



Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors...

The people of the  
United Methodist  
Church



**Our Mission Is to Love Boldy, 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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## ADVENT IS HERE AGAIN! CHRISTMAS IS REAL

Friends, as while we all look forward to the end of 2025, the Christian year begins anew with Advent.

This sacred season starts November 30th —the first Sunday of Advent. Where we light the Candle of hope.

Advent began in the early Church as a six-week season of fasting and penitence, much like Lent. By the Middle Ages, it became the four weeks we know today. Over time, its tone shifted from solemn repentance to one of hopeful anticipation and spiritual longing. As Rev. Dr. Tercio reminds us: "Advent highlights the tension of the 'already and not yet' in Christian faith. Christ has come and yet is coming again."

During this season of preparation, each Sunday carries a theme: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

- **First Sunday is Hope:** Though hope can feel elusive, it surrounds us when we open our hearts. True hope rests not in people or possessions, but in Jesus Christ. Advent calls us to anchor our hope in Him.
- **Second is Peace:** We await the Prince of Peace. In a season often marked by busyness, God's peace invites us to slow down, breathe deeply, and plant seeds of peace in our hearts, homes, and communities.
- **Third is Joy:** Joy is God's gift to us, expressed through kindness, service, and faith in action. Even in sorrow, we can rejoice in the Lord, for Christ brings joy to our hearts. Let us share that joy with others this season.
- **Fourth is Love:** Advent reminds us of God's boundless, sacrificial love—a love beyond human comprehension. His love is our blueprint for living. This season, may we receive His love anew and extend it generously to others.

The prophet Jeremiah declared: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Advent arrives as a reminder that something better is on its way. God, through the Prophet, looks into our future and promises what will be fulfilled soon with Christmas.

Therefore, let us prepare our hearts with expectation, gratitude, and faith, Advent is here again! CHRISTMAS IS REAL!



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAVANNA

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes November 23, 2025 Members present: Tom Michels, Mary Irons, Lea Ann Michels, Pastor Fernando, Jason Moore, Susan Michelle Jepsen, Linda Stubbe, Karen Hoffman, Kris Yingling, Esther Losh,.

Meeting was called to order at 11:38 Motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made by Susan Michelle, Kris seconded. The motion was approved

Financial report: We're spending 50,000 more than we took in this year. Because of stock market being up we have some more this now but still not enough to last more than 5 years.. Kris moved and Karen seconded to approve the financial report. The motion passed.

Education: Kris reported that the Christmas program will be Dec, 14. Practice will be the 13th. WIF will have a soup luncheon. We hosted Catholic kids last week, we'll be invited there in spring.

Mary: visited and had communion with shut ins and also visited Pinnacle Place Finance: sending a letter to hopefully get more people to pledge as well as updating contact information.

Outreach: Potato bar raised \$348.

Trustees: water heater was rehashed. Talked to Johnson Plumbing but he hasn't come to do it yet. Fiber optic needed an invoice and will be connected soon. Snow removal wasn't sure if insurance was covered by church's but asked him to go ahead and plow but will try to find someone to do it in the future. Youth would like to have the basement room cleaned out. It was suggested that there be an evening to go through everything and have committees decide what needs to be gotten rid of. It was suggested to get the youth involved in church as ushers or offering.

Welcoming committee: Esther Losh put up a sign up for coffee hour. Her committee has been helping at luncheons or dinners. Will be welcoming people to church. Will be working on physically getting members to church.

Worship: Linda reported they have been working on Hanging of the Greens Dec 7. Advent wreath will be different committees so people can see them involved.

WIF: Will be going to Rastrelli's for luncheon. Dec 2. Will be sending blankets that will be blessed next Sunday .

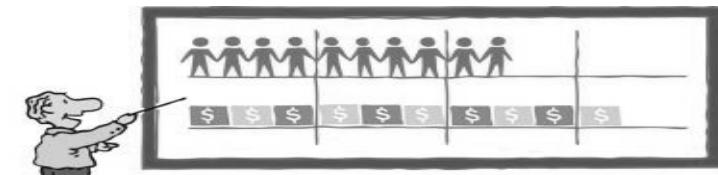
UMM: meeting Tuesday night. Had Marty Brubaker talking about his mission for the people in the community who need a meal and talk to God. He will be asked to speak at church.

Interchurch council: Pastor Gary is still leading the group. Looking at the Lenten Services. It's unsure about Ringing the Bell. It should start this week. There were several volunteers to ring the bell but don't want to be in charge of the money. Linda will talk to Molly to figure it out.

Old Business: \$1225.65 were raised by the craft Fair. Next year Sept 26 will be the craft fair. The craft day will be Dec 13. There may be a Junk in the Trunk in May. Susan Michelle asked about the new booklet about members. It will be checked into. It was discussed that we work with The Table about feeding the community. UCC should be invited to the Christmas program.

Pastor's report: He has not been feeling well. His family is well, Isabella is settling in well. Attendance has been around 60. He has visited several members who are shut ins or in the hospital. He has visited Pinnacle and The Table, Pastor has met the new preacher at Mt Carroll, Dean Wright. He has been meeting with Evangelism. We need to get more people involved in the church. We need to pray about how to get the youth involved. Pastor wants to make a connection with the confirmation group so that the kids stay involved in church. It was suggested that maybe we combine our confirmation group with the Mt. Carroll church's. Pastor will look into it. Pastor closed the meeting with a prayer. Kris moved, Jason seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50.

Respectfully submitted, Lea Ann Michels



## Attendance & Financials

| Cash Available in General Account: <b>\$ 7,958.67</b>                |                  |                      |
|--|------------------|----------------------|
|  | October 2025     | Year to Date         |
| Church Revenue   | \$ 11,165.45     | \$ 134,313.16        |
| Church Expenses  | \$ 20,167.38     | \$ 156,014.17        |
| Net Operating Balance  | \$ <b>-9,001</b> | \$ <b>-51,701.01</b> |
| NIC Apportionments Paid  | \$ 19,525        |                      |
| Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions<br>vkeaton@grics.net |                  |                      |



| Date          | Income            | Worship Inside | Worship Outside   | Total Attendance    |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| October 5     | \$ 3,805          | 72             | 0                 | 72                  |
| October 12    | \$ 1,962          | 61             | 0                 | 61                  |
| October 19    | \$ 1987.10        | 73             | 0                 | 73                  |
| October 26    | \$ 2021           | 63             | 1 + 2 dogs        | 64 + 2 dogs         |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>\$ 9775.10</b> | <b>269</b>     | <b>1 + 2 dogs</b> | <b>270 + 2 dogs</b> |



### In Our Prayers

Bob Bauer-upcoming surgery, Emily Medley and her brother -dealing with health issues

Salvordor Sanchez-Esther Losh's uncle-health issues Randy Suckling-heart transplant sur

gery ,went well. Sandy Froehlich-,(doing immune therapy), Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Tinslee (awaiting transplant), Alyssa Volkers, Karen ( The Norman family, Julie Brunner (Linda Jachino's cousin), Tim Cavanagh (waiting for heart surgery). Vicki & Michael Thomas (Paula Mayer's friends), Janet Smith (Denise's sister), The Lars Colgan family.

Michael Medley has been in Clinton Hospital, Don Kramer. Charlene Mayer requests prayers for her auntie Jeanette, Kim Gonzales requests prayers for her relative Sharon, who has gallbladder and liver cancer.

**(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!!!!

## Sewing Ministry

We invite all sewers to get involved in our sewing ministry but getting a kit in the sewing room. 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!

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

## JOY (Just Older Youth) Ministry

Will meet on Wednesday December 17 At 4:30-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We'll celebrate Christmas with pizza for dinner, cookies and ice-cream for dessert, and a Christmas carol sing-a-long with Vivian and her accordion. Joy is open to anyone over 60 and is a free meal, fun and fellowship. Please make a reservation by calling the church office at 815-273-2345 before noon on Monday December 15th. Rides are available in town only.

## The Giving Tree

Is in the narthex and ready to be decorated with warm hats, mittens and scarves, socks and underwear. We will share these items with the school food pantry clients later this month.

## Worship Committee

Is trying to bring back Ushers and Greeters. If you are interested in volunteering, please

See Linda Stubbe.

## Blessing Basket

Has had it's busiest month ever, giving our over 230 items in November. Please consider donating a bottle of shampoo or body wash to help restock our shelves. Thank you!

## West Carroll School Food Pantry

Because of your generosity 52 families received a Thanksgiving dinner box. What a wonderful blessing to be able to share God's love with our neighbors. Items needed this month are soup and crackers. You can leave your donations in the

Food Pantry box in the narthex.

## Savanna FUMC

Will be staffing the Savanna Community Food Pantry on Tuesday, December 9th and Thursday December 11th

9am to 12 noon. Please let Molly know if you would like to volunteer.

MARK THIS ON YOUR  
CALENDAR

Women of Faith Christmas Party December 2nd  
Carpooling from the church --going to Rastrelli's  
Call Mary for information 815-541-8487

Soul Sisters will Meet December 4th Christmas  
Get Together

Lunch at Sunshine Café at 12 noon \* "Festival of  
Trees" at the Savanna Museum

--Raffles for prizes: vote for your favorite trees--  
\*Classy Closet will be open for your used clothing

### Choir schedule for the Dec 7 CONCERT

- Sunday, 11/23, noon, Presbyterian church
- Sunday 11/30 noon Presbyterian.
- Sunday, 12/7 1:00 Methodist

### IMPACT YOUTH

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE MEET EVERY FIRST SUNDAYS  
OF THE MONTH AT OUR CHURCH OR A PLACE TO BE  
ANOUNCED.

Kids Kards will meet after worship  
On December 28th. We will be making a variety of cards for our shut-ins, friends and church family. We will have pizza for lunch. Everyone invited and all materials are provided. Come join our children and create some cards and  
Memories Call Molly Andersen for more information. 815-541-6852

## December Challenge

Read 1 chapter of Luke every day. On December 25, you would have read all about Jesus's Life

| Day 1   | Day 2   | Day 3   | Day 4   | Day 5            |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|
| Luke 1  | Luke 2  | Luke 3  | Luke 4  | Luke 5           |
| Day 6   | Day 7   | Day 8   | Day 9   | Day 10           |
| Luke 6  | Luke 7  | Luke 8  | Luke 9  | Luke 10          |
| Day 11  | Day 12  | Day 13  | Day 14  | Day 15           |
| Luke 11 | Luke 12 | Luke 13 | Luke 14 | Luke 15          |
| Day 16  | Day 17  | Day 18  | Day 19  | Day 20           |
| Luke 16 | Luke 17 | Luke 18 | Luke 19 | Luke 20          |
| Day 21  | Day 22  | Day 23  | Day 24  | Day 25           |
| Luke 21 | Luke 22 | Luke 23 | Luke 24 | Merry Christmas! |

# Pictures!!!

BAKED POTATO BAR- ORGANIZED BY OUTREACH CMT.



THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED FOR THE SCHOOL FOOD PANTRY SO NO CHILD MAY GO HUNGRY





## CRAFT FAIR



## LION'S CLUB DANATED A CHECK FOR THE FOOD PANTRY



## UWF & UMM MET LAST MONTH



MOLLY & MARY @ TOWN RURAL KEAGY GRANT.

VETERANS DAY





## December 2025

1 - Bonnie Davies  
Max Purchis  
2 - John Brigham  
Sally Marken  
Pearl Michels  
3 - Shelly Rathje  
6 - Isabel de Castro  
9 - Lynn Haas  
10 - Rhonda Badtke  
14 - Rachel Badtke  
18 - Bituin Michels  
Mary Ellen Dreger  
26 - Jackie Walker  
*Tom & Wallene Neumiller*  
27- Jim & Vivian Eaton



### Liturgists

Dec 7 -Paula Mayer  
Dec - 14 Susan King  
Dec 21 - Julie Petty  
Dec 28 - Sherry Cen



### Worship Helpers

**Acolytes**  
Dec 7 -Ryan McCombie  
Hanging of the Greens  
Dec 14 - Faith Gonzalez  
Dec 21 - Joe Pasch  
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve  
Ennie Marie & Priscilla  
Dec 28 - Kirk Hoffman

### Greeters & Ushers Will be Woship Committe

### Coffee Hour

Dec 07 - Worship Cmt. (Deean)  
Dec 14—UMW-Soup  
Dec 21— Jim & Vivian Eaton  
Dec 28 - Esther Losh

### Counters & Verifiers

Dec 07 - Molly Andersen & Pam Darrow  
Dec 14— Rhonda Law & Linda Jachino  
Dec 21— Lori Miller & Kay Cavanagh  
Dec 28 - Vivian Eaton & Linda Stubbe



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



# December 2025



| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY                    | WEDNESDAY                                       | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|----------------------------|---|--|--------|----------|
|   | 1<br>8:30—Prayer Meetings<br>10:15 am Worship with Coffee hour<br>Hanging of the Gree | 2<br><b>Women of Faith</b> | 3   | 4<br><b>Soul Sisters</b>   | 5      | 6        |
| 7<br>8:30—Prayer Meetings<br>10:15 am Worship with Coffee hour<br>Hanging of the Greens<br><b>CONCERT</b><br>Concert                            | 8<br>1 PM Sewing ladies   | 9 FUMC --at FOOD PANTRY    | 10  | 11<br>FUMC--at FOOD PANTRY   | 12     | 13       |
| 14<br>8 am Trustees<br><b>Children's Christmas Program</b><br>11: 20 am Ad Council  | 15<br>Bible Study 9am<br>1 PM Sewing ladies<br>Food Pantry<br>3-5 pm                  | 16                         | 17<br><b>JOY</b> 4:30-6:30<br>Pastor: GRO Board | 18<br>Pastor: Nursing homes  | 19     | 20       |
| 21- 8:30—Prayer Meetings<br><b>Choir Practice : 12 Noon @ , Presbyterian church</b>   | 22<br>Bible Study 9am<br>1 PM Sewing ladies   | 23                         | 24<br><b>Christmas Eve 7 PM</b>                 | 25<br><b>CHRISTMAS</b><br> | 26     | 2        |
| 28<br>8:30—Prayer Meetings<br>10:15 am Worship with Coffee hour<br><b>KIDS KARDS</b><br><b>Choir Practice : 12 Noon @ , Presbyterian church</b> | 29  | 30                         | 31<br>Office is Closed                          |  |        |          |