

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

### Strategic Planning

- Current speakers were relocated and seem to be working better
- Pastor Barre, Ron Salles and Jim Young will attend workshops at expo in Rochester on February 15, 2019

### Lay Leader

- March 29-31 - Mountain View District Spring Weekend Training will be held at Watson Homestead

### Worship

- March 6 – Soup & Sandwich Supper at Mitchellsville prior to Ash Wednesday service
- Bible Study following each Lenten Soup & Sandwich Supper will be “Simon Peter”
- April 21 – Breakfast at Don & Rosemary’s following Sunrise Service
- Donations will be made to Elizabeth Rose Ministry on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day this year in lieu of individual gifts to our congregation

### United Methodist Men (UMM)/Men’s Fellowship

- UMM has decided to discontinue
- Men’s Fellowship has 5-7 attendees, has great discussions and enjoys meeting together

### Fundraisers

- Merchant Card Program – YTD - \$74.83
- Top’s Cash for Causes – YTD - \$42.50
- Pizza Hut – was held February 18

### Concerts

- Patti Dahl – Friday, April 26 @ 7:00PM
- The Puffers – Thursday, August 8 @ 7:00 PM
- The Dunnermans – Friday, October 4 @ 7:00PM

## TRUSTEE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2019

Submitted by Bill Heard

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Jan 8, 2019 with six members present including, Bill Snyder, Janet English, Fred Wood, Gary Weldy, Rita Slayton, and the writer

Items discussed and/or approved:

1. Need to install additional jack post in the basement at the parsonage.
2. Materials have been purchased for a new billboard sign at the parsonage. Installation will be a spring project.
3. The church will be power washed in the spring.
4. Materials will be purchased for the makeup air damper in the furnace room.
5. An additional shelf will be installed in one of the kitchen cabinets.

### New Business:

1. The Light House Christmas Project requested the use of the large class room to store collected items since the bank can no longer be used. This was approved and will be presented to the Administration Board for final approval.
2. Purchase of a flat screen TV for the Nursery was approved. The cost will not exceed \$350.

Next meeting Feb 5, 2019.

## TRUSTEE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2019

Submitted by Bill Heard

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Feb 5, 2019 with seven members present including Gary Weldy, Bev Belanger, Al Belanger, Fred Wood, Rita Slayton, Bill Snyder, and the writer.

### Project complete

1. Makeup damper materials have been purchased to vent the furnace room.
2. Additional repairs to the floor supports have been made at the parsonage.
3. Additional heat duct register has been installed in the parsonage kitchen.
4. Flat screen TV for the Nursery has been purchased and installed.
5. Speakers have been relocated in the sanctuary to help improve sound coverage.

### New Business:

1. Piano and organ will be moved from the class room to the parsonage.
2. Old upright piano will be removed from the parsonage as soon as Pastor Barre gets the disassembly completed.

Next meeting Mar 5, 2019.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **January 2019 – Ron Salles**

We have spent more in our General Fund than we have received during January 2019. The General Fund reserves are maintaining about a two week margin. We received slightly more than we spent in our Mission Funds. The Mission Funds reserve has been reduced to a modest amount due to the fire victim donations.

Through your contributions to missions (mostly the Sunday basket), the Administrative Council voted to send \$1,000.00 each to three recent fire victims; the Johnson Family, the Farley Family, and the Schroon Lake Community Church (UMC)! Thank you!!!

Please remember your United Methodist Church Membership Pledge, "To faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness." If you have any questions please contact Ron Salles (ronald.salles@me.com).

### **AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT – Ron Salles**

Please visit our webpage at [avocaumc.com](http://avocaumc.com) and find the links to our Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

We made an adjustment with the speakers in the sanctuary (I'm getting used to them). Your listening experience should be improved.

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. Our views (visits) continue about the same and we have about 14 subscribers. 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. I mention the post on Facebook and twitter.

Remember we do record the service on DVD, so if you can't attend for any reason and you want to see the entire service with the prayers and music, etc., let me know and we will get a copy to you.

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

## **OUR JOURNEY TO EASTER – 2019**

**March 5 – Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper –**  
6:00 PM @ Avoca. We will have pancakes with assorted toppings.

**NOTE: The six Soup & Sandwich Suppers will be followed by a Bible Study (Simon Peter) and a fellowship time.**

**March 6 – Soup & Sandwich Supper & Ash Wednesday Service – 6:00 PM**  
@ Mitchellsville.

**March 13 – Soup & Sandwich Supper –**  
6:00 PM @ Mitchellsville.

**March 20 – Soup & Sandwich Supper –**  
6:00 PM @ Mitchellsville.

**March 27 – Soup & Sandwich Supper –**  
6:00 PM @ Avoca.

**April 3 – Soup & Sandwich Supper –**  
6:00 PM @ Avoca.

**April 10 – Soup & Sandwich Supper –**  
6:00 PM @ Avoca.

**April 14 – Palm Sunday Service –**  
11:00 AM @ Avoca

**April 18 – Holy Thursday Service – 7:00 PM**  
@ Mitchellsville.

**April 19 – Good Friday**  
**Prayer Vigil - 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM**  
@ Avoca.  
**Crosswalk – 1:00 PM – Avoca**  
Parsonage  
**Good Friday Service - 7:00 PM**  
@ Avoca.

**April 21 – Easter Sunday**  
**Sunrise Service & Breakfast-**  
7:00 AM @Don & Rosemary's  
**Easter Service - 11:00 AM –**  
@ Avoca

**Daily Lenten devotional e-mails will start Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Please call the office (607) 566 4045 if you would like a paper copy and have not already signed for one. Paper copies will be available at church on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

## TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We, the immediate family of Sally Warner, express our gratitude to all those in our church family who in any manner, act or form reached out to her and to us during the fourteen months of her hospitalizations, rehab stays, and final hospice care at home. A few made several visits and each one brought a fresh increase in her awareness, spirit and animation often giving the impression that there was not much really wrong with her. As Paul Harvey said often "this is the other side of the story". Some sent cards which were displayed as well as possible while others brought a delightful variety of foods which enhanced her meals and gave her a sense that someone cared. Flowers often brightened her room and the artificial ones were long-lasting. Unseen by us was the wealth of prayers raised on her behalf. Overall there was a constant undercurrent of acts and inquiries which was felt in her domain. To attempt to enumerate all that was done, by all who did them is beyond the feeble capacity of our memories but each in its time warmed our hearts. Avoca United Methodist Church has been the Warner family's site of worship since 1953 and we rediscovered the depth of caring during this time of decline and loss. The number at her calling hours and Celebration of Life, despite unfavorable weather was a strong indication of your caring. The volume of sympathy cards and the tributes in them kept our eyes moist through several readings. The final service, which Sally arranged and wrote was a true celebration enhanced by the fitting presentations by Pastor Barre and Sande Thomas. Our heartfelt thanks to all.

*Howard Warner, William Warner, Susan Warner Mackey, David Warner, Keith Warner*

### PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

**Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 AM – 10 AM**

### SUMMER CAMP

The Administrative Council is exploring options and financial costs for Youth Summer Camps in our area. Stipends are available. If your child/grandchild is interested in attending camp this summer, please see Pastor Barre.

## RECIPE CORNER

### Gnocchi with Spinach & Chicken Sausage

Time: 25 minutes, 4 servings

1 pkg (16 oz) potato gnocchi  
2 Tbsp olive oil  
1 pkg (12 oz) fully cooked Italian chicken sausage links, halved and sliced  
2 shallots, finely chopped  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
1 cup white wine or chicken broth  
1 Tbsp cornstarch  
½ cup reduced-sodium chicken broth  
3 cups fresh baby spinach  
½ cup heavy whipping cream  
¼ cup shredded Parmesan cheese

1. Cook gnocchi according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat; cook sausage and shallots until sausage is browned and shallots are tender. Add garlic, cook 1 minute longer.
2. Stir in wine. Bring to a boil; cook until liquid is reduced by half, 3-4 minutes. In a bowl, mix cornstarch and broth until smooth; stir into sausage mixture. Return to a boil stirring constantly; cook and stir until thickened 1-2 minutes. Add spinach and cream, cook and stir until the spinach is wilted.
3. Drain gnocchi; add to pan and heat through. Sprinkle with cheese.

Note: Look for potato gnocchi in the pasta or frozen foods section.

## THANK YOU

We thank all for the envelopes we received at Christmas. Your generous gifts were totally unnecessary but sincerely appreciated.

Dorene and Carol

### ALL ARE INVITED TO A 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**Geraldine (Jeri) Slayton**  
**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Noon – 5:00 PM**  
**Wheeler Community Center**

**This will be a "no gifts" celebration but cards would be welcome**

**LIBRARY CORNER**  
**THE ONE WHO WAITS FOR ME**

**By Lori Copeland**  
**Reviewed by Rita Slayton**

The Civil War has ended and 3 men – one fought for the North but lived in the South – one fought for the South (he was black) and Gray Eagle, a Native American of the Cherokee Nation fought for the South. They met on the road and were all riding for home. They had flipped a coin and decided which route when they came upon a burning cabin which had ignited the cotton fields around it. Two women dressed in men’s clothing were trying to escape but severe asthma had left one almost unconscious from smoke. As they began to move out of the danger from smoke and an evil uncle and nephew, they came to where a young black woman, in the throes of childbirth lay along the track. They stopped and helped her finish and then journeyed together. The fight with the girls’ relatives, a meeting of nuns in a convent, the Cherokee’s relatives and a “cure” for asthma plus a couple of more battles and falling in love with their rescuers make a lively, fast moving story. The life of a slave owned by an evil man with an evil overseer once again makes a person glad slavery is no more. Lori Copeland has done a fine job and I’m sure you’ll enjoy this book. One quote I especially liked “The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you.”

**CHRISTMAS EVE AT FRIDAY HARBOR**

**By Lisa Kleypas**  
**Reviewed by Rita Slayton**

A lovely young woman, a car accident – fatal – and the results a pretty little 4 year old with no one else and struck dumb. Her uncle is left as her caretaker and he promptly drafts his brother to help. The two single males begin the biggest “project” of their lives. Then the pretty blond from the toy store hands them the biggest surprise of their lives along with a fairy house and stories to go with it. They have their fast-paced ups and downs including a deformed ailing bulldog. But as the Christmas tree is lighted and the holly hung, love wins. This isn’t just the usual run-of-the-mill romance but taking God’s hand and stepping up to happiness and holding on with both hands and faith. Just sit back and savor it like a sweet after taste in your mouth.

Thank you Rita, for reading and writing reviews of these books. It is greatly appreciated.

**JUST A KID**

Who says that I am just a kid,  
too young to know what Jesus did  
When He hung there on Calvary  
for Mom and Dad and kids like me?

Why, didn’t He say, as plain as could be,  
“Suffer the little ones to come unto Me.”  
While on their heads He laid His dear hand,  
Don’t children know when they’re naughty and bad,  
When they grieve Mom and worry Dad?

Well, that shows how early they learn about sin.  
‘Tis then they should open their hearts  
and let Jesus in.

So it’s up to you BIG folks to show us the way  
How to live for Jesus in school and at play,  
To tell us the story, how He died on the tree  
To save everyone, even a kid like me.

**WHAT THE ROBIN TOLD**

The wind told the grasses  
and the grasses told the trees.  
The trees told the bushes  
and the bushes told the bees.  
The bees told the robin  
and the robin sang out clear:  
Wake Up! Wake Up!  
Spring is almost here!

**Birthdays**

**March**

4 Phyllis Mattoon  
9 Kevin Bartoo  
15 Christine Gardner  
21 Rita Slayton  
27 Aleva Beers  
29 Eva Slayton  
31 Tom Dye

**April**

2 Sharron Heard  
6 Sue Rook  
7 Doug Heinemann  
13 Terry Burdin  
15 Stephanie Dodds  
18 Connie Kearns  
19 Sande Thomas  
20 Gabriel Barkley  
21 Stephen Dodds  
24 Shirley Fervan  
29 Martha Jackson

**Anniversaries**

**March**

29 Bill & Sharron Heard

**April**

24 Bruce & Janet English

## THE CRUCIFIXION

Fran Peck

I laughed and mocked as He walked that day, up a hill to redeem by soul.  
I joined the crowd to spit and jeer, and I watched His sorrow grow.  
I drove every nail deep in His hands with every sin in my heart.  
My rebellion shoved the thorns in His head and my strife tore His robe apart.  
I used my hatred to give Him a bitter drink and I glared down on Him with pride.  
I thought of past disappointments, and with my anger I pierced His side.  
I denied His power and ignored his worth and stood waiting for His life to end.  
I watched the last drop of His blood fall, not knowing my grief would begin.  
I looked around to find His accusers, but no one was there but me.  
I looked at my hands; they were stained with blood and then I began to see.  
Conviction slowly entered my heart and I dropped all my weapons of choice:  
the pride, the anger, the hatred, the lust, and then I heard His voice.  
“Forgive her Father, I died for her, I paid the price for her soul.  
I bore her sickness and all of her pain and now I have made her whole.”  
He looked down on me with loving eyes. He saw my present, my future, my past.  
He knew I needed a Savior and my soul had found Him at last.  
I looked around to find His accusers, but no one was there but me.

**E** -nvision His love deeply  
**A** -ccept His love willingly  
**S** -eek His love continually  
**T** -rust His love implicitly  
**E** -mbrace His love whole-heartedly  
**R** -eturn His love generously

TEN THINGS THAT WILL

## DISAPPEAR IN OUR LIFETIME

### 1. The Post Office

Get ready to imagine a world without the post office. They are so deeply in financial trouble that there is probably no way to sustain it long term. Email, Fed Ex, and UPS have just about wiped out the minimum revenue needed to keep the post office alive. Most of your mail every day is junk mail and bills.

### 2. The Check

Britain is already laying the groundwork to do away with check by 2018. It costs the financial system billions of dollars a year to process checks. Plastic cards and online transactions will lead to the eventual demise of the check. This plays right into the death of the post office. If you never paid your bills by mail and never received them by mail, the post office would absolutely go out of business.

### 3. The Newspaper

The younger generation simply doesn't read the newspaper. They certainly don't subscribe to a daily delivered print edition. That may go the way of the milkman and the laundry man. As for reading the paper online, get ready to pay for it. The rise in mobile Internet devices and e-readers has caused all the newspaper and magazine publishers to form an alliance. They have met with Apple, Amazon, and the major cell phone companies to develop a model for paid subscription services.

### 4. The Book

You say you will never give up the physical book that you hold in your hand and turn the literal pages. I said the same thing about downloading music from iTunes. I wanted my hard copy CD. But I quickly changed my mind when I discovered that I could get albums for half the price without ever leaving home to get the latest music. The same thing will happen with books. You can browse a bookstore online and even read a preview chapter before you buy. And the price is less than half that of a real book. And think of the convenience! Once you start flicking your fingers on the screen instead of the book, you find that you are lost in the story, can't wait to see what happens next, and you forget that you're holding a gadget instead of a book.

5. The Land Line Telephone

Unless you have a large family and make a lot of local calls, you don't need it anymore. Most people keep it simply because they've always had it. But you are paying double charges for that extra service. All the cell phone companies will let you call customers using the same cell provider for no charge against your minutes.

#### 6. Music

This is one of the saddest parts of the change story. The music industry is dying a slow death. Not just because of illegal downloading. It's the lack of innovative new music being given a chance to get to the people who would like to hear it. Greed and corruption is the problem. The record labels and the radio conglomerates are simply self-destructing. Over 40% of the music purchased today is "catalogue items," meaning traditional music that the public is familiar with. Older established artists. This is also true on the live concert circuit. To explore this fascinating and disturbing topic further, check out the book, "Appetite for Self-Destruction" by Steve Knopper, and the video documentary, "Before the Music Dies."

#### 7. Television Revenues

The networks are down dramatically. Not just because of the economy. People are watching TV and movies streamed from their computers. And they're playing games and doing lots of other things that take up the time that used to be spent watching TV. Prime time shows have degenerated down to lower than the lowest common denominator. Cable rates are skyrocketing and commercials run about every 4 minutes and 30 seconds. I say good riddance to most of it. It's time for the cable companies to be put out of our misery. Let the people choose what they want to watch online and through Netflix.

#### 8. The "Things" That You Own

Many of the very possessions that we used to own are still in our lives, but we may not actually own them in the future. They may simply reside in "the cloud." Today your computer has a hard drive and you store your pictures, music, movies, and documents. Your software is on a CD or DVD, and you can always re-install it if need be. But all of that is changing. Apple, Microsoft, and Google are all finishing up their latest "cloud services." That means that when you turn on a computer, the Internet will be built into the operating system. So, Windows, Google, and the Mac OS will be tied

straight into the Internet. If you click an icon, it will open something in the Internet cloud. If you save something, it will be saved to the cloud. And you may pay a monthly subscription fee to the cloud provider. In this virtual world, you can access your music or your books, or your whatever from any laptop or handheld device. That's the good news. But, will you actually own any of this "stuff" or will it all be able to disappear at any moment in a big "Poof?" Will most of the things in our lives be disposable and whimsical? It makes you want to run to the closet and pull out that photo album, grab a book from the shelf, or open up a CD case and pull out the insert.

#### 9. Joined Handwriting (Cursive Writing)

Already gone in some schools who no longer teach "joined handwriting" because nearly everything is done now on computers or keyboards of some type (pun not intended)

#### 10. Privacy

If there ever was a concept that we can look back on nostalgically, it would be privacy. That's gone. It's been gone for a long time anyway. There are cameras on the street, in most of the buildings, and even built into your computer and cell phone. But you can be sure that 24/7, "They" know who you are and where you are, right down to the GPS coordinates, and the Google Street View. If you buy something, your habit is put into a zillion profiles, and your ads will change to reflect those habits. "They" will try to get you to buy something else. Again and again and again.

All we will have left that which can't be changed ...  
are our "Memories".

Logic is dead.

Excellence is punished.

Mediocrity is rewarded.

And dependency is to be revered.

This is present-day North America.

When crooks rob banks they go to prison.

When they rob the taxpayer they get re-elected.

If you see your glass is half empty, pour it into a smaller glass and stop complaining – Rita Slayton