



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



Vision 2023 - "Make Jesus' Disciples"

**Focus on making Jesus' disciples
to transform lives and the world!**

Strong in Worship, Strong in Mission, Strong in Education

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19)

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Advent greetings to you all in Christ!

Around 2000 years ago, Jesus, the Son of Man, was sent by God to the world—not for judgment, but for the salvation and healing of humanity. During Christmas, Christians celebrate his birth, awaiting his second coming. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for his presence within us. Jesus, a profound blessing to humankind, invites us to also be a part of his return by becoming blessings to those in need during this special time of the year.

This year's Advent Bible Study will explore the Book of Acts, focusing on the role of the Holy Spirit and its impact on the lives of many Christians. God has been with us each day through the Holy Spirit, guiding and comforting us. The Holy Spirit encourages us every day to be with others and extend our support for those feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious, by offering our time, energy, and resources. Let us celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and prepare for his coming TOGETHER! *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)

We've already begun the Christmas Bell Ringing since the Thanksgiving weekend. There is still an opportunity to join us in supporting low-income families through the bell ringing volunteering. A giving tree is available in our narthex for children in need. We are collecting funds to support 25 children via the Christmas Needy Kids Program.

This year, we are hosting the Community Christmas Concert once again. During the concert, there will be an offering to support the School Food Pantry and The Christmas Needy Kids Program. Additionally, we're collecting items and essentials through the Advent Calendar to aid the School Food Pantry. You can get the information about the Advent Calendar from our church FaceBook page. Our efforts to assist those in need continue and we invite you to join us in these crucial missions and ministries.

We worship Emmanuel, God who is with us, during the Season of Advent. I encourage you to join us for our special services and events during the 2023 Advent Season. Everyone is welcome to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, his blessings, and anticipate his coming again to our hearts and minds.

Below is the schedule for the 2023 Advent and Christmas Season at Savanna FUMC:

1. 4 Weeks' Advent Bible Study (The Book of Acts)
– Wednesdays November 29th, December 6, 13, and 20 @ 5:00 pm
2. Hanging of the Greens & Cookies – Sunday, December 3 @ 10:15 am
3. Community Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 12 @ 2:00 pm
(There will be an offering to support the School Food Pantry and Needy Kids)
4. Sunday School Christmas Program – Sunday, December 17 @ 10:15 am
5. Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – Sunday, December 24 @ 7:00 pm
6. Caroling and Hymn Singing – Sunday, December 31 @ 10:15 am

Merry Christmas and Advent blessings to you and your family,

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dave

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2023 11:30AM CHURCH LIBRARY

Vice-Chairperson Bill Wright called the meeting to order at 11:29am with members Jason Moore, Kris Yingling, Vivian Eaton, Deeann Kramer, Ronda Rathje, Molly Andersen, Pastor Dave Yim, Pam Darrow, and Kathie and Burt Prins present. Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Kris moved, seconded by Kathie, to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passed. Financial statements were handed out to members. Kathie moved, seconded by Ronda, to accept the statements as presented and the motion passed.

TRUSTEES: River City will come this week to inspect the boiler and turn it on. Tony Herrell was here and looked at the heat trace on the church roof. Johnson Plumbing serviced the sewer pump in the church basement. The Ring doorbell was not working so we purchased a Wi-Fi extender. We received a notice that the insurance premiums will be going up 12-18% next year. Our usual group of bike riders were here last week. Ronda will work on a policy for the groups that use the church building. According to the Safe Sanctuary guidelines everyone who has contact with children must have a background check on file. Snowplowing was discussed and noted that good communication is essential to keep our parking lot and sidewalks safe all winter.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: The meeting with our new district superintendent last week went well. October is Pastor Appreciation Month and we will have a reception for Pastor Dave on October 29th.

FINANCE: They are meeting Tuesday via Zoom. Our November communion offering will go to United Women in Faith.

WORSHIP: They will meet on Thursday and will start planning Hanging of the Greens in December. We had good comments on the church conference and potato bar.

OUTREACH: Last week's potato bar collected \$369. Everything was delicious! Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, October 29th from 5-6:30pm. Hot dogs, chips, and bottled water will be served. They will plan for a Souper Bowl luncheon in February. Vivian was instructed to pay in full the new program that replaced the Rainbow Covenant program.

EDUCATION: Things are going well. The children are doing a 4-week Fun-Sized Faith program and then will start preparing for the Christmas program.

EVANGELISM: Shirley Fritz had a birthday last month. Mary Irons called Sandy Pratt and had a good visit with her.

UWF: They are serving a ham dinner next Sunday, October 22nd, 4-6pm, drive-thru only. A luncheon in December is being planned, along with the presentation of the Special Mission Recognition award. The Christmas party will be December 5th at Mary Iron's home.

UMM: The next meeting is Tuesday, October 24th. The program is a presentation from the Gideons.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: There are new coordinators for the Savanna Christmas Children's Program, Zach and Brittney Castro.

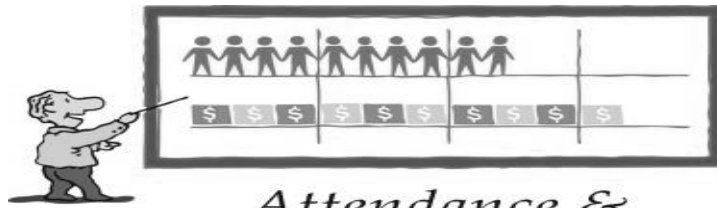
YOUTH: A mission trip in July, 2024 has been planned to North Carolina. Confirmation classes are starting with 6 confirmands!

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Dave emailed his report, mileage sheet, and mission trip information to members. We are having an Oktoberfest at Manny's after worship on Sunday, October 22nd, with the Accordion Divas playing. Everyone is responsible for their own lunches.

NEW BUSINESS: Jake and Shirley Casey gave a presentation about starting daycare in Savanna and possibly locating it in our church building. A copy of their presentation is included in these minutes. The presentation was well-planned and well-received. Discussion was allowed but no decisions were made. Pastor Dave closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 15,152.34		
	October 2023	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 10,990.99	\$ 119,460.54
Church Expenses	\$ 18,975.23	\$ 173,088.10
Net Operating Balance	\$ -7,984.24	\$ -53,627.56
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 2,580.00	\$ 14,190.00
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions!		
vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
October 29	\$ 1537.85	69	3 + 2 dogs	72 + 2 dogs
November 5	\$ 2873.50	67	2	69
November 12	\$ 1751.00	47	3	50
November 19	\$ 2047.00	60	1	61
November 26	\$ 1882.00	45	2	47
Totals	\$ 10,091.35	288	11 + 2 dogs	299 + 2 dogs



In Our Prayers

Billy David, Emilee Derrer, Merry Florence, Matthew Foltz, Rod Furrow, Rhonda Harlock Smith, John Irons, Judy Law, Mike Foltz, John Ritchie, Gi-Tae Yim, Inga, Sandy Froehlich, Vanessa & Tom Grissinger, Deb Endress (Kris Yingling's friend), Barb McFadden, Glen White, Baby Adrian & his mom, Alice (Esther's sister), Janet Smith, Eli (Bob & LaVona's grandson), Pastor Bill Landis, Shirley Hastings, Carol Eyerly (Cori Moore's mom), Alice Riffe-Torrison (Ronda's mom), Pastor Karen Schilling (Bonnie Davies' friend), Donny Hughes, Jeff O'Leary, Kim Walker (Jackie's daughter), Barb Green, Bentley Audi (Diane Brinkmeier's grand-son), Debbie Schriener (former member), Dale Wurster, Randy Law (Shirley Fritz's son-in-law), Ancil Guilinger, Owen (Bonnie's son), Cindy Westbrook (Pastor Dave's friend), Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Randy & Susie Bonjour, Tim Addie (relative of Bob & Lavona), Steve Runge (Ronda's friend), Jim Eaton, Sharon Atherton (Kris Yingling's aunt), Cody Rose (Courtney Johnson's friend), Pam Darrow, John Jachino, Joann Badtke (Bruce's mom), Connie Zink, Hazi (Cori Moore's daughter), Barb & Ed Jepsen, Paul Mayer, Will Bussan (Bonnie's grandson), Angie Lennon (Paula Mayer's friend's daughter), our Confirmands (Jon, Aidan, Jiho, Asia, Caleb, and Lexi), WC staff & students.

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

Our country & government, Military Personnel & their families, the safety of Ukrainians & end of wars, Turkey, Syria, Israel, the Gaza strip, peace in the middle east, and the victims of the gun violence and their families.

What's Happening At Church!!!!



United Women in Faith

We will be meeting Tuesday, December 5th at 6 pm for our annual Christmas gathering at Mary Iron's home. (104 Calumet St, Savanna). Following dinner, we will be making a mat for the homeless. All women are welcome.

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!

Kids Kards

We will NOT meet in December due to the holidays!

Our next session will be after worship on January 28th, 2024 to make valentine cards.

Any questions call Molly Andersen at 815-273-2104.

Acolyte Training

Will take place on Sunday, December 17th after worship service!

Community Christmas Program

Will be held on Sunday, December 10th at 2 pm.

Offering will go to the West Carroll Food Pantry and the Christmas Needy Kids.

Join us for an afternoon of Christmas music!

"Soul Sisters" Christmas Party

Thursday, December 7th at 12:30 pm

at Sippi Side in Savanna

Bring money for lunch and \$3 for room rental.

We will be in the back room. Wear your ugly sweater—prizes will be awarded to the top

3 vote getters! Bring 2 dozen Christmas cookies if you want to be in the cookie exchange. There will be games and Vivian is bringing her accordion.

Yippee!!!

RSVP by Monday, December 4th to Carol Fosdick

(815-238-6855) by text or call or email at cfosdick54@gmail.com.

Snow date will be Friday, December 8th.

Children's Christmas Program

Will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 10:15 am during worship service.

Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

**Special Thanks to Karen Wallace
for cleaning the sculptures in the sanctuary!
She does this each year and we thank her.**

Security Measures

New security measures were implemented on June 4th. There will always be someone in the Narthex during worship checking the doors, etc. The doors at the end of the education wing and the front door by the office will be locked during our service. Only the back door will be unlocked. If you would like to volunteer to help keep our parishioners safe, please let the office know.

West Carroll Food Pantry

The West Carroll School Food Pantry Advent Calendar is in full swing! (See page 8) Keep filling your calendar and get it stamped. To make things a bit easier, we have teamed up with Sullivan's foods where you can purchase a box that has all the food items for \$44. You can purchase this here in the church office or you can purchase it at the customer service counter directly from Sullivan's. (Please let Ronda know if you purchase one at Sullivan's so she can keep count.) This price does not include the Blessing Basket items. Those will need to be purchased separately as Sullivan's pricing is higher for said items. Ronda will be picking up all boxes, regardless of where the order is placed, on the morning of December 18th.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ronda Rathje (815-275-8045).

Your generosity is and will be greatly appreciated!!!

Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket is always busy throughout the winter when heating bills are high. Please consider donating men's and women's shampoo, and thank you for your continued support!

The Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree is in the narthex and well-decorated already but we still need your items of mittens, socks, underwear, hats, and scarves. It will be available to the West Carroll Food Pantry clients later this month and in January. Thank you for your warm donations!



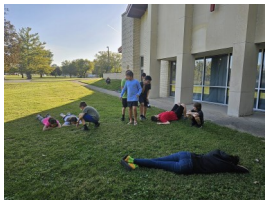
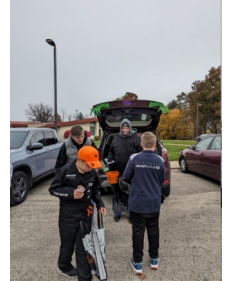
United Women in Faith presented Esther Losh the Special Recognition Annual Award.

Mary Irons stated that "She has grown in her faith. She is always willing to serve yet remain in the background. I remember when I first asked her to be liturgist. She did not say no, she asked if she could pray about. And a week later she said yes! She has stepped up by doing children's time. She is always willing to help in any capacity."

Congratulations Esther!!!!

Pictures!!!

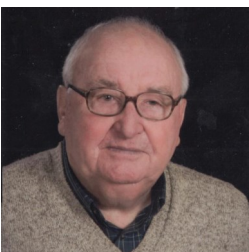
Trunk or Treat



Carroll County Youth Group
Always has a great time!
They meet the first Sunday of every month at 5 pm.
Next meeting is December 3rd at 5 pm!

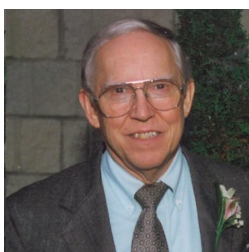


Our Confirmands church
visit to **St. John the Baptist**
Catholic Church



All Saints Sunday

<< Glenn Brunner
Bill Weidman >>

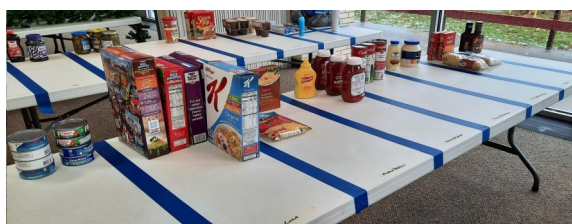


More Pictures!!!



When the West Carroll Food Pantry is low on any items, you all graciously answer their call! This was a one week collection! Thank you so very much!

The Advent Calendar collection is in full swing. (See page 6 for details) Below are pictures of what has been collected just in the first week!!! You generosity is so greatly appreciated!!!



Advent Calendar for WC Food Pantry Nov 26th thru Dec 24th

Purchase the item(s) listed for each day. Bring items to First United Methodist Church in Savanna, IL. Office hours are Mon – Fri, 9 am to 12 noon
Nov 26th - Dec 17th will be for the WC Food Pantry.
Dec 18th - Dec 24th will be for the Blessing Basket.

You can complete the whole calendar right away or do as you are able. All items for the WC Food Pantry must be turned in to the church no later than 10 am on Dec 18th to count for completion. The last day for turning in Blessing Basket items is 10 am on Dec 26th. When you have completed your calendar and each day is initialed, your name will be entered into a drawing for a couple of prizes. You may complete as many calendars as you want!!!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 Pasta Sauce	27 Noodles (Any kind)	28 Hamburger Helper	29 Tomato Soup	30 Crackers (any kind)	1 Chicken Noodle Soup	2 Canned Fruit
3 Cream of Mushroom Soup	4 BBQ Sauce	5 Rice (white or flavored)	6 Mayo/ Miracle Whip	7 Cream of Chicken Soup	8 Ketchup/ Mustard	9 Mashed Potatoes (box or bag)
10 Cereal (no Cheerios)	11 Tuna (can or pouch)	12 Peanut Butter (creamy)	13 Jelly (grape or strawberry)	14 Pickles/ Olives	15 Chef Boyardee (any kind)	16 Boxed Stuffing
17 Snack Pak Pudding cups	18 Toilet Paper	19 Paper Towels	20 Deodorant (men or women)	21 Body Wash	22 Toothpaste/ Toothbrushes (adult & kids)	23 Feminine Hygiene Products
24 Kids Tylenol/ Ibuprofen						



Church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 20th and Monday, December 25th for Christmas!

We will be having pictures taken for a new directory. Stay tuned for more information!!!

We will be having another blood drive on January 10th! More information will be coming soon!

Christmas Eve Services will be at 10:15 am and a candle light service with communion at 7 pm. Communion offering will go to West Carroll Food Pantry



Birthdays
&
Anniversaries



December 2023

- 1—Bonnie Davies, Max Purchis
- 2— Pearl Michels, John Brigham, Sally Marken
- 3—Shelby Rathje
- 9—Lynn Haas
- 10—Rhonda Badtke
- 14—Rachel Badtke
- 18—Bituin Michels
- 20—Kurt Dreger
- 24—Mary Ann Larsen
- 26—Jackie Walker
- 26—*Wallene & Tom Neumiller (1971)*
- 27—*Jim & Vivian Eaton (1962)*
- 30—Stephanie Shaw

Liturgists

- December 3—Ronda Rathje
- December 10—
- December 17—Children’s Program
- December 24 (AM) -
- December 24 (PM) -
- December 31—Ronda Rathje

Acolytes

- December 3—Jiwon & Jisung Yim
- December 10— Caleb Thornton
- December 17— Pearl Michels
- December 24 (AM) - Jiwon Yim
- December 24 (PM) -
- December 31 - Dalton Shaw

Counters & Verifiers

- Dec 3— Cori Moore & Mary Irons
- Dec 10— Molly Andersen & Karen Hoffman
- Dec 17—Rhonda Law & Linda Jachino
- Dec 24 (AM) - Lori Miller & Pam Darrow
- Dec 31—Vivian Eaton & Kay Cavanagh

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



Watch Hanging of the Greens service!!!

– go to YouTube and search for “Savanna IL FUMC”. Find December 3rd date and see the whole service.

Lots of pictures inside! Even more on our Facebook page. Be sure to friend us!



www.facebook.com/savanna.firstumc

