



Our call is to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully and Lead Courageously



Our Vision Statement

“ Reaching out to all people and inviting them to experience the Love of God through Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors ”

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Agents of Hope

Dear Friends,

Last week, I reached out to a dear friend of mine in Angola—he serves as the General Secretary of the Angolan Council of Christian Churches. After a meaningful catch-up about his family's well-being, I asked if he had been following the recent unrest in our society, as demonstrators protested a fuel price increase exceeding 33%. He replied that he had not, explaining, "I'm not on Facebook."

I urged him to take notice and consider decisive action. The reports of police brutality—actions starkly unconstitutional—required a prophetic voice from the Church. I encouraged him to respectfully yet boldly address the President of Angola, lest silence cost more lives. In response, my friend said, "Thank you for this reminder." We prayed together, asking the Lord to strengthen him and his fellow Christian leaders as they confront the injustices unfolding in Luanda.

To my deep sorrow, in the days that followed—July 28th through July 30th—at least 22 people lost their lives, and 197 were injured as peaceful protests were met with violent force. Real bullets were used against unarmed citizens. One tragic story remains etched in my heart: Silvia, a 33-year-old mother of six, left her home to search for one of her children lost in chaos. She was shot in the back and died instantly, right before her son's eyes. The trauma of that moment will echo through her family and community.

In response, my friend and other Christian leaders in Angola took courageous steps by writing a Pastoral Letter addressed to both the government and civil society. Their bold witness renews the Church's call to be agents of hope in times of crisis.

As we begin the month of August, I invite us to reflect deeply on the letter of Paul to the Philippians. Penned from a prison cell—with no certainty of survival, Paul's words offer timeless wisdom for navigating sorrow, adversity, and political tension. In this four-chapter epistle, we discover how mature followers of Christ can embrace joy even in seasons of suffering.

Philippians reminds us how to live in partnership with fellow believers—within the local church and beyond—and how to anchor our hope in the coming day of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I encourage you to take time to read this letter; its simplicity is matched only by its spiritual richness.

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Phil.1:6

May God bless you, comfort your hearts, and lead us all as agents of His hope and justice.

In Christ's service,

Your Co-Servant,

Fernando Candumbo de Castro

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

SUNDAY, June 22, 2025 10:45 AM @ CHURCH LIBRARY

Chairperson Susan Michelle called the meeting to order at 11: with members Tom Michels, Lea Ann Michels, Karen Hoffman, LaVona Grissinger, Linda Stubbe, Jason Moore, Bill Wright, Mary Irons, Susan Michelle Jepsen, Kris Yingling. Pam Darrow, Deann Kramer Karen Hoffman opened the meeting with prayer. Guests from the Deeply Rooted Home-school community gave a presentation on their community to meet at our church on 3 Fridays a month from 9-1. There would be 65 kids from 21 families. The parents must attend with the kids. Ages from baby to 15 years old. Classes do go through High School. More enrichment-type classes are offered to students who are homeschooled. The kitchen, classrooms, and basement are needed for 5 class groups. Would like to expand to 26 families. They need some room for storage of supplies that are lockable. They need to know as soon as possible if they can meet here. It will be checked out to see if Safe Sanctuary Building Certification is needed and liability. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Bill moved, and Mary seconded to accept minutes as presented. The motion was approved.

FINANCE: Tom reported that we are doing a little better financially, with only a \$3000 shortage each month so we can probably continue for a few more years. Pam moved, and Kris seconded to accept the financial report. The motion passed. **TRUSTEES:** Jason reported that he is checking on the internet connection at the church. Still working on the water lines. There is a policy in place that plaques will not be allowed. The memorial committee should meet and update the memorial book. Bill recommended that the Memorial committee revisit the policy about plaques. The groundskeeper isn't doing a good job. There needs to be a job description. Staff Parish hired him at the approval of the Ad Council. LaVona will find the job description. The committee is recommending Staff Parrish take over the responsibility of job. They have a few names to check on new people. They are working on the tree limb that is down on the ground. **FINANCE:** Tom reported that the finance committee needs to replace Vivian as Treasurer before the end of the year. Would like to put some financial duties on the secretary. Should write the job description and get it to Staff Parrish.

OUTREACH: Deann reported she had gone to Lions Family night and handed out flyers and had games for kids. Float for parade. There will be a band and music. There will be room for people to ride if they can't walk. Decorating the float will be done by the committee. VBS will have flyers to pass out. We could design a flyer about the church to stick on water bottles to hand out. If you are riding on the float, take candy to toss out. Jason will check on prices of water. Labels will be made by Deann.

WORSHIP: Working on being more welcoming and having more get-togethers. **STAFF PARISH RELATIONS:** LaVona is challenging everyone to make everyone feel welcome when they come into the church. **EDUCATION:** Kris reported getting ready for VBS. Still need helpers. Will be in the parade.

EVANGELISM: Birthdays, texts, and emails. Mary is busy visiting and taking communion to shut-ins. **UWF:** Picnic coming up. **UMM:** Looked at putting up the big screen TV. Inviting more men. **INTERCHURCH COUNCIL:** LaVona reported the meeting was canceled this week. **YOUTH:** no report **Old Business:** Kris asked that the slides be fixed for text wrap. \$574 was collected from Karen Hoffman for craft day this month. **PASTOR'S REPORT:** Thanked LaVona for her hard work. Is asking us to pray for him as the rumors are disturbing him. Would like to start a band. There will be a new member next week. He is hoping to make noise at the Conference about Savanna! Need to focus on the leadership to get younger people involved. Challenging us to leadership training experiences. It is important that there be a good job description for the next Secretary. There was discussion about the homeschool group. Susan Michelle moved, and Bill seconded that we vote. Karen suggested we take time to pray about it. The meeting was closed with prayer by Karen Hoffman, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:40. Respectfully submitted, Lea Ann Michels

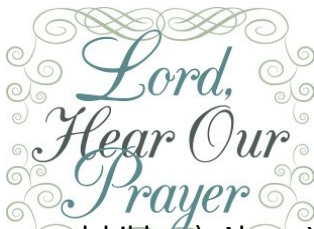


Attendance & Financials



Cash Available in General Account: \$ 5,089.52		
	June 2025	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 13,795.66	\$ 85,765.47
Church Expenses	\$ 20,004.65	\$ 117,743.19
Net Operating Balance	\$ -6,208.99	\$ -31,977.72
NIC Apportionments Paid		
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions vkeaton@grics.net		

Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
June 01	\$ 3,612.24	59	1 Dog	55
June 08	\$ 2,398.50	50	1	60
June 15	\$ 1,680.00	57	1	58
June 22	2,080.00	66	2	68
June 29	TBA	67	3 Dogs	67+3 Dogs
Totals	\$ \$ 9,764,74		4+ 4 Dogs	299+ 4 Dogs



In Our Prayers

Sandy Froehlich, Glen White, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Scarlett Huebner, Chrissy Sullivan, Angie (Paula's friend), Roher Furrow, Tinslee, Ed & Barb Jepsen, John Jachino, Kristin & Eli (Bob & LaVona Grissinger's grandchildren), Alyssa Volkers, Lisa (LaVona's friend), Jill (Melinda Dykema's daughter, Bob & LaVona Grissinger, Lola 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, Jon & Jody Kragle (Dianne Percy's friends), Dave Miller (Brigit Jepsen's boyfriend's father), John Norse, Howie Von Haden (LaVona's brother), Jamie Harkness Townsend, baby Wesley and family, Paul & Charlene Mayer, Vivian & Jim Eaton, Mia (Paula's co-worker), Christina Pasch, Baby Adrian, Julie Brunner (Linda Jachino's cousin), Martha White, Tim Cavanagh, Beverly & family (Emily Medley's cousin), Julie Ann Petty, Susan King Christine Jensen, Derek Osborn, Nadine Law Renfro, Vicki & Michael Thomas (Paula Mayer's friends), Chuck Atherton, Janet Smith (Denise's sister), Freida Nichols, Mike Medley, Lexi Piercy, Christa Jachino (Linda's daughter-in-law), Ross Bronkema, Pat Gilmore (Pam Darrow's brother), 5 firefighters were injured from the area fire departments, the Lars Colgan family.

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner, Steve & Linda Yenney, Brenda Hamm, Janice Wilt, Mary Ellen Dreger, Florence Bevins-Powell, Jackie Walker, Howard Nichols, Billy

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

JOY will meet on Wednesday, August 20th, from 4:30-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

JOY is open to anyone over 60. We'll be serving hamburgers, baked beans, chips, and salads with ice cream sundaes for dessert. No program this month, we'll spend time getting to know each other better and share our stories. Reservations must be made to the church office at 815-273-2345 by noon on Monday, August 18th. Rides are available, in-town only.

School Supplies!

You can leave your school supply donations in the Food Pantry Box in the narthex. Crayons, glue sticks, wide-ruled notebooks, markers, disinfecting wipes, and boxes of Kleenex are always needed. If you would like to help with the distribution it will be **Monday, August 18th and Friday, August 22nd from 2:30-5pm**. Any questions talk to Molly!

Soul Sisters August Outing

Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center
7071 Riverview Rd., Thomson, Friday,
August 15th at 10 A.M.

A carpool will leave the church at 9:45 A.M. Program by Bea Ingersoll and the refuge staff.

Bring a sack lunch and your drink.
Dessert will be furnished.

Blessing Basket

Blessing Basket needs toothbrushes and toothpaste, adult and children. You can leave your donations in the food pantry box in the narthex. Thank you for supporting this very important ministry!

West Carroll Food Pantry

Did you know our local food pantries will accept your extra produce? They are happy to take your bumper crop of zucchini, broccoli, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, whatever! If you need help picking or transporting call Molly Andersen, 815-541-6852. Items needed this month are crackers and canned fruit.

Our deepest sympathy

1. Glen White, husband of Susan White.
2. Wendy Wilkinson Jensen, niece of Alice Riffe.
3. Brian Wallace, son of Karen Wallace.
4. Doris Beyer, mother of Jeanne Beyer-Spraetz

Women in Faith

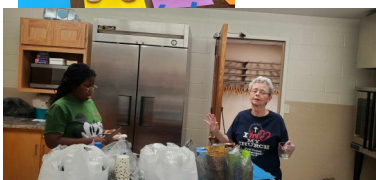
will meet Tues. August 5 at Deeann's home at 5:00 p.m. We will be touring Neumiller Farms and then returning to Deeanns for supper. She will furnish the meat. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish. See you on the 5th. Any questions, call Mary at 815-541-8487.

SAVANNA FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to Linda Stubbe and Pam Darrow Y6for volunteering at the Savanna Food Pantry in July. Our next shifts are September 30th and October 2nd. Please let Molly Andersen know if you would like to volunteer, 815-541-6852.

PICTURES!!!

VBS 2025 Road Trip



Pictures!!!



Our guests visited Savanna Before they came to sing



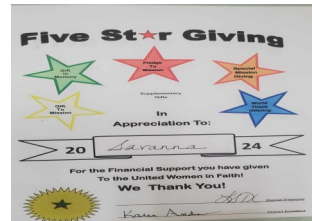
The Storm hit the Pratt's home



Our Ladies donated some good stuff for the Big Meadows



New welcoming Banner thanks to the Mayers



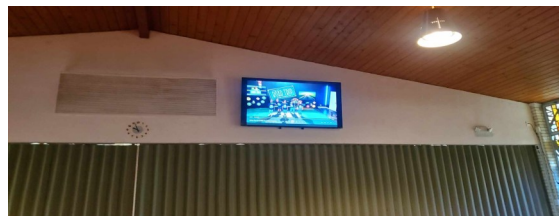
UMWF— Once again gained a Certificate



Soul-Sisters were in Mt. Carrol Library



We got two new Djembes' thanks to Ron Miller



Thanks to Barth and Kathy Prins for the TV



Worship Service will be at 9:30 am for
the summer beginning June 1 !!!

Coffee hour is every Sunday
please if you may sign up to
serve our Church.

Prayer group meets every Sunday 8:30 @
Church.

Pastor Fernando

Is in the Office From Tuesday to Friday

Call Pastor if you need Pastoral Care, or just to visit.

Sunday School, Adult Sunday
School, Youth Group will Resume
in Fall

Telstar items will be due on the 16th of
each month !!!

School Supplies!

Monday, August 18th and Friday, August 22nd
from 2:30-5pm. Any questions talk to Molly!

UNITED METHODIST MEN SPIRITUAL CONGRESS

September 12-14 Wisconsin

Blessings of the Backpack

August 24



August 2025

1 - Tom Neumiller
 4 - Joe Guilinger
 10 - Ryan Miller
 12 - Joleen LaShelle
 13 - LaVona Grissinger
 13 - Martha Purchis
 15 - Brenda Hamm
 18 - Pastor Fernando C. 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 3— Annika Law
 August 10 - Pearls Michels .
 August 17 - Tyson Speer
 August 24 - Kurt Hoffman
 August 31 - Joe Pasch

Acolytes

August 3— Joe Pasch
 August 10 - Lavonna Grissinger.
 August 17 - Rev. Bonnie Davies
 August 24 - Paula Mayer
 August 31 - Susan King

Ushers & Greeters

August 3- - Worship Cmte.
 August 10 - - Worship cmte
 August 17 - Worship cmte
 August 31 -

Counters & Verifiers

August 3- Molly Andersen & Mary Irons
 August 10—Ronda Law
 August 17 - Kirk Hoffman
 August 24 - Ellie Johnson

**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

August 2025

SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3rd Sunday Service Communion 9:30 am Worship with Coffee hour	4th of	5th United Women of Faith	6th Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30 Pastor prayer At the Table	7th Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30	8th Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30	9
10 Sunday Service 9:30 am Worship with Coffee hour District Clergy & Family Lunch	11 1 pm Sewing Ladies	12 Finance Meeting.	13 Meetings With DS, Free Port	14 Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30 9 am Bible Study 1:30 pm Senior Service	15 Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30 Souls Sister Car Pool	16
17 8:30—Prayer Meetings - Trustees 9:30 am Worship with Coffee hour 10:45 Adm. Council.	18 Telstar Info due 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	19 Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30 5:30 UM-Men	20 Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30 4:30-6:30 pm JOY Ministry Dinner Will meet @ Savannah FUMC	21 Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30 9 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Worship Mtg	22 Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30	23
24 8 am Trustees 8:30—Prayer Meetings 9:30 am Worship with Coffee hour 10:45 am Ad Council No Kids Kards	25 1 pm Sewing Ladies 5 pm JOY mtg Recap	26 Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30	27 Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30	28 Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30 9 am Bible Study	29 Office is Open 08 :30-4 ;30	30
31 9:30 am Worship with Coffee hour -Especcisal Music						