



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



Vision 2023 - "Make Jesus' Disciples"

**Focus on making Jesus' disciples
to transform lives and the world!**

Strong in Worship, Strong in Mission, Strong in Education

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19)

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Pastor's Pen

After the pandemic and with the ongoing disaffiliation process in the United Methodist Church, we are currently facing significant difficulties. Remarkably, 50% of the churches in Northern Illinois Conference have fewer than 30 attendees each Sunday. This struggle is not unique to the NIC; many churches across the United States are grappling with the difficulties of keeping their church doors open and continuing their essential ministries and missions.

Between 1990 and 2010, adult church attendance weekly ranged from 45% to 50%. In the mid-'90s, over half of the population attended church on Sundays. Now, it's around 20 to 25%, meaning only one in every four adults goes to church weekly. Additionally, a survey indicates that 35% of young people aged 11 to 26, known as Generation Z, identify themselves as religiously unaffiliated. This generation is often considered as one of the most intelligent but also one of the most spiritually disengaged.

We, as Jesus' followers, need to teach the younger generations (Millennials and Generation Z) the Word of God and demonstrate that God's love is alive through both our words and actions. It's crucial to create more opportunities for them to encounter Jesus in their personal lives and find more meaning in their own lives. Each individual is called by God to be a part of the church. Our challenge is to help them seek God in their daily lives, ultimately drawing them to Sunday morning church services, so that we can build more close, good, and meaningful relationships with each other. We need each other!

Christmas Bell Ringing will begin during the Thanksgiving weekend. Starting this year, we will conduct Bell Ringing at the Sullivan's Food only. We hope to engage more people in this important ministry. All the proceeds will be used to supporting low-income families in town who need assistance with gas money, rent, and utility fees.

Registration for the 2024 Summer Youth Mission Trip is now open. We are also in need of adult volunteers who can accompany and supervise our youth participants. During the trip, we will be engaged in gleaning activities in the fields of North Carolina and serve the local food pantries for three full days and explore some local tourist attractions for two days. It will be a very fun and memorable experience for both, youth and adults. If you're interested in joining this mission trip, please don't hesitate to reach out. Please be aware that a background check and Safe Sanctuary training are mandatory for all adult participants.

We now have a drum set in our sanctuary. English is the international language, and the music serves as a universal, nonverbal language that connects people and fosters relationships. Music is a powerful means to discover our identities and offer praise to God. If you'd like to worship God in our praise band, please inform me or the church office. All ages are welcome!

"Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, CEB)

Happy Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dave

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 11:30AM CHURCH LIBRARY

Member Jason Moore called the meeting to order at 11:48am with members Ronda Rathje, Deeann Kramer, Kathie and Burt Prins, Molly Andersen, Kris Yingling, Pam Darrow, and Mary Irons present. Kris opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Pam moved, seconded by Kris, to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passed. The financial reports were presented and discussed. Kathie moved, seconded by Ronda, to accept the reports as presented and the motion passed.

TRUSTEES: Jason will call Herrell Electric tomorrow about the heat trace on the church roof. Ron Miller and Jeff Law will work on the electric service to the church garage and outdoor light. The removal of the parking lot circle will be done soon. Johnson's Plumbing checked the sewer pump in the downstairs bathroom of the church and recommended it be cleaned and serviced, as it is original to the building and quit working during VBS. The committee recommends Johnson's do the work and the recommendation passed. Johnsons will also continue snow plowing for the winter. UMM will work on the lights in the sanctuary at their October meeting.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: They met recently and worked on their budget for 2024.

FINANCE: They met last week and drew up the budget for 2024. A question was raised about the amount of Paul Brunner's memorial designated for the kitchen remodeling. Molly will check past minutes. Kathie moved, seconded by Pam, to accept the 2024 budget as presented and the motion passed.

WORSHIP: The Shirah Brothers concert went well and they want to come back next year. They raised \$1200 for their nursing home ministry. We will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 1st. The Accordion Divas will perform at Manny's on October 22 from noon to 2pm. Mary will talk with Pastor Dave about "Sharing of the peace" time as it makes some people uncomfortable. Also announcing visitors by name may be uncomfortable for new people. A comment about singing contemporary music was made as we have not used new music very often during worship. We will have 2 new acolytes trained soon.

OUTREACH: They will host a potato bar luncheon after the church conference on October 8th. There was a question about this committee planning a Trunk or Treat event and they will do it.

EDUCATION: The Sunday School kick-off last week was fun. There were 5 teams that played Goose Chase. The Youth Group is meeting again. We may have confirmation with the Mt. Carroll and Thomson UMC's. There are 8 children who need Bibles but we will check with Pastor Dave as to which kind we should give them.

EVANGELISM: They have not been visiting but know Sandy Froehlich received a new port for home dialysis. Dorothy Taylor is turning 100 this month and we will have a card shower for her.

LAY LEADERSHIP: Pastor Dave emailed the report to members. After presenting the new committee members Mary moved, seconded by Ronda, to accept the report and the motion passed.

UWF: They will serve a ham take-out only dinner on October 22nd from 4-6pm. Their next meeting is October 3rd and they will be watching the movie, "War Room."

UMM: They are reading a book about the apostle Paul.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: There was a question about who is taking over the Christmas Kids program.

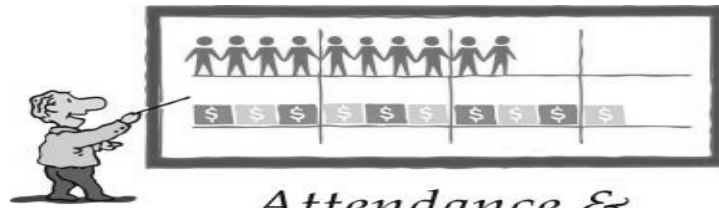
KITCHEN: The new materials have been ordered and the remodeling is scheduled for mid-November. Andy Hughes is the contractor.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Dave emailed his report from South Korea! He will not be back in the office until Friday, September 22nd. He will be gone October 2-5th for a special session of Korean Association of UMC in Northbrook, IL. Our new district superintendent, Rev. Hwa-Young Jung's installation service is September 24th at 4pm at Grace UMC in Rockford.

Jason closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 12:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 11,814.61		
	September 2023	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 10,784.07	\$ 108,469.14
Church Expenses	\$ 14,934.03	\$ 153,346.74
Net Operating Balance	\$ -4,149.96	\$ -44,877.60
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,290.00	\$ 11,610.00
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions!		
vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
October 1	\$ 2838.26	53`	5	58
October 8	\$ 1458.00	65	2	67
October 15	\$ 1584.00	51	2 + 3 dogs	53 + 3 dogs
October 22	\$ 991.00	56	1+ 2 dogs	57 + 2 dogs
Totals	\$ 6871.26	225	10 + 5 dogs	235 + 5 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 Grissinger, Ed Jepsen, Deb Endress (Kris Yingling's friend), Barb McFadden, Glen White, Shirley Fritz, Bobby Higbea (Susan Michelle's friend), Baby Adrian & his mom, Alice (Esther's sister), Janet Smith, Eli (Bob & LaVona's grandson), Pastor Bill Landis, Shirley Hastings, Carol Eyerly (Cori Moore's mom), Alice Riffe-Torrison (Ronda's mom), Pastor Karen Schilling (Bonnie Davies' friend), Donny Hughes, Jeff O'Leary, Kathy Wainwright (Susan Michelle's friend), Kim Walker (Jackie's daughter), Bentley Audi (Diane Brinkmeier's grand-son), Debbie Schriener (former member), Dale Wurster, Tom Grissinger, Randy Law (Shirley Fritz's son-in-law), Ancil Guilinger, Owen (Bonnie's son), Cindy Westbrook (Pastor Dave's friend), Susan Michelle Jepsen, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Jessica Randecker (Karen Wallace's co-worker), Randy & Susie Bonjour, Tim Addie (relative of Bob & LaVona), Steve Runge (Ronda's friend), Jim Eaton, Barb Green, Sharon Atherton (Kris Yingling's aunt), Cody Rose (Courtney Johnson's friend), the family of Boone Miller, our Confirmands (Jon, Aiden, Jiho, Asia, Caleb, and Lexi), WC staff & students, and our farmers during the harvest season.

Our shut-ins: Mary Ann Larsen, 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, Military Personnel & their families, the safety of Ukrainians & end of wars, Turkey, Syria, Israel, the victims of all the flooding, and the victims of the gun violence and their families.

What's Happening At Church!!!!



United Women in Faith

We will be meeting Nov 7 at 6:30 pm in the church library for our annual Thank Offering Service. All women are welcome.

Our recent Ham Dinner was a great success! We raised \$1309.63! We will be able to meet our pledge to missions to the district now along with several local agencies. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets, made generous donations, worked to prepare the dinner. Thanks to Ronda who handled publicity for us. Thanks to Jerry (Deeann's husband) who along with his walkie talkie called us with who was picking up their order(s). Saved us time - good job Jerry! Thanks to everyone who helped in any way. We are planning a Spring event. Watch for more info later.

New Sewing Ministry

We invite all sewers to get involved in our sewing ministry by 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. It turned out fabulous!!!



"Soul Sisters" November Outing

"Coffee & Christmas Crafts"

**Thursday, November 16th, 2023 at 9 am
at First United Methodist Church**

Refreshments: Breakfast type treats
(volunteers needed)

Activity: Creating Christmas Ornaments
by Deb Long

Bring: Dental tool (sharp, pointy pick) and
2 canned goods for the Food Pantry

**Deb needs to know if you plan to attend right
away, so please contact Linda Jachino
(815-541-4760) ASAP!**

Kids Kards

Kids Kards will meet after worship on
November 26th @ 11:15 am.

We will be making Christmas cards and have chili for lunch. Everyone is invited and all materials are provided. Come be creative with our kids and share the joy of Christ's birth. Any questions call Molly Andersen at 815-273-2104.

Security Measures

New security measures were implemented on June 4th. There will always be someone in the Narthex during worship checking the doors, etc. The doors at the end of the education wing and the front door by the office will be locked during our service. Only the back door will be unlocked. If you would like to volunteer to help keep our parishioners safe, please let the office know.

Food Pantry

The West Carroll School Food Pantry needs crackers (any kind), egg noodles, macaroni, spaghetti sauce, and tunc. We can always use peanut butter (creamy), jelly (grape/strawberry), pancake mix, syrup, soup (tomato, cream of mushroom/chicken). If donating pudding/jello cups, please check to see if they need to be refrigerated. If they do, please let Ronda know right away. We so appreciate your generosity and support! The West Carroll School Food Pantry is on the front page of the Riverbend Food Bank fall newsletter, featuring John McConnel. A copy of the newsletter is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket has added books, puzzles, and coloring books and crayons! Children can read, play, and color while parents or guardians use the West Carroll School Food Pantry. Pantry volunteers said the new items are a big hit! Items needed this month are dish and laundry detergent, and paper towels.

The Savanna Food Pantry

Thank you to Janet St Ores and Lynn Haas for manning the Savanna Food Pantry October 24th and 26th. And thank you to our confirmands who helped with the quarterly food truck on October 21st. Your help is greatly appreciated!

The area food pantries continue to see fewer donations and more clients during this difficult economic time. Please consider donating funds or food. During this season of Thanksgiving let us remember our neighbors who are struggling with food insecurity.

Please leave your food donations in the Food Pantry Box in the church narthex and thank you for your continued support.

The Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree will be in the narthex later this month. Any children's clothing items will be used to decorate it, socks, underwear, mittens, hats, anything! Please help us keep our children warm this winter and thank you for supporting this much needed ministry.

God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Phillipians 4:19

Pictures!!!

Our Confirmands



Church Conference



Pumpkins from Neumillers



Crop Walk 2023



Mount Carroll UMC - Mount Carroll, IL
September 18 - 22, 2023



More Pictures!!!



**October UMM meeting with
the Gideon International**



**We now have a drum
set in our sanctuary.
We are looking to
start a church band!**



**The Accordion Divas played for
Octoberfest at Manny's on
October 22, 2023. Pastor Dave
played guitar and sang.
Everyone had a great time!
Well done Ladies & Pastor!!!**



**We will be having another
blood drive on January 10th!
More information will be
coming soon!**

Bell Ringing will take place at Sullivan's Foods

November 24th & 25th @ 9 am to 5 pm

December 1st & 2nd @ 9 am to 5 pm

Please sign up for a time slot.

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



November 2023

- 2—Steve Yenney
- 5—Brennon Cavanagh
- 8 – Garrett Badtke
- 8—Jiho Yim
- 8—Mary Ellen Dreger
- 9—Ryker McCombie
- 10—Katie Floming
- 12—Matthew Floming
- 12—Dan Holcomb
- 15—*Susan & Glen White*
- 17—Ann Johnson
- 25—Kirk Hoffman
- 25—Carmen Holcomb
- 25—Martha White
- 30—Vivian Eaton
- 30 - Joe Michels

7 Blessings for November

1. May your health improve!
2. May your friends be blessed!
3. May your family be safe!
4. May your finances multiply!
5. May your hardships be less!
6. May your worries disappear!
7. May you find happiness!

Liturgists

- November 5—Bonnie Davies
- November 12—LeaAnn Michels
- November 19—Molly Andersen
- November 26—Jiho Yim

Acolytes

- November 5— Blaine Johnson
- November 12—Ryker McCombie
- November 19—Ellie Johnson
- November 26—Asia LaShelle

Counters & Verifiers

- Nov 5—Molly Andersen & Linda Stubbe
- Nov 12—Rhonda Law & Tom Michels
- Nov 19—Lori Miller & Sharon F Guilinger
- Nov 26—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!





November 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATUR-
			1 10 am Choir Practice	2 9 am Bible Study	3	4
5 Turn Back Clocks Communion/All Saints Sunday 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	6 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	7 6:30 pm UWF	8 10 am Choir Practice	9 9 am Bible Study	10 Veterans' Day (Observed)	11
12 Veteran's Program 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship	13 1 pm Sewing Ladies	14 7 pm Finance	15	16 9 am Soul Sisters 9 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Worship /Health Mtg	17	18
19 8:45 am Adult SS 9 am Trustees 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Ad Council 3:30-5pm Confirm. Class	20 Telstar Info due 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	21 5:30 pm UM Men	22	23 Office Closed Thanksgiving 	24 6 pm Girl Scouts 9am to 5 pm Bell Ringing at Sullivan's Foods	25
26 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:15 Kids Kards	27 1 pm Sewing Ladies	28	29 10 am Choir Practice	30 9 am Bible Study		