's Fellowship is now redesignated "Adult Sunday School" and is open to all. The first meeting was held on September 15<sup>th</sup> with seventeen (17) attending. Gary Weldy led the study with the first of a series of eight study sessions each introduced by a short video by Pastor Rick Warren followed by Bible study and group discussion using a study guide also provided by Pastor Warren.

The series is called "UNSHAKABLE" and is intended to follow the life of Daniel and offers practical lessons from Daniel's Biblical story that will help us stand firm in our Christian beliefs. The study involves the same biblical principles that allowed Daniel to stand and remain strong for GOD during difficult situations.

GOD tested Daniel with plenty of stress during his captivity by the King of Prussia. Daniel never forgot who he was and kept his faith and loyalty to GOD in spite of tremendous stress to change his beliefs while being trained into the King's service.

Even as a small minority with minority beliefs during his encounters with the King, Daniel never lost his faith and loyalty to GOD. Daniel controlled his ego, remained humble, was not deceptive or belligerent, and showed understanding and responsibility in his interaction with the King. But most of all Daniel trusted GOD.

As a result GOD blessed Daniel and his three friends with protection from the King, and Daniel was given a high degree of authority by the King himself. Daniel was an excellent example of a person of great Faith and as a result Daniel pleased GOD and GOD blessed Daniel. In addition the King of Prussia, also, seemed to recognize the power of Daniel's GOD.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets almost every Sunday at 9:30am. ALL WELCOME. CHURCH AFTERWARD.

### LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS – 2024

**Jim Young**

The registration for the 2024 Lighthouse Christmas is closed. This year AMC will provide gifts, toys, and food to seventy-nine (79) families in the

Avoca Central School District and those who regularly attend the Avoca Methodist Church. The total for each category follow:

Households:	79
Total Individuals:	263
Adult Females:	79
Adult Males:	63
Children:	117
Food Only	<u>4</u> <u>263</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. We are fortunate to have Sharron Heard as our Treasurer. She does an outstanding job recording all the income, keeping everyone reimbursed for expenditures, and paying all the bills.

Jim Young is the Lighthouse Christmas Director. In addition to oversight of the whole program, Jim plans, coordinates, shops, maintains inventory and manages the packing and distribution of the food boxes.

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. Shopping for 263 people is no small task. They are true assets to the Lighthouse team.

Janet English and Carol Preston are the "clerks of the works". They develop the forms needed throughout the process. The registrations received are recorded by the categories listed above. The children are broken down by age, sex, and grade so the gift shoppers can purchase appropriate toys and gifts for each child. All families receive a "ticket" to the Lighthouse Christmas which they must present to show that they are registered.

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 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

Cake mix, Frosting, Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix, Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti (1#), Macaroni (1#), Misc. Pasta, Cranberry Sauce

### **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**

The School Nurse and Guidance Counselor keep personal care items for students in their office. In the past, they have bought them using their own funds.

This year we are coordinating our giving with the Avoca Central School. We will collect the following personal care items that are needed:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant – Men & Women’s
- Travel size bodywash
- Travel size shampoo & conditioner
- Socks – all sizes
- Feminine hygiene products – anything but no tampons with cardboard applicator
- Underwear – Girls 12/Medium
- Underwear – Women’s small, medium, large, extra large
- Leggings – Girls 12/14
- Leggings – Women’s small, medium, large, extra-large, extra-extra-large

A separate box has been placed in the narthex to collect these items. Your help is appreciated.

### **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

#### **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**

- 6 Bill & Sande Thomas

### **CHRISTMAS MERCHANT CARD ORDERS**

To assure availability and timely receipt, the final pre-Christmas Merchant Card Orders will be:

- Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM
- Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM

### **RECIPE CORNER**

#### **Dump and Bake Meatball Casserole**

- 1 (16 ounce) package uncooked Rotini pasta
- 1 (25 ounce) jar marinara sauce
- 3 cups water
- 1 (14 ounce) package fully-cooked miniature (cocktail-size) meatballs (if using frozen meatballs, make sure that they are completely thawed before using)
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella or Italian blend cheese
- Optional: Parmesan cheese and fresh chopped herbs (such as basil, oregano, and parsley for garnish)

Preheat oven to 425° degrees F. In a large baking dish (about 9 x 13), stir together uncooked pasta, marinara sauce, water, and meatballs. Cover tightly with aluminum foil and bake for 35 minutes.

Uncover; stir. Check the pasta to make sure that it is al dente (firm but just about finished cooking). If it’s still too hard, cover the dish and return to the oven until pasta is al dente.

Sprinkle mozzarella over the top and bake uncovered for 5-10 more minutes (or until cheese is melted and pasta is tender).

Serves: 4-6

## Cake Mix Christmas Cookies

### Ingredients:

1 box white or vanilla cake mix  
2 large eggs  
1/3 cup vegetable oil  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Red and green sprinkles or colored sugar  
Optional: White chocolate chips or festive M&Ms

### Instructions:

Preheat your oven to 350°. Line baking sheet with parchment paper or lightly grease it.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the cake mix, eggs, vegetable oil, and vanilla extract. Mix until a soft dough forms. The dough will be slightly sticky.

Gently fold the white chocolate chips or festive M&Ms, and half of the red and green sprinkles into the dough.

Scoop tablespoon-sized amounts of dough and roll them into balls. Place them on the prepared baking sheet about 2 inches apart.

Flatten the dough balls slightly with your palm. Sprinkle additional red and green sprinkles on top of each cookie for extra holiday cheer.

### Bake:

Bake in the preheated oven for 9-11 minutes, or until the edges are set but the centers are still soft. Avoid overbaking to keep the cookies chewy.

Allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring them to a wire rack to cool completely.

## A VETERANS' DAY PRAYER

**Joanna Fuchs**

Dear Lord,

Today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country.

We pray that you will bless them, Lord, for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us.

Bless them abundantly for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made, for their many different contributions to America's victories over tyranny and oppression.

We respect them, we thank them, we honor them, we are proud of them, and we pray that You will watch over these special people and bless them with peace and happiness.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## SOME THANKSGIVING HUMOR

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers?

**The outside**

Why did the turkey cross the road?

**It was the chicken's day off.**

Why can't you take a turkey to church?

**Because they use such FOWL language**

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

**Pilgrims**

If the Pilgrims were alive today, what would they be most famous for?

**Their age.**

What kind of music did the Pilgrims like?

**Plymouth Rock**

## THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**Mary Fairchild**

Heavenly Father, On Thanksgiving Day

We bow our hearts to You and pray.

We give You thanks for all You've done  
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.

For beauty in nature, Your glory we see

For joy and health, friends and family,

For daily provision, Your mercy, and care

These are the blessings You graciously share.

So today we offer this response of praise

With a promise to follow You all of our days.

**There were** two guys who went deep into the frozen woods searching for a Christmas tree. After hours of subzero temperatures and a few close calls with hungry wolves, one of them turned to the other and said, "I'm chopping down the next tree whether it is decorated or not!!"

**"For Christmas,"** remarked a lady to her friend, "I was visited by a jolly, bearded fellow with a bag over his shoulder. My son came home from college with his dirty laundry."

## WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

*Helen Steiner Rice*

Is it just a day at the end of the year?  
A holiday filled with merry good cheer?  
A season for presents – both taking and giving?  
A time to indulge in the pleasures of living?  
Are we lost in a meaningless, much-muddled haze?  
Have we closed our eye to God and His love?  
And turned our eyes from “The Bright Star  
Above?”

Oh, Father in heaven, renew and restore  
The real, true meaning of Christmas once more.

So we can feel in our hearts again  
that “Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men”  
Is still a promise that man can claim  
If he but seeks it in Thy name.

## CHRISTMAS Q AND A

Q. What do you get when you cross mistletoe and a duck?

**A. A Christmas Quacker**

Q. What do you call Santa when he stops moving?

**A. Santa Pause !!**

Q. Where does a snowman keep his money?

**A. In a snow bank.**

Q. Why do mummies like Christmas so much?

**A. Because of all the wrapping !!**

Q. How do you scare a snowman?

**A. You get a hair dryer !!**

Q. What do they sing under the ocean at Christmas time?

**A. Christmas Corals !!**

Q. What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

**A. A rebel without a Claus.**

Q. What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the regular alphabet?

**A. The Christmas alphabet has NOEL.**

Q. What is the name of a child's favorite Christmas King?

**A. A stocking.**

Q. What part of the body do you only see during Christmas?

**A. Mistletoe.**

Q. What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

**A. Claustrophobic**

Q. What Christmas Carol is a favorite of parents?

**A. Silent Night.**

## 2025 PRAYER GOALS

**William Arthur Ward**

I will this year . . .

...be sensitive to the needs of my fellowman and actively look for ways to befriend him.

...become aware of man's suffering, get involved in his struggle, and comfort him in his sorrow.

...withhold judgement of my brother, and attempt to understand his thinking, his attitudes, his behavior.

...forgive those who have injured me; I will forgive even those who have hurt those I love.

...not close my eyes or pass by on the other side wherever there is need of my service, my friendship, or my presence.

...lift someone's spirits by giving a word of hope and encouragement.

...remember to be grateful to those who have been good Samaritans to me in the past, and who keep me from falling into the ditches of discouragement, depression and defeat.

...be a good Samaritan for the inner joy of serving, and because helping others is what the Golden Rule is all about.

...Feel so much joy, experience so much growth, and receive such a blessing as a good Samaritan today, that I will be a good Samaritan again tomorrow.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 2	11:00 AM	Celebration of Life – Bev Young
Nov. 3	2:00 AM	Daylight Saving Time
Nov. 5	6:00 AM	National Elections
Nov. 9	9:00 AM	Scouting for Food Drive
	10:00 AM	Church Conference
Nov. 10	8:00 AM	Pancake Breakfast
Nov. 14	10:00 AM	Merchant Card Order
Nov. 16	4:00 PM	Thanksgiving Service
	TF	Harvest Dinner
Nov. 24	12:15PM	Decorate the Church
Dec. 5	10:00 AM	<b>Final</b> Merchant Card Order before Christmas
Dec. 8	8:00 AM	Pancake Breakfast
Dec. 14	9:00 AM	Lighthouse Christmas
	3:00 PM	Dave Burdick Concert
	TF	Christmas Dinner
Dec. 24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 29	10:00 AM	Combined Service @ Avoca