



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



September reflects the beauty of change—especially through the arrival of Fall.

Friends, I believe many of us look forward to September, though for different reasons. Personally, I love the cooler weather.

I have read an article recently that shared ten reasons people anticipate fall, and I want to highlight three that resonate deeply with me.

1. Cooler Weather

Farmers especially welcome September because the cooler temperatures allow them—and gardeners—to safely harvest and store mature crops like apples and grains before the hard frost arrives.

I also appreciate the cooler days because they reduce the risk of heat-related illness and exhaustion, something we have felt intensely during recent late-summer heatwaves here in Illinois.

2. Football Season

September also ushers in football season. Although I am still learning the rules of American football, I cannot ignore the excitement it brings to our young people, our schools, and our community. The energy of game nights creates joy and strengthens our sense of shared community across the nation.

3. The Beauty of Changing Leaves

Perhaps the most breathtaking sign of fall is the changing of the leaves. This transformation amazes me every year. In it, I see the power and creativity of God—painting the trees with colors that delight our eyes and lift our spirits with hope.

As I mentioned, September reflects the beauty of change. And change is something we all need in every area of life. We know change can be uncomfortable, yet it is often the very place where renewal begins. My prayer is that we learn to expect beauty in the changes God brings, trusting that He remains faithful in every season.

As we sing in Great Is Thy Faithfulness:

“Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness, To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.”

As we enter this new season, remember to embrace change, for God is in the midst of every change.

Blessings,

Pastor Fernando de Castro

SAVANNA FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 16, 2026 11:30AM LIBRARY

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

Susan Michelle opened the meeting and led us in prayer.

The minutes were approved as sent. Moved by Kris Yingling and seconded by Karen Hoffman. The motion passed
The financial report has not been sent out yet.

Education: Kris reported that Confirmation will be meeting next week and classes will begin on the 13th of September.

Evangelism: Mary reported that Birthday greetings were sent to Brenda Hamm and Sharon Guilinger. Visits were made to Don Kramer 3 times, Jackie Walker 3 times and three phone calls. It was reported that she is not feeling well. Texts have been sent to Sharon Guilinger and to Emily Medley regarding Mike.

Hospitality: Esther reported that a sign up for the potluck brunch to be held on the 30th was filled.

Memorial/Historical: no report

Outreach/Mission: Deann reported that the August communion offering of \$180 will be given to the Blessing Basket. Trunk or Treat will be immediately following the parade.

Staff Parish relations: LaVona is preparing an outline regarding the bus ministry of how to proceed.

Trustees: Jason reported that it is \$650 to replace the outside faucet. The trustees recommended that it be done. The motion passed. Ron Miller will repair and replace edging around the sidewalks. The anodized rod in the water heater was replaced so it should last 2 years.

Worship: Linda reported they will meet Thursday and discuss changing the time for worship starting on September 13

190-year committee: Deann reported they met last week. Music on the River will be August 23. Millers will provide ice cream and root beer for floats. Many musicians will participate. The Mark and Robin Cook committee will meet Tuesday and would appreciate Church involvement. Nov 5 is the Church Celebration. Some past pastors may need housing accommodations there may be a possible meeting set up for that Saturday with them.

Representatives:

United Women in Faith: Kathy reported they went to Deanns for their meeting. There is a fall fundraiser with carry out dinner. The sewing group received a \$500 grant to use for something in the community so they will be making chair bags for elementary school.

United Methodist Men: Will meet at 5:30 to “eat and do some other stuff”

Youth: no representative

Old Business:

Refrigerator: It has been fixed.

Answering machine: Linda reported that it appears to be working.

Organ: The trustees recommended bringing in a technician with a \$5000 cap on repairs. Tom reported a possibility of replacing the organ with a used one that we could try for a month and use money from the Sterk fund. Susan Michelle moved to have Jason’s contact come and look at the organ. The motion carried.

AED upgrade: The AED pads have been replaced but the AED should be replaced. The cost is \$1905 with tax (Not eligible for tax cut). Tom moved and Kris seconded to buy a new AED. The motion passed

CPR cards: If you have not received your CPR cards go to the website ghale65@yahoo.com

Old Mill Park Sign: Is installed

Website: Jason will set up a meeting to get the committee working.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor thanked the SPRC team and all who called or texted while he was off enjoying family time.

He has conducted 3 services, 3 prayer meetings, 9 meetings for band, The Table, Interfaith, 190 Anniversary, Membership training, and Education. He has conducted 2 hospital visits and 2 home visits.

He has attended 3 district meetings and 2 counseling sessions.

Upcoming schedule:

Interfaith, Membership training, African Clergy, Confirmation class, Membership training, walk of Hope.

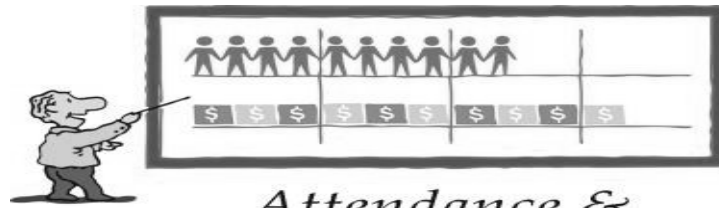
New Business: Shane Grissinger is fixing the office computer.

On September 12 there will be a Suicide Prevention Walk. Pastor and Karen are working on this project.

The meeting was adjourned.

Lea Ann Michels

Secretary.



Attendance & Financials

Cash Available in General Account: \$ \$13,258.87		
JULY		YTD
Church Revenue	\$12,765.27	\$104,191.20
Church Expenses	\$15,929.79	\$113,771.52
Net Operating Balance	\$-3,164.52	\$-9,580.32
NIC Apportionments Paid	\$1,115.14	\$7,101.50



Date	Income	Worship Inside	Worship Outside	Total Attendance
July 26	\$3,247.72	61		61
August 2	\$4,298.00	70	2	72
August 9	\$2,028.01	63		63
August 16	\$2,288.00	88	1 dog	88
August 23	\$2,138.14	74		74
Totals	\$13,999.87	356	2 & 1 dog	358



Tim Cavanagh, Frank Norman, Mike Medley, Sandy Froelich, Kathie Prins, Carol Ingersoll, Heather Mullins, Colleen Olsen, Howard Nichols, Curtis Pilgrim, Lt. Brian Robinson, Julia Castro, Chuck Atherton, Bob & Terea Bauer, Amil Bork, Rachael Williams (friend of Jason Moore), Joyce Eversoll, Ki, Kauffman

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Janis Wilt, 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: Bob Charneski Family

Carol Wright 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

September 16, 4:30 - 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. JOY is a free meal, fellowship, and program open to anyone over 60 years old. This month we will meet on the 16th. The program will be Gary Heidi, a Local beekeeper. Dinner will be breakfast Casseroles so you can wear your pajamas! Rides are available, in-town only. Please make reservations by noon, Monday September 14th by calling the church office at 815-273-2345.

SOUL SISTERS TROLLS TOUR

Come, join our free "Tour of the Clinton, Iowa Trolls!"

DATE: Thursday, September 10th

BEGIN TOUR: **9:45 A.M.** (a carpool will leave 1st UMC at **9:00 A.M.**

(*WE NEED DRIVERS!!*)

PLACE: **1st troll---** 2231 Grant St., near the Sawmill Museum in the Lyons district

LUNCH: **12:00 P.M.** at Pizza Ranch---1347 11th Street NW

(Buffet of salad bar, pizzas, fried chicken, hot veggies, dessert, Pizza & ice cream, and beverages---\$14.58)

DEVOTIONS & GRACE: Bea Ingersoll

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!!***

PLEASE, RESPOND IF YOU'RE GOING to 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

We will be meeting on September the 8th. We will finalize our Fall fundraiser plans and Molly will present the program. We hope to see you on the 8th at 6:00 pm in the church library.. (phone number is 309-236-2194) You won't want to miss this

KIDS KARDS will be back in September

Blessing Basket

The Blessing Basket shelves are wiped out after the School supply Giveaway! Please consider donating a bottle of shampoo or body wash to help restock the shelves.. You may place them in the food Pantry box in the narthex. This ministry is possible only because of your generosity. . Thank you!

School Supply Giveaway Many Thanks to all the volunteers and donations to make our school supply giveaway so successful. We served 48 families, 102 children, the most ever! Go, West Carroll!



Vendor & Craft Show

September 19th Contact Karen Hoffman
563-357-8795

Or Vivian Eaton : 815-541-5671



Thanks for your Generosity!

Coffee Hour

September 6 -Isabel de Castro

September 13 - OLD MILL PARK

September 20 - Cavanagh

September 27 -

United Methodist Men will
meet Tuesday

September 15, 5:30pm



Trustee meet every 3rd
Sunday at 8:30

Ad council 3rd Sunday
after Service

Movie Night September 10

Fellowship 5:00pm

Movie starts at 6:00pm



Birthdays
&
Anniversaries

September 2026

1- Kimberly Bundy
1 - Caleb Thorton
2 - Ramona Green
2 - Nick Law
3 - Jean Tretor
5 - Kenny Clemmon
7 - Julie Brigham
12 - Lori Law
12- Julie Petty
13 - Emily Medley
14 - Sherri Miller
16 - Boyd Law
18 - Johnna Ford
20 - Jason Moore
24 - Janis Wilt

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



Liturgists

September 6 -Ryker McCombie
September 13 - Tim Cavanagh
September 20 - Sherry Cancelose
September 27 - Sussan Michell Jepsen

Acolytes

September 6 - Pearl Michels
September 13 - Faith Gonzales
September 20 - Joe Pasch
September 27 - Boyd Law

Greeters

September 6 - Karen Hoffman
September 13 - Kay Cavanagh
September 20 - Bob & LaVona Grissinger
September 27 - Bronkema

Counters & Verifiers

September 6 - Molly Andersen & Tom Michels
September 13 - Rhonda Law & Karen Hoffman
September 20 - Lori Miller & Sharo Guilinger
September 27 - Vivian Eaton & Mary Irons

Ushers

September 6 - Linda Stubbe, Pam Darrow , Molly Andersen & Esther Losh
September 13 -- Michels family, Joe
September 20- -Linda Stubbe, Pam Darrow & Molly Andersen, Linda Jachino
September 27 - Linda Stubbe, Pam Darrow & Molly Andersen, LaVona Grissinger









AUGUST JOY



FUMC of Savanna Serving at the TABLE!



School Supplies Giveaway!



Going back to School Backpack Blessings!





Midwest Mission Trip

Molly Andersen, Mary Irons, Karen Hoffman



1800 School Kits



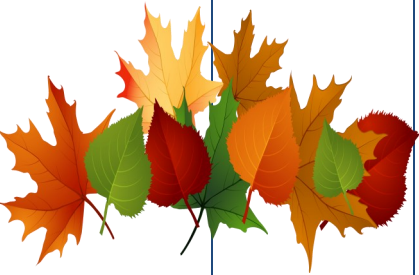
Sorting Pens



Going to Haiti



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Communion 9:30 Worship 10:35 Coffee Hour	7 WC Pantry	8 UWF	9	10 SOUL SISTERS MOVIE NIGHT	11	12
13 Old Mill Park 10:15 Worship Pot Luck Dinner!	14	15 Men's Meeting 5:30 pm	16 JOY 4:30 - 6:30pm	17	18	19
20 10:15 Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour CHOIR SINGS Trustee-8:30 Ad Council	21 WC Pantry	22	23	24 Worship Cmte 4:30 pm	25	26
27 10:15 Worship 11:15 Coffee	28	29	30			