



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.”**

2100 Chicago Ave, Savanna, IL 61074

Ph: 815-273-2345

Office email: office@firstumcsavanna.org

Web: www.firstumcsavanna.org

Pastor Fernando email: pastorfernando4@outlook.com



From the Pastor's Pen

Responsible Freedom

As the USA pauses to celebrate 250 years of Independence—with fireworks, parades, and joyful gatherings—it is easy to overlook the true force behind America's accomplishments. The buildings, roads, railroads, industries, and strong economy all trace back to one powerful idea: **liberty**. Liberty was the driving force of the American Revolution and the birth of the United States of America.

The Declaration of Independence reminds us that all people are *“endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,”* chief among them **life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness**.

Responsible freedom means understanding and living out these ideals. It means recognizing that the principles crafted by the founders must be carried faithfully into the next generations. Responsible freedom accepts the challenge of extending liberty to those who still suffer under the oppression of any kind across our nation.

Responsible freedom urges those who enjoy freedom to extend grace to those who have not yet experienced it. For although we live in a free country, many are still imprisoned by vices—drug addiction, alcoholism, gambling—or trapped in a broken and unjust prison system. These individuals need grace: a grace that reaches out with radical love, a grace that does not excuse evil but refuses to let evil define the future of our families, our community, and our church.

Irresponsible freedom, however, abuses liberty. It exploits others through systems of supremacy, entitlement, and disregard for the dignity of different cultures and communities. Irresponsible freedom ignores the neighbor—whether during fireworks or in daily life.

Friends, as you and your family reflect on responsible freedom, remember this: the majority of those who shaped the ideals of the United States were Christian Protestants. Like you and me, they were not fully free. They fled a broken system to build one that would dignify all people, regardless of appearance or background. Think on that.

And remember the words of Psalm 72: *“He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.”*

With so many needs around us in our community, I pray that the Lord will give you—and me—hearts committed to **responsible freedom**.

Happy Independence Day.

In Christ, Fernando Candumbo de Castro.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH , , 2026 10: AM @ CHURCH LIBRARY

Members present: Lea Ann Michels, Tom Michels, Molly Anderson, Mary Irons, Lynn Haas, Kathy Prins, Linda Stubbe, LaVona Grissinger, Jason Moore, Karen Hoffman, Pam Darrow, Burt Prins

The meeting was opened by Molly Anderson. Kathy Prins led us in prayer.

Approval of minutes: Jason Moore moved and Pam Darrow seconded to accept the minutes as sent to members. Lea Ann asked whether minutes should be published in the Telstar before they approved and the consensus was that they need to be approved at a meeting before they can be published.

The financial reports were sent to members before the meeting. Molly questioned the PAC grant as she had not been told that we received it. Tom reported that our finances are doing well. It was moved by Kathy and seconded by Karen to accept the financial report.

Committee reports:

Education: Kris reported that they will be meeting this month regarding Sunday School for the fall. VBS will be July 21-23 from 9 to noon.

Evangelism: Mary reported that they sent birthday greetings to Sylvia Reutefors, Herb Pratt, and Connie Kramer.

She had visited the nursing home to see Don Kramer (4 times), Sandy Kittoe (3 times), and Judy Law (2 times). She had visited Jackie and taken communion to her and had texted with Linday Yenney and Trent Yenney.

Hospitality: Lea Ann reported that the potluck was well attended and many positive comments had been received. Jason reported he is hearing good things about how welcoming we are and suggested a picnic.

Trustees: Jason has been discussing the organ power supply with Vivian. He will be scheduling a clean up day and will check on getting a peroxide unit to fix the smell in the kitchen water. He will look into getting a new water heater to see if that would eliminate the smell. Mowing is going well with volunteers taking turns mowing. The outside faucet in the basement drips and needs to be replaced.

Worship: Linda reported they will be meeting Thursday to get ready for the Father's Day service. Jason suggested we should find ways to cut down the length of the service, so the Pastor isn't so stressed about keeping it short.

United Women in Faith: Kathy reported they had cleaned half of the pews and in July will be meeting at Marquette Park.

Interchurch Council hasn't had a meeting, but a suggestion was to have a joint church service at the State Park.

OLD BUSINESS:

The people who took the CPR class have not received their cards.

AED: Jason talked to Ryan Mill about charging the batteries in the unit. He said the batteries are expired but the unit still works but probably needs to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$2500.

JOY camp interest: There was no interest in attending the camp.

Meals at The Table: Karen reported they served 20 people. We will be serving again on July10. They suggested possibly having a cleanup day at the table.

190-year committee: The committee has met twice. 50 shirts have been ordered. Ron Miller donated the water to hand out at the parade. White napkins are needed for the decorating. The decorating will be July 1 at 6pm at Ron Miller's south of town. Millers will provide a cookout for anyone helping that evening.

Nov. 1 there will be a special service inviting past pastors. Community events are being planned. Donations will be accepted on June 28.

Lynn and Jason offered to donate \$300 for a sign at Old Mill Park. Tom moved that we spend \$1000 from the general fund for the 190th celebration, Kathy seconded and the motion was approved.

Youth on Ad Council: still looking for someone

Policy Book: no report

Palisades Park Service: no report.

Pastor's report:

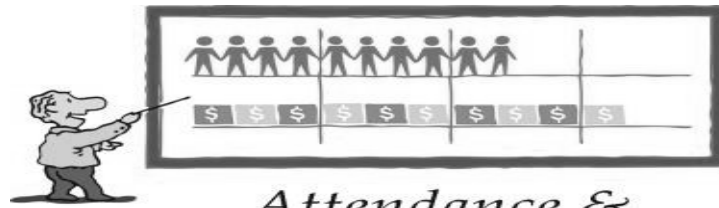
His family is doing well.

Suggestions: we need to recruit more youth to start helping with media and get them involved. Hospitality needs to organize another potluck for August 30.

Kris moved we adjourned. Jason offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lea Ann Michels



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$19,573.37		
May		YTD
Church Revenue	\$16,817.98	\$76,313.61
Church Expenses	\$15,379.40	\$75,896.07
Net Operating Balance	\$1438.58	\$417.54
NIC Apportionments Paid		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
May 3 1	\$1425.00	69		69
June 7	\$4519.00	64		64
June 14	\$2988.23	75		75
June 21	\$1835.73	81		81
Totals	\$10,767.98	289		289

Bennett Sturtz, Howard Nichols, Curtis Pilgrim, Tinslee, Frank Norman, Pastor Narda, Mike Medley, Matt, Lt. Brian Robinson, Bill Haas, Colleen Olsen, Kevin Everson, Benny McClure, Julia Castro, Trena, Rev. David Forbes, Joann Winkler, Teresa Bauer, Sandy Froelich, Kathie Prins, Amil Bork, Julia Castro, Carolyn

Bertagnoli, Joan Grissinger, Ben Pratt

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: Carolyn Bertagnoli Family

Lorena Hilton Nystrom Family

David Janssen 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

July 15th 4:30 - 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

RSVP to the church office at 815-273-2345 by noon, Monday, July 13th. Rides are available, in-town only. JOY is a free monthly meal with fellowship and fun for anyone 60 years and older.

United Women of Faith

It's UWF's annual picnic in the Park on July 7th at 6:00pm.

This year we'll be at Marquette Park along the river. Brats and their fixins will be provided.

Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. After eating we'll have time for games and conversation. All women are welcome to join us. If you have questions please call me - 563-249-3477. Kathie Prins

SOUL SISTERS

RSVP ---Linda Jachino by July (815-541-4760)

ALL WOMEN are invited to attend!

Hospitality Committee

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

Blessing Basket

We could use shampoo and any type of bar soap.

Please leave your donations in the Food Pantry box in the narthex. Thank you! For your

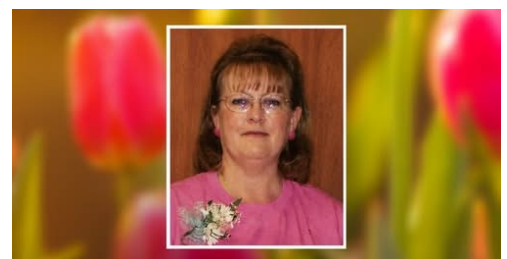
continued support!

Please consider shopping for school supplies.

Crayons, markers, pencils, gluesticks or notebooks (wide -rule only) for our children.

KIDS KARDS will not meet May, June or July!

Sympathy to Joy Turner's family





VBS July 21-23

Discovery on Adventure Island

Pictures for the directory Forms in the Narthex! Everyone please fill out the form and get pictures scheduled!

Food Pantries

Thank you **Emily Medley** for volunteering at the Savanna Food Pantry last month,

You can leave any food donation in the food Pantry box.

West Carroll Food Pantry

Gearing up for the summer when some

Students will be missing the 2 meals a day they receive at school. Kid-friendly items will be needed, things that can be microwaved or individually packaged like macaroni & cheese, pasta meals, jello and pudding. These are great way to keep our children fed during the summer.

United Methodist Men will meet Wednesday,

July 14th 5:30pm

Coffee Hour

July-5- Bronkema Family

July 12 - Cavanagh Family

July 19-

July 26-

Happy Birth day to Kirk and for being a faithful volunteer

He folds our bulletins every since week, may God bless Kirk



Savanna 4TH of JULY PARADE

SUNDAY, JULY 5

★ WE WILL MEET AT THE OLD SHAPKO BUILDING AT 4:30 TO LINEUP. ★

SAVANNA METHODIST CHURCH FLOAT

All church members are encouraged to help fill our 2 trailers with our church family.

The band will play and water bottles will be handed out.

Come out and support your church 190 Anniversary!

LET'S CELEBRATE 190 YEARS OF FAITH, COMMUNITY & SERVICE!

★ ★ See You at the Parade! ★ ★

Backwater Gamblers Water Ski Shows

5000 44th St, Rock Island, IL

Sundays and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Memorial Day through Labor Day

NO show on July 12th, due to the Regional tournament

NO show on August 9th, due to the National tournament

FUMC members, **Susan Michelle** and **Brigit Jepsen**, Sabula, have been a big part of the BackwaterGamblers Water Ski S (BWG). The team has been in existence for 47 years. Susan Michelle has been a BWG member for 45 years and Brigit for 19. The themed show consists of 14 acts, including Ballet, Swivel, Jumping, Barefooting, Trios, Strap Doubles, Conventional Doubles, Around-the-Boat and Pyramids. The 2026 theme is Backwater Beach.

The best part of the show is that admission is **FREE!** Donations are gladly accepted at intermission (but not required), as money helps pay for the boats, motors, gas, costumes, skis, ropes, speakers and a lot more. The show lasts one hour, with short intermission, so plan on 90 minutes. Bleachers are furnished and there is parking near the river. A concession stand is available on site with food, drinks and Culvers!

Susan Michelle has “retired” from skiing in the show, but is a boat rider in a triple rig. Brigit is taking the year off.

The team competes yearly against other show ski teams from around the nation. Currently they are ranked **5th in the Central Region**. If you are looking for something different and unique to do this summer, come and see a ski show.

For pictures and to read about the history of the BWG, go to www.backwatergamblers.com.

If you have questions, please reach out to Susan Michelle @ **309-738-0946**.

This picture was taken in 2015, when Brigit was on the 3rd tier of the pyramid for the first time in a ski show.

She is the 3rd tier girl on the far left. Susan Michelle is below her, 2nd tier on the far left. Teresa (her sister) is on the 2nd tier, middle girl, of the 4-tier pyramid. Randy (her brother) is 5th from the left, 1st tier.



June Photos

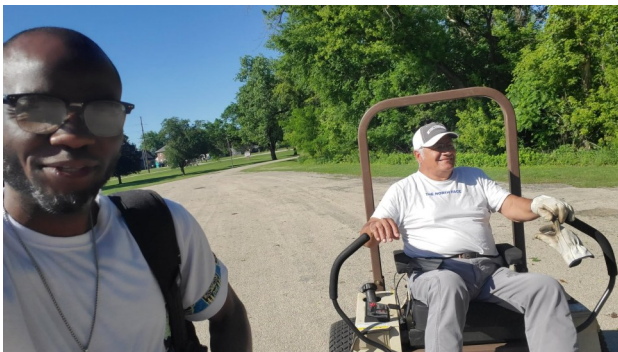
Every Second Friday our Church serves a meal at the Table. See Karen Hoffman if would like to help.



Pastor and the girls @ Big Meadows as Connie celebrated her birthday & Wedding Anniversary



Big thanks to the Men of our Church for taking Care of
Our loan so faithfully.



Tom Neumiller's & Ron Miller's staff



Pastor & Bart Prins



JOY Cookout



Celebration of Life. Big thanks to everyone who donated something, to support UWM. Thanks so much.

Good Eats!



Father's Day!





Annual Conf. Pics.

FUMC - OFFERED A BOX FULL OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO MIDWEST

Pastor Fernando & Pastor Dave



Pastors From Prairie -North District





June 2026

July 1 - Luke Holcomb

5 - Jeff Doran

5 - *Jeff & Rhonda Law (1986)*

6 - Molly Andersen

6 - Judy Greenfield

7 - Noah Johnson

8 - Mike Jones

10 - Erik Torrison

11 - Hannah Guilinger

12 - *Gary & Melinda Dykema (2014)*

17 - Nathaniel Law

18 - Rhonda Ratje

19 - *Mike & Emily Medley (2014)*

20 - Vincent Law

24 - Glenda Bronkema

25 - Bruce Badtke

31 - Peter King

31 - Deann Kramer

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

Liturgists

July 5 - Ryker McCombie

July 12 - Sherry Cancelose

July 19 - Susan Michelle

July 26 - Bill Wright



Worship Helpers

Acolytes

July 5 - Vivan Moore

July 12 - Pearl Michels

July 19 - Blaine Johnson

July 26 - Ryker McCombie

Greeters

July 5 - Karen & Kirk Hoffman

July 12 - Deb long

July 19 -

July 26 -

Ushers

July 5 - Burt & Kathie Prins, Pam D., & Molly A.

July 12 - Michels Family

July 19 - Linda S., Pam D., & Molly A.

July 26 - Linda S., Pam D., & Molly A.

Counters & Verifiers

July 5 - Molly Andersen & Karen Hoffman

July 12 - Rhonda Law & Pam Darrow

July 19 - Lori Miller & Linda Jachino

July 26 - Vivian Eaton & LaVona Grissinger

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Nursing Home	3	4 
5 Communion 9:30 Worship 10:35 Coffee Hour WC Pantry	6 WC Pantry	7 UWF Picnic 6:00 pm	8 Pastor's Vacation Begins	9	10	11
12 9:30 Worship 10:35 Coffee Hour	13	14	15 JOY 4:30 -6:30 pm	16	17	18
19 9:30 Worship 10:35 coffee Hour WC Pantry	20 WC Pantry	21 Men's Meeting 5:30 pm VBS 9-12	22 VBS 9-12	23 VBS 9-12	24	25
26 	27	28	29 Pastor's Vacation Ends	30	31	