

March
2026

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

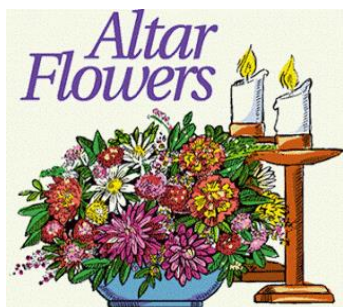
	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>
03/01	Carrie & Joe Panzarella, Eric Marcynski, JonnyAnn Roach, Michelle Becker	Gayl Weinheimer	Eric Marcynski
03/08	Dale Ketterer, Joan Blais	Sally Needham	Randy Addison
03/15	Gayl Weinheimer, Cheryl Vincent-Becker	Rob Ingrassia	Donna Nagel
03/22	Eric & Emerson, Carrie & Joe	Marjorie McCarthy	Bob Fuerst
03/29	Bill Ludwig, Jessica Ludwig	Laurie Ludwig	Darlene DePasquale

Counters

03/01	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach
03/08	Laurie Ludwig, Chris Beith
03/15	Jessica Ludwig, John MacPherson
03/22	Darlene DePasquale, Annette Reynolds
03/29	Judy Strade, Michelle Becker

ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank February Altar Flower Dedicators:



Donner & Mazur Families

Sue & Kurt Weinheimer

Jean & Tony Galfo

Carol Ann Obrochta

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 Loving Memory of Eleanor Zimber 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...

**Every new season beckons something of us –
attention, beauty, the chance to create.**

This season is no different.

**So, like moths to the light,
will we find our way toward God,
or will we hover, circling fake suns?**

I am seeking something deeper.

I am kicking off my shoes.

I am starting this season on holy ground.

~excerpt from “At the Start” - Rev. Sarah Speed

We stepped into the holy ground of our Lenten season with our children and youth gathering for a “Taco Tuesday Mardi Gras” celebration and our Ash Wednesday service. This Lent we will examine stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. Just as the characters in our scriptures are seeking, we are also seeking: connection, wonder, discernment, justice, balance, understanding and clarity. The challenges, divides, and anxieties of the past few years have brought up important questions about our lives, our purpose, and our faith. By engaging these questions through the lens of scripture and sacred story, assumptions are challenged, new perspectives are discovered, and the faithful holy mystery is revealed.

Traditionally, Lent has been known for “what we give up”. But this Lent, instead of just giving something up, you are invited to explore the spiritual practice of seeking. Together in worship, Bible Study, and fellowship opportunities, may we stay curious, open, and flexible in seeking and discovering how the Holy is speaking to and through us. Consider trying something new in this season of seeking:

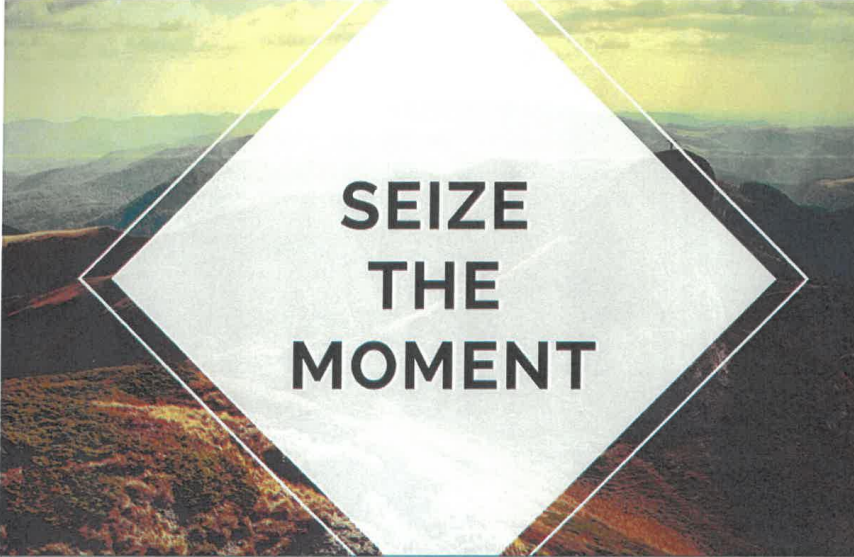
- Join us for Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 am.**
- Enjoy a Thursday evening Pot-Luck dinner and Bible Study at 5:30 pm.**

- **Stay after worship for a Psalm and a Snack at 11:30 am.**
This is a brief, 15-minute look at a new Psalm to kick off each new week.
- **Worship with us at 132 North on Thursday, March 5th and Friday, April 3rd at 7:00 pm.**
- **Journey through interactive Stations of the Cross, March 31st-April 4th.**
- **Attend a LSACC Wednesday Lenten Lunch.**
- **Watch for details for additional fellowship and faith formation opportunities.**

Whether you are looking for a fresh start or a deeper sense of wonder, this Lenten season is an open door for you to explore your faith alongside a supportive community. We invite you to step into these sacred stories with an open heart and a curious mind, trusting that in our seeking, we will find the Holy already moving among us. Come exactly as you are, and let's discover together what new perspectives and holy mysteries await us on the road to Easter.

**Peace,
Pastor**





**SEIZE
THE
MOMENT**

Lakeshore Association of Christian
Churches Lenten Lunch Series

<p>Wednesday, February 25th First Church of Evans 7431 Erie Rd, Derby, NY 14047</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 4th First Congregational United Church 132 N Main St, Angola, NY 14006</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 11th Most Precious Blood 22 Prospect St. Angola, NY</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 18th St. Paul's Episcopal Church 930 Lake St, Angola, NY 14006</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 25th Holy Cross Lutheran Church 633 Church St, Irving, NY 14081</p>	

All services begin at 12:00pm with lunch to follow!

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

TRUSTEES REPORT

Trustee meeting was held on February 10, 2026 from 4:00 – 6:50pm. Welcome Carrie Ward-Marcynski as new Trustee and guest Kevin Caffrey Jr. from Harbortown Financial Group to discuss options for Invested Monies.

5:00pm usual business conducted, committee reports and financials reviewed. Church Properties-Church: Ice caused gutter and eaves to collapse; Lift-a-vator repair; plumbing issue. Rental: #194 heat issue-Kurt Weinheimer to contact previous contractor. Volunteers still needed for LSACC Representative (1 meeting per quarter); Caregivers Coordinator.

Online service still “show” scarce attendance due to seating, all are encouraged to move up a few pews please.

Our 1st quarter mission is “IGY6” - Justin veteran business. Our website is in need of event photos, please see Carrie Ward-Marcynski. As a “FYI” we had 700 views at Christmas.

Hope to see you at the Spaghetti Dinner!

Happy Valentine’s Day!



February warms our heart even though our toes are cold!

Peace,

Jean Galfo

J.O.Y. Fellowship

JOY Fellowship Bake Sale will be held during our Ham Dinner on March 15th from 11:30-4:30pm. Please donate baked goods, if you are interested please see Anne Becker. All monies raised will go to JOY Fellowship which helps with funeral lunches, donations to special events, etc.



Lenten greetings from the Sunday school crew!

We kicked off lent with a winter break event with Pastor Jen and a crew of kiddos. Pastor Jen set up stations for the kids to get some hands on learning about the



The Sunday school plans to have a “Spring Open House” down stairs after church to display their projects and teachings from the year so far! Stay tuned for a date for that.

Grace & Peace,
Tiffany Hurd



**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



Lenten Coin Cards

It's that time of year again for our Lenten coin offering and back this year is our Lenten coin cards! If you would like a coin card please let the church office know at 716-549-2115. You can return your card to the church on Sunday's during worship or stopping in the church office during the week.

THANK YOU...

Thank you to all who helped and supported the Sub Sale on February 4th. 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: Paul Becker- Spicy Black Bean,

Best Soup: Heather Pappas – Potato, Ham, Bacon & Cheddar Soup,

Tongue Burner: Penny Wilson-Castle – Chicken Wing Dip,

Best Comfort Food: Makenzi McMullen – Mac & Cheese,

Most Interesting, Unique and Different: Pastor Jen Mazur & Sunday School Children –
Candy Casserole,

One Great Scrumptious Pot: MaryJo Maracle – Spinach Feta Dip



Thank you to all who supported the Spaghetti Dinner on February 15th! We sold 79 dinners for a total of \$1,200! We would like to thank Rosina Foods for their donation of meatballs and sauce, Shurfine in Eden for their donation towards bread. Thank you to all volunteers who donated their time.

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.



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



HAM & SCALLOPED POTATO DINNER

Sunday, March 15, 2026

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

First Congregational UCC

132 N. Main Street

Angola, NY 14006

716-549-2115

DINE IN, TAKE OUT or DRIVE THRU

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

\$ 15.00 / person

Most Precious Blood

St. Patrick Day Party

Sunday, March 1st from 4-8 pm

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

**Donation: \$25.00, children 3-10yrs. Old \$10.00— 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, 2026 at 4pm

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

St. John's Community Church of Eden

Home of Southtowns Senior Services Inc.

♥ Home of Southtowns Community Care Center

2026 Lenten Fish Fry Dinners -

Friday, February 20th

Friday, February 27th

Friday, March 6th

Friday, March 13th

Friday, March 20th

Friday, March 27th

Friday, April 3rd

DRIVE THRU: 4:30 – 7:00 PM or Sold Out

Deep Fried or Broiled Haddock Dinner \$20.00,

Dinners include Homemade French Fries

OR Mac & Cheese,

Cole Slaw and Dessert.

SHRIMP₍₈₎ DINNER AVAILABLE FOR \$21.00

COMBO, FISH & SHRIMP₍₄₎ DINNER \$22.00

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

St. John's Community Church of Eden

Southtowns Senior Services, Inc.

Southtowns Community Care Center

2871 E. Church Street

Eden, NY 14057

Phone (716) 992-9143

Email: stjohnseden@verizon.net

Painting For A Purpose

A benefit for Plymouth Crossroads hosted by Tessa Thorpe in conjunction with Designing Dish



Saturday, March 21st
12pm Doors Open, 3pm Event Start

Resurrection Life Church, Family Life Center
2155 Old Union Rd, Buffalo, NY 14227

Post event piece pick-up: Saturday March 28th 12-4pm

Check out Painting Pottery For A Purpose! This event is for all ages. It includes painting a pottery piece of your choice, bake sale, and raffles. Snacks and drinks are provided, as well as all needed event supplies!

***NOTE* This is a 3 step process:**

Step 1 - Register and choose your pottery piece.

Step 2 - Show up to the event and paint your piece. You'll leave your piece with us to kiln.

Step 3 - Return 1 week later, March 28th, at the same location between 12-4pm to pick up your piece!



\$20

Buster
Bunny



\$25

Egg
Box

POTTERY
CHOICES



\$20

Chick'n
Egg



\$25

Egg
Plate



Scan here, or visit
www.plymouthcrossroads.org
to register!

REGISTER BY MARCH 13TH



Cheesy Church Jokes for the Soul

1. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was standing on the deck.
2. What kind of car does Jesus drive?
A Christ-ler.
3. Why did the scarecrow become a pastor?
He was outstanding in his field.
4. What's a missionary's favorite type of car?
A convertible — it has a top that goes down for prayer.
5. Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?
He knew there was something fishy about it.
6. How does Moses make his coffee?
He brews it. ☐
7. What's the best way to study the Bible?
You Luke into it.
8. What do you call pastors who love to shop?
Retail-evangelists.
9. Why was the computer cold in church?
It left its Windows open.

10. What do you call a sermon on bread?
A roll-model message.

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, 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 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 March 11, 2026**
 - **There is PLENTY of room for your article!!!**