

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held June 10, 2021 with 9 members present.

Strategic Planning/Sound System

- Two microphones and one receiver need to be replaced
- Cost estimates will be requested from the Shure System
- Memorial Fund and Mission Fund accounts will be considered for possible funding

Lay Leader

- Pastor Barre, Cindy Gottschall and Robin Scouten will represent AUMC and MUMC for the Upper New York virtual Annual Conference June 17-19, 2021
- The Conference will be held via Zoom in the AUMC Narthex

Worship

- No Worship Committee meeting in July
- The women chose Elizabeth Rose Ministry for the donation made in their honor on Mother's Day
- June 20 – Father's Day – Men to choose from Heifer Project, Ramp Guys, and Elizabeth Rose Ministry for donation made in their honor
- June 20 – Honoring our Graduate – Alevea Beers will receive a Bible and AUMC's congratulations for her graduating from Haverling High School
- July 10 – Howard Warner Memorial Service – Time to be announced
- July 18 – Combined service with Mitchellsville – 10AM @ Mitchellsville with dish to pass to follow
- August 22 – Combined service with Wallace Wesleyan and Mitchellsville – 10AM @ Wallace Wesleyan with dish to pass to follow
- September 12 – Grandparent's Day

Finance

- Avoca UMC in good shape financially
- Postage stamps will be purchased before rate hike in August

Membership Committee

- Current membership 83
- Six individuals joined the Church on May 23rd – Candice Dockstader, Audrey Fox, Shane Fox, Bonnie Green, Linda Jones and Sally Stiles (transfer-in)

Ramp Committee

- 601 ramps completed to date
- 33 requests from people needing ramps are pending
- Large increase in plywood & lumber has put a strain on available resources

Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Average attendance 8-9 each day

NEW BUSINESS

- Pancake Breakfasts will start September 12th
- Information on possible missions projects or unfunded needs will be gathered before August 12th meeting
- Serving food will resume as it was before COVID
- Bone Builders has been permanently closed. Attendees need to pick up their equipment by July 31st.

PASTOR'S TIME

- Motion approved for \$98 for donation to Special Olympics
- Motion was approved for \$168 to purchase 100 calendars for 2022 for the Lighthouse Christmas food boxes

FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops Card Programs – YTD - \$415.15

CONCERTS

- The Puffers – Thursday, September 2 @ 7:00PM after picnic dinner @ 6:00PM
- Dave Burdick – Saturday, December – Date and time to be determined

TRUSTEES

Bill Heard

Trustee Report for March 11 and May 13, 2021 Meetings:

Action Items:

- New LED tube light bulbs have been purchased and installed in the Narthex and hallway.
- “BE A DISCIPLE” letters have been purchased and installed on the church front entryway.
- A folding aluminum ladder has been purchased to replace the large wooden step ladder.
- A request to use the church for the June 22, and November 2, 2021 general elections was approved.
- A new toilet seat was installed in the small bathroom.
- A new LED light has been purchased and will be installed at the parking lot entrance.
- Two new ceiling fans have been purchased and will be installed in the Narthex.
- The drive thru Memorial Day chicken BBQ sale was held at the church instead of the parsonage parking lot this year because Avoca had no parade. It was very successful with many thanks to all who helped and donated.

Next meeting Thursday, July 8, 2021.

TREASURER’S REPORT

May 2021 – Ron Salles

We are about where we should be with our normal monthly donations for this time of year! We are carrying a modest reserve and I am able to keep up with all our bills! 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).

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION

Ron Salles

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

We 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.

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

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Fred Groner

Some people say that they believe what the Bible says. This is a very interesting statement because the word believe means different things to different people. The Biblical definition of the word believe is different than the worldly definition.

As an illustration of the worldly definition of the word believe is when people say they believe in good health practices. But when you ask them if they practice good health practices they say no! In other words they talk the talk but they don’t walk the walk. They don’t practice what they believe.

The Biblical definition of the word believe is different from the worldly definition and should be sought out and understood.

As an example, The Bible says that GOD commanded Kane and Able to offer up a blood animal sacrifice for the atonement of sins. If we believe what the Bible says, does GOD's command to offer up a blood animal sacrifice also apply to us? Many different commands are given by GOD throughout the Bible. What are we to believe and what are we to practice? We must study the Bible to know the Biblical definition of believe and find answers.

When studying the Bible it would help to understand the Bible if you would ask yourself a few questions. Do not simply pass over what is written or spoken but ask to whom and of whom, with what choice of words, at what time in Biblical history, where in terms of location, to what people, to what extent, under what circumstances, and what came before and after in the Bible.

Using these guidelines you will find that the Bible is divided into two parts - not just Old and New Testament. One part is for learning and the other part is for Doctrine. Learning is concerned with Biblical history. Doctrine is concerned with what Christians believe for relationship with GOD and salvation. Doctrine is found in the books of Romans through Philemon - no place else. Some might consider Acts as Doctrine but it is transitional. Study of Doctrine would show that the Biblical definition of believe is to talk the talk and walk the walk - talk and practice. People who feel they must offer up a blood animal sacrifice for salvation should study Doctrine.

In summary, what Christians believe is found in Doctrine and no place else - good hearted Faith and nothing else.

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

ELDERLY

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers, and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The Tooth Fairy will never believe this!"

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 a Saturday in early November. 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. No clothing please.

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 months are listed below. However, anything you can donate will be sincerely appreciated and put to good use.

GIFT SHOP

Baskets, boxes, plastic containers, etc. Last year the Gift Shop Volunteers packed over 200 containers so that each family member who visited the Lighthouse Christmas received a personalized gift based on their age, sex, etc. We plan to do the same this year.

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 BASKET SUGGESTIONS

JULY	Apple Juice, Applesauce, Peaches, Pears, Misc. Fruit
AUGUST	Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti (1#), Macaroni (1#), Misc. Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce
SEPTEMBER	Biscuit & Baking Mix (2#), Pancake Syrup (24 oz.), Peanut Butter (16-18 oz.), Kleenex (flat box for easier packing)
OCTOBER	Saltine Crackers (4 stack box), Cereal (18 oz.), Stove-top Stuffing, Ramen Soup (6 pk.)

1996 - August 30 - 2021

August 30th will be the 25th anniversary of the South Main Street, Avoca United Methodist Church fire. The church was built in 1832.

Current parishioners worship in a beautifully designed and maintained totally handicapped accessible building.

AUMC now supports the Ramp Guys, Lighthouse Christmas, Pancake Breakfasts, Chicken BBQs, Fellowship Dinners, Scouting Programs, Bible studies, Sunday School, etc. Many of these activities were started in the “old” church and travelled to Jacob’s Ladder.

It appears that AUMC has moved on. Each year fewer members of our congregation have worshiped in the “old” church or remember/know much about it.

But those who grew up and worshiped there have fond memories of baptisms, weddings, funerals, fellowship, worship services, pastors, congregants who have passed, family gatherings, etc., as well as a host of other feelings and emotions about the “old” church. Their love for that building and all that happened there will stay in their hearts forever.

On Monday, August 30th, let us pause and say a prayer for all who worshiped at the “old” church and carry a hurt and sense of loss that will never go away. They are the base of our current congregation, have led the way, and the reason we can do what we do today. We Thank You for sharing your gifts and talents with us !!

RULES TO TEACH YOUR SON

1. Never shake a man’s hand sitting down.
2. Don’t enter a pool by the stairs.
3. The man at the BBQ Grill is the closest thing to a king.
4. In a negotiation, never make the first offer.
5. Request the late check-out.
6. When entrusted with a secret, keep it.
7. Hold your heroes to a higher standard.
8. Return a borrowed car with a full tank of gas.
9. Play with passion or don’t play at all...

10. When shaking hands, grip firmly and look them in the eye.
11. Don’t let a wishbone grow where a backbone should be.
12. If you need music on the beach, you’re missing the point.
13. Carry two handkerchiefs. The one in your back pocket is for you. The one in your breast pocket is for her.
14. You marry the girl; you marry her family.
15. Be like a duck. Remain calm on the surface and paddle like crazy underneath.
16. Experience the serenity of traveling alone.
17. Never be afraid to ask out the best-looking girl in the room.
18. Never turn down a breath mint.
19. A sport coat is worth 1000 words.
20. Try writing your own eulogy. Never stop revising.
21. Thank a veteran. Then make it up to him.
22. Eat lunch with the new kid.
23. After writing an angry email, read it carefully. Then delete it.
24. Ask your mom to play. She won’t let you win.
25. Manners make the man.
26. Give credit. Take the blame.
27. Stand up to Bullies. Protect those bullied.
28. Write down your dreams.
29. Take time to snuggle your pets, they love you so much and are always happy to see you.
30. Be confident and humble at the same time.
31. If ever in doubt, remember whose son you are and REFUSE to just be ordinary!
32. In all things, give glory to God.

The Scripture readings for Pentecost are a good reminder of one of my favorite quotes from St. Jerome: “The Scriptures are shallow enough for a babe to come and drink without fear of drowning and deep enough for theologians to swim in without ever touching the bottom.” Contributed by Deacon Roger Loucks.

DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT FALLING?

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. **A MATTER OF BALANCE** is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.

Friends of Howard Community Center
7481 Hopkins Road, Howard, NY

Tuesdays and Thursdays
July 27 – August 19, 2021

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Classes are 2x/week for 4 weeks for 2 hours each

Workshop is free and includes workbook and snacks.

Presented by Steuben County Office for the Aging

To register call 607-664-2298 or visit www.steubencony.org/RSVP and click on “Upcoming Events”

FAITH & FAMILY
Night with the Elmira Pioneers
Saturday July 17th - 7:05 PM

Elmira Pioneers VS Geneva Red Wings

Faith Groups receive a special \$5 rate. So gather your group and call 607-734-2690 or e-mail Trenton Davis @ Tdavis.canusa@gmail.com to make your group’s reservation.

BIBLE

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

“Mama, look what I found,” the boy called out.

“What have you got there, dear?”

With astonishment in the young boy’s voice, he answered, “I think it’s Adam’s underwear!”

BIRTHDAYS

July

3 Sally Stiles
9 Bill Snyder
14 Paula Bidlack
15 Bill Cleves
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
20 Randy Hamilton
22 Sherri Sawyer

ANNIVERSARIES

July

None

August

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

A FARMER’S PRAYER

Lord, bless this land you’ve given me
And may I always know,
As I tend each crop and creature
You’re the one who helps them grow.
Grant me the strength and wisdom
Please protect me from all harm,
And thank-you Lord
For your gracious gift . . .
The blessing of my farm.

DEATH

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton wool, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister’s son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: “Glory be unto the Faaather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he gooos.”

RECIPE CORNER

Farmer's Market Corn Toss

Ingredients:

- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small sweet onion, chopped
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- 2 ears corn on the cob, kernels removed
- 1 large zucchini, sliced
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ cup KRAFT grated parmesan cheese, divided

Directions:

1. Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat. Add onions and red peppers; cook and stir 3 minutes. Stir in corn and zucchini; cook and stir 5 minutes or until all vegetables are crisp-tender. Remove from heat.
2. Stir in parsley, black pepper and 2 tablespoons cheese.
3. Top with remaining cheese.

Serves 1-6; Prep: 25 minutes; Total Time 25 minutes

1 – 2 – 3 Cake

You need two boxes of cake mix. One can be any flavor you prefer, but the other MUST be Angel Food cake mix. Mix them together (shake them in big bowl)

Then simply store the mixture in an airtight container until you get the urge for dessert.

Then just put 3 Tablespoons of the dry mixture in a big coffee mug and stir in 2 Tablespoons of water.

Microwave for one minute and you will have a single serving of cake!

Top with fruit, ice cream, whipped cream or whatever! Awesome for those of us who want something sweet every now and then without making an entire cake.

SCHOOL

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm wasting my time" she said to her mother, "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk."

SUNDAY – JULY 4TH

INDEPENDENCE DAY

SATURDAY – JULY 17TH

**FAMILY & FAITH NIGHT
WITH THE ELMIRA PIONEERS**

DUNN FIELD 7:05 PM

SUNDAY – JULY 18

**JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY DISH TO PASS @
MITCHELLSVILLE UMC**

10:00 AM

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

JULY 27TH – AUGUST 19TH

1:30 PM – 3:30 pm

A MATTER OF BALANCE

HOWARD COMMUNITY CENTER

SUNDAY - AUGUST 22ND

**JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY DISH TO PASS @
WALLACE WESLEYAN CHURCH**

10:00 AM

MONDAY – AUGUST 30TH

**25TH ANNIVERSARY "OLD"
CHURCH FIRE**

THURSDAY – SEPTEMBER 2ND

6:00PM – PICNIC

**7:00 PM – THE PUFFER'S
CONCERT**

SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 12TH

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM