



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



SPIRITUAL SPRING-CLEANING

The American Cleaning Institute (ACI) celebrates National Cleaning Week each year in March. ACI Survey says that 80% of Americans Now Spring Clean Every Year. I am thinking about how beautiful our homes look after thorough cleaning. I am assured that at least two things come out of it; One, many things will go away. Two some will come in. Things such as clutter mess might go away along with bacteria and viruses. On the other hand, a healthier environment, lower stress, and a greater Peace of mind will come in.

Knowing that 80% of the USA population clean their home struck me, and I wonder how nice it would be if 80% of us observed Lenten season as is expected by the Church tradition, not just to mull over but indeed get to this season with an attitude of thorough cleaning, as our home gets fresh. Lent is a time for us to prepare ourselves for Easter, and we do it through prayers, fasting, almsgiving, self-denial, and repentance and renewal. Jesus went through such a time of preparation for 40 days and 40 nights, praying and fasting. (Matthew 4:1-11)

It is important to say that sometimes, we focus on giving up something but not putting it on. If during this season we allow God to “search us and know our hearts as David” requests in Psalms 139:24. I am sure the Lord will not simply clean but also adjust, mold, and add more of God’s character in each of us.

So, I have four simple suggestions for our Lenten period from an article I have found quite interesting.

1. Ask God to help you answer, “In what ways am I indulging myself?”
2. Ask yourself, “What non-essentials eat my time and distract me from what matters?” Mocha latte with whipped cream? Words with Friends? Doom scrolling? Also, ask, “What practices are missing?” Bible reading/listening? Prayer? Determine what, with the Spirit’s help, you will (secretly) add or give up or both add and give up for forty days.
3. Use any free time and/or money for something meaningful. Think about Christ’s great love. Give to the poor. Meditate. Visit the sick.
4. Reflect and repent. Take stock of your life considering eternity.

Share in the community. Join others doing something, maybe volunteering at the food bank, join in for our Lenten Journey Bible Studies, where about the Interfaith services each Wednesday. You and I have no reason to stay out of God’s Spiritual- Spring Cleaning.

May we make room within us for a fresh dwelling for the Spirit of God.

Blessings,

Pastor Fernando

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Sunday, January 26, 2025 11:45 am @ Church Library

Chairperson Susan Michelle called the meeting to order at 11:32 with members Susan Michelle Jepsen, Deann Kramer, Kris Yingling, Linda Stubbe, Pam Darrow, Tom Michels, Bill Wright, Rhonda Rathje, Vivian Eaton, Jason Moore, Lea Ann Michels, Burt Prins, Kathie Prins, Pastor Fernando present. Pastor Fernando opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Pam Darrow moved, and Kris Yingling seconded to accept minutes as presented. The motion was approved.

FINANCE: The financial report was handed out by Vivian Eaton. She explained the budget. She asked Jason to get his name and someone else's name on the account for UMM. Lea Ann will send the financial report with the minutes. Bill Wright moved and Susan Michelle seconded to approve the budget. The motion was approved.

TRUSTEES: Jason reported the roof at the parsonage is done. They are checking on downspouts. 4H will send a representative to see about having meetings at the church. A quote for \$1200 to cover switching wiring and lighting in signs to LED. The committee recommends fixing the lights and possibly getting a quote on a larger sign. After discussion this recommendation will be tabled until March or April.

FINANCE: Tom reported that the finance committee will go over finances with budget and future decisions. There will be a charge conference to decide what the future will be.

OUTREACH: Deann reported that the committee needs salads for tomorrow. They need more members for the committee. They are asking for Feb communion and Souper bowl money to go to UMCOR. After discussion, UMCOR will be explained to the congregation.

WORSHIP: Mardi Gras will be in March. Several attended District leadership Training for leaders.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: Kathie reported that LaVona would like to order 4 new Book of Disciplines for the church.

EDUCATION: Kris reported numbers for Sunday School have been down. March 30 will be pretzel Sunday. April 6 Linda Jachino will conduct a Sedar meal with the Sunday School.

EVANGELISM: Visited shut ins,

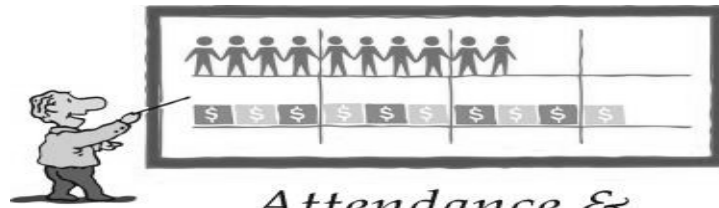
UWF: March 3 will be the next meeting. UMM: Jason reported that the next meeting will be the third Tuesday with Pastor Fernando reporting on his life and how he got here. Jason will make chilli.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: Pam, would like to relinquish her appointment as representative.. Ash Wednesday March 5 will begin Lenten services, Pastor Gary will not be chairman after Easter. The Children's Christmas fund helped 91 children . The community Christmas concert should be hosted by different congregations. They suggested bringing in a professional group to conduct the cantata. It was discussed and Kris Yingling and Rhonda Rathje volunteered to head the cantata this year.

YOUTH: Rhonda gave a report for Lexi. 5 students were at the January meeting. They set new goals for the year. They discussed how they can be closer to God and set personal goals. The next meeting will be skiing at Chestnut Mountain. Rhonda will not be in office as she is taking a certification class.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Thanks to Lea Ann and Bill for joining the Ad council. Pricilla has been ill. Praise God for helping his family adjust. Pastor asked each of the committees to set goals .

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Fernando and the meeting was adjourned at 12:35
Respectfully submitted, Lea Ann Michels



Attendance & Financials



Cash Available in General Account: \$ 13,476.00		
	January 2025	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 12,847.99	\$ 12,847.99
Church Expenses	\$ 18,685.56	\$ 18,685.56
Net Operating Balance	\$ -5,837.57	\$ -5,837.57
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,908.00	\$ 1908.00
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions - vkeaton@grics.net		

Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
February 2	\$ 2634.22	62	1 + 2 dogs	63 + 2 dogs
February 9	\$ 2676.00	79	0	79
February 16	\$ 1489.35	62	2 + 2 dogs	64 + 2 dogs
February 23	\$ 1497.00	62	0	62
Totals	\$ 8296.57	256	3 + 4 dogs	259 + 4 dogs



In Our Prayers

Sandy Froehlich, Glen White, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Herb, Ben, & Sandy Pratt, Tinslee, Ed & Barb Jepsen, Alyssa Volkers, Kristin & Eli Bob & LaVona Grissinger's grandchildren), Lisa (LaVona's friend), Jill (Melinda Dykema's daughter), Iola McCutcheon (Tim Cavanagh's friend), Karen Burcham & Kandi (Paul Mayer's sisters), Dan Zambon (uncle of Kim Gonzalez), Pat Kemp, Dave Miller (Brigit Jepsen's boyfriend's father), Jody & Jon Kragel (Dianne Piercy's friends), Howie Von Haden LaVona's brother), Ron Miller, Amy Hanson, Jamie Harkness Townsend, baby Wesley, Myrna Handel, Thomas James (Tom & LeaAnn Michels' grandson), Paul & Charlene Mayer, Bob & LaVona Grissinger, Ron Hastings, Tim Cavanagh, Jaime (Paula's daughter), Christina Pasch, Baby Adrian, Julie Brunner (Linda Jachino's cousin), Rhonda Eickert, Martha White, Nadine Law Renfro, Bill Eyerly (Cori Moore's dad), Vanessa (Bob & LaVona's daughter), James Gonzalez, Derek Osborn, the family of William James Dawson, the Lars Colgan 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, Jackie Walker, Howard Nichols, and 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

Wednesday, March 19th from 4:30-6:30 pm

in our Fellowship Hall. The free dinner for anyone over 60!

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, March 13th @ 11:00 am

Judy Davidson & her daughter, Mary Schoenecker will lead it. We will begin at 11:00 in the fellowship hall with a potluck salad lunch. Everyone please bring a salad of your choice. We will provide table service & drinks. After lunch Mary will lead us playing games of Jeopardy. We will bring prizes for winners.

RSVP to Linda Jachino (815-541-4760)

Kids Kards

Kids Kards will meet after worship on Sunday, March 23rd. We will be making Easter cards and having tacos for lunch. All materials are provided. Let's celebrate our Savior's resurrection with our children and our creativity. Any questions call Molly Andersen, 815-541-6852.

**Congratulations
to Neumiller Farms on
70 growing years!!!**

West Carroll Food Pantry

West Carroll School Food Pantry and Savanna Food Pantry are in need of donations. For every dollar you donate, they can buy \$8 of food. You can designate on your offering envelope if you would like to make a monetary donation, just specify which pantry and how much. Thank you!

Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket provides household and personal hygiene items to the clients who use the West Carroll School Food Pantry. We are always needing donations of shampoo, deodorant, and body wash.

You can leave any items in the Food Pantry box in the narthex. This program helps so many families in our community. Thank you for your continued support.



2025 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
March 5 Ash Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Imposition of Ashes	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue
March 12 Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Preacher: Pastor Bonnie Davies	First Presbyterian Church 502 3 rd Street
March 19 Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Preacher: Pastor Narda Alvelo	Great River Outreach 411 Main Street
March 26 Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Preacher: Pastor Gary Panetta	St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 318 Chicago Avenue
April 2 Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Preacher: Pastor Fernando de Castro	Community United Church of Christ 346 Chicago Avenue
April 9 Wednesday	6:30 pm – Service only Preacher: Father Chris Kuhn	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue
April 18 Good Friday	Noon – Service only Story of the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus will be told.	First United Methodist Church 2100 Chicago Avenue

*Lenten offering will go to support Inter Church Council Ministry and Community VBS
*Host: Savanna Interchurch Council



Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting
is cancelled through the Lenten Season

Thursday Bible Study is cancelled
through the Lenten Season.

Finance & Growth Meeting
Tuesday, March 17th @ 5 pm

Crop, Craft & Fellowship

Saturday, March 29th, 2025 9 am to 9 pm

All crafters welcome! Enjoy the day with fellow crafters with lunch and supper served. Water and coffee will be available throughout the day. You are welcome to bring your own drinks (non-alcoholic).

If you want to add an additions 4 hours of crafting time,
you can join us Friday night from 5 pm to 9 pm.

If interested, contact Karen Hoffman at 815-357-8795

2025 Soup & Lenten Bible Study
March 4th @ 5 pm in the
fellowship hall.

United Women of Faith

We be meeting **Tuesday, March 4th**
at 6:30 pm at the church.

Prayer & Self-Denial
Lead by Deeann Kramer
All women are invited!

Trustee/Ad Council will
meet on Sunday, March 30th
at 9 am/11:30 pm

Rice Meal Packing
will take place **Sat. April 26th!**
Donations are being accepted.
Baskets will be in the back
of the Sanctuary
to donate!

United Methodist Men

Will meet
Monday, March 17th,
@ 5:30 pm.

Order your Easter Flowers
(due April 6th!!!)

Easter Lilies - \$19

Kalanchoes- \$18

Hyacinths - \$18

Tulips - \$18

Azaleas- \$30

Questions??? - ask Ronda in
the office.



Soul Sisters



Kids

Kards





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 - Asia LaShelle
 22 - Patrick Holcomb
 26 - Don Kramer
 28 - Kim Gonzalez
 29 - Burt Prins
 29 - Susan White



Liturgists

March 2 - Joe Michels
 March 9 - Paula Mayer
 March 16 - Kim Gonzalez
 March 23 - Susan Michelle Jepsen
 March 30 - LeaAnn Michels

Acolytes

March 2 - Tyson Speer
 March 9 - Faith Gonzalez
 March 16 - Joe Pasch
 March 23 - Kirk Hoffman
 March 30 - Ennie Maria & Priscilla de Castro

Coffee Hour

March 2 - Deeann Kramer
 March 9 - Men's Group
 March 16 - Ron & Lori Miller
 March 23 - Jon & Claire Floming
 March 30 - Rhonda & Bruce Badtke

Counters & Verifiers

March 2 - Molly Andersen & Karen Hoffman
 March 9 - Rhonda Law & Tom Michels
 March 16 - Lori Miller & Sharon F Guilinger
 March 23 - Vivian Eaton & LaVona Grissinger
 March 30 - Lori Miller & 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 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 5-6:15 pm Youth Group	3 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	4 5 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:30 pm United Women of Faith	5 Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm Lenten Service (FUMC)	6	7 World Day of Prayer	8
9 Communion Women's Day Turn Clocks Back 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr	10 1 pm Sewing Ladies 6 pm Service Club	11 5 pm Lenten Bible Study	12 6:30 pm Lenten Service (Presb)	13 11 am Soul Sisters	14	15 Telstar Info due 12-5 pm Baby Shower
16 Baptism 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Ad Council 11:30 am Coffee hr	17 St Patrick's Day 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry 5 pm Finance/ Growth Mtg	18 5 pm Lenten Bible Study	19 4:40-6:30 JOY Dinner 6:30 pm Lenten Service (GRO)	20 First Day of Spring Office Closed 3:30 pm Worship	21	22 Prairie North Lay Academy @ Harmony UMC
23 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Kids Kards 11:30 am Coffee hr 6 pm Girl Scouts Prairie North Lay Academy	24 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3 pm Joy Recap	25 5 pm Lenten Bible Study	26 10 am Choir Practice 6:30 pm Lenten Service (St John)	27	28	29 9 am-9 pm Crop, Craft & Fellowship
30 UMCOR Sunday Pretzel Sunday 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Trustees 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 11:30 am Ad Council	31 1 pm Sewing Ladies					