



Our Mission 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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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 in 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 .

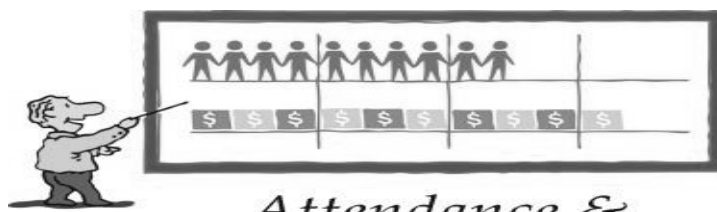
UMM: meeting Tuesday night. Had Marty Brubaker talking about his mission for the people in the community who need a meal and talk to God. He will be asked to speak at church.

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: \$ 7,958.67		
	October 2025	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 11,165.45	\$134,313.16
Church Expenses	\$ 20,167.38	\$ 156,014.17
Net Operating Balance	\$ -9,001	\$ -51,701.01
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 19,525	
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions 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
Totals	\$ 9775.10	269	1 + 2 dogs	270 + 2 dogs



In Our Prayers

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

Salvador 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 its busiest month ever, giving out 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.



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

IMPACT YOUTH

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

**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**

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!

Lemons
@iamcoachboone

@iamcoachboone

Pictures!!!

BAKED POTATO BAR- RORGANIZED BY OUTREACH CMT.

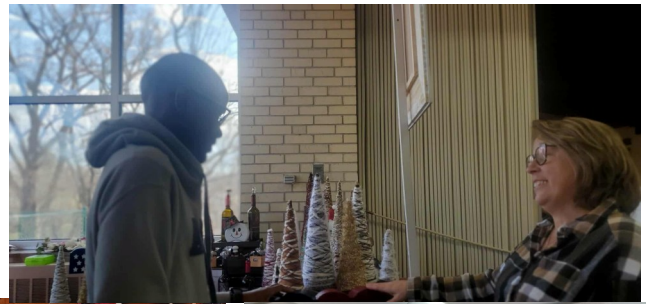


THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED FOR THE SCHOOL FOOD PANTRY SO NO CHILD MAY GO HUNGRY





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 Bringham

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

Greeters & Ushers

Will be Woship Committe



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

Coffee Hour

Dec 07 - Worship Cmt. (Deean)

Dec 14—UMW-Soup

Dec 21— Jim & Vivian Eaton

Dec 28 - Esther Losh

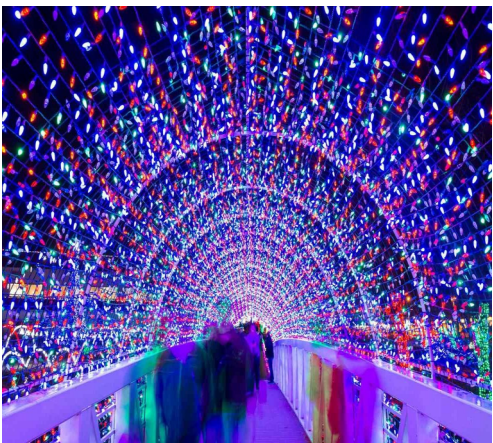
Counters & Verifiers

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