

NOVEMBER 2025

# The Messenger

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

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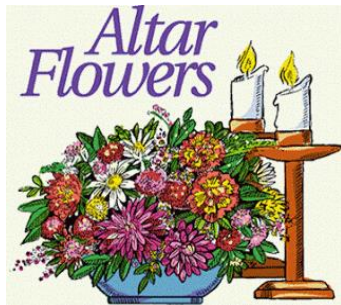
## Scheduled to Serve in November

Head Usher—Ron Taylor

<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>
11/02 CarolAnn Obrochta, Eric Marcynski Carrie Ward-Marcynski, Emerson Ward	Sally Needham	Jessica Ludwig
11/09 Joan Blais, Jean Galfo	Gayl Weinheimer	Kathy Bienias
11/16 Bill Ludwig, Laurie Ludwig	Marcia Whittemore	Carrie Ward-Marcynski
11/23 Gayl Weinheimer, Cherryl Vincent-Becker	Marjorie McCarthy	Jean Galfo
11/30 Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach	Donna Nagel	Michelle Becker
<b><u>Counters</u></b>		
11/02 Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach		
11/09 Darlene DePasquale, Marcia Whittemore		
11/16 Laurie Ludwig, Chris Beith		
11/23 Sue Weinheimer, Annette Reynolds		
11/30 Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach		

## ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank October Altar Flower Dedicators:



The Ludwig Family  
Donner & Mazur Family  
Carrie & Eric Marcynski  
Judy Strade & Jean Galfo  
Ronda Marvel  
Chris & George Beith

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 October Bulletin Dedication:



Ronda Marvel gave this month's bulletins to the Glory of God, and In Honor of my Angola Church Family and Pastor Jen Mazur and In Loving Memory of Amos Marvel (Pappi).

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:      No Dream too Big, No Gift too Small**  
**(Thank God, He Said “Yes!”)**  
***(John 6: 1-14)***

The only story that is included in all four of the traditional Gospels is the story of Jesus feeding 5000 people with only five loaves and two fish; it's one of my favorites and one that is a lot of fun to teach to our children in Sunday School. The stories are all very similar; there was a large crowd wanting to hear Jesus preach, the crowd was getting hungry, there wasn't much food anywhere. The story continues; the disciples found 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, and with those meager provisions were able to feed the crowd of approximately 5,000 people, with food left over.

The Gospel of John tells the story a bit differently. The Gospel of John focuses our attention on the role of a little boy (he's not mentioned in the other three Gospels). Faced with a crowd of hungry people, Jesus looked for help feeding them. The little boy stepped forward with a modest gift, improbably small when set against the size of the crowd.

Jesus blessed the small gift and distributed it to the crowd. As Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade, pastor and Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky observes, “Like the folk story of Stone Soup where travelers ask for a large kettle and a stone as a starter for the community stew, we might imagine Jesus calling for a basket to pass around the food. It may have looked comical to see such a tiny amount of food in such a large basket. But then something interesting happened. As he passed the basket to his disciples, suddenly more baskets appeared. Surprisingly, there was food in those baskets as well!”

Everyone was fed, everyone was cared for, and it started with a simple “Yes!” from a small child. I have often wondered what would have happened if that little boy would have said, “No!” to Andrew. He was under no obligation to give up his only food to this stranger asking for it. He could have easily run away and gotten lost in the crowd. But he didn't!

In a selfless act of love and faith, the boy gave up his little meal, and Jesus did with it what only Jesus could do. By divine power, a crowd of thousands was satisfied by physical food (with plenty of leftovers!), as well as spiritual food that satisfies the soul. And in that simple act that little boy took on a significant role in sharing Jesus' story, not only for that day, but for the rest of human history.

We dream big in church. The Gospel moves us to imagine addressing poverty, stopping conflicts, reconciling enemies, and building the kin-dom of God. Our gifts may seem small next to the big dreams of our congregation. But like the Feeding of the 5000, God's amazing work begins with our small gifts.

God has work to do and wants to do this through our lives, together, through the gifts, the skills, the resources, the talents, the education, the opportunities that God has entrusted to each of us.

What might God do with what you have to offer?

With Peace and Gratitude,  
Pastor Jen

### **BUDGET DISTRIBUTION AND PLEDGE CARDS**

During the October meeting when the budget for 2026 was presented, we are proud to say we were able to present a balanced budget once again for this upcoming year. Thank you to the Finance Committee, which consists of Eric Marcynski, Tiffany Hurd, Judy Strade, Rob Ingrassia, Pastor Jen Mazur, MaryJo Maracle, Cherryl Vincent-Becker, JonnyAnn Roach and Michelle Becker. This month everyone will receive his or her pledge cards. Stewardship Sundays are November 09<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> so please take time to fill them out and send them into the office or place in giving plate. Additional pledge cards are available in the back of the Sanctuary if needed.

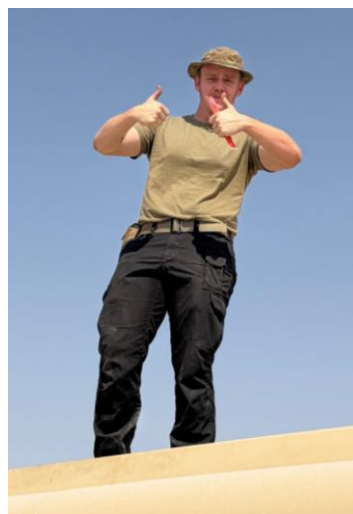
### **SECURITY & SAFETY**

New this year we are asking parents to supply us with a current school (pocket size) photo to be maintained in a file in case of an emergency. We had a meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, went over procedures to keep everyone safe at the Fall Bazaar. We are always keeping our whole congregation safe each and every Sunday as well as any other events held in the building. Thank you to everyone on the committee for your dedication!

~ Michelle Becker



This past summer our VBS participants took a “Road Trip” throughout the Holy Lands, learning about God’s Love and the work and teachings of Jesus! It was *hot* on our road trip and we sure enjoyed popsicle treats, and even a visit from Mr. Jack and Skiddly Pops. Those treats sure were yummy and helped everyone cool down. The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Lopez, US Air Force Chaplain (former pastor in the Western Area) shared with Pastor Jen that sometimes the men and women in our Air Force enjoy the sweet, refreshing treat of a popsicle, too. We wanted to make sure there were lots of popsicles for them on the really hot days, so we collected coins and sent a donation for lots of popsicles. Even while on deployment, these Airmen are enjoying a popsicle treat!



## Pre-Sale Pies

This year, back by popular demand, we will have pre-sale pies for pick-up after the bazaar. We will have them ready for pick-up on Thursday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am-1pm. We will have apple, apple crumb, apple cranberry walnut, pumpkin, cherry, cherry crumb, blueberry, strawberry rhubarb and peach available for order.

We will still have pies available for purchase at the bazaar. The pies will be \$18.00 each except for apple cranberry walnut will be \$20.00. Please call the church office 716-549-2115 from 9-1pm to place your order for pies. We are asking all pies be prepaid and pick up will only be on Thursday and Friday. Please let us know what day you will be picking up the pies!

### SUB SALE

Sub Sale is Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> - Subs must be pre-ordered and pre-paid by Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, and can be picked up on Wednesday 11/19/25. Please support this fundraiser. Order forms are available at the church.

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

Next sub sale will be February 2026

### SUNDAY COUNTER VOLUNTEERS

It's that time of year when we will be working on scheduling our Sunday Counter Volunteers for 2026. We are in need of some new volunteers, as we have lost some this past year. If you are interested in becoming one; please see Michelle Becker. We would like to thank all of our counters past and present. We greatly appreciate all of your dedication to our church. There is no prior experience needed, you will be counting our Sunday offering following worship.



NOVEMBER 2025

Happy Fall To All!

The kids are falling back into the routine of Sunday school! The teachers have come up with fun activities to keep the kids engaged and learning the stories in the Bible. The “big kids” enjoy our walks (while the weather still cooperates) and getting to talk about their lives outside of church.

Keep an eye out for some fun “extra” events outside of Sunday school for the kiddos to join in on! The kids met this last Friday evening to make items to sell at our own table at the Fall Bazaar. We will be raising money to buy our own “Flock”. Don’t worry Mr. Kurt- there won’t be any church chickens in the side yard!

Best wishes, warmest regards! Tiffany Hurd



## Opportunities for Giving at First Congregational

- **Pledge/Weekly Offering**—your pledge and weekly offering help support the workings of our church and support our missions.
- **Angel Fund**—our Angel Fund allows us to provide assistance to someone who can use a little extra support. While our Angel Fund is particularly active around Christmas, we use this fund to offer support all year round.
- **David Donner Faith Formation Fund**—supporting this fund allows us to provide camp scholarships for children and youth, as well as to offer special faith formation activities and events to our congregation.
- **Special Missions**—throughout the year we focus on special missions to support the work that is done in our community.
- **Discretionary Fund**—our Discretionary Fund is used by the pastoral staff in many ways to support the ministries of our church.



## **POINSETTIA ORDERS**

Poinsettia orders for Christmas will be taken following worship on the following Sundays: November 9<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year will be white poinsettias with gold foil. A total of 40 Poinsettias will be sold, make sure to sign-up early.

## **LSACC**

The Lake Shore Association of Christian Churches will once again be holding a Community Thanksgiving Service this year. It will be a family-friendly service, held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Angola on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. Please join us as we pause to express our gratitude for His many gifts.

## **Fall Bazaar**

**Thank you** to everyone who worked, donated, and supported the Fall Bazaar on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>! Another successful community fellowship, it was great to see everyone and catch up.

### **Thank You from Becker's Bistro**

Thank you for all your donations to Becker's Bistro. We appreciate your donations of coffee, baked goods and cleaning supplies. Your monetary donations support, not only coffee hour, but supplies such as bowls, plates, cups, deli tubs, drinks and other items for special events.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your gift to Our Church's Wider Mission. We are deeply grateful for your congregation's gift.

Your support of OCWM permits us to provide for operating expenses, equip leaders, support clergy in ministry, foster healthy and vital congregations, advocate and witness for justice, respond to disasters and tragedies, send help around the world, and preach a welcoming and open understanding of Christian faith.

## **NEEDED!**

### **SALVATION ARMY REPRESENTATIVE & BELL RINGERS!**

If you are interested in being a representative for the Salvation Army, please call the church office and Michelle will supply you with more information later in November.

Volunteers are needed for Bell Ringing at Tops in Angola in December. As soon as I get the dates I will post them. Please stop in at church and sign up to help. Time slots available are from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM each day. Sign-up sheets will be located in the Narthex once the dates are confirmed! Thank you!

Please sign up and help in special memory of Amos Marvel, who spent much of his time to help with this worthwhile cause.

## **OCTOBER TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

The October Trustee meeting was held on October 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-7:50 pm. Usual financial and committee reports reviewed. Bills to be paid for October were approved.

Church and rental property projects discussed. Church: need outside clean-up crew for around the building which includes weeding, mulching, leaves and trimming back shrubs and plants, date TBD due to leaves still falling. Rental: Leases are signed; awaiting sidewalk to be done by the Village.

Church Security & Safety: We are asking parents to bring in a current school photo (pocket size) of their children for our file. Security & Safety will meet on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm.

Our next mission for 4th quarter is Fire House Church. The kids will have a craft night on October 17<sup>th</sup> to make crafts to be sold at the Fall Bazaar. Pastor reported on Advent and holiday planning.

Budget review was done and amendments were made and voted on. Budget is ready to be presented at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

As I am writing this-we are preparing for my favorite church event-Fall Bazaar-so much team work, fun, good food of course and sharing it all with our community!

“Autumn, the year’s last, loveliest smile!”

Have a safe Halloween!

Peace, Jean Galfo





# Community Dinner

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Friday November 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

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**Join us for a free hot dog dinner  
and an evening of gathering with  
the community**

**First Congregational UCC  
132 N. Main St Angola, NY 14006  
716-549-2115**

**UPCOMING EVENTS HERE**  
**AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC and COMMUNITY**

**Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Daylight Savings Ends**

**Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, Pre-sale pie pick-up from  
10am-1pm**

**Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, Stewardship Sunday and Poinsettia Sale Begins**

**Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Supper Club at Ilio DiPaolo's at 6pm**

**Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, Free Community Dinner from 6-7:30pm**

**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, Stewardship Sunday and Poinsettia Sale**

**Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thanksgiving Community Service at 6:30pm at St.  
Paul's Episcopal Church and Poinsettia Sale Ends**

**Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, Happy Thanksgiving, Office Closed**

**Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, Office Closed**

**Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Star Service during 10am worship**

**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>-Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, Evangola Community  
Theatre Presents "Christmas Castaways" at 7pm**

**Friday, December 5th, Tree Lighting, Christmas Caroling at the Gazebo at  
6:00pm, hot chocolate and cookies to follow at First Congregational UCC**

**Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Hanging of Greens at 6:00pm**

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, Christmas in the Village from 9:00am-2:00pm, Santa  
& Mrs. Claus, Breakfast and Crafters at First Congregational UCC**

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve Service, 6:30pm and Candlelight  
service at 10:30pm**

## Memorial Star Service

Once again this year, we will pause to remember loved ones recently or not so recently lost, by hanging stars in their memory on two evergreen trees in the sanctuary. Stars are also available to "honor" someone important in your life. This meaningful remembrance will take place on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, during the 10am worship service. The trees will remain in place throughout the Christmas season and the stars will be available to you after the season. If you would like a remembrance or honor star, please fill out the attached form and return it to the church office by Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> to allow time for them to be filled out. We are asking for a small donation of \$1.00 to help offset costs. Thank you for participating in this special remembrance.

Please return form by November 16, 2025

In Memory of/In Honor of (circle one)

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In Memory of/In Honor of (circle one)

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In Memory of/In Honor of (circle one)

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In Memory of/In Honor of (circle one)

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In Memory of/In Honor of (circle one)

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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of stars \_\_\_\_\_

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

TIME VALUE MAIL  
Mailed on October 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 716-264-7026 or Michelle in the Church Office at 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 November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
- **There is PLENTY of room for your article!!!**