

Our Mission is to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously.



2026

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



"Whenever I was called to serve, I never said I knew; I said I would try."

With these humble and faith-filled words from our late sister Jackie Walker, I begin this month's reflection. Jackie entered her eternal rest on September 7th at the age of 95, leaving behind a legacy that continues to speak to us.

I write about Jackie first because she was a lifelong member of our Church—baptized here at only three months old—and because I had the privilege last year of sitting with her, listening to her story, and learning about the many ministries she faithfully served. On October 24th, we will gather in our sanctuary for her Memorial Service, and I am deeply blessed to officiate this celebration of a life so beautifully lived.

Lessons from Jackie's Life

1. Obedience to God begins with a willing "Yes."

Jackie never claimed to know everything; she simply said, "I will try." She never refused the Lord's work. Her hands were always ready, her heart always open. From her, we learn that God does not ask for perfection—He asks for willingness.

2. What we give to God is never lost.

Jackie told me, "This Church was always there for me." And as I reflect, I see how true that was. Just one day before she transitioned, on a Sunday afternoon, Mary Irons and I left the church and spent precious moments with Jackie—praying, singing "It Is Well with My Soul," and reminding her of God's peace. Our presence with her was not accidental; it was the fruit of her lifelong investment in this Church. She gave herself fully, and the Church gave back fully.

Her late husband once joked, "Let's take a bed out there," because Jackie spent so much time serving here. What a testimony.

3. Jackie believed in the future of this Church.

She said our congregation had always been known as active, friendly, and lovable. I pray her words settle deeply in each of us. And I ask: What are you doing—and what can you do—to make our Church more active, more lovable, and more friendly?

Friends, October will not be a month of sadness alone. As we honor Jackie's life, we also step into a season of celebration and unity.

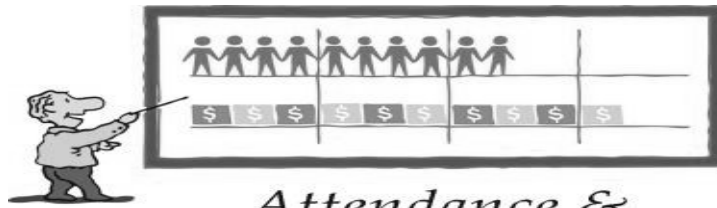
October 4th – World Communion Sunday: We join Christians around the globe at the Lord's Table, remembering that we are one body.

October 10th – Charge Conference: A joyful moment of reflection on all God has done through us in Savanna and beyond. We will welcome our District Superintendent and gather as a Church family to celebrate our shared ministry. Please consider being present for this holy and important time.

As we enter October, let us carry Jackie's spirit with us. Let us keep trying—faithfully, humbly, courageously—trusting that even when we do not know, God's grace is sufficient for those He has called for such a time as this.

Blessings,

Fernando de Castro



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account August \$11,722.95		
		YTD
Church Revenue	\$13,095.13	\$116,931.77
Church Expenses	\$14,922.77	\$128,694.25
Net Operating Balance	-\$1,827.37	-\$11,762.25
NIC Apportionments Paid		\$7,722.64



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
August 30	\$1,767.00	89		89
September 6	\$4,209.70	74	1	75
September 13	\$1,571.00	69		69
September 20	\$2,825.42	85		85
Totals	\$10,373.12	317	1	318



Tim Cavanagh, Maria Africano (Pastor's mom), Sandy Frohlich, Frank Norman, Mike Medley, Kathie Prins, Heather Mullins, Colleen Olson, Howard Nichols, Lt. Brian Robinson, Julia Castro, chuck Atherton, bob & Teresa Bauer, amil bork, Rachael Williams, Curtis Pilgrim, Joyce Eversoll, Caleb Thorton, Bella Harbron, Maria Africano, Don & Pat White

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Brenda Hamm, Mary

Ellen Dreger, Florence Bevins-Powell, Judy Law, Don Kramer

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

October 21, 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 soup and sandwiches with a special program by Jeff Kromer & Andy Nielsen performing their Bluegrass music. Rides are available, in-town only. Please make reservations by noon, Monday October 17th by calling the church office at 815-273-2345.



SOUL SISTERS

Fall Fun, Faith, & Fellowship---with Costumes!"

Thursday, October 1st 11:30 A. M.

Bring a sack Lunch

Dessert & Drinks provided

Prizes for individual and group costumes

All women are invited!

Please respond if you are coming

– **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

October 8th Church Library .

6:30 @ the Church Library

KIDS KARDS will be October 25th, after

Worship. We will be making Thanksgiving cards and having sloppy joes for lunch. All materials are provided and everyone is welcome. Come share the fun with our children!

Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket provides clients of the West Carroll school Food Pantry with free household items and personal hygiene products. We need Toothbrushes and toothpaste for adults & children. Please consider donating 2 items this month to restock our shelves. Donations can be placed in the Food Pantry box in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity!



Coffee Hour

October 11-

October 25 -Melinda & Gary Dykema



UNITED METHODIST
MEN

Movie Night October 8, Fellowship
5:00pm Movie starts at 6:00pm





October 2026

1 -Cindy Norman
 2 - Cheyenne Hoffman
 2 - Allen Hoffman
 8 - Jared Green
 11 - Don Greenfield
 16- Marcile Fowler
 19 - Sharon Beyer
 19 - Kris Yingling
 22 - Sarah Hanson
 24 - Susan King
 27 - Esther Losh
 28 - Nikki Badkte
 28 - Josh Hanson
 29 - John Jachino

Liturgists

October 4 -Kim Gonzales
 October 11 -Linda Jachino
 October 18 -Travis Prowant
 October 25 -LeeAnn Michels



Acolytes

October 4 -Ryker McCombie
 October 11 - Elaine Johnson
 October 18 - Tyson Speer
 October 25 - Annika Law

Greeters

October 4 -Debbie Long
 October 11 - Tom Michels, LeaAnn Michels
 October 18 -Kim Gonzales
 October 25 -

Ushers

October 4 -Pam Darrow, Linda Stubbe, Molly Andersen, Kelly Johnson
 October 11 - Debbie Long, Bob & LaVona Grissinger
 October 18 -Pam Darrow, Linda Stubbe, Molly Andersen, LaVona Grissinger
 October 25 -Pam Darrow, Linda Stubbe, Molly Andersen, Linda Jachino

Counters & Verifiers

October 4 -Molly Andersen & Pam Darrow
 October 11 - Rhonda Law & Linda Jachino
 October 18 - Lori Miller & Kay Cavanagh
 October 25 - Vivian Eaton & Linda Stubbe

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kick-off

Learning about

Creation

Learning

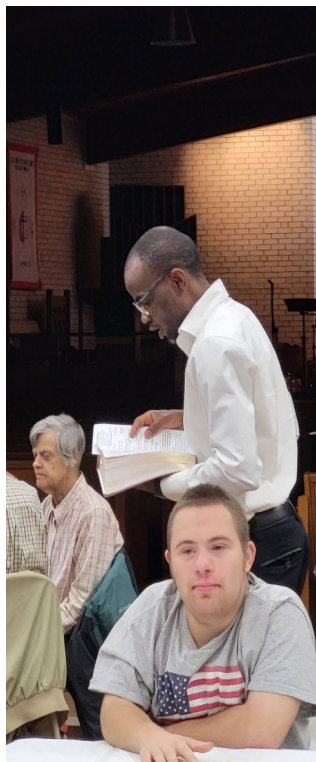


SEPTEMBER
SOUL SISTERS
Troll Tour

AUGUST SOUL SISTERS
GARDEN TOUR



JOY



Old Mill Park Service and Picnic



Old Mill Park





FUMC serving at the TABLE



Jacki Walker Memorial
October 24, 2pm FUMC



Confirmation Class



September 27, 2026

Baptisms

Michael J. Schmitt

Valerie Petersen



KIDS KARDS
SEPTEMBER

Sewing Ministry
School Bags



OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Soul Sisters 11:30am	2	3
4 Communion 10:15 Worship Service	5 WC Pantry	6	7	8 Movie	9	10
11 10:15 Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:15 Worship Service Trusttee/ Ad Council	19 WC Pantry	20 Men's Meeting 5:30pm	21 JOY 4:30- 6:00pm	22	22	24
25 10:15 Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31