

The Messenger



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

Phone 716-549-2115 E-mail : ucc_angola@verizon.net
Website: www.christchurchangola.com

THE FOLLOWING TOOK PLACE IN JANUARY

Memorial Service: Judy Fuerst

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

Judy Fuerst



Scheduled to Serve in February

Head Usher—Jean Galfo

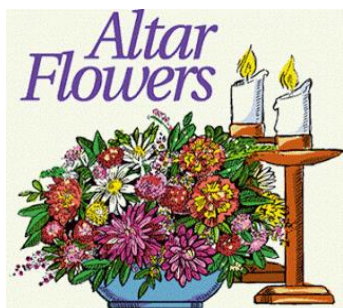
	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>
02/01	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach Carrie & Eric Marcynski, Joe Panzarella	Gayl Weinheimer	Kathy Bienias
02/08	Carrie Ward-Marcynski, Joan Blais	Joe Panzarella	Jessica Ludwig
02/15	Gayl Weinheimer, Dale Ketterer	Sally Needham	Donna Nagel
02/22	Carrie & Joe, Eric & Emerson	Dale Ketterer	Michelle Becker

Counters

02/01	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach
02/08	Chris Beith, Marcia Whittemore
02/15	Judy Strade, Sue Weinheimer
02/22	Darlene DePasquale, Annette Reynolds

ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank January Altar Flower Dedicators:



Judy & Fred Strade
Laurie & Bill Ludwig
The Donner & Mazur Family
Sue & Kurt Weinheimer
Barb Raab

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 January Bulletin Dedication:



Judy & Fred Strade gave this month's bulletins to the Glory of God and In Loving Memory of their son,
Daniel T. Strade.

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...

With all the snowy and cold weather we have had, I have had the opportunity to catch up on some reading. Among the readings I came across a quote from one of the most prolific mystics of medieval times, Julian of Norwich (1342~1416). Although she faced many struggles and hardships throughout her life, she was a woman of exceptional strength and optimism, which was reflected in one of the greatest lines she wrote: “All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well”. Looking through a lens of all that’s going on in the world around us, these words bring reassurance and hope that through our faith, “all shall be well.”

I was quite surprised, however, to learn that there is more to this quote that is not used as often: “for there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go.” Wow: “a force of love...that holds us...and will never let us go!” What amazing words of reassurance as we begin our Lenten Journey in just a couple of weeks.

This year, our Lenten Journey (which begins on Ash Wednesday—February 18th) will be centered around the theme, “Seeking: Honest questions for a deeper faith.” This Lent we will explore many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus comes to him in the veil of night, he approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, *a deeper faith*. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

We will step into the mystery and questions, not necessarily to find answers, but to help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, restoration, a wider grace. Through our Lenten journey, we will ask “big questions”: what am I seeking? What is God seeking? We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God, “a force of love...that holds us...and will never let us go!”

This Lent, there will be numerous opportunities for you to meet God individually and in community, as we pray more, deepen our practices of generosity, and fast from behaviors that don't serve God or your neighbor or yourself. We will share times of creativity and contemplation seeking to deepen our faith.

Watch for information at church, on Facebook and in our Lenten Tri-fold (coming soon!). Join us this Lenten season on Sunday mornings in our sanctuary or online, and Thursday Evenings for Pot-Luck and Bible Study as we explore how we can be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God. Remember, friends: “there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go.” This is why “all shall be well.”

Peace,
Pastor Jen

Join us to create **PRAYER BOARDS**
a time for a “pre-Lent” Pot-Luck Dinner and Faith Formation

Thursday, February 12th
5:30 pm—dinner
6:00 pm—prayer boards

All ages welcome!
Please sign-up in Updyke Hall.

WHAT IS A PRAYER BOARD?

A prayer board is a visual guide for daily prayer, a place to organize and display written prayers, scriptures, and spiritual intentions in one central place. It helps to maintain focus and be intentional. Prayer boards can include prayers for any situation, big or small, reminding us that we can turn to God in every circumstance.

WHAT TO BRING:

-a dish to pass

-decorative items such as clips, old cards, scrapbook paper, ribbon, etc.

(We will have some things to share, but if you want anything specific to add to your board, please bring it with you. A board to serve as the foundation will be provided.)



**SEEKING:
HONEST QUESTIONS FOR
DEEPER FAITH**

Lenten Pot-Luck Supper and Bible Study
Thursdays at 5:30 pm
(February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26)

Our Thursday evening gatherings will be a time for Bible Study and reflection as we explore scripture and seek to deepen our connection with Christ during this Holy Lenten Season. Sign up in Updyke Hall! See you there!

Explore the Lectionary Psalms of the Lenten Season

A Psalm and a Snack!

Sundays during Lent at 11:30 am
in the church parlor

Join us for a 15-minute examination of a
new Psalm each Sunday of Lent



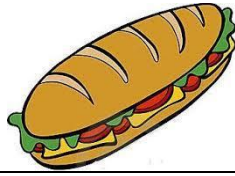
Kick-Off the Season of Lent with us at our
“Taco-Tuesday-Mardi-Gras-Mash-Up”

WHO: all children and youth
WHEN: Tuesday, February 17
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Join us for an evening of fun and surprises
as we learn about the season of Lent!

Please sign-up in Updyke Hall!

Any questions, see Pastor Jen or Ms. Tiffany



SUB SALE

Sub Sale is Wednesday, February 4th - Subs must be pre-ordered and pre-paid by Friday, Jan. 30th, and can be picked up on Wednesday 02/04/26. Please support this fundraiser. Order forms are available at the church.

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

J.O.Y. FELLOWSHIP

New this year we will not be selling Hospice Bouquets. We are asking for donations for Hospice instead and will send a check from the church. We will be meeting Sunday, February 1st following worship. Please look at attending if you are looking for fellowship events such as movie night, supper club, etc.

News from Becker's Bistro:

"Crockpot Cook-off" Sunday- Feb. 08, 2026

Join us for are annual crockpot cook-off. Please make your favorite soup or crockpot recipe.

Entries will be judged and winners announced. Please sign-up in Updyke Hall.

LENTEN COIN BOXES

It's that time of year again for our Lenten coin offering and returning this year is our Lenten coin cards! In the upcoming weeks a mailing from us will be sent to highlight our Lenten Season as well as your Lenten coin card. You can return your card to the church on Sunday's during worship or stopping in the church office during the week.



LENT - RE-LENT - RE-TURN
ASH WEDNESDAY
February 18, 2026
WORSHIP 6:30 pm

LENTEN LUNCHEONS

LSACC would like to continue our Lenten Luncheons beginning Wednesday, February 25, 2026. Please listen to future announcements to know which church is each week. Our church will be Wednesday, March 04, 2026.

EASTER PLANT SALE

Easter Plants will be available to order on Sunday, February 22nd thru March 8th after worship. Please make sure to see Carol Ann or Michelle in Updyke Hall to place your order. We will be using our local Chiavetta's Greenhouse again this year. This year we will be offering all Easter plants to decorate the sanctuary.



Hyacinths



Hydrangeas



Daffodils



Easter Lily



Tulips



Sunday School News!

Greetings from all God's Critters!

If you missed our Sunday school take over service be sure to check out the church Facebook page or Youtube to watch the 1/18/26 service. We had a fantastic time giving Pastor Jen the week off to share our message with the congregation. We are looking forward to finishing out winter with fun activities during our time together on Sundays. Stay tuned for a reschedule of our movie night- possibly during the February break- with Pastor Jen!



Best wishes, warmest regards!
Tiffany Hurd

TRUSTEES REPORT

Trustee meeting was held on 1-13-2026 from 4-7pm. Kurt Weinheimer was nominated and accepted Chair of Trustees and meeting commenced.

Usual business, financials and reports were discussed and accepted.

Discussed and revised some information to be shared at Congregational Meeting on Sunday, 1/18/26.

Missions for January is collecting 162 cans of soup and for February will be collecting pancake mix, syrup and spaghetti sauce for OGN.

Charles Walker our custodian will be away from 2/9/26-2/20/26. We are looking for volunteers to help clean up the church building and handle garbage during this time frame.

A representative for LSACC is needed, if interested please speak to Gayl Weinheimer or Pastor Jen Mazur. You will need to attend quarterly meetings on Thursdays at 1:30pm.

Future events, Lent, VBS planning discussed.

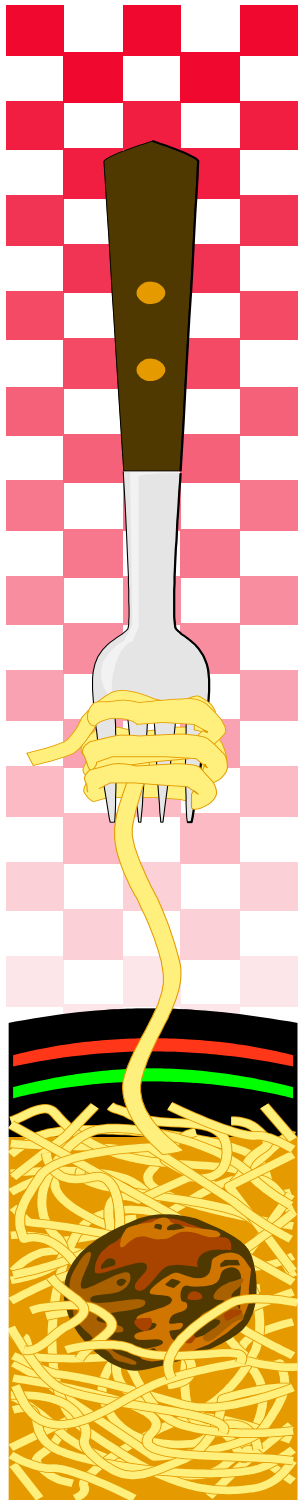
Hope to see you all for the Congregational Meeting on 1/18/26!

January is the “Monday” of months! And a time to “reset your compass” for 2026.

Peace, Jean Galfo

ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLET

The extensive comprehensive Annual Report Booklet is available on the table in the Narthex. If you would like a copy and cannot pick one up at the Church, call the office at 716-549-2115 and ask that a copy be mailed to your home.



First Congregational UCC
132 N. Main Street
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SPAGHETTI DINNER
Sunday, February 15, 2026

11:30AM-4:30PM or to sold out

Dine-in, Take-out or Drive-thru

Includes: Spaghetti, Meatballs,
Salad, Bread & Butter and Dessert

\$ 15.00 / person

Pre-Sale Tickets call Michelle at
716-549-2115

CHURCH DIRECTORY

It is that time of year to make sure we have our church records updated with information such as address, phone number, birthdays and anniversaries. If you have not seen your birthday or anniversary listed on our monthly calendars in the newsletter or announced during announcements on Sunday mornings please make sure to see Michelle with any updates needed. We would like to have Church Directories available for church members in February.

The Friendship Fridge



- ☺ Have you ever been grocery shopping and find a great deal, but you don't need the "extra" in your fridge?
- ☺ Maybe you only needed 4 eggs and don't want the other 8 to go to waste.

The Friendship Fridge is a place where you can bring your "extras" to be a blessing to others.

There are just a few considerations to keep in mind:

- ✓ Items cannot be past the expiration date.
- ✓ Items should be un-opened.
- ✓ As yummy as your left-overs might be, we cannot accept them in the Friendship Fridge.

The refrigerator is located in the front hall of the church by the Main Street entrance. If you know of anyone who can benefit from our Friendship Fridge or pantry items please make a bag and drop off items for them. We have many items on hand and would love to extend the blessings to anyone in need.

If you have any questions, please see Pastor Jen, Manni or Tom McMullen.



HAM & SCALLOPED POTATO DINNER

Sunday, March 15, 2026

11:30 AM - 4:30 PM or sold out

First Congregational UCC

132 N. Main Street

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Dine-In or Take-Out Available

**Includes: Ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetable,
roll and dessert**

\$ 15.00 / person

**Pre-sale Tickets call Michelle
at 716-549-2115**

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

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

Sunday Worship- 10:00 AM
Sunday School – 10:00 AM
OFFICE HOURS: MON., TUES., THURS., FRI., 9:00am-1:00pm

For **Emergency Pastoral Services**, please call
Pastor Jen Mazur at 716-264-7026, 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 February 11, 2026**
 - **There is PLENTY of room for your article!!!**