

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The regularly scheduled meeting was held December 8, 2022 with 9 members present.

### Lay Leadership

- On hiatus until Fall 2023

### Strategic Planning/Sound System

- All planned components have been completed
- Live-streaming was “tabled” for now

### Lay Leader

- Cindy Gottschall attended “Teaching Biblical Faith”
- Mountain View District is making Lay Servant classes open to everyone
- Cindy Gottschall has been assigned to the MVD Lay Servant Committee

### Worship

- January 1 – Epiphany Sunday
- January 8 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday
- January 8 – Undecorate church following the service
- February 21 – Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
- February 22 – Ash Wednesday

### Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

- No meetings have been held

### Men’s Fellowship

- Men’s Fellowship is encouraged with 5-6 there each week
- Great discussions
- Additional people always welcome

### Finance Committee

- Special thanks to Ron for doing the job of AUMC Treasurer
- Meeting will be held January 19, 2023 to finalize the 2023 Budget

### Membership Committee

- Current membership is 79

### Ramp Committee

- No. 655 completed
- 6 ramps are pending
- Received \$1645 from Office of the Aging’s Hornell Partners for Growth

### Puppets

- Peg Guiles donated a “puppet of color”

### Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Average attendance 10-12 each day
- \$500 in excess funds donated to Lighthouse Christmas

### Heifer “Water for Life” Well Mission

- \$5250 for 7 wells has been transferred to Heifer International
- \$6798 donated as of December 8
- Motion was made and seconded to increase the total to \$7500 from the Mission fund, enough to fund 10 wells

## OLD BUSINESS

- Safe Sanctuary Policy – on hold
- A scout is interested in updating the Memorial Bricks as his Eagle Scout project
- Identifying alternate Sunday School teachers is on hold
- Security cameras for the church and parsonage have been installed.

## NEW BUSINESS

- \$100 was sent to Sheriff Department’s funding request for their Child Safety program
- Postage stamp cost will increase in January 2023. Ron will determine if he needs to purchase any at current cost.
- Administrative Council members will survey individuals to determine if the majority want to continue having soup and sandwich lunch on Thursday mornings after Bible Study during Lent
- Motion was made and seconded to give \$1000 each to two neighboring churches within MVD that are struggling to meet their Shared Ministry obligations. Money will come from the Mission fund.

## FUNDRAISERS

- Merchant and Tops cards - \$1354.59 total for the year
- \$1000 spent for the year for concerts and food
- Many thanks to everyone who participated in this project this year.

## CONCERTS

- August 24 (Thursday) – The Puffers, time to be determined with picnic dinner for AUMC congregation to follow concert

## Trustees Report for November/ December 2022 Meeting Submitted by Bill Heard

Members Present for Nov 10, 2022 meeting: Bill Snyder, Janet English, Al and Bev Belanger, Gary Weldy, Fred and Marge Wood, and Pastor Barre Butts.

- Fred Wood made a motion, and it was approved to consolidate the monies in the church CDs and move to a higher interest account. This has been completed at Five Star Bank in Dansville.
- LED light bulb replacements have continued with the goal of total building replacement.
- The Narthex carpet has been cleaned.
- Quotes for air conditioning in the Sanctuary and the Narthex were received from Keeler Services. Additional quotes and a review will be completed in the spring to assess further action.
- Two boards on the parsonage front porch were replaced.
- Replacement of broken window in Pastor Barre's office was completed
- The parsonage furnace was serviced.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2023.

### Treasurer's Report November 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, but most of the time there is enough working capital to keep our bills paid as they are received. 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. We have also paid our ministry shares in full to the conference for 2022! Praise God!

On the Mission Fund side, our Heifer International Water for Life Project concluded. Early on we have raised enough to support

seven wells and I have sent that portion in. That exceeded our original goal of six wells. Over the course of the campaign we raised enough money to fund a total of ten wells! Praise God! And thank you!!

The Lighthouse Mission has distributed this year's giveaway.

The Campership Fund is mainly earned from the empty bottle and can drive, and some direct donations. There is a very modest reserve.

The Ramp Mission, aka, The Ramp Guys have partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension, FLXGives, and GiveGab, in an effort to raise enough funds to complete the remaining ramps on Glenn's list. We received enough to fund one ramp. This was less than we were hoping for, but any help is welcomed.

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.

Our new microphones are working great! Praise God!

I have had a couple of Sundays with issues that have prevented me from publishing through DVD and YouTube. I believe I have put into place some protocols that should prevent these issues in the future. If you do receive a DVD with no sound, or very low sound, please let me know. Please accept my apology for any inconvenience you have experienced.

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**

LANGUAGE OF THE LORD - Many people attempting to study the Bible have a problem understanding the meaning of the teachings of Jesus. The problem is a problem of word translation. The words spoken by Jesus should be interpreted for their spiritual meaning and not their worldly (secular) meaning. Simply, Webster's dictionary does not apply to understanding Jesus' words. This makes Jesus' teachings difficult to understand.

Bible readers must know the language of Jesus and the only way to learn the language of Jesus is through constant Bible study and this may take years. For example, words such as born-again, lost, help, saved, light, living-water, love, etc. as used by Jesus must be known for their spiritual meaning as defined by Jesus himself in the Bible. For example, the word born-again used by Jesus in his conversation with Nicodemus (John 3:3) confused Nicodemus. Nicodemus knew a person could not be born again for a second time and as a result Nicodemus didn't know what Jesus was talking about. Nicodemus didn't know the language of Jesus.

Also in the Bible, Jesus' use of the word lost does not mean that a person is physically lost in this world, but it means that a person has no spiritual relationship with Jesus and that person is living in a wrong manner. The word help is interesting because the worldly definition of help almost always means money, but Jesus' definition of help is not money, but faith relationship help. Many, many other examples can be cited in the Bible.

Thus, When trying to study the Bible you must first learn the language of Jesus and this knowledge will allow a proper spiritual translation of Jesus words and a better understanding of Jesus' teachings. Let scripture explain scripture but beware of false prophets who lead to false translation (Math 7:15).

Men's Fellowship meets almost every Sunday at 9:30am. Come and learn the language of Jesus.

## **LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS – 2022**

**Jim Young**

The 22nd Annual Lighthouse Christmas was the best to date. Eighty-three local families responded to our invitation. By noon, December 10<sup>th</sup>, all had come to pick up their food and gift boxes. There were no "no-shows" - a first.

Jim Young heads the Lighthouse Team of Sharron, Janet, Amy, Vicki, Michelle, Michele and Carol. We are blessed by dozens of others who donate funds & food, who shop for us, who come to help pack boxes, and who come Lighthouse Christmas Day to help with the distribution. We could not do this mission without the generous support of everyone in the AUMC congregation. We also thank our Boy Scout Troop 32 for conducting the Scouting for Food Drive and for loading the boxes in our guests' cars.

Two major Lighthouse Christmas changes were implemented which simplified the process and were appreciated by both volunteers and recipients: The distribution was totally drive-thru and we didn't have the gift shop.

With the resources you made available to us, each family received a top and a bottom of a banana box of food, a bag of paper supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex,), a Bible, a calendar and a \$20 Tops Market gift card to purchase meat for their Christmas dinner.

## RECIPE CORNER

### **Creamy White Chicken Chili**

Pastor Barre Butts

#### **Ingredients:**

1 pound boneless chicken breasts, cut into ½ inch cubes  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 and ½ teaspoons garlic powder  
1 tablespoon canola oil  
2 cans (15.5 oz) great northern beans, rinsed & drained  
1 can (14.5 oz) chicken broth  
2 cans (4 oz) chopped green chiles  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon ground cumin  
1 teaspoon dried oregano  
½ teaspoon pepper  
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper  
1 cup sour cream  
½ cup heavy whipping cream  
Optional: tortilla chips, shredded cheddar cheese, sliced seeded jalapeno pepper

#### **Directions:**

In a large saucepan, sauté the chicken, onion and garlic powder in oil until chicken is no longer pink. Add beans, broth, chiles and seasonings. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer uncovered, for 30 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in sour cream and heavy cream. If desired, top with tortilla chips, cheese and jalapenos.

### **Boston Crème Poke Cake**

#### **Ingredients:**

1 box yellow cake mix (plus additional ingredients required)  
2 (5.1-oz) packs of instant vanilla pudding  
4 c. cold milk  
2 c. chocolate chips  
1 c. heavy cream

#### **Directions:**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Butter a 9-x-13inch pan and sprinkle with flour. Prepare cake mix according to box instructions. Pour into prepared baking dish and bake until a toothpick inserted in the middle of the cake comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Cool the cake completely.

In addition, each family received a gift box with two sets of towels, a gift for each adult, toys for each child, and a hooded sweatshirt for each family member.

The families we served ranged in size from one (1) to eleven (11) members. The estimated average cost per family was \$105.00.

Thank you for your support of the Lighthouse Christmas mission project. Because of your generosity, eight-three (83) families, one hundred ninety-three (193) individuals had a better Christmas this year. Each of us is blessed for being able to help others during this time of year.

## 2023 UMC HUMAN RELATIONS

### DAY SUNDAY:

Human Relations Day Sunday celebration is **January 15, 2023**. This offering is collected the Sunday before the observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and supports Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Service and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs. Special envelopes will be placed in the January 16<sup>th</sup> bulletin to collect funds for Human Relations Sunday – a church wide Special Sunday of the UMC. Please give if you are able.

### Birthdays

#### January

5 Dave Welch  
9 Sharon Blankenship  
11 Ron Rogers  
25 Erica Wasserman

#### February

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

### Anniversaries

#### January

#### February

10 Jim & Bev Young

**A five-year-old** boy sat and listened attentively to his Sunday School teacher. When she asked what Jesus said to His disciples at the Last Supper, the youngster answered. "Get on this side of the table if you want your picture taken!"

When the cake is cool, poke big holes across entire surface of the cake using the rounded end of the wooden spoon. Combine pudding mix and milk in a medium bowl and whisk until the mixture just begins to thicken. Pour over the cake and spread with a spatula to make sure the pudding pours into the holes. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.

After the cake has been refrigerated for 2 hours, make the ganache. Put chocolate chips in a medium glass bowl and set aside. Meanwhile, bring heavy cream to a simmer in a small saucepan. When bubbles start to break the surface, pour the hot cream over the chocolate chips and whisk until the mixture is smooth. Pour the ganache over the pudding layer of the cake and serve.

### PREPARE FOR WINTER

- get food and medicines before the storm approaches - don't forget pet food and drugs. Icy roads may prevent us from going anywhere for a day or two.
- make sure you have batteries for flashlights and other tools.
- if you have a fireplace, make sure you have the D batteries that go in the lighter.
- solar-powered outside pathway lights work well indoors also. Just recharge them by placing them in sunlight during the day, and then they can provide light in the evenings inside your house.
- keep the frig door closed as much as possible.
- if we are without power long enough to warm up the inside of the frig, then your garage may be cold enough to store food.
- if you have medical equipment that requires power, have a plan in place for the blackout.
- If you need to charge your cell phone battery, you can use your car if you have the adapter for the car. If you need to start the car to recharge its battery, you **MUST** open the garage door. If you don't know how to open the garage door without power, ask a neighbor **NOW**.
- try to keep at least half a tank of gas if a winter storm is coming.
- Make sure your medical forms are updated (it's the meds that change most often), and place them in that red plastic envelope on the frig.

- Make sure your Emergency Contact Forms are correct, and that you've shared them with your neighbors and relatives.
- Make sure your offspring/family know who to call when they can't reach you. This list should include some of your neighbors. Perhaps you can make a mutual support agreement with some neighbors - their kids can call you and your kids can call them.
- If you have a dog, place a tarp on the ground next to the patio. Weight it down so it does not blow away. Once the snow and ice stop, remove the tarp. Your dog will love his ice-free bathroom

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Throughout the New Year, and each step of the way,

May Christ be your portion, your joy and your stay.

With God's precious precepts your daily delight  
To lead and encourage in paths that are right.

"The Lord is my Shepherd," how precious the word!

He'll lead in green pastures, His promise is heard.  
"Beside the still waters" – what comfort and rest!  
What peace there is found upon Jesus' breast.

His "goodness and mercy," each day may you prove,

His comforting presence, His infinite love!  
With richest compassions, each morning anew,  
May multiplied mercies be showered on you!

"My cup runneth over," His grace so abounds,  
That fullest enjoyment in Jesus is found.

"The Lord is my portion," this may your soul say,  
And you will be happy each step of the way.

- *Lois Beckwith*

**A young** boy said to his father, "Dad, I know what the Bible means." His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know! "Okay, said his father, "So, Son, what does the Bible mean? "That's easy Daddy, it stands for **Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.**"

## DAFFYNITIONS

**HEREDITY:** Something you believe in when your child's report card is all A's.

**DEFICIT:** What you have when you haven't as much as when you had nothing.

**SNOW TIRES:** Those wonderful things you put on just after the first blizzard of late Autumn and take off just before the last one of early Spring.

**DREAMER:** A man who married his secretary, thinking he'll continue to dictate to her.

**PEACE:** That luxury between the children's bedtime and your own.

**RINGLEADER:** The first in a big family to take a bath on a Saturday night.

**PROCRASTINATOR:** One who puts off until tomorrow the things he's already put off until today.

### SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence. 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.

Have a good day and live your life like these six stories. Remember – Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

**One day** our little girl came home from her third-grade class all upset. We couldn't figure out what was bothering her, so we called the school. Her

teacher explained, "Amanda was in class today and I told the students that today we're going to learn how to do cursive. When I looked at Amanda, I noticed that she was crying and was very fretful, so I asked her what was wrong?" She said, "My Daddy is a preacher and he won't let me curse!"

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST</b> <b>EPIPHANY SUNDAY</b>
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH</b> <b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY</b>
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH</b> <b>PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b> <b>8:00 AM - 10:00 AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH</b> <b>PLEASE STAY TO HELP</b> <b>TAKE DOWN OUR</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS</b>
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH</b> <b>HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY</b>
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST</b> <b>BOY SCOUT DRIVE-THRU</b> <b>SPAGHETTI DINNER</b>
<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH</b> <b>PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b> <b>8:00 AM - 10:00 AM</b>
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH</b> <b>BOY SCOUT DRIVE-THRU</b> <b>SPAGHETTI DINNER</b>
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST</b> <b>FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER</b> <b>5:30 PM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>

