



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."

Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year A

10:15 March 22, 2026
LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLE Ryker McCombie
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** Joe Michels

L: Coming from places that have seen better days,
C: God bids us to celebrate this day, a day full of new possibilities.
L: Coming with our breath taken away by grief,
C: The Holy Spirit breathes new life within us, renewing our connection with God and with one another.
L: Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,
C: Christ unbinds the fetters that hold us in death, speaking in word and sacrament, and building community for holy service.

***HYMN TFWS #2129 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus."**

***OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)**

God of mercy, we come to you dry and lifeless, seeking your breath of life. Lead us to the place where our hopes lie buried and call us out from the tombs of despair. Call forth our faith that, with Martha, we may know you to be the resurrection and the life, in this world and the world to come. 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:

Scripture Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14 NRSV Joe Michels
The Word of God for the People of God

P: Thanks be to God

Song of Preparation: CHOIR

Message: DON'T GIVE UP ON HOPE - Pastor Fernando
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**
Consoling God of comfort and love, we bring more than our gifts and tithes today; we bring ourselves as an offering – ready to use our arms, hands, and feet to be your comforting and strengthening presence to others. We make this offering joyfully and faithfully in the name of Jesus, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

HYMN UMH # 467 "Trust and Obey"

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING Pastor Fernando
*** GOING FORTH TO THE WORLD Vivian Eaton**

IN OUR PRAYER

Don Kramer, Curtis Pilgrim, Tinslee, Dan Zambon, Christa Jachino, Abra, Bob & Teresa Bauer, Sandy Froehlich, Tim Cavanagh, Frank Norman, Grace, Jeff Doran, Pastor Narda, Richard, Hazi Coffee, Mike & Emily Medley, Matt, Barb Tracey, Kay Cavanagh's mom. Lt. Brian Robinson, Bill Haas, Sandy Jilderda, Jerry Cavanagh, Colleen Olsen, Melinda Dykema, Vivian Eaton, Kevin, Bob Grissinger

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner, Steve Yenny, 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 22 – Patrick Holcomb
26 – Don Kramer
28 – Kim Gonzalez

CALENDAR Joe Michels

Monday, March 23
9:00 am to noon – Office open
1 to 3 pm – Sewing Ladies
Tuesday, March 24
9 am to 12 noon – Office open
Wednesday, March 25
9:00 am to noon – Office open
Thursday, March 26
9 am to 12 noon – Office open
Friday, March 27
9:00 am to noon - Office open
Sunday, March 29
8:30 am– Prayer Meeting
9:00 am -Sunday School
10:15 am – Main Service
6:00 pm – The Witness

WORSHIP HELPERS

	March 22	March 29
Acolyte	Ryker McCombie	Tyson Speer
Liturgist	Joe Michels	Sherry Cancelose
Counter	Vivian Eaton	Lori Miller
Verifier	LaVona Grissinger	Mary Irons
Coffee Hour	Hospitality Cmte.	Ross & Glenda Bronkema
Greeter	Kris Yingling & Noah Johnson	Hospitality Cmte.
Usher	Kelly Johnson	Hospitality Cmte.

Last Week's Attendance: 66

ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Carroll Food Pantry

Thank you so much for your generosity!

The Blessing Basket – Thank you for all your donations! Please consider Supplying shampoo & body wash, dish soap, toilet paper, and paper towels.

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.

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

The Witness March 29, 6:00pm Presented by the Victory Center Meal will be served

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

Easter Eggs Please pick up Easter Eggs to be filled by March 29 in the Narthex. Thank you!

Men's Group March 24

Pastor Narda Alvelo Fundraiser March 27, 5:00 to 7:30 pm At Manny's Tickets: \$20 each--\$10 will go to help Narda with medical bills. Choice of Fried fish with baked potato or Italian beef with cheesy potatoes

Palm Sunday March 29

Easter Sunday April 5, Sunrise Sunday & Breakfast

Easter : April 5, Special Offering will be collected. Please consider giving.

Directory Project Pictures Please register you and your loved ones

Soul Sisters Thursday, April 2nd, 9:30 am Carpool leaves church. 10:00am Tour Sawmill Museum, 11:30 am lunch on your own at Rastrelli's Italian Restaurant. RSVP Linda Jachino (815) 541-4760

Kids Kards Today after service, Easter cards and sandwiches for lunch!

Choir Practice March 25, 2:00pm Choir singing the 29th and the following Sunday.

-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. 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



Fifth Sunday of Lent

First United
Methodist Church
Sunday, March 22, 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

A painting of the Last Supper, showing Jesus and his twelve apostles seated around a table, with a red glow emanating from the center.