

October 2024

# The Messenger

The Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ

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## Scheduled to Serve in October

Head Usher—Rob Ingrassia

### Ushers

10/06 CarolAnn Obrochta, Carrie Ward  
Eric Marcynski, JonnyAnn Roach

10/13 Sue Harding, Michael Harding

10/20 Gayl Weinheimer, Dale Ketterer

10/27 Jean Galfo, Carol Ann Obrochta

### Greeter

Marjorie McCarthy

Marcia Whittemore

Joan Blais

Sally Needham

### Reader

Bob Fuerst

Darlene DePasquale

Chris Beith

Kathy Bienias

### Counters

10/06 Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach

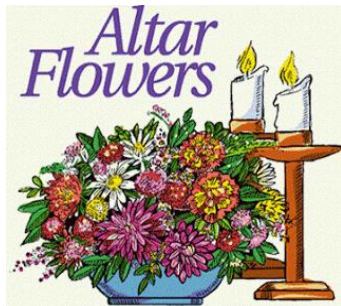
10/13 Sue Weinheimer, Annette Reynolds

10/20 Judy Fuerst, Chris Beith

10/27 Darlene DePasquale, Marcia Whittemore

## ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank September Altar Flower Dedicators:



Marcia Whittemore

Bob & Kathy Bienias

Melissa Borosky

Rachel & Lia Garrasi

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 549-2115.

## We would like to thank September Bulletin Dedication:



Marcia Whittemore gave this month's bulletins to the Glory of God, and to our church families that are fighting and living with cancer

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... *Come Together and Imagine!*

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> was a great day; we held our first ever revival—the “Soulshine Revival,” where more than 50 people gathered to share in music, scripture, fellowship and of course, yummy food! One of the sets of music that that band—the Gang of Scoundrels—performed was a Beatles set.

The following are reflections I shared reflecting on the songs, “Imagine” and “Come Together”:

*And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”*

—Luke 1:38 ESV

An angel of the Lord appeared to Mary with a message that was world-changing news. Even though Mary was a virgin, she would conceive and bear a son whose name would be Jesus. Mary’s future had just taken a miraculous, albeit frightening turn. How could this be? What would people think? Yet Mary responds with unshakeable faith. “Let it be.” And with that statement, Mary placed her future in God’s loving hands.

It certainly can be very difficult to figure out what you want to do in life and what your purpose is. We were all put on this earth for a reason and to make a difference. Sometimes we have a difficult time finding our purpose, but God has one for each and every one of us.

We all have an idea of how we want our lives to turn out and what we want to do in the future, but our plans may not line up with God’s plans. It can be a challenge to let faith prevail over fear because the unknown can be scary.

Our faith in God grows stronger as we pray, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Even when we are tempted to fixate on “How can this be?” may God give us the grace to end up in the “Let it be” of faith.

*“Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.”* — Psalm 34:3 NIV

On the Beatles 1969 Abbey Road album, the song “Come Together” was one of the most popular; it was a chart topper for several weeks in a row. Even filled with Lennon’s silly, nonsensical lyrics (like “toe-jam football”) the idea behind the title remained the same; let’s come together for something, or to do something, or to become something, but let’s just do it *together*.

There is simply something about the human spirit’s yearning to come together in order to avoid being alone, to be part of something bigger than just us and to know that there are others similar to us in interests, work, faith and purpose.

Jesus called his followers to walk with him, to follow him into places that need to be touched by love and grace. Jesus called his disciples, and Jesus calls us, to come together, to work in community. We know there is strength in numbers and Scripture reminds us that wherever two or more have come together and gathered, there is love.

Through Jesus love and grace, we are called together  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the captives,  
to rebuild nations,  
to bring peace into the world,  
to make music in the hearts of people.

(paraphrased from Howard Thurman's, *"The Work of Christmas"*)

In Psalm 34: 3, the Psalmist pleads for others to join him glorifying the Lord, likely through song but also through action and likely so he is not alone in doing so. If you work in a position that requires you to mostly be by yourself, you know how encouraging it can be to meet up with colleagues and peers and not feel so alone. Yes, the Lord is always with us, but it doesn't hurt to join with the Psalmist in asking others to come together, too.

Lately it seems that everywhere we turn it feels there is something happening to drive a wedge between people. But not Jesus! Jesus calls us...come together...right now...follow me!

This Fall, our stewardship theme (which you will hear more about in the near future) is "Imagining Together", a fitting reflection and statement of what we strive to do as a congregation. We all care about the communities in which we live, the things happening in our world, the future of "the" Church, and the future of *our* church. By worshipping together, fellowshiping together, giving together and imagining together, we can affect each of these areas in creative and faithful ways.

None of these things can happen if we work alone. When we come together and we all participate, we become a mission-engaged community, anchored in God's love, and ready to answer the call to reach out in service to each other and the world around us. We each have a part to play in the work of our church and in the future we desire.

May it be that we all have the faith of Mary to respond to God's call with a "Let it be" faith...and come together and imagine a vibrant future as First Congregational UCC, Angola, NY!

Peace,  
Pastor Jen



## **Annual Fall Bazaar**

**Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Booths Open 10:00am to 4:00pm**  
**Dining Room 11:00am to 3:00pm**

Come and see our booths  
**THEME BASKETS**  
**TIMELESS TREASURES**  
**BOOK NOOK**  
**CRAFT VENDORS**  
**FARMER'S MARKET**  
**CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND**  
**BAKE GOODS**  
**RADA KNIVES**  
**BECKER'S BISTRO**



## **CALLING ALL BAKERS**

This year we are in need of all our bakers that are willing to make baked goods for the Fall Bazaar. We had such a good response with our bake sale at the Strawberry Social and would like to offer many goodies at the Bazaar. In the past we had cupcakes, brownies, cookies, coffee cakes, breads, kuchen, chocolate covered pretzels, peanut clusters, etc. If you are willing to bake please see Carol Ann Obrochta.

## **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, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> and Friday Nov. 1<sup>st</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 following the Fall Bazaar!

## **BAZAAR THEME BASKETS!**

It is not too early to begin thinking about donating to the Theme Baskets for the Annual Bazaar. As always we appreciate monetary donations to purchase items for baskets. Thank you for considering helping, we look forward to a successful bazaar!

~The Basket Committee





## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the Soulshine Revival on September 14<sup>th</sup>, Beef on Weck Dinner Fundraiser on September 15<sup>th</sup> and the Sub Sale on September 25<sup>th</sup>! All your help is greatly appreciated and a great way to see our fellowship at work. Don't forget to volunteer for the Annual Fall Bazaar on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

## J.O.Y. Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to join! We will have meetings quarterly on Sundays following worship. Next meeting is November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Some of the things we do are: Supper Club, Game night, Field trips (Train ride, plays, presentations, etc.), Funeral luncheon, Baked Sales, Hot Chocolate and cookies for Christmas Caroling, Christmas in the Village, etc.

We will be participating in the Halloween Happenings at Dunkirk Conference Center on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to come and hand out water and snacks to all the kids. We will have the school building again this year with 4 classrooms to decorate so we will be meeting around 2:00pm and trick or treating is at 4:00pm. If you would like to help but can't make it there, we are collecting bags of candy, snack size chips and pretzels and 8oz. bottles of water.

Annual Fall Bazaar is Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-4:00pm. We are in need of many volunteers. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex or you can see Carol Ann Obrochta. Some of the areas we need volunteers for are cutting vegetables, baked goods, kitchen, baskets, clean up, etc.

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL GARDEN CLUB

We are in need of volunteers for "Garden Club" for our church. There is weeding and planting that needs to be done before winter. During the warmer months we need help with watering plants. If this is something you love to do, please consider helping once a month to keep our exterior looking beautiful!

Please see Michelle Becker for more information.



## FALL CLEAN UP

We are going to be looking at setting up a date to do fall clean up around the outside of the church. Unfortunately, we will have to wait until the leaves stop falling, I am anticipating at the end of October or middle of November. If anyone would like to help please let the church office now and we will put you on a list and contact you when a date is set.

Many Hands Make Light Work!



### Halloween Happening at Dunkirk Conference Center October 12, 2024

Begins at 4:00pm, to help decorate we will be meeting at 2:00pm, please bring any decorations to share in the decorating for the day. We will be using the 4 classrooms inside the school house building again so any decorations would be appreciated. We will continue collecting candy, snack size chips and pretzels and 8 oz. water bottles through October 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. We greatly appreciate it! Hope to see many of you there!



Happy Fall, y'all! Our new Church School year kicked off with our Rally Day celebration on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and it is going great. The older kids love having Miss Tiffany lead their group and we look forward to see what they do this year.

Fall is such a fun time of the year and the kids are enjoying their weekly crafts. Ms. Barb's class has been creative with creating the world and animals.

Keeping our children (and everyone) safe is a priority at our church. Please make sure we are taking the time to help with this by using our "sign-in, sign-out" process for our children. We are asking that parents sign their child/children in when they arrive at church and sign their child out when they pick their child/children up at the end of Church School. The sign-in will be on the table outside the church office and then taken into Updyke Hall to sign out at the end of the morning. Thank you to all who have been signing your child in/out each Sunday. We will also have our yearly Security Sunday for the children and congregation so they will know how to respond to any threats or emergencies, date TDB.



## **Congregational Meeting**

Please join us on  
Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> following worship  
for our Congregational Meeting and special coffee hour!  
This meeting will include the Budget Presentation and Vote.

## **SEPTEMBER TRUSTEE’S REPORT**

Our meeting was held on September 10, 2024, from 4:00-6:45PM, opened with prayer and roundtable.

Usual business conducted: Reports heard from Financial, bills to pay, committee reports and agenda was approved.

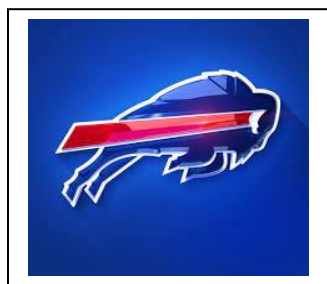
Several new committee members agreed on for various committees and need to be voted on at October Congregational meeting.

Church safety and security team need to meet prior to Fall Bazaar on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Church properties: voted to complete the side walk repairs as advised by our insurance carrier. Dave Braasch bid was accepted; reviewed pricing on AED models to be purchased with \$5,000 grant before December; Kurt Weinheimer sent a letter to Nick Langworthy regarding our need for a generator to be the Village emergency shelter.

Fall Bazaar plans are in full swing – basket donations would be gratefully accepted. A new vendor this year is Skiddly Pops who will have pints of seasonal ice cream.

Christmas/Advent season planning is in place. As I am writing this today is 9-11-24, 23 years ago our world changed forever – let us never forget how fragile our lives are!



Football pools by “Friends of the Church” was voted and accepted again for this year. Proceeds to be used toward new copier in church office, Go Bills!!! The games will be September 12th, October 14th, November 17th, December 22nd and January playoff game (TBD). We will also be offering Super Bowl with \$50 squares. If interested please see JonnyAnn Roach

May we be a light to our town and spread peace and kindness!

Peace~  
Jean Galfo

**UPCOMING EVENTS HERE**  
**AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC &**  
**IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, Halloween Happenings at Dunkirk Camp**

**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, Congregational Meeting following worship**

**Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, Annual Fall Bazaar  
10:00am - 4:00pm**

**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm LSACC Thanksgiving Service at  
First Congregational UCC**

**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, Memorial Star Service during 10am worship**

**Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6pm Tree Lighting and caroling to follow at gazebo and  
hot chocolate & cookies at First Congregational and Sub Orders Due**

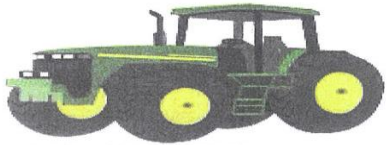
**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, Sub Sale**

**Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6pm Christmas Caroling Hayride**

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Christmas in the Village**

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm Hot dogs and 12:30pm story time with  
Evangola Community Theater's Steve Brachmann**

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve Services will be at 6:30pm and  
11:30pm**



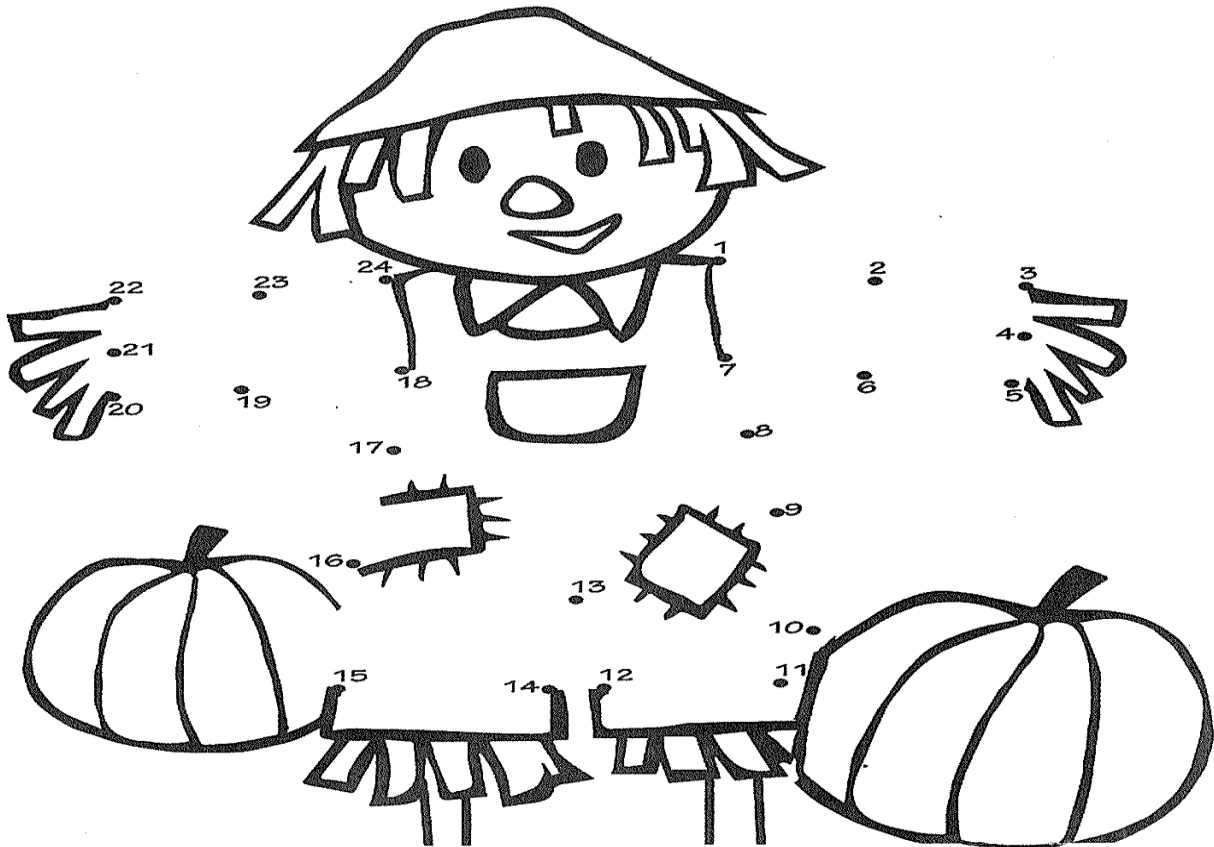
# HARVEST TIME

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

- AGRICULTURE
- AUTUMN
- BALE
- CLEAN
- CROPS
- CUT
- DIG UP
- FRUIT
- GATHER
- GLEAN
- GRAINS
- HUSK
- MARKET
- PICK
- PILE
- PLUCK
- PRICE
- PRODUCE
- PROFIT
- REAP
- RIPE
- SEASON
- SELECT
- SELL
- SORT
- STACK
- STORE
- WEIGH
- YIELD

N U M H K M D L E I Y A C P  
 U A G R I C U L T U R E R J  
 H R G M S F A L R G M I H S  
 T U F B N E Q T L J C E T H  
 E L A B E U A E S E M O U I  
 K P V P P L A S P S R S E W  
 R G R A I N S A O E K D E E  
 A X W E R X U E R N R I K C  
 M H P R Y T R L C U G G J U  
 C P Z R U T L E P H T U K D  
 L T I M O L I I H R I P C O  
 E U N L E F C U O T O V U R  
 A C K S E K I S R V A R L P  
 N T S E L E C T T F R G P E

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.  
Find and circle each word.





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

TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed on September 27th, 2024

**Please deliver promptly.**

## **Sunday Worship- 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 October 9th, 2024**
- **There is PLENTY of room for your article!!!**