

The Messenger

APRIL 2026

The Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ
132 N. Main Street, PO Box 231
Angola, NY 14006
716-549-2115

E-mail: ucc_angola@verizon.net
Website: www.christchurchangola.com

THE FOLLOWING TOOK PLACE IN MARCH

Baptism: Westin Scott Northern
Memorials Received: In Memory of Judy Fuerst
In Memory of Rev. William Bruner
In Memory of Floyd H. & Hilda L. Hurst
In Memory of William & Joan Houston
In Honor of John & Mary Grennell



Scheduled to Serve in April

Head Usher—George Beith

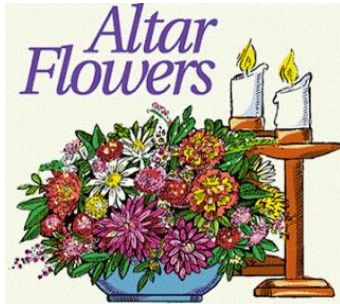
	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>
04/05	JonnyAnn Roach, Michelle Becker Carrie Ward-Marcynski, Eric Marcynski	Gayl Weinheimer	Michelle Becker
04/12	Dale Ketterer, Joan Blais	Sally Needham	Carrie & Joe
04/19	Jessica Ludwig, Bill Ludwig	Laurie Ludwig	JonnyAnn Roach
04/26	Cherryl Vincent-Becker, Gayl Weinheimer	Joe Panzarella	Kathy Bienias

Counters

04/05	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach
04/12	Sue Weinheimer, Marcia Whittemore
04/19	Chris Beith, Laurie Ludwig
04/26	Judy Strade, Jessica Ludwig

ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank March Altar Flower Dedicators:



Donna & David Donner
Miriam & Tony Oster
Sally Needham
Marjorie McCarthy
Kathy & Bob Bienias
Gayl Weinheimer

If you are interested in dedicating Altar Flowers, the cost is \$20.00, please see the sign-up in the Narthex or call Michelle in the office 716-549-2115.

We would like to thank our March Bulletin Dedication:



JonnyAnn Roach gave this month's bulletins to the Glory of God and In Honor of Christ Our Lord Jesus.

If you are interested in dedicating Bulletins, the cost is \$50.00, please see the sign-up in the Narthex or call Michelle in the office 716-549-2115.

From the Pastor...

The Math of Grace: Why 50 Beats 40

Admittedly, Math is not my favorite subject in school. In fact, it's the only class I ever got kicked out of. In Scripture, however, there are numbers (aka "math") referenced several times. We often hear the number 40 in the Bible, and let's be honest, like my feelings toward math class, it rarely points to a good time. It usually signals a season of testing, waiting, or endurance. Think about it:

Noah endured 40 days of torrential rain on the ark.

Moses spent 40 years in Egypt and another 40 years leading a restless crowd through the wilderness.

Jesus faced 40 days of hunger and temptation in the desert.

In Scripture, 40 often represents a "difficult time;" a period of trial we'd usually rather skip. We just finished our own 40 days of Lent, leaning into that spirit of reflection and sacrifice.

Enter the Number 50.

Why is 50 a number of significance? Why does the calendar shift after Easter?

Because the trial is over, and the celebration is bigger. Simple math tells us that $50 > 40$.

In the Church, we call the 50 days following Easter Eastertide, or the "Great 50 Days". This isn't just a quirk of the calendar; it's a statement of our beliefs, of our confidence in the power of the Resurrection of Jesus. It means our time basking in the light of the Resurrection is intentionally longer than our time of trial. God's "Yes!" is louder than the wilderness's "No."

We are reminded in Acts 1:3:

"After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God."

Jesus spent 40 days proving He was alive, the Church adds 10 more days to reach Pentecost, ensuring our celebration of life always outlasts the season of suffering.

Easter didn't end when the sun went down on April 5th. We journey through a 50-day feast and celebration that carries us all the way to Pentecost Sunday on May 24th. Just as the "work of Christmas" doesn't vanish on December 26th, the joy of Easter shouldn't fade by Easter Monday. (It even continues past the WNY Dyngus Day celebrations!)

During this Eastertide celebration, we are invited to:

✠ Bask in the Light: Remember that the empty tomb is a permanent reality, not a one-day event.

✠ Be Witnesses: Share the hope of the Resurrection with a world that too often feels stuck in cycles of "40 days."

✠ Practice Joy: Treat these 50 days as a season of ancient beauty and intentional celebration. Find moments of joy every day!

The "Great 50 Days" are not meant to be a spectator sport. We are called to carry the light of the empty tomb into the world:

✠ Find "Resurrection Moments": Look around you, and identify the places where you see God bringing life out of a trying situation. Write it down or share it with a friend.

✠ Reach Out: Who in your life is still in a "40-day wilderness"? Send a note, make a call, or buy a coffee for someone who needs a reminder that the season of trial does not have the final word.

✠ Celebrate Together: Don't let your Sunday attendance slip just because Lent is over and Easter Sunday has come and gone! Join us as we explore the "convincing proofs" of the Resurrection together in worship...and beyond! There are lots of opportunities to join in at church; help out with the Chicken BBQ, Community Dinner or Strawberry Social (or all 3!), volunteer to teach a Summer Sunday School class, be part of a Bible Study, help with a "clean up" or maintenance project. Want more ideas, just ask!

This season, let's lean into the "50!" Let it remind you that God's promises are more expansive than our struggles, and God's grace always gets the final word.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

Peace,
Pastor Jen



Happy Spring!

Our kiddos are blooming with energy and excitement for their love of Jesus. Every Sunday we talk about ways to show love and light in our world. We've recently been working on projects to send with Meals on Wheels meals to remind folks that they are loved. A reminder that all kids are welcome; we love to see new and old faces every week!

Best wishes, warmest regards!
Tiffany Hurd

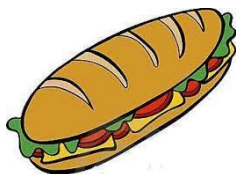
VACATION BIBLE School News:

We are very excited to announce our
Vacation Bible School Program for 2026 entitled:
“Snowball Mountain Challenge”



The program will run the week of July 27th thru July 30th. We are very excited for this year's Vacation Bible School and can't wait. If you are able, please plan to join us, as many hands help the week run smoothly. Please contact Michelle Becker or Carol Ann Obrochta to offer your help. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, please consider helping, you will not be disappointed.

It is very rewarding to see the smiles on the faces of the children.



SUB SALE

Sub Sale is Wednesday, April 29th - Subs must be pre-ordered and pre-paid by Friday, April 24th, and can be picked up on Wednesday 04/29/26. Please support this fundraiser. Order forms are available at the church.

Thank you to everyone who helps and supports our Sub Sales!

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR MARCH

The Trustee meeting was held on March 10, 2026 from 4:00-7:00pm, usual financial and business discussed.

Upcoming events: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday-132 NORTH, Palm Sunday, set-up "Stations of the Cross" for Holy Week, baptisms (2) and wedding (1).

Carrie Ward-Marcynski agreed to be a LSACC Representative for us and Sue Weinheimer agreed to chair Caregivers. Thank you to both for stepping up!

Future meetings: Finance and David Donner FFF on Wednesday 3/25/26 at 6pm; Security & Safety Tuesday 3/31/26 at 5pm; Strawberry Social on Sunday 4/12/26 following worship; Worship on Sunday 4/26 following worship and Congregational meeting on Sunday 5/3/26 following worship.

It was agreed on that a "Free Community Dinner" will be held quarterly (every 3 months). During Village Wide Yard sale on Saturday 6/6/26 some of Timeless Treasures will be outside during hot dog sale with signs directing that more is downstairs (this is in lieu of the bazaar).

Hope to see you all at the "Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner" YUM!

Spring is coming and days are longer!

"Whether it's St. Patrick's Day or not, everyone has a little luck of the Irish in them"

Peace – Jean Galfo

Thank You...

Thank you to everyone who purchased Easter Flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. Can't wait to see it all decorated on Easter Sunday! Pictures will be in May Newsletter.

Lenten Coin Cards

It was that time of year again for our Lenten coin offering! You can return your card to the church on Sunday's during worship or stopping in the church office during the week.



A PRAYER OF UNITY SERVICE

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Commemorative ornaments: 3 1/2" double sided
to celebrate 250 years for America
\$10.00 each (Proceeds to Memorial Fund)

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

For Blessings received _____

A Prayer for _____

Other _____

Pre-orders needed and paid for by May 31st

CHICKEN BARBEQUE

Includes 1/2 chicken, buttered spuds, baked beans, roll & brownie

Saturday, May 16, 2026

11:30am – 4:30pm/or until sold out

\$15.00

Dine-in, Take-out or Drive-thru

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
132 N. MAIN ST., ANGOLA

Pre-sale Tickets call 716-549-2115

Prepared by Toni & Tony and
In Memory of Stu Imhof and Bob Jakubczak



Think Summer Camp ...Dunkirk

It is not too soon to sign up for church camp at Dunkirk. Our UCC related camp is right on the shores of Lake Erie just west of here. From early spring through early autumn, Dunkirk hosts a variety of camp sessions for children, youth, adults and families.

Each camp includes age-appropriate learning experiences geared toward helping the camper find a relationship with God and neighbor...There are also activities such as talent shows, dances, game nights and campfires---and lots of healthy outdoor recreation on 50 acres of woods and fields, with a swimming pool, volleyball courts, playground, basketball court, four-square pad, Frisbee golf course, ropes course, rock wall for climbing, and archery.

For registration information, check out the Dunkirk website at www.dunkirkcc.com or with Pastor or Donna (a Dunkirk board member) Donner. There are reduced rates for early registration, discounts for first time campers and church scholarships available.

Youth Weekend Camps:

Harry Potter Camp: April 24- 25 (entering grades 3-9)

Star Wars Camp: September 18-20 (entering grades 3-9)

Fall Adventure Camp: October 9-11 (entering grades 3-9)

Youth Summer Camps:

Day Camp: June 29-August 14 (grades K-5)

Senior Day Camp: June 29-August 14 (grades 6-8)

Pilgrim: June 28-July 01 Mini and June 28-July 04 Full Week
(entering grades 1-5)

Senior High: June 28-July 04 (entering grades 10-graduates)

Jr. High: Aug. 09-Aug. 15 (entering grades 7-10)

Outdoor Adventure: July 12-18 (entering grades 3-8)

Pioneers: July 26- August 01 (entering grades 3-7)

Swim Camp: August 02-08 (entering grades 3-9)

Soccer: August 02-08 (entering grades 3-9)

Adult and Family Camps:

Women's Weekend: June 05-June 07

Fun after 50: June 15-19

Camp Good Ol' Days: July 19-21

Clergy Retreat: August 17-20

One Piece at a Time Weekend: August 20-23

Women's Wellness & Mindfulness Retreat: September 25-27

Scrapbooking Camp: November 06-08

Friends & Family Camp 1: July 05-11

Friends & Family Camp 2: July 19-25

Special Events:

Meat Raffle: April 11

Spring Work Weekend: May 15-19

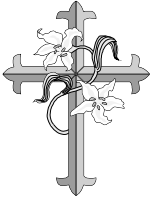
Halloween Happening: October 17

Fall Work Day: October 24

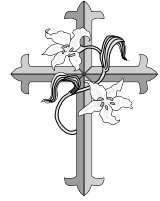
- Register Online at Dunkirkcc.com
- To Register by phone, call (716) 366-1900

Becker's Bistro

Thank you for all your donations to Becker's Bistro. We appreciate your donations of coffee, baked goods and cleaning supplies. Your monetary donations support, not only coffee hour, but supplies such as bowls, plates, cups, deli tubs, drinks and other items for special events.



2026



Easter Flower Dedications
*The Easter Plants, which grace the sanctuary,
are dedicated to the glory of God,
In Loving Memory of...*

Cecelia Izzio

By JonnyAnn Roach

Albert Izzio

By JonnyAnn Roach

Edward & Dorothea Gerecke

Harry & Bertha Shores

By Edward Gerecke Jr. &

Dorene Shores

Gerecke, Staubitz, Cash & Wegliewski Family

By Edward Gerecke Jr. &

Dorene Shores

Loved Ones

By Carol Ann Obrochta

Loved Ones

By Rob Ingrassia

Loved Ones

By Darlene DePasquale

Loved Ones

By Sally Needham

David Pawlak

By Michelle Becker

Eleanor Zimmer

By Michelle Becker

Florence Karczewski

By Michelle Becker

Loved Ones

By Donna Nagel

Loved Ones

By Ludwig Family

Irene Chisholm

By Sue & Kurt Weinheimer

Kate Heyden & Mikey Arakelian

By Sue & Kurt Weinheimer

Bussy & Jane Weinheimer

By Sue & Kurt Weinheimer

Loved Ones

By Bev & Ron Taylor

Loved Ones

By Anne & Paul Becker

Loved Ones

By Donna & David Donner

Lehning/ Galfo Loved Ones

By Jean & Tony Galfo

Loved Ones

By Barb Raab

Wilbur & Jane Reed

By Cindy Farthing

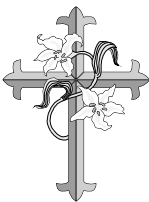
Loved Ones
By Kathy & Bob Bienias

Loved Ones
By Gayl Weinheimer

Loved Ones
By MaryJo Maracle

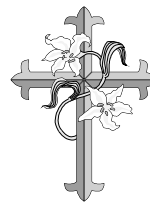
Charlie & Mary
By Nancy Ward

Loved Ones
By Penny Wilson-Castle

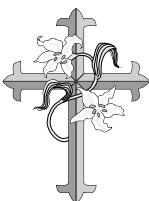


2026

Easter Flower Dedications
*The Easter Plants, which grace the sanctuary,
are dedicated to the glory of God,
In Celebration of...*

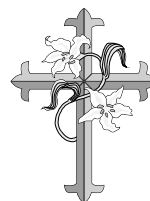


**Lives of Lillian & William Andrews
and Hazel & Henry Donner**
By David & Donna Donner



2026

Easter Flower Dedications
*The Easter Plants, which grace the sanctuary,
are dedicated to the glory of God,
In Honor of...*



Family
By Marcia Whittemore

With Love To My Original Church Family
By Cindy Farthing

**Jen, Leo, Madeline &
Michaela Mazur**
By David & Donna Donner

**Chris, Esther, Noah,
David & Henry Donner**
By David & Donna Donner

Loved Ones
By Dale Ketterer

Kids & Grandkids
By Annette Reynolds

Of Our Family
By Diane & Rick Coomer

Sylvia
By: Miriam & Tony Oster

Kristeen Izzio
By JonnyAnn Roach

Mike & Emily
By JonnyAnn Roach

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Monday March 30, 2026 thru April 03, 2026

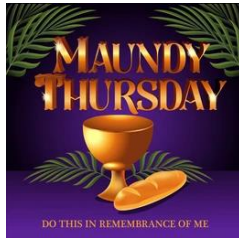
From 10am-12pm and 4:00-6:30pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 02, 2026

Worship Service

Pot-luck dinner hour at 6:00pm and worship to follow



132 NORTH

Friday, April 03, 2026 at 7:00pm

Come and enjoy music, scripture and fellowship downstairs!



EASTER

“Rejoice and Resurrection”

Easter Sunday is April 05, 2026, service at 10:00am. We will gather as a renewed church and a renewed vision of who we may yet become. We gather as renewed persons celebrating the transformation of ourselves, and the world as a result of the Risen Christ.



First Congregational
United Church of Christ
132 North Main Street
P O Box 231
Angola, New York 14006-0231

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MAIL
Mailed on March 30, 2026
Please deliver promptly.

Sunday Worship- 10:00 AM

Sunday School – 10:00 AM

NEW OFFICE HOURS: MON., TUES., THURS., FRI., 9:00am-1:00pm

For **Emergency Pastoral Services**, please call

Pastor Jen Mazur at 716-725-2157, Michelle in the Church Office 716-549-2115
or 716-262-6171

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this church shall be to bring together followers of Jesus Christ, to live and preach His gospel, to celebrate the sacraments and to be a beacon and model of faith for all.

- **The Next Newsletter deadline is April 15, 2026**