

The Messenger

MAY 2025

The Newsletter of 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



MEMORIAL DAY(5/26/25)



Scheduled to Serve in May

Head Usher—Rob Ingrassia

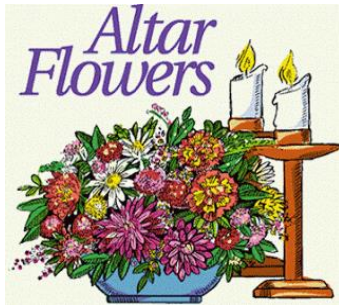
	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>
05/04	Bill Ludwig, Jessica Ludwig Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach	Laurie Ludwig	Darlene DePasquale
05/11	Gayl Weinheimer, JonnyAnn Roach	Marcia Whittemore	Carrie Ward-Marcynski
05/18	Carrie Ward-Marcynski, Eric Marcynski	Sally Needham	JonnyAnn Roach
05/25	MaryJo Maracle, Melissa Borosky	Gayl Weinheimer	Kathy Bienias

Counters

05/04	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach
05/11	Chris Beith, Judy Fuerst
05/18	Darlene DePasquale, Marcia Whittemore
05/25	Judy Strade, Sue Weinheimer

ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank April Altar Flower Dedicators:



Tiffany Hurd
Tony & Miriam Oster
Rev. David & Donna
Donner
JonnyAnn Roach
Easter Plant Dedication

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 April Bulletin Dedication:



Miriam & Tony Oster gave this month's bulletins to the Glory of God and with praise to God for His everlasting love and care, and thankfulness for friends and family.

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.



The Great 50!

There are many places in the Bible where numbers are used (and some are used more than once.) One that we are very familiar with is 40; after all we have just finished the 40 days (plus Sundays) of the Lenten Season. But there are other places we see 40:

- Noah, his family and the ark full of animals got rained on for 40 days.
- Moses lived in Egypt for 40 years.
- Moses was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days.
- The people didn't want to listen to Moses, so they spent another 40 years wandering in the wilderness.
- Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days.

Several stories seemed to last for 40 days or 40 years, and if you consider the stories, they were not the best of times. Maybe these things didn't actually last for 40 "whatever" but that number came to represent a difficult time, a period of trial, a time of testing...a time of something that we would rather not endure.

Why, then, is this number 50 significant?

Enter Easter.

There is no 40, it's 50! And simple math tells us that 40 is greater than 50! (In math terms that's $50 > 40$.) So, what does that mean for us?

We have the next 50 days (and then beyond, of course) to live in the glory of the Resurrection, celebrating that our days basking in the light and love of the Resurrection of Jesus is longer than our time of trial! That surely tells us something about God's promises and love for us!

It is time to remind ourselves that Easter and the message of the empty tomb is for everyone and that it is our responsibility to be witnesses to the hope of the Easter season to the world around us. Easter only began on Easter Sunday, April 20th. It continues for 49 days after that, ending with Pentecost Sunday, on June 8th.

Eastertide, as the Great 50 Days following Easter is called, is one of the church's most ancient and beautiful seasons...if we let it be so.

During Eastertide, our Paschal candle (or Christ candle) burns brightly in the church every Sunday as a symbol of the risen Christ and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Traditionally, throughout the rest of the year, the Paschal candle is lit during baptisms and funerals reminding us that the Risen Christ is ever with us. In our congregation's tradition, we light it every Sunday. This Eastertide let's pay special attention to the light of the Christ candle as we live out the gospel that challenges us to live out the message of Easter.

Just as the work of Christmas does not end on December 26th, the work of Easter does not end on the Monday after. Let us use these 50 days to be intentional about the work and mission of the church. Let us use these 50 days of the Easter season to run, like the women at the tomb, like Peter and John, to run to the "tombs" in our world that still need the stones rolled away. Let us share the hope of the Easter story, saying a loud "NO" to violence, hatred, and injustices that we say, and proclaiming a louder "YES" of love and compassion!

In these next 50 days, let us be "Easter People" by being the heart and hands and feet of a people intentionally saying "yes" to this different way of living – "yes" to friendship, "yes" to forgiveness and reconciliation, "yes" to peace!

Very soon we will be busy with the work of preparing for our Strawberry Social; an event that brings together the whole community; an event that invites others to experience the hospitality of a faith community that welcomes everyone. There is lots to be done (you can see Carol Ann to find out ways to get involved!).

There is, indeed, church after Easter!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

Peace,
Pastor Jen

Thank You...

Many thanks are in order for a wonderful Easter Season here at First Congregational. Our gratitude to many people who made Holy Week work. We would like to thank Kurt Weinheimer, Carol Ann Obrochta and JonnyAnn Roach for the beautiful sanctuary arrangements. Thank you to Pastor Jen Mazur for the creative ways in helping us grow in our faith. New this year was “Stations of the Cross” and it was a very powerful, emotional and meaningful part of the Lenten journey for many.



We want to thank everyone for all your thoughts & prayers throughout this latest journey of health. This is a road untraveled. With the love of the Master Healer the bumps will be few. We truly felt the love.

To Pastor Jen, Thank you for the visit. Did you know that the communion you served was the first meal I had in a week? That is a blessing. Your words touched me and the prayer you offered being heartfelt and sincere means more to us than the written word can express. Tears were shed knowing the Holy Spirit was with us.

Be Well
George & Christina



SUB SALE

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported our Sub Sale on April 2nd! This was our last sub sale until the Fall, see you then!

THANK YOU

As many of you know my husband Paul Becker Jr. was a Corrections Officer at Collins Correctional Facility. Up until a year ago he enjoyed going to work and making a difference in some people's lives and providing for his family. All that changed and in February when most correctional facilities said enough was enough and went on strike we as a family made the decision for him 'to hold the line.' Most men and women were hoping for the State of New York to be behind them and make the job safe again but instead we all know what happened. Many men and women did not return to their careers and do not know how they will be able to support their families. I would like to thank everyone from my church family who has shown us what kindness, support and love really mean. My whole family is truly appreciative on what you did from hugs, thoughts and prayers. Thank you to Angel Fund and Choir.

You truly are my church family!

Love from Michelle, Paul, August and Tyler.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 04, 2025 will be our Congregational Meeting
following worship in Updyke Hall.

SPECIAL FUND DONATIONS

Donations to the Angel Fund, Memorial Fund and David Donner Faith Formation Fund can be made throughout the year. If you are interested in donating to these funds just make a note on your envelope.



May 11th – Happy Mother's Day!
Pancake Breakfast following worship

CHICKEN BARBEQUE

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

Saturday, May 17, 2025

11:30am – 4:30pm/or until sold out

\$15.00

Dine-in or Take-out

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**



TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR APRIL

April Trustee Meeting took place on 4/08/2025 from 4:00-6:40pm. Opened with prayer by Carol Ann Obrochta and round table discussion. Financial reports, Bills to pay and usual committee reports heard and approved.

Church properties has many different things happening soon: spring clean-up, mulch, seal driveway, and Lift-a-vator were all discussed. Rental needs water line replacement (\$5,000+) and sewer line issue discussed (unknown cost).

Mission: first quarter (\$641) to be sent to Conference Minister for Asheville, NC.

Projects discussed: NOCO and generator install, church inclusion in Village Grant from NY as a Main Street business. Boy Scouts, Evangola Community Theater and use of hall. Future events discussed: Chicken BBQ, Strawberry Social including music with possible air time on Channel 2 News. Final 2 weeks of Lent activities and services discussed.

Your Board extends a joyous “Happy Easter” to all – let’s hope the cold and wet weather yields to a sunny Easter Sunday!

Easter is a symbol of renewed life!

Peace - Jean Galfo

CPR/AED HANDS ONLY CLASS

Friday, May 2nd, we will be holding CPR/AED Hands Only Class from 11am-2pm, if you are unable to do CPR and/or AED this is the class for you. There are many other things that can be done during an emergency and this class will explain them. Examples would be calling 911, meeting the ambulance, getting the first-aid kit, etc. Please sign-up in Updyke Hall so I can have let Erie County know how many will be here. There is no charge for this class.

J.O.Y. FELLOWSHIP

Next meeting will be May 18th following worship in the parlor. We are always looking for more people to join. Now that spring has sprung, if you have an American flag that needs to be properly disposed of please see Ann Becker.



Welcome Spring!
Greetings from the kiddos!

With the Easter season wrapping up the Sunday school kids have strengthened their faith and been busier than ever during the church service.

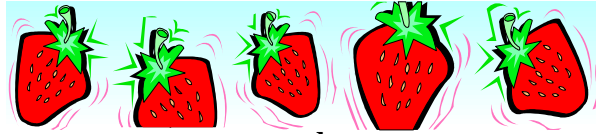
The school aged kids enjoyed molding with clay, coloring light up crosses and an egg hunt. The “big” kids have been talking about ways to spread and show our faith in their daily lives. We have a handful of tasks to help out around the church, but we are always looking for more! Please see Tiffany Hurd or Pastor Jen Mazur with any ideas or projects you have for the kids!

How quickly this year is passing us by. Soon we will be returning to our summer Sunday activities and VBS. Enjoy each day and remember all children are welcome to come and share in our joy! Teachers and helpers are needed for Summer One Room Sunday School. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. If you would like more information as to what this entails please see Tiffany Hurd and Pastor Jen Mazur. You could volunteer for just one Sunday or for several. Lessons and materials will be provided. All you need to do is enjoy working with kids and want to share your love of Jesus with them!

~ Peace, Tiffany Hurd

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

On Sunday, June 8th we will be receiving the *Strengthen the Church* special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. This offering builds the UCC’s future. It funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And it aids the God is Still Speaking Ministry to spread our message of inclusivity. Please give prayerfully.



Let's get Ready for the 53rd Strawberry Social 2025!

It's not too early to check your calendars for your availability for helping out on June 12th & 13^h for this year's 53rd Strawberry Social. Many hands make less work. The usual booths will need to have volunteers. If you can help in any way, please sign up on the sheets located in the Narthex!

We will also need help on Wednesday, June 11th to set-up booths, tables and chairs, please see Carol Ann or Michelle or contact church office at 716-549-2115.

We are looking for volunteers to make baked goods for the bake sale at the Strawberry Social. Many of our community members look forward to it. Please let Michelle or Carol Ann know if you are interested. Thank you in advance!

Once again, this year we have entertainment both days, Thursday, June 12th will be music with Michael Skowronski from 3:00-5:00pm, Love Movement Exercise from 5:00-6:00pm and "Gang of Scoundrels" from 6:00-8:00pm. On Friday, June 13th music will be and Burdick, Kody & Herren from 3:00-5:00pm "Gang of Scoundrels" from 5:00-8:00pm. Please bring your lawn chairs, appetite and dancing shoes for two great nights.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Flat Top Grill with Cover &
\$250 Gift Card Towards
Meat of Your Choice**

**Drawing to be held at
Strawberry Social • June 13, 2025**

Tickets: \$5 ea. or 3 for \$10

Tickets Courtesy of Addison Funeral Home

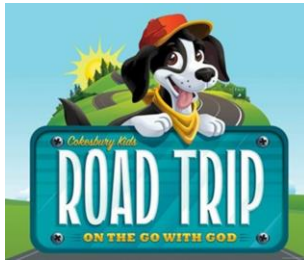
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GREENHOUSE PRINTING.COM 716-689-2005

Please see any church member for tickets or join us at the 53rd Annual Strawberry Social. Winner will be announced at 8pm on Friday, June 13th.

VACATION BIBLE School News:

We are very excited to announce our
Vacation Bible School Program for 2025 entitled:
“Road Trip”



The program will run the week of July 28th thru July 31st. 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.

Community Events

A poster for Evangelical Community Theater. At the top, two spotlights shine down on the text "Evangelical COMMUNITY THEATER". Below this, it says "We're excited to announce our first production, Here We Sit By: L. Don Swartz". The dates "July 10 through 19" and the location "First Congregational United Church of Christ 132 N. Main St., Angola, NY 14006" are listed. A description of the play is provided: "Here We Sit is an outrageous comedy featuring 14 actors portraying many characters over 16 short, quick-paced scenes showing the light-hearted side of a night at the theater." A large "\$8,000 FUNDRAISING" graphic is shown, along with a QR code and the text "Scan the QR Code to donate today." The bottom of the poster shows rows of red theater seats.

Evangelical COMMUNITY THEATER

We're excited to announce our first production,
Here We Sit
By: L. Don Swartz

July 10 through 19
First Congregational United Church of Christ
132 N. Main St., Angola, NY 14006

To put on a spectacular show for the community, our goal is to raise

\$8,000
FUNDRAISING

Here We Sit is an outrageous comedy featuring 14 actors portraying many characters over 16 short, quick-paced scenes showing the light-hearted side of a night at the theater.

Scan the QR Code to donate today.

A poster for the Angola Volunteer Fire Company. At the top, there are three circular icons: a grill, a pig, and a spatula. Below these, the text reads "ANGOLA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY STOCK UP FOR SUMMER MEAT RAFFLE". It lists the date "Friday June 6th, 2025" and the location "22 Prospect St. Angola, NY 14006 Most Precious Blood Hall". It also says "BRING YOUR COOLERS FOR YOUR WINNINGS". The event details are: "FREE DRAFT BEER (21 & OVER) & POP (NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL ALLOWED)", "Doors open at 6 pm", "Raffle starts at 7 pm", "\$5.00 per person at the door, or reserve a table of 8 for \$30.00", and "Call or text Lisa @716-512-9450 to reserve your table.".

ANGOLA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
STOCK UP FOR SUMMER MEAT RAFFLE

FREE DRAFT BEER (21 & OVER) & POP (NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL ALLOWED)

Friday June 6th, 2025
22 Prospect St.
Angola, NY 14006
Most Precious Blood Hall

BRING YOUR COOLERS FOR YOUR WINNINGS

Doors open at 6 pm
Raffle starts at 7 pm
\$5.00 per person at the door, or reserve a table of 8 for \$30.00
Call or text Lisa @716-512-9450 to reserve your table.



Line Dancing here at First Congregational once a month on Wednesday evenings with Lisa Watkins. If interested please see Jean Galfo.

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:

Superheroes Camp: April 25- 27 (entering grades 3-9)
Star Wars Camp: September 12-14 (entering grades 3-9)
Fall Adventure Camp: September 19-21 (entering grades 3-9)
Harry Potter Camp: October 10-12 (entering grades 3-9)

Youth Summer Camps:

Day Camp: June 30-August 16 (grades K-5)
Senior Day Camp: June 30-August 16 (grades 6-8)
Pilgrim: June 29-July 02 Mini and June 29-July 05 Full Week (entering grades 1-5)
Senior High: June 29-July 05 (entering grades 10-graduates)
Jr. High: Aug. 10-Aug. 16 (entering grades 7-10)
Outdoor Adventure: July 13-19 (entering grades 3-8)
Pioneers: July 27- August 02 (entering grades 3-7)
Swim Camp: August 03-09 (entering grades 3-9)
Soccer: August 03-09 (entering grades 3-9)

Adult and Family Camps:

Women's Weekend: June 06-June 08
Fun after 50: June 16-20
Camp Good Ol' Days (NEW): July 06-09
Clergy Retreat: August 18-21
One Piece at a Time Weekend: August 21-24
Wellness & Mindfulness Retreat: September 26-28
Scrapbooking Camp: May 30- June 01 and November 07-09
Family Camp 1: June 22-28
Family Camp 2: July 20-26

Special Events:

Spring Work Weekend: May 16-18
Halloween Happening: October 18
“New” Fall Work Day: October 25

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



53rd Annual Strawberry Social 2025



First Congregational UCC
132 N. Main Street
Angola, NY 14006



Thursday, June 12th 11am-8pm
Friday, June 13th 11am-8pm

Hot dogs, Hamburgers,
Cheeseburgers, Grilled Cheese,
Italian Sausage, French Fries,
Sundaes, Milkshakes, Cones & Strawberry
Shortcake, Pop, Water & Coffee
Bake Sale inside



AGAIN THIS YEAR
Decorating Main Street with chalk
Friday June 13th 4:30-7:30pm



Entertainment: Thursday from 2:00-5:00pm Michael
Skowronski, 5:00-6:00pm “The Lovement” Exercise and
6:00-8:00pm “Gang of Scoundrels”
Friday from 3:00-5:00pm Burdick, Kody & Herren and
5:00-8:00pm “Gang of Scoundrels”
Please Bring Your Lawn Chair

Menu subject to change

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 April 28, 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 at
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 May 14, 2025**