

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held August 11, 2022 with 9 members present.

### Strategic Planning/Sound System

- Two remote microphones have been ordered – delivery still delayed

### Lay Leader

- Annual Conference October 6-8. It will be virtual.

### Worship

- September 11 – Grandparents Day & first pancake breakfast
- October 2 – World Communion Sunday
- October 16 – Laity Sunday, Bill Snyder will give the message
- November 6 – All Saint's Day
- November 27 – First Sunday of Advent

### Trustee's

- Projects completed – parking lot resealed and recoated; lawnmower repaired; door stop replaced; LED lights installed in hallways, nursery and Sunday School rooms; replaced faucet and drain in Utility Room
- Projects pending – replace outside spickets at parsonage, replace two boards on parsonage porch, check feasibility of replacing damaged tiles at dining room doors with those of contrasting color, replace spicket by outside pantry door, repaint the edge of the sidewalk and shampoo carpet in Narthex
- New Business – approved Board of Elections to use the church August 23<sup>rd</sup>, approved District Committee on Ministries (DCOM) to use church October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, February 15<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup>, approved Risingville UMC to use church for Betty Dockstader's funeral dinner

### Men's Fellowship

- Men's Fellowship is struggling with 4-5 there each week
- One new member
- Great discussions
- Additional people always welcome.

### Membership Committee

- Current membership 82
- Joe Lawrence has been added to membership
- Four membership letters issued, no response, past due date, will be submitted for removal from membership at Church Charge Conference
- Nine membership letters will be sent to individuals that wished to remain members of AUMC but have not demonstrated any commitment to Church in last 5 years
- Seven membership letters will be sent to individuals that have not demonstrated any commitment to Church in last 2 1/2 years

### Ramp Committee

- No report

### Puppets

- Nothing new to report

### Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Average attendance 11-13 each day
- Excess funds will be used for Lighthouse Christmas

### Heifer "Water for Life" Well Mission

- \$6389 donated as of July 31st
- Mission will be continued for several more months

## OLD BUSINESS

- Safe Sanctuary Policy – on hold
- Active Shooter Policy – on hold
- Pulled pork dinner for "Water for Life" project re-scheduled to October 15<sup>th</sup>
- A scout maybe interested in updating the Memorial Bricks as his Eagle Scout project
- Identifying alternate Sunday School teachers still in progress.
- Two scouts approved for tuition support completed their 3 weeks of training to help them meet requirements to become Eagle Scouts

## NEW BUSINESS

- \$750 in donations received to purchase outdoor cameras for the church.

- Dream Session – please complete form included in August 14 Bulletin and return to the Church

## FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant cards - \$671.76 thru August 18th
- Pulled Pork Dinner – October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Drive -Thru 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Presale Tickets Only - \$10.00 each  
All proceeds for Heifer International’s “Water for Life” project

## CONCERTS

- December 10 (Saturday) – Dave Burdick, concert @ 3PM, dinner to follow

## TREASURER’S REPORT July 2022 – Ron Salles

We continue to carry a reserve in the General Fund. The size of the reserve fluctuates from month to month, depending on the income and debts occurred. 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 continue to pay our bills on time.

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. That exceeds our original goal of six wells. This campaign will continue for a few more months, but will take a backseat to the Lighthouse mission for a few months. We are building the reserves towards the Lighthouse mission this fall.

Through the Campership fund, we were able to assist two Boy Scout campers this summer! Praise God! The Campership fund is mainly earned from the bottle and can drive, and some direct donations.

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).

**CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF**, it wasn’t an apple on a tree that got us banished from paradise. It was the pair on the ground.

## 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

**HEART SELF-TEST:** Men's Fellowship started a new Study Guide - "Favorite Bible Passages." The study guide consists of 26 lessons about half concerned with the Old and half with the New Testament. This should be interesting because there is a difference between the Old and New Testament books of the Bible. The difference between Old and New Testaments make for good Bible discussion. The difference can be seen after the death of Jesus and with the indwelling of the HOLY Spirit in the HEART of believers as written in the New Testament (John 14:16).

The prophets Jeremiah (31:31-33) and Ezekiel (36:26-27) both say in the Old Testament that

while the 10 commandments of the Old Covenant given through Moses were written in stone, a New Covenant will be written in your "HEART". Apparently the Biblical definition of the word heart is not just an organ that pumps blood through a person's body, but an organ which pumps the will of GOD throughout a person's body. The mechanism by which this happens as told by Jesus in the New Testament is the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit in HIS absence will be the believers guide. GOD chose to now place HIS will in the believer's "HEART" via the HOLY SPIRIT. All believers and only believers will be indwelt with the HOLY SPIRIT. The Holy Spirit will guide believers in relationship with GOD. The believers HEART will now make known GOD's will and without the need for a list of Laws which was the case for those (mainly Jews) under the LAW of the Old Testament!

How do believers know that their HEART has been indwelt with the Holy Spirit? Are there self-tests you can do to find out if the Holy Spirit is residing in you? After all, Paul says (II Cor 13:5) that believers should examine themselves. Is there a way we can examine ourselves and see if we are indeed indwelt with the Holy Spirit and possess a REAL HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLED HEART? This question makes for good Bible study and discussion.

One situation which was discussed many times in Men's Fellowship involves a real-world situation of walking down Main Street Avoca and observing what is clearly a wallet laying unattended in the middle of the sidewalk, obviously lost by the owner. You see the wallet. What is your immediate reaction? What as a Christian are you to do about the wallet? Do you reach for your list of do and don't laws to see if you can claim the wallet as your own and thereby reap any monetary rewards? If this is the case, you must question your Christianity. If instantly you react to secure the wallet and search out its owner and that is your only motivation you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and are doing GOD's will. Just like the parable of the good Samaritan this effort might cost you time and money. If in your mind your instant reaction to finding the wallet is to conjure up a plan to profit by your finding the wallet, perhaps by removing and keeping any money in the wallet, the Holy Spirit is not indwelt in you,

you don't have a REAL HOLY SPIRIT-FILLED HEART, and you should be reluctant to call yourself a Christian!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP meets almost every Sunday at 9:30am. Welcome.

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

The World Communion Sunday is one of six Special Giving Sundays of the United Methodist Church. This offering funds graduate racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the U.S. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training Programs. Please give if you are able.

## ALL SAINT'S DAY

On November 6<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the lives of our family and friends who passed during the period November 1, 2021 and October 31, 2022. Please give Dorene the names of all you would like remembered by **Sunday, October 30, 2022.**

**A COMPANY OWNER** was asked how she motivated her employees to be on time. She smiled and replied, "It's simple. I have 30 employees and 29 free parking spaces. One is paid parking.

## LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS NEEDS – 2022 Jim Young

It's a bit early to talk about Christmas. However, this year we have additional unknown situations (gas prices, inflation, absence of monthly stimulus payments for children, etc.) that impact our planning for the Lighthouse Christmas.

This year's Lighthouse Christmas will be **Saturday, December 10th.** The distribution will be a totally drive-thru morning event.

As in past years, each family will receive a banana box top and a bottom filled with food as well as a bag containing paper products. Each family will also receive a \$20 gift card from Tops or Save-A-Lot to purchase meat for their Christmas dinner. In lieu of the gift shop, each family will receive a gift box of household goods, towels, gift items,

tools, etc. Families with children will receive toys for each child. Each child will also receive a tee shirt.

If you, or anyone you know who regularly attends the Avoca UMC or lives in the Avoca School District can use extra help this Christmas, please leave their name and mailing address on Dorene's desk. Invitations will go out as soon as possible with a reply date in early October.

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. Please be sure the "best used by" date is June 2023 or beyond.

### FOOD BASKET SUGGESTIONS

**SEPTEMBER** Pancake & Waffle Mix (2#), Cereal (18 oz.) Pancake Syrup (24 oz.), Peanut Butter (16-18 oz.), Kleenex (flat box for easier packing), Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Sauce, Misc. Tomatoes

**OCTOBER** Cereal (18 oz.), Stuffing, Chunky Soup, Condensed Soup, Ramen Soup (6 pk.)

**NOVEMBER** Cake mix, Frosting, Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix, Tuna

### GIFT BASKET NEEDS

Cash and Walmart gift cards will be used to purchase the items in the family gift boxes. To extent possible, please order your gift cards from the Merchant Card program through Dorene to earn funds for extra church activities. A cash/gift card collection container will be placed on the table inside the sanctuary door.

We sincerely appreciate your support of this local Mission project. Because of you, many families living in the Avoca School District or who regularly attend the Avoca UMC will have a nicer Christmas during these uncertain times.

**A MINISTER** told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17. The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read

Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

### BIRTHDAYS

#### September

6 Wink Slayton  
17 Dale English  
17 Kaylen Slayton  
23 Donna Wright

#### October

1 Don Sorge  
3 Nancy Moir  
5 Michelle Covell  
9 Sheila Martin  
11 Mary Cagle  
16 Donna Sick  
17 Bev Young  
21 Evelyn Barkley  
21 Dorene Pierce  
22 Bill Warner  
23 Melanie Peck  
31 Fred Wood  
31 Larry Wise

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### September

1 Gary & Mary Weldy  
9 Wink & Rita Slayton  
16 Paul & Lois Daniels  
26 Stephen & Debra Dodds

#### October

22 Al & Bev Belanger

### RECIPE CORNER

#### STRAWBERRY PRETZEL SALAD

Dorene Pierce

#### Ingredients:

2 cups pretzels, crushed  
2 Tbl sugar (or 1 Tbl Splenda)  
¾ cup butter, melted  
1 – 8oz cream cheese  
1 cup sugar (or ½ cup Splenda)  
1 – 8oz Cool Whip  
1 – 6oz strawberry Jell-O  
2 cups boiling water  
1 – 10 oz pkg frozen strawberries or fresh

#### Directions:

Mix pretzels, sugar and butter. Press into 13x9 baking dish. Bake at 400 degrees for 7 minutes. Cool.

Blend cream cheese, sugar, and Cool Whip. Spread over pretzel mixture. Chill.

Dissolve Jell-O in boiling water. Add strawberries. Chill until partially set

Pour over cheese mixture. Chill until firm.

## OREO EARTHQUAKE CAKE

### Ingredients:

1 box (15.25 oz) chocolate cake mix, mixed according to package directions  
24 Oreo cookies  
1 package (8 oz) cream cheese, softened  
½ cup (1 stick) butter, melted  
2 ½ cups confectioners' sugar  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
½ tsp kosher salt

### Topping:

2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1 cup (10 cookies) Oreos, crumbled  
Chocolate ice cream, optional

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease 9x13 pan with cooking spray  
Prepare cake batter according to directions  
Layer bottom of pan with Oreo cookies  
Spread cake batter over the top. Set aside  
Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine the cream cheese, butter, confectioner's sugar, vanilla and salt  
Beat with a mixer until combined. Dollop the mixture over the cake and use a knife or skewer to create a marble swirl  
Sprinkle chocolate chips and crumbled Oreos on top and bake for 55-60 minutes, or until center is set  
Serve warm with ice cream, if desired

## YOU THINK ENGLISH IS EASY??

I think a retired English teacher was bored... This took a lot of work to put together !!

- The bandage was wound around the wound
- The farm was used to produce produce
- The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse
- We must polish the Polish furniture
- He could lead if would get the lead out
- The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert
- Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present
- A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum

- When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes
- I did not object to the object
- The insurance was invalid for the invalid
- There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row
- They were too close to the door to close it
- The buck does funny things when does are present
- A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line
- The wind was too strong to wind the sail
- Upon seeing the tear in the painting, I shed a tear
- I had to subject the subject to a series of tests

Let's face it – English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple or pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fried in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand and work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and end and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which you house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by

filling it out and which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why when the stars are out, they are visible but when the lights are out they are invisible.

PS – Why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with "quick"?

### **AUTUMN BLESSINGS**

**Deborah Ann**

Autumn brings to the soul relief,  
as hot Summer days, slip to an end  
God sent the season for weary hearts  
to restore, repair and mend.

Unlike the Autumn trees,  
that shed their changing leaves  
God sent the season for failing hearts  
to adhere, embrace and cleave.

Just as with the Autumn winds,  
there comes a new refreshing rain  
God sent the season for fraying hearts  
to increase, grow and gain.

The Autumn sun is slow to climb,  
and dips much earlier into the night  
God sent the season for sleepy hearts  
to rise, shine and awake in His light.

God gave to us this Autumn season,  
so we could have a respite and rest  
for it is the season for our worried souls  
to see how much we are blessed!

**THE JUDGE** said to the defendant. "I thought I told you I never wanted to see you in here again."  
"Your honor," the defendant said, "that's what I tried to tell the police, but they wouldn't listen."

### **DUST IF YOU MUST**

**Rose Milligan**

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better,  
To paint a picture or write a letter,  
Bake a cake or plant a seed,  
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,  
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,  
Music to hear and books to read,  
Friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's not there,  
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,  
This day will not come 'round again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
Old age will come and it's not always kind.  
And when you go and (go you must)  
You, yourself, will make more dust.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**GRANDPARENT'S DAY**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2ND**

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH**

**PULLED PORK DINNER  
DRIVE-THRU 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
PRESALE TICKETS ONLY - \$10.00 EACH  
PROCEEDS FOR HEIFER INTERNATIONAL  
"WATER FOR LIFE" PROJECT**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH**

**LAITY SUNDAY**

