



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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Christmas's Glamour, Glitter and Glory, or Salvation?

Dear friends in Christ, during my journey out of my country, I have spent six Christmases in three different countries, two in Namibia, two in Zimbabwe, and recently two in the United States, one thing I have noticed in all these countries, are the similarities in how the three different countries' Christians and non-Christians celebrate this time of the year. Firstly, I saw that most people got so busy shopping, secondly, I noticed lots of excitement, and third and very importantly, I noticed that Christmas is a moment that renews people's hope. As it approaches, consequently, people tend to be more generous, in my country, for example, during this period, the homeless get more attention, and in the USA, since snow is part of the Advent season, I saw churches accommodating the homeless and providing hot meals and if possible, showers. In contrast, in 2022 as I spent my Christmas in Oklahoma City, I was taken to visit a street where I saw lights like never before, they were amazing to gaze at, flashing through a very long street, and each house was so well decorated with hundreds of flashing lights such as Net lights, icicle lights, Christmas lights, balls, garland lights, and many others. All those lights made me wonder about the true meaning of Christmas, and how those lights might be important to the owners of those houses, I also wonder how they feel after seeing the effects of those lights at night on top and surrounding their homes. All the lights reminded me of Jesus.

Jesus, the core of Christmas, identifies himself as a light too: he said ***"I have come into the world as light so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."*** John 12:46.

Friends, I am not saying that we ought not to celebrate Christmas, or not decorate our homes, or buy gifts, to offer our loved ones. However, what I have also noticed is that so many Christians try to equate God with glamour, glitter, and glory. Jesus was born in a place that had nothing to do with outward glory. Although one day Jesus will come in his Glory.

Friends as we start the advent journey of 2024, I would like to call your attention to the core of Christmas, that is salvation is granted for you and me, the baby Jesus is to be remembered for what he came to do on earth, and for us to see it and experience the love God incarnated in his son Jesus Christ, the condition is for us to have faith just as the first Christian did, once they heard the Angels, announcing the birth of a king, not in a magnificent building, or in a well-decorated child room. But in a cattle shed where no one would think of, with no glamour, but hope and cattle probably making noise.

Stay with the Peace of Christ for now, as I am looking forward to spending Christmas in Savanna, IL.

May God bless you all,

Pastor Fernando de Casto

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 2024 11:30 AM @ CHURCH LIBRARY

Chairperson Susan Michelle Jepsen called the meeting to order at 11:29am with members Deeann Kramer, Molly Andersen, Tom Michels, Mary Irons, Jason Moore, Linda Stubbe, Kris Yingling, Ronda Rathje, LaVona Grissinger, Lexi Piercy, Pam Darrow and Pastor Fernando Candumbo de Castro present. Pastor Fernando opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Susan Michelle moved, seconded by Ronda, to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passed. The Financial Report was handed out. Kris moved, seconded by Pam, to accept the report as presented and the motion passed.

TRUSTEES: An easement contract was received from JoCarroll Energy. We will check to see if they can fix the electrical service to the outdoor sign when they bury the new cable to the church. A \$7000 down payment for the new roof at the parsonage will be sent with the work due to start in mid-November. The heat was turned on last week and we discovered we need to replace 2 controllers at a cost of about \$600. The committee recommends we purchase 3 to have an extra one on hand, with a total cost including installation of approximately \$1500. The recommendation passed. Someone left a note for the custodian stating a pew was cracked and had a board sticking up. Jason will tighten the screws on the pews and inspect the crack. Pastor Fernando requested 2 space heaters for the parsonage. We will have the furnace inspected and serviced to see if that helps. The church lawn mower needs repair and Bruce Badtke offered to cover the expense. Deeann moved, seconded by Mary, to take a special offering to cover the lawn mower repair cost and the motion passed. Jason sold the old dinner plates from the church kitchen for \$200 on Facebook.

OUTREACH: They will serve a potato bar after worship on Sunday, November 3rd. Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, October 27th from 6-7pm. Hot dogs, chips, and water will be served.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: We celebrated Laity Sunday today with Ronda leading the service.

WORSHIP: We will begin passing the offering plates again this Sunday. Discussion was held about passing clipboards around during worship as some people find it distracting. They will be in the narthex now. It was suggested that we have 2 lines to receive communion as our attendance has increased.

EDUCATION: The Sunday School is going well. The Christmas program will be December 15th. The children will be going to St. John's Catholic church on November 17th and the Catholic children will be coming here in the spring.

MEMORIAL: A report from Linda Jachino was read and filed with these minutes.

EVANGELISM: Birthday cards were sent to Don Greenfield and Sharon Beyer. Mary has made lots of phone calls and visited the Yenneys. Visits are planned for Joy Turner, Torrisons, and Florence Bevins-Powell. Pastor visited Froehlichs and Halloween cards were sent to shut-ins.

UWF: They will meet November 5th for the Thanks offering program. \$862 was made at the pulled pork drive-thru dinner on October 6th.

UMM: They will work on electing a leader.

YOUTH: The youth had a fun time with a hayrack ride and campfire at their meeting. Pastor Fernando had fun, too!

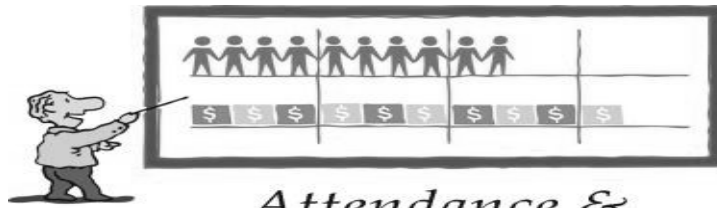
INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: The Blessing of the Pets only had 1 animal participate but there were different times advertised that caused some confusion.

OLD BUSINESS: The church's website still needs to be updated.

NEW BUSINESS: Ronda offered to make a chart to track our attendance. 2 of our church members, Bill Wright and Paul Mayer, will be going on the Honor Flight on October 29th. We were encouraged to welcome them home at the Quad Cities airport that night.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Fernando has been here 100 days and gave thanks to everyone for welcoming him, referencing Psalm 124. He will be going to Angola in November to help his family come to the United States, as their interview at the embassy was canceled. He is starting a new member class with 4 people and is now on the GRO board. Rev. Bonnie Davies, Mary, Molly and he will be going to Dixon to the Keagy/PACK grant meeting on November 2nd. He will have a baptism on November 10th. He would like to plan a retreat for Ad Council members. He handed out a sheet from the Northern Illinois Conference about who we are. A copy is included in these minutes. Pastor Fernando closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 12:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 7087.16		
	October 2024	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 10,498.00	\$ 122,689.00
Church Expenses	\$ 23,711.00	\$ 207,671.00
Net Operating Balance	\$ -13,213.00	\$ -85,982.00
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 14,050.00
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
November 3	\$ 3285.00	?	0	???
November 10	\$ 2695.11	69	1	70
November 17	\$ 2687.00	52	1	53
November 24	\$ 3196.00	71	2 dogs	71 + 2 dogs
Totals	\$ 11,863.11	192	2 + 2 dogs	194 + 2 dogs



In Our Prayers

Sandy Froehlich, Glen White, Pastor Bill Landis, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Sandy 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), Paula Mayer, Tinslee, Ed & Barb Jepsen, Mary (Belander) Klein, Howard Nichols, Jackie Walker, John Jachino, Kristin (Bob & LaVona Grissinger's granddaughter), Chuck Curtis, Alyssa Volkens, Burt Prins, Lisa (LaVona's friend), Jill (Melinda Dykema's daughter), Elyssa Gooding (Bonnie's daughter), Susan Foltz (organist at Mt. Carroll UMC), Denise Curtis, Abby & baby (Karen Hoffman's cousin), LaVona Grissinger, Lola McCutcheon (Tim Cavanagh's friend), Sarah & Marty Brubaker, Tim Cavanagh, Karen Burcham (Paul Mayer's sister), Beth (LaVona's colleague), the Norman family, Bang-Wool Yim, Dan Zambon (uncle of Kim Gonzalez), Pat Kemp (Mary Iron's friend), Melinda Dykema, Karen Grissinger (Bob & LaVona's Grissinger's daughter-in-law), Dave Fosdick, Dave Miller (Brigit Jepsen's boyfriend's father), Mary & Phil Nylín (house fire), Karen Hoffman's cousins (house fire), Richard Holy, Jody & Jon Kragel (Dianne Piercy's friends), Gary Speed, John Norse, Louise Brouillard (Ronda's friend), Howie Von Haden (LaVona's brother), Nick Law, Rita Mitchell, the family of Jessie Bundy, and closure for the family of Jackson Kradle. **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 heat, torndoes, severe thunderstorms, hurricanes, 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

JOY (60+) will have a Christmas party on **Wed, December 18th, from 4:30-6:30pm**. There will be food, fun, and fellowship with pizza for dinner, Christmas caroling with Vivian Eaton and her accordion, and a white elephant gift exchange. The JOY elves will be baking cookies to take home!

RSVP to the church office by noon Monday, December 16th. Rides are available, in-town only. Let's celebrate our dear Savior's birth! 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.

SOUL SISTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ladies, come, join us for a joyful Christmas party! We'll make a Christmas craft, sing some carols, and enjoy a potluck lunch on Thursday, December 12th @ 11:30 am at FUMC Fellowship Hall

****Ugly Christmas sweaters are encouraged****

*For more details, contact Linda Jachino
(815) 541-4760.*

Kids Kards

Kids Kards will meet after church on

Sunday, December 22nd,

to make greeting cards for our shut-ins.

All materials are provided and everyone is welcome. There will be Lunchables to take home.

Volunteers are needed

to work at the Savanna Food Pantry on

December 24th and 26th, 9am-12 noon. If you are interested in helping please let Molly Andersen know, 815-541-6852.

Blessing Basket

Blessing Basket donations can be left in the food pantry box in the narthex. Items needed this month are men's and women's deodorants.

Thank you for your continued support of this much-needed ministry.

West Carroll Food Pantry

The Advent Calendar is back again!

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 **\$50**. 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 afternoon of December 15th.

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

Your generosity is and will be greatly appreciated!!!

IMPACT YOUTH GROUP

(formerly Carroll County Youth Group)

We plan to host a fun Christmas game night in the church basement youth group room. We will play fun Christmas games, have some tasty snacks, food, and hot chocolate, and do an activity that ties in our message of the month. We typically meet the first Sunday of each month, but this meeting will be **Sunday, Dec. 8 from 5-6:15 pm** since we will be gone for Thanksgiving weekend.

The Giving Tree is in the narthex and ready to be decorated!

Bring hats, mittens, underwear, socks, scarves, anything to help our children stay warm this winter. Items will be donated to the clients of the West Carroll School Food Pantry in January. Thank you for your warm hearts!

PICTURES!!!



**Kids Kards -
Everyone was hard at work!**



**Holiday Harvest
Vendor Show**
was a huge
success!
Our net profit
was
\$1560.00!



**Pastor Fernando with his
family**



Pastor Fernando with area

**Keagy Town & Rural
Festival, Dixon, IL**



OTHER ITEMS



ST. VINCENT DEPAUL ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC
PRESENTS

SPAGHETTI Fundraiser

DECEMBER 6TH 5PM - 8PM

ST. JOHN'S ANTL HALL

Silent Auction Items and 50/50 Raffle

**ADULTS \$15 CHILDREN (12-6) \$10
UNDER 5 FREE**

**DINNER INCLUDES: SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS, TOSSED SALAD,
BREAD. SPUMONI ICE CREAM AND WINE!**

Thank you for your support!

ALL PROCEEDS WILL ASSIST FRIENDS IN NEED IN CARROLL COUNTY

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH ST. JOHN'S OFFICE 815-273-3961

Advent Calendar for WC Food Pantry Dec 1st thru Dec 24th

You can purchase each item(s) listed for each day or purchase a box from Sullivan's with every food item in it for \$50. To purchase a box, you can purchase it thru the church office or at Sullivan's Customer Service Counter. You can bring individual purchased items to First United Methodist Church in Savanna. We will pick up all purchased food boxes. Office hours are Mon, Wed, & Fri, 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Tues & Thurs 9 am to 12 noon. Dec 1st - Dec 22nd will be for the WC Food Pantry. Dec 23rd - Dec 31st will be for the Blessing Basket.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Pasta Sauce	2 Noodles (Any kind)	3 Hamburger Helper	4 Tomato Soup	5 Crackers (any kind)	6 Chicken Noodle Soup	7 Canned Fruit
8 Cream of Mushroom Soup	9 BBQ Sauce	10 Rice (white or flavored)	11 Mayo/ Miracle Whip	12 Cream of Chicken Soup	13 Ketchup/ Mustard	14 Mashed Potatoes (box or bag)
15 Cereal	16 Tuna (can or pouch)	17 Peanut Butter (creamy)	18 Jelly (grape or strawberry)	19 Pickles/ Olives	20 Chef Boyardee (any kind)	21 Boxed Stuffing
22 Snack Pak Pudding cups	23 Toilet Paper	24 Paper Towels	25 Deodorant (men or women)	26 Body Wash (Men's Women's or kids)	27 Toothpaste/ Toothbrushes (adult & kids) (SOFT)	28 Feminine Hygiene Products
29 Kids Tylenol/ Ibuprofen	30 Ziploc Baggies (all sizes)	31 Tin Foil				



BICYCLE ILLINOIS



On Sunday October 6, ten tired but excited cyclists and crew members stopped for the night at the First United Methodist Church as the first stop of "Will to Ben," a 300-mile, six-day bicycle tour from the Will B. Rolling bicycle statue in Port Byron, IL to the Ben Bikin' bicycle statue in Sparta, WI. By the time the cyclists began arriving late morning, each one had already completed at least 45 miles of their total journey from Port Byron, having stopped along the way in Albany and Thomson. A few of the stronger cyclists also rode out to Mt. Carroll to complete a special 100-mile single-day ride known as a "century ride" which is the cycling equivalent of running a marathon. The riders especially enjoyed the special pulled pork dinner at the church and spent the night either indoors in the classrooms or outdoors in tents. The next morning the cyclists departed for Platteville, riding 70 miles with stops along the way in Hanover, Galena, and Cuba City. 2024 was the ninth year for the ride and they have been overnighing at the church every year. They look forward to continuing to visit every year and sincerely appreciate the church's hospitality and welcoming spirit!



Worship is at 10:15 am!!!

**Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting
is postponed until further notice!**

**United Methodist Men
will meet Tuesday, Dec 17th
@ 5 pm**

**Finance/Growth will meet
Tuesday, Dec 10th @ 5 pm
in the library at the church.**

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

**Thursday Bible Study is
at 9 am each week!!!**

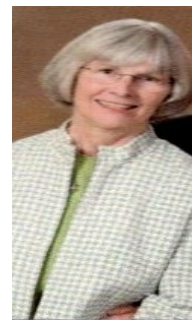
**New Member Class - If you are interested in becoming a
member, we will be holding a class. This will be 5 classes
either in person or via Zoom for 5 weeks.
Just let the office know!**

**Impact Life Blood Drive
Wed, Jan 8th
3 pm to 6 pm
Fellowship Hall**

All Saints Sunday



Ann Larsen



Martha Purchis



Ancil Guilingier



**Congratulations to Garrett &
Nikki Badtke
on the birth of their daughter,
Palmer Mel Badtke
Born Monday, Nov 18th, 2024,
7 lb, 6 oz
19 1/2 inches long.**





November 2024

- 1 - Bonnie Davies
- 1 - Max Purchis
- 2 - John Brigham
- 2 - Sally Marken
- 2 - Pearl Michels
- 3 - Shelby Rathje
- 6 - Isabel de Castro
- 9 - Lynn Haas
- 10 - Rhonda Badtke
- 14 - Rachel Badtke
- 19 - Bituin Michels
- 20 - Kurt Dreger
- 26 - *Tom & Wallene Neumiller (1971)*
- 26 - Jackie Walker
- 27 - *Jim & Vivian Eaton (1962)*
- 30- Stephanie Shaw

TEACH LIKE PAUL

FIGHT LIKE DAVID

BUILD LIKE NOAH

OBEY LIKE DANIEL

LEAD LIKE MOSES

LOVE LIKE JESUS



Acolytes

- Dec 1 - Pearl Michels
- Dec 8 - ?
- Dec 15 - Ellie Johnson
- Dec 22 - ?
- Dec 24 - ?
- Dec 29 - Ryker McCombie

Liturgists

- Dec 1 - Hanging of the Greens
- Dec 8 - Linda Jachino
- Dec 15 - ?
- Dec 22 - Jason Moore
- Dec 24 - ?
- Dec 29 - Joe Michels

Coffee Hour

- Dec 1 - Bonnie Davies
- Dec 8 - Badtke's
- Dec 15 - Deeann Kramer
- Dec 22 - Cavanagh's/Clemens'
- Dec 24 - No Coffee Hour
- Dec 29 - Johnson's

Ushers & Greeters

will be Worship cmte for
the month of December

Counters & Verifiers

- Dec 1 - Molly Andersen & LaVona Grissinger
- Dec 8 - Rhonda Law & Mary Irons
- Dec 15 - Lori Miller & Linda Jachino
- Dec 22 - Vivian Eaton & Pam Darrow
- Dec 24 - ?
- Dec 29 - Lori Miller & 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**



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