



First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We're glad that you are here
To all who need comfort, all who need friendship.
All who are lonely and need companionship.
all who want sheltering love, all who sin
and need a Savior, and whosoever will

—We open wide our doors and say, "Come; let us worship together."

Third Sunday in Lent, Year A

10:15 March 8, 2026
LITURGIST Susan Michelle Jepsen
LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLE Kirk Hoffman
MUSIC TO PREPARE OUR HEART Vivian Eaton

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS (call/text Pastor 773-971-7208)

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Susan Michelle Jepsen

L: The Lord continually watches all of God's own sheep.

P: They are led to green pastures and brought before stilled waters.

L: Praise God for God's tender and loving care of us.

P: Thanks to God for all the mercies God shows to us.

L: Let us enter God's house with hearts filled with joy.

P: O Lord, open our spirits to respond to your words of compassion. AMEN.

***HYMN UMH # 593 "HERE I AM LORD"**

***OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)**

God of love, you created us to love you and one another.

We confess that we have sometimes limited that love to words and failed to make that love real by our actions.

We have failed to recognize Christ in the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the naked, the incarcerated, and the sick.

Too often, we have turned away from your presence, failing to share what we have with our brothers and sisters in need.

Forgive us. Turn our hearts and guide us to follow in your ways anew. AMEN

***THE APOSTLE'S CREED #881**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and

earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried. the third day, he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Children's Moment: LaVona Grissinger

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25: 35-40 NRSV Susan Michelle Jepsen

The Word of God for the People of God

P: Thanks be to God

Song of Preparation: DVD

Message: "The Blessings of God for those who help the poor" Pastor Ray Gimenez

OFFERING OURSELVES

***DOXOLOGY #95**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

With great joy, we receive our morning offering today. This is a vital reminder of the many ways in which we can serve God through the ministries and mission of this church. Let us joyfully receive this morning's offering. Amen

HYMN TFWS # 2130 "THE SUMMONS"

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor Fernando

*** GOING FORTH TO THE WORLD**

Vivian Eaton

IN OUR PRAYER

Don Kramer- Big Meadows, physical therapy Sandy Froehlich- Continues Home therapy - Curtis Pilgrim-Morrison Nursing Home, Mia, Derek Osborn, Janet Smith, Tinslee recuperating Nicely, Dan Zambon cancer, Christa Jachino- Breast Cancer. Abra- Early pregnancy-prayer to go to term. Marilyn Kline, Wheelchair bound at nursing home. Bob Bauer goes to NE in March for a check-up! Tim Cavanagh-Home recovering well! Frank Norman -Begins chemotherapy, every 3 wks. -Also Franks granddaughter, Grace -Jeff Doran - on dialysis- Pastor Narda, recovering from surgery - Lt. Brian Robinson, in the Ukraine. Susan Michelle's dad, Richard, is failing in health, Hazi Coffee,

daughter of Jason & Cori, high-risk pregnancy- Emily Medley, brother recovering, uncle has lung cancer, Karen Hoffman's friend Matt hospice, Barb Tracey, stroke, in rehab. Sandy Jilderda- car accident. Bill Haas, cancer. Kay's mom is hospitalized. Jerry Cavanagh, successful surgery. Colleen Olson brain tumor. Melinda Dykema, migraines. Vivian Eaton, health. Mike Medley is in Freeport Hospital, serious liver problems

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner, Steve Yenney, Brenda Hamm, Janice Wilt, Mary Ellen Dreger, Florence Bevins-Powell, Judy Law

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, and those grieving their loved ones.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 9 - Logan Hoffman

13 - John & Linda Jachino (1971)

14 - Tom Michels

CALENDAR

Monday, March 9

9:00 am to noon - Office opens

1 to 3 pm - Sewing Ladies

Tuesday, March 10

9 am to 12 noon - Office opens

Wednesday, March 11

9:00 am to noon - Office opens

Thursday, March 12

9 am to 12 noon - Office opens

Friday, March 13

9:00 am to noon - Office opens

Sunday, March 15

8:30 am- Prayer Meeting

9:00 am -Sunday School

10:15 am - Main Service

WORSHIP HELPERS

	March 8	March 15
Acolyte	Kirk Hoffman	Faith Gonzalez
Liturgist	Susan Michelle Jepsen	Women of Faith
Counter	Rhonda Law	Lori Miller
Verifier	Tom Michels	Kay Cavanagh
Coffee Hour	Mary Irons & Esther Losh	Men's Group
Greeter	Bob & LaVona Grissinger	Hospitality Cmte.
Usher	Hospitality Cmte.	Esther Losh

Last Week's Attendance: 73

ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Carroll Food Pantry

Thank you so much for your generosity!

The Blessing Basket – Thank you for all your donations! Please consider supplying dish soap, toilet paper, and paper towels.

The Women's Group is asking you to bring clean and dry plastic bags. The group will make sleeping mats out of them for homeless people. You can drop them off in a box in the sewing room at church.

New Member Class – will be given by Pastor Fernando. This will be 5 classes, **either in person or via Zoom**, if you are interested, let the office know.

Women's Sunday, March 15 – All women are invited to participate.

Rice Meal Packing will be held on April 25th. Donations are accepted until April.

Impact Youth Sunday March 8, 5-6:15pm. 90's night

The Witness March 29, 6:00pm Presented by the Victory Center

CPR- There will be training on April 12th After Church: Please register With LaVona Gressiger.

Free Family Movie: Savanna Lion's Club presents two Movies, tonight at Savanna Times Theater.

-SAVANNA -

The 2026 Interfaith Lenten Services take place 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at a variety of locations in Savanna. The goal is to encourage cooperation among several Christian denominations. All donations collected during the services will go to fund this year's Vacation Bible School held each July at First United Methodist Church.

The Lenten schedule is as follows:

6:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at First Presbyterian Church, 502 Third St. Pastor Bonnie Davies

6:30 p.m. March 4 at The Table, Great River Outreach, 411 Main St. Pastor Narda Alvelo

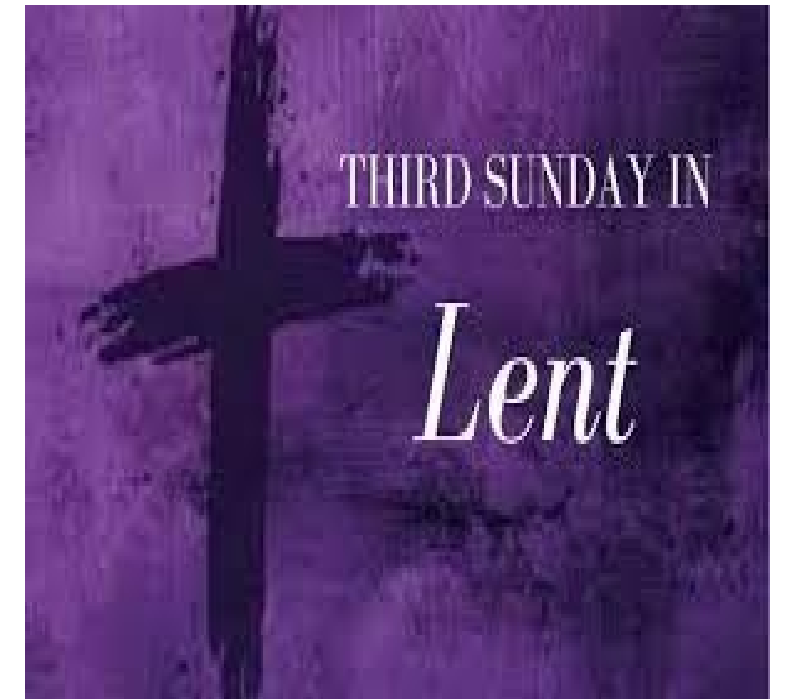
6:30 p.m. March 11 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 318 Chicago Ave. Pastor Gary Panetta

6:30 p.m. March 18 at Community United Church of Christ, 346 Chicago Ave. Pastor Fernando

6:30 p.m. March 25 at First United Methodist Church, 2100 Chicago Ave. Father Julius Clavero

A special Good Friday service will be held at noon on April 3 at First United Methodist Church, 2100 Chicago Ave. The story of the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus will be told.

For more information please call, (815) 590-1792



**First United
Methodist Church**
Sunday, March 8, 2026
at 10:15 am

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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TUNE RADIO TO STATION FM 88.9

VICTORY CENTER PRESENTS:

The Witness

“A powerful musical drama of the life of Jesus Christ”
The Witness is a moving musical drama that brings the gospel to life through song, and testimony. Experience the life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as witnessed by those who walked beside Him.

March 29 / 6:00 PM
First United Methodist Church
2100 Chicago Ave Savanna, IL