



First United Methodist Church of Savanna, Illinois

Volume 24 Issue 8



**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.”**

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Dear FUMC family,

The transition to the new Pastor is a reality now! My family and I are deeply grateful for God's grace and the tireless efforts of our church leaders and every member of FUM-Savanna, who have made this transition possible. Your support and dedication are truly appreciated.

On July 7th, I was deeply moved by the warm welcome I received from each of you. Your heartfelt greetings of "Bom dia!" filled me with joy and surprise; the Portuguese phrase, Bom Dia, accurately expressed hospitality. It was a moment I will always cherish, and it set the perfect tone for my first sermon topic, 'Let us begin with Love.'

Love is not just a word, it's the very essence of our Christian Faith. As we all know, John 3:16 beautifully encapsulates this: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life." Your acceptance of me, despite the new experience of having a first African Pastor, is a powerful testament to this love. I am deeply moved and inspired by your love and acceptance.

My first Sunday was also marked by a reception, where our church shared a delicious meal with me, and I got to know more members. Indeed, it takes love to welcome someone, time for preparation, and people with patience and a heart to serve others. I am deeply grateful to each of you for your patience and service and the fantastic time we shared around the table.

During my first weeks around Savanna, I have been exploring the beautiful art of creation this town has been lavished with. As I went from Savanna to Clinton and up to the hills at Pinnacle Place, I could see how majestic the Mississippi River is and how God's love is so present around nature. For example, I saw the trees surrounded by water; I wondered how they grew there or who planted them. And when? In fact, all I see is God's loving presence around Savanna.

I had an exciting experience at Big Meadows and Pinnacle Place, where I played the harmonica for older people. I was blessed to see the great ministry ahead of us.

I want to highlight the VBS program. It filled my heart with joy and hope for the future of our Christian Church. On the last day, I had the opportunity to teach the Bible story. I truly enjoyed jumping with the preschoolers.

Last, I met all the clergy of our interfaith connection. I visited the table and the bridge and was invited to familiarize myself with Great River Outreach's work. Therefore, I was part of their board meeting. I pray that we all stick to love, for Love is patient; it will take patience to understand the New Pastor and me to get used to all of you; the good news to remember is that love never fails; we will make it and not fail. For there is so much hate around our world each day, let us embrace love and make a slight difference around our world.

Blessings to you and your family, Pastor Fernando.

## **SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES SUNDAY, June 16, 2024 10:30 AM @ CHURCH LIBRARY**

Vice-chairperson Bill Wright called the meeting to order at 10:45 am with members LaVona Grissinger, Kris Yingling, Molly Andersen, Tom Michels, Esther Losh, Kathie and Burt Prins, Pam Darrow, Mary Irons, Vivian Eaton, and Pastor Dave Yim present. Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Kris moved, seconded by Kathie, to approve the minutes as presented and the motion carried. Financial reports were handed out, along with a new report tracking income, expenses, and other items since 2016. Kathie moved, seconded by Kris, to accept the reports as presented and the motion passed.

**FINANCE:** We have been in the red for months and at the current rate we will go through our 3 special accounts (Sterk, insurance, and Brunner) in 3 years. The committee is prepared to begin the process of looking at sharing a pastor. Tom will draft a letter to the conference with our future plans and present it to the council next month.

**TRUSTEES:** 2 bids were received for moving the utility pole for JoCarroll Electric with Herrell Electric submitting the low bid of \$3794.68, \$3000 less than the other bid, and \$555.49 to build the H frame. Trustees will build the H frame needed, with Miller Excavating's help. Herrell Electric still needs to find the problem with getting electricity to the outdoor signs so the bill may be higher. The committee recommended accepting Herrell Electric's bid and the recommendation passed. We are still waiting on bids for the parsonage roof. U of I Extension office 4-H program was interested in using the church kitchen. The liability form that was sent to them was returned with several changes, including wanting a 5-year contract. Our other groups using the church have signed a 1-year contract. Ronda will check with the conference's liability expert, Dwayne Jackson, before we agree to that. The annual fire extinguisher inspection was done with no problems found.

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS:** Our new pastor, Fernando, will be coming June 25th with Yims moving out on June 24th. We purchased a laptop for him, which has arrived, and a tablet, which should be here tomorrow.

**WORSHIP:** The committee meets Thursday and has been very busy with baptisms, confirmations, and receptions. Today's Father Day service included several poems and tape measures for all the men.

**EDUCATION:** VBS will be here soon and we are looking for volunteers to help.

**EVANGELISM:** Birthday cards were sent to Sylvia Reuterfors, Herb Pratt, and Connie Kramer. Mary visited Karen Hoffman who had rotator cuff surgery. Jim Ketzell had cataract surgery and has an aneurysm that is being monitored.

**UWF:** They will have a picnic July 2nd. The Sewing Ladies sent many items to Midwest Mission in April and have 3 more boxes of things going with Pastor Dave to the annual conference this week.

**UMM:** They met in June and are looking for local mission projects, such as yard work or small construction jobs. They are hosting the church picnic on July 14th with a cookout.

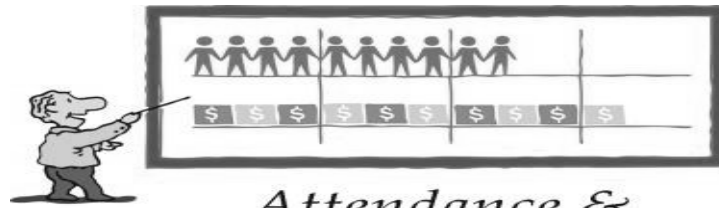
**INTERCHURCH COUNCIL:** They are waiting to get the bill for sponsoring VBS this year.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Our use of Dropbox cannot be transferred from Pastor Dave's account. Pam moved, seconded by Vivian, to purchase a monthly service for \$11.99 for 3-6 months, or until the church gets high-speed internet, and the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ronda needs a letter of recommendation from the Administrative Council for her Lay Servant certification. Chairperson Susan Michelle Jepsen sent a draft to council members via email. Tom moved, seconded by Mary, to accept the letter and the motion passed. A round of applause was given for Ronda's achievement. She will look into ordering a new offering envelope style. Discussion was held on helping our new pastor settle in, including providing meals and cleaning supplies and stocking the refrigerator and kitchen cupboards. LaVona and Ronda will keep us informed as to what he will need.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Kris Offenheiser has withdrawn her church membership, sadly. This will be reported at the annual church conference. We are still looking for a chaperone for the youth mission trip. Rev. George Woosnam will be here next Sunday, followed by a hymn sing on June 30th. Pastor Gary Panetta will be providing emergency care until Pastor Fernando begins his duties. Pastor Dave is going to annual conference in Schaumburg today and taking our \$150 communion offering for the Bishop's Appeal. He closed the meeting with prayer and we all sadly said good-bye.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51am. Respectfully submitted, Molly Andersen



## Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: <b>\$ 16,948.98</b>		
	June 2024	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 16,144.34	\$ 76,881.54
Church Expenses	\$ 17,579.15	\$ 135,737.21
Net Operating Balance	<b>\$ -1,434.81</b>	<b>\$ -58,855.67</b>
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 8,430.00
Kitchen Remodeling	\$ 20,107.33	\$ 20,107.33
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
June 30	\$ 554.00	35	1 + 2 dogs	36 + 2 dogs
July 7	\$ 3660.50	57	1 + 2 dogs	58 + 2 dogs
July 14	\$ 1844.00	49	1	50
July 21	\$ 1182.68	52	1 + 2 dogs	53 + 2 dogs
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 7,241.18</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>4 + 6 dogs</b>	<b>197 + 6 dogs</b>



### In Our Prayers

Emilee Derrer, Sandy Froehlich, Barb McFadden, Glen White, Pastor Bill Landis, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Don & Judy Greenfield, Sandy Pratt, Lexi Tsoukalas (Molly's great niece), Debbie Bilik (Janet Morlock's friend), Scarlett Huebner, Chrissy Sullivan, Miles Purchis (Max & Martha Purchis' grandson), Angie (Paula's friend), Roger Furrow, Eli (Bob & Lavona's grandson), Paula Mayer, Tinslee, Ed & Barb Jepsen, Mary (Belander) Klein, Howard Nichols, Jackie Walker, Dennis Plattenberger (Mary's friend), Kristin (Bob & LaVona Grissinger's granddaughter), Chuck Curtis, Eldar (Karen Hoffman's friend), Joe Jensen, Chris Falk, Kim Brooke (Susan Michelle's friend), Alyssa Volkers, Mary Ellen Dreger, Karen Hoffman, Emily Medley (Ronda's neighbor), Bob Grissinger, Burt Prins, Jan (Karen Hoffman's friend), Lisa (LaVona's friend), Ennie Maria (Pastor Fernando's daughter), the family of Billy David, and the family of Marie "Lupe" Castro (Esther Losh's aunt).

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

Our country & government, those that are serving in the military & their families, the safety of Ukrainians & end of wars, Haiti, Syria, Israel, the Gaza strip, peace in the Middle East, people affected by tornadoes and severe thunderstorms, and the victims of the everyday gun violence and their families.

# 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

We have started a new senior ministry, providing a free meal, fellowship, and program once a month for those who are 60+ years old.

**JOY will meet Wednesday, August 21st from 4:30-6:30pm in the church fellowship hall. The dinner menu is sloppy joes, chips, salads and dessert. We have singer/guitarist Dan Peart for our program. This FREE dinner is open to anyone over 60 but reservations MUST be made. Rides are available, in-town only. Come join us for an evening of great food, great music, and great fellowship! You MUST RSVP by noon, Monday, August 19th to the church office, 815-273-2345. (Invite your friends and neighbors and make this a success!)**

We are looking for volunteers to help cook, serve, clean, and provide rides and programs. If you are interested in helping, please let Molly Andersen or Ronda Rathje in the church office know.

## School Supplies!

### School supplies are in the stores and on sale!

Any donations are welcome, including monetary ones. Glue sticks, wide-ruled notebooks, plastic folders and markers are always in demand. You can leave your supplies in the Food Pantry box in the narthex. Thank you for helping our West Carroll students get a great start this school year. We want all our West Carroll students to have a great school year!

**School Supply Drive is Monday August 5th & 12th from 2:30 pm to 5 pm  
Volunteers are welcome!**

## Blessing Basket

We need sunscreen for the summer months, (especially those products to be used on children), body lotion, women's and men's shampoo, deodorant, sandwich bags and aluminum foil. Please leave your donations in the Food Pantry box in the narthex. Thank you for your continued support of this mission!

## West Carroll Food Pantry

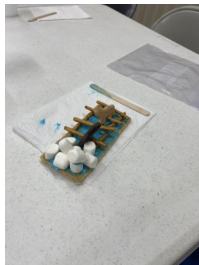
The food pantries have been very busy this summer. Please continue to support the West Carroll School Food Pantry and Savanna Community Food Pantry with your donations of money or food items. Items are Chef Boy r Dee, peanut butter and jelly (grape or strawberry), cereal, mac & cheese, fruit, pancake mix and syrup. Items may be left in the pantry box in the narthex or monetary donations may be included in your weekly offering, just specify which pantry and how much on your envelope. Thank you!

**The schedule for volunteering at the Savanna Food Pantry is out and we are manning it August 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, and December 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in volunteering, the hours are 9am to 12 noon, contact Molly Andersen at 815-273-2104.**





## VBS PICTURES!!!



**Next year we are going on a ROAD TRIP!!!!!!**



# Pictures!!!



**Zion Cluster meeting in Lanark at  
Pastor Marilyn Nolan's parsonage.**

Left to Right - Front row - Rev. Bonnie Davies, Rev  
George Woosnam, Pastor Lambert Habonimana,  
DS Dr. Hwa-Young Chong. Back row - Pastor Jeremiah  
Lee, Pastor Fernando Candumbo de Castro,  
Rev. Marilyn Nolan, and Rich Ottens



**Rev. George Woosnam  
& Pastor Fernando**



**A wonderful visit with  
Sharon A. Guilinger!!!**



## **Savanna Sesquicentennial Parade July 5th, 2024**



**Join us for upcoming events!  
- all are welcome!**

**2100 Chicago Avenue  
Savanna First United Methodist**

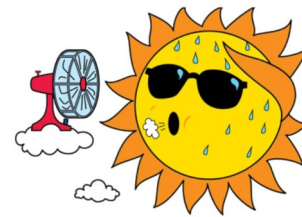


**Blessing of the Backpacks  
Sunday, August 18  
9:30 a.m. Church Service  
Acolyte Training  
to follow service**

**Sunday School Kick Off  
Sunday, August 25  
11:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Lunch, Bounce House,  
Games, etc...**



**First Day of Sunday School  
Bring a grandparent  
Sunday, September 8  
9:00 a.m.  
Church at 10:15 a.m.**



**Pastor Fernando's  
first time  
mowing grass at  
the parsonage.**





Worship Service will continue to be at  
9:30 am thru Sept 1st!!!  
Worship will change to 10:15 am  
on September 8th!!!

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting  
will continue on Thursday, August 8th.  
More information to follow.

Finance/Growth will meet Tuesday, July 9th  
@ 5 pm in the library at the church.

Meet & Greets with Pastor Fernando  
will take place in August.  
Stay tuned for more information!!!

Telstar items will be due on  
the 15th of each month !!!

United Women of Faith will meet Tuesday,  
August 6th at 6:30 pm at the church.  
All women are invited!

United Methodist Men will NOT  
meet in August!

NO Kids Kards in August!!!

Church Conference will be  
Saturday, September 21st  
@ 3:30 to 5:30 pm.  
More information to follow!

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### Pastor Fernando's First Sunday - July 7th, 2024 (Celebration of the Appointment of a New Pastor) (Presentations)



Pastor



The Bible



The Water



The Bread & Cup



The Hymnal &  
Book of Worship



The Book of  
Discipline & Baton



Congregational  
Blessing



Pastor takes  
the Pulpit





## August 2024

1 - Tom Neumiller  
 4 - Joe Guilinger  
 10 - Ryan Miller  
 12 - Joleen LaShelle  
 13 - LaVona Grissinger  
 13 - Martha Purchis  
 15 - Brenda Hamm  
 18 - Pastor Fernando Candumbo de Castro  
 18 - *Wayne & Martha White (1963)*  
 18 - *Jason & Cori Moore (2018)*  
 22 - Jean Jones  
 24 - Brigit Jepsen  
 24 - Ron Miller  
 26 - Jeff Law  
 28 - Sharon F. Guilinger  
 29 - Sharon A. Guilinger  
 31 - Bob Froehlich



### Acolytes

August 4 - Tyson Speers  
 August 11 - Pearl Michels  
 August 18 - Kirk Hoffman  
 August 25 - Ellie Johnson

### Liturgists

August 4 - LaVona Grissinger  
 August 11 - Esther Losh  
 August 18 - Jason Moore  
 August 25 - Rev Bonnie Davies

### Ushers & Greeters

August 4 - Worship cmte  
 August 11 - Worship cmte  
 August 18 - Worship cmte  
 August 25 - Worship cmte

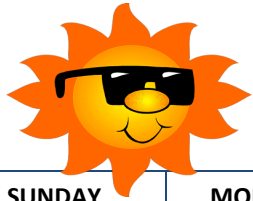
### Counters & Verifiers

August 4 - Molly Andersen & Mary Irons  
 August 11 - Rhonda Law & Pam Darrow  
 August 18 - Lori Miller & Linda Jachino  
 August 25 - Vivian Eaton & Kay Cavanagh

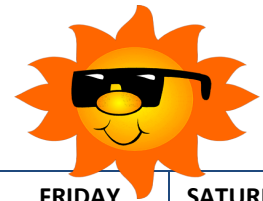
**If you are unable to do your scheduled day, please find someone to take your place!**


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





# August 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>BACK TO SCHOOL</b>				<b>1</b> 9 am Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Communion</b> 9:30 am Worship	<b>5</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies 2:30 - 5 pm School Supplies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm United Women of Faith 9 am- - 12 noon Savanna Food Pantry	<b>7</b> 1 pm - Serve water @ Fair	<b>8</b> 9 am Bible Study 9 am- - 12 noon Savanna Food Pantry 1:30 pm Senior Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30 am Worship	<b>12 Pastor Gone</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies 2:30 - 5 pm School Supplies	<b>13</b> 5 pm Finance/ Growth Mtg (in person) 6 pm Interchurch Council mtg @ Presbyterian Church	<b>14</b> School Starts	<b>15 Telstar Info due</b> 9 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Worship Mtg	<b>16 Office Closed</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8 am Trustees 9:30 am Worship (Blessing of Backpacks) 10:30 am Coffee hr 10:45 am Ad Council	<b>19</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 4:30-6:30 pm JOY Ministry Dinner	<b>22</b> 9 am Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30 am Worship 11am - 1 pm Sunday School Kick Off	<b>26</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies 5 pm JOY mtg	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>