



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



Telstar is published monthly by First United Methodist Church
for its members and friends.

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Happy New Year!

We together enter this New Year as a people of faith, walking into the newness that Jesus Christ sets forth before us. We often use the beginning of a new year as a time to establish new habits and resolution. We also use this time of the year as a moment to throw away the old, saying that past bad experiences will be left behind in the prior year to be replaced by something better this year. Jesus Christ has the power to create new and powerful changes in our life each and every moment of our life. If we faithfully follow Jesus and look for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, not only can we create newness in our life, but also newness in the life of others. I pray that you achieve your plans for 2023 with God's blessings and help from others.

Interim Bishop John Hopkins had served the Northern Illinois Conference for the last two years, 2021 to 2022, and the Committee on Episcopacy assigned Bishop Dan Schwerin to the NIC, effective January 1st, 2023. Schwerin was elected to the episcopacy at the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference held Nov 2-5 in Fort Wayne, Ind. Before his election, he served as the Assistant to the Bishop in the Wisconsin Conference. He has also served as a District Superintendent and pastored in many contexts, including urban and rural churches in the Wisconsin Conference. He looks forward to making relationships with us, learning from us, and shepherding with us. Please, pray for our new bishop, Dan Schwerin and his wife Julie! Also, our District Superintendent, Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer will be appointed to the role of Director of Connectional Ministries, effective July 1, 2023. Please, pray for Rev. Fabiola and her family in this transition and also our new DS who has not assigned yet.

Jesus said to his disciples, *"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."* (Matt 28:19) Jesus always wants us to go and make his disciple by 1. baptizing and 2. teaching. Baptism is a visible sign of invisible grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who wants to set us free from our sins and bondages. Baptism is also a visual sign of being born again to become church family. We should invite more people to join us for this beautiful church family. Teaching is what Jesus did during his ministry on earth. He taught people in the field, seashore, by the well, synagogues, temple, houses, and everywhere. We should teach our kids, youth, and adults with our words and actions about the love of God that has been shown to us through Jesus Christ. That is our vision for 2023; make Jesus' disciples by baptizing and teaching others. God has called us to follow Jesus as his disciples. God has also called us to go and make Jesus' disciples. We can do it together. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ guide us and teach us over the course of the New Year!

Lots of love and best wishes for a Happy and Blessed New Year to everyone!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dave

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 18, 2022 11:30AM CHURCH LIBRARY

Vice Chairperson Bill Wright called the meeting to order at 11:32am with members Paula Mayer, Molly Andersen, LaVona Grissinger, Pam Darrow, Jason Moore, Kathie and Burt Prins, Kris Yingling, and Pastor Dave Yim present. Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Kathie moved, seconded by Pam, to accept the meeting as presented and the motion passed. Financial reports were handed out. Pastor Dave noted our monthly bills usually exceed our income. Kris moved, seconded by Jason, to accept the reports as presented and the motion passed.

TRUSTEES: The church roof is still leaking. Pastor Dave has replaced all the “EXIT” signs and was discouraged to do electrical work again. We may have to remove the water fountains in the narthex. They are still not fixed.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: The new chairperson will be Bill Wright, with new member Kathie Prins. Shari Morgan, the administrative assistant, is still having health problems.

WORSHIP: The Hanging of the Greens went well, despite Baby Jesus being sick. Many thanks to Lori and Ron Miller for filling in. Christmas Eve service is Saturday at 7pm. Christmas Day worship will be a hymn sing.

OUTREACH: Deeann Kramer will be the new head of the committee.

EDUCATION: The Sunday School Christmas program today was great! Many thanks to Kris Yingling and Sharon Guilinger for directing it. There will be a 2-week break in Sunday School due to the holidays.

EVANGELISM: Bill Weidman died December 2nd. Birthday cards were sent to Ann Larsen and Jackie Walker.

MEMORIAL/HISTORICAL RECORDS: The next project is getting chair and bench cushions for the narthex.

UWF: They had a Christmas party at Deeann Kramer’s home on December 13th. Members voted on different missions to donate money. We paid our pledge to mission of \$1000, made hygiene bags for the West Carroll Food Pantry, and raised \$242 at our mini-bazaar last week. We are planning another Bingo event with lunch served after worship on February 12, 2023. We do not meet in January or February so our next meeting will be the Prayer and Self-Denial offering on March 7, 2023.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: They will be meeting soon to plan the Lenten services.

YOUTH: A mission trip is being planned for this summer to Tennessee.

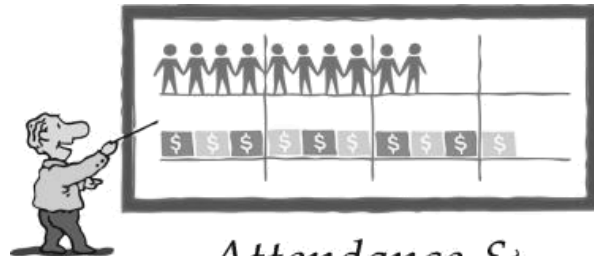
UMM: They are meeting Tuesday at 5:30pm.

PASTOR’S REPORT: Pastor Dave emailed his report to members. The Christmas bell-ringing went well and collected over \$2000. Prayers are needed for Tommy Miner and Shari’s mom. The district leadership training is

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES (cont.)

Saturday, January 28, 2023, at Faith UMC in Freeport. Pastor Dave had a card for everyone to sign for our new bishop, Dan Schwerin and his wife, Julie. Pastor Dave will be on vacation December 26 through January 2. Rev Bonnie Davies is covering for him. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07pm.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials

Financial Report 2022

Cash Available in General Account: \$14,260.51		
	December 2022	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$18,234.23	\$135,275.44
Church Expenses	\$11,591.85	\$166,474.22
Net Operating Balance	\$6,642.35	\$(31,198.78)
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$0	\$11,169.00
Thank you very much for your generosity & faithfulness in 2022!		
Please, contact Paula Mayer with any questions! paula.jo.mayer@gmail.com		



<u>Date</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Worship inside</u>	<u>Worship outside</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>
01-1-2023	\$1843.00	20	3	23
01-8-2023	\$2627.01	55	4	59
01-15-2023	\$1895.10	54	4 + 2 dogs	58 + 2 dogs
01-22-2023	\$4062.71	55	4 + 2 dogs	59 + 2 dogs
01-29-2023				
Total income	\$8584.82	184	15 + 2 dogs	199 + 2 dogs

Soul Sisters

February Soul Sisters Event

Ladies – Please join us on Tuesday, February 21st at the fellowship hall at 11:30 am for a brown bag lunch. Drinks & dessert will be provided. Afterward, we will have a fun competition of “Jeopardy”! Compete to win some unique prizes! All you need to do is bring a lunch and brush up on your trivia skills!

West Carroll Food Pantry – Please bring your donations of cereal, crackers, peanut butter, mac & cheese, and soup. (They desperately need peanut butter & macaroni & cheese!) You can leave your donations in the Food Pantry box in the narthex.

Thank you!

The West Carroll Food Pantry is open to all families with children in Carroll County. This includes Eastland, Chadwick-Milledgeville, and the Right Steps Family Center. The hours are 3:30 –5 pm on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, unless it is a holiday.



The Savanna Community Food Pantry is using volunteers again. Thanks to Linda Stubbe and Molly Andersen for working on Tuesday, December 20th. Our future dates are March 7th and 9th, May 23rd and 25th, August 8th and 10th, and October 24th and 26th. If you would like to volunteer please let Molly Andersen know. Hours are 9am to 12 noon.



Blessing Basket – What a year 2022 was! We gave out over 700 items, a 14% increase from last year. That includes 52 bottles of dish soap, 67 containers of laundry detergent, 41 bottles of shampoo, 40 tubes of tooth paste, 60 toothbrushes, 123 bottles of body wash, 90 rolls of paper towels, and 300 rolls of toilet paper, among other things! Thank you for your support and keeping this important mission going.

We need women and children’s body wash, deodorant, laundry detergent, toilet paper, and paper towels. Thank you for your continued support!

Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who donated items. We had so many items given we decorated the tree twice! God is good!



Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

Ways to show hospitality: help at least one person this week
say “Good Morning” or “Hello” to a stranger with a smile
pray for a stranger you have seen recently
call up an old friend or shut-in to see how they are
above all...Give Grace!

Kids Kards

Kids Kards will meet after worship on **Sunday, February 26th**, **around 11:30am**. We have a new project to make. Come find out what it is! Everyone is welcome and all supplies are provided. Lunchables will be available to take home. Any questions call Molly Andersen, 815-273-2104.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School - Every Sunday morning at 9:30am

Children SS: Pre to 5th Graders

Youth SS: Middle & High Schoolers

Adult Sunday School — 8:45 am

Youth Group— Meets the 1st Sunday of Every month
from 5:45pm to 7:00pm. Supper will be provided
Middle & High Schoolers
Next meeting February 5th



Many thanks for the ongoing prayers for John this past year. He is now home from his last surgery. Your love and concern is much appreciated. Special thanks to Pastor Dave for his love and gracious prayers.
John & Mary Irons

We raised \$2681.51 total through the Christmas Bell Ringing!!! Thank you to everyone for your support and help.

Congratulations to Becky Weidman and Dan Pitman!

They were married on December 23, 2022.



2023 Interfaith Lenten Services in Savanna Area

‘Prepare our hearts to meet the Risen Christ’

Community United Church of Christ, First Presbyterian Church,
First United Methodist Church, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
The Great River Outreach (GRO)

Join us for Lenten Services, please! All are welcome!

Date	Time	Location
February 22 Ash Wednesday	7pm— Service only (no soup) Imposition of Ashes	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue
March 1 Wednesday	7pm— Service only (no soup) Preacher: Pastor Dave Yim	First Presbyterian Church 502 3 rd Street
March 8 Wednesday	7pm— Service only (no soup) Preacher: Pastor Narda Alvelo	The Table Meal Center (GRO) 415 Main Street
March 15 Wednesday	7pm— Service only (no soup) Preacher: Pastor Gary Panetta	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue
March 22 Wednesday	7pm— Service only (no soup) Preacher: Father Thomas Doyle	Community United Church of Christ 346 Chicago Avenue
March 29 Wednesday	7pm— Service only (no soup) Preacher: Pastor Bonnie Davies	St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 318 Chicago Avenue
April 7 Good Friday	Noon – Service only (no soup) Passion Story	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue

*Lenten offering will go to support Inter Church Council Ministry and Community VBS

*Host: Savanna Interchurch Council



Join us for soup, sandwich and dessert

FREE WILL OFFERING will support mission projects

Sponsored by
the Outreach
Committee and
UMW



Bingo will played following lunch

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Keith Brown, Billy David, Emilee Derrer, Chris Falk, Merry Florence, Matthew Foltz, Shirley Fritz, Rod Furrow, Sandy Gabriel, Bob & LaVona, Rhonda Harlock Smith, Jill Hofstetter, John Irons, Dallas Kosier, Judy Law, Mike Foltz, Bonnie Parker, Dan Piercy, Rich Rathje, Rhea (friend of Bonnie Davies), Annisa (niece of Bonnie Davies), John Ritchie, Bill Robinson, Adalyna Rose, Ron Smith, Grace Struve, Pastor Sylvester, Scarlett (daughter of Ashley Huebner), Gi-Tae Yim, Inga, Deana Moyer, Tommy Miner, Kevin MaHomes, Sandy Froehlich, Kathy Promenschenkel, Pastor Lee, Dan Zambon, Charlie Johnson, Barb McFadden, Denise Curtis, Susan Michelle Jepsen, Tyrone Burcham, New Bishop Dan, Fabiola and her family, UMC (disaffiliation).

Our shut-ins: Mary Ann Larsen, Sylvia Reuterfors, Dorothy Taylor, Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner, Steve Yenney,. Our country & government, Military Personnel & their families, Global economic crisis. The safety of Ukrainians & end of the war, WC Schools and teachers and students (Kindergarten teacher).



February

1—Tommy Losh
4—Rocky Mangler
4—Elliott Mills
8—Mary Schoenecker
9—Dana Haynes
9—Jerry Ingersoll
9—LeAnn Michels
9—Becky Roberts
10—Lucy Eissens
13—Judy Davidson
13— *Bruce & Rhonda Badke (1988)*
15—John Hamm

15—Aiden Michels
16—Shauna Roberts
19—Enoch Green
23—Christy Clemons
23—Carol Leitzen
24—Jeff Andersen
25—Josh Hartman
26—Janis Jones
28—Diane Brinkmeier
28—Denise Curtis
28—*Burt & Kathie Prins (1976)*

February

Liturgists

Feb 5th—Paula Mayer
Feb 12th—Julie Brigham
Feb 19th—Jason Moore
Feb 26th—Bonnie Davies



Acolytes

Feb 5th—Jiho Yim
Feb 12th—Boyd Law
Feb 19th—Ellie Johnson
Feb 26th—Ryker McCombie

Counters & Verifiers

Feb 5th —Molly Anderson & Mary Irons
Feb 12th—Rhonda Law & Pam Darrow
Feb 19th—Lori Miller & Linda Jachino
Feb 26th—Vivian Eaton & Kay Cavanagh

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



FROM THE OFFICE:

Hello! I am Ronda Riffe-Rathje and I am the new church secretary. Many of you know me as I have grown up in the church. Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison are my parents. (You know them too!) I am living in Savanna with my husband, Mark, and our daughter, Shelby, who is away at school. I have been here a month and am settling in just fine. (I think!) My door is always open when I am here. This is my first Telstar so please bear with me! I want the Telstar to be easy to read, informative and uplifting. I also am open to any suggestions that you may have for the Telstar, bulletins, slideshows, etc. Feel free to email me at the office or call. I will try to help all I can, even if you just need a hug!

everyone is
welcome

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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

First United Methodist Church

February 2023

Wednesday, February 1st

10 am—Choir practice

Thursday, February 2nd

9 am—Bible Study

Sunday, February 5th - (Communion Sunday)

8:45 am - Adult Sunday School

9:30 am - Kids and Youth Sunday School

10:15 am - Hybrid Worship

4 to 5 pm – Youth Mission Team meeting

5 to 6:15 pm – Youth Group

Monday, February 6th

1-3 pm—Sewing Ladies

3:30 –5 pm - WC Food Pantry

Wednesday, February 8th

10 am—Choir Practice

6-8 pm—Meet the Bishop

@ Freeport Harmony UMC

Thursday February 9th

9 am—Bible Study

3:30—4:30 pm—Health & Worship meeting

Sunday, February 12th

8:45 am - Adult Sunday School

9:30 am - Kids and Youth Sunday School

10:15 am - Hybrid Worship

Souper Bowl Lunch & Bingo (after church)

Monday, February 13th

1-3 pm—Sewing Ladies

Wednesday, February 15th

6-8 pm—Finance Committee (in person)

Thursday, February 16th

9 am—Bible Study

Sunday, February 19th

8:45 am - Adult Sunday School

9 am—Trustees

9:30 am - Kids and Youth Sunday School

10:15 am - Hybrid Worship

11:30 am—Ad Council (after church)

Monday, February 20th

President's Day

1-3 pm—Sewing Ladies

Tuesday, February 21st

11:30 am—Soul Sisters @ church

5:30 –7:30 pm—UM Men

Wednesday, February 22nd

7 pm—Ash Wednesday Service (here)

Thursday, February 23rd

9 am—Bible Study

Friday, February 24th

6-7:30—Girl Scouts @ church

Sunday, February 26th

8:45 am - Adult Sunday School

9:30 am - Kids and Youth Sunday School

10:15 am - Hybrid Worship

11:30 am—Kids Kards

Monday, February 27th

1-3 pm—Sewing Ladies

3:30-5 pm—WC Food Pantry

