



July & August 2026

The Messenger

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

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

THE FOLLOWING TOOK PLACE IN JUNE

Baptism: Charlotte Clark

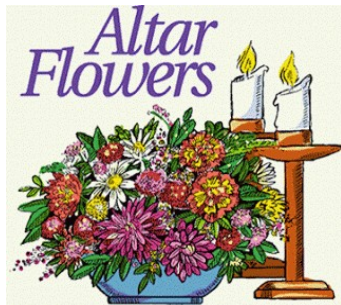


The Star-spangled Banner

*O say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank June Altar Flower Dedicators:



Sally Needham

Marjorie McCarthy

Miriam & Tony Oster

Stacey & Brian Smith

If you are interested in dedicating Altar Flowers, the cost is \$20.00 or Bulletins, the cost is \$50.00, please see the sign-up in the Narthex or call Michelle in the office 716-549-2115.

We would like to thank June Bulletin Dedication:



Barb Raab & John
MacPherson gave this
month's bulletins to the
Glory of God, and In
Memory of loved ones.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE IN JULY AND AUGUST

Head Usher—Paul Becker (July)/ Carol Ann Obrochta (August)

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>
07/05	Dale Ketterer, Carol Ann Obrochta JonnyAnn Roach, Michelle Becker	Gayl Weinheimer	Bella Scheifla
07/12	Carrie & Emerson Ward, Eric Marcynski	Joan Blais	Randy Addison
07/19	Gayl Weinheimer, Cherryl Vincent-Becker	Marjorie McCarthy	Bob Fuerst
07/26	JonnyAnn Roach, Carol Ann Obrochta	Donna Nagel	Donna Nagel
08/02	Michelle Becker, Dale Ketterer Paul Becker, JonnyAnn Roach	Gayl Weinheimer	Michelle Becker
08/09	Gayl Weinheimer, Joan Blais	Marjorie McCarthy	Kathy Bienias
08/16	Kathy Bienias, Cherryl Vincent-Becker	Donna Nagel	Bob Fuerst
08/23	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach	Sally Needham	JonnyAnn Roach
08/30	Jessica Ludwig, Bill Ludwig	Laurie Ludwig	Carol Ann Obrochta

Counters

07/05 JonnyAnn Roach, Michelle Becker

07/12 John MacPherson, Judy Strade

07/19 Sue Weinheimer, Darlene DePasquale

07/26 Annette Reynolds, Jessica Ludwig

08/02 Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach

08/09 Marcia Whittemore, Annette Reynolds

08/16 Judy Strade, Sue Weinheimer

08/23 Darlene DePasquale, John MacPherson

08/30 Jessica Ludwig, Sue Weinheimer



CONGRATULATIONS TO
2026 HIGH SCHOOL, PRE-SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN,
COLLEGE GRADUATES and ACADEMIC HONORS!



Congratulations to Lily Flading, Daughter of Jenna & John Flading and Granddaughter of Jean & Tony Galfo, who graduated from Lake Shore High School and BOCES for Cosmetology.

Congratulations to Zach Hammond, Son of Jessie & Robbie Maracle, Grandsons of MaryJo Maracle, who graduated from Austintown Fitch High School.

Congratulations to Rudy Coomer, Son of Adrienne Bermingham and Charles Coomer III, Grandsons of Diane & Rick Coomer II, who graduated from Kindergarten at Eden Elementary School.

Congratulations to Lena Bienias, Daughter of Annilee and Greg Bienias, Granddaughter of Carol Ann & Dan Obrochta and Kathy & Bob Bienias, who graduated Kindergarten from J. T. Waugh.

Congratulations to Emerson Ward, Daughter of Carrie & Jerry Ward, Stepdaughter of Eric Marcynski and Granddaughter of Barb & Bill Marcynski, who graduated 5th Grade from Depew Elementary School.

Congratulations to Colton Pappas, son of Heather & Jake Pappas and brother of Olivia Smith, who graduated from Pre-K at Gowanda Elementary School.

Congratulations to Catherine McMullen, Daughter of Tom & Maria McMullen, Granddaughter of Bev & Ron Taylor, who graduated from Pre-K at W. T. Hoag. Congratulations to Kenzi McMullen, Daughter of Tom & Maria McMullen Granddaughter of Bev & Ron Taylor on her multiple scholarships to St. Bonaventure & Keuka College for Academic Excellence.

Congratulations to August Becker, Daughter of Michelle & Paul Becker and Granddaughter of Anne & Paul Becker, who was accepted into Daemen University for Physician Assistant School.

Congratulations to Amelia Smith, Daughter of Stacey & Brian Smith, who graduated from Pre-K at W. T. Hoag.

Congratualtions to Arissa & Charlotte Clark, Daughters of Kristen & Gregg Clark II, Arissa graduated from Niagara Falls High School and Charlotte graduated Kindergarten from A.J. Schmidt.

Congratulations to Ellie Borosky, Daughter of Melissa Borosky & Rich Borosky, who graduated 5th grade from Highland Elementary.

Madeline Mazur, Daughter of Leo and Jen Mazur, Granddaughter of David and Donna Donner graduated from UB with her Masters of Science in Management with a concentration in Operations.

David Donner, Son of Chris and Esther Donner, Grandson of David and Donna Donner graduated from Mill Middle School and will enter 9th grade in the fall.

Living Water: Finding Life, Rest, and Purpose in God's First Gift

In the beginning, when God created the universe, ² the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God^[b] was moving over the water.

~Genesis 1:1-2

There is something about water that draws us in. Maybe it's the sound of rain on the roof, the stillness of a lake, or the relief of a cold glass of water on a hot day. Water has a way of calming us, restoring us, and reminding us of just how much we depend on gifts we often take for granted.

Of course, water is essential for life itself. Our bodies need it. The earth depends on it. Gardens, crops, animals, and people all rely on water to live and grow. But as people of faith, we know water is more than a necessity of the body—it is also one of God's clearest signs of grace.

From the very beginning of scripture, water is there. In Genesis, the Spirit of God hovers over the waters as creation begins. Throughout the Bible, water appears again and again as a sign of God's presence, provision, and new life: in the Red Sea as God leads the Israelites to freedom, in the wilderness when God brings water from the rock, at the Jordan River when Jesus is baptized, and in the promise of living water Christ offers to all who are thirsty.

Water tells us something about who God is—and who we are.

It reminds us that God meets us in the dry places of life. God refreshes what is weary, renews what is depleted, and brings life where we may only see dust. Water also reminds us of our baptism, that sacred moment when we are claimed by grace and named beloved. Whether we remember the day itself or not, the promise remains: we belong to God.

I think that is a promise many of us need to hear again and again.

Life has a way of leaving us tired. We carry worries for our families, concerns for our communities, griefs we don't always name aloud, and questions about what comes next. In those seasons, the words of Psalm 23 feel especially close: *"He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul."* What a gift to know that God does not simply send us onward, but invites us to rest, to be renewed, and to drink deeply from the well of grace.

As a church, we need that living water too. We listen for where God is leading us, always discerning how to be faithful in this time and this place. And that kind of vision does not come from rushing or striving. It comes from staying rooted in Christ, from worship and prayer, from remembering *who* we are and *whose* we are.

This summer, I invite you to notice water a little more intentionally. Give thanks for the water that sustains your body and for the living water of Christ that refreshes your spirit. Remember your baptism. Sit quietly with Psalm 23. Pause long enough to let God's presence restore your soul.

May the One who leads us beside still waters refresh us, renew us, and guide us faithfully in the days ahead.

Peace,

Pastor Jen

Candle Workshop

Join us, along with Justin from IGY6

on August 25th from 5:30pm—7:30pm

for a Create Your Own Candle workshop.

Each participant will make 2 candles to take home.

Cost is \$40

Sign-up is required. Please use the sign-up sheet in Updyke Hall.

We will enjoy potluck refreshments, so bring your favorite snack.

Beverages will be provided.

See Pastor Jen with any questions.



Bible at the Beach

We will meet at

Lake Erie Beach Park

on Tuesdays July 7th, July 14th,

July 28th and August 4th

for Bible Study.

6:30pm

Bring your lawn chair or a blanket to sit on and enjoy studying scripture on the shores of our beautiful lake!

August 4th will be our “mini-retreat” and will begin at 6:45pm and will include Communion at sunset.

CHURCH PICNIC

This year our church picnic will be on Sunday, August 16th following worship. All are invited! We will be asking everyone that will attend and also would like to bring a dish to pass to please use sign-up sheet in Updyke Hall, this will help with a head count for food. The church will supply the hot dogs we just need side dishes and desserts.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

JUNE TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Trustee meeting was held on June 16, 2026 from 4:00-6:45pm, whew! We are all recovering from lots of hard work & fellowship at our 54th Strawberry Social. It wasn't all we hoped, but, besides a wet, windy Thursday and increased cost of everything since 2025 it was profitable. I will quote Pastor Donner who said this is what heaven will look like – people dancing, singing, mingling about in kindness and fellowship!

Usual business conducted and reports read. Summer Sunday school begins this Sunday 6/20/26. Children will be painting rocks on 7/5/26 for a garden along south side of building.

Thank you to Evans Garden Club for their beautiful mulching and planting!

Two scholarships from LSACC are to be given to 2 seniors from our church.

Summer bible study will be at Lake Erie Beach on 7/7, 7/14, and 7/28. Sunday bulletins will be changed to full size paper-front and back, stapled. The bulletin paper (8 1/2 x 14) has become too expensive.

Welcome summer – have a safe and fun July 4th!

“The journey toward this historic milestone, America 250, is a once in a generation opportunity to not only reflect on the nations past, but celebrate the many achievements of all Americans and look ahead toward the future.”

Peace - Jean Galfo

JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Barb Marcynski Birthday	3 Office Closed Brian Smith Birthday	4 Independence Day Nancy Bingenheimer Birthday
5 10:00 Worship/ Communion Wayne Roach Birthday JonnyAnn & Wayne Roach Anniversary	6 Dennis Ferraro Birthday	7 Donald Cronin & Ellie Borosky Birthday	8 Parker Addison & Anthony Mascio Birthday	9 3:30pm LSACC Clergy Meeting Sally Needham Birthday	10	11 9:30 am Friends of the Village
12 10:00 Worship Stacey Smith & Beverly Taylor Birthday	13 Miriam Oster Birthday	14 4pm Trustee Meeting Tiffany Hurd Birthday	15	16	17 Richard Coomer II Birthday	18 Paul Becker II & Olivia Smith Birthday
19 10:00 Worship	20	21 Cherryl Vincent- Becker Birthday	22	23	24 Fred Strade & Philominna Yonker Birthday	25
26 10:00 Worship	27 VBS  8:45-11:30am Jillian & Heath Heyden Anniversary	28 VBS  8:45-11:30am	29 VBS  8:45-11:30am	30  8:45-11:30am Jake Pappas & Osborn Coomer Birthday	31 Jamie & Robert Lehning Anniversary	1

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:00 Worship/ Communion	3	4	5 Mary Grennell Birthday	6 132 NORTH 6:30pm Esther Way Birthday & Anne & Paul Becker Anniversary	7	8 9:30 am Friends of the Village Meeting
9 10:00 Worship August Becker Birthday	10	11 4pm Trustee Meeting	12 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Eudora Unger Birthday	13 3:30pm LSACC Clergy Meeting	14 Catherine McMullen Birthday	15
16 10:00 Worship/ Church Picnic Michelle & Paul Becker and Diane & Richard Coomer Anniversary	17	18	19 Mary Jo Maracle & Annette Reynolds Birthday	20 Judy Strade Birthday	21 Jesse Decker Birthday	22 Kelsey MacPherson Birthday
23 10:00 Worship Diane Franczyk & Tiernan Clark Birthday	24 Monika Fuchs & Chris Beith Birthday Carol Ann & Dan Obrochta and Maria & Tom McMullen Anniversary	25 Candle Workshop with IGY6 6:00pm Alasyn Kain Birthday and Judy & Fred Anniversary	26	27	28 Emma Samuels Birthday Kathy & Bob Bienias Anniversary	29 Carol Broconier, Betty Lamoreaux & Katherine Myhalenko Birthday
30 10:00 Worship	31	1 Penny Wilson- Castle Birthday	2 Ryder Cronin Birthday	3 Bonnie Kerr Birthday	4	5 Derrick Decker & Lily Flading Birthday



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped with the 54th Annual Strawberry Social, from donating supplies & food, bakers, money and volunteers each day. What a HUGE SUCCESS for us! Thank you Connor's Hot Dog Stand for donating hot dogs, Lakeside Market, Crosby's, Norco, Stroehmann's, Tops and Wegmans that continue to help with donations! This year we added more entertainment, thank you to Tim & Marty as well as Mike Skowronski, "The Love Movement" Exercise group and Gang of Scoundrels (Church Band) on both days. New this year was the Kid's Korner and returning was the Dunk Tank, thank you Tom McMullen and all of our volunteers for working the games or being in the dunk tank.

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

We will be running football pools to raise money for the leased copier in the church office. We will only have 50 squares available at \$20/square. The games will be Sept. 13th Bills vs. Texans, October 4th Bills vs. Patriots, November 22nd Bills vs. Dolphins, December 19th Bills vs. Bears, January Bills vs. Jets TBD. We will run a Playoff game TBD and Super Bowl \$50/square payouts. If you are interested please see JonnyAnn Roach or Michelle Becker.

JOY Fellowship

The following outings have been scheduled:

River, Lake and Canal Cruise

Friday July 10, 2026

11am-1pm

Erie Basin Marina, 329 Erie St.

\$31.00 – pay in advance

Forest Lawn Trolley Tour

Sunday August 23, 2026

3-5pm

\$35.00 – pay in advance

Please sign up in Updyke Hall and pay Anne Becker in advance so we can make reservations.

Next JOY Fellowship Meeting is scheduled for September.



Schools out for summer!

I want to start off by thanking everyone who attended our End of Summer Sunday School Coffee Hour; the kiddos enjoyed sharing their projects with the congregation. As teachers, we want to thank the congregation for all their support with the Sunday School program and the parents for encouraging participation weekly. We truly enjoy the time we get to spend with the kids and love encouraging their relationship with God and the church. Thank you to Miss Barb, Miss Kristen, Miss Tiffany and Miss Maria, the kids in our congregation are truly lucky to have so much love

surrounding them. Summer Sunday school is now running as one big class for our kiddos. We still have some Sundays in August available if anyone would like to pick a date to hang with the kids! Please see Tiffany, Michelle or Pastor Jen if you have any questions. Please be sure to get signed up for Vacation Bible School! Keep an eye out for any other fun family events that may pop up this summer!

Regular Sunday school will resume in September.

Enjoy your summer!



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.

Registration Forms are also available in the Narthex

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2026 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTED BY:
ANGOLA PARK & GAZEBO COMMITTEE
VILLAGE OF ANGOLA

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7 PM - 9 PM		ANGOLA CENTENNIAL PARK & GAZEBO
JULY 8 TH	-----◇	The Funkensteins
JULY 15 TH	-----◇	West of the Mark
JULY 22 ND	-----◇	Double Shot
JULY 29 TH	-----◇	Second Hand News
AUGUST 5 TH	-----◇	Zack Gerken Band
AUGUST 12 TH	-----◇	Diamond Sound
AUGUST 19 TH	-----◇	Boogie Monsters
AUGUST 26 TH	-----◇	Nerds Gone Wild



Keep up to date:
Scan for the latest info.



2026 EVENTS

2 MAY **Meat Raffle**
MPB Parish, 22 Prospect St.
Doors Open 6pm, First Spin 7pm
FREE Beer & Pop...bring your snacks!

6 JUN **Village Wide Yard Sales**
9am - 4pm
Sign-up at Village Hall 716-549-1126
Rain date - Sunday, June 7

13 JUN **Children's Bike Rodeo**
Children 5-12 years old; 11am - ?
Prizes, Bike Inspections. Helmets required. Parents to stay with child

11 JUL **11th Annual Main Street Cruise**
Main Street Business District, 12-4pm
No registration required!
Trophies, Food and Live Music

19 SEP **Build-A-Boo Workshop**
MPB Parish, 22 Prospect St.; 1-4pm
Kick-off Halloween season with a workshop building outdoor ghosts

17 OCT **Country Line Dancing Outdoors**
Dancing instruction & Dance; 1-3pm;
Halloween themed! Prize awarded for best costume! Location to be announced

12 DEC **27th Annual Christmas in the Village**
Congregational Church, 132 N. Main St.; 9am-2pm
Free Hot Breakfast & Visit with Santa 9-11am. Craft Show at the church and additional activities throughout the Village

Subject to Change Without Notice






11th ANNUAL VILLAGE OF ANGOLA Main Street Cruise

MAIN STREET • ANGOLA, NY
Saturday, July 11, 2026

NOON TO 4:00 PM

Basket Raffle • 50/50

Food provided by:
- ANGOLA CHINA KITCHEN
- AZALIA'S JUICERY
- LITTLE VILLAGE CAFE
- TASTE OF THE MIDWAY
- TAVERN 37

LIVE MUSIC
ROCKABILLY STEVE
AND THE BR3
SPONSORED BY MESI ENTERPRISES • JOE MESI 716-430-6666

People's Choice Award
CUSTOM MADE TROPHY • TROPHIES FOR 1ST, 2ND & 3RD

SPONSORED BY
FRIENDS OF THE VILLAGE, INC.
& DRIFTERS CAR CLUB, INC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TOWN COUNCILMAN JOHN WILSON (716) 807-5652

♦ BENEFITTING FRIENDS OF THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE PROGRAM

COME SEE THE BUFFALO GHOSTBUSTERS!







The “Love Movement” by Lisa Watkins meets every Wednesday
from 9:30am-10:30am

“Chair Yoga” by Sue Brown meets every Tuesday
from 11:15am-12:15pm

“Cardio” by Chris Berfield meets Tuesday and Thursday
from 5:30pm-6:30pm

All classes are \$5 donation!

CHICKEN BARBEQUE

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

Saturday, September 12, 2026

11:30am – 4:30pm/or until sold out

\$16.00

Dine-in, Take-out or Drive-Thru

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

132 N. MAIN ST., ANGOLA

Pre-sale Tickets call 716-549-2115



First Congregational UCC
132 N. Main Street Angola



**Annual
Fall Bazaar**



Saturday, October 24th, 2026

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

TIME VALUE MAIL
Mailed on June 29, 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 716-725-2157,
Michelle-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
August 12, 2026**
- **There is PLENTY of room
for your article!!!**