



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.”

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As we approach the joyous celebration of Easter, a season of hope, renewal, and resurrection, I extend warm greetings to each and every one of you. In the midst of the changing seasons, both in nature and in our lives, Easter stands as a beacon of light, reminding us of the victory of life over death, hope over despair, and love over all.

This Easter, let us reflect on the profound significance of Christ's resurrection. The empty tomb is a testament to God's boundless love for us, offering forgiveness, redemption, and the promise of eternal life. It is a time for us to rejoice in the triumph of good over evil and to find solace in the message of hope that Easter brings.

We will come together to celebrate Easter on March 31st. Let us embrace the spirit of unity, compassion, and fellowship through Sun Rise Service (7:30 am), Easter Breakfast (8:30 to 9:30 am), Egg Hunt (9:00 am), and Easter Celebration (10:15 am). The resurrection story teaches us that new beginnings are possible, and God's grace is ever-present in our lives.

I am very excited to share with you the news that new ministries are ready in our congregation to serve the local community. 1. Grief & Loss Support Group (Griefshare): An online grief support group, starting its sessions this spring. This Christian-based program aims to help those have been experiencing grief and loss in their lives. 2. Senior Ministry (Food, Program, and Fellowship): Our first gathering will take place on April 17, Wednesday, at 4:30 pm. The event will begin with a food service, followed by a program and fellowship. This two-hour program is designed for seniors over 60. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Molly or Ronda know.

On March 17 Sunday, we will be hosting an Ice cream Social fundraiser for Ronda Rathje, our administrative assistant. Ronda is scheduled to attend the Annual Conference of PAUMCS (Professional Administrator of the United Methodist Connectional Structure) in Memphis, TN, in April. Having completed classes last year, she will be receiving her certificate and recognition as a member of the class of 2023 during this year's conference. To facilitate her attendance, Ronda needs to cover various expenses such as the registration fee, hotel accommodations, as well as gas and food costs. We estimate a total need of at least \$1,500.00. In generous support, several church members and groups have already made donations towards her trip. The Outreach Committee will be organizing the Ice Cream Social on March 17th after the church service. This event aims to further contribute to supporting Ronda and her journey to the Annual Conference. We invite all members of our church to join us on this day for fellowship and to show kindness to Ronda.

Palm Sunday, March 24th, will be a special Sunday as we celebrate and witness the baptism of three children during our church service. This holy sacrament is a powerful symbol of God's invisible grace, cleansing of our sins, and our belonging to God. We invite you to join us for this infant baptism, a moment that will not only remind you of your own baptism but also allow us to collectively covenant with God to raise these children in Christian love, faith, and hope. Your presence and support for the family on March 24th are invaluable.

We continue to raise money for the Rice Meal Packing Event, scheduled for Saturday, April 20th, at 9 am in our church. Each meal costs \$2 to pack, and our goal for 2024 is to pack 1800 meals, just as we successfully did last year. This goal requires us to raise \$3,600. Joining hands with four Methodist Churches in Carroll County since 2022, we are excited to continue working together in fundraising, meal packing, and sending the meals to the Mission Center in Chatham. Let's unite for this vital and thrilling mission event. Your participation and contributions make a significant impact on our shared mission.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Easter filled with the hope and promise of resurrection.

In His Resurrected Love, Pastor Dave

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024 11:30AM
CHURCH LIBRARY

Chairperson Susan Michelle Jepsen called the meeting to order at 11:21am with members Deeann Kramer, Ronda Rathje, Molly Andersen, Linda Stubbe, Esther Losh, Kris Yingling, Burt and Kathie Prins, Pam Darrow, Jason Moore, Mary Irons, Tom Michels, Vivian Eaton, and Pastor Dave Yim. Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Susan Michelle moved, seconded by Kathie, to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passed. The financial reports were presented and Kris moved, seconded by Pam, to accept the reports and the motion carried.

TRUSTEES: A pest control company has been contacted about the critter(s) living in the attic at the parsonage but did not return our phone call. It seems the heat trace on the church roof is not working so we will contact Herrell Electric. We received a letter from Jo-Carroll that they want to remove the utility pole that supplies the church with electricity. A representative from the co-op will be coming to a trustees meeting in the future. We will have a work day in the spring for the church and parsonage.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: Ronda received a certificate from the course she took this summer from the Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure. Their annual conference is April 4-6, 2024 in Memphis, TN. The cost to attend would be about \$1600 (she would drive down). Pastor Dave moved, seconded by Kathie, that we pay for her registration and hotel room, approximately \$1000, by asking for donations, and the motion passed.

FINANCE: They will be meeting on Wednesday at 5pm and everyone is encouraged to attend.

WORSHIP: We welcome the new co-chairs, Linda Stubbe and Esther Losh. We have updated our calling tree. Worship service was canceled last Sunday due to the weather. We will enforce our Safe Sanctuary policy for everyone using the nursery. Mardi Gras will be celebrated February 11th. We will have several baptisms this spring. We are hosting the Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and March 20th Interchurch Lenten services.

OUTREACH: They are planning a Souper Bowl luncheon on February 11th.

EDUCATION: The Sunday School has started a new series, Bible Numbers, and will be followed by an Easter series.

EVANGELISM: Birthday cards were sent to Ben Pratt, Joy Turner, and Linda Yenney. We are praying for Alice Riffe-Torrison, Miles Purchis, John Jachino, and Jim Ketzel.

KITCHEN: New flooring will be ordered and installed in the future and the island will match.

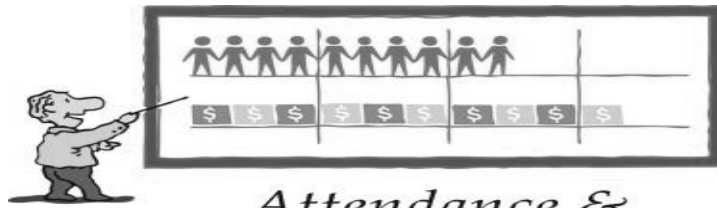
UWF: They will meet February 6th at 6:30pm. UMM: The January meeting was canceled due to the weather.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: Lenten services will start on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.

NEW BUSINESS: We have received a \$2000 grant from the Northern Illinois Conference to start a new ministry providing a monthly meal, program, and fellowship for area senior citizens. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact Molly Andersen or Ronda Rathje. Ronda read a letter received from Tom and Letha Robbe, neighbors of the Yim family, thanking them for shoveling their snow after our recent storm. Katy Cook, a former member, presented information about the program, GriefShare. She would like the church to sponsor her as a leader of the on-line group. Kris moved, seconded by Ronda, to purchase the Ministry Bundle 15 for \$595 for Katy, and the motion passed. We will ask the Outreach committee for the funds.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Dave emailed his report to members. The Youth lock-in is February 2-3, with the Youth group going to Chestnut Mountain Resort to ski before the lock-in. Cost per person is \$140 with parents paying half and the youth group fund paying the other half. Anyone interested in attending the virtual meeting, How to Reach and Welcome New People, should let him know. The meeting will take place during the youth lock-in but will not interfere with it. Pastor Dave closed the meeting with prayer and adjournment was at 12:37pm.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 12,991.67		
	January 2024	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 12,517.38	\$ 12,517.38
Church Expenses	\$ 14,004.50	\$ 14,004.50
Net Operating Balance	\$ -1,487.12	\$ -1,487.12
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 1,405.00
Kitchen Remodeling	\$21,018.61	\$21,018.61
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
February 4	\$ 2805.00	48	0	48
February 11	\$ 4324.10	70	0	70
February 18	\$ 1724.94	55	0	55
February 25	\$ 771.00	51	0	51
Totals	\$ 9625.04	224	0	224



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, John & Linda Jachino, Paul Mayer, Angie (Paula's friend), Roger Furrow, Kurtis (Susan Michelle's friend), Eli (Bob & LaVona's grandson), Paula Mayer, Young-Ho (Bang Wool's dad) Tinslee, Sally Ritchie, Chris Falk's father, Jeff (Backwater Gambler dad), Ed & Barb Jepsen, Todd Orn (Mary's nephew), the families of Lisa Hubble, Bob Rogers, Ancil Guilinger, Rod Furrow, Ruth, and Ann Larsen, our Confirmands (Jon, Aidan, Jiho, Asia, Caleb, and Lexi), and WC staff & students.

Our shut-ins: 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 after worship on **March 24th** in the Fellowship Hall. Anything goes this month! We'll make birthday cards, get-well, thank-you's, friendship, anything you want! You can even take some home with you! We'll get pizza for lunch. All materials are provided—just bring your creativity! Any questions call Molly Andersen, 815-273-2104.

Blessing Basket

Thank you for your continued support of the Blessing Basket. We served over 200 people (130 are children) last month. Items needed this month are **laundry detergent** and **paper towels**.

New Ministry Starting Soon!!!

We're starting a new senior ministry, providing a free meal, fellowship, and program once a month. **Our first meal will be Wednesday, April 17th, from 4:30-6:30pm.** We are looking for volunteers to help cook, serve, clean, and provide rides and programs. **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 12th, after the Finance/Grow committee meeting, around 6:30pm.** If you are interested in helping please let Molly Andersen or Ronda Rathje in the church office know.

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.

SOUL SISTERS' Popcorn & a Movie

will take place in March but details are still being worked out.

Stay tuned for the details!!!

Worship Committee

is trying to bring back Ushers and Greeters. If you would be interested in volunteering for these, please see Esther Losh or Linda Stubbe.

West Carroll Food Pantry

Please consider donating any non-perishable food item for the community and school food pantries. The pantry box is located in the narthex and all items may be placed in it. Thank you for thinking of our neighbors!

Trustees

Are looking to have a new digital sign put out front and are wanting to have a committee for this. If you are interested, please let Ronda know in the office.

Sunday School

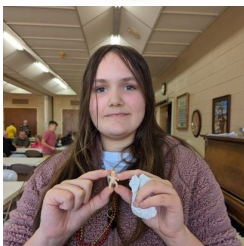
Wish List

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

*Thank
you*

Max & I want to express
a big thank you to our
Savanna church family
for the thoughts, pray-
ers, and notes for our
grandson Miles'
health. It's very much
appreciated.
Martha Purchis

Mardi Gras
Sunday



Lexi found the baby!

United Women of Faith

We be meeting **Tuesday, March 5th**
at 6:30 pm at the church.
All women are invited!

United Methodist Men

Will meet **Tuesday, March 19th,**
@ 5:30 pm.

Pictures & New Directory

Mark & Ronda Rathje will be taking everyone's pictures and making a new church directory. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Several pictures will be taken **for free** 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 **very cheap** printing option! This is a great way to have some family pictures taken! **We want everyone to have their picture taken for the directory!!!**

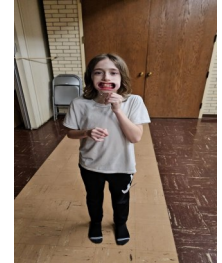
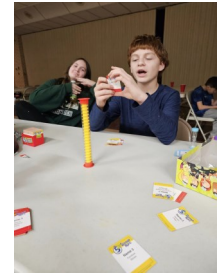


*Christ
is
Risen!*



Pictures!!!

Youth Group Lock-in



Our Confirmand & her Mentors



Confirmands & Mentors making mats at Mary Iron's house



Kids Kards



We made 30 extra Valentines last month and gave them to Rep. Tony McCombie's office to be given to our local veterans and nursing home residents. Many thanks to Deeann Kramer, Mary Irons, and the Yim boys.





2024 Soup & Lenten Bible Study
March 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
@ 4:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

If you are interested in supporting the Lion's Club Rose Day (their biggest fundraiser), roses are \$20 for a dozen! Tentative Delivery date is April 13th . Contact Rhonda Law (815-275-8058) or Jeff Law (815-238-5654)

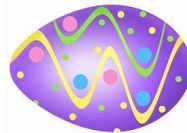
Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting every Thursday at 7pm.
Pastor Dave will email you a link each week.

Finance & Growth Meeting Tuesday, March 12th @ 5 pm

100th year Re-dedication of Chadwick-Hope United Methodist Church will take place Sunday, April 7th with worship @ 9:30 am.
Open house will be held from 1 to 4 pm.
A time of reflection will take place @ 2:30 pm.
All are welcome to attend.

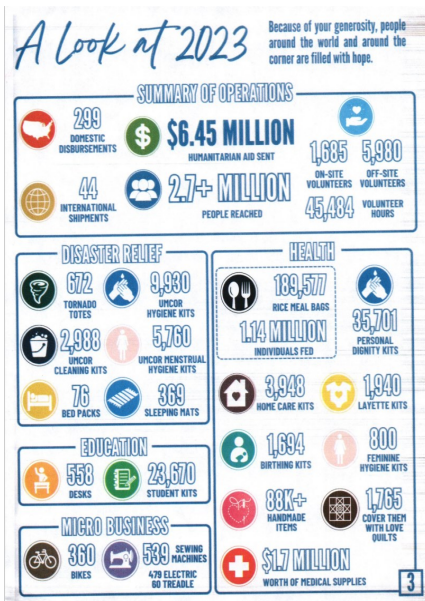
Ronda will be out of the office beginning Wednesday, April 3rd thru 7th to attend the PAUMCS (Professional Administrators of United Methodist Connectional Structures) Conference in Memphis, TN.

Rice Meal Packing will take place Sat. April 20th!
Donations are being accepted.



Order your Easter Flowers (due March 18th @ 10 am)
Easter Lilies - \$18
Kalanchoes- \$18
Hyacinths - \$16
Tulips - \$16
Hydrangeas - \$28
Azaleas- \$28
Questions??? - ask Ronda in the office.

Look at all Midwest Mission did in 2023 with your help! Thank you!



Interfaith Lenten Service Schedule



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!

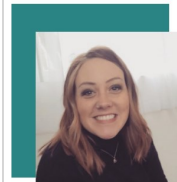
Date	Time	Location
February 14 Ash Wednesday	6:30 pm - Service only (No soup) Imposition of Ashes	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue
February 21 Wednesday	6:30 pm - Service only (No soup) Preacher: Pastor Dave Yim	First Presbyterian Church 502 3 rd Street
February 28 Wednesday	6:30 pm - 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

Grief & Loss Support Group Coming soon!



Grief and Loss Support Group
 Guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.



Hi, I'm Katy and I will be hosting the Griefshare group through The First United Methodist Church in Savanna! I have lost my mom, my dad, and a couple close friends and I have gone through Griefshare 3 times and it has been such a blessing to me! Which is why I would love to help others by organizing an online group. No need to leave your house - as long as you have wifi you can join! All are welcome!!

Dates & times TBD | Follow @Savanna1rstumc on Facebook for updated information



March 2024

4 - Pam Darrow
 4 - Kelley Johnson
 5 - Greg Jepsen
 13 - Sandy Pratt
 13 - *John & Linda Jachino (1971)*
 14 - Tom Michels
 15 - Mike Melhus
 15 - Wallene Neumiller
 17 - Collin Fosdick
 22 - Patrick Holcomb
 26 - Don Kramer
 26 - Rex Kreuder
 29 - Burt Prins
 29 - Susan White
 31 - Miranda Schoenhaar



Liturgists

March 3 - LaVona Grissinger
 March 10 - Burt Prins
 March 17 - LeaAnn Michels
 March 24 - Deeann Kramer
 March 31 - Esther Losh (Sunrise) &
 Susan Michelle Jepsen (Easter Service)

Acolytes

March 3 - Boyd Law
 March 10 - Ellie Johnson
 March 17 - Jisung Yim
 March 24 - Ryker McCombie
 March 31 - Asia LaShelle

Counters & Verifiers

March 3 - Vivian Eaton & Karen Hoffman
 March 10 - Molly Andersen & Tom Michels
 March 17 - Cori Moore & Sharon F Guilinger
 March 24 - Lori Miller & LaVona Grissinger
 March 31 - Rhonda Law & 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



March 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Youth Group-Taekwondo @ 11:30 am
3 Communion 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 3-4:30 pm Confirm. Class	4 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	5 4:30 pm Trustees Special Mtg 6:30 pm United Women of Faith	6 6:30 pm Lenten Service (St John's)	7 9 am Bible Study 4:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Meeting (zoom)	8	9 10 am Marital Counseling
10 Turn Clocks Back Pretzel Sunday UMCOR Sunday 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship	11 1 pm Sewing Ladies	12 5 pm Finance/Growth Mtg (in person) 6:30 pm New Mission Meeting	13 6:30 pm Lenten Service (Comm. Church)	14 9 am Bible Study 4:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Meeting (zoom)	15	16
17 St Patrick's Day 8:45 am Adult SS 9 am Trustees 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Ad Council 11:15 am Ice Cream Social 3:30-5 pm Confirm Class	18 Telstar Info due 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	19 5:30 pm UM Men 6:30 pm Beta Sigma Phi	20 First Day of Spring 10 am Choir Practice 6:30 pm Lenten Service (FUMC)	21 9 am Bible Study 1 pm Interchurch Council (Presbyterian) 3:30 pm Worship Mtg 4:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Meeting (zoom)	22 6 pm Girl Scouts	23 7 am-9pm Confirmands to Contemp. Service in Chicago
24 Palm Sunday Baptism 7-1 pm Fire Dept Breakfast 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Kids Kards	25 1 pm Sewing Ladies	26	27 10 am Choir Practice	28 9 am Bible Study 4:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Meeting (zoom)	29 Good Friday 12 noon Lenten Service (FUMC)	30
31 Easter 7:30am Sunrise Service 8:30-9:30 am Breakfast 9 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 am Worship						