



First United Methodist Church of Savanna, Illinois

Volume Issue



Our Mission Is to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully and Lead Courageously



January Telstar

Our 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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HOPE AND FRESH STARTS IN THE NEW YEAR OF 2026

Dear FUMC Family,

welcome to a new year in which we are called to practice hope. Our Bishop roots this theme in Psalm 130:5: "I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word, I hope." Just as the Psalmist waits with expectation, I believe each of us carries hopes for something new or something better in 2026. In the same way, Christmas is the hope the world longed for: the Lord coming to dwell among us. As Bishop Dan Schwerin reminds us, Christ's coming "in the flesh is hopeful for humanity."

Beginning a new year is exciting. We have twelve months of opportunities ahead of us—Fifty-two Sundays to worship, to grow in our relationship with God, and to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is all before us, and I am truly excited about the work I have seen God doing among us.

In 2025, I witnessed prayers being answered. One highlight was our prayers for new members to join our church. God heard us. Let me share a testimony about something I had never heard before: the phrase "church shopping." Last year, two people visited our church and told me they were looking for a church home. I thanked them and invited them to stay for worship, explaining that our service time had changed from 9:30 to 10:15. They went for coffee and returned for the service. Afterward, one of them told our Evangelist that she had been moved to tears during the preaching. Later, she told me, "Pastor, we were church shopping—and we will come back." And they did. They have not stopped coming since.

Friends, this story reflects the presence of God among us. Only God can touch hearts, restore hope, and give us inner peace.

This year, I hope to see more of these powerful movements of the Holy Spirit in our church. I hope to see fresh beginnings in our lay groups—gathering to pray, study Scripture, and grow in fellowship. I hope to see our Women's and Men's groups deepen their ministries and engage in intentional evangelism. I hope to see a Children's Choir take shape and more youth participating in worship and service.

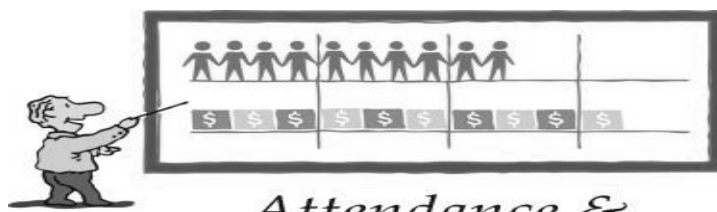
I do not know what you hope for in 2026, but as our Bishop challenges us to practice hope, I invite you to share your hopes with us. Together, we can seek God's help and strengthen one another as we walk forward in faith. Our church has long been a beacon of ministry in this community. If we desire to do even more, we must seek God's wisdom and guidance.

Samuel Smiles once wrote, "Hope is the companion of power, and mother of success; for who so hopes strongly has within him the gift of miracles."

May hope be visible in you, in me, and in all of us. And may that hope lead to God-given success in every area of our church's life.

Blessings in this New Year of 2026,

Fernando Candumbo de Castro



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 6609.03		
	November	Year to Date
Church Revenue	\$14,717.55	\$149,090.74
Church Expenses	\$ 17,673.84	\$ 203,6c88.01
Net Operating Balance	\$ -2956.26	\$ -54,657,27
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$20,988	
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
November 2	\$ 3434.00	60	1 & 2 dogs	61 & 2 dogs
November 9	\$ 3741.90	62	2 & 2 dogs	64 & 2 dogs
November 16	\$ 3571.65	61	1 & 2 dogs	62 & @ dogs
November 23	\$ 2199.00	61	1 & 1 dog	62 & 1 dog
Totals	\$ 12,946.55	244	5 & 7 dogs	249 & 7 dogs



In Our Prayers

Sandy Froehlich-(doing immune therapy), Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Tinslee (recuperating from transplant), Susan Michelle, had a surgery , Jason Moore, and Burt Prins Alyssa Volkers, Karen (Paul's Mayer sister, in hospice), The Norman family, Dan Zambo, both have cancer, Mia (Paula's co-worker), Tim Cavanagh (waiting for heart surgery). Derek Osborn, Vicki & Michael Thomas (Paula Mayer's friends), Janet Smith (Denise's sister), The Lars Colgan family. Christa Jachino- Battling breast cancer (daughter-in-law of Linda & John Jachino) Kris Dornbush, sister of Kim Stuart has a blood clot in her spinal cord and is paralyzed from the waist down. She is in rehab at Shirley Ryan Rehab in Chicago. Bob Bauer is home from Nebraska . Emily Medley and her brother-dealing with health issues. Salvador Sanchez (Esther Losh's uncle) health issues. **Randy Suckling-Heart transplant went well-Praise!** Kris Dornbush, the sister of Kim Stuart, has a blood clot in her spinal cord and is paralyzed from the waist down. Abea- Early pregnancy-prayer to go to term

(Our shut-ins: **Our shut-ins:** Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner, Steve & Linda Yenney, Brenda Hamm, Janice Wilt, Mary Ellen Dreger, July Law Florence Bevins-Powell, Jackie Walker, and Howard Nichols.

What's Happening At Church!!!!

Sewing Ministry

We invite all sewers to get involved in our sewing ministry but getting a kit in the sewing room. 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

Will meet on Wednesday January 21st at 4:30-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be chili and fixings, jello salads & cake for dessert. A member of the Savanna Police dept. Will give a program on how to avoid scams. RSVP by noon Monday January 19th, 815-273-2345. Rides available, in-town only.

The Giving Tree

Thank you for all the donations to the giving Tree . It is fully decorated .and will be available to The West Carroll School Food Pantry clients this month.

Worship Committee

Is trying to bring back Ushers and Greeters. If you are interested in volunteering , please See Linda Stubbe.

Thank you to Emily Medley who worked both shifts at the Savanna Food Pantry last month.

Great Job, Emily!

Savanna Food Pantry saw their busiest month ever and need help restocking their shelves. They can use canned meats, chicken , tuna, ham, or salmon. Please leave your donations in the Food Pantry box in the narthex and **Thank you** for feeding our neighbors.

Blessing Basket

Is located in the West Carroll Food Pantry at the end of the Education wing. Please consider donating a bottle of dish detergent or laundry detergent this month. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

West Carroll School Food Pantry

Will be open January 5th and 19th from 3:30 - 5:00 pm. Items needed this month are soup and crackers. You can leave your donations in the Food Pantry box in the narthex.

UMC Savanna Food Pantry

No shifts this month but February 10 & 12

Thank you for your continued support



Women of Faith

No meeting in January or February

New President --Kathie Prins

Join us for prayer meetings
each Sunday 8:30 &

for Sunday School at 9:00 AM

Soul Sisters will Meet January 21st

4:30- 6:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Blood Drive

January 7, 3:00 - 6:00 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

PRAIRIE NORTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2026



January 24 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Christ UMC in Rockford 4509 Highcrest Rd.

Cost \$15 each \$50 per church Includes hot lunch

Registration online (walk-ins will be accepted, lunch may not be available)

Schedule: 8:30 Registration and Gathering 11:00 Workshop 2
9:00 Opening Worship 11:55 Song and Closing Prayer
9:45 Workshop 1 12:00 Lunch

Classes: Pick 2 Classes (All classes are offered in both sessions)

- Stewarding God's Resources: Finance & Risk 101
- Kim Emery & Elizabeth Stahl
- Lay Leadership Training - Kris Aves
- Next Gen Youth - Rev. T.K. Lee and Pastor Roger Bronkema
- Church Communication that Connects: Websites, Social Media & More
- Taylor Greenwood
- Church Growth, Fresh Expressions - Rev. Violet Johnicker
- Stronger Together: The Value of our Connectional Work
- Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer
- Staff-Parish Relations Committee 101 - Rev. Dr. Hwa-Young Chong

Registration: umcnc.org/calendar/prairie-north-leadership-training-2026

Questions? Contact Rev. Jeremiah Lee
pjlee7122@gmail.com

 Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IMPACT YOUTH GROUP

WE'LL MEET SUNDAY THE 4TH OF
JANUARY

Kids Kards will meet after

Worship . On January 25 We will be making a variety of cards for our shut-ins, friends and church family. Everyone invited and all materials are provided. Come join our children and create some cards and memories

Call Molly Andersen for more information. 815-541-6852

JOY!

JOY

Hanging of the Greens







Hanging of the



THE LAST KID'S KARD OF 2025



KID'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM





Birthdays & Anniversaries

January 2026

3 - Scot Law
4 - Ben Pratt
6 - Amela Gonzalez
7 - Katy Cook-Frederick
John Irons
13 - Debrah Hockman
15 -Gary Dykema
Linda Stubbe
19 - Mark Rathje
20 - Linda Yenny
23 - Kay Cavanaugh
24 - Joy Turner
29- Dalton Shaw
Wayne White
30 - Sandy Froehlich
31 - Rhonda Law

Greeters & Ushers

Will be the Worship Cmte

Liturgists

January

4 - Joe Micheals
11- -Susan King
18- Joseph Pasch
25 - Emily Medley



Worship Helpers

Acolytes

Jan 4-Priscila & Ennie Mari
Jan 11 -Pearl Michels
Jan 18 - Kirk Hoffman
Jan 25 - Faith Gonzalez

Coffee Hour

Jan 4 -
Jan 11 -
Jan 18 -
Jan 25 -Bob & LaVona

Counters & Verifiers

Jan 4 -
Jan 11 -
Jan 18 -
Jan 25 -



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

January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	
4 8:30—Prayer Meetings 10:15 am Worship with Coffee hour Impact Youth	5 1 PM Sewing ladies School Pantry	6	7 Blood Drive 3 -6-pm	8	9	10
11 8 am Trustees 11: 20 am Ad Council	12 Bible Study 9am 1 PM Sewing ladies	13	14	15	16	17
18- 8:30—Prayer Meetings Ad Council after Worship Today	19 Bible Study 9am 1 PM Sewing ladies School Pantry	20	21 Pastor : GRO Board JOY 4:30-6 pm	22	23	24
25 8:30—Prayer Meetings 10:15 am Worship with Coffee hour KIDS KARDS	26	27	28	29 Pastor - Nursing homes	30	31