



**Our Mission Is To Be Committed Christians Inviting Others To Join Us.**



## **Our 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.”**

**2100 Chicago Ave, Savanna, IL 61074**

**Ph: 815-273-2345**

**Ronda/Office email: [office@firstumcsavanna.org](mailto:office@firstumcsavanna.org)**

**Web: [www.firstumcsavanna.org](http://www.firstumcsavanna.org)**

**Pastor Fernando email: [pastorfernando4@outlook.com](mailto:pastorfernando4@outlook.com)**



## **APRIL CELEBRATES PASSION WEEK**

I am sure all of us have heard the words "time flies" and I remind you of these words because it was not long ago that we celebrated Christmas Eve; now, April will end with the Lenten Season, to Palm Sunday and then the Passion Week. This Lenten Season we are studying "The Final Days, a Lenten journey through the Gospels" by Reverend Matt Rawle. The author argues, "Passion is not something you like or a hobby over which you obsess." A passion is something for which you are willing to suffer. The author asks if something comes to mind that you know you would be willing to suffer for.

April is a beautiful month due to the changes we see around us. The small animals that hibernate are coming out of their burrows, and the birds fly back northward and settle down to have their families. I saw next to the parsonage the first flowers of the season coming out; we might see the bees and the butterflies begin to gather nectar from the fresh flower. Where I come from, April is also the time for the harvest, while it is time for planting in the USA.

This year, the Lenten season goes through the first week of April, so remember to reflect on Jesus's journey to the cross for his Passion. We, as a Church, also have some passions. One of them is that we work to help those in dire need, so please be reminded that On April 26th, we will also have our annual Rice meal packing at our Church; our UMCS friends around the county will join us if you may please remember to give towards this call, or just join us to work for few hours.

This month, we will observe special services towards Easter Sunday, such as Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and Sun-rise service, all this to remind us of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who "When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross." Philippians 2:8. This verse expresses the Passion of Jesus. The criminal undeserved death that gave us undeserved grace.

As we enter this crucial month, reflecting on the one who will endure denial, betrayal, and blasphemy, let us reexamine our Passion for what we love and what we are willing to sacrifice for God's glory and honor. Is it your pride, ego, greed, comfort zone, gluttony, or addiction? Let us come to Easter willing to resurrect afresh with Jesus!

Blessings,  
Pastor Fernando.

## SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Sunday, February 16, 2025 11:29 am @ Church Library

Chairperson Susan Michelle called the meeting to order at 11:29. Members present: Molly Andersen, Tom Michels, Lea Ann Michels, Bill Wright, Lexi Piercy, Mary Irons, Susan Michelle Jepsen, Linda Stubbe, Pam Darrow, LaVona Grissinger, Karen Hoffman, Jason Moore, Pastor Fernando, Vivian Eaton, Ronda Rathje. Pastor Fernando opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Susan moved, Pam seconded, minutes approved.

**FINANCE:** The monthly Financial Report was given by Vivian. Apportionments were increased by \$503 per month. Insurance increased \$232, health insurance increased \$120 month. The light bill was reduced by \$22. Tom reported that next month the Finance Committee will report to Administrative Council then present to the Church about the financial situation. Vivian asked the UMWomen of Faith and UMM to get their final yearly accounts in. Susan moved, Jason seconded to approve the financial report. Motion approved.

**TRUSTEES:** 4 H came to talk to Trustees this morning about getting a club started and needed a place to meet. After much discussion it is recommended that we allow them to meet here. Jason moved and Bill Wright seconded to approve the 4H club to meet here. The motion passed. Jason will present next month about a fee for the use of the building. Jason will check to see how many keys there are to the church. LaVona will talk to the landscaper to have him do more about the sticks and moles in the yard.

**FINANCE:** The committee will make a presentation to the Ad Council in March and then will hold an all church meeting so they can inform the entire congregation about the finances.

**OUTREACH:** Jason reported \$395 was collected at the Souper Bowl dinner.

**WORSHIP:** The committee will be meeting Thursday.

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS:** LaVona will talk to the landscaper about picking up the sticks in the church yard.

**EVANGELISM:** Mary Irons reported they had mailed valentines to shut ins, and visited with shut ins.

**UWF:** Are planning a special Women's service for March 4.

**UMM:** Will be meeting Tuesday, Pastor will tell his story. They will discuss goals for the coming year.

**INTERCHURCH COUNCIL:** March 5 is Ash Wednesday. Lenten services will begin then.

**YOUTH:** Skiing was a good opportunity for the kids to learn to ski. They have been working on setting goals.

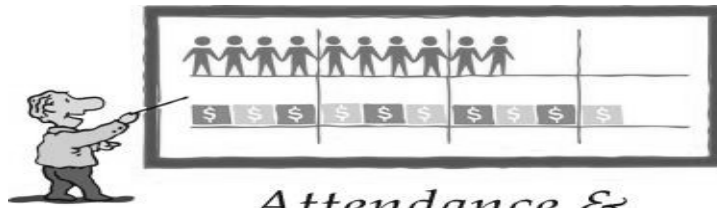
**NEW BUSINESS:** Rice meal packing needs \$600 before the packing event on April 26. March communion offering will be for the rice meal packing. Jason will ask Outreach to pay some of it. Karen suggested that if she held a scrapbook workshop toward the end of March as a fund raiser it could raise money for the church. Susan moved and Jason seconded to allow this on a Friday night and Saturday. Motion passed

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor Fernando is doing fine, and the family is doing well. Priscila has been healed, and Ennie Maria was awarded an Honor Roll and a Student of the Month certificate. This small achievement so blesses us. **Worship 3** – Hybrid Service . **Meetings 10** – Finance 1 Pastoral Care 1. Salvation Army 1. Devotion to the table 2 Prayer meetings 2. Membership Classes 4. **Visit 3**- Tim Cavanagh, (VA. Hospital Iowa City ) Ron Miller at Home, Jacky Walker and Howard Nichol. Pinnacle Place. **District / Annual Conference.** Council on Young Peoples Ministry 1 **Personal, District, and NIC Schedules.** 17/02/2015 -Choir Practice 18/02/2025 – Clergy Meeting with the DS/ UM-Meetings . 19/02/2025 – Joy Dinner 20/02/2025 – Cluster Meeting Savanna 20/02/2025 – Worship Committee 24/02/2025 – Bible Study with the Bishop. **March- Lenten Bible Studies** Salvation Army will need someone to collect money and to count and deposit money. Ronda has sent in the required paperwork to be in charge of the buckets and money. LaVona and Linda volunteered to help her.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Fernando and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Lea Ann Michels



## Attendance & Financials



Cash Available in General Account: <b>\$ 9,100.54</b>		
	February 2025	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 10,757.19	\$ 23,605.18
Church Expenses	\$ 14,986.14	\$ 33,668.70
Net Operating Balance	<b>\$ -4,228.95</b>	<b>\$ -10,053.62</b>
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,908.00	\$ 3,816.00
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions - vkeaton@grics.net		

Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
March 2	\$ 3283.00	70	2 dogs	70 + 2 dogs
March 9	\$ 2467.04	66	2 dogs	66 + 2 dogs
March 16	\$ 2239.43	82	1 + 3 dogs	83 + 3 dogs
March 23	\$ 1295.50	64	0	64
March 30	\$ 1855.50	70	2 dogs	70 + 2 dogs
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 11,140.47</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>1 + 9 dogs</b>	<b>353 + 9 dogs</b>



### In Our Prayers

Sandy Froehlich, Glen White, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Herb & Ben Pratt, Scarlett Heubner, Chirssy Sullivan, Tinslee, Ed & Barb Jepsen, Alyssa Volkers, Kristin & Eli ( Bob & LaVona Grissinger's grandchildren), Lisa (LaVona's friend), Jill (Melinda Dykema's daughter), Iola McCutcheon (Tim Cavanagh's friend), Karen Burcham & Kandi (Paul Mayer's sisters), Dan Zambon (uncle of Kim Gonzalez), John Jachino, Pat Kemp, Dave Miller (Brigit Jepsen's boyfriend's father), Jody & Jon Kragel (Dianne Piercy's friends), Howie Von Haden LaVona's brother), Ron Miller, Amy Hanson, Jamie Harkness Townsend, baby Wesley & family, the Norman family, Thomas James (Tom & LeaAnn Michels' grandson), Paul & Charlene Mayer, Bob & LaVona Grissinger, Ron Hastings, Tim Cavanagh, Jaime (Paula's daughter), Christina Pasch, Baby Adrian, Julie Brunner (Linda Jachino's cousin), Rhonda Eickert, Martha White, Nadine Law Renfro, Bill Eyerly (Cori Moore's dad), Vanessa (Bob & LaVona's daughter), James, Kim, & Amanda Gonzalez, Beatrice Johnson (Kim Gonzalez mother-in-law) Derek Osborn, Vicki & Michael Thomas (Paula Mayer's friends), Chuck Atherton, Janet Smith (Denise's sister), Domenic Geerts & Tyler Weber (Lanark firefighters), the Lars Colgan family, the family of Stanley Krantz, and closure for the family of Jackson Kradle.

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

# What's Happening At Church!!!!

## New Sewing Ministry

We invite all sewers to get involved in our sewing ministry but getting a kit in the sewing room. Several are available (pattern & material). Check out this ministry in the sewing room after church or ask any member of United Women of Faith. This gives those who cannot come Monday afternoons to sew a chance to be a part of this important ministry by sewing at home at your convenience. Come check it out!

We also are asking for clean and dry plastic bags. The group will be making sleeping mats for homeless people. You can drop them off in the box in the sewing room. A loom was obtained from Midwest Mission and Mary Irons attempted to make the first one. We now have 5 mats complete. They are fabulous!!!

If you are interested in getting involved in this ministry, call Mary Irons at 815-541-8487.

Thank you to those who have brought in bags and continue to bring them!

## JOY (Just Older Youth) Ministry

### Wednesday, April 16th from 4:30-6:30 pm

in our Fellowship Hall. Anyone over 60 is invited for a free dinner of country-fried steak with mashed potatoes and gravy and fruit cobblers for dessert. Reservations must be made by noon, **Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** by calling the church office at 815-273-2345.

Rides are available, in-town only.

Come join the fun, fellowship, and great food.

## Soul Sisters February Meeting

### Thursday, April 10th @ 9:00 am

Brunch will be provided by Rhonda Law and Molly Andersen. The program is Mary Haas presenting **Pysanky: Art & Practice of Making Ukrainian Easter Eggs** Mary's eggs are works of art and she will explain the history of these beautiful objects. RSVP to Rhonda (815-275-8058) or Molly (815-541-6852) by

**Wednesday, April 9th!**

All women are invited to share in this fun and interesting event!

## Kids Kards

Kids Kards will meet after worship on **April 27<sup>th</sup>** in the fellowship hall. We have a big job making Mother's and Father's Day cards since we won't be meeting in May due to Memorial Day weekend. We'll have sloppy joes for lunch. All materials are provided, we just need your artistic talents. Any questions call Molly Andersen 815-541-6852.

## West Carroll Food Pantry

West Carroll School Food Pantry and Savanna Food Pantry are in need of donations. 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!

## Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket provides household and personal hygiene items to the clients who use the West Carroll School Food Pantry. This month we are in need of dish detergent and facial tissues. We are always needing donations of shampoo, deodorant, and body wash. You can leave any items in the Food Pantry box in the narthex. This program helps so many families in our community. Thank you for your continued support.



### **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





**Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting**  
is cancelled through the Lenten Season

**Thursday Bible Study** is cancelled  
through the Lenten Season.

**Finance & Growth Meeting**  
will be announced later on.

**Maundy Thursday Service** at FUMC at 6:30 pm.  
**Good Friday Service** at FUMC @ 12 noon.

**2025 Soup & Lenten Bible Study**  
Continues on Tuesday April 1st,  
8th, & 15th pm in the  
fellowship hall.

**United Women of Faith**  
We be meeting **Tuesday, April 1st** at  
**6:30 pm** at the church.  
Prayer & Self-Denial  
Lead by Deeann Kramer  
All women are invited!

**Trustee/Ad Council** will  
meet on **Sunday, April 27th**  
at 9 am/11:30 pm

**Rice Meal Packing**  
will take place **Sat. April 26th!**  
Donations are being accepted.  
Baskets will be in the back of  
the Sanctuary  
to donate!

**United Methodist Men**  
Will be announced later on.

**Order your Easter Flowers**  
(due April 6th!!!)

Easter Lilies - \$19  
Kalanchoes- \$18  
Hyacinths - \$18  
Tulips - \$18  
Azaleas- \$30

Questions??? - ask Ronda in  
the office.

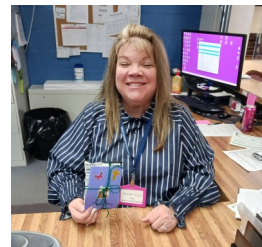


**JESUS IS IN THE HOUSE!!!**  
Look all around the church! He is here!!!  
**FIND HIM...KEEP HIM**  
because Everyone needs a little Jesus!  
(but only one, now thru Easter)

### JOY Dinner



### Kids Kards



## More Pictures, Ect...

### Baptism Sunday

March 16, 2025

#### 2 Baptisms



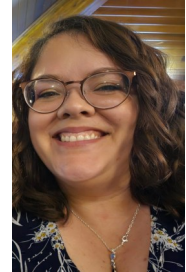
Joseph Pasch



Micheal Medley



Christina Pasch



Emily Medley



#### Pastor with James



Lal Fan Thang came to preach on March 30th.

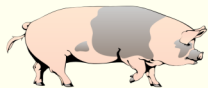
He is a friend of Pastor's from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

He will be graduating in May.

Was great to have him here and is welcome back any time!







## Pork Chop Sandwich Dinner

TAKE OUT ONLY  
VIA DRIVE THRU

SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH - 4:00 - 5:30 PM

SAVANNA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
2100 CHICAGO AVENUE SAVANNA, IL

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE UNTIL  
APRIL 11TH  
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 815-273-2345  
OR MARY IRONS AT 815-541-8487

TICKETS - ADULTS \$10.00  
CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER \$5.00

DINNER INCLUDES: PORK CHOP SANDWICH  
BAKED BEANS, APPLE SAUCE & DESSERT

HOSTED BY THE SAVANNA UNITED WOMEN IN  
FAITH PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS MISSION PROJECTS

Great River Outreach featuring

## MUSIC BINGO



When?  
Saturday, April 12th

WHY ???

We need your help to keep the Table's  
daily (M-Th) hot meal program open

Where?  
Where Else...MANNY's

Join us for a  
FUN...FOOD FILLED...FUNDRAISER  
Fellowship & Raffles at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner starting at 6:00 p.m.

Pizza & Taco Buffet

Bake Sale

7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Music Bingo hosted by Phyllis Picolotti



\$15/person - Meal  
\$25/person - Meal plus Bingo  
Tickets at the door



RAFFLES:

50/50 BASKETS



**EATIN' GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!**  
Go to these fire stations, please! They all need our help!  
And it is cheaper than eating out!

Lanark Fish Fry - April 5th  
Shannon Breakfast - April 6th  
Thomson Fish Fry - April 11th  
Savanna Breakfast - April 13th  
Pearl City Steak Fry - April 26th  
Rock City Fish Boil - April 26th  
Chadwick Breakfast - April 27th  
Polo Breakfast - April 27th  
Milledgeville Breakfast - May 4th  
German Valley Pork Chop Supper - June 19th



### SOUL SISTERS APRIL MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2025 9am

FUMC Fellowship Hall

Brunch will be provided by hostesses Rhonda Law  
and Molly Andersen

The program is Mary Haas presenting Pysanky: Art  
and Practice of Making Ukrainian Easter Eggs

RSVP to Rhonda 815-275-8058 or Molly

815-541-6852 by Tuesday, April 8th

All women are invited to share in this fun and  
interesting event



## A Night to Remember Prom

Open to any junior or senior, and their guest, who  
wants to attend prom regardless of school affiliation

April 26, 2025

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

\$25.00 per person

Mt. Carroll Church of God

816 S Clay St.

Mt. Carroll, IL 61053

Post Prom

10:00 PM - 5:00 AM

Davis Community Center

Mt. Carroll, IL 61053

Recommended Attire: Formal

To Register:  
[mcchurchofgod.org/thrive](http://mcchurchofgod.org/thrive)

Sponsored by: Thrive Student Ministries

For questions, please contact:

Jamie Woodley

(815) 541-4945







## April 2024

- 1 - Katie Hoffman
- 1 - *Paul & Charlene Mayer (1964)*
- 1 - Sarah Bates
- 2 - April Rudell
- 6 - JC Carey
- 6 - Melinda Dykema
- 8 - Karen Hoffman
- 9 - Jeanine Mills
- 11 - Rosemary Hartman
- 12 - Deb Long
- 14 - Ennie Maria de Castro
- 14 - Kathie Prins
- 15 - Claire Floming
- 15 - *Carlo & Linda Stubbe (1972)*
- 16 - Heather Bradbury
- 16 - Alice Riffe-Torrison
- 21 - Jim Haynes
- 23 - Anna Badtke



GOD'S  
RICHES  
AT  
CHRIST'S  
EXPENSE



### Liturgists

- April 6 - Rev. Bonnie Davies
- April 13 - James Gonzalez (Palm Sunday)
- April 20 - Lexi Piercy (Sunrise service)
- April 20 - Esther Losh (Easter service)
- April 27 - LaVona Grissinger

### Acolytes

- April 6 - Ellie Johnson
- April 13 - Ryker McCombie
- April 20 - Pearl Michels (Easter service)
- April 27 - Boyd Law

### Coffee Hour

- April 6 - Cavanagh family
- April 13 - Ron Miller & Shirley Hastings
- April 20 - Easter breakfast
- April 27 - Bruce & Rhonda Badtke

### Counters & Verifiers

- April 6 - Molly Andersen & Pan Darrow
- April 13 - Rhonda Law & Linda Jachino
- April 20 - Lori Miller & Kay Cavanagh
- April 27 - Vivian Eaton & Linda Stubbe

**If you are unable to do your scheduled day,  
please find someone to take your place!**



**Lots of pictures inside! Even more on our  
Facebook page. Be sure to friend us!**  
[www.facebook.com/savanna.firstumc](https://www.facebook.com/savanna.firstumc)





# April 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 5 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:30 pm United Women of Faith	<b>2</b> 2 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm Lenten Service (UCC)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Eaton Anniv. Party
<b>6 Communion</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Seder Meal 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr	<b>7</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	<b>8</b> 5 pm Lenten Bible Study	<b>9</b> 2 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm Lenten Service (FUMC)	<b>10 Pastor Gone</b> 11 am Soul Sisters	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 4 - 5:15pm Pork Chop Drive-thru Dinner 5-6:15 pm Youth Group	<b>14</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies	<b>15 Telstar Info due!!!</b> 5 pm Lenten Bible Study	<b>16</b> 4:40-6:30 JOY Dinner	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>18</b> 12 pm Good Friday Service (FUMC)	<b>19</b>
<b>20 Easter Communion</b> 7:30 am Sunrise Service 8:15 am Breakfast 9:15 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 am Worship 	<b>21</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3 pm Joy Recap 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	<b>22 Earth Day</b> 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 1:30 pm Senior Service 3:30 pm Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9 am Rice Meal Packing @ FUMC
<b>27</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Trustees 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Kids Kards 11:30 am Coffee hr 11:45 am Ad Coucil 1:30 - 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>28</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 2 pm Choir Practice 			