



First United Methodist Church of Savanna, Illinois

Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors...

The people of the
United Methodist
Church

®



TELSTAR

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



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”**

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



LENTEN SEASON IS A TIME OF SPIRITUAL ADJUSTMENT

Friends, as we continue our Lenten journey, I want to draw your attention to something happening right now on the world stage: the Winter Olympic Games in Milan and Cortina, Italy. The United States is currently in second place, winning many medals. Out of curiosity, I began reading more about these games, and one statement immediately captured my attention: “The Olympic hosts are not required to adapt to the Game: the Games must adjust to the host ”

Two words struck me deeply: adjust and host. And suddenly, I found myself thinking about Lent—this sacred season of spiritual adjustment in a world full of challenges.

As we reflect today, I invite you to keep three points in mind

1. Jesus is our Host—just as Italy is hosting the Winter Olympic Games.

In John 14:2, Jesus says, “My Father’s house has many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you.”

Every nation arriving in Italy went with confidence that a place had been prepared for them. Their identities were sent ahead; their accommodation was secured. They traveled knowing they belonged.

So, it is with us. As we journey toward the cross, we must be assured that our names are written in the Book of Life. Our Host—Jesus—has already prepared a place for us.

2. The Host does not adjust to the Games; the Games must adjust to the Host.

The Olympic Committee acknowledges that climate change threatens winter sports. Conditions shift. Environments change. Athletes must adapt.

Friends, from one Lent to another, our lives also face pressures, distractions, and spiritual climate changes. We look around our society and know things are not well. That is why Lent calls us to adjust and adapt to God’s unchangeable character which holiness. Psalm 90:1 reminds us: “Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.”

God remains steady. God remains holy. God remains our Host. We are the ones who must adapt our hearts, our habits, and our priorities to Him, even when the environment around us tends to push us back.

3. Medals are not reserved for one nation—any athlete or Nation may win.

This year, 93 nations and 3,500 athletes were welcomed to compete for 195 medals across 16 disciplines and six Paralympic events. Not one athlete arrived with a medal already around their neck. But they believed, they trained, and they came determined to pursue the prize.

I see Lent in a similar way—not as a competition against one another, but as a spiritual contest between the forces of wickedness of this world and our trust in God. For forty days Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, yet He won the battle. We too are called into forty days of penitence, reflection, and spiritual discipline. We adjust ourselves so that, by God’s grace, we may stand victorious on Resurrection Day.

And when Christ returns, the prize will be given to people from every nation and tribe—those who believed, who persevered, and who trusted that they could make it by God’s strength.

Friends, I urge you: make the necessary adjustments this Lent. Our Host does not adjust to us—we adjust to Him.

Have a blessed Lenten journey.

In Christ,

Pastor Fernando

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

February 15, 2026

Members Present: Kris Yingling, Mary Irons, Karen Hoffman, Burt Prins, Tom Michels, Lea Ann Michels, Susan Michelle Jepsen, LaVona Grissinger, Molly Anderson, Pastor Fernando, Kathie Prins, Deanne Kramer, Pam Darrow, Jason Moore, Linda Stubbe

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Kris moved and Kathie seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report was emailed to all members. For the second month in a row we have only lost \$2000. This is an improvement over last year. Deanne questioned The categories and shouldn't there be separate lines for JOY ad coffee hour. Tom will check on it. Kathie moved and Kris seconded to accept the finance report. The motion carried.

Education: Kris reported they sent cards to kids who have missed Sunday School. They are working on VBS.

Evangelism: Mary reported the committee has been praying for several members and families. Keep the Belander family in prayers, A church we need to visit ND pry for members who have not been attending. Pastor will send address of members who have passed away.

Outreach: Deanne reported they will be counting the soup cans tomorrow. March 29 will be the play by the Victory Center. They are preparing a BBQ dinner for the actor ND attendees. They will have cheese and crackers before ND then sandwiches after the play. Someone from outreach will do the In touch program on the radio to advertise the play.

SPRC: LaVona reported that Kathy Moore is doing well . Shewil give a letter to Eric to get a key back from him.

Trustees: Jason reported that the water softener at the Parsonage isn't working and the water usage at the parsonage is up maybe caused by the faulty water softener. It will be checked out. The committee decided they will use volunteers to mow at the church. Thank you to the committees for clearing out the youth room.

Key control has been table until a future time.

The water heater is smelling again. It should be drained weekly.

The organ isn't working not sure l the power cord can be replaced.

Pastor thanked people for clearing out the youth room.

Worship: Linda reported they are working on the Ester services. The Hospitality committee will serve breakfast.

Hospitality: Lea Ann reported that this committee will help with the meal on the 29th at the play and on the 28th with the craft day.

UWF: Kathie reported they will meet on March 3 with a regular meeting.

UMM : Jason reported that they will meet at Manny's on Tuesday. They will be looking for elderly who might need help with projects at their homes.

New Business: We will host a CPR class. Ryan Miller may be able to help us update the pads on our AED. The cost is around \$30 per person to be certified. LaVona volunteered to set up the CPR class.

He asked the Administrative council to think of ways to make our church more visible.

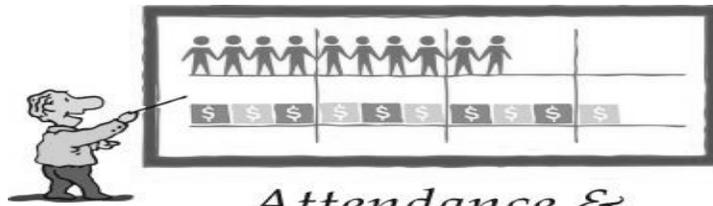
Susan Michelle is starting to work on a new directory.

It was announced that FUMC will be 190 celebrating of Ministry in Savanna and we need to think how we may celebrate it. The prayer chain needs to be updated.

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Pastor Fernando.

Respectfully submitted, Lea Ann Michels

Lea Ann Michels



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ 14,209.39		
	January 2026	Year to Date
Church Revenue	13,442.48	
Church Expenses	17,673.84	
Net Operating Balance	- \$2,157.22	
NIC Apportionments Paid	1,073.47	
Please, contact Vivian Eaton with any questions - vkeaton@grics.net		



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
February 1	\$6936	72		72
February 8	3288	73		73
February 15	2365	57		57
February 22	1896	69		69
Totals	\$14,485	271		271

IN OUR PRAYERS

Don Kramer- Big Meadows, doing well. Sandy Froehlich- Continues Home therapy - Curtis Pilgrim- Morrison Nursing Home, Mia, Derek Osborn, Janet Smith, Tinslee recuperating Nicely, Dan Zambon cancer, Christa Jachino- Breast Cancer. Abra- Early pregnancy-prayer to go to term. Marilyn Kline, Wheelchair bound at nursing home. Bob Bauer goes to NE in March for a check-up! Tim Cavanagh- Home recovering well! Frank Norman -home health problems -Also Franks granddaughter, Grace - Jeff Doran - on dialysis- Pastor Narda, recovering from surgery - Lt. Brian Robinson, in the Ukraine. Susan Michelle's dad, Richard, is failing in health, Hazi Coffee, daughter of Jason & Cori, high-risk pregnancy- Emily Medley, Brother recovering, uncle has lung cancer, Karen Hoffman's friend Matt hospice, Barb Tracey, stroke, in rehab. Sandy Jilderda- car accident. Bill Haas, cancer. Joy Turner physical therapy for stroke, in rehab. Kay's mom is hospitalized. Jerry Cavanagh, surgery Wednesday Colleen Olson brain tumor. Melinda Dykema, migraines. Vivian Eaton, health. Mike Medley is in Freeport Hospital/ labs low count

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!

We also are asking for clean and dry plastic bags. The group will be making sleeping mats for homeless people. You can drop them off in the box in the sewing room. A loom was obtained from Midwest Mission and Mary Irons attempted to make the first one. We now have 5 mats complete. They are fabulous!!!

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

Thank you to those who have brought in bags and continue to bring them!

**Thank You for all who supported
Financially the Impact Youth trip to Chestnut
Mountain!
And to April and Quinn for their tireless work**

West Carroll Food Pantry

West Carroll School Food Pantry and Savanna Food Pantry are in need of donations.

WE DID IT! We collected 166 cans of soup and 25 boxes of crackers! Thank you to all who donated and helped us reach our goal.

Soul Sisters

March Meeting 5th at 10:30 am

Bring a sack lunch, dessert & drinks provided

Pastor Fernando & Isobel de Castro

“From Angola to Savanna: a Journey of Faith”

Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket provides household and personal hygiene items to the clients who use the West Carroll School Food Pantry. 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

Getting ready for Women Sunday March 15



Kids Kards

Kids Kards will meet after worship on Sunday, March 22th .We'll be making Easter Cards and having sandwiches for lunch. Every one is welcome and all materials are provided. Come spend time with our children and spread the good news of Jesus'

resurrection.

VICTORY CENTER GETTING READY FOR THE WITNESS SUNDAY MARCH 29





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

**Trustee/Ad Council will
meet on Sunday, March 15th
at 9 am/11:30 pm**

Crop, Craft & Fellowship

Saturday, March 28th, 2025 9 am to 9 pm

All crafters welcome! Enjoy the day with fellow crafters with lunch and supper served. Water and coffee will be available throughout the day. You are welcome to bring your own drinks (non-alcoholic).

If you want to add an additions 4 hours of crafting time,
you can join us Friday night from 5 pm to 9 pm.

If interested, contact Karen Hoffman at 815-357-8795

**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 meet
Monday, March 16th,
@ 5:30 pm.**

Order your Easter Flowers

United Women of Faith

We will have our first meeting of the year Tuesday March 3rd at 6:00pm in the library at the church. We will have our regular meeting followed by Prayer and Self Denial program.

Kathie Prins

563-249-3477



Kids Kards



Souper Bowl Pics





Souper Bowl continues...



Youth Room Sort & Clean Pics







March 2024

- 4 - Pam Darrow
- 4 - Kelley Johnson
- 5 - Greg Jepsen
- 9 - Logan Hoffman
- 13 - *John & Linda Jachino (1971)*
- 14 - Tom Michels
- 15 - Mike Melhus
- 15 - Wallene Neumiller
- 17 - Asia LaShelle
- 21 - Ray Kreuder
- 22 - Patrick Holcomb
- 26 - Don Kramer
- 28 - Kim Gonzalez
- 29 - Burt Prins
- 29 - Susan White

Greeters	March	Ushers
1-Esther Losh Isabel de Castro		Bill Wright
8- Bob & LaVona Grissinger		Hospitality Cmte
15 - Hospitality		Esther Losh
22- Kris Yingling Noah Johnson		Kelly Johnson
29- Hospitality Cmte		Hospitality Cmte



Liturgists

- March 1- Emily Medley
- March 8 - Susan Michelle Jepsen
- March 15- Women of Faith
- March 22 -Joe Michels
- March 29 - Sherry Cancelose

Acolytes

- March 1- Pearl Michels
- March 8 - Kirk Hoffman
- March 15- Faith Gonzalez
- March 22- Ryker McCombie
- March 29- Tyson Speer

Coffee Hour

- March 1- Prinses
- March 8 -Mary Irons & Esther Losh
- March 15 -Men's group r
- March 22 - Hospitality Cmte
- March 29 -Ross & Glenda Bronkema

Counters & Verifiers

- March 1 - Molly Andersen & Pam Darrow
- March 8- Rhonda Law & Tom Michels
- March 15 - Lori Miller & Kay Cavanagh
- March 22 - Vivian Eaton & LaVona Grissinger
- March 29 - Lori Miller & Mary Irons

**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**



March 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 Prayer 9am Sunday School 10:15 Worship Coffee Hour Impact Youth	2 WC Pantry	3 Office Opens 9:00-5PM	4 Lenten Service - the Table	5 Office Opens 9:00-5PM Soul Sisters 10:30am	6 Office Opens 9:00-5PM	7
8 8:30 Prayer 9am Sunday School 10:15 Worship Coffee Hour Impact Youth	9 Office Opens 9:00-12	10 Office Opens 9:00-5PM	11 Lenten - Service St. John the Baptist	12 Office Opens 9:00-5PM	13 Office Opens 9:00-5PM	14
15 8am Trustees 8:30 Prayer 9am Sunday School 10:15 Worship Coffee Hour Impact Youth	16 Office Opens 9:00-12 3: 30 WC Pantry	17	18 Lenten- Service Community United Church of	19 Office Opens 9:00-5PM	20 Office Opens 9:00-5PM	21
22 8:30 Prayer 9am Sunday School 10:15 Worship Coffee Hour Kids Kards Impact Youth	23 9 Office Opens 9:00-12	24	25 Lenten- Service FUMC	26 Office Opens 9:00-5PM	27 Crafts day	28 Craft Day
29 8:30 Prayer 9am Sunday School 10:15 Palm Sunday Worship Coffee Hour Impact Youth The Witness 6pm	30 9 Office Opens 9:00-12	31				