

March
2025

The Messenger

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



Scheduled to Serve in March

Head Usher—Carol Ann Obrochta

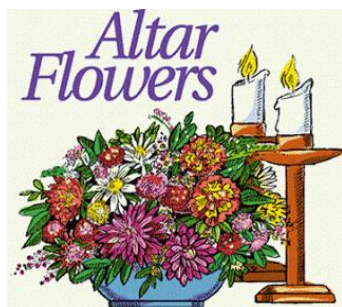
	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>
03/02	Joan Blais, Jean Galfo, Rob Ingrassia, Paul Becker	Marjorie McCarthy	Carrie Ward-Marcynski
03/05	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach		Carol Ann Obrochta
03/09	Cherryl Vincent-Becker, Gayl Weinheimer	Donna Nagel	Eric Marcynski
03/16	Carrie Ward-Marcynski, Eric Marcynski	Marcia Whittemore	Bob Fuerst
03/23	Melissa Borosky, Dale Ketterer	Gayl Weinheimer	Donna Nagel
03/30	Bill Ludwig/ Jessica Ludwig	Laurie Ludwig	Kathy Bienias

Counters

03/02	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach
03/09	Judy Fuerst, Chris Beith
03/16	Darlene DePsquale, Marcia Whittemore
03/23	Laurie Ludwig, Jessica Ludwig
03/30	Judy Strade/ John MacPherson

ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank February Altar Flower Dedicators:



Donner & Mazur Families

JonnyAnn Roach

Jean Galfo & Judy Strade

Michelle Becker

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 February Bulletin Dedication:



Michelle Becker gave this month's bulletins to the Glory of God and In Memory of Eleanor Zimmer and In Honor of Richard Pawlak's Birthday.

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...

“Re-Lent” 2025

“When God created us, God gave Adam a secret---and that secret was not how to begin, but how to begin again. In other words, it is not given us to begin: that privilege is God’s alone. But it is given to us to begin again---and we do it every time we choose to defy death and side with the living.” ~Elie Wiesel

What we know:

- Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays.
- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5th) and ends on Holy Saturday (April 19th).
- Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.”
- The forty days of Lent represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tempted and preparing to begin his ministry.
- Lent is thought of as a time of reflection and repentance, a time of giving things up and turning our lives around (or at least trying to).
- Lent is traditionally thought of as a time to “give something up.”
- In WNY, Lent is a time to have a fish fry every week!
- Sundays during the season of Lent are not counted in the forty days. Each Sunday represents a “mini-Easter” in which the spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Lent happens every year, but what if...

What if:

- we approach Lent as a season of giving *in* instead of giving *up*; practice giving in to God’s amazing grace.
- we view lent as a way to “begin again”
- we loosen our grips on the reins and let God be God
- we experience Lent in a fresh way

Lent happens every year, but you can experience it anew. Do Lent over again in a fresh way. This year make lent the time you practice giving in to God’s amazing grace. Each Sunday in Lent, we will have “something special” going on; something to re-new and re-energize our Lenten practices to re-establish and re-fresh our relationship with God and with one another. There will also be opportunities during the week including weekly Wednesday Lenten Lunches held at different LSACC churches and weekly Bible Study held in Updyke Hall on Thursday evenings. Join us this Lenten Season to “re-Lent” and may we each, mark this season of Lent well, as we follow Jesus into the wilderness, and in that wilderness find Jesus in ourselves.

Peace,
Pastor Jen

Every Sunday, Something Special Lent 2025

March 2nd—(not officially Lent, yet)—**Mardi Gras Sunday** & Holy Communion

March 9th—**Prayer Practices for Lent**—Praying in Color & Lectio Divina
(in the Parlor following worship)
Ham Dinner (pre-sale tickets available)

March 16th—**Paint Your Favorite Hymn**—Create a beautiful, one-of-a-kind watercolor painting in a celebration of our favorite hymns! No experience needed!—Led by Donna Nagle, Sally Needham & Gayl Weinheimer beginning at 12:30

March 23rd—**Elvis Sunday!** (Enjoy the gospel music of Elvis Presley woven through worship)
Coffee House Coffee Hour—Enjoy the music of our “Gang of Scoundrels” during Coffee Hour

March 30th—**Game Day!** Celebrate the mid-point of Lent with some fun and games during Coffee Hour. Bring a favorite board or card game to enjoy with others, come test your luck with some of Pastor Jen’s favorite minute-to-win-it games, enjoy a hot dog and pot luck lunch and great fellowship!

April 6th—Holy Communion & **Easter Bonnet making**
Come make your Easter Sunday Bonnet (or hat) during Coffee Hour following worship! Miriam Oster will help us “get our hats together!” Start looking for your hat now!

April 13th—**Palm Sunday & Palm Sunday Hike**
Join us for our Palm Parade during worship and a special Palm Sunday “hike” throughout the Village of Angola following worship.

April 20th—**Easter Sunday! Alleluia!**
Worship at 10:00 am and special Coffee Hour to celebrate!

Watch for more details for these events, and more, in our April Newsletter, on Sunday mornings during worship and on Facebook!

Please check in Updyke Hall for sign-up sheets for these events!



LENT - RE-LENT - RE-TURN
ASH WEDNESDAY
March 05, 2025
WORSHIP 6:30 pm

LAKESHORE ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES



"Rebuild My Church"

Lenten Lunch Series

Wednesday, March 12th- 12:00 PM First Church of Evans 7431 Erie Rd, Derby, NY 14047	Wednesday, March 19th- 12:00 PM Holy Cross Lutheran Church 633 Church St. Farnham NY 14061
Wednesday, March 26th- 12:00 PM Most Precious Blood 22 Prospect St. Angola, NY	Wednesday, April 2nd- 12:00 PM Parish of Our Lady PNCC 10708 Brant Angola Rd, Brant, NY 14027
Wednesday, April 9th- 12:00 PM First Congregation United Church 132 N Main St, Angola, NY 14006	

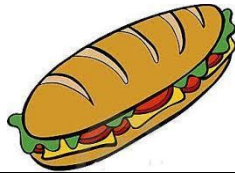
Lunch to follow the service. Free will offering will be collected for Friendship Corner.

Lenten Coin Boxes

It's that time of year again for our Lenten coin offering and new this year is our Lenten coin boxes! Last week, a mailing from us was sent to highlight our Lenten Season as well as your Lenten coin box. You can return your box to the church on Sunday's during worship or stopping in the church office during the week. Please color or decorate your box any way you want and we are going to display the finished boxes in the Narthex.

J.O.Y. Fellowship

Reminder that Hospice Flowers will be delivered Tuesday, March 4th and can be picked up between 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. We are looking for bake goods to be sold during our Ham Dinner on March 16th. If you are interested please see Anne Becker or sign-up sheet in Updyke Hall. All monies raised will go to JOY Fellowship which helps with funeral lunches, donations to special events such as Hospice Bouquets, etc.



SUB SALE

Sub Sale is Wednesday, April 2nd - Subs must be pre-ordered and pre-paid by Friday, March 28th, and can be picked up on Wednesday 04/02/25. Please support this fundraiser. Order forms are available at the church.

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



Greetings from the kiddos!

Sundays are the FUN-days! These kids have been busy! Check out the church's Facebook page for highlights of the fun downstairs. The whole Sunday School group participated in creating a Community out of craft supplies and they did not hold back! The big kids and little kids worked together to create what they reflect on in their community. The teachers work together to make these ideas come to life and we couldn't be more thankful for them.

The "big kid" group will be looking for some community service type projects to complete come spring; think of things around the church, village or even around the house. We have a great group of kids looking to help out wherever they can. Bring any ideas to Tiffany or Pastor Jen.

Grace & Peace, Tiffany Hurd

THANK YOU...

Thank you to all who helped and supported the Sub Sale on February 5th. We greatly appreciate everyone that came out to make it a huge success!

Thank you to everyone who made a dish for our Crockpot Cook-off,

We had 18 different recipes and everything was delicious!

Our winners this year were Best Chili: Ed Fitzpatrick - Pork Chili,

Best Soup: Jody & Joan Blais – Tomato Soup,

Tongue Burner: Miriam Oster - Meatballs,

Best Comfort Food: Makenzi McMullen – Mac & Cheese,

Most Interesting, Unique and Different: Pastor Jen Mazur - Candy,

One Great Scrumptious Pot: Makenzi McMullen – Mac & Cheese.

Thank you to all who supported the Spaghetti Dinner on February 16th! Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and we sold 65 dinners for a total of \$985! We would like to thank Rosina Foods for their donation of meatballs and sauce, Braymiller's Market for their donation towards the salad, Shurfine in Eden for their donation towards bread. Thank you to all volunteers who donated their time.

Easter Plants

Easter Plants will be available to order on Sunday, March 9th thru March 23rd 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 only be doing Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary and would like to have around 40 plants.



Easter Lily

CPR/AED HANDS ONLY TRAINING

On Friday, May 2nd, from 11-1pm the church will be holding a hands only CPR/AED training class available to everyone. If you are interested please sign-up in Updyke Hall. I

need a head count so we would have enough trainers. Even if you are unable to physically perform CPR you are welcome to come to the class. There are many other tasks you could help with in an emergency that will be discussed.

If you have any questions please see Michelle.

OPERATION GOOD NEIGHBOR

OGN Pantry is in need of: Pasta-all types (spaghetti, elbow, bowtie, swirls, etc.)
but mainly egg noodles, if you would like to help.



How creative can our church be again for the villages St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday March 8^h, looking for ideas for a float and walking participants.

The parade will start at 2:00pm with line up at 1:30pm at Angola Fire Hall.

If you would like to help with decorations, posters, beads
and candy please see Michelle or Jen Mazur.

We will be doing Mint Milkshakes and popcorn following the parade.

If you would like to help please see Paul or Anne Becker and Carol Ann Obrochta.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Trustee meeting was held on February 11, 2025 from 4:00 – 6:45pm. We opened with prayer, usual business, committee reports and financials reviewed.

Future business and events discussed:

1. Easter decorating and plants (Easter lilies only this year)
2. First quarter mission – UCC church in North Carolina
3. Church Maintenance – painting, exhaust fan in choir loft, hvac in church office, rock salt shortage, computer updates which are desperately needed, progress with generator, maintenance contract for boilers, Strawberry Social venue and space, CPR/AED class and Spaghetti Dinner.

The Board of Trustees regrettably approved Marjorie McCarthy's resignation from the board. Thank you for your years of serving!

Stay warm! I think we all need some sun and warmer temperatures.

Happy Valentine's Day!



The church will participate in St. Patrick's Day parade again in Angola as well as selling mint milkshakes and popcorn this year instead of the bake sale.

Peace, Jean Galfo



HAM & SCALLOPED POTATO DINNER

Sunday, March 9, 2025

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

First Congregational UCC

132 N. Main Street

Angola, NY 14006

716-549-2115

DINE IN or TAKE OUT

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

\$ 15.00 / person

Most Precious Blood

St. Patrick Day Party

Sunday, March 2nd from 4-8 pm

**Includes: Corned beef dinner, Reuben sandwich, desserts
and refreshments.**

Donation: \$25.00 – table of 8 or more can be reserved at 716-780-7020

**Entertainment: The Panfil Brothers and a performance by the
Rince na Tiarna Irish Dancers.**

Cash Bar: available for beer and wine

St. Joseph Table

March 19, 2025 at 4pm

All are invited to attend our family of parishes Saint Joseph's Table.

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

TIME VALUE MAIL
Mailed on February 27, 2025
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 in the Church Office 716-549-2115,
or Deaconess Darlene DePasquale at 716-549-1331

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 March 12, 2025**
- **There is PLENTY of room for your article!!!**