



**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.”*

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

10:15

September 20, 2026

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLE

Joe Pasch

MUSIC TO PREPARE OUR HEART

Vivian Eaton

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS**

**Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

**\*CALL To Worship:** Sherry Cancelose

**L:** Come, people of God, for we are called for such a time as this!

**People: We stand ready to seek God's will and follow His call.**

**L:** Though fear surrounded her, Esther stepped forward in faith.

**People: With courage, we trust that God is working through us.**

**L:** Then let us worship the Lord, who gives us strength for every moment.

**People: We will go where God leads, for He is faithful. Amen!**

**\*HYMN UM #462 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus**

**\*OPENING PRAYER:**

**Oh Good and Gracious God, You have called us at this time and in this place for a purpose. When fear and uncertainty rise, give us the courage to stand firm in faith. When we face the unknown, give us strength. When the task before us seems too great, remind us that you go before us, making a way. Like Esther, may we seek you in prayer and trust in your wisdom. Give us boldness to speak truth. Give us compassion to act in love and give us strength to do what is right—even when it comes at a cost. Oh God, you have called us "for such a time as this." May we answer with faith and obedience, knowing that you are always working for the**

**good of your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Introduction: Confirmation Class 26/27**

**Scripture Reading: Esther 4:5-17 NRSV Sherry Cancelose**

**Matthew: Matthew 4:18–20**

**The Word of God for the People of God**

**P: Thanks be to God**

**Song of Preparation: Sing! Shout! Alleluia. By Joseph Martin**

**Message: “We are Called for Such a Time as This”**

**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

Pastor Fernando

**Help us to be generous givers, dear Lord, both of us Money and our lives, that we might make a difference in this town. We ask this through Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave all that he was that we might know life in all its fullness. Amen.**

**HYMN #577 “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

**\* GOING FORTH TO THE WORLD**

Vivian Eaton

**“In our Prayers”**

Froelich, Kathie Prins, Carroll Ingersoll, Heather Mullins, Colleen Olsen, Howard Nichols, Curtis Pilgrim, Lt. Brian Robinson, Julia Castro, Chuck Atherton, Bob & Teresa Bauer, Amil Bork, Rachael Williams, Joyce Eversoll, Kim Kauffman, Caleb Thorton, Bella Harbron

**Sympathy:**

**Our shut-ins:** Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Mary Ellen Dreger, Florence Bevins-Powell, Judy Law, Don Kramer.

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**

September Birthdays

20- Jason Moore

24 – Janis Wilt

**CALENDAR**

Monday, September 21

Office Open 9 am – 12 pm

1 pm to 3 pm – Sewing Ladies

Tuesday, September 22

Office Open 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Wednesday, September 23

Office Open 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Thursday, September 24

Office Open -9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Friday, September 25

Office Open -9:00 am to 12:00 am

Sunday, September 27

8:30 am – Prayer Meeting

10:15 Worship

10:45 Coffee Hour

**Sermon Series “Called: Answering God’s Invitation”**

**Reflection Questions**

**1<sup>st</sup> Week 1. Samuel 3:1-15 “We are all called, yes, even You”**

- Are you listening to God’s call for your own life?
- Are you paying attention to what God might be saying to you
- How are you listening? How will you respond?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week: Luke 1:26-38 “We are Called to Trust”**

- When has God called you to trust in uncertain circumstances?
- How do you find assurance when God's call seems risky?
- Where is God asking you to step out in faith today?

**3rd Week: Exodus 4:1-13 “We are called and equipped”**

- What "ordinary tools" has God placed in your hands?
- Where do you feel inadequate for God's calling?
- How have you seen God work through your weaknesses?

**4th Week: Acts 9:1-19 “We are called to follow”**

- Where have you seen God redirect your "zeal" toward His purposes?
- How has God interrupted your plans for His better plan?
- Who in your life seems "too far gone" for God's grace

**5th Week John 4:25-30,39-40 “We are called to Build Relationship”**

- Who are the "outsiders" in your community that Jesus is calling you to reach?
- How can your personal story become a bridge to others?
- Where is God asking you to cross social or cultural boundaries?

**6th Esther 4:5-17 “We are called for such a Time as this”**

- What "impossible" situation might God be calling you to address?
- How can you find courage when the cost of obedience seems too high?
- Who is your community of support in times of difficult calling?

Last Week’s Attendance: 69

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**West Carroll Food Pantry** -Thank you so much for your generosity!  
**The Blessing Basket** -The Blessing Basket provides clients of the West Carroll School Food Pantry with free household items and personal hygiene products. We always need laundry detergent, paper towels, and toilet paper. This ministry is possible only because of your generosity, Thank you for all your donations! Please consider donating items and placing them in the Food Pantry box in the narthex.

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

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Mentors should meet with Pastor Fernando for 10 Minutes after service.

**KIDS KARD:** Kids Kard is back; we will make Kards for Big Meadows and Pinnacle Place Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

**Charge Conference:** Our Church Conference is coming soon; please start Getting your reports done.

**Savanna Food Pantry - Thank you.** Our next turn is October 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> if you are interested in helping.

**Mark & Robin Cook Fundraiser Picnic:** This year, FUMC is Supporting as part of our 190years, be Present!  
Date: September 27 Time: 2:00 pm-  
Place: Miller Excavating, 9423 IL RT 84



First United  
Methodist Church  
September 20, 2026  
Sunday, 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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ccli#2014483& #21007722  
**TUNE RADIO TO STATION FM 88.9**

**PICNIC**  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27  
2:00 – 5:30 PM  
Trades Scholarship Fundraiser

**Schedule of Events**

- Food 2:00 – 5:30
- Live Music 2:00 – 5:30
- Bounce Houses 2:00 – 5:30
- Live Auction 3:15
- Raffle Drawings
  - 50/50 4:50
  - Hog 5:00
  - 1/4 Beef 5:10

Miller Excavating  
9423 IL Rt 84  
Savanna, Illinois

Investing in  
Local Talent  
and Brighter  
Futures! ♥

**GOOD FOOD.  
GREAT MUSIC.  
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW!**

**We Need You!**  
Help Us Make This Event a Success!  
We'd love for our church family to be part of this special day.  
Even just your presence makes a big difference!

**Be a Friendly Face**  
Greet attendees and help them feel welcome.

**Lend a Hand Where Needed**  
Help restock food or drink tables and serve sandwiches.

**Help with Kids Activities**  
Assist at the bubble station or keep an eye on the bounce houses.

**Share Information**  
Help guests find food, auction tables, bathrooms, kids' games and the schedule of events.

Many hands make a meaningful difference! ♥

**First United Methodist Church**  
SAVANNA, ILLINOIS

Living Our Faith.  
Serving Our Community.  
Building Brighter Futures.