



**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](mailto:office@firstumcsavanna.org)**

**Web: [www.firstumcsavanna.org](http://www.firstumcsavanna.org)**

**Pastor Fernando email: [pastorfernando4@outlook.com](mailto:pastorfernando4@outlook.com)**



## I SEE HOPE AROUND.

As I walk around the parsonage and our beautiful church site each day, I see new flowers blooming. The yellow ones are nice and easy to spot amid the green vegetation. As I see them, I realize how the earth brings hope around us. With the same hope, my daughters and I started planting some seeds, hoping that they would sprout, for the season is appropriate for gardening; however, one needs to lay some groundwork and prepare the soil with the hope that the seeds we plant will grow, and pray to God that some showers from heaven come down and water the garden, I am sure just like us, so many of our members love gardening, for they hope to see their beautiful flowers.

As we step into this new month of May, let us do it with hope, for we begin this month celebrating the National Day of Prayer. Our prayers are not demands but rather expressions of our faith and hope. We pray with the confidence that God hears us, as we read in 1. John 5:14 *"And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him."* As we do each Sunday, sharing our prayers with our Christian friends, united in the hope and faith that God will answer. So, remember to pray for America as all believers bow down seeking God's face for our Nation.

This month brings us another reason for hope as we will celebrate Mother's Day. On the second Sunday, we will honor all the mothers of our Church and praise God for those who became mothers in different ways. Their love and patience are a source of hope for this world. Let's take this opportunity to show our gratitude and respect for these wonderful women.

Additionally, May also brings together the family, for on the 15th is celebrated International Family Day, implemented in 1989 by the UN; as we know, family is also a place of comfort and hope. For "it is a group of people who love and support each other and are connected by a strong bond," we do not just celebrate our own families; it is also time to consider supporting families in need in our community or supporting the local food bank as they help the low-income families, let's also remember that we are one church family connected by the blood of the risen Lord, where we encourage one another in hope.

Hope is everywhere. However, it might be challenging to spot it, for we are also surrounded by much fake news, hate, and bigotry, political tension. Yet as we continue to celebrate the resurrected Jesus, the source of our hope, remember to spot the hope the earth offers, as the flowers are blooming around us, see hope in the garden next to you, and in the trees above. Those are signs that God is at work among God's wonderful creation, that is, the earth, the trees, plants, you, and me. Hope is around us.

In Christ, Pastor Fernando.

# SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Sunday, March 30, 2025 @ Church Library

Members Present: Molly Anderson, Tom Michels, Lea Ann Michels, Kathie Prins, Ronda Rathje, Linda Stubbe, Mary Irons, Burt Prins, LaVona Grissinger, Vivian Eaton, Karen Hoffman, Pam Darrow, Pastor Fernando, Kris Yingling, Deeann Kramer, Jason Moore Molly Andersen called the meeting to order at 11:33. Pastor Fernando opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Kathie moved to accept the minutes as emailed. Pam seconded, the minutes were approved. Financial Report was emailed to members. An explanation was given by Vivian about how much money we are short each month. Kris moved and Kathie 2nded to accept the report and the motion passed. Committee Reports:

**Education:** Kris Yingling reported that pretzel making was successful. The Sedar meal will be next week with approximately 22 kids participating. Evangelism: Mary Irons reported they have visited several people. Easter cards will go out this month.

**Finance:** Tom Michels gave a presentation about the finances. Tom said we have about 5 years left of money. Vivian suggested we start making more money through fund raising. Discussion was held about making giving easier. Tom and Vivian will check into making giving more accessible. Vivian moved for Tom to give a State of the Church address and tell the conference that we are not looking to share a pastor. Kathie Prins seconded. Jason reminded that Evangelism should be the concentration of the Church. Motion carried. Vivian will coordinate a chicken and biscuits dinner. Communion offering on Easter will go to UMCOR for Myanmar.

**Memorial/ Historical:** Molly Anderson had nothing to report Outreach/ Mission: Deeann Kramer reported that there will be a Mexican day for Cinco de Mayo on Sunday, May 4 and an activity for children.

**Staff Parish Relations:** LaVona Grissinger will put together a meeting this week.

**Trustees:** Jason Moore reported the underground electric bill when it was hit by the plumbers was signed off saying JoCarroll will repay us. The gutters for the parsonage should start this week. Will send a letter to JoCarroll to make sure they are finishing filling in the hole they left on the church property. April 7 will be a work day to work on grounds.

**Worship:** Linda Stubbe reported they are working on the Easter service. Need volunteers for ushers. Mary brought up that we might need volunteers for the nursery. At least one volunteer must be certified. There are 13 people currently certified. There will be an announcement in church to get more volunteers.

## **Representatives:**

**Youth:** not meeting first Sunday but will be the 2nd Sunday

**United Women in Faith:** Mary Irons Women of Faith meeting this week. Pork chop supper is coming up.

**United Methodist Men:** Jason Moore reported the men will have a movie night but the date hasn't been set yet. Thursday Pastor and Jason will go to the Victory center to see if they need any help.

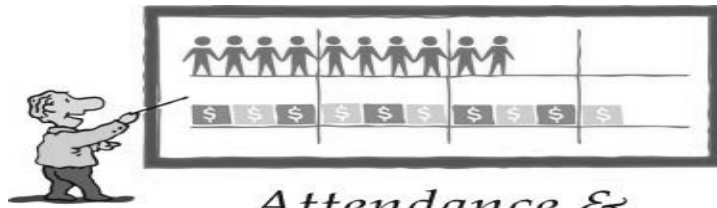
**Interchurch Council:** Pam Darrow weekly reported that Lenten services are being well attended. VBS will be July 21-25. LaVona will take Pam's place as interchurch council representative. Over \$700 was raised at the scrapbooking event. Karen suggested having it quarterly to raise more money.

**Old Business:** Jason moved to have the next meeting on April 27. Kris seconded and the motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Worship 8- Hybrid Service 6, Ash Wednesday 1. Committal Service for Sandy Pratt 1. Business Meetings :17 Finance 1 Pastoral Care 2. Cluster 1. Devotion to the table 3, Prayer. Lented Bible studies 3. Choir Practice 1. Funeral Home 1. Great River Outreach Board meeting 1. Men's group 1. Joy meeting 1. Potential new member 1 Visit 3 District/ Annual Conference Council on Young Peoples Ministry 1 Bible Study with the Bishop 1. Monthly meeting with the DS 1 Personal, Devotion District and NIC Schedules. 4/02/25- Clergy meeting with the DS/UM meetings 4/2/25 Choir practice/ The table Devotion 4/9/25 Leading Lenten Service

Kris Yingling moved and Linda Stubbe seconded to close the meeting

Respectfully submitted: Lea Ann Michels



## Attendance & Financials



Cash Available in General Account: <b>\$ 8988.39</b>		
	March 2025	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 12,603.59	\$ 36,258.77
Church Expenses	\$ 19,221.77	\$ 52,743.56
Net Operating Balance	<b>\$ -6,618.18</b>	<b>\$ -16,484.79</b>
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,908.00	\$ 5,724.00
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions - vkeaton@grics.net		

Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
April 6	\$ 5006.00	68	1	69
April 13	\$ 2238.00	67	0	67
April 20	\$ 3349.00	41 / 80	0 / 0	41 / 80
April 27	\$ 6522.92	58	2 + 2 dogs	60 + 2 dogs
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 17,115.92</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>3 + 2 dogs</b>	<b>317 + 2 dogs</b>



### In Our Prayers

Sandy Froehlich, Glen White, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Herb & Ben Pratt, Scarlett Huebner, Chrissy Sullivan, Angie (Paula's friend), Roger Furrow, 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 Gonzaez), 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), Ron Miller, Jamie Harkness Townsend, baby Wesley and family, Paul & Charlene Mayer, Vivian Eaton, Jaime (Paula's daughter), 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), Christine Jensen, Vanessa (Bob & LaVona's daughter), Bill Eyerly (Cori Moore's dad), James, Kim, & Amanda Gonzalez, Derek Osborn, Nadine Law Renfro, Beatrice Johnson (Kim Gonzalez' mother-in-law), Vicki & Micheal Thomas (Paula Mayer's friends), Chuck Atherton, Janet Smith (Denise's sister), Freida Nichols, Mike Medley, the family of Annie Bochniak, 5 firefighters injured from area fire depts, the Lars Colgan family, and for 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 & Ben Pratt, Jackie Walker, Howard Nichols, and Florence Bevins Powell.

# 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, May 21st from 4:30-6:30 pm

in our Fellowship Hall. Anyone over 60 is invited for a free dinner with fellowship and a great program provided by Mark Klein, owner of "The Answer" in downtown Savanna. Dinner will be soup and sandwiches with strawberry shortcake for dessert.

Reservations must be made to the church office at 815-273-2345 by **noon on Monday, May 19th.**

Rides are available, in-town only.

## West Carroll Food Pantry

West Carroll School Food Pantry West Carroll School Food Pantry is preparing for the summer months when children are out of school and missing 2 meals a day. Please consider donating kid-friendly foods like microwavable macaroni and cheese, ramen noodles, pasta, soups and snack-sized puddings or fruit cups. The pantry always needs crackers, too. Thank you for thinking of our children in the community that are food insecure.

## Items sent to Midwest Missions

### on April 24th, 2025

2 Sleeping Mats  
52 School Bags  
75 Diapers  
70 Girls dresses/shorts  
132 Fleece Baby Jackets  
26 Receiving Blankets  
17 Boys shorts/t-shirts  
41 Sleepers  
16 Love Quilts  
4 Pillowcases  
29 One Handle Hygiene Bags  
40 Zippered Hygiene Bags  
18 Draw String Bags  
200 Daytime Sanitary pads  
97 Nighttime Sanitary pads

**Thank You**

**Sewing Ladies!!!!**

## Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket provides household and personal hygiene items to the clients who use the West Carroll School Food Pantry. This month we are in need of paper products, toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissues. 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

## Volunteers Needed!!!

We need volunteers to man the Savanna Food Pantry on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Hours are 9-12 noon. If you can help please call Molly Andersen at 815-541-6852.

## Kids Kards

Kids Kards will **not** meet in May due to the Memorial Day holiday. We will meet in June to make 4<sup>th</sup> of July cards. Any questions call Molly Andersen 815-541-6852.



**Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting**  
is postponed until further notice.

**Thursday Bible Study**  
resumes on **May 1st @ 9:12 am**  
We will be reading the book  
"One Minute After You Die"  
by Erwin Lutzer. See the office if  
you would like to purchase a book.

**United Women of Faith**  
We be meeting **Tuesday, May 13th**  
**at 6 pm at the church.**  
Planting flowers at church  
Pizza at Manny's to follow.  
All women are invited!

**Finance & Growth Meeting**  
will be on Tuesday, May 13th  
@ 5 pm

**Last day of**  
**Adult & Youth**  
**Sunday School is**  
**May 18th!**

**Be sure to send in a picture and**  
**information about your graduate to the**  
**office no later than Monday, May 19th!**

**Church office closed on Friday, May 9th!!!**

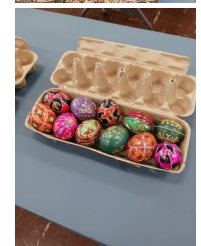
**Craft Crop will take place on Saturday, June 7, Aug 30, and Oct 25. Any questions, see Karen Hoffman.**



**JOY Dinner**



**Soul Sisters**



**UM Men**



## More Pictures, Ect...

### Seder Meal



### Maundy Thursday Service





## IMPACT YOUTH GROUP BOWLING BASH

**SUNDAY,  
MAY 4** 4:00 PM  
TRIPLE PLAY  
1601 9TH AVE,  
FULTON, IL 61252

MEET QUINN & APRIL @ 1<sup>ST</sup> UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
IN SAVANNA BY 3:30 IF YOU WOULD LIKE A RIDE

# BLOOD DRIVE


[BLOODCENTER.ORG](http://BLOODCENTER.ORG)


**Savanna First United Methodist Church**

**Thursday, May 15th**  
**3:00PM-6:00PM**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
 2100 Chicago Ave

To book appointment, scan QR code, visit [bloodcenter.org](http://bloodcenter.org) or call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401.

Group Code: 2891  
Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 3/20/25





**ImpactLife**  
50 Years of Saving Lives



### EATIN' GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

**Go to these fire stations, please!**  
**They all need our help!**  
**And it is cheaper than eating out!**

**Milledgeville Breakfast - May 4th**  
**German Valley Pork Chop Supper -**  
**June 19th**

## 9 Holes of Golf 2 Person Scramble at the Palisades May 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am

**Only \$35.00**  
all proceeds go to support local needs

**Includes:**

- Practice Range
- Egg Carton of Balls
- Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
- Pull Cart (golf carts available)
- Hole-in-One Prize \$10,000 (Kunes Auto Group)
- Hole Prizes & Bragging Rights
- Club House Games & Prizes
- Breakfast Only Tickets \$10.00 (9:00 am - 11:00 am)

**Participating Sponsors:**

Country Financial Randy Johnston Citizens State Bank Law Jones Funeral Home Kunes Auto Group Mt Carroll	Hole 1 - First Lutheran Church, Mt Carroll Hole 2 - Manny's Pizza Hole 3 - Fidelity Bank Hole 4 - Timber Lake Resort - The Answer Fitness Hole 5 - Dr. David Purlee DDS Hole 6 - St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
--	--

**The TABLE**  
noon meals served weekdays for the last 13 years

**Bridges of Carroll County**  
a safe gathering place to learn, stretch and grow to share, care and serve to be, see and feel His love 417 Main St in Savanna, IL

**Classy Closet**  
Up-scale Re-sale Shop 415 Main St in Savanna, IL

**Call 815-273-2141 or email**  
[greatriveroutreach@gmail.com](mailto:greatriveroutreach@gmail.com)



## May 2024

4 - Jon Floming  
8 - Bill Wright  
9 - *Bob & LaVona Grissinger (1966)*  
10 - Rodney Clemmons  
11 - Florence Bevins-Powell  
12 - Cody Johnson  
13 - James Gonzalez  
14 - Courtney Johnson  
15 - *Joe & Bituin Michels (2004)*  
16 - Charlene Mayer  
20 - Payton Haynes  
22 - Jeanne Spaetz  
24 - *John & Julie Brigham (1998)*  
24 - *Enoch & Ramona Green (1980)*  
25 - *Jon & Pam Darrow (1985)*  
25 - John LeComte  
26 - Jerry Cavanagh  
26 - Chris Falk  
27 - Jean Ferris  
27 - *Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison (2007)*  
28 - Shirley Hastings  
28 - Carlo Stubbe



### Liturgists

May 4 - James Gonzalez  
May 11 - Noah Johnson (Mother's Day)  
May 18 - Jason Moore  
May 25 - Memorial Service

### Acolytes

May 4 - Blaine Johnson & Boyd Law  
May 11 - Joe Pasch  
May 18 - Annika Law  
May 25 - Pearl Michels

### Coffee Hour

May 4 - Ron Miller & Shirley Hastings  
May 11 - Rhonda Law & Kelley Johnson  
May 18 -  
May 25 - Burt & Kathie Prins

### Counters & Verifiers

May 4 - Molly Andersen & Karen Hoffman  
May 11 - Rhonda Law & Tom Michels  
May 18 - Lori Miller & Sharon F Guilinger  
May 25 - 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](https://www.facebook.com/savanna.firstumc)**



# May 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1 National Day of Prayer</b> <b>Pastor Gone</b> 9 am Bible Study 	<b>2 Pastor Gone</b> 	<b>3</b> 
<b>4 Communion</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 3:30 pm Youth - Bowling	<b>5</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3 pm - Worship Workday 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> 2 pm Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 9 am Bible Study	<b>9 Office Closed</b> <b>Pastor Gone</b>	<b>10</b> 8 am GRO Golf Outing
<b>11 Mother's Day</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 	<b>12</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies	<b>13 Pastor Gone</b> 5 pm Finance 6 pm United Women of Faith	<b>14</b> 4:40-6:30 JOY Dinner	<b>15 Telstar Info due!!!</b> 9 am Bible Study 3 to 6 pm Blood Drive 3:30 pm Worship	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b> 
<b>18</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Trustees 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 11:45 am Ad Council <b>Last Day of Sunday School!</b>	<b>19</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3 pm Joy Recap 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> 9 am Bible Study	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> 
<b>25</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Trustees 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr	<b>26 Memorial Day</b> 1 pm Sewing Ladies 	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> 2 pm Choir Practice	<b>29</b> 9 am Bible Study	<b>30</b> 	<b>31</b> 