

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



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"

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



Dear FUMC family,

Dear Friends in Christ,

July marks a significant milestone—not only as a month rich in historical importance for the United States, but also as a deeply meaningful chapter in my ministerial journey. It was one year ago this month that I officially began serving in Savanna, IL—an appointment uniquely cross-cultural and cross-racial. Today, I give thanks for how far we've come and how powerfully the Spirit has moved among us.

I'm filled with joy and gratitude for three major developments that affirm God's presence and guidance:

- **1. New Disciples:** Since our transition last July, we have welcomed six new members into our church family, including one transferred. We celebrated four baptisms: two children and two adults. These lives reflect God's call and our church's commitment to walking together in faith.
- **2.** Increased Attendance and Fellowship: Our worship services now regularly welcome 65 or more attendees. In addition, the introduction of Coffee Hour every Sunday has created a sacred space for connection and community. I extend heartfelt thanks to all who faithfully volunteer or sign up to serve during this cruscial part of our Sunday service.
- **3.** A Growing Prayer Community: We shifted our prayer meetings from online to in-person gatherings each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. The growth in participation is nothing short of miraculous. Those who once felt hesitant now pray boldly—evidence that God is working profoundly through this ministry of intercession.

As have just Returned recently from the 2025 Annual Conference in Schaumburg, Chicago, I carry with me the encouragement of Bishop Schwerin. Our Bishop calls us to be bold, experimenting with new ways of being the Church in a world where spiritual hunger is rising and traditional forms may no longer resonate. We are invited to engage deeply with seekers who are longing to find God.

Finally I would like to remind us all of the powerful words spoken by the prophet Samuel: "Thus far, the Lord has helped us." 1. Samuel 7:2 It is by God's grace indeed that we have come this far. I thank each of you for your prayers, support, and partnership in the ministry. I also honor the legacy of the pastors who came before me. Let us continue to carry the fire of Pentecost forward, reviving our church and transforming our community.

Blessings to you and your loved ones, **In Christ**,

Pastor Fernando Candumbo de Castro

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES SUNDAY, May 18, 2025 11:45 AM @ CHURCH LIBRARY

Chairperson Susan Michelle Jepsen called the meeting to order at 11:36 am with members Linda Stubbe, Karen Hoffman, Molly Andersen, Ronda Rathje, LaVona Grissinger, John LeComte, Vivian Eaton, Kathie and Burt Prins, Pam Darrow, and Pastor Fernando deCastro present. Pastor Fernando opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Susan Michelle moved, seconded by Pam, to approve the minutes as presented, and the motion carried. The financial reports were handed out. Kathie moved, seconded by LaVona, to approve the reports, and the motion passed. EDUCATION: Today was the last day of Sunday School. VBS will be July 21-25, 2025, and volunteers are needed. EVANGELISM: Mary Irons and Pastor visited Pinnacle Place and are going to Davenport and Clinton, IA on the 27th. They send cards out regularly. FINANCE: The committee is seeking bids on getting a professional service to do our financial business. We would still need a treasurer to write checks and transfer money. They also discussed fundraising.

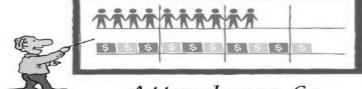
STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: They met last weekend. TRUSTEES: Many thanks to Jeff Law, who built shelves in the boiler room and mowed the church property down below! We received an email from Deeply Rooted Home School in Fulton, IL, inquiring about renting rooms at the church. Ronda will contact them and set up a visit and meeting with the committee. WORSHIP: Today was Teacher Appreciation during worship. The veterans will be doing the Memorial Day service next week. We are setting the bulletins on a table in the narthex. Linda has been greeting people when they come into the sanctuary, and this seems to be working well.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: They are still looking into a summer feeding program for children. UWF: They planted the flower bed in the church yard and then went to Manny's for dinner. Next month, they will be going to Timber Lake Playhouse. UMM: They are meeting tomorrow night. YOUTH: They went bowling and are now done for the summer. OLD BUSINESS: The gutters on the parsonage have been replaced. NEW BUSINESS: There was a question about updating our website again, as it is still out of date and hard to navigate. Pastor is working on forming a new committee, chaired by Joe Michels, to update our church's social media accounts. John mentioned the "FUMCSavanna" domain is available for \$20 and will talk to Joe about it.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Fernando provided copies of his report. He and Ronda will be going to the annual conference in Schaumburg, June 8-11. He reminded us how important music is to worship and getting young people involved.

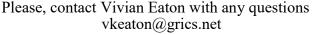
Pastor Fernando closed the meeting Respectfully submitted,.

Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 8,647						
	May 2025 Year to					
Church Revenue	\$ 16,172.69	\$ 71,469.81				
Church Expenses	\$ 19,985.70	\$ 97,262.05				
Net Operating Balance	\$ -3,613.01	\$ -25,792.24				
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 9540					





Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance	
May 4	\$ 6,409	73	1+2 Dogs	74+ 2Dogs	
May 11	\$ 3,982	66	2 Dogs	66+ 2 Dogs	
May 18	\$ 1,908	63	2 Dogs	63+ 2 Dogs	
May 25	\$ 1,769	60	Dogs 2	60+ 2 Dogs	
Tithley	\$ 1290	•	•		
Totals	\$ 15,358		1 + 2 dogs	203 + 8 Dogs	

In Our Prayers

Sandy Froehlich, Glen White, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Scarlett Huebner, Chrissy Sullivan, Angie (Paula's friend), Roher Furrow,

rayer Tinslee, Ed & Barb Jepsen, John Jachino, Kristin & Eli (Bob & LaVona Grissinger's grandchildren), Alyssa Volkers, Lisa (LaVona's friend), Jill (Melinda Dykema's daughter, Bob & LaVona Grissinger, Lola McCutcheon (Tim Cavanagh's friend), Karen Burcham & Kandi (Paul Mayer's sisters), Beth (LaVona's colleague), the Norman family, Dan Zambon (uncle of Kim Gonzalez), Pat Kemp, Jon & Jody Kragle

(Dianne Percy's friends), Dave Miller (Brigit Jepsen's boyfriend's father), John Norse, Howie Von Haden (LaVona's brother), Jamie Harkness Townsend, baby Wesley and family, Paul & Charlene Mayer,

Vivian & Jim Eaton, Mia (Paula's co-worker), Christina Pasch, Baby Adrian, Julie Brunner (Linda Jachino's cousin), Martha White, Tim Cavanagh, Beverly & family (Emily Medley's cousin), Julie Ann Petty, Susan King

Christine Jensen, Derek Osborn, Nadine Law Renfro, Vicki & Michael Thomas (Paula Mayer's friends), Chuck Atherton, Janet Smith (Denise's sister), Freida Nichols, Mike Medley, Lexi Piercy, Christa Jachino (Linda's daughter-in-law), Ross Bronkema, Pat Gilmore (Pam Darrow's brother), 5 firefighters were injured from the area fire departments, the Lars Colgan family.

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner, Steve & Linda Yenney, Brenda Hamm, Janice Wilt, Mary Ellen Dreger, Herb & Ben Pratt, Florence Bevins-Powell, Jackie Walker, and Howard Nichols

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

JOY (Just Older Youth) will meet at Savanna FUMC on Wednesday, July 16th from 4:30-6:30pm. We're having a picnic with fried chicken, cold salads, and dessert. Weather permitting, we'll eat out on the deck and play yard games. Anyone over 60 is welcome to share in this free meal, fellowship, and fun. Reservations must be made by noon, Monday, July 14th, by calling the church office at 815-273-2345. Rides are available in-town.

School Supplies!

Guess what time it is! Time to think about school supplies! Last year we helped 91 students prepare for school and this year we expect more. The stores have their shelves stocked and items are on sale now. Please consider donating markers, crayons, wide-ruled spiral notebooks or glue sticks. Monetary donations are also greatly appre

cciated. Items can be left in the food pantry box in the narthex. **Go, West Carroll Thunder!**

Soul Sisters JULY Outing

Will be meeting at the Miles Museum in Mt . Carrol on Friday July 18th 10 AM Will have lunch together and visit the remodled Library Contact Linda (815) 541-4760

4TH OF JULY PARADE

Float decorating Wednesday at 6:30 at Ron & Lori Miller's shop on HWY 84. Bring packing tape to use to keep the stickers on the water bottles. Looking for tambourines to play on the float. Parade lineup Saturday at 4:30 at the old Shopko building.

You can bring candy to throw. Bring a lawn chair to sit on. Walkers will pass out the water bottles.

We will need bags of ice and coolers. Let the office know if you can provide either.

COME JOIN US AND MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!!

Blessing Basket

Blessing Basket needs toothbrushes and toothpaste, adult and children. You can leave your donations in the food pantry box in the narthex. Thank you for supporting this very important ministry!

West Carroll Food Pantry

Did you know our local food pantries will accept your extra produce? They are happy to take your bumper crop of zucchini, broccoli, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, whatever! If you need help picking or transporting call Molly Andersen, 815-541-6852. Items needed this month are crackers and canned fruit.

Savanna Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed to serve at the Savanna Food Pantry on July 22nd and 24th. If you are interested please call Molly Andersen at 815-541-6852.

PICTURES!!!

JOY (Just Older Youth) Ministry Dinner



Sharon Guilinger, Jim and Vivian Eaton. **Faithful Joyers**



Karen Hoffmann, Linda Stubbe and Deb Long



Dancing at JOY Ennie and Priscila



The Answer was part of JOY



Thursday Bible Study Group



Tom Neumiller send some of his people to help Mooing the grass



Memorial Service Honoring those who gave their lives for USA freedom.



Bob Grissinger spraying around the Church



Pastor Fernando and John- our Lay-Leader @ the Annucal Conference In Schaumburg Chicago



The joy of Pentecost, Rev. Bonnie and Pastor Fer-



Pictures!!!



Pr. Fernando was @ WCCI visiting with Brian



Annual Conference, Pastor Lambert. Rev. Arline, Pastor Fernando and Reverend Robert Saturi



Don and Connie Kramer. Celebrated 65 Wedding Anniversary



Mary Irons, Kay Cavanagh, Ennie Maria and Priscila doing some sleeping mats



Miller Excavation did a great Job!



Souls Sister last meeting in hats





Molly Anderson Welcoming our
Wednesday Older Youth at JOY Dinner



Our Church Donated 2.000 USD to West. Carroll F. Pantry.



Worship Service will be at 9:30 am for the summer beginning June 1!!!

Coffee hour is every Sunday please if you may sign up to serve our Church.

Prayer group meets every Sunday 8:30 @ Church.

United Women of Faith will meet Tuesday,
July 2nd at 6:30 pm at the church.
All women are invited!

Vcation Bible School (VBS)
will take place
July 21st thru 25th

Sunday School, Adult Sunday School, Youth Group and Kids Kards will all be taking a break for the summer.

Telstar items will be due on the 16th of each month!!!

Pastor will be on Vacation from July 13th -27
Please call him for emergency - 773-971-7208





<u>186th Northern Illinois Annual Conference</u> – was Monday, June 09th thru Wednesday June 11th in Schaumburg, IL. Bishop Dan Schwerin chose the theme, <u>Grace is Sufficient.</u> Another Annual Conference is in the books! But not just any Annual Conference! It was the 186th session of the Northern Illinois Conference. Many joys and celebrations and still other moments of sadness, especially during the Memorial Service.

During the Laity Address Change was a major theme...

Change is coming, Eugene Williams alerted members of the 2025 Northern Illinois Annual Conference during the laity address, delivered on June 10. But our dependence on God and maintenance of our connection will carry us through needed change.

Yes, we are either in a storm, entering a storm, or coming out of a storm, but the storms of life are always raging," he observed. "So we should be energetic and take back hope and encouragement to our respective ministry settings. We've come too far to turn back now."

Change is not always comfortable, he said. We will experience some distress. However, he reminded conference members, some among us have already been experiencing deep pain as they waited for

Birthdays



July 2025

- 1 Luke Holcomb
- 5 Jeff Doran
- 5 Sarah Neumiller-Jackson
- 5 Rhonda & Jeff Law (1986)
- 6 Molly Andersen
- 6 Judy Greenfield
- 7 Noah Johnson
- 8 Micheal Jones
- 10 Erik Torrison
- 12 Gary & Melinda Dykema (2014)
- 12 Hannah Guilinger
- 12 Eric Purchis
- 17 Nathaniel Law
- 18 Ronda Rathje
- 25 Bruce Badtke
- 31 Deeann Kramer
- 31 Peter King



Liturgists

July 06 - Linda Jachino July 13 - Jason Moore

July 20 - Joe Michels

July 27 - Susan Michelle

Jepsen

Acolytes

July 06 - Tyson Speer

July 13 - Ryker McCombie

July 20 - Boyd Law

July 27 - Kurt Hoffman

<u>Ushers</u>

July 6 - Worship Cmte.

July 13 - Worship cmte

July 20 - Worship cmte

July 27 - Worship cmte

Counters & Verifiers

July 6 - Molly Andersen & Karen Hoffman

July 13 - Rhonda Law & Tom Michels

July 20 - Lori Miller & Sharon F. Guilinger

July 27 - Vivian Eaton & LaVona Grissinger

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





July 2025





W	* 6					* 6
SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:30 pm United Women of Faith	2	3 Office Closed	5 Savanna Sesquintennial Parade @ 5 pm	6 Savanna Parade 4:30 Gathering @5PM
7 Communion 9:30 am Worship with Coffee hour	8 1 pm Sewing Ladies	9 No finance Meeting.	10		12	13
13 8:30—Prayer Meetings 9:30 am Outdoor Worship	14 Telstar Info due 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	15	16 4:30-6:30 pm JOY Ministry Dinner Will meet @ Sa- vanna FUMC	17 9 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Worship Mtg	18 10 :Am Souls Sister meeting at Mt. Carrol	20
	<<<<<<	<<<<<<	<<< VBS>>>>	>>>>>>>	>>>>>>	<<<<<
8 am Trustees 8:30—Prayer Meetings 9:30 am Worship with Coffee hour 10:45 am Ad Council	21 1 pm Sewing Ladies 5 pm JOY mtg VBS @ Savanna FUMC	VBS @ Savanna FUMC	VBS @ Savanna FUMC	25 9 am Bible Study VBS @ Savanna FUMC	26	27
27 8:30—Prayer Meetings 9:30 am Outdoor Worship	28 1 pm Sewing	29	30	31		