



**First United Methodist Church**

*Welcome! We're glad that you are here.*

*To all who need comfort; all who need friendship;*

*all who are lonely and need companionship;*

*all who want sheltering love, all who sin*

*and need a Savior; and whosoever will*

*—we open wide our doors and say, “Come; let us worship together.”*

10:15 am Sunday Worship February 23, 2025

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLE Joe Pasch

MUSIC TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS Vivian Eaton

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Deeann Kramer

L: Jesus teaches us, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” But who are the others?

**P: Our enemies and friends, family and strangers.**

L: Jesus teaches us, “Be merciful as your Father is merciful.” But what is mercy?

**P: To act compassionately and help without expecting anything in return.**

L: Jesus teaches us, “Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” But how do we forgive?

**P: By recognizing enemies, friends, family, strangers, and ourselves as people needing compassion.**

L: Let us worship God, who loves us and empowers us to love one another with mercy and compassion.

**P: Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*HYMN # 89 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

\*OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Deeann Kramer

**Holy Jesus, you call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not. You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us. We want the easy way, but You have given us the hard path. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You, to allow ourselves at times to stumble, to live the hard way so that we might fully experience Your love, grace, and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others. In Your name, we pray. Amen.**

**THE APOSTLE’S CREED #881**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S TIME Esther Losh

SCRIPTURE Psalm 37:1-11 & 39-40 (NRSVUE) Deeann Kramer

GOSPEL Luke 6:27-36 (NRSVUE) Pastor Fernando

L: The Word of God for the People of God

**P: Thanks be to God**

VIDEO “Do Something” by Matthew West

MESSAGE “The Challenge of our Faith” Pastor Fernando

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS (message Pastor 773-971-7208)

PRAYER FOR PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERING OURSELVES

\*DOXOLOGY #95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Merciful God, who calls us to love beyond measure, we offer**

**these gifts as a sign of our commitment to your teachings. Help us love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and bless those who curse us. May our offerings bring healing and hope, reflecting your boundless grace in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN #2223 “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

\*GOING FORTH TO THE WORLD Vivian Eaton

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Sandy Froehlich, Glen White, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling’s friend), Herb, Sandy & Ben Pratt, Lexi Tsoukalas (Molly’s great niece), Debbie Bilik (Janet Morlock’s friend), Scarlett Huebner, Chrissy Sullivan, Angie (Paula’s friend), Roger Furrow, Eli (Bob & Lavona’s grandson), Tinslee, Ed & Barb Jepsen, Mary (Belandar) Klein, Howard Nichols, John Jachino, Kristin (Bob & LaVona Grissinger’s granddaughter), Alyssa Volkers, Lisa (LaVona’s friend), Jill (Melinda Dykema’s daughter), Susan Foltz (organist at Mt. Carroll UMC), Denise Curtis, LaVona Grissinger, Iola McCutcheon (Tim Cavanagh’s friend), Karen Burcham & Kandi (Paul Mayer’s sisters), Beth (LaVona’s colleague), the Norman family, Dan Zambon (uncle of Kim Gonzalez), Pat Kemp, Denise Curtis, Jon & Jody Kragle (Dianne Percy’s friends), Melinda Dykema, Dave Miller (Brigit Jepsen’s boyfriend’s father), Mary & Phil Nylín (house fire), Karen Hoffman’s cousins (house fire), John Norse, Howie Von Haden (LaVona’s brother), Rita Mitchell, Jackie Walker, Ron Miller, Betty Hoertz Hottenstein, Amy Hanson, Jamie Harkness Townsend, Elyssa (Bonnie’s daughter), baby Wesley and family, Myrna Handel, Paul Mayer, Vivian Eaton, Bob Grissinger, Brian Wallace, Ron Hastings, Jaime (Paula’s daughter), Mia (Paula’s co-worker) Christine Pasch, Baby Adrian, Julie Brunner (Linda Jachino’s cousin), Martha White, Rhonda Eickert, Tim Cavanagh, Thomas James (LeaAnn & Tom Michel’s grandson), Beverly & family (Emily Medley’s cousin), Christine Jensen, Vanessa (Bob & LaVona’s daughter), Bill Eyerly (Cori Moore’s dad), Charlene Mayer, James Gonzalez, the family of Louise Brouillard, the Lars Colgan family, and for closure for the family of Jackson Kradle.

**Our shut-ins:** Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner, Steve Yenney, Brenda Hamm, Janice Wilt, Mary Ellen Dreger, Herb, Sandy & Ben Pratt, Florence Bevins-Powell.

Our country & government; Military Personnel & their families; the safety of Ukrainians & end of wars; Haiti; Syria; Israel; the Gaza Strip; peace in the Middle East; snow, cold temperatures; the towns, families, students, school administrators, and those who experience everyday violence and their families.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- February 23 - Christy Clemons
- 23 – Susan Michelle Jepsen
- 24 - Jeff Andersen
- 25 - Josh Hartman
- 28 - Diane Brinkmeier
- 28 - Denise Curtis
- 28 - Burt & Kathie Prins (1976)

CALENDAR

Monday, Feb 24  
8:30 am to 11:30 am – Office open  
1 to 3 pm – Sewing Ladies  
2 pm – Choir Practice  
3 pm – JOY Recap meeting

Tuesday, Feb 25 (Pastor out of office)  
9 am to 12 noon – Office open

Wednesday, Feb 26  
8:30 am to 11:30 am – Office open

Thursday, Feb 27 Office Closed

Friday, Feb 28  
8:30 am to 11:30 am - Office open

Saturday, March 1  
8:15 am – UM Men Spring Communion Service  
at Harmony UMC in Freeport, IL

Sunday, March 2 (Mardi Gras)  
8:30 am – Prayer group  
9 am – Adult & Youth Sunday School  
10:15 am – Worship  
11:15 am – Coffee hour  
5 to 6:15 pm – Youth Group

WORSHIP HELPERS

	March 2	March 9
Acolyte	Tyson Speer	Faith Gonzalez
Liturgist	Joe Michels	Paula Mayer
Counter	Molly Andersen	Rhonda Law
Verifier	Karen Hoffman	Tom Michels
Coffee Hour	Deeann Kramer	UM Men
Greeter	Worship cmte	Worship cmte
Ushers	Worship cmte	Worship cmte

Last Week’s Attendance: 64 + 2 dogs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**West Carroll Food Pantry** - is in need of donations along with the Savanna Food Pantry. For every dollar you donate they can buy \$8 of food. You can designate on your offering envelope if you would like to make a monetary donation, just specify which pantry and how much. Thank you!

**The Blessing Basket** - Thank you for all your donations! Please consider supplying a bottle of shampoo, deodorant, or body wash this month.

**The Women's Group** - is asking you to bring clean and dry plastic bags. The group will make sleeping mats out of them for homeless people. You can drop them off in a box in the sewing room at church.

**Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting** – is cancelled through Lenten season.

**Weekly Bible Study** – is cancelled through Lenten season.

**KIDS KARDS – TODAY!**

**Church Worship will be at 10:15 am!**

**Prayer Group** – Pastor will hold an in-person prayer group at 8:30 am every Sunday morning. Feel free to attend!!!

**Pastor will be out of the office on Tuesday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>!** – if you need anything, call/text Ronda at 815-275-8045.

**Church office closed on Thursday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>!**

**New Member Class** – will be given by Pastor Fernando. This will be 5 classes, **either in person or via Zoom**. If you are interested or have questions, let the office know.

**Pastor Fernando will be in the office 9 am-5 pm Tuesday to-Friday!**

**JOY Dinner** – recap meeting will be Monday, Feb 24<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.

**Choir Practice** – will be Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.

**March Communion** – will go to Rice Meal Packing, which will take place on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Lenten Bible Study** – will begin on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. There will be a light meal. The book “The Final Days’ by Matt Rawle will arrive soon. The cost will be \$13.50 per book.

**Volunteers Are Needed** – to help at Classy Closet. The hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 10 am - 1 pm or 1 pm - 4 pm. If interested, let the office know.

**Ushers** – if you are interested in helping with ushering during a worship service, please let Linda Stubbe know.

**Volunteers are needed** – for Savanna Food Pantry for Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 12 noon. Please let Molly Andersen know if you can help out! 815-541-6852



First United  
Methodist Church  
Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025  
at 10:15 am

Vision Statement

“Our faith calls us to action in the  
body of Christ and in the local  
community to love God and to  
love others”

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ccli#2014483& #21007722  
**TUNE RADIO TO STATION FM 88.9**

2025 Interfaith Lenten Services  
in Savanna Area

*‘Prepare our hearts to meet the Risen Christ’*

Community United Church of Christ, First Presbyterian Church,  
First United Methodist Church, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
The Great River Outreach (GRO)

Join us for Lenten Services, please! All are welcome!

Date	Time	Location
March 5 Ash Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Imposition of Ashes	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue
March 12 Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Preacher: Pastor Bonnie Davies	First Presbyterian Church 502 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street
March 19 Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Preacher: Pastor Narda Alvelo	Great River Outreach 411 Main Street
March 26 Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Preacher: Pastor Gary Panetta	St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 318 Chicago Avenue
April 2 Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Preacher: Pastor Fernando de Castro	Community United Church of Christ 346 Chicago Avenue
April 9 Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Preacher: Father Chris Kuhn	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue
April 18 Good Friday	Noon – Service only Story of the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus will be told.	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue

\*Lenten offering will go to support Inter Church Council Ministry and Community VBS  
\*Host: Savanna Interchurch Council