

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

A special Administrative Council meeting was called May 23, 2020, to discuss the reopening of the Avoca UMC for Sunday Services and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier's request that Avoca UMC host a pilot Mobile Food Pantry.

1. Re-opening of Avoca UMC

There are conflicting church opening guidelines on from the Upper New York Conference, the New York State Governor, the President of the United States, the Center for Disease Control, and leading physicians in the science of infectious diseases.

June 7, 2020 was selected to be the tentative re-opening date for the Avoca UMC. However, we will be flexible due to the ever-changing guidance received daily.

To re-open, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Do not come if you are not comfortable being with people yet
- Do not come if you do not feel well
- Face masks and social distancing will be required – masks will be available for those who do not have one
- Those who live in the same household may sit together
- Single individuals will be social distanced
- Prepacked communion cups/wafers (as used in April) will be used for all communion services
- No hymnals – all hymnals and Bibles to be removed from the sanctuary
- No bulletins – all information will be placed on the sanctuary and narthex TVs
- Nursery and Sunday School closed until further notice
- No coffee, cookie hours, pot luck dinners, or any other food events until further notice
- Unused rooms are to be locked or cordoned off with yellow tape
- No hugs, handshakes, kisses or other touching
- Discourage children from attending. If they come, they must be able to keep their face mask on during the entire service and should remain with their family at all times

- Offering plates will be placed by the door rather than passed during the service
- Hand sanitizers will be available throughout the building
- No combined services with Mitchellsville UMC this summer
- Bathrooms will be available. However, all will be asked to take care of their needs to the extent possible before they come to the service
- YouTube tapes and CDs will continue to be available for all Sunday Services
- After each service, the sanctuary, narthex, bathrooms, door handles, etc. will be disinfected.

Other:

- Ron will investigate procedures to have individuals' offering transferred from their checking/saving account to the church's checking account on a routine basis,
- Sunday Church Service and Disciple Bible Study will be the only gathering allowed at the church. (AA, Bone Builders, Ultreya, Chatter on the Ladder, etc. are cancelled until further notice.)
- If the Village has a Fourth of July parade, we may hold the annual chicken BBQ at the parsonage on that date
- A surface-cleaner has been purchased from Randy Pierce which will prevent the COVID-19 virus from sticking to the treated surface for 30 days. He is expecting delivery of a second cleaner next week which will protect surfaces up to 90 days.
- Puffer's Concert scheduled for Labor Day Weekend will be evaluated when the date is closer
- During the week of May 31st an e-mail or a letter will be sent to each household in our congregation to give the re-opening date and the "guidelines" they must follow when they attend.

2. Mobile Food Pantry

The Food Bank of the Southern Tier's has requested Avoca UMC host a pilot Mobile Food Pantry that could be utilized across their six county region once COVID-19 is under control. Avoca is the only MFP in their service area. They want to test to see

if the system they are currently using at the fairgrounds could work in a smaller setting.

The FBST would bring at least four categories of pre-boxed food (general, dairy, meat*, fresh fruits/vegetables) on pallets and place them in the drive-way. (*some meat must be packaged). The boxes would be between 25-30# each. The volunteers will place the boxes in the truck or hatch door when the vehicle stops at their station. They will not put food inside the car where there are people.

- No volunteers over 65 can work the MFP – explained that would leave 4 – none of which are the “lifters”
- FBST will get volunteers – they think 15 would be enough. Jim can stay on to do the parking lot and Carol can stay on as Site Coordinator. Jim needs 1-2 more in the parking lot to enforce that they must stay in their cars. Therefore, four people will be needed from AUMC
- Church will not be accessible so FBST will bring a Johnny on the Spot and hand washing stations for volunteers
- Volunteers will wear masks & gloves which will be provided by FBST
- No food (lunch) for volunteers – they must social distance and wear masks. FBST will furnish water for the volunteers
- Pre-registration is required so FBST will know how much food to bring. A maximum of 150 families will be served
- FBST will prepare a list of all who visited the Avoca MFP during the last six months and do a robo call to each household with the phone number and the dates/times to call in to pre-register. Each household will be given a registration number for when they come to pick up the food.
- The FBST will handle the registration
- The FBST representative will stand at the entrance of the parking lot to check in the household. If they have not pre-registered, they will be turned away.
- All volunteers must pre-register if they want to receive food.
- No walkers allowed. If someone called to register and does not have transportation the FBST felt someone from AUMC could deliver the food

- FBST fairgrounds distributions are Wednesdays and Fridays. Therefore they would like to come here Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. Since the church is busy Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Monday was selected as the pilot MFP date.
- Since there are no holidays the last Mondays this year, we would choose that week starting in June or July.

Recommendation to be discussed with the FBST:

- When FBST pre-registers the households, see if they could give them time slots to arrive to provide flexibility in setting up the food distribution site
- Look at doing the food distribution at the Avoca end of the parking lot so the pallet truck could operate on macadam rather than ice or mud in the back of the church.

Other:

Requested a track at the FBST Annual Conference for MFP Site Coordinators to discuss best practices, establish guidelines for closing due to high heat indexes and wind chill factors and to request training on the reports package that is included in the PantryTrak registration system.

A special Administrative Council meeting was called, June 3, 2020, to discuss the reopening of the Avoca UMC for Sunday Services.

Following much discussion, mainly concerning if we were in compliance with the New York State guidelines concerning church gatherings, the vote was seven (7) for and two (2) against reopening the church for Sunday services beginning June 7, 2020. It was decided to notify the congregation via e-mail and snail-mail (for the 16 without computers).

New Business:

- The chicken barbeque will be postponed indefinitely, probably until next May.
- The Worship Committee and Administrative Council meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020 were cancelled

Special Note: The Church did reopen on Sunday, June 7, 2020. A mask must be worn all times except when sitting for the service using social distancing. The Chatter on the Ladder did open and Wednesday night Bible Study is now done at the Church with people using social distancing. All other activities have not returned yet.

TREASURER'S REPORT

June 2020 – Ron Salles

Thank you all for being so very loyal to God and this small part of His church! I have been able to keep up with all our bills. Thank you! My God is Great!

Thank you for remembering 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 PRODUCTION

Ron Salles

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 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.

Remember we also record the service 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., let me know and we will get a copy to you at no cost to you.

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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Fred Groner

Men's Fellowship has not met recently but the series of Bible lessons FAVORITE BIBLE PASSAGES, which were studied during the past few years, go a long way at solving the social face-mask and knee-on-throat problems the country is encountering today. Bible Passages state the will of God. Bible Passages state that living the will of God is the solution to people problems. Bible Passages say that we should love people and use worldly things. Unfortunately, many people got it reversed. Many people love worldly things and use people to obtain worldly things and satisfy worldly desires. Worldly love is of Satan. People love is of God. Bible Passages say people should examine themselves and their Faith and live God's will. Bible Passages say people are far from being perfect. Bible Passages say that forgiveness is not just an option but a requirement. This would be a great approach to solving the people imperfection problem. Bible Passages say that we should love our neighbors as ourselves, which is the Golden Rule.

Perhaps people should protest their lack of knowledge of Bible Passages. Perhaps people should investigate Bible Passages. Seems simple!

SUMMER PRAYER

Creator of all, thank You for summer!

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me close to You this summer.

Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.

Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence, and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.

As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

Amen.

BIRTHDAYS

July

9 Bill Snyder
14 Paula Bidlack
14 Gabe Sawyer
15 Bill Cleeves
20 Norma Cooper
23 Doug Sick
26 Bill Hunt
29 Bob Anderson
29 Fred Groner

August

5 Cindy Gottschall
8 Candice Dockstader
9 Janet English
10 Carl Dockstader
10 Mariel Perkins
15 Henry Gottschall
18 Barb Nichols
18 Kelly Slayton
19 Robin Scouten
22 Sherri Sawyer

ANNIVERSARIES

July

None

August

9 Jack & Sharill Stewart
23 Don & Penny Sorge
26 Doug & Donna Sick
30 Forrest & Kelly Slayton

IT IS NOT EASY

TO APOLOGIZE,

TO BEGIN OVER,

TO ADMIT ERROR,

TO BE UNSELFISH,

TO TAKE ADVICE,

TO BE CHARITABLE,

TO BE CONSIDERATE,

TO ENDURE SUCCESS,

TO KEEP ON TRYING,

TO FORGIVE AND FORGET,

TO KEEP OUT OF THE RUT,

TO MAKE THE MOST OF A LITTLE,

TO MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD,

TO RECOGNIZE THE SILVER LINING,

TO SHOULDER A DESERVED BLAME.

BUT THEY ARE SAID

TO BE THE BEST!

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS NEEDS

It's a bit early to talk about Christmas, but we've moved the Lighthouse Christmas date to give the families more time to plan for wanted items that were not available at the Gift Shop.

This year's Lighthouse Christmas will be Saturday, November 7th. In case you stop by a yard sale or see a fantastic sale, we will continue to collect new and gently used items for the Gift Shop.

A cart will be placed in the sanctuary July through October to collect food and gift shop items. Please give as you are able. The food items needed and suggested giving weeks are listed below. However, anything you can donate will be sincerely appreciated and put to good use.

GIFT SHOP

Crew Socks (all sizes)
Dish towels and dish cloths
Hand Tools
Bedding, Towels, washcloths, etc.
Items for Teens, Men
Teens Gift Sets
Toys, Games, Puzzles, Art Supplies, etc.
Boys & Girls Sports Items

FOOD BASKETS

July 26 Macaroni & Cheese
August 2 Spaghetti/Macaroni 1#
August 9 Peanut Butter (16-18 oz.)
August 16 Pancake Syrup (24 oz.)
August 23 Kleenex (flat box for easier packing)
August 30 Saltine Crackers (4 stack box)
September 6 Spaghetti Sauce (26 oz.)
September 13 Applesauce (1# 8oz)
September 20 Biscuit & Baking Mix (2#)
September 27 Cereal (18 oz.)
October 4 Apple Juice (64 oz.)
October 11 Ramen Soup (6 pk.)
October 18 Peaches or Pears
October 25 Stove-top Stuffing

FREEDOM

-Writer Unknown

I know these things must always be
To keep a nation strong and free:
One is hearthstone bright and dear
With busy, happy loved ones near.

One is ready heart and hand
To love and serve and keep the land.
One is a worn and beaten way
To where the people go to pray.

So long as these are kept alive,
Nation and people will survive.
God keep them always, everywhere-
The home, the heart, and place of prayer.

SOMETHING OF GOD

-Leah Zink

Something of God pours into me
from the blue of the sky above
from the song of a bird,
the red of the rose,
The touch of the hand I love.

Something of God pours into me
from the ocean's tidal road
as I stand along
on the windswept sand
and watch the sea gull soar.

Something of God pours into me
from the mountains capped with snow,
from the pine trees
swaying gently
as the summer breezes blow.

There's something of God in everything
and in everyone we see,
I pray for the grace
to see Him in others
and hope they will see him in me.

A POLICE OFFICER found a perfect hiding place to watch for speeding motorists. One day, he was suspicious when everyone was diving under the speed limit, so he investigated and found the problem. A boy was standing on the side of the road with a huge hand-painted sign: "Radar Trap Ahead." Going further, the officer discovered another boy about 500 yards beyond the radar trap with a sign reading "Tips" and a bucket full of change.

A CENSUS TAKER asked a woman her age. "Well," she replied, "let me think. I was 18 when I married, and he was 30. Now he is 60, or twice as old as he was then, so I am now 36."

RIDDLES

What time of day was Adam created?

Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?

Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

Because Noah was always standing on the deck.

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?

He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?

Nope – just an apple.

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?

He just knew there was something fishy about it.

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

Absolutely ruthless.

Did the good Lord create anything without a purpose?

No - mosquitoes come close, though.

What excuse did Adam give his children about why he no longer lived in Eden?

Your mother ate us out of house and home!

Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Who was the first tennis player in the Bible?

Joseph because he served in Pharaoh's court.

Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?

David – he rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

How do groups of angels greet each other?

Halo, halo, halo!

AS THE DAY ENDS

-Ellen Bailey

As the day ends and the sun goes down
And the sun sheds its last rays of light
I think to myself as I look around,
“Have I spent my day living right?”

As the day ends and the sun goes down
I thank the Lord for this day I have owned
And as the night steals in without a sound
I feel His presence and know I’m not alone.

As the day ends and the sun goes down
I count my many shares and blessings
And recall what’s right can be found
In His wonderful teachings and lessons.

RECIPE CORNER

Sesame Noodle Slaw – Linda Davis

Prep: 35 minutes

Bake: 20 minutes at 300 degrees

Chill: 30 minutes to 4 hours

Ingredients:

½ cup sliced almonds

2 Tbsp sesame seeds

1 3-oz pkg chicken-flavor ramen noodles

1/3 cup vegetable oil

3 Tbsp rice vinegar

2 Tbsp reduced-sodium soy sauce

1 Tbsp sugar

¼ tsp black pepper

6 cups shredded cabbage (1/2 of medium head)

1/3 cup thinly sliced green onions

1/3 cup golden or dark raisins (optional)

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. In a shallow baking pan combine almonds and sesame seeds. Bake about 20 minutes or until toasted, stirring once; cool.

Meanwhile, for dressing, in a screw-top jar combine seasoning packet from noodles, oil, vinegar, soy sauce, sugar and pepper. Cover and shake well.

In a very large bowl combine cabbage, green onions, raisins (if desired), and almond mixture. Break noodles into small pieces and add to cabbage mixture. Drizzle with dressing; toss gently to coat. Cover and chill for 30 minutes to 4 hours. Makes 8 servings (1 cup).

CORN AND ZUCCHINI SAUTE

A Good Housekeeping Recipe

Summary:

Sweet sun-dried tomatoes and their packing oil give zucchini a tangy bite in this fast and healthful side dish.

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons sun-dried tomatoes in oil
- 1 teaspoon sun-dried tomato oil
- 2 medium zucchini, cut into ¼ inch-thick half-moons
- 2 cups (about 4 ears) fresh corn kernels
- ½ teaspoon salt

Steps:

1. From jar of sun-dried tomatoes in oil, sliver, enough tomatoes to equal 2 tablespoons
2. Transfer 1 teaspoon of the oil to nonstick large skillet and heat over medium-high heat; add zucchini and cook 4 minutes..
3. Stir in corn, the slivered tomatoes and ½ teaspoon salt, and cook 4 minutes or until vegetables are tender-crisp. Serves 6.

GARDEN RECIPE

Oh, it seems so good to feel the warm air and sunshine! And to watch the budding forth of the spring flowers, and its fun to look over the seed packets at the garden store and wish that what came forth from our planting them looked like the picture on the packet!

Well here’s a bit of spring gardening recipe for our spiritual soil:

- Plant three rows of peas: peace of mind, peace of heart, peace of soul
- Plant four rows of squash; squash gossip, squash indifference, squash grumbling, squash selfishness
- Plant four rows of lettuce; lettuce be faithful, lettuce be kind, lettuce be obedient, lettuce really love one another
- No garden with turnips; turnip for meetings, turnip for service, turnip to help one another
- We must have thyme; thyme for God, thyme for study, thyme for prayer

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.