



Our call is to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully and Lead Courageously.



OCTOBER

Our Vision Statement

“Reaching out to all people and inviting them to experience the Love of God through Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.”

2100 Chicago Ave, Savanna, IL 61074

Ph: 815-273-2345



The Harvest Is Plentiful

Dear friends,

As we look around Carroll County, it's clear: the harvest is indeed plentiful. From the fields that stretch across our landscape to the hearts yearning for hope, healing, and direction, there is much work to be done. Jesus, our Savior, often spoke in agricultural allegories—simple, familiar images that carried profound spiritual truths. And in Matthew 9, we see Him not only teaching and healing but also calling us to respond.

In verses 1–8, Jesus heals a paralytic. In 9–13, He calls Matthew, a tax collector, and is criticized for spending time with sinners. Yet Jesus continues His mission undeterred. I encourage you to read the entire chapter to grasp the depth of His compassion and the urgency of His call.

Matthew 9:35–38 tells us:

“Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ***‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’***”

Friends, imagine if Jesus were walking through our communities today—visiting our churches, schools, homes, and streets—I believe He would still say, “Pray earnestly.” For Jesus would see how our world is marked by violence, division, and uncertainty.

We are called to be light. Not dimmed by fear but brightened by grace. Not passive observers, but active laborers in God's field.

October is the season of work and witness. Our Church Conference is set for October 24th. I'll be traveling to LA for a week, in the same week the youth from across our connection are planning a visit to Savanna. Trunk or Treat 2025 will return, and we need workers for that day as well, so we may bring joy and fellowship to our community.

So let us listen to Jesus, for he is instructing us to pray earnestly. In a context where mass shootings have become part of our weekly news, and lives have become disposable.

May the Lord of the harvest send workers—bold, compassionate, and faithful—to do the work needed in such a time as this where the harvest is indeed plentiful.

Blessings to you and your family,

Pastor Fernando

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
SUNDAY, August 17, 2025 10: AM @ CHURCH LIBRARY

Members Present: Susan Michelle Jepsen, Linda Stubbe, Pastor Fernando, Deann Kramer, Kris Yingling, LaVona Grissinger, Karen Hoffman, Kathie Prins, Burt Prins, Pam Darrow, Jason Moore, Molly Anderson, Tom Michels, Lea Ann Michels, Vivian Eaton. The meeting was called to order at 10:56 by Susan Michelle Jepsen.

Pastor Fernando offered the opening prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members by Molly Anderson. The minutes were approved with a correction of the lengthy discussion about Finance. Susan Michelle moving and Kris seconding. Motion passed.

Financial reports were given by Tom Michels. We're still behind on finances. Trying to find someone to replace Vivian as the Financial Secretary. Vivan handed out financial reports. Finance is working on a description for the Church secretary. Communion will be going to school supplies. Outreach will be deciding what communion goes to in the future. Michelle moved to approve the financial report, and Kris seconded. The motion carried. It was reported that giving is up, so our deficit is becoming less.

EDUCATION: Kris said next week is the blessing of the backpack. Sunday school starts Sept 7. **OUTREACH:** Will host a potluck on Sept 7 when we go back to 10:15 services, Trunk or Treating will be in October, but possibly earlier in the day before the parade.

EVANGELISM: Mary is sick so no report.

STAFF PARISH: LaVona will put an ad in the paper for an administrative assistant. There was much discussion regarding salaried vs hourly employees. Susan Michelle sent it back to the committee, SPRC, and Finance to decide what the specifics will be for the job description.

TRUSTEES: Jason reported the lawn mower tire will be fixed. The smoke detectors were replaced at a cost of \$100 each. Some of the fire alarms need to be replaced. Deann suggested finding a different company. Jason will check into a different company and find prices. They will get bids for the water heater.

The front pew was reinforced with plywood. A slip will be turned in for reimbursement. The Pastor informed the Home school group that they have been denied. Vivian reported that the organ is not working. **WORSHIP:** Blessing of the Backpacks will be next week. **UWF:** Deann reported a tour of Neumiller farms at the last meeting, with 2 new members 3rd week in October will be a pulled pork dinner.

UMM: Meeting Tuesday night, Interchurch Council will be on the 24th. **PASTOR'S REPORT: NEW BUSINESS:** There is Evangelism training on Sep. 13 in Freeport. Karen and Jason will attend. Karen moved to use the money from her craft day to pay for the training. Kathy seconded, and the motion passed. Vivian reported that if anyone buys things for the church to remember to see how much shipping and handling cost. Also, the church does have a tax ID number to use so there wouldn't be sales tax.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported his family had a good vacation and thanked the people who filled in for him. He reported Rita Mitchell will speak at church to explain the CROP walk. He would like to have an all church potluck to share our Church's vision and gifts. On Oct 11, our church will host 32 Junior High students from the Youth Council to come for lunch, tour Neumiller Farms, Pali-sades State Park, and go for pontoon boat rides. **Upcoming schedule:**

8/20 the Table Devotion,

8/24 Interchurch Council,

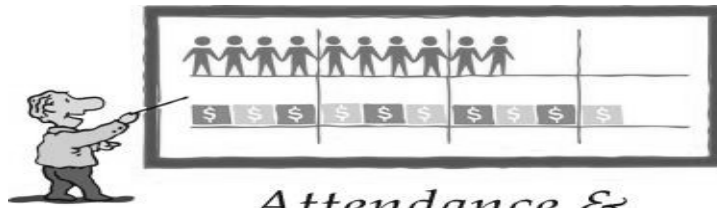
9/04 Cluster Meeting,

9/18 Big Meadows and Pinnacle Place,

9/28 Church Conference.

Vivian offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was closed at 11:51. Respectfully submitted, Lea Ann Michels



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 2345.47		
	August 2025	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 13834.90	\$ 111356.60
Church Expenses	\$ 18287.55	\$ 151048,71
Net Operating Balance	\$ --4452.65	\$ -\$39692.11
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 11,240.00
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
August 03	\$ 3739.05	63	1+2 Dogs	63+1 Dog
August 10	\$ 2996	59		59
August 17	\$ 2067	73	1 + 2 dogs	74+ 2 dogs
August 24	\$ 1837.82	78	3+1 Dog	81
August 31	\$ 1583.01	66	1+1 Dog	67
Tithley.	\$625			
Totals	\$ 12847.83	339	6 + 6 dogs	344+6 Dogs



IN OUR PRAYERS

Sandy Froehlich-,(doing immune therapy), Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Tinslee (awaiting transplant), Alyssa Volkens, Karen (Paul's Mayer sister, in hospice), The Norman family, Dan Zambo, - cancer, Mia (Paula's co-worker), Julie Brunner (Linda Jachino's cousin), Tim Cavanagh (waiting for heart surgery). Derek Osborn, Vicki & Michael Thomas (Paula Mayer's friends), Janet Smith (Denise's sister), The Lars Colgan family. Elijah- Cancer (LaVonna & Bob Grandson) Carol

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner, Steve & Linda Yenney, Brenda Hamm, Janice Wilt, Mary Ellen Dreger, July Law Florence Bevins-Powell, Jackie Walker, and Howard Nichols.

Prayer for our Country and the World: Our country & government, Military Personnel & their families, the safety of Ukrainians & end of wars; Haiti; Syria; Israel and Iran, the Gaza Strip; peace In the Middle East, families, students, school administrators.

What's Happening At Church!!!!

CROP CRFAT AND FELLOWSHIP!

Our last work days for this year are October 24th & 25th Please consider joining us and work n the craft of your choice and meet new people! from 9 Am to 9 PM on Saturday we will serve lunch and supper for **40 USD**. Set a jump start on Friday night from 5 PM –9 PM no meal served space are at 10 USD cost. Contact: Karen Hoffman with any questions or to reserve your spot.

CRAFT VENDER FAIR 2nd EDITION

Craft Vender Fair will be held at our Church on Nov. 15th from 10— 2 PM If your are interested in selling your craft please contact Karen Hoffman. The Church will also have a bake sale . Please consider supporting us by donating baked goods.

JOY (Just Older Youth) Ministry

will meet Wednesday, October 15th from 4:30-6:30pm. We will share a free meal, fellowship, program, and maybe a few tricks with anyone over 60. It'll be a spaghetti supper and feel free to wear a Halloween costume! Reservations must be made by noon, Monday, October 15th. Call the church office at 815-273-2345. Rides are available, in-town only.

SOUL SISTERS LENA ADVENTURE"

Monday, Oct. 6th, Carpool will leave Church

9:30 AM. 10:30 AM – Torkelson's Cheese Co., 9453 Louisa RD, Lena

11:30 AM -Lunch at the Lena Mercantile Co. Eatery, 101 W. Railroad St. After lunch

Kids Kards is starting again!

will be Sunday, October 26th after worship to make Thanksgiving cards. Please join our children in celebrating our many blessings. All materials are provided and we will have soup for lunch. Any questions call Molly Andersen at 815-541-6852.

Blessing Basket

We are all noticing the price increases in food and sundries, but for low-income families with children it is even more difficult to pay for higher prices. Please consider donating a bottle of laundry detergent this month to the Blessing Basket. Thank you!

West Carroll Food Pantry

The food pantries are struggling to keep their shelves full. More and more people are facing food insecurity. Please show our neighbors how much Jesus Christ loves them by bringing a can of fruit or box of crackers for our Food Pantry box in the narthex. Thank you for your continued support!

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PICTURES!!!

ALL CHURCH POTLUCK ORGANIZED BY OUT-REACH COMT.



GREAT FOOD & FELLOWSHIP



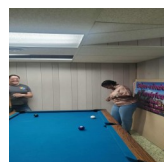
District Training on Evangelism



Pizza Ranch Fund Riser



Pool game at the Parsonage , Mike , Emily and Isabel



Soul Sisters Exploring Galena



Pastor Fernando met the Lion's club .



Joy Ministry September



After Church fellowship



September Kids Kard were sent to Big-Meadows and Pinnacle Place



UNITED METHODIST MEN MONTHLY MEETING AND DINNER



Cameron Jones, selected for NASA's 2025



John Schultz—Guest Preacher



Upcoming Events!!!

Day in Rural Illinois



**Saturday,
October 11**
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Savanna Area

\$15 per person covers transportation, meals, and activities

Middle school and high school students*, along with conference youth leaders, are invited to step away from the busyness of suburban and city life and experience the beauty and culture of rural Illinois.

The all-day adventure includes:

- round-trip transportation**
- a boat ride on the Mississippi River
- a tour of a potato farm
- a visit to Mississippi Palisades State Park with breathtaking views
- and more



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**COUNCIL ON
YOUNG PEOPLE'S
MINISTRY**

*Youth under age of 16 need to be accompanied by an adult or youth leader from their church.
**Round trip transportation will be coming from the Naperville/Schaumburg area to and from Savanna.

Register and find out more:
umcnic.org/calendar/2025-day-in-rural-illinois

Questions?
Rev. Sharon Rice, sharon.rice@onecumc.net



Pulled Pork Sandwich Fundraiser

Sunday, October 19th

Carryout 4:00 - 5:30

Savanna First United Methodist Church

Pull up to the backdoor of the church and we will deliver your order to your car

Pulled pork sandwich, baked beans,
cheesey potatoes & dessert

Tickets

Adult - \$10.00 Children 10 & under \$5.00

Advanced Sales Only

To purchase tickets call Mary Irons - 815-541-8487

Proceeds go towards Women in Faith mission projects



IMPACT YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, October 5th @ 5:00-6:15

6-12th graders welcome

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness."

Campfire
Hotdogs
S'mores
Worship
Fellowship

First United Methodist Church in Savanna



Worship is at 10:15 am!!!

**United Methodist Men will meet
October 21st @ 5 pm**

**Prayer meeting is every Sunday
from 8:30-9:00**

**Finance/Growth will meet Tuesday, October
21th @ 5 pm in the library at the church.**

**Pastor Fernando will be off to California - attending
Cross Cultural Cross Racial Conference from 7-9 .Oct.**

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

CHURCH CONFERENCE 2025 WILL BE HELD ON OCT/ 24TH FROM 6:00 PLEASE DO NOT MISS





October 2025

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 05 - Pearl Michels
 Oct 12 - Boyd Law
 Oct 19 - Joe Pasch
 Oct 26 - Annika Law

Liturgists

Oct 05 - James Gonzales
 Oct 12 - Susan Michelle
 Oct 19 - Kim Gonsalves
 Oct 26 - Christina Pasch

Coffee Hour

Oct 05 - Rhonda Law
 Oct 12 - Julie & Derek Osborn
 Oct 19 - Barth & Kathy Prins
 Oct 26 - Bob and LaVona Grissinger

Ushers & Greeters

will be Worship cmte for
the month of October.

GOD'S
 RICHES
 AT
 CHRIST'S
 EXPENSE

Counters & Verifiers

Oct 05 - Molly Andersen & Pam Darrow
 Oct 12 - Rhonda Law & Karen Hoffman
 Oct 19 - Lori Miller & Kay Cavanagh
 Oct 26 - Vivian Eaton & Linda Stubbe

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 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATUR-
			01 10 am Choir Practice 10:15-11:30 Flu Clinic	02 Office opens 8:00	03 Office opens 8:00	04
5 World Communion Sunday 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 4-6 pm IMPACT Youth Group	6 9 Am Bible Study 12 pm Soul Sisters 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	7 Office opens 8:00	8 Office opens 8:00 10 am Choir Practice	09 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Zoom	10 Office opens 8:00-4:30	11 Youth Visit
12 Laity Sunday Choir Sings 9 am Trustees 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr	13 Office opens 8:00 1 pm Sewing Ladies	14 UM Men @ 5 pm	15 Telstar Info due 4:30-6:30 pm JOY Ministry Dinner	16 Office opens 8:00-4:30	17 Office opens 8:00-4:30	18
19 9 am Trustees 9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 11:30 am Ad Council	20 Office opens 8:00	21 United Methodist Men	22 Office opens 8:00	23 Office opens 8:00-4:30 3:30 pm Worship Mtg	24 Office opens 8:00-4:30	25
26 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	27 Office opens 8:00-4:30 1 pm Sewing Ladies	28 Office opens 8:00-4:30	29 Office opens 8:00-4:30	30 Office opens 8:00-4:30	31 Office opens 8:00-4:30 