



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



Vision 2024 - "Stay with God in Love and Peace!

Focus on making Jesus' disciples

to transform lives and the world!

Strong in Worship, Strong in Mission, Strong in Education

"Meanwhile, the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers." (Acts 9:31)

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The first month of the New Year, 2024, has come and gone, and now we are already entering February. The Super Bowl Game is just around the corner. How was your January of 2024? How have your resolutions for 2024 been going? Have you made progress or encountered some challenges? In church ministry, January was busy with the usual array of meetings. During the January meeting of the Finance Committee, there was a discussion about starting a Growth Committee, focusing on 'How we can grow together as a church both physically and spiritually and what we should do together for it.' It was a very productive meeting with numerous opinions and ideas shared. I encourage you to join us for our next Growth Committee meeting on Feb 13th at 5 PM and also a virtual seminar scheduled for February 3rd, Saturday. The seminar is about 'How to Reach and Welcome New People.' We will gather in our church library and participate in the seminar together via Zoom, starting at 8:30 am. Snacks and lunch will be provided, and all are invited!

So far, 11 youths have signed up for the February lock-in, scheduled between Feb 2 and 3. If you want to support the youth lock-in event, please let church office or April know. In January, the 2024 summer youth mission trip team had its first informative meeting. The mission trip is scheduled between July 20 and July 27. Please, mark the dates on your calendar and pray for the team and the trip. Nine youths will go to Misenheimer, NC, and we are still looking for a female chaperon. If you are interested, please let me know. In addition, the Souper Bowl Fundraiser on Sunday, February 11th, after church will support the youth mission trip. Thank you, the Outreach Committee! Please, attend the service on 2/11 (Mardi Gras service) and support our mission trip team thru the fundraising event. Moreover, our confirmands will continue to have classes and engage in one more mission project in February. We will be making plastic mat for the homeless again at Mary's house. Please, keep our young believers in your prayers.

Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day (2/14) this year. The Community Ash Wednesday service will be held at our church at 6:30 pm, with pastors imposing ashes on foreheads during the service. It is a reminder that we are dust and to dust, we shall return, urging us to turn back to Jesus. Please, come join us for the Community Ash Wednesday Service on 2/14, starting at 6:30 pm. You can also find the Lenten Service schedule in this newsletter. Please, pray for Lenten services, good weathers, and pastors.

During the 2024 Lenten season, we will read the book 'Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith' by Adam Hamilton together. We will meet every Thursday (6 sessions) during Lenten Season at 4:30 pm, starting our gatherings with a soup. I invite you all to our 'Soup and Lenten Bible Study.' The Thursday Zoom prayer meeting will continue at 7 pm. Please, join us for Lenten Bible Study and the Weekly Prayer Meeting.

We look forward to witnessing more wonderful and beautiful works of God in our lives during February. May God bless and keep us all safe in February!

Lenten Blessings,

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dave

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 11:30AM
CHURCH LIBRARY

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Michelle Jepsen with members Kathie and Burt Prins, Deeann Kramer, Molly Andersen, Bill Wright, Jason Moore, Ronda Rathje, Vivian Eaton, Kris Yingling, Pam Darrow, and Rev. Dave Yim present, at 11:37am. Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Kathie moved, seconded by Pam, to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passed. The financial reports were presented. Bill moved, seconded by Kris, to accept the reports as presented and the motion passed.

TRUSTEES: The annual parsonage inspection was done with several items noted. There is a wall in one of the bedrooms that was damp due to the eaves needing to be cleaned. The garage and garage door have some drainage problems. There are still critters living in the attic. Ronda was given the phone number of a possible critter remover and she will call them. The kitchen remodeling is done for now. New wiring was needed and completed for all the outlets, but it was noted that was not part of the budget for the remodeling, but needed to be done. The wiring was checked in the food pantry room to accommodate another refrigerator they will be getting. The wiring problem in the library and next room has been resolved. The heat trace on the church roof is done and working. It will be turned on when necessary, with the new circuit on the breaker box in the stockroom next to the kitchen.

FINANCE: They will be meeting on Tuesday.

WORSHIP: The Hanging of the Greens service went well. Christmas Eve will have our traditional service at 10:15am and a candlelight service with communion at 7pm. Sunday, December 31st will be a hymn sing service.

EDUCATION: The Sunday School children presented their Christmas program this morning and it was great! Many thanks to Kris and her committee! There will be no childrens' Sunday School for the next 2 weeks due to the holidays.

EVANGELISM: Ann Larsen and Jackie Walker have birthdays soon. Steve Yenney and Dorothy Taylor are in our prayers. Susan Michelle brought a card for Alyssa Volkens, Burt and Peg Dauphin's granddaughter, who is having serious medical issues.

OUTREACH: They have paid all of their obligations for 2023. Planning has begun for a Souper Bowl luncheon in February.

UWF: The Christmas party was at Mary Irons' home and they weaved a plastic mat on Mary's loom. The next meeting will be in March. UMM: They met Tuesday and are reading the book, "Generations."

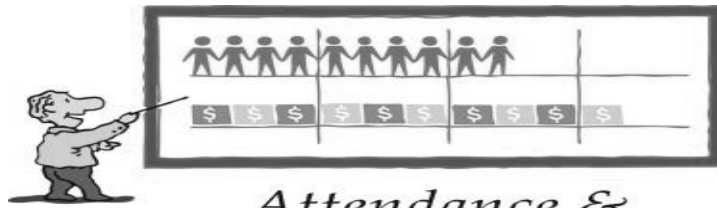
INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: They are preparing for Lenten services next year. Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024, with Easter on March 31st.

KITCHEN: The remodeling is done for now. One of the new cabinets was hung on the wrong wall so another is ordered to be placed on the correct wall. The flooring chosen has been discontinued so a new one has been chosen and ordered. The pass-through doors have not been replaced because no one quite knows how to replace them, but the contractor is still working on a solution.

NEW BUSINESS: The office will be closed Wednesday, December 20th, Christmas Day and New Years.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Dave emailed his report and mileage sheet to members. Confirmation is going well and we have 9 youth signed up for the mission trip this summer. The Salvation Army bell-ringing is almost over and we have raised \$2500 so far! God is good! 82% of the money will stay locally. The blood drive in January already has 4 donors signed up. The district leadership training will be at Harmony United Methodist Church in Freeport on January 27, 2024. Katy Cook, a former member, wants to start a Griefshare online program and needs a church to sponsor it. Pastor Dave will get more information but is confident we will be able to sponsor her. Pastor Dave closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 16,777.04		
	December 2023	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 25,134.42	\$ 151,724.48
Church Expenses	\$ 19,536.78	\$ 206,514.65
Net Operating Balance	\$ 5,597.64	\$ -54,790.17
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,290.00	\$ 15,480.00
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions! vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
January 7	\$ 2602.00	58	0	58
January 14	\$	CLOSED DUE	TO WEATHER	
January 21	\$ 3645.03	47	1 + 2 dogs	48 + 2 dogs
January 28	\$ 2064.00	46	1 + 2 dogs	47 + 2 dogs
Totals	\$ 8311.03	151	2 + 2 dogs	153 + 2 dogs



In Our Prayers

Emilee Derrer, Rhonda Harlock Smith, John Irons, Gi-Tae Yim, Sandy Froehlich, Barb McFadden, Glen White, Pastor Bill Landis, Shirley Hastings, Alice Riffe-Torrison (Ronda's mom), Dale Wurster, Owen Davies (Bonnie's son), Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Steve Runge (Ronda's friend), Connie Zink, Pastor Lee (Pastor Dave's friend), Don & Judy Greenfield, Sandy Pratt, Shirley Fritz, Lexi Tsoukalas (Molly's great niece), Alyssa Volkens (Burt & Peg Dauphin's granddaughter), Debbie Bilik (Janet Morlock's friend), Tim Cavanagh, Louise Brouillard (Ronda's friend), Scarlett Huebner, Chrissy Sullivan, Miles Purchis (Max & Martha Purchis' grandson), Dee Helle, Dan Zemma, John Jachino, Paul Mayer, Angie (Paula's friend), Rod & Roger Furrow, Kurtis (Susan Michelle's friend), Bob Rogers, Eli (Bob & LaVona's grandson), the residents of Pinnacle Place, our Confirmands (Jon, Aidan, Jiho, Asia, Caleb, and Lexi), and 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, those that are serving in the military & their families, the safety of Ukrainians & end of wars, Syria, Israel, the Gaza strip, peace in the Middle East, 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!

Kids Kards

Kids Kards will meet **Sunday, February 25th** after worship service in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be making Easter cards and having soup for lunch. Everyone is welcome to share in the miracle of our Savior's resurrection and all materials are provided. Any questions see Molly Andersen.

Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket provides clients of the West Carroll School Food Pantry with personal hygiene and household products. We gave out 1700 items last year, a 240% increase from 2022! We can only continue this ministry with your generous donations. Items needed this month are **laundry detergent and men's shampoo**. Thank you!

SOUL SISTERS' Great River Outreach (GRO) Visit

Thursday, February 15th @11:00 A.M.

Classy Closet resale shop (415 Main St., Savanna)
11:45 A.M.--The Table -- Devotions -- Lunch & Dessert
-- Learn about GRO's activities & services
Please, bring donations of NICE clothing
& household items

****ALL Women are invited to attend!****

RSVP for lunch reservation or ?'s

Cindie (815)718-1816 or Linda (815) 541-4760

West Carroll Food Pantry

**We received a \$2000 grant from the Midwest
Methodist Foundation for the West Carroll
School Food Pantry! God is good!**

New Ministry Starting Soon!!!

We're starting a new ministry and need your help! Once a month we will host a free supper for area senior citizens. This will include a program of some kind, fellowship, maybe even chauffeur service! We'll need cooks, servers, cleaner uppers, program organizers, and chauffeurs! We have received a \$2000 grant from the Northern Illinois Conference but need volunteers to make this a success. If you are interested in helping please call Molly Andersen at 815-273-2104 or let Ronda know. This is going to be FUN!

The schedule for volunteering at the Savanna Food Pantry is out and we are manning it March 19th and 21st, May 28th and 30th, August 6th and 8th, October 15th and 17th, and December 24th and 26th. If you are interested in volunteering, the hours are 9am to 12 noon, contact Molly Andersen at 815-273-2104.

Sunday School

Wish List

Crayola crayons,
Crayola 8 pack
markers, Elmers
white glue,
glue sticks,
scissors.



*Thank
You*

Many thanks to everyone who have been bringing their cleaned, used plastic bags to church so that plastic mats are weaved for homeless. They were delivered to Midwest Distribution Center on January 30 . So far 12 mats have been made. If you find you have spare time on your hands this winter, give me a call (815-541-8487), I am ready to make more! Mary Irons



United Women of Faith

We be meeting **Tuesday, Feb 6 at 6:30 pm at the church.**
All women are invited!

United Methodist Men

Will meet **Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 @ 5:30 pm.**

Pictures & New Directory

Mark & Ronda Rathje will be taking everyone's pictures and making a new church directory. Sign up sheets will be in the narthex for picture times soon. Several pictures will be taken and you will get to pick the one for the directory. Wear what you want but know that the background will be basic photo blue. You will receive all digital photos once directory is made and there will be a print purchase option.

We want everyone to have their picture taken for the directory!!!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Giving Tree. It was decorated with winter coats, hats, mittens, gloves, socks, underwear and scarves. Your warm hearts helped so many children stay warm this winter. Special thanks to the UCC of Savanna for their donation!

Thank you to my church family for all of the kind expressions of sympathy. The loss of my sister was a shock because she had been doing so well. Your cards, texts, phone calls, flowers helped so much through a difficult time. The memorials were divided between her church which she had been very active over the years and Meals on Wheels, where she delivered meals for years. Thank you. Mary Irons

To our church family: we have been thru many health issues and knowing that all of you have prayed for us is deeply appreciated. The thoughts and prayers we share for one another is truly a blessing. "Thank you" seems so small, but it comes from our hearts.

Love, Alice & Erik

These 15 woven mats were made for the homeless and delivered to Midwest Distribution Center on January 30th, 2024 along with 56 diapers, 4 daytime pads, 2 nighttime pads, 25 large hygiene bags, 32 zippered hygiene bags, 22 small hygiene bags, 78 school bags, 93 baby jackets, 43 sleepers, 20 dresses & shorts, 23 tanks & shorts, and 2 receiving blankets.

Well done ladies!!!!

Pictures!!!



Youth Group Gathering



Our Confirmands & their Mentors



Soul Sisters "Winter Warm Up" Hot chocolate bar & Bingo!



District Leadership Training @ Harmony UMC in Freeport January 27th, 2024



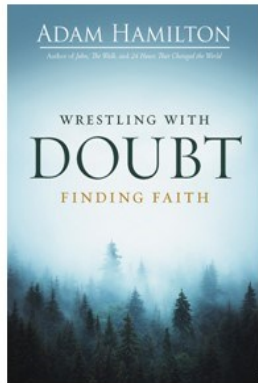
We will be having pictures taken for a new directory.
Sign up sheets will be in Narthex soon!!!

Youth Group Lock In - February 2nd @ 4:30 pm to
February 3rd @ 11 am

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting,
every Thursday at 7pm.
Pastor Dave will email you a
link each week.

Finance & Growth Meeting
Tuesday, February 13th
@ 5 pm

2024 Soup & Lenten Bible Study



1. Is There a God?
2. The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible
3. Are All Non-Christians Going to Hell?
4. Is Heaven Real?
5. When Prayers Go Unanswered
6. Why Do the Innocent Suffer?

The first meeting is February 15th (Thursday) at 4:30 PM
In the Fellowship Hall

Book \$15.00

All are invited!

Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch

Soups, salads, bread & desserts

Feb. 11th @ 11:15

Hosted by the Outreach Committee



FREE WILL OFFERING
will go towards the Youth Mission Trip

BISHOP'S DAYS ON THE DISTRICT

Please join Bishop Dan Schwerin reflection and conversation on your district.


Come gather to share the great things happening and learn about the Bishop's vision for our conference

Prairie North Laity Conversation
Thursday, February 8
6:30 to 8 p.m.
Freeport: Faith UMC
1440 S. Walnut Ave., Freeport, IL.



You are encouraged to join in the gathering for your district, but should the one planned for you district not work for you, any gathering can be attended.

Find out more:
umcnic.org/calendar/2024-bishops-days-on-the-district




2024 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 14 Ash Wednesday	6:30 pm - Service only (No soup) Imposition of Ashes	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue
February 21 Wednesday	6:30 pm - Service only (No soup) Preacher: Pastor Dave Yin	First Presbyterian Church 502 3 rd Street
February 28 Wednesday	6:30 pm - Service only (No soup) Preacher: Pastor Narda Alvelo	The Table Meal Center (GRO) 415 Main Street
March 6 Wednesday	6:30 pm - Service only (No soup) Preacher: Pastor Gary Panetta	St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 318 Chicago Avenue
March 13 Wednesday	6:30 pm - Service only (No soup) Preacher: Father Chris Kuhn	Community United Church of Christ 346 Chicago Avenue
March 20 Wednesday	6:30 pm - Service only (No soup) Preacher: Pastor Bonnie Davies	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue
March 29 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





February 2024

1—Tommy Losh
 4—Rocky Mangler
 4—Elliott Mills
 9—Dana Hayes
 9—Jerry Ingersoll
 9—LeaAnn Michels
 9—Becky Roberts
 10—Lacey Eissens
 13—*Bruce & Rhonda Badtke (1988)*
 13—Judy Davidson
 15—Aiden Michels
 16—Shauna Roberts
 19—Enoch Green
 20—Tim McCombie
 23—Christy Clemmons
 23—Susan Michelle Jepsen
 24—Jeff Andersen
 25—Josh Hartman
 26—Janis Jones
 28—Denise Brinkmeier
 28—Diane Curtis
 28—*Burt & Kathie Prins (1976)*



Liturgists

February 4—Esther Losh
 February 11—Linda Jachino
 February 18—Jason Moore
 February 25—Joe Michels

Acolytes

February 4—Asia LaShelle
 February 11—Blaine Johnson
 February 18—Jiwon Yim
 February 25—Pearl Michels

Counters & Verifiers

February 7 - Cori Moore & Mary Irons
 February 11 - Molly Andersen & Linda Jachino
 February 18 - Rhonda Law & Kay Cavanagh
 February 25 - Lori Miller & Linda Stubbe



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

February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Meeting (zoom)	2  Youth Group Lock In 4:30 pm (Fri) to 11 am (Sat)	3 8:30-3 pm Seminar @ FUMC
4 Communion 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 3-4:30 pm Confirm. Class	5 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry Pastor Out of Office	6 6:30 pm United Women of Faith	7 10 am Choir Practice	8 9 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Bishop's Day @ Faith UMC in Freeport (Laity) 7 pm Prayer Meeting (zoom)	9	10
11 Mardi Gras 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Souper Bowl 	12 1 pm Sewing Ladies 6:30 pm Service Club	13 5:30 pm UM Men 5 pm Finance/ Growth Mtg (in person)	14 Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm Lenten Service (FUMC) 	15 9 am Bible Study 11 am Soul Sisters @ GRO 3:30 pm Worship Mtg 4:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Meeting (zoom)	16	17
18 8:45 am Adult SS 9 am Trustees 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Ad Council 3:30-5 pm Confirm Class	19 Telstar Info due 1 pm Sewing Ladies 	20 5:30 pm UM Men	21 6:30 pm Lenten Service (Presby.)	22 9 am Bible Study 1:30 pm Senior Service 4:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Meeting (zoom)	23 6 pm Girl Scouts	24
25 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Kids Kards 1:30 pm Confirm Mission work	26 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	27	28 10 am Choir Practice 6:30 pm Lenten Service (TABLE)	29 9 am Bible Study 4:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Meeting (zoom)		