



First United Methodist Church of Savanna, Illinois



Our Mission is 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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May's Flowers: A Reminder of God's Faithful Nature

Friends, in one of my recent readings, I was reminded that during the Victorian era people used flowers—specific blooms and colors—to communicate emotions and messages that words could not fully express. Flowers became a language of the heart.

In May, that language surrounds us. Blossoms color our neighborhoods, fields, and gardens, and through them we express a wide range of emotions. Some offer flowers in joy and gratitude as Mother's Day approaches—the second Sunday of May—honoring mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and all who have nurtured and cared for them. Others carry flowers to the graves of loved ones as our nation observes Memorial Day, remembering the millions of Americans who gave their lives in service to our country.

As Christians, flowers carry meanings that deepen our faith. Allow me to highlight three:

1. **Divine Care** : Jesus pointed to the wildflowers of the field to teach us about God's provision (Matthew 6:28–30). If God clothes the lilies with such beauty, how much more will He care for us. Flowers remind us to trust rather than worry.
2. **The Symbolism of Christ** : Throughout Christian tradition, flowers have helped us reflect on the life and work of Jesus. **Red roses** speak of His sacrificial blood.

White lilies proclaim His purity, innocence, and resurrection. These blooms preach a silent sermon about the heart of our faith.

3. **Life, Death, and Resurrection** : Spring flowers bloom brightly, then fade quickly—an image Scripture uses to describe human life. Isaiah 40:6–8 tells us:
"All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades... but the word of our God stands forever."

Flowers remind us that life is brief, yet God's promises endure. And the same God who brings flowers back each spring will one day bring back to life all who sleep in the Lord.

Friends, as we welcome the month of May—with Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and Pentecost Sunday—may every blossom we see point our hearts toward our Creator. May they remind us of His care, His promises, and the hope of resurrection that awaits all who belong to Christ.

Blessed May.

Fernando Candumbo de Castro

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES APRIL 19, 2026 11:30AM LIBRARY

Chairperson Susan Michelle Jepsen called the meeting to order at 11:36am with members Karen Hoffman, Deeann Kramer, Molly Andersen, Jason Moore, Pam Darrow, Kris Yingling, LaVona Grissinger, Linda Stubbe, Kathie and Burt Prins, Mary Irons, Esther Losh, and Pastor Fernando deCastro present. Pastor Fernando opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to members. Karen moved, seconded by Kris, to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passed.

Financial reports were handed out, dated January 1 to April 18, 2026. A question was raised about having separate accounts for committees, like Outreach. With no member of the finance committee present the question went unanswered but chair persons were told to keep track of their funds. It was suggested that the financial reports be sent out earlier so members can check them and have questions ready at the ad council meetings.

EDUCATION: VBS will be 3 days this summer, July 21-23, 2026 due to a lack of volunteers. The last day of Sunday School is May 17th.

EVANGELISM: Birthday cards were sent to Howard Nichols, Don Kramer, George Brown, and Alice Riffe-Torrison. Visits were made to Big Meadows to see Don Kramer, Sandy Kittoe, and Judy Law. Also visits to Jackie Walker and Mike Medley were made. Texts were sent to Teresa Bauer and an in-person talk was made with Alice Riffe-Torrison.

HOSPITALITY: The committee was busy providing meals and snacks for the crafting session and the cast of "The Witness" and also helped with Easter breakfast.

OUTREACH: They provided a soup dinner for the cast of "The Witness" and it was warmly welcomed.

SCHOLARSHIP: We have one senior applying for the scholarship this year. Kris will abstain from voting.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: The committee has decided to meet every 3 months to stay connected and active. We were reminded that we should be joyful as we are doing God's work.

TRUSTEES: The church lawn has been mowed and a volunteer schedule will be posted soon. The committee recommends we have a no animals allowed in the sanctuary during worship policy and after much discussion the recommendation passed. It did bring up a question about the church having a policy book and when was it last revised. LaVona offered to look for a policy book and she, Karen, and Jason offered to review it. The pests are back in the attic at the parsonage.

The church secretary will be asked to contact River City to check the air conditioning at the church. Jason will talk with the individual regarding the no animal policy.

UWF: Today is the pork chop sandwich drive-thru dinner. We will plant flowers next month and have a movie night.

UMM: They are meeting on Tuesday evening for chili, devotions, and meaningful conversation.

NEW BUSINESS: Pastor will talk to April Ruddell, the youth group leader, about sending some children to the JOY camp in June. The cost is \$655 and runs from June 21-27, 2026 at Camp Reynoldswood. Most members felt church camp is a very worthwhile experience for children and we should be able to offer scholarships for those who want to go. It was also suggested that Ryker McCombie or Joe Pasch be the Youth Representative of this council. Paul Mayer is taking photos of members and their families for a new church directory.

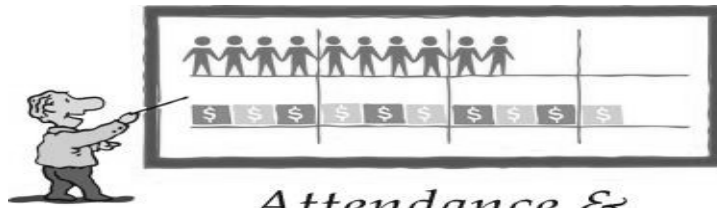
Karen reported her craft weekend raised \$480. She would like some of the money to go towards the AED in the church and the Table in Savanna. There is a need to provide a meal at the Table on Fridays and several members are willing to do that.

Susan Michelle will be preparing agendas for our future meetings so we can respond to our Old Business discussions and list New Business information. Members are encouraged to let her know of New Business items.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor thanked the Hospitality, Outreach, and Worship committees for their hard work these last 2 months. He would like to celebrate the 190th anniversary of our church in Savanna and has asked member Deb Long to design a t-shirt. He had an example of one and 1 suggestion was to put 1836-2026 dates on it. He has several ideas to celebrate during the year and wants to assign a task force to plan the celebration.

Molly, Deeann, and Jason volunteered, along with several other members. Karen closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 1:02pm.

Molly Andersen, recording



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$21,102.95		
March		
Church Revenue	\$24,189.78	\$54,435.18
Church Expenses	\$25,449.01	\$54,566.44
Net Operating Balance	\$1,268.23	\$-131.26
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$1115.14	\$3,756.08



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
April 5 Sunrise	\$1591.00	32		32
Easter	\$3753.00	102		102
April 12	\$3544.00	73		73
April 19	\$1478.00	69		69
April 26	\$1464.00	54	3 People + 3 Dogs	57
Totals	\$11,830.00	339	3 People + 3 Dogs	333

Aireona Spencer, 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, Lt. Brian Robinson, Bill Haas, Colleen Olsen, Kevin Everson, Benny McClure, Joanne Winkler, Bennet Sturtz, Sindy Froehlich

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.

Town of Lena, storm damage.

Sympathy: Pastor's family (2 deaths)

Sue Welch family

Lisa Law Family

Vel Boldt



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

May 20th 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Salad supper with banana splits.

Hady Mambo will provide music program.

RSVP by Monday, May 18th Office

815-273-2345. Rides available in town only.

Hospitality Committee

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

Greeters are needed for May!

SOUL SISTERS

"An Apron Fashion Show"

1ST UMC

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH

11:00 A.M.

BRING: *Your favorite apron (to model for your Soul Sisters)

*A sack lunch (dessert & drinks provided)

*Unique kitchen utensils/ gadgets

ALL WOMEN are invited to attend!

RSVP---Contact Linda Jachino (815-541-4760)

Blessing Basket

We need laundry detergent !

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

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 micro-waved or individually packaged like macaroni & cheese, pasta meals, jello and pudding. These are great way to keep our children fed during the summer.

Volunteer at the Savanna Food Pantry i

Celebrating the Class of 2026



**WEST CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL
BACCALAUREATE SERVICE**

"A Service of Hope and Reflection for Our Seniors"
A multi-denominational service.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 13
Service begins at 6:00 PM

WHERE: Mount Carroll Church of God
[Insert Church Address Here]
Mount Carroll, IL



ALL ARE WELCOME
Join us as we send off the Class of 2026
with blessing and support.




**BE PART OF
SOMETHING
BIGGER**



ImpactLife

BLOOD DRIVE

First United Methodist Church

Thursday, May 14th

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

2100 Chicago Ave.

To book appointment, scan QR
code, visit bloodcenter.org or
call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401.



Group Code: 2891

Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 3/19/26



5-12th graders, come have a blast at our

**IMPACT YOUTH GROUP
BOWLING
BASH**

**SUNDAY,
MAY 17**

4:00 PM
TRIPLE PLAY
1601 9TH AVE,
FULTON, IL 61252

Meet Quinn & April
@ First United Methodist Church in Savanna
by 3:30 if you would like a ride

PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 10TH



Savanna Service Club

PLANT & BAKE SALE

Saturday, May 30th, 2026
9 o'clock a.m. to noon

Held at the Polar Express Pavilion in Savanna

Garden plants, perennials,
garden art, and baked goods

This is Savanna Service Club's second year of hosting this exciting event.
We are proud to give back to Savanna. Your support is appreciated.

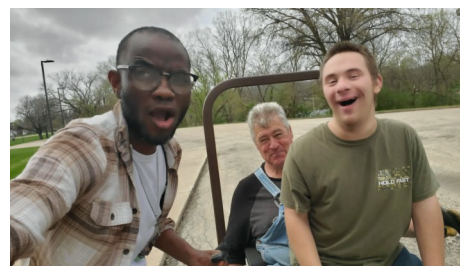
SOUL SISTERS tour Sawmill Museum & Dinner at Rastrelli's



WAX MUSEUM ENNIE MARIA - FOR ROSA PARKS

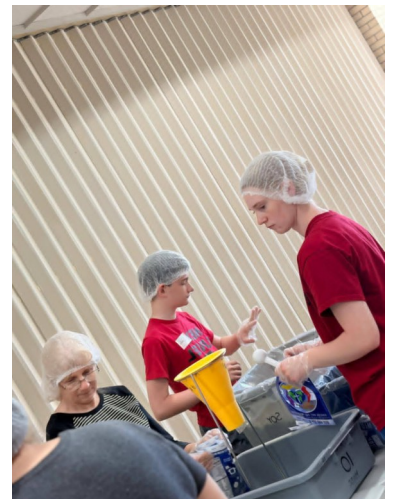


Thanks to the Trustees, Jason, Moore, Jeff Law & Kirk, Tom Neumiller and Ron Miller for sending their people to help Mowing and pick up sticks!



Paul Mayer as published his book titled "GOD WAS WATCHING OVER ME" and they are having a book signing event at the Bookstore the Novel Bloom on Saturday May 23rd from 10AM to Noon. The book is an 8x10 hard cover book and will cost \$35 for anyone that wants to buy a copy and have is signed by Paul

RICE MEAL PACKING



JOY (Just Older Youth)



Easter Egg Hunt



Having Fun!



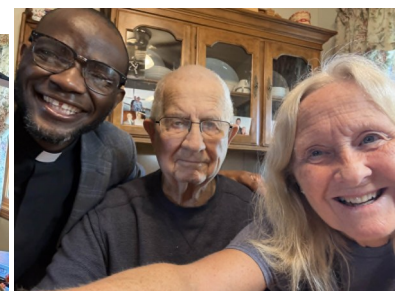
Easter Pics



Chicago Bus Trip to other Religious Temples Pastor Joe, and Christina



Visiting Mr. Thompson





Graduation Sunday will be May Be sure to send in a picture and information about your graduate to the office no later than Monday, May 4th

All graduates --Preschool, 8th Grade and High School!

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

United Methodist Men will
meet Wednesday, May 19
@ 5:30 pm.

Let's get signed up for our
blood drive!!!
May 14th

KIDS KARDS will not
meet May, June or July!

United Women of Faith will meet Tuesday,
May 5 at 6:30 pm at the church.
All women are invited!

After the business portion we'll be watching a video portraying women of the Bible.

We will be planting flowers Wednesday,
May 13th at 5:00pm

Please bring two 6-packs of your favorite flowers and planting tools. We'll go to supper when we're done. All women are welcome to join us!





May 2026

- 8 - Bill Wright
- 9 - *Bob & LaVona Grissinger (1966)*
- 10 - Rodney Clemmons
- 11 - Florence Bevins-Powell
- 12 - Cody Johnson
- 13 - James Gonzalez
- 14 - Courtney Johnson
- 14 - Kathie Prins
- 14 - *Peter & Susan King (2024)*
- 15 - *Dave & Bang-Wool Yim (2010)*
- 15 - *Joe & Bituin Michels (2004)*
- 24 - *John & Julie Brigham (1998)*
- 24 - *Enoch & Ramona Green (1980)*
- 25 - *Jon & Pam Darrow (1985)*
- 25 - John LeComte
- 26 - Jerry Cavanagh
- 26 - Chris Falk
- 27 - Jean Ferris
- 28 - Shirley Hastings
- 28 - Carlos Stubbe
- 28 - Anika Law

Counters & Verifiers

- May 3 -Molly Andersen & Pam Darrow
- May 10 -Rhonda Law & Tom Michels
- May 17 -Lori Miller & Sharon Guilinger
- May 24 -Vivian Eaton & LaVona Grissinger
- May 31 -



Worship Helpers

Liturgists

- May 3 -Linda Jachino
- May 10 -Jason Moore
- May 17 -Emily Madley
- May 24 -Tim Cavanagh

- May 31 -Christina Pasch

Acolytes

- May 3 - Pearl Michels
- May 10 - Blaine Johnson
- May 17- Joe Pasch
- May 24 - Anika Law

Greeters

- May 3 -Esther Losh & Karen Hoffman
- May 10 -
- May 17 - Carlo & Linda Stubbe
- May 24
- May 31

Ushers

- May 3 -Linda, Pam & Molly
- May 10 -Linda Stubbe
- May 17 -Rhonda, Bruce, Molly A. & Pam D.
- May 24 -Pam D & Molly A.
- May 31 -Pam D. & Molly A.

Coffee Hour

- May 3-Cavanagh
- May 10 - Melinda & Gary Dykema
- May 17-Ross & Glenda Bronkema
- May 24-
- May 31 -Jim & Vivian Eaton

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Communion 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship 5-7pm Youth Group	4 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	5 6:30 pm United Women of Faith	6	7 Soul Sisters 11:00 am	8	9
10 Mother's Day 8:45 am Adult SS 9:30 am Youth SS 10:15 am Worship	11 1 pm Sewing Ladies	12	13 10 am Choir Practice Graduation 6pm Mt. Carroll Church of God	14 Blood Drive 3-6pm	15	16
17 8:45 am Adult SS 9 am Trustees 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Ad Council	18 Telstar Info due 1 pm Sewing Ladies 3:30—5 pm WC Food Pantry	19 5:30 pm UM Men	20	21	22	23
24/31 Memorial Service 10:15 am Worship Pentecost Sunday	25 1 pm Sewing Ladies	26	27	28	29	30 