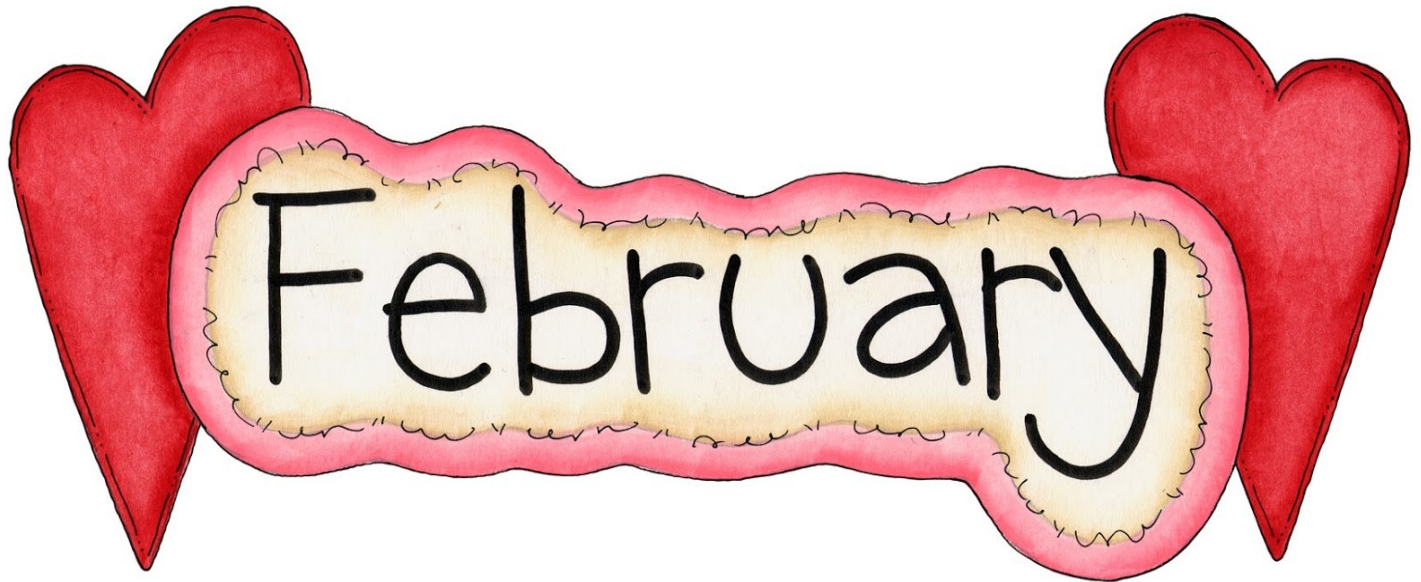




Our Mission Is To Be Committed Christians Inviting Others To Join Us.



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.”

2100 Chicago Ave, Savanna, IL 61074

Ph: 815-273-2345

Ronda/Office email: office@firstumcsavanna.org

Web: www.firstumcsavanna.org

Pastor Fernando email: pastorfernando4@outlook.com



CALLED TO SERVE NOT ENTITLED.

Every year, around January, I witnessed shifts in my local church leadership, back in Angola. Consequently, the administrative council members were inaugurated each year. They would pledge themselves before God and the congregation to serve the Church during the year that had just started. Then, they would light and hold a candle to remind them that the Holy Spirit should be their guide.

The Pastor often told them, "You were called to serve and not entitled to this position." This now resonates deeply. When I read Paul's letter in 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and Romans 12, I understood the essence of humility in serving God as one body.

For instance, in Romans 12: Paul says *"Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you are. Be honest in evaluating yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us."*

Thus, "called to serve, not entitled to anything" makes sense, for most humans like to be in charge. So, I now understand the Pastor's intention in exhorting the council members, just as Paul warned his audience. It seems like the same words could be applied to many congregations in our context, where few of us think, we are entitled to hold positions in Church and do what pleases us, instead of God who called us.

Friends, Paul says, "Do not think that you are better than you are". Paul warns about how we ought to think within the body where we all belong together.

This year, just like back in my Church, I am excited about our Administrative Council, whose mission plays a crucial role in guiding and managing the affairs of our church. We have changed some positions for 2025. Bill Wright, for example, has ended his term as the vice-chair of our Ad Council, and we still have Susan Michelle as our Chairman. For the next three years, Molly Anderson is the new vice-chair, and LeAnn Michels is the new council secretary. These people agreed to serve in this position. They are humble and great servants, and they know "they are not entitled."

Finally, I ask your prayers for God's wisdom and courage, for our Ad Council leaders. Remember, you may also be called to serve next year, and I pray you will say YES!

In Christ Pastor Fernando de Castro

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
SUNDAY, December 15th, 2024 11:30 AM @ CHURCH LIBRARY

Vice-chairman Bill Wright called the meeting to order at 11:42am with members Molly Andersen, Tom Michels, Ronda Rathje, Kathie and Burt Prins, Linda Stubbe, LaVona Grissinger, Pam Darrow, Cori and Jason Moore, Kris Yingling, Deeann Kramer, Lexi Piercy, and Pastor Fernando de Castro present. Pastor Fernando opened the meeting with prayer. We are all so thankful Pastor is back with his family. Praise the Lord! 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. Cori is the new treasurer. We were reminded to thank Vivian Eaton for her service as treasurer. Jason moved, seconded by LaVona, to accept the reports and the motion passed.

TRUSTEES: The new metal roof at the parsonage is half-done. We need gutters and downspouts yet. There has been no word from the county 4-H group regarding use of the church. Johnsons Plumbing and Heating checked the furnace at the parsonage and it is working properly but there is no humidifier there. The curtains in the family room were shortened to help air circulation. The dishwasher is backing up into the kitchen sink. We don't know if there is a garbage disposal there. The fireplace flue needs to be checked. Roger Johnson is doing the snow plowing again and has salt left from last year. Jason will check into the wiring to the outdoor signs on the church lawn. River Cities has been working on the church boiler and is charging \$150 per hour. Ronda will check if Johnsons has a certified boiler technician on staff. They charge \$90 per hour. The salt spreader has a broken handle but Bob Grissinger has another one we can use. The job description for the groundskeeper will be shared with Eric Jobin. Jason will show Pastor Fernando how to use the snowblower at the parsonage. There is a light out in the sanctuary. We may need to replace all the overhead bulbs. The water fountain in the fellowship hall and the handicapped button to open the door are not working.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: Things are going well now that we have our pastor and his family back from Angola!

WORSHIP: The committee is meeting Thursday and will be updating the telephone tree.

OUTREACH: They will have a Souper Bowl luncheon in February. Pastor wants to meet with the chairperson, Deeann.

EDUCATION: The Sunday School Christmas program was today and was great! The Presbyterian church worshipped with us and our attendance was 110! Many thanks to Kris, Sharon Guilinger, and Erin Miner for their hard work. Next Sunday the children will wear their pajamas and watch a movie. There is no Sunday School on December 29th. They had an entry in the Festival of Trees at the Savanna museum, decorated with ornaments made with the St. John's Roman Catholic children.

EVANGELISM: Mary Irons was not present but sent a report which Molly read. She added she sent Christmas cards to our shut-ins. Pastor shared that Herb Pratt will be having cataract surgery soon and will need help with meals and driving.

UWF: They had their Christmas meeting this month and will not meet until March 2025. Molly shared how the money they raised this year went to local missions.

UMM: Jason is the new chairman. They will meet on Tuesday, January 17th.

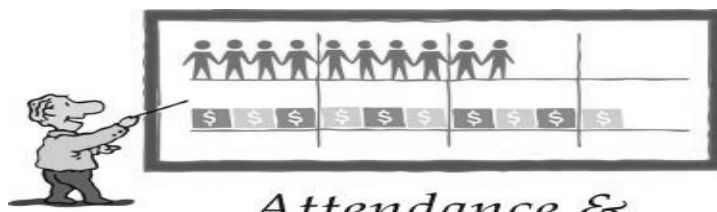
INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: The community Christmas concert offering was \$609 for The Great River Outreach. Pastor suggested that the council be in charge of the concert since it is for the entire community.

YOUTH: IMPACT had a pizza party with fun and games and prizes. Their next meeting is Sunday, January 5th from 5-6:15pm.

NEW BUSINESS: Ronda shared a handout from Kids First. They provide each West Carroll School District child with a folder and sell advertisements on it. LaVona moved, seconded by Jason, to table any decision on the matter until Kris can check into it, and the motion passed. It was suggested that Interchurch Council could advertise on it and Pam will let the council know. The Thrift Store needs more volunteers. Linda is the coordinator.

PASTOR'S REPORT: He and his family are here and they are a miracle! God is good! His girls have started school already and everyone is adjusting to the cold weather. He is encouraging all committees to set goals for 2025. He is planning a retreat for board members, lead by Rev. Mike Jones. He would like more members-at-large on the council and asked Bill to be one in 2025. He closed the meeting with prayer and adjournment was 12:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials



Cash Available in General Account: \$ 17,348.27		
	December 2024	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 22,305.42	\$ 162,220.49
Church Expenses	\$ 38,528.53	\$ 263,086.74
Net Operating Balance	\$ -16,223.11	\$ -100,868.25
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 16,860.00
Kitchen Remodeling	\$ 20,107.33	\$ 20,107.33
Parsonage Roof	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 24,500.00
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions - vkeaton@grics.net		

Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
January 5	\$ 3696.25	59	3 + 1 dog	62 + 1 dog
January 12	\$ 2055.00	63	2 dogs	63 + 2 dogs
January 19	\$ 2935.62	53	0	53
January 26	\$ 1705.26	65	1 + 2 dogs	66 + 2 dogs
Totals	\$ 10,392.13	240	4 + 5 dogs	244 + 5 dogs



In Our Prayers

Sandy Froehlich, Glen White, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Herb, Ben, & 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), Tinslee, Ed & Barb Jepsen, Mary (Belandier) Klein, Howard Nichols, Jackie Walker, Alyssa Volkers, Chuck Curtis, Kristin (Bob & LaVona Grissinger's granddaughter), Lisa (LaVona's friend), Jill (Melinda Dykema's daughter), Elyssa Gooding (Bonnie's daughter), Susan Foltz (organist at Mt. Carroll UMC), Denise Curtis, LaVona Grissinger, Iola McCutcheon (Tim Cavanagh's friend), Karen Burcham (Paul Mayer's sister), Dan Zambon (uncle of Kim Gonzalez), Pat Kemp, Karen Grissinger (Bob & LaVona's Grissinger's daughter-in law), Dave Miller (Brigit Jepsen's boyfriend's father), Jody & Jon Kragel (Dianne Piercy's friends), Louise Brouillard (Ronda's friend), Howie Von Haden (LaVona's brother), Rita Mitchell, Ron Miller, Betty Hoertz Hottenstein, Amy Hanson, Jamie Harkness Townsend, Elyssa (Bonnie's daughter), Jan (Karen Hoffman's friend), baby Wesley, Myrna Handel, Linda Jachino, Paul Mayer, Vivian Eaton, Bob Grissinger, Brian Wallace, Ron Hastings, Priscila de Castro, Jaime (Paula's daughter), Christina Pasch, Baby Adrian, Julie Brunner (Linda Jachino's cousin), the Lars Colgan family, Linda Stubbe's family, and closure for the family of Jackson Kradle.

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, 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

Wednesday, February 19th from 4:30-6:30

in our Fellowship Hall. The free dinner for anyone over 60 will be lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread and spumoni ice cream for dessert. Program will be games. Come join the fun and invite your friends.

RSVP to the church office by noon,
Monday, February 17th, 815-273-2345.
Rides are available, in-town only.

Soul Sisters February Meeting

Thursday, February 13th

Judy Davidson & her daughter, Mary Schoenecker will lead it. We will begin at 11:30 in the fellowship hall with a salad lunch. Everyone please bring a salad of your choice. We will provide table service. After lunch Mary will lead us playing games of Jeopardy. We will bring prizes for winners.

Kids Kards

Kids Kards will meet on **February 23rd** after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making cards for our first responders and employees at Big Meadows and Pinnacle Place so we'll need alot of cards! We'll have chili for lunch. All the materials are provided and everyone is welcome. Let's help our children say thank-you to those who work so hard and those who keep us safe.

The Giving Tree was another big success thanks to your donations. Your warm hearts helped so many children have warm heads, hands, and feet. Thank you!

Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket needs men's products, body wash, shampoo, or deodorant. You can leave your donations in the Food Pantry Box in the narthex and thank you for your continued support.

Savanna Food Pantry

We need volunteers to man the Savanna Food Pantry on **Tuesday, March 4th & Thursday, March 6th from 9-12 noon.**

Please let Molly Andersen know if you can help out, 815-541-6852.

And thank you to Susan White for helping in December!

IMPACT YOUTH GROUP

(formerly Carroll County Youth Group)



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
IMPACT YOUTH GROUP
LET'S HIT THE SLOPES!

6-12th graders are invited to come ski or snowboard on our 2nd annual youth group ski trip!

Meet at the First United Methodist Church in Savanna at 12:00pm sharp.

Youth leaders (Quinn & April Ruddell) will carpool kids to Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena for an epic afternoon of skiing/snowboarding!

Lift tickets, ski/snowboard rental, and helmet rental will be covered!

Parents/guardians, please RSVP via the attached Google form by January 29 so we can ensure we have enough drivers.

Each family MUST complete and sign an updated emergency contact/liability form before we leave.

PICTURES!!!

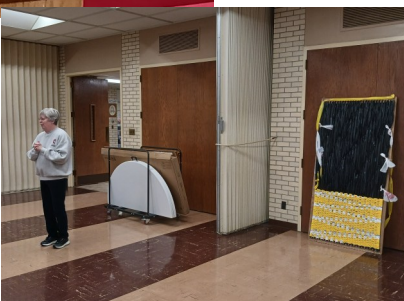
Soul Sisters' Quilt Show



Valentine Loving Season



JOY Dinner for January



United Methodist Men

Bob & LaVona made their famous spaghetti for their meeting



OTHER ITEMS



**Leadership Retreat
January 18th, 2025**



**Many thanks to
Pastor Mike Jones
for his assistance!**





Worship is at 10:15 am!!!

**Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting
will be each Thursday at 7 pm!**

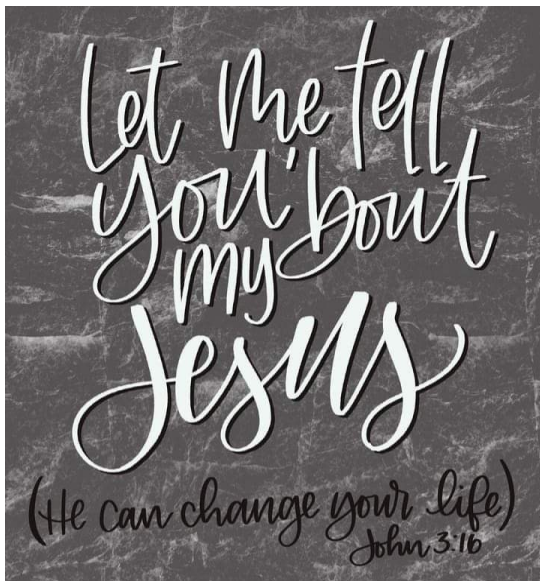
**United Methodist Men
will meet Tuesday, Feb 18th
@ 5:30 pm**

**Finance/Growth will meet
Tuesday, Feb 11th @ 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!**



Be joyful
in hope

Be patient
in affliction

Be constant
in prayer

Romans 12:12

**Souper
Bowl Sunday
Lunch**

Soups, salads, bread
& desserts

Feb. 9TH @ 11:15

Hosted by the Outreach
Committee



FREE WILL OFFERING
will go towards Outreach
projects

Henry Ancil Guilinger
Born: Jan 4th, 2025
5 lb, 9 oz

Parents:
Mark & Calista Guilinger
Grandparents:
Stan & Mary Guilinger
Great Grandmother:
Sharon Guilinger





February 2025

1 - Tommy Losh
 4 - Rocky Mangler
 4 - Elliott Mills
 8 - Mary Schoenecker
 9 - Dana Haynes
 9 - LeaAnn Michels
 9 - Becky Weidman
 13 - *Bruce & Rhonda Badtke (1988)*
 13 - Judy Davidson
 15 - Aidan Michels
 19 - Alexis (Lexi) Piercy
 19 - Enoch Green
 23 - Christy Clemons
 24 - Jeff Andersen
 25 - Josh Hartman
 28 - Diane Brinkmeier
 28 - Denise Curtis
 28 - *Burt & Kathie Prins (1976)*



If you know and believe
 God walked you safely thru
 January and opened your
 eyes to see February, let's
 Thank Him!
 Thank you, God, for your
 blessings each day. Please
 guide us in February with
 Your love and care.
 Amen



Acolytes

Feb 2 - Faith Gonzalez
 Feb 9 - Ryker McCombie
 Feb 16 - Pearl Michels
 Feb 23 - Joe Pasch

Liturgists

Feb 2 - James Gonzalez
 Feb 9 - Esther Losh
 Feb 16 - Jason Moore
 Feb 23 - Deeann Kramer

Coffee Hour

Feb 2 - Vivian Eaton
 Feb 9 - Souper Bowl Luncheon
 Feb 16 - The Dykema's
 Feb 23 - Castro family

Ushers & Greeters

See Linda Stubbe to
 Volunteer to help!

Counters & Verifiers

Feb 2 - Molly Andersen & Pam Darrow
 Feb 9 - Rhonda Law & Linda Jachino
 Feb 16 - Lori Miller & Kay Cavanagh
 Feb 23 - Vivian Eaton & 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 2025



UNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Communion 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 12 pm IMPACT Youth Group Ski Trip	3 1 pm Sewing Ladies 2 pm Choir Practice 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	4 6:30 pm United Women of Faith	5	6 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Prayer zoom	7	8
9 Choir Sings 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Souper Bowl Lunch	10 1 pm Sewing Ladies	11 5 pm Finance/ Growth mtg	12	13 9 am Bible Study 11:30 am Soul Sisters 7 pm Prayer zoom	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15
16 9 am Trustees 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 11:45 am Ad Council	17 Presidents's Day 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry 	18 5:30 pm UM Men	19 4:30-6:30 pm JOY Ministry Dinner	20 9 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Worship Mtg 7 pm Prayer zoom	21	22
23 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 11:30 am Kids Kards 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts	24 1 pm Sewing Ladies 2 pm Choir Practice 3 pm JOY recap	25	26	27 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Prayer zoom	28	