

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Lay Leadership

- On hiatus until summer

Strategic Planning

- Ron Salles, Fred Wood and Cindy Gottschall attended sound mixer training in Rochester
- Sound mixer and video switcher have been purchased
- U-Tube viewers of church services up to 15

Sound System

- Sound mixer is still being tweaked
- Video switcher to be hooked up
- Ron Salles, Pastor Barre and Jim Young will attend AATsTPO Audio Expo in Rochester on February 28th

Lay Leader

- Nothing new to report

Worship Committee

- February 25 – 6:00PM - Fat/Shrove Tuesday pancake supper @ Avoca
- February 26 – 6:00PM - Ash Wednesday Service @ Avoca
- March 4 – 6:00PM – Soup & sandwich @ Avoca
- March 6 – World Day of Prayer
- March 8 – Girl Scout Sunday
- March 11 6:00PM – Soup & sandwich @ Avoca
- March 18 – 6:00PM – Soup & sandwich @ Mitchellsville
- March 25 – 6:00PM – Soup & sandwich @ Mitchellsville
- April 1 – 6:00PM – Soup & sandwich @ Mitchellsville
- April 9 – 7:00PM – Maundy Thursday Service @ Mitchellsville
- April 10 – 6A-6P – Prayer Vigil @ Avoca
- April 10 – 1:00PM – Cross Walk @ Avoca
- April 10 – 7:00PM – Good Friday Service @ Avoca
- April 12 – 7:00AM – Easter Sunrise Service @ Avoca
- April 22 – UMCOR Sunday

Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

- No meetings held

Membership Committee

- Current membership – 82
- Second and third membership letters will be prepared in March

Trustee's

- A pipe will be installed in the furnace room to vent the hot air into the attic and bring the cold air down
- Old sign will be removed from parsonage yard when weather permits
- Next meeting March 5, 2020

Puppet Ministry

- Puppets will do a program at the Mitchellsville Easter Party

Church Safety Team

- Research continues on purchasing indoor/outdoor wireless cameras with Wi-Fi
- Purchased and received Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Twelve people received training on CPR and AED equipment. Glenn Davis is setting up another training class for 7-8 people

Lighthouse Christmas

- The Masons have offered to donate dishes and cooking pots
- Jim Young will set up a time for the items to be picked up

Mobile Food Pantry

- 155 families (387 individuals) were served February 12th
- Volunteers (11) provided by the Steuben Work Force are working out very well

Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Average attendance 10-14 each day
- Excess funds will be given to Lighthouse Christmas

Camperships

- Dorene and Carol will start gathering information

Date Changes

- April 5 – Pancake Breakfast
- April 16 – Administrative Council and Worship meetings

Fundraisers

- Merchant cards – YTD - \$61.76
- Tops Cash for Causes – YTD - \$30.00
- Pizza Hut – scheduled for February 24th

Concerts

- April 4, 2020 – Patti Dahl – 7PM concert
- September 3, 2020 – The Puffers – 6PM dinner, 7PM concert
- December 12, 2020 – Dave Burdick – 6PM dinner, 7PM concert

TREASURER'S REPORT **January 2020 – Ron Salles**

We ended the Year 2019 about where we should have financially and fairly close to what we had budgeted! Thank you for making it possible with your contributions!

We spent more in our General Fund than we received during January 2020. We carried over about a four week reserve from last year. The General Fund reserves are currently maintaining about a four week margin. The reserves will mostly be used to cover the increase in the church insurance premiums on a quarterly basis going forward.

We received more than we spent in our Mission Funds during January 2020. This is the time of year where we start building our Mission Fund reserves. We are maintaining a modest reserve in Mission Funds.

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).

MULTIMEDIA DEPARTMENT – Ron Salles

We purchased some new equipment in January 2020. Currently I'm getting used to the new sound mixer. On Sunday February 16, 2020 I had a major catastrophe with a wire plugged to the wrong input of the PA system which made it sound muffled, a broken wire on Pastor Barre's head set which kept cutting out. And an incorrect audio level going to the recording, so the only thing that could be heard

was Pastor Barre with it cutting out all the time. My humblest apologies for any and all inconvenience this caused. I just had a very sharp learning curve and in the future, hopefully, I will only have small issues to resolve from week to week.

Please visit our webpage at avocaumc.com and find the links to our Facebook page and Youtube Channel.

We continue to record the Sunday Service and publishing 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. 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 friends.

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).

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP **Fred Groner**

Announcing the Men's Fellowship Group WORD OF THE YEAR – 2019! The objective of the Men's Fellowship Group is to study and discuss the WORD OF GOD. Many words were discussed in 2019, but what was the WORD that received the most ou's and awe's?

That word was RELATIONSHIP! Having a spiritual and living RELATIONSHIP with the Lord is what Christianity is all about.

Adam and Eve had RELATIONSHIP with God and then proceeded to destroy it (Romans 5:12). That wonderful RELATIONSHIP ended not only with Adam and Eve but also with every one of us.

RELATIONSHIP must be restored. Jesus said you must be born again to establish RELATIONSHIP. But how can this be accomplished? This question was historically and denominationally the subject of

much discussion, controversy, and misunderstanding.

Doing good worldly deeds does not establish RELATIONSHIP (Ephesians 2:9). Having a relationship with a church, organization, or person does not establish RELATIONSHIP (John 14:6). Donating money to a church or any organization does not establish RELATIONSHIP (I Timothy 6:10). Having a relationship with your self does not establish RELATIONSHIP (Ephesians 2:8).

A faith relationship with the Lord and what he did at the cross and nothing else does establish RELATIONSHIP (Ephesians 2:16). The solution is very simple, but many, for some unknown reason, find this difficult to understand and achieve.

Men's Fellowship meets each Sunday at 9:30 AM (except on Special Sundays).

RAMP MINISTRY

During the winter months, our construction of ramps has slowed down due to the weather. We have however, kept busy removing some ramps that were no longer needed. After we remove them, we check and update them so they are ready to be reconstructed for another "Neighbor-in-Need". We now have enough used sections to build two urgently needed ramps for people that are wheelchair bound. We also have plenty of new supplies on hand.

There are already over 30 ramps on our to-do-list. 2020 will be a very busy year for us. Although all our Ramp Guys are very dedicated, not everyone can be available all the time. We have a couple of new recruits, but really need more volunteers to lessen the load on the rest of us. Many hands make light work. PLEASE prayerfully consider joining our group. The fellowship is MARVELOUS and the feeling of helping others is so very satisfying. If interested in sharing God's Love, please call Glenn a 607-566-2096 for more information.

Sharing God's Love on behalf of the Ramp Guys,
Glenn Davis

Ramp Guys Coordinator

Birthdays

March

5 Terri Hollister
19 Evan Comstock
29 Eva Slayton

April

2 Sharron Heard
2 Judy Cleeves
6 Sue Rook
18 Connie Kearns
19 Sande Thomas
20 Gabriel Barkley
21 Stephen Dodds
24 Shirley Fervan

Anniversaries

March

29 Bill & Sharron Heard

April

24 Bruce & Janet English

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month, the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long air, and even Jesus had long hair..."

To which his father replied.... "Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"

THE BLESSINGS OF SPRING

Deborah Ann Belka

There are many blessings,
That each new Spring brings
You can see it bloom about
And hear the song it sings.

With winter's bleakness over,
And brighter days ahead
Comes promises of new life
Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers,
And their buds begin to show
He gives to us the assurance
Grace in our hearts will grow.

He sends us the robin's song,
With the promise to provide
A shelter under His mighty wing
Where in His love we can abide.

He melts the snow covers,
And sends the refreshing rain
Sprinkling us with His mercies
To heal winter's ache and pain.

God's given to all His son,
To shed upon us a new light
And the real blessing of Spring...
Is keeping Jesus in our sight!

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A guy in a taxi wanted to speak to the driver, so he leaned forward and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed and yanked the wheel, jumping the curb and hitting a lamppost.

The startled passenger said, "I didn't mean to frighten you. I just wanted to ask you something."

The taxi driver replied, "It's not your fault, sir. It's my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

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You can't start the next chapter of your life if you are still rereading the last one.

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ZESTY SLOPPY JOE CASSEROLE

Ingredients

8 oz. dry macaroni pasta
1 TBS olive oil
1 pound lean ground turkey or lean ground beef
1 cup diced sweet onion
1 cup diced green bell pepper
2 - 15 oz. cans *Hunt's MANWICH Original Sloppy Joe Sauce*
1 - 10 oz. can *RO*TEL Diced Tomatoes and Green Chilies*
salt and pepper, to taste
1 cup shredded mild cheddar cheese
1/2 cup diced sweet pickle, if desired

Instructions

Heat large pot of salted water to boiling. Cook pasta according to package directions, except one minute less than package states for al dente pasta. Drain and set aside.

In large skillet, heat oil over Med-High heat. Add onion and green pepper. Saute for about 5 minutes, or until veggies begin to soften. Add in ground turkey. Cook, breaking up the meat with spoon, until turkey is no longer pink and veggies are crisp tender. Turn off heat. Drain off any liquid that might remain after cooking.

To skillet with onions, ground turkey and peppers, add in one can of Hunt's Manwich and one can of Ro*tel. Combine.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray a 9" x 13" baking dish with cooking spray and add reserved cooked pasta. Pour turkey mixture over the pasta. Stir. Add enough of the second can of Hunt's Manwich to thoroughly coat the meat, veggies and pasta. (I added the entire second can). Stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper, if desired. Sprinkle top of casserole with cheddar cheese. (you can cover with foil and refrigerate to bake later at this point if you like. You may need to add a few minutes to the bake time if baked from refrigerator.)

Bake, uncovered, in preheated oven for about 10 minutes, or until cheese is melted and casserole is heated through. Remove from oven and sprinkle with chopped sweet pickle, if desired.

Yield: 6 servings

Total time: 20 mins.