NOVEMBER 2026

The Messenger

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

Phone 716-549-2115 E-mail: ucc_angola@verizon.net
Website: **www.christchurchangola.com**

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Scheduled to Serve in November

Head Usher—Ron Taylor

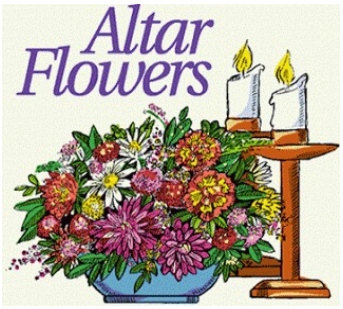
	Ushers	Greeter	Reader
11/01	CarolAnn Obrochta, JonnyAnn Roach Jean Galfo, Michelle Becker	Joan Blais	Donna Nagel
11/08	Gayl Weinheimer, Cherryl Vincent-Becker	Marjorie McCarthy	Jessica Ludwig
11/15	Carrie & Eric Marcynski	Marcia Whittemore	Michelle Becker
11/22	Carol ann Obrochta, Jean Galfo	Gayl Weinheimer	JonnyAnn Roach
11/29	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach	Joan Blais	Allie Ludwig

Counters

11/01 Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach
11/08 Darlene DePasquale, Annette Reynolds
11/15 Jessica Ludwig, Marcia Whittemore
11/22 Sue Weinheimer, Judy Strade
11/29 Laurie Ludwig, John MacPherson

ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank October Altar Flower Dedicators:



Marcia Whittemore

Donner & Mazur Family

Carrie & Eric Marcynski

Michelle Becker

Bella Schiefla

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:



The Ludwig Family gave this month's bulletins to the Glory of God, and In Memory of Grandma Ludwig with much love.

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: Growing Edges and a Cloud of Witnesses
Hebrews 12: 1-2

The autumn leaves have changed colors and begun to fall from the trees. Our days are growing shorter and November arrives with an invitation to look back over the landscape of our lives. The traditional celebration of All Saints Day (November 1st) reminds us that we belong to a long, incredible, yet unfinished story. Hebrews 12:1 –2 tells us, *"Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders... and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*

Living faithfully through the transitions of this season requires us to add an extra measure of grace. With shorter days, growing lists, and the fast approach of the holidays, we tend to be faced with "all the feels"; handling a natural mix of excitement and anxiety, seasonal exhaustion, uncertainty, and even hope. The great theologian Howard Thurman once wrote that when the life feels chaotic or hectic, we must look into the deep, quiet places of our souls to find our "growing edge"; the place where hope stays stubbornly alive. Our church stands as a reminder of that quiet space, calling us back to mutual care and unwavering kindness. Instead of letting daily anxieties dictate our tempo, be intentional with checking in with one another and our neighbors, and practice a steady patience.

One of the most powerful ways to ground ourselves right now is to actively invest in that "growing edge." We honor the legacy of those who went before us by carrying their steady stewardship forward. As we stand on the doorstep of a new year (well, new liturgical year), we have a real opportunity to shape our future ministries by returning our pledge cards to church. Pledging is a deeply spiritual act of trust. Your returned cards are the vital tools our leadership team needs to responsibly budget for our future, support our ministry, and expand our outreach. By turning in your card, you make a clear statement that you believe in where our church is going.

Building a strong foundation for tomorrow, we remain deeply aware of the traditions, nostalgia, and even grief the changing of the season brings. Memories return to us of those whose absence we feel most acutely as the winter holidays approach. We carry both our current heartaches and our future hopes into our annual Star Memorial Service on the last Sunday of this month. This special service offers a sacred way to remember and honor the legacy, teachings, and love of that

“great cloud of witnesses:...*our* cloud of witnesses. We will hang stars on the trees in the sanctuary as a reminder that their light still guides us into a future of hope.

No matter what the coming weeks bring, take a deep breath, hand in your pledge card, join us for the Star Memorial Service, and let’s enter this season together.

Peace,
Pastor Jen

Bible Study

Whimsy, Wonder, and Gratitude: Reclaiming Christian Delight

Thursday Evenings at 5:15pm
Potluck Dinner begins at 5:15, Bible Study at 5:45
Please sign-up in Updyke Hall

Our weekly Bible Study continues on Thursday evenings in November (November 5th, 12th and 19th). Join us for a study in “Whimsy, Wonder, and Gratitude as we use scripture to invite us to step away from the rush to explore God’s playful creativity, rediscover awe in the world around us, and practice real gratitude. No matter where you are on your faith journey—or how tired your heart feels—there is a relaxed seat at the table for you to laugh, question, and connect. Come just as you are, and let's learn to live wide-eyed together.

First Congregational UCC—Angola, NY
Animals in Our Church Community

Our church is a place where everyone is welcome—and we know that, for many of us, animals are an important part of our lives. They bring companionship, comfort, joy, and sometimes even a little laughter when we need it most.

We also recognize that service animals, therapy animals, and emotional support animals can play an important role in a person’s physical, emotional, and mental well-being. We want to be a caring and supportive community for those who depend on an animal for assistance or comfort.

At the same time, not everyone is comfortable around animals. Some members and visitors may have allergies, fears, or other concerns. As we seek to care for one another, we are introducing some simple guidelines for bringing animals into our church.

Our Guidelines

- **Kitchen:** Animals are not permitted in the church kitchen at any time. This helps us maintain appropriate food-safety and sanitation standards.
- **Updyke Hall – Dinners:** Animals are not permitted in Updyke Hall during dinners, except for service animals as required.
- **Updyke Hall – Coffee Hour:** Animals may be present in Updyke Hall during Coffee Hour, provided they remain under the owner's control and do not interfere with others.
- **Sanctuary:** Animals are welcome in the sanctuary when appropriate. For everyone's comfort and safety, animals must remain on the floor and under the owner's control. They should not be placed on pews, chairs, or other furniture.
- **Clean-Up:** Owners are responsible for immediately cleaning up after their animals and disposing of waste appropriately.
- **Documentation:** When applicable, vaccination records, certifications, insurance or other relevant documentation for an animal should be available upon request.
- **Liability:** Owners are responsible for any injury, harm or damage caused to person or property by their animal.

These guidelines are not intended to discourage anyone from bringing an animal when there is a genuine need. Service animals are always welcome, and therapy or emotional support animals may be appropriate when they provide needed support. We do, however, ask that pets not be brought to worship or church activities simply for companionship. When an animal is present, we ask owners to be mindful of the people around them and to keep their animal under control.

Our goal is to balance the needs of those who benefit from having an animal present with the comfort, safety, and well-being of the entire congregation.

Most importantly, we ask everyone to approach these situations with kindness, understanding, and grace. What one person needs for comfort may be different from what another person needs to feel comfortable.

Thank you for helping us make our church a welcoming and caring place for everyone—two-legged and four-legged alike!

BUDGET DISTRIBUTION AND PLEDGE CARDS

During the October meeting when the budget for 2027 was presented, we unfortunately had to say we do not have a balanced budget for this upcoming year. We will be looking at new ways to help offset costs in the future to help this become a balanced budget. 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 08th & 15th 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

First Church of Evans hosted a Security Seminar from Dept. of Homeland Security (CISA) that we attended on Saturday, October 31st, from 10-11:30am. It was very informative with a few new ideas for us to implement. I was happy to see that most of the topics presented we are already doing! 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

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. 5th and Friday Nov. 6th 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 $20.00 each except for apple cranberry walnut will be $23.00.
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!

SUNDAY COUNTER VOLUNTEERS

It's that time of year when we will be working on scheduling our Sunday Counter Volunteers for 2027. 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.

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.

Cecelia Ann Roach, Granddaughter of JonnyAnn Roach



Happy Fall To All!

We had the BUSIEST month with the kiddos! We met on a Friday night to prepare for our Annual Fall Bazaar. Our crew made multiple crafts and had a kid friendly dinner. We wanted the kids to understand what we were working towards funding this year with our proceeds from the Fall Bazaar table. The day of the bazaar we had a small but mighty crew to work our table. The proceeds we raised totaled $450.00. (Which was an AMAZING feat for these kids!) On Sunday the 25th we presented our hard earned proceeds to Mr. Kurt, Mrs. Carol Ann and Mr. Paul to purchase a new milkshake machine to be used for the Strawberry Social and St. Patrick's Day Shakes!

We appreciate all the visitors to our booth and all the grown ups who helped make this possible!

Best wishes, warmest regards! Tiffany Hurd











POINSETTIA ORDERS

Poinsettia orders for Christmas will be taken following worship on the following Sundays: November 8th, November 15h and November 22nd. This year will be red poinsettias with silver foil. A total of 36 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 First Church of Evans in Derby on Sunday, November 22, 2026, at 6:30pm. 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 24th! Another successful community fellowship, it was great to see everyone and catch up.

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 on December 3rd, 4th and 10th. 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 are located in Updyke Hall, 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 6th, from 4:00-6:50 pm. Usual financial and committee reports reviewed. Bills to be paid for October were approved. We accepted 3 new members into the church: Charles Walker, Piper Halcome and Raymond Anderson.

Church Security & Safety: First Church of Evans will be holding a security meeting with CISA from Dept. of Homeland Security on Saturday, October 31st and we have Pastor Jen Mazur, JonnyAnn Roach, Kurt Weinheimer, Anne & Paul Becker and Michelle Becker attending.

Our mission for 4th quarter is Fire House Church. The kids will have a craft night on October 9th to make crafts to be sold at the Fall Bazaar.

Budget review was done and amendments were made and voted on. Budget is ready to be presented at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 11th. This year is not a balanced budget and we will be looking at new ways to help raise funds as the Strawberry Social and Fall Bazaar have such high startup costs for food and paper products. Credit cards will now be accepted for

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


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
132 N. MAIN ST ANGOLA NY 14006
TV
RAFFLE
$5 PER TICKET - 3 TICKETS FOR $10
FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A
55" SAMSUNG SMART TV
DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT MEAT RAFFLE ON
MARCH 6TH, 2027 @ MPB
PROCEEDS TO HELP WITH ROOF FUND
DONATED BY PAUL HAFNER OF WEST HERR CHEVROLET HAMBURG NY.
MORE INFO CONTACT :
ALLIE 716-863-2041 OR CHURCH OFFICE 716-549-2115


farm market
A Program of FeedMore wny
love fresh fruits and veggies?
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Stop by to purchase fresh, healthy, affordable and locally grown produce, everything under $5!
Angola Public Library
(in parking lot across from the library)
34 N Main Street
Angola, NY 14006
11/19, 12/3,
12/17, 12/31 -
1:00pm-2:00pm
The Farm Market accepts cash, debit/credit, tap to pay & SNAP/EBT (50% off)!
FeedMore wny
Find our full schedule at feedmorewny.org under 'Find Food'
FeedMore WNY
www.feedmorewny.org
(716) 822-2002


ROAD CLOSED
FOR RAILROAD CROSSING REPAIRS
ROAD CLOSED AT THE RAILROAD TRACKS
Delamater Rd
Eden Evans Center Rd
Eden Evans Center Rd
Eden Evans Center Rd
Delamater Rd
LOCATION
Eden Evans Center Rd between Delamater Rd and Southwestern Blvd in the Town of Evans
The closure is isolated at the railroad tracks.
FOLLOW POSTED DETOUR & USE CAUTION IN THE AREA.
WHEN
November 1 to November 14, or until complete


Friends of the Village, Inc.
27th Annual
christmas
in the
VILLAGE of ANGOLA
Saturday, December 12, 2026
9:00am - 2:00pm
First Congregational Church
132 N. Main, Angola, NY

UPCOMING EVENTS HERE
AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC and COMMUNITY

Sunday, November 1st, Daylight Savings Ends

Monday, November 2nd, "Prayer for the Polls" Service at 6:30pm

Thursday, November 5th and Friday, November 6th, Pre-sale pie pick-up from 10am-1pm

Sunday, November 8th, Stewardship Sunday I and Poinsettia Sale Begins

Thursday, November 12th, 5:15pm Dinner and 5:45 Bible Study

Sunday, November 15th, Stewardship Sunday II and Poinsettia Sale

Sunday, November 22nd, Thanksgiving Community Service at 6:30pm at First Church of Evans and Poinsettia Sale Ends

Thursday, November 26th, Happy Thanksgiving, Office Closed and Thanksgiving Dinner at MPB from 12-5pm

Friday, November 27th, Office Closed

Sunday, November 29th, Memorial Star Service during 10am worship

Thursday, December 3rd, Sub Orders Due

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 11th, Hanging of Greens at 6:00pm

Saturday, December 12th, Christmas in the Village from 9:00am-2:00pm, Santa & Mrs. Claus, Breakfast and Crafters at First Congregational UCC

Thursday, December 24th, 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 29th, 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 15th 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 15, 2026

In Memory of/In Honor of (circle one)

_____

In Memory of/In Honor of (circle one)

_____

In Memory of/In Honor of (circle one)

_____

In Memory of/In Honor of (circle one)

_____

In Memory of/In Honor of (circle one)

_____

Your Name_____

Total # of stars_____

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

TIME VALUE MAIL
Mailed on November 03, 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 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 11th, 2026**
- **There is PLENTY of room for your article!!!**