



Our Mission is To Love Boldly Serve joyfully, Lead courageously .



Our Vision Statement

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

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JESUS IS ALIVE — WHAT COMES NEXT?

What a powerful way to begin a new month: walking through Holy Week and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus—the very foundation of our faith. “Jesus Christ was raised by the power of the Holy Spirit.” We rejoice because His victory over death is also the promise of our own. **Live again? Really?**

Paul answers boldly: “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead... the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20).

The resurrection is not a metaphor. It is a fact.

Friends, we know that America—and much of the Western world—is growing increasingly skeptical of faith in Jesus Christ. As I reflect on this reality, I ask myself:

After hearing the beautiful story of the resurrection once again, what are we called to do? As faithful Christians in a Skeptical world?

My prayer is simple: That each of us would step just a little beyond our comfort zones and seek to understand deeply why Jesus died and rose again. Because when we are saturated with the truth of His sacrifice and His victory, we will naturally carry that message beyond the walls of our comfort.

This is the next step of our faith: We are the witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection to the world around us.

How Do We Become Witnesses? Start with this: **Read your Bible.**

Because whether we realize it or not, the world is reading us every day. As Spurgeon said so well: “The Bible is not the light of the world; it is the light of the Church. But the world does not read the Bible—the world reads Christians.” And Jesus Himself said, “You are the light of the world.”

What comes next after Easter is simple and profound: Let the world see your light.

As we read Scripture, the world will begin to “read” the Bible through our faithfulness, our character, and our witness.

Four Steps for Living as Resurrection Witnesses

1. Believe what you read.: When we truly believe something is true, we naturally defend it, live it, and share it.
2. Believe that you are the light of the world. :Jesus is the Light, and He has made us reflectors of that light.

Remember: ***You are not the darkness of the world.***

3. Hold fast to the truth that Jesus is the only way to eternal life: Through Him we discover the depth of God’s grace, love, and forgiveness.
4. Remember that Jesus came to spread God’s grace to all people.

And now He sends us to do the same.

So, What Is Next?

Friends, as witnesses of the resurrection, our calling is urgent: Spread this good news in your neighborhood, your workplace, your family, and your community. Let the world see the risen Christ through your life.

Let them read the gospel in your actions.

Let them encounter grace through your words. Because Jesus is alive—and now the world needs to see that truth alive in us.

In Christ, Fernando.

Directory Project

It has been 11 years since our church last compiled a Directory. Since 2015, many things have changed: some have left, new friends have joined us, and some beloved members have moved away. You may wonder whether we truly need a new Directory. Allow me to highlight a few important reasons,

supported by several ministry reports: Why a Church Directory Matters

1. **Fosters Community and Connection** : A directory helps us recognize one another and strengthens the “family-like” spirit we value so deeply.
2. **Connects Faces and Names** : It bridges the gap between knowing someone’s name and recognizing their face, making fellowship more natural.
3. **Supports Pastoral Care & Ministry** : Directories are essential tools for staff and ministry leaders as they organize prayer chains, small groups, and care visits.
4. **Welcomes New Members**: New attendees can learn names and faces quickly, helping them feel at home and get involved sooner.
5. **Improves Communication** : Updated digital and printed directories ensure that contact information is accurate and communication remains strong.

How You Can Help

As you come to church this Sunday, please take a moment to write down your name and the names of your loved ones so the team can schedule a day for your photo.

This invitation is for everyone who considers themselves part of this church family. Even if you or your relatives have not attended in recent months, you are warmly welcome to register and update your information. Thank you all for your kindness, cooperation, and commitment to strengthen our fellowship.

Looking forward to seeing your faces in the directory.

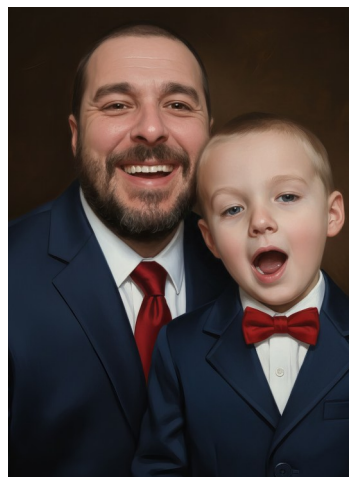
The Directory Team.

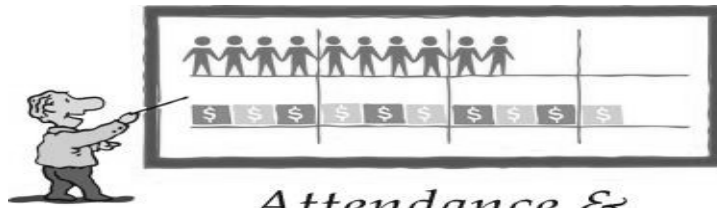
Susan Michelle

Molly Andersen

Paul Mayer

SAMPLE OF RETOUCHEd PORTRAITS





Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 20,510.72		
	February 2026	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$17,255.95	\$30,748.43
Church Expenses	\$13,783.03	\$29,117.43
Net Operating Balance	\$3,472.92	\$1631.00
NIC Apportionments Paid		\$2146.94
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions - vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
March 1	\$4588.61	72		72
March 8	\$1929.00	73		73
March 15	\$1720.00	56	1	57
March 22	\$2501.10	68	1	69
March 29	\$1438.97	70		70
Totals	\$12,177.68	339	2	341

In Our Prayers

James Gonzalez, Bob Grissinger, Don Kramer, Curtis Pilgrim, Tinslee, Dan Zambon, Christa Jachino, Tim Cavanagh, Frank Norman, Grace, Jeff Doran, Pastor Narda, Richard (Pinky) Thompson, Hazi Coffee, Mike Medley, Matt, Barb Tracey, Kay Cavanagh's mom. Lt. Brian Robinson, Bill Haas, Sandy Jilderda, Jerry Cavanagh, Colleen Olsen, Kevin Everson, Benny McClure, Steve Yenny

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.

Sympathy to Ramirez Family

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!

If you are interested in getting involved in this ministry, call Mary Irons at 815-541-8487.

JOY (Just Older Youth) Ministry

Wednesday, April 15th from 4:30-6:30 pm

in our Fellowship Hall. Anyone over 60 is invited for a free dinner. Reservations must be made by noon, **Monday, April 13th** by calling the church office at 815-273-2345.

Rides are available, in-town only.

Come join the fun, fellowship, and great food.

West Carroll Food Pantry

West Carroll School Food Pantry and Savanna Food Pantry are in need of donations. For every dollar you donate, they can buy \$8 of food. You can designate on your offering envelope if you would like to make a monetary donation, just specify which pantry and how much. Thank you!

FUMC Serving April 12 and 14th

9-12 noon

SOUL SISTERS

Tour of the Sawmill Museum in Clinton IA and Lunch at Rastrelli's Restaurant

Thursday, April 2nd

9:30 A.M. --Carpool leaves church (we need drivers)

10:00 A.M.--Tour the Sawmill Museum (\$4 admission fee)

Lots of fabulous exhibits tell the story of Clinton's reputation as a former "Lumber Capital of the World"! Handicap-accessible

11:30 A.M.--Lunch "on your own" at Rastrelli's Italian Restaurant. Large salad bar, extensive menu, pizza specials

***Sweetheart Bakery and other shops are near the restaurant.*

RSVP "yes" or "no"--or ?'s---contact me via email or (815) 541-4760

Kids Kards

Kids Kards will meet after worship on **April 29^h** in the fellowship hall.

All materials are provided, we just need your artistic talents. Any questions call Molly Andersen 815-541-6852.

Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket provides household and personal hygiene items to the clients who use the West Carroll School Food Pantry. This month we are in need of dish detergent and facial tissues. We are always needing donations of shampoo, deodorant, and body wash. You can leave any items in the Food Pantry box in the narthex. This program helps so many families in our community. Thank you for your continued support.



**Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting
is cancelled through the Lenten Season**

Finance & Growth Meeting
will be announced later on.

**Maundy Thursday Service at FUMC at 6:30 pm.
Good Friday Service at FUMC @ 12 noon.**

United Women of Faith

We be meeting **Tuesday, April** at
6:30 pm at the church.
Prayer & Self-Denial

All women are invited!

**Trustee/Ad Council will
meet on Sunday, April 29th
at 9 am/11:30 pm**

**Rice Meal Packing
will take place Sat. April 25th!
Donations are being accepted.
Baskets will be in the back of
the Sanctuary
to donate!**

United Methodist Men
Will be announced later on.

Kids Kards

Kids Kards will meet after worship on Sunday, April 26th. We'll be doing double duty, making Mother's Day and Father's Day cards. Lunch will be a variety of dips. Everyone is welcome and all materials are provided. Just bring your creativity and share it with our

JOY Dinner

JOY (Just Older Youth) is a free monthly meal, fellowship, and program for anyone over 60 years old. We will meet on Wednesday, April 15th from 4:30-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner and program details are still being worked out but reservations need to be made by noon, Monday, April 13th, by calling the church office at 815-273-2345. Rides are available, in-town only.

Greeters

**April 5 -Bob & LaVona Grissinger
April 12 - Ross & Glenda Bronkema
April 19 - Bob & LaVona Grissinger
April 26-Deb Long**

Ushers

**April 5 - Linda, Kim, Tim
April 12 - Esther Losh, Isobel Castro,
Pam Darrow, Molly Andersen
April 19 -Rhonda, Bruse, Pam & Molly
April 26 -Pam D. Molly A,**

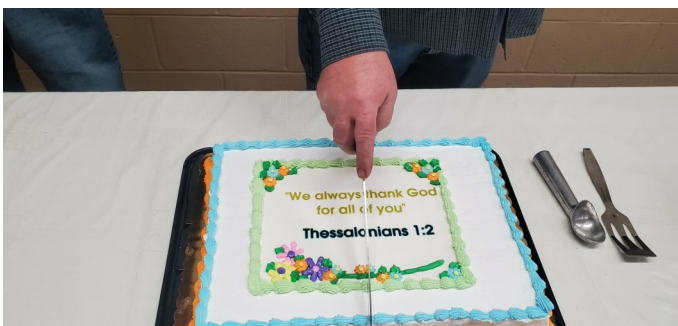
Methodist World Evangelism Forum



Interfaith Ministers of Savanna



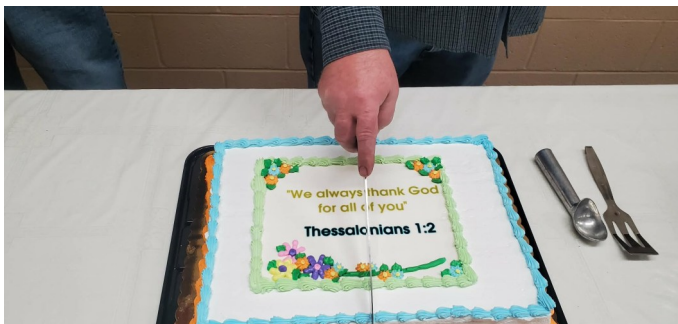
Women's Sunday



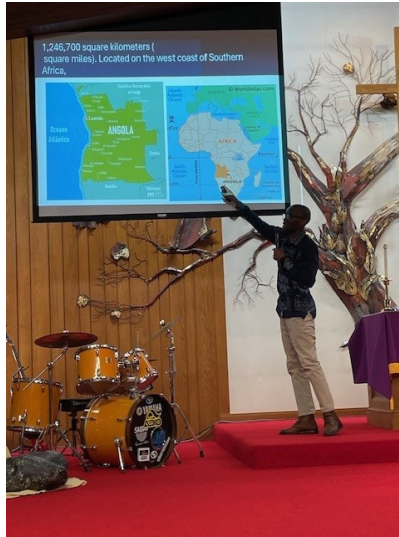
Women's Sunday



Women's Sunday Pictures cont.



From Angola to Savanna for Soul Sisters



Craft Days



The Witness Meal



The Witness





April 2026

- 1 - Katie Hoffman
- 1 - *Paul & Charlene Mayer (1964)*
- 2 - April Rudell
- 3 - Chuck Foruler
- 6 - Melinda Dykema
- 8 - Karen Hoffman
- 9 - Jeanine Mills
- 11 - Rosemary Hartman
- 12 - Deb Long
- 14 - Ennie Maria de Castro
- 14 - Kathie Prins
- 15 - Claire Floming
- 15 - *Carlo & Linda Stubbe (1972)*
- 16 - Alice Riffe-Torrison
- 18 - Derek Osborn
- 20 - Ross Bronkema
- 21 - Jim Haynes
- 22 - Patrick Holcomb
- 23 - Anna Badtke
- 26 - Don Kramer
- 29 - Burt Prins
- 30 - Chris Nortunen



Liturgists

- April 5 - Deanne Kramer & Susan King
- April 12 - Paula Mayer
- April 19 - Tim Cavanagh
- April 26 - Kris Yingling

Acolytes

- April 5 - Joe Pasch
- April 12 - Ellie Johnson
- April 19 - Kirk Hoffman
- April 26 - Boyd Law

Coffee Hour

- April 5 - Pastor's Family
- April 12 - Bob & LaVona Grissinger
- April 19 - Mayer family
- April 26 - Miller family

Counters & Verifiers

- April 5 - Molly Andersen & Pam Darrow
- April 12 - Rhonda Law & Linda Jachino
- April 19 - Lori Miller & Kay Cavanagh
- April 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**



April 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Maundy Thurs. 6:30 pm	3 Good Friday noon	4
5 Communion 7:00 Sunrise Service 8:00 Breakfast 9:00 Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 worship CHOIR Sings	6 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	7	8	9 Movie Night Fellowship 5pm Movie 6pm	10	11
12 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 4 - 5:15pm Pork Chop Drive-thru Dinner 5-6:15 pm Youth Group	13 1 pm Sewing Ladies	14 Savanna Food Pantry 9-12 noon	15 4:40-6:30 JOY Dinner	16 Savanna Food Pantry 9-12 noon	17	198
19 :30 am Prayer 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee hr 4 - 5:15pm Pork Chop Drive-thru Dinner 5-6:15 pm Youth Group	20 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3 pm Joy Recap 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	21	22	23	24	25 9 am Rice Meal Packing @ FUMC
26 8:30 am Prayer 9 am Trustees 9 am Adult SS 9 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Kids Kards 11:30 am Coffee hr 11:45 am Ad Coucil 1:30 - 3:30 pm Girl Scouts KIDS KARDS	27 1 pm Sewing Ladies	28	29 2 pm Choir Practice	30 