

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

A regularly scheduled meeting was held December 10, 2020, with 10 members present.

### Strategic Planning/Sound System

- \$750 received to purchase a high speed DVD copier
- Seven copies of our services can be made each session
- Two sessions can be completed in 12 minutes

### Lay Leader

- Nothing new to report

### Worship Committee

- Positive comments received for having a 4PM Christmas Eve service
- Christmas Eve Service will be from “Gift of Christmas” – readings, scripture, music

### Men’s Fellowship

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

### Membership Committee

- Current membership – 79

### Puppet Ministry

- Puppets will start again in January

### Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Average attendance 9 - 11 each day
- Excess funds of \$600 given to the Lighthouse Christmas to purchase Tops Gift Cards

## NEW BUSINESS:

### Pancake Breakfasts

- January and February Pancake Breakfasts cancelled

### Camperships

- Bill Heard and Randy Heard are looking for a used trailer to store and transport the Scouts camping gear. \$1,000 of campership funds has been earmarked for this purchase.

## AUMC Response to COVID

- Due to the continued increase in COVID cases in the county, Pastor Barre asked for discussion on the possibility of closing the church until January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- There was much discussion on both sides.
- A majority vote was that the church would stay open at this time

## FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant Card Program – YTD - \$547
- Top’s Cash for Causes – YTD - \$310
- Total Year to Date - \$857

## CONCERTS

- September 2, 2021 – The Puffers – 7PM concert

Next meeting: February 11, 2021

## TRUSTEE REPORT for November 12, 2020 Submitted by Bill Heard

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on November 12, 2020 with seven members present including, Bill Snyder, Janet English, Fred Wood, Gary Weldy, Al and Bev Belanger, and Bill Heard.

Items completed:

- New bench for church entrance purchased.
- Men’s urinal partition replaced.
- Furnace makeup air duct installed.
- Furnace repaired.
- Blacktop cold patch purchased and applied in the hole entering the church parking lot.

### Other Items:

- Sign for the church entryway discussed. Further review required.

Next meeting Thursday, January 14, 2021.

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

In spite of COVID we are currently running the reserves that close to normal for this time of year. I continue to be able to keep up with all our bills including our additional COVID expenses! We are poised to end the year with a small reserve. Its enough to start the new year off with the capability to continue to pay our obligations! Thank you, and Keep up the great work!

**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).

**MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION**  
**Ron Salles**

Please visit our webpage at [avocaumc.com](http://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.

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.

We had a very very generous donation of a 7 target DVD duplicator! This one is faster along with the

increased capability than the previous one that has served us well for many years! Thank you!

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

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
Fred Groner

The objective of the Men's Fellowship Group is to study and discuss the WORD OF GOD. The WORD that came up frequently in the year 2020 was FAITH.

The Bible says Adam & Eve had FAITH in GOD but when Satan promised them a better deal by eating the apple, Adam & Eve had an important decision to make. When Adam & Eve accepted Satan's deal by eating the apple, they lost their FAITH in GOD and put their FAITH in Satan.

Able showed FAITH in GOD by obeying GOD's commandment to offer up a lamb sacrifice. Kane, on the other hand, showed little or no FAITH by not offering up a lamb sacrifice. Kane did not completely ignore GOD's commandment. Kane did offer an agricultural sacrifice possibly indicating he had a small amount of FAITH in GOD. Perhaps Kane believed his agricultural sacrifice was a better sacrifice than a lamb sacrifice. Kane possibly felt he knew better than GOD and put his FAITH in himself!

Surprisingly, Jesus, during his earthly ministry, was frustrated by his Disciples lack of FAITH. Jesus said that his mission on earth was to deal with the "lost" people of Israel. Perhaps "lost" meant lost FAITH in GOD and to a degree FAITH in Satan. Jesus accused his Disciples as having FAITH the size of a small mustard seed. The message of the mustard seed was often discussed at Men's Fellowship, concluding that the objective of the Christian believer is to make that mustard seed sprout and grow.

After the cross, Paul repeatedly taught the importance of FAITH in GOD. The most important of Paul's teaching was preaching that the just shall live by FAITH. As with Adam & Eve, FAITH is often tested. Despite difficult personal situations and decisions, the often used expression KEEP THE FAITH is very significant. FAITH in our self or anybody else doesn't work as history shows. FAITH is the one and only measure of Christianity!

## RAMP MINISTRY

As 2020 draws to an end, with winter weather making ramp building difficult, we'll still Pray for a few good days in hopes of being able to help a few more "Neighbors-in-Need". So far this year we removed and refurbished 20 ramps which were no longer needed. They were used to reduce the cost of some of the 29 newly constructed wooden ramps. The value of those 29 ramps was \$22,953.93 but we only used \$14,273.90 of new materials. We also installed 3 used aluminum ramps worth approximately \$13,684.80. The cost to install the aluminum ramps was \$61.80. We started the year with 27 requests for ramps and after constructing 32 ramps, we still have 18 on the "to do list". To help do God's work in 2020, 24 volunteer "Ramp Guys" have donated over 3510 man hours of labor. Those hours include planning and construction. Most ramps require at least 8 volunteers to safely and efficiently construct a ramp in a timely fashion. These Christian Volunteers give freely of their time and talents to help people in need. They are the greatest and we thank God every day for their dedication.

In His Service,  
Glenn Davis  
Ramp Guys Coordinator

## BIRTHDAYS

### January

5 Dave Welch  
10 Bonnie Green  
13 Alice Robinson

### February

2 Jim Young  
4 Bev Belanger  
6 Forrest Slayton  
8 Lois Cagle  
8 Howard Warner  
12 Neil Simpson  
14 Penny Sorge  
15 Don Loveland  
22 Al Belanger  
22 Martha Cleland  
29 Linda Davis

## ANNIVERSARIES

### February

10 Jim & Bev Young

## 2020 LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS

In spite of all our COVID fears, the 2020 Lighthouse Christmas was the best ever. We were able to provide 77 families (200 individuals) with food and gifts to help them have a nicer Christmas.

We thank God for keeping our volunteers and guests safe. We received no reports of positives from anyone who visited the church that day. We also thank God for sending us one of the most perfect days we have ever had for those whose volunteering jobs were outside.

We thank Pastor Barre for his constant support of this mission throughout the year; and for greeting our guests and listening to their stories and prayer requests.

We thank our congregation for their generous donations of food, gift shop items, clothing, and money and for their time to set up the gift shop and pack the food boxes.

We thank Amy, Michele, Michelle, and Vicki for the long evenings spent making gift baskets for each family member: 71 adult females; 47 adult males; 82 children 0-18; and a few extras in each group so the last guests would have several baskets to choose from: a total of 200+ baskets.

We thank all who volunteered that day directing traffic, testing for COVID, registering our guests, working in the clothing tent, loading the food baskets in the cars, managing the gift shop, and packing up when we were done.

We thank Cindy & Henry Gottschall for doing all the extra cleaning and trash removal throughout the week and the day of the distribution.

We thank the Avoca Fire Department for loaning and setting up a clothing tent in the parking lot.

We thank the Avoca Scout's as well as those in Troop 57 in Bath for doing a Scouting for Food Drive that day. We have approximately 1,300 items of food for Pastor Barre to distribute to those in need during the coming year and for our 2021 food boxes. In addition, the older Scouts helped carry gift shop items to cars and assisted wherever needed.

Because of COVID we were forced to find safer ways to manage the gift shop. We scheduled our

guests to one hour time frames based on the order we received their reservation. Sharron scheduled 11 guests each hour. Guests arrived at their scheduled time instead of all at 10 AM. It couldn't have been more perfect.

This year we purchased hoodies for all the children.

We have additional changes to implement in 2021. The biggest one is that we will probably not do clothing except for coats, jackets, and other outerwear. Clothing is a full-time job. Anyone interested? See Sharron.

This is a huge project and we're all exhausted when it's over. We could not do it without the generosity and support of the AUMC congregation. We wish all could witness the tears of joy and the thanks and gratitude the guests give. To be able to work on this project is truly a Christmas blessing.

Jim Young, Coordinator and Food  
Sharron Heard, Gift Shop  
Carol Preston, Clerk of the Works

### **ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him.

Ashes are placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday for two reasons: a personal act of remembrance and as a sign or a witness for others. In normal years, the ashes come from the burnt Palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration, which begins Holy Week

Ash Wednesday also symbolizes the Christian belief that humans were created from dust, and will return to dust and ash when they die. This belief, however, is offset by the belief that the death of Christ allowed for people to be more than simply dust; it allowed for an eternal life in heaven, outside the body.

## **RECIPIE CORNER**

### **Buckeye Brownies**

Base: 1 box Betty Crocker Original Supreme Brownies – follow directions on box

Filling: ½ cup butter, softened  
¾ cup creamy peanut butter  
2 cup powdered sugar  
2 teaspoon milk

Topping: 1 cup semisweet choc chips  
¼ cup butter

- Heat oven to 350°. Grease bottom only of 9" x 13 "pan. Can line pan with foil & grease foil on bottom
- In medium bowl, make brownie mix according to direction. Cool completely about 1 hour
- In medium bowl, beat filling with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Spread evenly over brownie base.
- In small microwavable bowl, microwave topping uncovered on high 30-60 seconds, stir until smooth. Cool 10 minutes; spread over filling. Refrigerate about 30 minutes or until set. Store covered in refrigerator. Take out of refrigerator about 15 minutes before serving.

### **Crack Potatoes**

Ingredients:

2 (16 oz.) sour cream  
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese  
1 ½ cups chopped bacon (about 1 ½ pounds)  
2 (1 oz.) packages ranch dip  
1 (32 oz.) frozen hash brown potatoes

- Preheat oven to 400°
- Lightly spray 9" x 13" pan with cook spray
- Combine sour cream, cheese, bacon and ranch mix
- Stir in hash brown potatoes. Mix well.
- Pour into prepared pan
- Bake uncovered 45-60 minutes.

Can divide into 3 small 7" x 7' disposable foil pans and freeze. Wrap in plastic wrap and foil. Thaw overnight before baking.

## Apple Pie Cups

1 package refrigerated cinnamon rolls with frosting  
1 can apple pie filling

- Grease 8 cups of muffin pan with non-stick cooking spray
- Place a cinnamon roll in each greased cup and press it up sides of cup
- Fill each well of cinnamon roll with apple pie filling
- Bake at 375° for 15-18 minutes until cinnamon rolls are cooked through. Cool in muffin pan for 5 minutes. Remove and place on wire rack.
- Drizzle cups with frosting from cinnamon roll package
- For easy clean-up, place cookie sheet under the cooling rack to catch excess frosting.

## THE HISTORY OF APRONS

I don't think most kids today know what an apron is. The principle use of Mom's or Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. But along with that, it served as a pot holder for removing hot pans from the oven.

- It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion even used for cleaning out dirty ears.
- From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.
- When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.
- And when the weather was cold, she wrapped it around her arms.
- These big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.
- Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.
- From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.
- In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.
- When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture

that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

- When dinner was ready, she walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

Remember:

Moms and Grandmas used to set hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron – but love.

### TRUSTEE'S TAKEOUT BREAKFAST

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> – 12:15 PM**

### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM**

**All Committee Chairs and Program Heads are asked to attend to work on the 2021 Budget Plan**

### TRUSTEE'S TAKEOUT BREAKFAST

**Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> – 12:15 PM**

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

**Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM  
At Avoca**

## NEW YEAR'S WISHES

What shall I wish thee?  
Treasures of earth?  
Songs in the springtime,  
Pleasures and mirth?  
Flowers on the pathway,  
Skies ever clear?  
Would this insure thee  
A Happy New Year?

What shall I wish thee?  
What can be found  
Bringing thee sunshine  
All the year 'round?  
Where is the treasure,  
Lasting and dear,  
That shall ensure thee  
A Happy New Year.

Faith that increaseth,  
Walking in light;  
Hope that aboundeth,  
Happy and bright;  
Love that is perfect,  
Casting out fear;  
These shall ensure thee  
A Happy New Year.

Peace in the Saviour,  
Rest at His feet,  
Smile of His countenance  
Radiant and sweet,  
Joy in His presence!  
Christ is near!  
This will ensure thee  
A Happy New Year!

An Army Recruit was assigned guard duty at 2 a.m., but couldn't help nodding off. He awakened to find the officer of the day standing before him. Remembering the penalty for sleeping on duty, he kept his head bowed for another moment, then looked up reverently, and said, "Amen."

People who think time heals everything haven't sat it out in a doctor's waiting room.

I have a new idea. There's a fortune in it. It's an alarm clock that emits the delicious odors of frying bacon and fragrant coffee.

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, "Are you a Cop? Yes," I answered and continued writing the report.

"My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?"

"Yes, that's right," I told her.

"Well, then", she said as she extended her foot toward me, "would you please tie my shoe?"

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring at me.

"Is that a dog you got back there" he asked.

"It sure is," I replied.

Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards Jake. Finally he said, "What'd he do?"

### **Love one another**

when it hurts  
when nothing is given in return

### **Love one another**

when you're victimized  
when all is dark and gloomy

### **Love one another**

when you want to run and hide  
when you're numb and beaten

### **Love one another**

when you figure it won't even matter  
when the battle seems lost and over

### **Love one another**

when your first instinct is to lash out  
when you feel justified to stop trying

### **Love one another**

when your desire is just to pretend things are okay  
when you feel that all are at fault but yourself...

### **Love one another**

...because Christ forgave you, and continues to do so despite the pain and hurt we cause Him.

Love is the answer. Not hatred.

Not bitterness. Not avoidance.

Love is the extension of God's grace and mercy to us.

And we must extend that to each other.

### **Love one another**