



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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100 DAYS CELBRETIION!!!

I am so excited to write a few words of reflection.

On the first day, I was told that I would go to a rural area in America called Savanna. Humanly speaking, I had many questions in my mind, and I am sure all of you had yours, too. However, when I thought of Paul's words to the believers in Philippi, "I'm sure about this: the one who started good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus." Phil.1:6 CEB. Paul's words assured me that God knew what God was doing. To my surprise, I was told that years ago, First Savanna UMC raised money that helped to build Africa University in Zimbabwe, the University I went to for my college degree. This is a clear sign that God started this work in us all; even when we did not know or could not see it, God has been working towards such a time.

what have we accomplished so far?

Pastor Fernando got to know the church and our Christian community by visiting our members' homes, eating, and laughing with many of you. I got to know the people around Savanna, the Football team, and the women's volleyball team.

Within our church, I planned to visit all our Shut-ins before winter and share communion with them. Pastor Fernando has started a New Member class that takes place every Friday and is looking forward to seeing growth.

Friends, one of the highlights of the past hundred days was our Church Conference, where I heard from our Bishop Dan Schwerin's message to the local Churches. He said, "54% of all Churches in our Conference have an attendance of 35 people and below." The good news is that we are not in that percentage, and I am sure we all have seen it. We are praying for new and old members to come back, and for sure, they are coming back. Our attendance has reached 72. This is the grace of God on us!

What is next? Pastor Fernando challenges us to leave our comfort zone and be more intentional in our discipleship-making. I wish we could be more purposeful in supporting one another, discussing our issues with love, forgiving more, and viewing growth as our primary goal. I will call you to think about the lines below.

How do you view this, yours and my Church, five years from now?

What should be our priorities for getting there, or how should we get there?

What are or should be our values as a Church?

Friends, this church is not just a building, it's a living, breathing community that needs every one of you more than you can imagine. God is still working, and He's calling you to be a part of it. Will you join us?

Pastor Fernando de Castro

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

SUNDAY, September 15, 2024 11:30 AM @ CHURCH LIBRARY

Chairperson Susan Michelle Jepsen called the meeting to order at 11:31am with members Vivian Eaton, Kris Yingling, Esther Losh, Pam Darrow, Tom Michels, Jason Moore, Kathie and Burt Prins, LaVona Grissinger, Molly Andersen, Ronda Rathje, Alexa Piercy, Mary Irons, and Pastor Fernando Candumbo de Castro present. Pastor Fernando opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Kathie moved, seconded by Jason, to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passed. The Financial Report was presented. Vivian found a check from 2014 to Kathie Prins for paint, trim, etc. for the chapel but could not find any other records. April and Quinn Rud-dell have been told to have their names added to the signature card for the youth account and Sharon Guilinger's name removed. Kris moved, seconded by Pam, to accept the financial report as presented and the motion passed.

TRUSTEES: We are still waiting for Jo-Carroll Energy to let us know about removing the electric pole on church property. After reading the building policy and questioning what the 4-H club would want to use for their meetings, Ronda offered to call Jane Shaw and find out more specifics. Kevin Cram is interested in having a concert at the church. It was suggested that he sing during worship or for the JOY ministry first. Our church will be used by the usual bicycle group overnight on October 6th. This is the evening of the UWF pulled pork dinner so the kitchen, parking lot and back door will be in use. The church's AED device will no longer be serviceable as the pads are being discontinued. A new device would be about \$1500. The church needs a string trimmer and leaf blower. Carlo Stubbe will be asked if he can fix our old ones that are no longer working. Our custodian, Kay Cavanagh, would like to clean out the basement of the church. Vivian has asked permission to have a vendor fair at the church and the committee okayed it. Susan Michelle moved, seconded by Ronda, to allow the vendor fair and the motion passed.

WORSHIP: The committee met on September 5th with community members invited, to discuss a Christmas concert. No committee has signed up to provide coffee time.

OUTREACH: Trunk or Treat will be October 27th. Several events are planned city-wide.

EVANGELISM: Dorothy Taylor and Janis Wilt have birthdays this month and we will have card showers for them. Pastor Fernando and Mary took communion to Yenneys and Pratts.

MEMORIAL/HISTORICAL RECORDS: They are meeting and plan on updating the memorial book in the narthex.

EDUCATION: The first day of Sunday School was well-attended and several grandparents came. We will have a joint meeting with the St. John Roman Catholic children in November and a Seder meal here in the spring, provided by Linda Jachino.

UWF: They met September 3rd to plan the upcoming pulled pork dinner. They also elected officers for 2025, voted on the Special Mission Recognition award, voted to increase their Pledge to Mission for 2025 to \$1200.00, and had a memorial service for former member Martha Purchis, who passed away in August. Several members and Pastor Fernando went to Timber Lake Playhouse on Friday, September 13th, and saw "Church Basement Ladies, a Second Helping."

UMM: They will meet on Tuesday.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: A pet blessing will be held at Marquette Park on Saturday, October 5th. The Children's Christmas Fund has 2 new leaders.

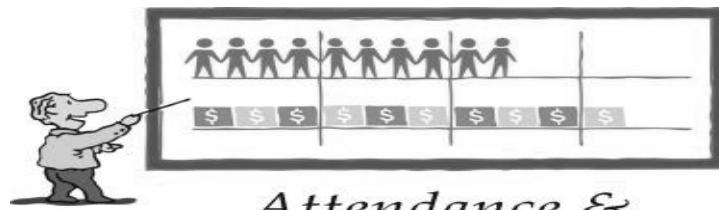
YOUTH: Alexa was welcomed as our new member.

OLD BUSINESS: The church conference is Saturday from 3:30-5:30pm.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor's family have their visa interview on September 30th and we are all praying for their visas to be granted. He thanked everyone for their hospitality. His benefits and health insurance have been set up. He stated he will not charge the church for mileage reimbursement but Vivian encouraged him to use his expense account as that money is part of our budget and to be used for books, continuing education, and other important items.

Pastor Fernando closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 12:46pm.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 8815.12		
	September 2024	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 12,526.00	\$ 112,191.00
Church Expenses	\$ 19,014.00	\$ 183,960.00
Net Operating Balance	\$ -6,478.00	\$ -71,769.00
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 12,645.00
Kitchen Remodeling	\$ 20,107.33	\$ 20,107.33
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
October 6	\$ 3352.00	71	1 + 2 dogs	72 + 2 dogs
October 13	\$ 1474.00	???	1 + 2 dogs	1 + 2 dogs
October 20	\$ 2087.76	63	2 dogs	63 + 2 dogs
October 27	\$ 2381.72	61	2 + 2 dogs	63 + 2 dogs
Totals	\$ 9,295.48	195	4 + 8 dogs	199 + 8 dogs



In Our Prayers

Sandy Froehlich, Glen White, Pastor Bill Landis, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Sandy Pratt, Lexi Tsoukalas (Molly's great niece), Debbie Bilik (Janet Morlock's friend), Scarlett Huebner, Chrissy Sullivan, Angie (Paula's friend), Roger Furrow, Eli (Bob & Lavona's grandson), Paula Mayer, Tinslee, Ed & Barb Jepsen, Mary (Belander) Klein, Howard Nichols, Jackie Walker, John Jachino, Kristin (Bob & LaVona Grissinger's granddaughter), Chuck Curtis, Alyssa Volkens, Burt Prins, Lisa (LaVona's friend), Jill (Melinda Dykema's daughter), Elyssa Gooding (Bonnie's daughter), Susan Foltz (organist at Mt. Carroll UMC), Denise Curtis, Abby & baby (Karen Hoffman's cousin), LaVona Grissinger, Tom Michels, Iola McCutcheon (Tim Cavanagh's friend), Sarah & Marty Brubaker, Tim Cavanagh, Karen Burcham (Paul Mayer's sister), Beth (LaVona's colleague), the Norman family, Bang-Wool Yim, Dan Zambon (uncle of Kim Gonzalez), Pat Kemp (Mary Iron's friend), Melinda Dykema, Karen Grissinger (Bob & LaVona's Grissinger's daughter-in law), Dave Fosdick, Dave Miller (Brigit Jepsen's boyfriend's father), Mary & Phil Nylín (house fire), Karen Hoffman's cousins (house fire), Richard Holy, Jody & Jon Kragel (Dianne Piercy's friends), and closure for the family of Jackson Kradle.

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, and Florence Bevins Powell.

Our country & government, those that are serving in the military & their families, the safety of Ukrainians & end of wars, Haiti, Syria, Israel, the Gaza strip, peace in the Middle East, people affected by heat, torndoes, severe thunderstorms, hurricanes, 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!

JOY (Just Older Youth) Ministry

We have started a new senior ministry, providing a free meal, fellowship, and program once a month for those who are 60+ years old.

JOY will meet **Wednesday, Nov 20th at 4:30pm** in the Fellowship hall. Dinner will be turkey and dressing sandwiches. Program will be announced later. This free meal is open to all seniors. Please RSVP to the church office (815-273-2345) by noon Monday, Nov 18th. Rides are available, in-town only.

We are looking for volunteers to help cook, serve, clean, and provide rides and programs. If you are interested in helping, please let Molly Andersen or Ronda Rathje in the church office know.

Blessing Basket

Last month we served 45 families and are in desperate need of men's, women's, children's bodywash, dish soap, and paper towels. Thank you for your continued support.

West Carroll Food Pantry

Please continue to support the West Carroll School Food Pantry with your donations of money or food items to make sure every child in Carroll County never goes hungry. Items are Chef Boy r Dee, peanut butter and jelly (grape or strawberry), cereal, mac & cheese, fruit, pancake mix and syrup, crackers and pasta sauce. Items may be left in the pantry box in the narthex or monetary donations may be placed in the office.

SOUL SISTERS OUTING "Popcorn & a Movie"

Thursday, November 21st at 12 noon

1st UMC Fellowship Hall

Bring your own lunch.

Popcorn bar & drinks will be provided.

Movie selection TBD

All women are invited to attend.

RSVP—Linda Jachino 815-541-4760

Kids Kards

Kids Cards will meet after worship **on Nov 24th to make Christmas cards**. We'll have nachos for lunch. Everyone us invited and all materials are provided. Let's celebrate the season of our Lord's birth by sharing our creativity.

IMPACT YOUTH GROUP

(formerly Carroll County Youth Group)

Sunday, November 3rd 2:30-3:30 @ Big Meadows

Carpool @ 3:30-4 to FUMC for pizza

During our last meeting, our youth group discussed ways that we can get involved in helping others in the community. Several students wanted to get involved with the seniors, so we thought this would be a fun way to get started. The seniors LOVE interacting with the kids and hearing them read and share stories, and we believe there are so many benefits for the kids to get to know the older folks, hear their stories, and practice reading as well. If your student has a few stories or articles they love, please bring them along. I will bring some books as well. We can't wait!!



PICTURES!!!

**Kids Kards -
Everyone was hard
at work!**



**Sharon Beyer at
her home!**



**Soul Sisters
at Mississippi River Eagle Point
Park in Clinton, IA**



**Pastor Fernando went
to visit with
Erik & Alice Torrison**



**Pastor Fernando
with
Tim Cavanagh**



**Paul Mayer &
Bill Wright went on
Quad City Honor
Flight #61 on
October 26th.**

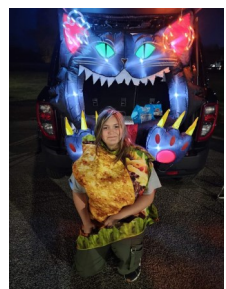
**This Flight was sponsored by the West Carroll Primary
School Bikeathon~ Many students and congregation
members went to welcome all the Veterans home!**



Joy Ministry October Dinner



Trunk or Treat!!!



Soup and Sandwich Lunch
will be served.
11 am to 1 pm
Donuts and coffee served
all day.

Bake Sale

Silent Auction of Child's
Radio Flyer Rip Tide Battery
Powered Jeep





Worship is at 10:15 am!!!

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting
will be on Thursdays at 7 pm.

Use same zoom login and password.
(No Zoom Nov 14, 21, 28!)

Telstar items will be due on
the 15th of each month !!!

United Methodist Men
will meet November 19th @ 5 pm

Thursday Bible Study is
cancelled until further notice!!!

Finance/Growth will meet
Tuesday, Nov 12th @ 5 pm
in the library at the church.

New Member Class - If you are interested in becoming a
member, we will be holding a class. This will be 5 classes
either in person or via Zoom for 5 weeks. Just let the office

Donations are being accepted for the Sa-
vanna Children's Christmas Fund until
Dec 1st. (Be sure to put "Children's Xmas
Fund" in the memo on your check.)



Thank you to Linda Stubbe,
Amanda Gonzalez, and Susan
White for staffing the Savanna
Food Pantry in October. We have
so many blessings to be thankful
for, please consider sharing those
blessings with those less fortu-
nate. Both parties need cereal
and crackers.

Thank you for your generous gifts! May God bless you as together
we work to show his love at the hands, feet, and heart of Christ.

In His Service, Midwest Mission Family

I truly appreciated all of the prayers, thoughts of concern and cards
you generously bestowed on my during my recent health journey and
recovery. I continue to make progress! You really made a difference
and you are truly appreciated! Thank you! John Jachino

Thank you all so much for your generous donations after
our house fire. We so appreciate you thinking of us.
Your kindness helped make a difficult time so much
better, and we're so grateful for your support.

With love and sincere thanks,
Marty, Sarah, Owen & Liam Brubaker





November 2024

1 - Ruth Moore
 2 - Steve Yenney
 5 - Brennon Cavanagh
 8 - Garrett Badtke
 8 - Mary Ellen Dreger
 8 - Jiho Yim
 9 - Ryker McCombie
 10 - Katie Floming
 12 - Matt Floming
 12 - Dan Holcomb
 15 - *Susan & Glen White*
 17 - Ann Johnson
 21 - Faith Gonzalez
 25 - Kirk Hoffman
 25 - Martha White
 28 - Pricilla de Castro
 30 - Vivian Eaton



Acolytes

Nov 3 - Ryker McCombie
 Nov 10 - Asia LaShelle
 Nov 17 - Blaine Johnson
 Nov 24 - Kirk Hoffman

Liturgists

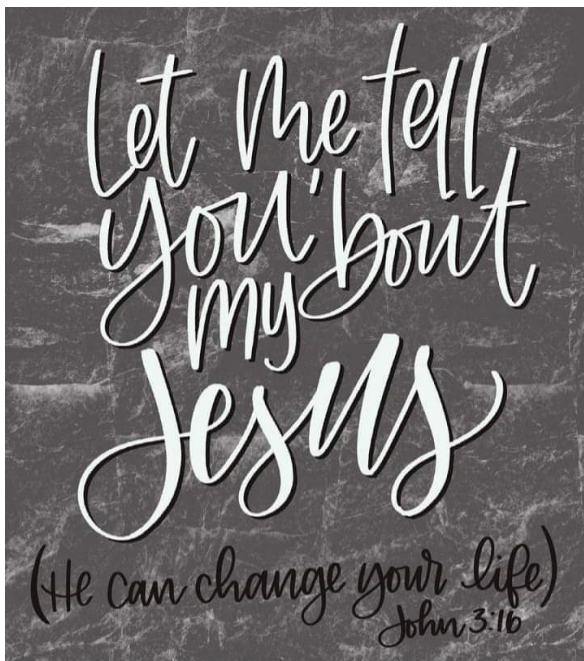
Nov 3 - Esther Losh
 Nov 10 - Alexis (Lexi) Piercy
 Nov 17 - John LeComte
 Nov 24 - Paula Mayer

Coffee Hour

Nov 3 - Outreach Potato Bar
 Nov 10 - Neumiller's/Floming's
 Nov 17 - Rhonda Law
 Nov 24 - Ron & Lori Miller

Ushers & Greeters

will be Worship cmte for
 the month of November



Counters & Verifiers

Nov 3 - Molly Andersen / Linda Stubbe
 Nov 10 - Rhonda Law / Karen Hoffman
 Nov 17 - Lori Miller / Sharon F Guilinger
 Nov 24 - Vivian Eaton / Tom Michels

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



