



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



God of New Things.

For the past three months since I arrived in Savanna, all I see is something new or some changes; because I am fascinated by nature, I focus on what I have primarily noticed in the creation our God bestowed on us. In July, most of the land fields were clean, and a month later, they were very green as crops were growing; now, they are brown and ready for harvest. The massive numbers of trees around our town had their leaves all green and fresh; now, their leaves fall daily. It amazes me how God has established the natural cycle and how nature obeys the seasonal changes that happen yearly; soon, we will see many trees with bare branches. Isaiah 43:19 reads, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

The Prophet Isaiah speaks a message of hope that focuses on redemption from captivity. And it is with hope that we are all called to see the changes around us, for the fall season announces winter, and winter announces Christmas, the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the newborn King! Our hope and our salvation.

Friends, as we marvel at the changes in the visible part of the trees, let's also consider what happens within the tree, with its roots, before the leaves gracefully depart the branches to make way for new growth. In an article on Spirituality practices, the authors argue, "Fall is the right time to practice getting out of the way and letting the Spirit take charge of our lives." This assertion is not just interesting, but it's a profound truth. As we witness the changes around us, remember that God always does new things, even when we do not see it.

This fall, let's take a moment to reflect on our spiritual journey and how we can let the Spirit guide us, providing us with the reassurance and direction we need for our personal lives, families, and Church.

Finally, I want to leave you with these three questions related to the reflection I have gotten from the Foundations of Evangelism course that three people of our Church are attending:

1. What has God done in our Church?
2. What is God doing currently?
3. What do you trust God will do?

May the Spirit of God give us open hearts and minds to perceive the new things God will do.

John F. Kennedy once said, "Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past and present are certain to miss the future." — John F. Kennedy.

Enjoy the rest of the fall season as it announces Christmas, the coming of the Newborn King!
God is doing a new thing!

May God bless you and your households

Pastor Fernando C. de Castro

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

SUNDAY, August 18, 2024 10: AM @ CHURCH LIBRARY

Vice-chairperson Bill Wright called the meeting to order at 10:55am with members Ronda Rathje, Molly Andersen, Tom Michels, Kathie and Burt Prins, Linda Stubbe, Esther Losh, Deeann Kramer, Pam Darrow, Vivian Eaton, Jason Moore, Mary Irons, Kris Yingling, 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 Pam, to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passed. Copies of the financial report were distributed. The 2025 budget was also presented. After discussion Kris moved, seconded by Jason, to accept the financial report and the 2025 budget as presented and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL: After discussing the deficit budget for 2025 discussion was held about the eventuality that we will not be able to afford a full-time pastor in a few years if member giving does not increase substantially. It was suggested that we let the congregation know we are already running at a \$63,000 deficit so far this year. It was also suggested that we go back to passing offering plates during worship to remind everyone to give. The September communion offering will go towards our Grief Share program.

TRUSTEES: They discussed the roof replacement at the parsonage and handed out copies of the only bid that was submitted, from Integrity Builders in Stockton. A recommendation from the committee to accept Proposal #2 at a cost of \$22,000-\$25,000 was voted on by a roll call of each member present, with a unanimous vote to accept the recommendation. The funds will be taken out of the endowment fund. Katy Cook would like to have a soup cook-off to raise funds for her Grief Share program at a later date. Ron Miller offered to buy more books for her. The Carroll County Health Department will use our church building for a flu immunization clinic on October 2nd. JoCarroll has resurveyed the new electric line being installed and will have it done this fall. John LeCompte, our legal counsel, looked at the contract from the state of Illinois for use of the church building for 4-H meetings. The contract is for a 5-year period and our contract would be for 1 year. It was suggested we update our building policy since we seem to have different charges for different groups using the church, or possibly getting rid of all fees.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: Our groundskeeper, Jeff Law, is resigning at the end of August. The committee met with a possible replacement candidate, Eric Jovin. The committee recommended the hiring of Eric at \$700/month for 7 summer months and \$400/month for 5 winter months and the recommendation passed.

WORSHIP: There seems to be less congestion in the narthex on Sunday morning with the ushers in the sanctuary. There is a silence reminder on the screen, Vivian plays the chimes, and the lights are dimmed. Each committee will take turns doing coffee hour and individuals may sign up also. The choir will sing on September 15th. Vivian has resigned from organizing the community Christmas concert and it has been suggested that Interchurch Council take it over. Comments were shared about standing for birthdays and learning Portuguese.

OUTREACH: They are meeting in September.

EDUCATION: Sunday School kick-off is next week from 11am-1pm. Sunday School starts September 8th with Grandparents Day.

MEMORIAL: The daughters of Roberta and Mert Loomis were here looking at the chapel, a memorial for the Loomises. No records have been found regarding a plaque that was to be installed stating the chapel was a memorial for them. Vivian will check past statements and try to find the financial records.

EVANGELISM: Birthday cards were sent to Brenda Hamm and Sharon Guilinger. Visits were made to the Yenneys, Sharon Guilinger, Sandy Pratt at the Clinton hospital, Dorothy Taylor at Big Meadows, and the Pratt family at their home.

UWF: They will be going to Timber Lake Playhouse on September 10th. All women are invited.

UMM: Members and helpers cleaned the gutters at the Pratt home.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL: VBS was well-attended with over \$700 given to Camp Benson for scholarships. Blessing of the Pets will be October 5th at Marquette Park. New leaders have been found to take over the Christmas Children's fund.

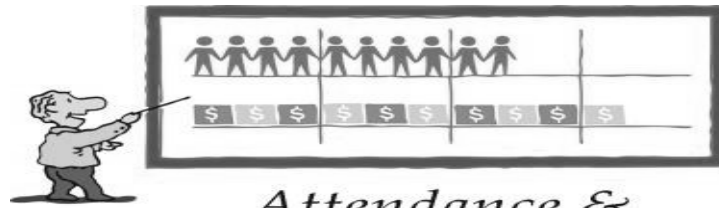
YOUTH: Noah Johnson resigned months ago. Lay Leadership committee will contact Lexi Piercy to serve in this position.

OLD BUSINESS: The printer was serviced and needs a new heat transfer belt, costing \$400-\$500. A new printer would cost about \$900. Jason moved, seconded by Pam, to authorize Ronda to spend up to \$1000 on a new printer and the motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Fernando has been busy meeting with local people and committee heads. He is giving devotions at the Table on Wednesdays. His religious visa has been approved and paperwork is being submitted to get his family to the United States. LaVona Grissinger will call our local state representative, Toni McCombie to see if she can help. Rep. Eric Sorenson was contacted to help Pastor Fernando get his visa on a Friday and it was approved on Saturday! He is still learning many new things and is happy to listen to questions or comments.

Pastor Fernando closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Andersen



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 2345.47		
	August 2024	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 10,818.40	\$ 99,659.62
Church Expenses	\$ 15,973.46	\$ 168,688.06
Net Operating Balance	\$ -5,155.06	\$ -69,028.44
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 11,240.00
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
September 1	\$ 2486.00	?	2	2 (?)
September 8	\$ 2332.55	62	2 + 1 dog	64 + 1 dog
September 15	\$ 2503.00	55	1 + 2 dogs	56 + 2 dogs
September 22	\$ 2739.00	64	0	64
Totals	\$ 10,060.55	181	5 + 5 dogs	186 + 5 dogs



In Our Prayers

Emilee Derrer, Sandy Froehlich, Barb McFadden, 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, Miles Purchis (Max Purchis' grandson), 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, Dennis Plattenberger (Mary's friend), Kristin (Bob & LaVona Grissinger's granddaughter), Chuck Curtis, Alyssa Volkens, Mary Ellen Dreger, Sharon Guilinger, Bob Grissinger, 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), Emily Nunemaker (Lexi's teacher), the Norman family, Bang-Wool Yim, Dan Zambon (uncle of Kim Gonzalez), Pat Kemp (Mary Iron's friend), Deb & Jim Ketzell, the families of Jan and Eldar (Karen Hoffman'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, October 16th from 4:30-6:30pm in the church fellowship hall. It's going to be a spooky affair as we celebrate Halloween. Wear a costume and win a prize! LaVona Grissinger is making her famous spaghetti for dinner and our program will be a (not very!) spooky movie. This is a free dinner and program open to anyone over 60. You MUST RSVP to the church office by noon, Monday, October 14th at 815-273-2345. Rides are available, in-town only. Come join the fun!

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.

SOUL SISTERS OUTING "Popcorn & a Movie"

Thursday, October 17th @ 12 noon

*****ALL WOMEN are invited to join us!!*****

RSVP---Linda Jachino at (815) 541-4760

Kids Kards is starting again!

Kids Kards will meet after worship on
Sunday, October 17th.

We'll be making Thanksgiving cards and having sandwiches for lunch. Everyone is invited and all materials are provided. Come join us and share our many blessings with each other.

Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket was pretty empty after the school supply giveaway. Last month we served 45 families and are in desperate need of men's, women's, children's bodywash, 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.

IMPACT YOUTH GROUP

(formerly Carroll County Youth Group)

We have so many fun experiences planned for the kids. Our next meeting will be
Sunday, October 6th @ 4 to 6 pm
at 9317 IL Route 84, Savanna, IL
Hayrides, Campfires, Games, & More!!!
Open to all kids 5th grade thru high school!
Bring your friends and join us!



PICTURES!!!



Kids Kards - Everyone was hard at work!



John Irons received a Quilt of Valor on Thursday, Sept 5, 2024



Ladies made sandwiches for the West Carroll Football team for their away game. It took them 30 minutes to pack 40 lunches!

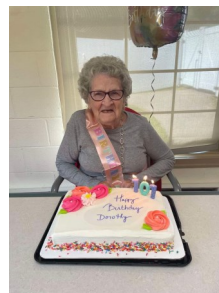
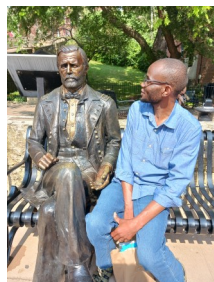
Pastor Fernando with Jeff Law



Soul Sisters Exploring Galena



**JOY Dinner
Deb Connor came to discuss Medicare changes.**



**Dorothy Taylor
101 years old**

Pastor Fernando enjoying the day in a boat with Molly & Jeff Andersen



Linda Jachino was presented with a quilt from all the Soul Sisters.



Upcoming Events!!!



Pulled Pork Sandwich Fundraiser

Sunday, October 6th

Carryout 4:00 - 5:30

Savanna First United Methodist Church

Pulled pork sandwich, applesauce, potato salad and dessert

Tickets

Adult - \$10.00 Children 10 & under \$5.00
Advanced Sales Only

To purchase tickets call the church office

815-273-2345 or

Mary Irons - 815-541-8487

Proceeds go towards Women in Faith mission projects



United Women in Faith

SAVE THE DATE!
2024 Annual Celebration



Date: **Saturday, October 26, 2024**

Location: **First United Methodist Church**
1903 E. Euclid Ave
Arlington Heights, IL. 60004

Time: Registration opens 8:30

Annual Celebration and Business Meeting: 9:00 - 12:00

Theme: **"Bind Us Together in Love"**

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-14

Lunch: 12:00

Leadership Training: After lunch

Registration details to follow

Begin gathering your car pool members and plan to join in the celebration!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

Impact Youth Group

4-6PM

HAYRIDE, CAMPFIRE, GAMES, & MORE!

9423 IL Rt 84
Savanna, IL

ANNUAL FALL HAMETTE SUPPER

Milledgeville United Methodist Church

321 Holcomb Avenue

Saturday, October 5, 2024, 4:30 – 7:00 P.M.

Cost: Free-will Donation

Carryouts & In-town Deliveries Available

Call Jane at 319-230-8351.

Hamettes, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Applesauce, Dinner Rolls, Homemade Desserts, Beverages

The church is handicapped accessible. Enter the north door to use the lift to Fellowship Hall.

Hamettes will also be available to purchase for \$4 each.

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!



2024 Community Flu Clinics

Community clinics are for adults age 19 and older.

Lanark Heritage Center

Wednesday, September 25th — 2:00pm-3:30pm

Milledgeville Village Hall

Thursday, September 26th — 9:30am-10:30am

Savanna First United Methodist Church

Wednesday, October 2nd — 10:15am-11:30am

Thomson York Township Public Library

Thursday, October 3rd — 1:30pm-3:00pm

Chadwick Public Library

Tuesday, October 8th — 1:30pm-2:30pm

Mt. Carroll - Carroll County Health Department

Wednesday, October 9th — 4:00pm-6:00pm

CHILDREN'S FLU VACCINES—IN OFFICE BY APPOINTMENT

Ages 6 months to 18 years. Children's flu vaccines will not be available at community clinics

For appointment please call: Carroll County Health Department (815) 244-8855

The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get a flu shot.



822 S Mill St
Mount Carroll, IL 61053
(815) 244-8855
www.ccpd.org

Some insurance companies can be billed. Call your insurance prior to the clinic to find out if they will cover the flu vaccine given by the Carroll County Health Department. There is no charge to those with Medicare Part B. Please bring all insurance and supplemental insurance cards with you. If the insurance provided denies the claim, you will be responsible for payment.



Worship is at 10:15 am!!!

**United Methodist Men will meet
October 15th @ 5 pm**

**Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting
will be on Thursdays at 7 pm
Zoom link will be emailed each week.**

**Finance/Growth will meet Tuesday, October
8th @ 5 pm in the library at the church.**

**We need 4 volunteers to work at the
Savanna Food Pantry
on October 15th and 17th, 9am-12 noon.
Please see or call Molly Andersen,
815-273-2104, if you can help out.**

**Come meet with Pastor Fernando!
He would like to meet with each of you!
Call the office to set up a time or see if he is free.**

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



To the Members of the First United Methodist Church,

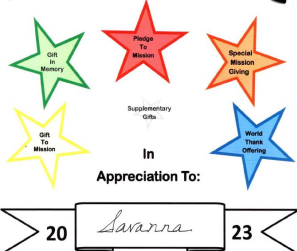
**This is a very late, but no less sincere, thank you for your food dona-
tion and check for \$175 you gave our pantry this summer. You have
been such a blessing to so many people -
We can never thank you enough...**

**Always,
Cathy, Sally, Michelle, Robin and the pantry guests**

**Congratulations to
United Women in Faith!!!**

**CARD SHOWERS
Dorothy Taylor (101 on Sept 21st) - 1000 Longmoor Ave, Savanna, IL 61074**

Five Star Giving



**For the Financial Support you have given
To the United Women in Faith!
We Thank You!**



[Signature] District Treasurer
[Signature] District President

Janis Wilt (94 on Sept 24th) 7615 Harker Drive, Peoria, IL 61615



**First United Methodist
Church of Savanna
Choir**



October 2024

1 - Emily Mills
 1 - Cindy Norman
 3 - *Ron & Lori Miller (1987)*
 4 - Shirley Fritz
 11 - Don Greenfield
 16 - Marcile Fowler
 17 - *Molly & Jeff Andersen (1981)*
 19 - Kris Yingling
 22 - Sarah Hanson
 24 - Susan King
 25 - Jaime Mills
 26 - *Mark & Ronda Rathje (1999)*
 27 - Tyson Speers
 27 - Esther Losh
 28 - Nikki Badtke
 28 - Josh Hansen
 29 - John Jachino



Acolytes

Oct 6 - Pearl Michels
 Oct 13 -
 Oct 20 - Ellie Johnson
 Oct 27 -

Liturgists

Oct 6 - Susan King
 Oct 13 - Deeann Kramer
 Oct 20 - Noah Johnson
 Oct 27 - Susan Michelle Jepsen

Coffee Hour

Oct 6 - Linda Jachino
 Oct 13 - Mayer family
 Oct 20 - Dykema family
 Oct 27 - Joe & Sharon Guilinger

Ushers & Greeters

will be Worship cmte for
 the month of October.



Counters & Verifiers

Oct 6 - Molly Andersen & Mary Irons
 Oct 13 - Rhonda Law & Pam Darrow
 Oct 20 - Lori Miller & Linda Jachino
 Oct 27 - Vivian Eaton & Kay Cavanagh

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





October 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATUR-
		1	2 10 am Choir Practice 10:15-11:30 Flu Clinic	3 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Zoom	4	5 Blessing of the Pets 1-1:30 pm @ Marquette Park
6 World Communion Sunday 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 4-6 pm IMPACT Youth Group	7 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	8 5 pm Finance/ Growth mtg	9 10 am Choir Practice	10 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Zoom	11	12
13 Choir Sings 9 am Trustees 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 11:30 am Ad Council	14 Office opens late @ 11 am 1 pm Sewing Ladies	15 Telstar Info due UM Men @ 5 pm	16 4:30-6:30 pm JOY Ministry Dinner	17 9 am Bible Study 12 pm Soul Sisters 3:30 pm Worship Mtg 7 pm Prayer Zoom	18	19
20 Laity Sunday 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr	21 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3 pm JOY mtg 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	22	23	24 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Zoom	25	26
27 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 11:30 am Kids Kards 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts 6-7 pm Trunk or Treat	28 1 pm Sewing Ladies	29	30	31 Halloween 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Zoom 		