

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

A regularly scheduled meeting was held October 8, 2020, with 9 members present.

Strategic Planning

- Wednesday, October 7th, first Wednesday night Worship Service/Bible Study

Sound System

- Microphone purchased for Pastor Barre to eliminate dead zones
- Assisted Hearing devices will work with our new sound system

Lay Leader

- Annual Conference was held October 3rd via zoom
- Focus was to pass the budget and approve pastor appointments

Worship Committee

- October 18 – Laity Sunday and Pastor Appreciation Day
- November 1 – All Saint’s Day
- November 8 – Honoring our Veterans
- November 22 – Hanging of the Greens – bring bag lunch
- November 23 – Thanksgiving Service @ Avoca
- November 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent
- December 24 – Christmas Services @ Avoca 4PM and 8PM, @ Mitchellsville 6PM

Men’s Fellowship

- Men’s Fellowship has 5-6 who meet each Sunday
- Group has started new study, continues to have great discussions, and enjoys meeting together.
- Additional people always welcome.

Membership Committee

- Current membership – 80, Jack Fervan was removed by death

Ramp Committee

- Ramp Guys completed #575 today, 30+ ramps still pending
- Struggling due to health issues and troubles getting enough volunteers needed on any given day

- Skyrocketing plywood and lumber prices will negatively impact the budget
- Family from 1st ramp done this year is donating food items for Lighthouse Christmas
- Ramp program is blessed with the amount of ramps that are given back to be reworked and installed elsewhere

Puppet Ministry

- Puppets may be moved to other weeks due to Henry’s work schedule

Mobile Food Pantry (MFP)

- Motion made was unanimously approved to no longer to continue Mobile Food Pantry

Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Average attendance 9 - 11 each day
- Excess funds will be given to the Lighthouse Christmas

Lighthouse Christmas

- The 2020 Lighthouse Christmas will be November 14th
- Guests will be given appointments to visit Gift Shop to limit the visitors in Church at one time
- Temperature will be taken, masks required and sanitizers used
- Only 1 person per family can visit Gift Shop and no children allowed in building
- Bathrooms will not be used, in emergency nursery bathroom can be used
- If weather permits, a tent will be set up at the end of the parking lot for gently used clothing
- Reusable shopping bags will be purchased and filled with the Church calendar, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pancake Breakfasts

- November and December Pancake Breakfasts cancelled
- January and February 2021 breakfasts will be discussed during December Administrative Council meeting

Safety of Church for In-Person Services

- Next deep cleaning will be done Monday, November 16

Camperships

- Normal Scout activities have been curtailed by COVID-19
- Unused campership funds will be carried forward to 2021

Red Bird Mission

- Request received from the Endwell UMC for gently used clothing and/or funding to transport clothing donated to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky
- Motion made and unanimously approved to send Endwell UMC \$200 to help with transportation costs

Boy Scouts

- Motion made and unanimously approved for Scouts to use the Men's Bible Study Room and the nursery for their meetings

Preparation for Church Future Vote

- We cannot prepare for upcoming vote until General Conference publishes the requirements

FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant Card Program – YTD - \$228
- Top's Cash for Causes – YTD - \$196
- Total Year to Date - \$424

CONCERTS

- December 12, 2020 – Dave Burdick – possibly an afternoon concert, pending covid status
- September 2, 2021 – The Puffers – 7PM concert

Board of Trustee Bill Heard

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on September 01, 2020 with nine members present including, Bill Snyder, Janet English, Fred Wood, Gary Weldy, Al and Bev Belanger, Don Loveland, Pastor Barre, and Bill Heard.

Items completed:

- Sealed and striped parking lot
- Replaced gutter – parsonage

- Installed air make-up duct in Furnace Room
- Lawn mower repaired
- Deep clean of the sanctuary completed because of mold
- Parsonage power wash completed
- Lights in the narthex repaired
- Parsonage driveway holes filled
- AED and first aid kit cabinet installed

Other Items:

- Approved Board of Election request to use AUMC for the November 3rd elections
- COVID cleaning/sanitizing will be done by the elections staff prior, during, and after the election
- Printer replacement considered---Service contract for 3000 copies/mo. is active until July 2021. The decision was made to continue using the current unit for the near future barring any major issue.
- Purchase of two ceiling fans for the narthex was approved.
- Men's bathroom partitions need repair or replacement.
- Request to replace women's bathroom toilets with high rise units was presented.

Next meeting Thursday, November 12, 2020.

Treasurer's Report Ron Salles

THANK GOD! OUR GOD IS GREAT!

THANK YOU! I CANNOT EMPHASIZE IT ENOUGH! THANK YOU, THANK YOU ALL for being so very loyal to GOD and HIS church!

In spite of COVID we are currently running the reserves that we would be under normal circumstances! I continue to be able to keep up with all our bills including our additional COVID expenses! Keep up the great work!

THANK YOU!

THANK GOD! OUR 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).

Postcard to the Weather Bureau: “Sirs: I thought you would be interested in knowing that I have just shoveled three feet of “partly cloudy” from my front steps.”

**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., (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.

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

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Fred Groner**

Men's Fellowship continues to discuss a Bible study series called TROUBLESOME BIBLE PASSAGES. One lesson is titled "Is the Old Testament Relevant?" This is a very interesting Bible question. What is meant by the word relevant? Should the Old Testament be ignored in view of the New Testament? What do we get by studying the Old Testament? Perhaps the answer to these questions can be found in the Bible itself!

Searching in the book of Romans, Paul writes the word of God in Romans (15:4)(KJV) - "For what so ever things were written "aforetime" were written for our learning.....The NIV version of the Bible rewords Rom (15:4) saying "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us..... This passage refers to the whole of Old Testament Scriptures. The word of God must always be our standard and not our or anybody's private interpretation (2Tim3:16).

So, we learn from the Old Testament, as Romans (15:4) says. We must know what God says and what he doesn't say. There is no Church doctrine in the Old Testament. All doctrine comes after the cross in the New Testament. Very interesting Bible discussion!

The above is a good example of Scripture explaining Scripture. Remember, GO TO SCRIPTURE FIRST!

Men's Fellowship meets almost every Sunday at 9:30am.

Birthdays

November

8 Jonathon Ortiz
9 Dorrie Stowe
14 Bruce English
15 Anthony Ortiz
18 Mikey Sorge
19 Ashley Hint
20 Chuck Cagle
21 Pastor Barre Butts
27 Jenny Hint
28 Sharill Stewart
29 Elizabeth Hint
29 Carol Preston

December

2 Marguerite English
3 Bill Heard
4 Jane Salles
7 Linda Jones
8 Bev Welch
13 Ron Salles
17 Mary Weldy
21 Pat Wright
22 Bonnie Hunt
23 Olivia Hint
26 Marge Wood

Anniversaries

November

9 Pat & Donna Wright
24 Henry & Cindy Gottschall

December

6 Bill & Sande Thomas

LIBRARY CORNER

The Battle Belongs to the Lord By Joyce Meyer

LET HIM WIN IT for YOU

There are many things in the world that threaten us. But often our biggest enemy is not “out there” – it’s “in here”. In our hearts. In our minds. And we’re in its grips of fear, struggling to get free but never completely winning.

To live in fear and anxiety is to live in constant torment, far removed from the victorious life that God wants to give you. How can you stop the patterns of destructive thinking? How can you break the strongholds of fear? You give your battles to the Lord. Let *Him* fight them for you.

In this revolutionary new book, best-selling author and sought-after speaker Joyce Meyer shows you how to break through and trust God to do for you what you can never do for yourself – overcome your battles and live in lasting freedom and victory.

With God there are no hopeless cases, and no situation is beyond His ability to deliver and redeem. Let Him strengthen and empower you to live in complete joy and peace, no matter what you’re facing. *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*. And He always wins it for you.

Discover how to ...

- Tap into the power and presence of God through worship
- Turn your struggles over to Him for victory
- Confront and conquer fear and anxiety
- Release God’s power to change your life

RECIPE CORNER

Squash

1. Wash and slice squash
2. Layer in baking dish
3. Sprinkle with ranch dressing mix
4. Sprinkle with grated parmesan cheese
5. Repeat layers until out of squash
6. Add several Tablespoons of butter/margarine
7. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes

CINNAMON APPLE PIE

Ingredients:

Crust:

- 1 refrigerated pie crust
- 1 Tbsp butter, melted
- 2 tsp cinnamon

Filling:

- 2 cans Lucky Leaf Premium Apple Fruit Filling
- 1 stick butter, softened (8 Tbsp)
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup light brown sugar

Icing:

- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ¼ tsp vanilla
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp milk

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. **Unroll** pie crust on lightly floured surface. **Brush** with butter and sprinkle evenly with cinnamon. **Roll up** tightly and slice into ½ inch rounds, like miniature cinnamon rolls. **Press** evenly into bottom and sides of 9-inch pie plate, making sure there are no spaces between the rolls.

Pour 2 cans of Lucky Leaf Apple Fruit Filling on top of the crust.

Combine butter, flour and brown sugar in a large bowl and form into crumbles using a pastry blender. **Sprinkle** crumbles over apple filling.

Bake until top and crust are golden brown and filling is bubbling, about 40-45 minutes (cover top/crust with foil if necessary). **Remove** from oven and cool.

Whisk together powdered sugar, vanilla, cinnamon and milk in a small bowl to form icing (add more powdered sugar or milk to reach desired consistency). **Drizzle** over cooled pie.

Homemade Ice Cream

1. 1 pint heavy cream, beat 5 minutes or until peaks are formed
2. Stir in 1 can unsweetened milk
3. Mash 1 cup of berries and add to mixture
4. Put in 9 x 5 or 9 x 9 pan
5. Freeze 4-5 hours

A Thanksgiving Prayer

"I lift my heart to Thee, O God,
In gratitude and praise.
For all Thy blessings of the past,
And those of future days . . .
For well I know if I shall live,
Thy blessings still shall flow
Across my soul in greater joy
Than I could ever know . . .
I thank Thee for my faithful friends,
For sunshine and the rain,
And every blessing hid or seen
Though some may come through pain,
O God, accept my thanks to Thee
Each time I come to pray,
And grant each day that I shall live
Will be Thanksgiving Day.

What we're really talking about is a wonderful day set aside on the fourth Thursday of November when no one diets. I mean, why else would they call it Thanksgiving? Erma Bombeck

The Littlest Christmas Tree

The littlest Christmas tree lived in a meadow of green
among a family of tall evergreens.
He learned how to whisper the evergreen song
with the slightest of wind that came gently along.
He watched as the birds made a home out of twigs
and couldn't wait till he, too, was big.
For all of the trees offered a home,
the maple, the pine, and the oak, who's so strong.
"I hate being little," the little tree said,
"I can't even turn colors like the maple turns red.
I can't help the animals like the mighty old oak.
He shelters them all in his wide mighty cloak."
The older tree said, "Why, little tree, you don't
know?
The story of a mighty king from the land with no
snow?"
Little tree questioned, "A land with no snow?"
"Yes!" said old tree, "A very old story, from so long
ago."

"A star appeared, giving great light
over a manger on long winter's night.
A baby was born, a king of all kings,

and with him comes love over all things."
"He lived in a country all covered in sand,
and laid down his life to save all of man."

Little tree thought of the gift given by him,
then the big tree said with the happiest grin,
"We're not just trees, but a reminder of that day.
There's a much bigger part of a role that we play!"

"For on Christmas Eve, my life I'll lay down,
in exchange for a happier, loving ground.
And as I stand dying, they'll adorn me in trim.
This all will be done in memory of him."

"Among a warm fire, with family and friends,
in the sweet songs of Christmas, I'll find my great
end.

Then ever so gently, He'll come down to see
and take me to heaven, Jesus and me."

"So you see, little tree, we are not like the oak
who shelters all things beneath his great cloak.
Nor are we like the maple in fall,
whose colors leave many standing in awe."
"The gift that we give is ourselves, limb for limb,
the greatest of honor, in memory of him."

The little tree bowed his head down and cried
and thought of the king who willingly died.
For what kind of gift can anyone give
than to lay down your life when you wanted to live?

A swelling of pride came over the tree.
Can all of this happen Because of just me?
Can I really bring honor? By adorning a home?
By reminding mankind that he's never alone?

With this thought, little tree began singing with
glee.
Happy and proud to be a true Christmas tree.
You can still hear them singing even the smallest in
height,
Singing of Christmas and that one holy night.

Sunday, November 1st
ALL SAINT'S DAY
Daylight Saving Time Ends

Tuesday, November 3rd
ELECTION DAY
AUMC 6A – 9P

Sunday, November 8th
HONORING OUR VETERANS
11:00 AM
TRUSTEE'S BREAKFAST
12:15 PM

Wednesday, November 11th
VETERAN'S DAY

Saturday, November 14th
LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS
9A – 3P

Thursday, November 19th
ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE
11:00 AM - Via Zoom

Sunday, November 22nd
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
HANGING OF THE GREENS
12:15PM (Bring Bag Lunch)

Monday, November 23rd
THANKSGIVING SERVICE
7:00 PM @ Avoca

Thursday, November 26th
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Sunday, November 29th
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
UNITED METHODIST STUDENT
DAY

Sunday, December 6th
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 12th
DAVE BURDICK CHRISTMAS
CONCERT
Tentative (depends on COVID)-

Sunday, December 13th
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
TRUSTEE'S BREAKFAST
12:15 PM

Sunday, December 20th
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Monday, December 21st
FIRST DAY OF WINTER

Thursday, December 24th
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Avoca: 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM
Mitchellsville: 6:00 PM

Friday, December 25th
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 31st
NEW YEAR'S EVE