

**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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**August is here, school is back, and guess what—our kids have gifts waiting for them!**

Every year, our Church blesses West Carroll students with free school supplies, and it fills my heart with joy. I especially love helping at the shoe table. Watching a child find the perfect pair—seeing them jump with excitement—reminds me of my own childhood, when new shoes and a backpack were a rare treasure. I will never forget the day my mother bought me my very first backpack that I didn't have to share.

This ministry is a beautiful outreach to our community. I thank God for every donor, every volunteer, and for Molly Andersen, who faithfully shops for the best backpacks and shoes each year.

As school begins, families in Savanna can come to our Church and experience the love of God in action—saving money and receiving what their children need. This is the joy of August.

This month we also celebrate our 190th Anniversary with Music at the Park, sharing gospel music and root beer floats as we spread joy throughout our town.

Friends, let's make August a month of rejoicing. Our kids are back in school, our community is alive with activity, and we—Savanna First UMC—continue a 190 year legacy of being the hands and feet of Jesus.

**"Every good and perfect gift is from above..." — James 1:17**

**Blessings,**

**Fernando de Castro**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026 10:00 AM @ CHURCH LIBRARY**

Minutes from Trustee Meeting

Thank you for everything you do to care for our church and its facilities. The Administrative Council met this past Sunday, and we wanted to follow up on a few items that have been discussed for several months. We appreciate your help in moving these projects forward.

**Organ**

Vivian submitted a letter to the Administrative Council regarding the organ, and we would like to have this issue addressed before our 190th Anniversary celebration on **November 1**.

- If someone is able to inspect the organ's power supply, please contact that individual and arrange for it to be evaluated as soon as possible.
- If it is determined that the organ needs to be replaced, we should begin discussing funding options and planning for this expense.
- Tom Michaels is contacting the Hanover Methodist Church to learn more about the organ they purchased several years ago, including whether the Methodist Hymnal is programmed into the organ.
- The Administrative Council also suggests having our piano, which has organ capabilities, evaluated to determine whether it has the features needed for the hymnal. Will we be able to replace Vivan when she retires? This might be our only solution regarding hymn singing.

**Outdoor Water Faucet**

The outdoor faucet continues to not work correctly. Molly has been carrying numerous buckets of water around the church to care for the flowers she donates and maintains as part of her gift to the church. We would greatly appreciate having a plumber repair the faucet as soon as possible.

**Kitchen Water Issue**

The Administrative Council discussed the continuing foul odor in the kitchen water.

- Would replacing the current water heater with an on-demand unit solve the problem?
- Are we spending unnecessary money on temporary solutions such as bleach and peroxide treatments?
- It is not Kay's responsibility to flush the pipes weekly.

**AED Machine**

Molly will speak with Ryan Miller to verify that the AED machine is up to code and to locate the certification records for those who have completed the required training.

**Church Telephone**

Karen Hoffman will meet with the church secretary to determine why the answering system is not functioning properly.

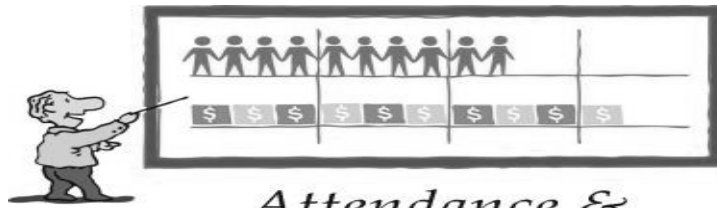
**Meeting Schedule**

To help maintain an accurate church calendar, please provide the church secretary with the dates of your Trustee meetings from now through December. All church groups are being asked to submit their meeting schedules so we can keep the calendar current and avoid conflicts.

Thank you again for your dedication and willingness to care for our church. We appreciate everything you do and look forward to working together to complete these important projects before our 190th Anniversary celebration.

With appreciation,

**Administrative Council Members**



## Attendance & Financials

|                                                 |             |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cash Available in General Account: \$ 11,902.80 |             |             |
| <b>May</b>                                      |             | YTD         |
| Church Revenue                                  | \$14,034.09 | \$91,695.93 |
| Church Expenses                                 | \$18,174.68 | \$97,841.73 |
| Net Operating Balance                           | \$4,140.59  | \$6,145.80  |
| NIC Apportionments Paid                         | \$1,115.14  | 45,986.36   |
|                                                 |             |             |
|                                                 |             |             |



| Date           | Income            | Worship Inside | Worship Outside | Total Attendance |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| June 28        | \$1,491.00        | 69             |                 | 69               |
| July 5         | \$3,582.00        | 73             | 1               | 74               |
| July 12        | \$2,205.28        | 50             |                 | 50               |
| July 19        | \$1,535.00        | 45             |                 | 45               |
| <b>July 26</b> | \$3,247.72        | 61             |                 | 61               |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>412,061.00</b> | <b>298</b>     | <b>1</b>        | <b>299</b>       |



Frank Norman, Mike Medley, Sandy Froelich, Kathie Prins, Tina Bentley, Colleen Olsen, Howard Nichols, Curtis Pilgrim, Matt, Lt. Brian Robinson, Bill Haas, Kevin & Wendy Erbsen, Julia Castro, Chuck Atherton, Denise Brinkmeier, LaVona Grissinger, Joseph Mitchell, Rev. David Forbes, Bob Bauer, Joann Grissinger, Amil Bork, Rachael Williams (friend of Jason Moore)

**Our shut-ins:** Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, 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:

# 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

**August 19, 4:30 - 6:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. JOY is a free meal, fellowship, and program open to anyone over 60 years old. We will be serving tacos and root beer floats with a special program by Dan Holmes. Dan is from Belvidere and is a well known Christian singer/songwriter who has performed in over 150 churches, the Illinois State Fair, and the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk for Breast Cancer Cure. Rides are available, in-town only. Please make reservations by noon, Monday August 17th by calling the church office at

## **SOUL SISTERS GARDEN TOUR**

We'll tour Soul Sister Arlene Skonieczny's flower gardens north of Thomson.

Bring your excess garden plants and produce for our *free* "Plant and Produce Swap."

Lunch & games will be held at the Thomson Causeway shelter house right on the Mississippi!

**DATE:** Thursday, August 6th

**TIME:** 10 A.M. (Carpool leaves church at **9:30 A.M.** *We need drivers!*)

**PLACE:** Tour---4594 Riverview Rd., Thomson

**LUNCH:** 11-ish--Large shelter house, Thomson Causeway (Potter's Rd.)

**\*BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH & DRINK**

**\*DESSERT** courtesy of Becky Sandstrom & Joan Pederson.

**DEVOTIONS & GRACE:** Rita Mitchell

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!!\*\*\***

**PLEASE, RESPOND IF YOU'RE GOING** to Linda Jachino (815-541-4760)

## Hospitality Committee

is trying to bring back Ushers and Greeters. If you would be interested in volunteering for these, please see Esther Losh.

## **United Women of Faith**

Our August 4th UWF meeting will be held at Deeann's home (6639 Riverview Rd. Thomson) at 6 o'clock. We'll be enjoying the famous and always yummy chicken soufflé casserole. Kindly let Deeann know that you'll be there so she'll be prepared for all of us. (phone number is 309-236-2194) You won't want to miss this meeting!

## **KIDS KARDS will be back in September**

## 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. Please consider donating items and placing them in the Food Pantry box in the narthex. Thank you!

**School Supply Giveaway** will be Monday, August 3rd and Friday, August 7th from 2:30-5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help distribute shoes and school supplies please let Molly Andersen know. 815-541-6852. donations are still being accepted and may be left in the Food Pantry box.



**United Methodist Men will  
meet Tuesday**

**August 11, 5:30pm**



**Trustee meet every 3rd  
Sunday at 8:30**

**Ad council 3rd Sunday  
after Service**

**Movie Night August 4, Fellowship  
5:00pm Movie starts at 6:00pm**



**Thanks for your Generosity!**

**Coffee Hour**

**August 2 - Ross & Glenda**

**August 9 - Prinses**

**August 16 - Ross & Glenda**

**August 23 -**

**August 30 - Pot Luck**





## August 2026

1- Tom Nuemiller  
 8 - Owen Holcomb  
 10 - Ryan Miller  
 11 - Joe Pasch  
 13 - LaVona Grissinger  
 14 - Brenda Hamm  
 18 - Jason & Cori Moore (2018)  
 23 - Jean Jones  
 24 - Ron Miller  
 24 - Theo Buchholz  
 26 - K J Clemmons  
 26 - Bridget Jones  
 26 - Jeff Law  
 28 - Sharon F. Guilinger  
 28 - Sharon A Guilinger  
 31 - Bob Froehlich

**If you are unable to do your scheduled day,  
please find someone to take your place!**

### Liturgists

August 2 - Joe Michels  
 August 9 - Deann Kramer  
 August 16 - Kris Yingling  
 August 23 - Jason Moore  
 August 30 - Paula Mayer



### Acolytes

August 2 -Annika Law  
 August 9 - Priscilla & Ennie Marie  
 August 16 -Joe Pasch  
 August 23 - Kirk Hoffman

### Greeters

August 2 -Melinda & Gary Dykema  
 August 9 -Prinses  
 August 16 - Melinda & Gary Dykema  
 August 23-  
 August 30 -

### Ushers

August 2 - Linda Stubbe, Pam Darrow & Molly Andersen  
 August 9 - Linda Stubbe, Pam Darrow & Molly Andersen  
 August 16 -Linda Stubbe, Pam Darrow & Molly Andersen  
 August 23 - Linda Stubbe, Pam Darrow & Molly Andersen  
 August 30- Linda Stubbe, Pam Darrow & Molly Andersen

### Counters & Verifiers

August 2 - Molly Andersen & Mary Irons  
 August 9 - Rhonda Law & Pam Darrow  
 August 16 - Lori Miller & Linda Jachino  
 August 23 - Vivian Eaton & Kay Cavanagh  
 August 30 - Lori Miller & Linda Stubbe

**JOY Dinner Great turnout 47 only 25 registered! Please register for JOY by the Monday before the meal.**



**Larry Twigg**

**West Carroll Food Pantry Received \$2000 Grant from Northern Illinois Conference**



## Getting Ready for the Parade





# PARADE DAY!





**JULY 4th PARADE Double Celebration! 250 years of Independence and 190 years of Methodist Ministry in Savanna (1836 - 2026) To God be the Glory!**





# Soul Sisters on the River



