



Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors...

The people of the
United Methodist
Church



TELSTAR

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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FUMC has remained steadfast in its focus on loving God, loving others, and making Jesus' disciples over the last three years. Even during the challenges of the pandemic, our efforts aimed to do good and do no harm. As we step into 2024, God has revealed a new vision for us: 'Stay with God in Love and Peace!'

The early church centered its focus on the Holy Spirit, who enabled Christians to engage in unceasing prayer, reflect on Jesus' teachings, and care for the needy. Acts 9:31 illustrates this, saying, ***'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.'***

These early Christians lived in reverence for God and the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit. They made an endless effort to gather daily for prayer, communal sharing of the Word of God, and tending to those in need. As a result, God strengthened and expanded the church, showering them with the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

I strongly believe that the early church emphasized gatherings rooted in God's love and peace; coming together for worship, prayer meetings, Bible studies, fellowship, service, and more. Since the pandemic, we have been cautious about in-person gatherings. We adapted to online services, virtual meetings, and remote work, which significantly changed our lives. Additionally, we find ourselves constantly connected through mobile devices. However, God designed us as social beings; we inherently need one another. Our growth is fostered through mutual influence. Therefore, it's vital to meet regularly, both within the church and by reaching out to our local community.

The church isn't confined to a physical space; our connections extend beyond those walls. As Jesus said, ***'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'*** We should gather more frequently in the name of Jesus Christ, fostering an environment where we can stay with God in love and peace.

Every Thursday evening in 2024, we will gather together via Zoom for a twenty or thirty-minute prayer meeting. We'll pray for our church, its members, the local community, and the world. It will start January 11th. We also invite you to join us for Adult Sunday School or Thursday Bible Study. Additionally, our Lenten Bible Study will start on Feb 15th at 5 pm. Book Discussion Group will be started in 2024. Praise Band will be meeting regularly to practice songs and teach our kids. Please, stay tuned for an upcoming ministry for seniors. Your participation and support are valued and appreciated.

I am delighted to introduce our newly elected church leaders. Vivian Eaton serves as our interim treasurer. Ronda Rathje joins the Worship Committee and Trustees. Linda Stubbe and Esther Losh are co-chairs of the worship committee. Deb Long is a new member of the Memorial Committee. Linda Jachino joins the Education Committee. Let's warmly welcome our new leaders with gratitude and joy. I am very excited and eager to work with our new leaders. Thank you all for stepping up willingly to serve God's church and people! There's a District Leadership Training Event scheduled for Saturday, January 27th, at Harmony UMC in Freeport. I highly encourage our church leaders to participate in this important event.

In this new beginning, let's resolve to be more compassionate, to extend a helping hand, to be bearers of kindness in a world that yearns for it. Let's seek opportunities to deepen our love, to listen earnestly, and to serve selflessly. May this New Year be a time of growth, renewal, and boundless blessings for you and your loved ones! May the light of God guide your path, and may God's abundant grace accompany every step you take. As a faith community, let's begin this journey together, supporting and uplifting each other in prayer, presence, and shared moments of faith.

Wishing you all a blessed and Happy New Year!
With prayers and warm regards,
Pastor Dave

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 11:30AM
CHURCH LIBRARY

Chairperson Susan Michelle Jepsen called the meeting to order at 11:40am with members Jason Moore, Kathie and Burt Prins, Tom Michels, Molly Andersen, Ronda Rathje, Bill Wright, Kris Yingling, Pastor Dave Yim, Mary Irons, Pam Darrow, and Vivian Eaton present. Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer. Susan Michelle thanked those who led the last 2 meetings in her absence. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Kathie moved, seconded by Kris, to accept the minutes as presented and the motion carried. The financial reports were handed out and look rather dismal, but we had paid 2 months of apportionments and utilities in October. Bill moved, seconded by Kathie, to accept the reports as presented and the motion passed.

FINANCE: Tom stated we consistently run short every month by about \$3000 and after the first of the year this committee will take a detailed look at our budget.

TRUSTEES: Ronda reported the parking lot circle in front of the church has been removed with a bill of 586.03 for the gravel. River Cities removed our mouse condo outside at no extra charge because of our contract with them. The thermostat in the library was fixed at a cost of \$456.45. However, the outlets in the room and the next room still do not work. Herrell Electric did the heat trace on the church roof and will be called to check the outlets. The West Carroll School Food Pantry was recently inspected by the state. An insurance agent was here and thought he could save us money and Ronda kept his card for a possible future quote. The Worship Committee requested Command hooks be put up for our new Christmas banners, but Jeff Law can install permanent ones.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: An inspection of the parsonage will be scheduled soon. There are still critters living in the attic.

WORSHIP: The All-Saints service went well. The committee is preparing for the Hanging of the Greens service on December 3rd. The community Christmas concert will be December 10th at 2pm. The offering will go to the West Carroll School Food Pantry and Needy Kids fund. Pastor Dave will be on vacation December 31st so we will have a hymn-sing that morning. After the new year Mark and Ronda Rathje will be taking photos and making a new church directory. The pianos will be tuned and the sanctuary and choir room pianos will be switched.

EDUCATION: There will be no children's Sunday School next week and then they will meet at 9am for the following 3 weeks to prepare for the Christmas program, Journey to Bethlehem, on December 17th. The adult Sunday School will meet next Sunday but not on December 3rd.

EVANGELISM: We celebrated 2 birthdays this month, Steve Yenney and Mary Ellen Dreger.

UWF: They presented Esther Losh with a Special Mission Recognition award this morning during worship. Their Christmas party will be at Mary's home on December 5th and we will be making a plastic mat on her loom.

UMM: They will not meet this month and will start a new book study in December, Generations.

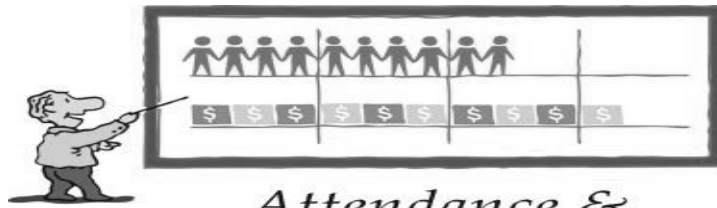
INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: They are planning the Lenten services for 2024. Zach and Britney Kosier have taken over the Needy Kids program.

OLD BUSINESS: Shirley Casey will be going to Highland Community College in the spring to get a degree in Early Childhood Education to continue her goal of starting a daycare.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Dave emailed his report and mileage sheet to members. The confirmation class attended worship at St. John's Catholic Church in Savanna yesterday. Confirmation Sunday will be May 19, 2024. They will have a lock-in with the youth group February 2-3, 2024. The mission trip has 7 youth going. Advent Bible study will start November 29th for 4 weeks, studying the book of Acts. Pastor Dave will be on vacation December 25-31st.

Pastor Dave closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 12:18pm.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 4111.50		
	November 2023	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 10,540.78	\$ 130,001.32
Church Expenses	\$ 17,613.01	\$ 180,701.11
Net Operating Balance	\$ -7,072.23	\$ -50,699.79
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1290.00	\$ 15,480.00
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions!		
vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
December 3	\$ 4137.00	76	13	89
December 10	\$ 3409.00	56	1 + 2 dogs	57 + 2 dogs
December 17	\$ 2091.00	99	0	99
Dec 24 (AM)	\$ 10289.26	48	0	48
Dec 24 (PM)	\$ 1256.00	94	3	97
Totals	\$ 21,182.26	373	17 + 2 dogs	390 + 2 dogs



In Our Prayers

Billy David, Emilee Derrer, Merry Florence, Matthew Foltz, Rod Furrow, Rhonda Harlock Smith, John Irons, Judy Law, Mike Foltz, John Ritchie, Gi-Tae Yim, Inga, Sandy Froehlich, Vanessa & Tom Grissinger (Bob & LaVona's children), Barb McFadden, Glen White, Baby Adrian & his mom, Alice (Esther's sister), Janet Smith, Eli (Bob & LaVona's grandson), Pastor Bill Landis, Shirley Hastings, Alice Riffe-Torrison (Ronda's mom), Pastor Karen Schilling (Bonnie Davies' friend), Donny Hughes, Jeff O'Leary, Kim Walker (Jackie's daughter), Barb Green, Bentley Audi (Diane Brinkmeier's grandson), Debbie Schriener (former member), Dale Wurster, Randy Law (Shirley Fritz's son-in-law), Owen Davies (Bonnie's son), Cindy Westbrook (Pastor Dave's friend), Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Randy & Susie Bonjour, Tim Addie (relative of Bob & LaVona), Steve Runge (Ronda's friend), Jim Eaton, Sharon Atherton (Kris Yingling's aunt), Cody Rose (Courtney Johnson's friend), Pam Darrow, John Jachino, Joann Badtke (Bruce's mom), Connie Zink, Barb & Ed Jepsen, Paul Mayer, Will Bussan (Bonnie's grandson), Angie Lennon (Paula Mayer's friend's daughter), Pastor Lee (Pastor Dave's friend), Don & Judy Greenfield, Sandy Pratt, Pearl Michels, Shirley Fritz, Lexi Tsoukalas (Molly's great niece), Alyssa Volkers (Burt & Peg Dauphin's granddaughter), Debbie Bilik (Janet Morlock's friend), Tim Cavanagh, Jeff Dennison, Jisung's friend Lucas' parents, the residents of Pinnacle Place, the family of Judy Orn (Mary Irons' sister), 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 Yenny, Brenda Hamm, Janice Wilt, Mary Ellen Dreger, Herb, Sandy & Ben Pratt, Florence Bevins Powell, and Shirley Fritz.

Our country & government, Military Personnel & their families, the safety of Ukrainians & end of wars, Turkey, Syria, Israel, the Gaza strip, peace in the middle east, and the victims of the 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

Our next session will be after worship on January 28th, 2024 to make valentine cards. Everyone is welcome and all materials are provided, including Lunchables to take home. Any questions call Molly Andersen.

United Women of Faith

There will be no meeting for January!

Blessing Basket

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Blessing Basket during Advent and throughout the year. **We collected \$250 and 110 items!**

We went from giving out 50-60 items per month to 180-200 items per month! Your generosity has brought comfort, health, and peace to so many people. Thank you!

This month we need laundry and dish detergent.

SOUL SISTERS' "WINTER WARM-UP"

Thursday, January 11th 12:00 noon

1st UMC Fellowship Hall

Hot Chocolate Bar, Finger Foods Lunch, BINGO

Bring:

--A sweet OR savory "finger food" to share

--A "white elephant" prize for our BINGO game

ALL women are welcome to attend!

RSVP Linda Jachino 815-541-4760

West Carroll Food Pantry

The West Carroll School Food Pantry shelves are FULL! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Advent calendar and to Ronda Rathje for all her help in making it such a huge success. **Your generosity brought in 1346 individual items.** God is good!!!!



The schedule for volunteering at the Savanna Food Pantry is out and we are manning it January 9th and 11th. Other dates for the year are 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.



BLOOD DRIVE



BLOODCENTER.ORG

Savanna First United Methodist Church

Wednesday, January 10th 2:30pm – 6:00pm


Fellowship Hall (2100 Chicago Ave.)

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL. APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED.
To schedule, scan the QR code, email LaVona Grissinger at grandma54601@gmail.com or online at www.bloodcenter.org.



Give & get your choice of a gift card or bonus points to shop our store for our new gray blanket & more!

Please visit before donating and bring Photo ID.
Last Date to Donate: 1/10/2023
Group Sponsor Code: 2893



*Thank
you*

I would like to thank all the people that made the Christmas Concert a success. They include Ronda Rathje, Bulletins and power point; Kris Yingling, Media; Paul Meyer, video; the Choir; the Praise Band; Pastor Dave; Bang-Wool; Jiho; the Accordion Divas from Galena; Litigurists, Linda Jachino and Ronda Rathje; Pastor Nadan, Emcee; and the ushers and refreshment committee. Thank you for using your time and talents to praise God.

Blessings, Vivian Eaton

Thank you to the Women in Faith for the generous Christmas Gift. It was very much appreciated.
Vivian Eaton

I am so pleased to hear your church could use the banners. Ronda shared a video of a service and I was able to see them hanging in the church. They look wonderful! This past year has been a rough one and I know that folks from your church have prayed for me. The banners are a small token of “giving back. For truly it is much more rewarding to give than to receive. In the words of Henry Ward Beecher, “In this world, it is not what we take up, but what we give up that makes us rich.” I hope everyone there has a wonderful and blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Monica Becker

I want to thank United Women In Faith and FUMC family for the very generous Christmas gifts!!!
Ronda Rathje



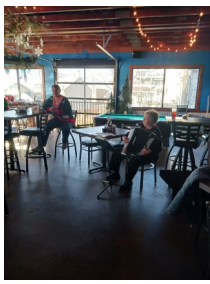
**FUMC's
“Festival of
Trees” tree**



**Bell Ringing at
Sullivans
Total Raised this
Christmas season
\$3862.91**



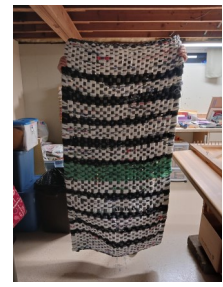
Pictures!!!



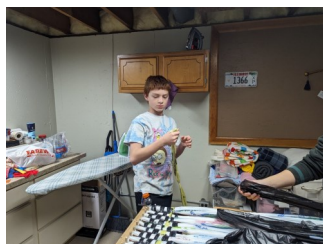
Soul Sisters Christmas Party



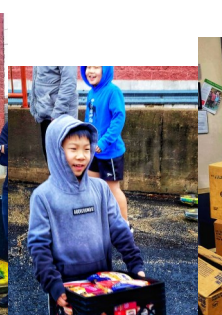
UWF Christmas Party



Our Confirmands



More Pictures!!!



Church office will be closed on January 1, 2024

**We will be having pictures taken for a new directory.
Stay tuned for more information!!!**

Lenten Bible Study—Thursday, February 15th @ 5 pm

Youth Group Lock In - February 2nd & 3rd

**Leadership Training Event - Saturday January 27th
at Harmony UMC in Freeport, IL**

**We will be having another
blood drive on January 10th
from 2:30—6 pm!
Call the office if you have any
questions.**



January 2024

3—Pastor Dave Yim
3—Scott Law
4—Ben Pratt
6 - Amanda Gonzalez
7—John Irons
8—Mary Irons
11— Jisung Yim
13—Debbie Hockman
13—*Susan Michelle & Greg Jepsen (2001)*
15—Gary Dykema
15—Linda Stubbe
19—Mark Rathje
20—Linda Yenney
23—Kay Cavanagh
29—Dalton Shaw
30—Sandy Froelich
31—Rhonda Law

Hello January

Journey of a thousand miles
Always starts somewhere.
Nothing will be achieved
Unless you take
Action. Momentum plus
Repeated efforts will take
You further than expected



OurMindfulLife.com

Liturgists

January 7—Esther Losh
January 14—Linda Jachino
January 21— ???
January 28— ???

Acolytes

January 7—Dalton Shaw
January 14—Ellie Johnson
January 21— Jisung Yim
January 28— Ryker McCombie

Counters & Verifiers

January 7— Molly Andersen & Tom Michels
January 14— Rhonda Law & Sharon F Guilinger
January 21— Lori Miller & LaVona Grissinger
January 28— Vivian Eaton & Mary Irons

**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**



January 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Office Closed 	2	3 10 am Choir Practice	4 9 am Bible Study	5	6
7 Communion 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 3:30-5 pm Confirm. Class 5-6:30 pm Youth Group	8 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry 6:30 pm Service Club	9	10 10 am Choir Practice 2:30—6 pm Blood Drive	11 9 am Bible Study 12 pm Soul Sisters Prayer Meeting (zoom)	12	13
14 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship	15 Telstar Info due 1 pm Sewing Ladies	16 5:30 pm UM Men 7 pm Finance	17	18 9 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Worship Mtg Prayer Meeting (zoom)	19	20
21 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	22 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	23	24	25 9 am Bible Study Prayer Meeting (zoom)	26 6 pm Girl Scouts	27 District Leadership Meeting @ Freeport
28 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Kids Kards	29 1 pm Sewing Ladies	30	31 10 am Choir Practice			