



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



# September

## **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.”**

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## IT'S A NEW SEASON!

September is not just a new month—it marks the beginning of a new season. A season that refreshes our surroundings and, in turn, our spirits. Summer was hot! But the good news is that Fall brings cool days and chilly nights. And whether we welcome it or not, as Elizabeth Lawrence once said, “We must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turning.”

As this new season begins, our local church is stepping into new opportunities. First, we are implementing our new Vision Statement and core values, which I will share on September 7th. Second, we are preparing for our Church Conference—a time to reflect on all we’ve accomplished since last Fall. I’m excited, because truly, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”

In this spirit of renewal, I’ve been reading and reflecting on Kevin M. Watson’s book, which calls for a revitalization of the Methodist movement. Watson invites us to return to our roots, where discipleship through small groups—“Class Meetings”—was central to church vitality. According to research, small groups are the heartbeat of a thriving church.

Let me share three types of small groups Watson highlights:

### 1. Affinity Groups

Organized around shared passions or hobbies—like cooking clubs, bowling leagues, or book clubs—these groups foster connection through common interests.

### 2. Information-Driven Groups

Focused on learning, these groups follow a curriculum—such as Sunday School or Bible studies. They assume that right living flows from right knowing, and that knowledge is essential to spiritual maturity.

### 3. Transformation-Driven Groups

Centered on life change, these groups prioritize the experience of God and mutual support. They aim to help members grow in love for God and neighbor, becoming more faithful disciples.

As we enter this season of change—when “all leaves become flowers,” revealing nature’s beauty—I’m reminded that we too can grow and reflect the beauty of our true nature as Children of God. The Master of new beginnings declares: Let us embrace this season with open hearts and renewed purpose.

Blessings, **Pastor Fernando**

## SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025 10:45AM LIBRARY

Chairperson Susan Michelle Jepsen called the meeting to order at 10:55am with members Linda Stubbe, Jason Moore, Mary Irons, Deeann Kramer, Molly Andersen, LaVona Grissinger, Karen Hoffman, Kris Yingling, Pam Darrow and Vivian Eaton present. She opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Vivian thought there was a mistake in them but couldn't remember what. Members approved the minutes pending a correction if needed.

**Financial reports;** were presented and Vivian answered all questions regarding them. It was suggested we ask for donations to cover the cost of the monthly Upper Rooms and LaVona volunteered to paint a donation jar. Kris moved, seconded by Mary to accept the reports as presented and the motion passed.

**EDUCATION:** VBS is this week and we still need volunteers.

**EVANGELISM:** Mary continues to send cards, visit shut-ins, and serve them communion.

**OUTREACH:** The 4th of July parade was fun and well-attended by members. Members passed out bottles of water and threw candy from the float. Everyone got wet when a storm showed up!

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS:** We will not hire an administrative assistant until the fall to save money. LaVona has been filling in and filing paperwork. Job descriptions for the church's employees are being updated. Someone asked about a key to the office being available and LaVona will check with Pastor Fernando.

**TRUSTEES:** Several members voiced their opinions on letting the Deeply Rooted Homeschool community use the church building. Karen moved, seconded by Pam, to not proceed with the idea of them using the building and the motion passed. Jason is checking on the electrical work necessary to get fiber optic internet service at the church. The church water is still stinky. We may need to get a new hot water heater or flush the water line.

They are checking into hiring a service to mow the church lawn that could include shoveling the sidewalk and snowplowing the parking lot. Jason will look into changing the pest control service.

**WORSHIP:** Since the Finance Committee has not met, Vivian presented the committee's desire to designate the August communion offering for school supplies.

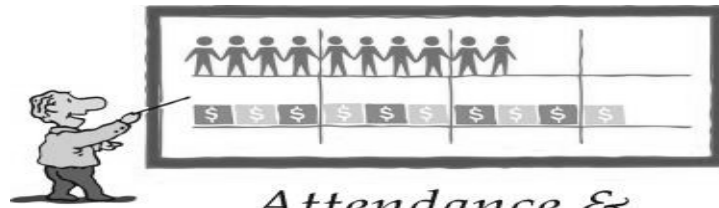
The committee also noted they are not in charge of fundraising for the church. Blessing of the Backpacks will be August 24th. Better communication is needed as we were not aware of a new member joining the church last month and did not have a cake, flowers, or any gift for her. UWF: They are meeting at Neumiller Farms on Tuesday, August 5th and having a potluck at Deeann's afterwards.

**UMM:** Jason will ask Marty Brubaker, a former member, to share his story about the free meal ministry he started at his current church in Fulton.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Pastor Fernando sent an email to members about a singing group from Rockford giving a concert here in October. Jason moved, seconded by LaVona, to invite them to come and the motion carried. Many thanks to Jeff Law, Noah Johnson, and Joe Michels for installing the new television in the back of the sanctuary, just in time for VBS to use it.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

**Respectfully submitted, Molly Andersen**



## Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 9381.39		
	July 2025	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$ 11756.23	\$
Church Expenses	\$ 132761.16	\$
Net Operating Balance	\$	\$ -35239.46
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$	\$
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions - vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
June 29	\$ 2903.75	67	3 Dogs	67+3 Dogs
July 06	\$ 1445.00	54		55
July 13	\$ 1589.00	39		93
July 20	\$ 2364.97	51	1+1 Dog	52
July 27	\$ 1688.00	48	2 + 2 dogs	50
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 10017.72</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>3 + 3dogs</b>	<b>309+ 3 dogs</b>



### In Our Prayers

Sandy Froehlich-(doing immune therapy), Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Tinslee,(awaiting transplant) Ed & Barb Jepsen, Alyssa Volkers, Christine Jepsen, Karen (Paul's Mayer sister, in hospice ) The Norman family, Dan Zambon, Mia Paula's co-worker), Baby Adrian, Julie Brunner (Linda Jachino's cousin),

Martha White, Tim Cavanagh, (waiting for heart surgery heart surgery) Derek Osborn, Nadine Law Renfro, Vicki & Michael Thomas ( Paula Mayer's friends), Janet Smith (Denise's sister), Freida Nichols, Mike Medley, Christa Jachino (Linda's daughter-in-law), The Lars Colgan family. Elijah- Cancer (LaVonnna & Bob Grandson)

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

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, snow, cold temperatures, the towns, fami-

# 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, Sept 17th from 4:30-6:30 pm

The menu includes ham and potato casserole, green beans, applesauce, and apple desserts. We'll play trivia for fun and prizes! This free meal is open to anyone over 60 with good food, good fellowship, and an awesome God. Reservations must be made by calling the church office at 815-273-2345 by noon, Monday, September 15th. Rides are available, in-town only.

## SOUL SISTERS OUTING "EXPLORING GALENA"

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 19TH

Explore the shops & galleries of downtown

Galena \*Lunch at a local restaurant

\*Carpool will leave the church at 9:00 A.M.

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

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Will resume on Sept. 7th at 9:00 (Right after Prater group at 8:30), We meet in the Library. Will begin a 6 Week study on the book of Ruth. You are welcome to join there are plenty of Seats

**SO! COME AND JOIN US.**

## School Supply Drive helpers!

Thank you to Linda Jachino, Pam Darrow, Linda Stubbe, Carol and Jason Fosdick, Esther Losh, Kathie Prins, Mary Irons, and Pastor Fernando and Isabel worked the giveaway. Rhonda, Boyd, and Annika Law moved all the supplies. And many thanks to Kay Cavanagh, who set up the tables and cleaned up after it all. Thank you to everyone who donated items and money that made it all possible.

And a big thank you to our Northern Illinois Conference for the \$1000 grant we received. God is good

## Blessing Basket

Blessing Basket shelves are cleaned out after the School Supply drive. Please consider donating men's and women's shampoo or body wash and children's toothbrushes and toothpaste. You can leave your donations in the Food

## Kids Kards

Kids Kards will be back to work making cards for the residents at Big Meadows and Pinnacle Place. We will meet after worship on September 28<sup>th</sup> and have Lunchables to take home. All materials are provided and everyone is welcome.





**Weekly Prayer Meeting**  
Sundays 8:30 –9:00

**Bible Study**  
resumes on **Monday 08 September.** at 9:30 AM Books are in the office now!

**Finance & Growth Meeting**  
will be on Tuesday, September  
9th @ 5—6:30 pm FUMC-Savanna

**First Day of Impact Youth Group**  
will be  
Sept. 14

**UMWF –Meeting**  
Will be Sept. 02

**Trustee/Ad Council** will  
meet on Sunday, Sept 24th  
at 9 am/11:30 pm

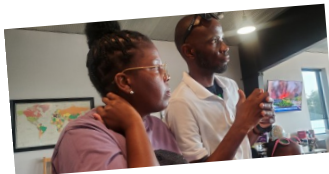
**United Methodist Men**  
Will meet on Tuesday,  
Sept. 16th @ 5:30 pm  
**Telstar items due on**  
**Sept 15th!!!!**

Please let us Share pictures of  
our  
Church activities

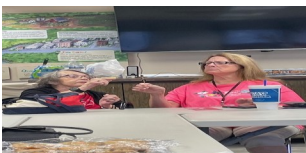
**14th Sunday after Pentecost;**  
**Grandparent's Day**

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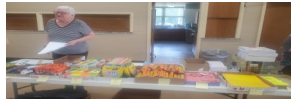
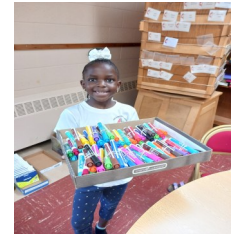
### **UM Women in Faith**



### **Soul Sisters**



## School Supply



## JOY DINNER



## Craft-show organized by Karen Hoffman







# Potluck Lunch

**Sunday, Sept. 7th  
@11:15**

**Signup sheet in the hall on  
the table**

**Invite a friend and join us!  
Drinks & place settings will be provided**

## **IMPACT YOUTH GROUP IS BAAACK!**

**First United Methodist Church in Savanna  
6-12<sup>th</sup> graders  
All denominations welcome**

**Sunday, Sept. 14  
5:00-6:15pm**

**SEPTEMBER'S THEME:  
SURVIVOR CHALLENGES:  
"GOD AS OUR REFUGE"**





## September 2025

1—Kim Bundy  
1—Caleb Thornton  
1—Tom & LeaAnn Michels (1979)  
2—Ramona Green  
2—Nick Law  
3—Jean Treter  
5—Kenny Clemens  
7—Julie Brigham  
11—Madison Haynes  
12—Lori Law  
14—Sherri Miller  
16—Boyd Law  
24—Rod & Christy Clemens (2005)  
24—Janis Wilt  
26—Tim & Kay Cavanagh (1986)  
26—Jessica Turner  
28—Bob & Sandy Froehlich (1985)



### Liturgists

Sunday 7 – Christina Pasch

Sunday 14 – Linda Jachino

Sunday 21 – Jason Moore

Sunday 28 - LeAnn Michels

### Acolytes

Sunday 7 – Christina Pasch

Sunday 14 – Linda Jachino

Sunday 21 – Jason Moore

Sunday 28 - LeAnn Michels

### Coffee Hour

Sunday 7 – All Church Potluck

Sunday 14 – Vivian & Jim

Sunday 21 – Cavanagh

Sunday 28 -

### Counters & Verifiers

Sunday 7 – Molly Andersen & Tom Michels

Sunday 14 – Ronda Law & Karen Hoffman

Sunday 21 – Lori Miller Sharon F. Guilinger

Sunday 28 - Vivian Eaton

**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)**

# Sept. 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>01/ Labor Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>02</b>  Office opens 8:30—4:30  UMWF	<b>03</b> Office opens 8:30—4:30 Pastor will be at The Table for De- votion 10:45 2 pm Choir Practice	<b>04</b> 1 Office opens 8:30—4:30	<b>05</b> Office opens 8:30—4:30	
<b>07 Communion</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 Potluck-Lunch	<b>08</b> <u><b>Bible Study</b></u> 9:00 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3 pm Joy Recap 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	<b>09</b> Office opens 8:30—4:30	<b>10</b> Office opens 8:30—4:30 Pastor will be at The Table for De- votion 10:45 2 pm Choir Practice	<b>11</b>  Office opens 8:30—4:30	<b>12</b> Office opens 8:30—4:30	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr <b>Impact Youth</b> <b>5:6-30 PM</b>	<b>15</b> <u><b>Bible Study</b></u> 9:00 1 pm Sewing Ladies	<b>16</b> Office opens 8:30—4:30  <u><b>United Meth- odist Men</b></u> Will meet on 5:30 pm	<b>17</b> 4:40-6:30 JOY Din- ner Pastor will be at The Table for De- votion 10:45 2 pm Choir Practice <b>JOY— 4:30-PM</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>Worship Com- mittee</b>  <b>3:30-4:40</b> <b>Past. Will be @ the Nursing</b>	<b>19</b> Office opens 8:30—4:30  Soul Sisters Outing "Exploring GALENA	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr	<b>22</b> <u><b>Bible Study</b></u> 9:00 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3 pm Joy Recap 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	<b>23</b> Office opens 8:30—4:30	<b>24</b> Office opens 8:30—4:30  Pastor will be at The Table for De- votion 10:45 2 pm Choir Practice	<b>25</b> 1 Office opens 8:30—4:30	<b>26</b> Office opens 8:30—4:30	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Trustees 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr	<b>29</b> <u><b>Bible Study</b></u> 9:00 1 pm Sewing Ladies	<b>30</b>				