

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held December 19, 2021 with 10 members present.

Strategic Planning/Sound System

- Two remote microphones have been ordered

Lay Leader

- Nothing to report

Worship

- January 2 – Joint service with Mitchellsville @10A in Mitchellsville
- March 1 – Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner @ 5:30P @ Avoca
- March 2 – Ash Wednesday Service with Mitchellsville @ 7PM @ Avoca

Men's Fellowship

- Men's Fellowship is struggling with 5-6 there each week
- Great discussions
- Additional people always welcome.

Membership Committee

- Current membership 79

Puppets

- Will start in January

Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Average attendance 8-10 each day
- \$610 surplus funds used to purchase postage stamps and food for Lighthouse Christmas

Lighthouse Christmas

- Discussion for ideas underway to revamp Lighthouse Christmas for 2022
- Will no longer offer the gift shop nor accept gently used items or clothing
- Distribution will be totally drive-thru for food boxes, hoodies and gift packages

OLD BUSINESS

- Heifer Project's "Water for Life" program where a community well can be installed in a village for \$750 was selected as AUMC's mission project starting in January 2022. Goal is to fund 6 wells Excess funds from Dave Burdick dinner will be used to start this program.

- Possibility of a drive-thru pulled pork dinner in the Spring to raise money for Heifer project
- Church Conference was held November 28, 2021 and all requirements were met.

NEW BUSINESS

- DCOM meeting will be held at AUMC February 16, 2022 from 9A-2:30P and April 27, 2022 from 1P – 6P
- \$1000 from Mission Fund given to neighboring church to help them meet their Shared Ministry obligation Also, \$1000 given to Lighthouse Christmas 2022
- Individuals being asked to wear their name tags starting in January

CONCERTS

- Nothing scheduled

TRUSTEES

Bill Heard



Trustee Report for activities during November/December 2021 Submitted by Bill Heard.

Action Items:

- Lighting in the boiler room was repaired.
- Dale English donated a battery powered snowblower for the church to use.
- Light bulbs in the Sanctuary pulpit area were replaced.
- The replacement of the church printer was discussed; a motion was made and approved to recommend to the Administration Board to replace the current printer with a new Toshiba printer that will be leased for 63 months.

- The Boy Scout bankruptcy was discussed with no action required until the UMC lawyers have completed their negotiation. In early December the recommendations on submitting the ballot to approve or disapprove the bankruptcy plan was completed by the UMC lawyers and the ballot was submitted.
- The use of the church for District Meeting was approved for February 16 and April 27, 2022.

Next meeting will be Thursday, January 13, 2022.



TREASURER'S REPORT November 2021 – Ron Salles

We are somewhat lower than we should be with our normal monthly donations for this time of year! We are now carrying a small reserve in the General Fund. The General Fund is the money we use to pay the everyday bills, like power and heat, pastor's salary, insurance, office expenses, etc. I have been able to keep up with our bills, however, in September I had to borrow money from the Missions Fund to pay our everyday bills! This is not a good sign of things to come.

We have lost some very generous givers over the past couple of years. They were so generous it has taken until now to deplete the reserves that they had built up. And now the cost of everything has increased and is set to increase even more.

At this time we are asking everyone to prayerfully consider your giving and see if you are able to increase your offering.

We would also ask you to prayerfully consider donating to the Advent Offering. This would help build the reserves, so we won't have a lag time paying our bills. There are Advent envelopes available for your convenience.

Remember that we are not looking to line the coffers, we are only looking for enough to cover our bills and have a modest reserve to cover the unexected expenses that arise occasionally.

Thank you and may God bless you!

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).

RAMP MNISTRY

Glenn Davis

We have completed Ramp 626, which is the 47th ramp this year. We removed 12 ramps that were no longer needed, refurbished them, and reinstalled them (they were included in the 47). A huge THANK YOU to our MARVELOUS volunteer Ramp Guys for their dedication to helping our "neighbors-in-need". They are the truly AWESOME !!!! We still have 15 ramps on our "to-do-list". These will be a priority when the weather permits. At this time, we will only attempt to build ramps that are deemed to be emergency situations. GOD is GOOD !!!!

MISSION PROJECT

GIFT OF WATER FOR LIFE

The administrative council has selected Heifer International's "Gift of Water for Life" as Avoca UMC's Mission Project for the first part of 2022. The goal is to raise a minimum of \$4,500 to fund six (6) communal wells at \$750 each. A "well" will be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary for your donations. Periodic updates will be provided on the progress toward our goal.

Excess funds from the Dave Burdick Christmas dinner will be used to jump-start this mission. In the spring, a drive-thru pulled pork dinner will be held (pending COVID rules) with the proceeds going to the Gift of Water for Life project.

You can change lives by giving families water for life

Clean water is rare in many parts of the world where Heifer works. Families wake well before dawn and travel long distances to haul water back home. This chore is typically left to the woman and young girls, which keeps them from going to school. Often the only water they can find is unsafe and unsanitary. Now Heifer International is changing all that by building solar-powered wells that bring life-sustaining water right to families' own backyards.

And that's just one way your Water For Life gift can help Heifer bring life-giving water to those in need.

With better access to water, families are also able to water their crops and livestock. This in turn leads to

greater yields that the family can sell, and their income increases tremendously.

By spreading the gift of clean water through a gift of a solar-powered well, water kiosks, irrigation systems, or treadle pumps, your Heifer donation can help more families!

This Mission Project will extend over several months. Please give when and if you are able.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Fred Groner

DEFINITION AND MEANING OF WORDS - VERY IMPORTANT IN BIBLE STUDY

During discussions in Men's Fellowship using our study guide, questions often arise concerning words, or specifically the definition or meaning of words. After all, the objective of our study group is to study and attempt to understand the meaning or definition of GOD's WORD.

All too often we hear people using certain words and wonder just what those people are talking about. Words mean different things to different people.

You will find when studying the BIBLE that GOD's definition and the worldly definition of words are often different.

The word "need" is a good example. We discussed the word "need" in Men's Fellowship. The first question one should ask when studying the BIBLE is what is GOD's definition of words. Mat 6:33 says "But seek you first the Kingdom of GOD, and His Righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you...."

GOD defines "need" in this passage. Man's FIRST need is actually Relationship with GOD. It is important to know that the word FIRST is significant. FIRST means most important - certainly more important than what is second! The world's definition of "need" is almost always, in one form or the other, money. The need of a person of the world is money - the need of a person of GOD is a Faith Relationship with GOD.

Christmas is a great example of a word with different meanings to different people. Christmas to the world is "Black Friday." Christmas to the Christian is Jesus Birth.

But within the context of GOD's word in Mat 6:33 which says we should seek FIRST the Kingdom of GOD, what gift should we give FIRST at Christmas? Is the answer money? Certainly not. What we should give at Christmas is exactly what we should seek as Christians. The answer is exactly the same -THE KINGDOM OF GOD!!! Our "need" as well as the "need" of the non-believing world is THE KINGDOM OF GOD. The Spirit of Christmas is not giving money, but THE KINGDOM OF GOD. The BIBLE says so!

STUDY ON!!

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

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY JANUARY 16, 2022

We are all family. When we walk past our neighbor who is hiding in plain sight, we limit the gifts and graces that our sisters and brothers in Christ bring to the table. We limit the experiences, the voices and the beloved community that take place through mutual sharing of gifts. With a special offering celebrating Human Relations Day, we join with United Methodists around the world, remembering that the size of the table of divine love is unlimited.

Across the United Methodist connection we come together to help bridge the gap between church and community by participating in an offering set aside for Human Relations Day. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this church wide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: all of God's children are important.

One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. On Human Relations Day, we join other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

In recognizing Human Relations Day, we are called to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. Our gifts are part of building beloved community

through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. Please give if you are able.

BIRTHDAYS

January

5 Dave Welch
10 Bonnie Green

February

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

ANNIVERSARIES

February

10 Jim & Bev Young

RECIPE CORNER

Cheddar and Onion Drop Biscuits

6 tablespoons (3/4 stick) cold unsalted butter, divided

1 large onion, finely chopped

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon sugar

1 teaspoon baking powder

3/4 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon dried basil

1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese

3/4 cup sour cream

2/3 cup milk

Preheat the oven to 425° F. Lightly grease a large baking sheet.

Melt 2 tablespoons of the butter in a skillet over moderate heat, add the onion, and cook for 9 to 10 minutes, or until light golden. Remove from the heat.

Combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and basil in a large bowl and whisk to mix. Cut the remaining 4 tablespoons of butter into 1/4 inch pieces, add to the dry ingredients, and, using a pastry blender or your fingers, cut or rub it in to make very small pieces. Add the cheese, mix, and make a well.

In a separate bowl, combine the sour cream, milk, and onions and stir. Pour into the well and stir with a wooden spoon until evenly combined; do not overmix. Set aside to rest for 3 to 4 minutes.

Scoop out the dough in ¼ to 1/3 cup portions and mound these on the baking sheet, leaving space between each one.

Bake for 15 to 17 minutes, or until the biscuits have crusty, dark golden highlights. Serve right away, if possible, or transfer to a cooling rack until serving.

Makes 12 to 14 biscuits.

Meatball Soup Linda Jones

Meatballs

1 ½ - 2 pounds ground beef
1 beaten egg
½ cup bread crumbs
1 medium potato finely chopped
¼ cup chopped onions
¼ cup milk
1 tablespoon snipped parsley
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon oil

Combine & shape into balls. Brown in oil. While meatballs are browning put into large pot:

28 ounces canned diced tomatoes
1 can condensed beef broth
2 cups water
2 medium carrots – sliced (about 1 cup)
2 medium potatoes – cut into ½ inch pieces (about 1 Cup)
1 stalk celery, chopped
¼ cup snipped parsley
1 envelope onion soup mix
½ teaspoon basil leaves
¼ teaspoon pepper
1 bay leaf

Add browned meatballs & simmer until vegies are done. Remove bay leaf.

A NEW YEAR'S PLAN

I tried to think of a clever new phrase
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New Year,
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.

And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice:

With each new dawn and close of day
Make new your resolve to trust and obey."

"Don't look back, caught in regret
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don't stare forward anchored by fear,
No, live in this moment, for I Am here."

"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by my strong hand.
Give me this one thing – our all in all;
Into my grace, let yourself fall."

So, at last, I'm ready, I see the way.
It's to daily follow, trust, and obey.
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,
To give Him my everything-all that I am.

-Mary Fairchild

PRAYER GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR

I will this year:

- be sensitive to the needs of my fellow man and actively look for ways to befriend him.
- become aware of man's suffering, get involved in his struggle, and comfort him in his sorrow.
- withhold judgment of my brother, and attempt to understand his thinking, his attitudes, his behavior.
- forgive those who have injured me; I will forgive even those who have hurt those I love.
- not close my eyes or pass by on the other side whenever there is need of my service, my friendship, or my presence.
- lift someone's spirits by giving a word of hope and encouragement.
- remember to be grateful to those who have been good Samaritans to me in the past, and who keep me from falling into the ditches of discouragement, depression and defeat.
- be a good Samaritan for the inner joy of serving, and because helping others is what the Golden Rule is all about.
- feel so much joy, experience so much growth, and receive such a blessing as a good Samaritan today, that I will be a good Samaritan again tomorrow.

-William Arthur Ward

LOVE:

Love is as warm among peasants as among kings.

Love always believes in miracles.

Nothing is so empty as a life without love.

The best interpreter of the love of God is love for man.

There is a love that never fails when earthly love fails.

Love is more than words, real love will show by giving.

To be loved is better than to be famous.

Love will endure when you keep it pure.

On occasion put your love in a mailbox.

To show your love for God, live for God.

Love encourages as it corrects and gives hope as it reproves.

The way to love anything or anybody is to realize that it could be lost.

A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it. “Not Gutenberg?” gasped the collector. “Yes, that was it!” “You idiot! You’ve thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!” “Oh, I don’t think this book would have been worth anything close that much,” replied the man. “It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther.”

Thomas Alva Edison was the guest of honor at a banquet. The master of ceremonies mentioned his many inventions, dwelling at length on the marvelous “talking machine.” The aged inventor slowly rose to his feet, smiled, and said gently to his audience, “I thank the gentleman for his kind remarks, but I must insist on a correction. God invented the talking machine. I only invented the first one that could be shut off.”

A guy in a taxi wanted to speak to the driver, so he leaned forward and tapped him on the shoulder. He 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.”

Why didn’t anyone tell me about this?

It was in the bulletin, the newsletter, and the Sunday email.

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 2ND
COMBINED SERVICE WITH
MITCHELLSVILLE @
MITCHELLSVILLE
10:00 AM**

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 9TH
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 16TH
POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP DINNER
12:15 PM**

**SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 13TH
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 13TH
POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP DINNER
12:15 PM**

**TUESDAY – MARCH 1ST
FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER
5:30 PM**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
@ AVOCA 7:00 PM**