

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held April 7, 2022 with 9 members present.

### Strategic Planning/Sound System

- Two remote microphones have been ordered

### Lay Leader

- Cindy will be filling in for Pastor Veronica Seely at Risingville & Campbell UMCs on April 24 – May 29
- Cindy will be filling in for Pastor Barre July 17 & July 24 while he attends Course of Study classes

### Worship

- May 1 – Native American Ministries offering
- May 8 – Mother’s Day
- May 29 – Ascension Sunday
- June 2-4 – Annual Conference @ Syracuse
- June 5 – Pentecost – Combined service with Kanona, Mitchellsville & Wheeler 10:30AM @ Avoca, Dish-to-pass after service. Please label any dish with nuts or onions included.
- Closure on dining room door has been adjusted
- Old Business – Church road sign replacement on hold, front door panic bar on hold, fire alarm connecting to Avoca Fire Dept will not be pursued at this time
- New Business – Person mowing parsonage lawn has added additional fee to cover gas costs
- Next meeting May 12

### 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
- Waiting for return of membership transfer letters for Sharon Blankenship and Erica Willis

- Pam Andrews has requested reinstatement of her membership

### Ramp Committee

- 627 ramps built since start of mission
- 1 ramp urgently needed
- Several ramps need to be removed

### Puppets

- Shelly Cagle will help Henry with May 22<sup>nd</sup> puppets

### Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Average attendance 8-10 each day

### Heifer “Water for Life” Well Mission

- \$5344 donated as of April 7<sup>th</sup>
- Ron will mail check for \$5250 for purchase of 7 wells
- Mission will be continued for several more months

## OLD BUSINESS

- Safe Sanctuary Policy – on hold
- Active Shooter Policy – on hold
- Have found a place to purchase take-out containers for Chicken BBQ and Pulled Pork dinners
- Drive-thru Pulled Pork Dinner tentatively scheduled for July 23 @ the church

## NEW BUSINESS

- Purchase of Memorial Bricks has been referred to Trustees
- Looking for alternate Sunday School teachers
- Approved for Alex Wasserman to place a “Give a Book/Take a Book” stand in the parsonage lawn next to the lighted sign
- Drive-thru Chicken BBQ scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup> @ the church

## FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant cards - \$260.56 thru April 7th

## CONCERTS

- August 18 (Thursday) – The Puffers, concert @ 3PM, dinner to follow
- December 10 (Saturday) – Dave Burdick, concert @ 3PM, dinner to follow

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **March 2021 – Ron Salles**

We continue to carry a modest 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.

On the Mission Fund side, the Heifer International Water for Life Project continues. We have raised enough to support seven wells and I have sent that portion in! This has exceeded our original goal of six wells! Praise God!!!! The campaign continues and I will keep you updated. We are also starting to build the reserves towards the Lighthouse mission.

Thank you and 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](http://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**

**TITHING CONFUSION:** Men's Fellowship continues to discuss the topics in the study guide "Treasures of the Transformed Life" having completed 38 of the 40 topics in the book. While the vast majority of the teachings in the guide is Christian based, there is one topic in the study guide which could leave the student confused about what is Christian practice and what is Jewish practice. The subject is tithing. The Jewish practice of tithing, surprisingly, came up in our Christian study guide and presented as a Christian practice. While the topic of tithing has historically been one of the most widely discussed topics in the Bible, why would a Christian author use the term tithing rather than the proper Christian term heartfelt giving?

The author states (page 205) "Now, as for those of us who regularly tithe and give offerings, we have to be careful that we don't let pride seep in, just because we're obeying GOD". This statement should generate confusion in the mind of Christian readers because he uses the term tithing without defining what he means by tithing. Well, of course, a tithe is 10%. The Webster dictionary definition of tithing is 10%, but shouldn't we as Christians go to the Bible, rather than Webster's dictionary, to learn the Biblical definition of tithing?

What does the Old Testament, the Gospels (Jesus), and the Epistles say about tithing?

Old Testament tithing dates back to Melchizedek where Abraham (Abram) only once gave 10% of the spoils of war to Melchizedek (Gen 14:20). While much is said throughout the Old Testament about tithing and its variations, Biblical tithing is defined by the Jewish Mosaic

Law. A study of Mosiac Law explains that tithing is not just giving 10% but requires giving in the range 20-30% in certain years and for certain purposes. The Jews, who were under the Law, must obey all of the tithing dictates of the Mosiac Law in order to please GOD, so Jews couldn't limit their tithing to 10%. So, tithing as defined by the Mosiac Law is different from the definition given for tithing in Webster's dictionary. In fact, study of the Mosiac Law shows that the basic meaning of tithing involves not money but food! Yes, the Jews tithed food and not money but not always. How confusing? When studying the Bible watch out for definition creep.

What does the Christian part of the Bible say about tithing?

The Christian part of the Bible (Romans through Philemon) says absolutely nothing about tithing. The reason is simple. After the cross, believers are no longer under the dictates of the Mosiac Law but under Grace (Rom 6:14). Since tithing is under the Law, Christians don't tithe (again, by the Mosiac Law definition of tithing) but give according to their heart (2Cor 9:6), and not by the Mosiac Law or any Law.

What does Jesus say about tithing during his earthly ministry? What Jesus said about tithing is interesting and even surprising. Jesus said nothing about not tithing simply because Jesus lived under the Mosiac Law. What Jesus said involved the Jews improperly tithing because of a wrong attitude. Jesus said give generously (Luke 21:4), heartfully (Luke 21:3), and secretly (Math 6:4). Jesus said the Jews obeyed the letter of the Mosiac Law but didn't obey the spirit of the Law. The Jews didn't give secretly but gave boastfully. Very interesting what Jesus said because after the cross we are no longer under the letter of the Law, but Jesus introduces us to that which is to come after the cross - the spirit of the Law. The meaning of not being under the Law but under Grace makes for good Bible study and discussion.

So, Christians under Grace who announce to the world that they tithe and give offerings are not doing the will of GOD. Announcing to the world that you tithe and give offerings is not being secret because you are telling the world

that you are giving at least 10% and the very announcement might be boasting according to Jesus!

What is wrong with giving 10%? Absolutely nothing. But don't think you are gaining favor with GOD by giving 10% just because the Jews gave 10%. We should not copy the Jews but learn from them.

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

### BIRTHDAYS

#### May

#### June

1 Glenn Davis	4 Maddie Comstock
7 Rosemary Putzig	6 Donna Miller
8 Raelynn Wheaton	13 Kathy Ballinger
11 Louise Hartman	16 Jack Stewart
12 Shelly Cagle	20 Cheyenne Capezza
17 Judy Wightman	20 Lois Daniels
27 Gary Weldy	21 Heather Dodds
29 Bill Thomas	27 Lynn Anderson
	30 Debra Dodds

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### May

- 3 Ron & Jane Salles
- 18 Glenn & Linda Davis
- 25 Dale & Marguerite English

#### June

- 8 Chuck & Shelly Cagle
- 15 Fred & Marge Wood

### RECIPE CORNER

#### **Creamy Pimiento Cheese**

- ½ lb extra sharp white cheddar cheese, shredded
- ½ lb med orange cheddar cheese, shredded
- 2/3 cup mayonnaise
- 3 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1/8 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1 jar (4 oz) drained & chopped pimientos

Combine all of the ingredients, except the pimientos, in a food processor. Pulse the mixture briefly and repeatedly until well blended but not pureed.

Add the pimientos and pulse until the mixture is well blended but not pureed. It should have some texture, with flecks of pimientos. Transfer to jars or allow the cheese to sit for at least a few hours before serving.

Makes 3 cups

### **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 1/4 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.

## **NATIVE AMERICAN MISSION SUNDAY May 1, 2022**

Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities.

An offering is taken on this day and is used to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the annual conferences, and Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities. Half of the donations collected remain within the Annual Conference to provide hope to children and youth, hope for a brighter future in impoverished communities and a voice to those who have felt voiceless for years.

## **National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 5th**

The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". The president is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

## **THE JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD Margaret K. Fraser**

Dear Christian mothers, sing your praise  
Through all your busy, happy days  
To God our Father, kind and good,  
For all the joys of motherhood.

For that wee babe with smiling charm  
That softly nestles on your arm;  
For childish laughter gay and sweet,  
And sounds of little scampering feet.

For that your precious merry mite  
Who walks with hand in yours held tight;  
And for the others older grown,  
Who've learned to proudly walk alone.

For blessings often mixed with tears  
As they mature through passing years;  
And that deep joy that naught can dim,  
When children give their hearts to Him.

Fear not the coming day to face,  
For God will give you strength and grace –  
And hers shall be a great reward  
Who trains her children for the Lord.

### MEMORIAL DAY

He can't come home,  
He's gone on home,  
He fell on foreign sod;  
He heard the call,  
He gave his all  
For country, home, and God.

He can't come home,  
He's gone on home,  
Where war clouds never rise,  
His day is done,  
New life begun  
In lovely Paradise.

He can't come home,  
He's gone on home,  
Where foxholes are no more.  
No anguish now,  
No fevered brow  
He's safe for evermore.

He can't come home,  
He's gone on home,  
Dear lad, so young, go fair;  
God's will is best – in Him we rest  
Until we meet up there.

### DRIVE-THRU CHICKEN BARBEQUE Chicken by "Avoca Smoka"

**Monday – May 30, 2022  
11:00 AM – 'till gone  
@ Avoca UMC**

**½ Chicken, Salt Potatoes, Baked Beans,  
Roll and Cookie**

**\$12.00**

**Tickets will be sold in advance. A limited  
number may be available the day of the  
BBQ. First come – First served**

**Sharron Heard is accepting donations  
for the purchase of the food.**

### PENTECOST June 5, 2022

For Christians, Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called, *the church*. Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Thus, Pentecost is the church's birthday.

The English word *Pentecost* is a transliteration of the Greek work *pentekostos*, which means *fifty*. It comes from the ancient Christian expression *pentekoste hemera*, which means *fiftieth day*.

But Christians did not invent the phrase *fiftieth day*. Rather, they borrowed it from Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday. This holiday was known as the Festival of Weeks, or more simply, Weeks (Shavuot in Hebrew). This name comes from an expression in Leviticus 23:16, which instructs people to count seven weeks or *fifty days* from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next holiday (pentekonta hemeras in the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture).

Shavuot was the second great feast in Israel's yearly cycle of holy days. It was originally a harvest festival (Exodus 23:16), but, in time, turned into a day to commemorate the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. This day became especially significant for Christians because, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, during the Jewish celebration of Shavuot/Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon his first followers, thus empowering them for their mission and gathering them together as a church.

### PENTECOST June 5, 2022 10:30 AM

**Combined Service with Avoca,  
Kanona, Mitchellsville and Wheeler  
Congregations  
@ Avoca UMC**

**Potluck Fellowship Dinner to Follow**

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

June 12, 2022

In Arizona border towns, communities facing social challenges are dramatically divided. In Liberian villages, citizens' human rights are being violated. In local U.S. communities, women and girls are being bought and sold against their will.

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issue
- Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad

Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit — of peace. Through your giving good news is proclaimed to—and experienced by—the poor. Thanks be to God!

## FATHER'S DAY

Rod Richards

On this Father's Day we recognize the vast spectrum of experience and the often-complicated feelings that surround such a celebration. We honor those fathers and father figures in our lives who have loved, supported, encouraged, and instructed us, and we seek to share these gifts with others.

We mourn with those who mourn the loss of a father and fathers who mourn the loss of a child, whether separated by death or estrangement. We support those for whom this day brings pain and sorrow, who suffered abandonment, neglect or abuse.

We support and celebrate the fathers in our midst who give of themselves to their children, recognizing all the strength and wisdom and stamina and love and time and honest introspection that fatherhood requires. We support those men who choose not to have children, yet who are present in loving and supportive ways to children, youth and adults alike. And we seek to honor

wherever we find ourselves today across this vast spectrum of experience and to feel the compassion that embraces us within this silence.

## PLANTING YOUR SPRING GARDEN

### For the Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant Three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce Be Faithful
2. Lettuce Be Kind
3. Lettuce Be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turnup For Meetings
2. Turnup For Service
3. Turnup To Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme For Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends

Water Freely With Patience And Cultivate With Love. There Is Much Fruit In Your Garden Because You Reap What You Sow.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

## MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

## MEMORIAL DAY

## DRIVE-THRU CHICKEN BBQ

Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

## PENTECOST

Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

## FLAG DAY

Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

## FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>