

Dear Family at Avoca UMC:

May 2023

“A group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood, or adoption, constituting a single household” is Britannica’s definition for family. I usually extend the meaning to kinship, meaning all those I am related to. My great-niece, Katie, her husband, Josef, and their 10-month-old son visited me for a few days recently. Katie was excited to sleep in a bed that used to be at my dad’s house. Her mom, Tina, and sister, Abby, would come to Bath to work at the fair and stayed at Dad’s. We had a great time sharing memories, telling family stories, and being entertained by the little guy.

We are coming up to Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. The Worship Committee has decided to send donations to missions again this year rather than buy another bookmark or trinket you probably won’t use. Any mothers present on Mother’s Day will vote from three suggested options, and the same for fathers on Father’s Day. It’s one more way that AUMC can care for others rather than ourselves.

Another way of looking at family is our church family. We get to choose this family! We surround ourselves with other people who want to know God better, know the Bible better, and learn how to bring God’s kingdom right here, right now. We love each other. Sometimes we cry together; sometimes we laugh together. Sometimes we celebrate together; sometimes we disagree. We also worship together and work together. None of our missions would be possible without the cooperation of many people. Lighthouse Christmas is a year-round project. The Ramp Guys work most of the year. The worship service takes several people to prepare and all to participate. Concerts, BBQs, breakfasts, and other activities require many hands.

I appreciate all the work that gets done because of your faith. We truly live out the saying, “We are the hands and feet of Christ in the world today.” Are we perfect? Of course not, we’re human. Is there room for change and growth? You bet! God is not finished with us yet. Every day that God blesses us with, God has a plan for us. There are new people to meet, new people to share our faith with, new people for us to minister to, and new people to minister to us. Praise be to God! God is good, all the time!

God has exciting new adventures in store for our church family. Some we’re planning for; others will be a surprise to us. But nothing surprises God! May our decisions be in accord with God’s Will, and may our ears and hearts be open to God’s leading in our kinship families and in our family of faith. And don’t forget to **Bee A Disciple!**



Pastor Barre