

October 2025

The Messenger

The Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ

132 N. Main Street, PO Box 23

Angola, NY 14006

Phone: 716-549-2115

Email: ucc_angola@verizon.net

Website: www.christchurchangola.com

THE FOLLOWING TOOK PLACE IN SEPTEMBER

Memorial Service: Patricia Krantz

Joan Houston

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

Joan Houston



Scheduled to Serve in October

Head Usher—Rob Ingrassia

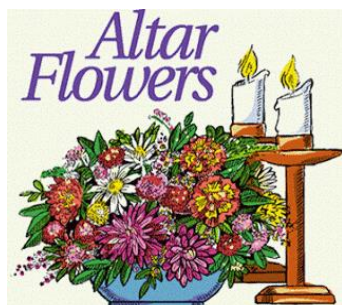
<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>
10/05 CarolAnn Obrochta, Bill Ludwig Jessica Ludwig, Michelle Becker	Gayl Weinheimer	Carrie Ward-Marcynski
10/12 Joan Blais, JonnyAnn Roach	Donna Nagel	Michelle Becker
10/19 Gayl Weinheimer, Jean Galfo	Marjorie McCarthy	JonnyAnn Roach
10/26 Kathy Bienias, Dale Ketterer	Sally Needham	Eric Marcynski

Counters

10/05 Michelle Becker, Jessica Ludwig
 10/12 John MacPherson, Heather Kasperek
 10/19 Sue Weinheimer, Annette Reynolds
 10/26 Chris Beith, Judy Strade

ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank September Altar Flower Dedicators:



Marcia Whittemore
Carrie & Eric Marcynski
Donner & Mazur Families
Rachel & Lia Garrasi
Miriam & Tony Oster

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 September Bulletin Dedication:



Brenda & Jimmie Greene gave this month's bulletins to the Glory of God, and In Memory of Loved Ones.
--

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...

Fall is my favorite season! There are so many things to love about it; cooler temperatures and the beginning of sweater weather, the changing colors of the leaves, pumpkin spice *everything*, Halloween Happenings at Dunkirk, being pit-crew for my brother as he runs 50 miles around Canandaigua Lake, and one of my favorite celebrations of the church year, World Communion Sunday—celebrated on the first Sunday of October.

World Communion Sunday began as World-Wide Communion Sunday at a church in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. Rev. Kerr appropriately chose the sacrament of Holy Communion to symbolize this unity. Despite the differences in our denominations and traditions, through this sacred meal, we celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

As I was thinking about this upcoming worship celebration, I was reminiscing about a favorite communion experiences. There was a woman who I had visited years ago for a home communion. As I began preparing the elements to share communion with her, she said, “Oh, you brought grape juice again?” “I really don’t like grape juice. We should have peach brandy.” She then proceeded to get a bottle from her cabinet and pour a small amount of the peach brandy into our communion cups. The rest of the communion service proceeded “as usual,” we finished our conversation and I headed back to church. As I was sitting in my car I thought about the unusual elements that were used but I also thought, I don’t think Jesus minded. I don’t think God was offended by a homebound woman preferring her beverage over the traditional grape juice.

I also recalled a time, here at First Congregational, when following a World Communion service several years ago, children who had been exploring the sanctuary discovered the tray of breads that had been left on the altar and began snacking on it. While their families were in Updyke Hall enjoying cake and coffee, these children were feasting on the left-over communion breads. It was quite a sight to see as they shoved chunks of the “body of Christ” into their mouths, wiping the crumbs off the communion table to hide the evidence. My first urge to stop them was quickly extinguished by the thought, “Who was I to tell them they couldn’t eat

the communion bread?” It spiritually fed them during communion and now was nourishing their body with such goodness. I don’t think Jesus minded. I don’t think God was bothered by children wanting to eat that which was good.

I was also thinking about the different ways the bread and cup will be served in churches around the world, the different liturgies that will be used, the diverse ways the communion tables will be set, and I don’t think God will be offended by any of it. What matters isn’t the form of Communion, but the substance. What matters isn’t *how* we celebrate Communion, but *why*.

We are invited to the table to remember Jesus; to remember that we are the body of Christ in the world. We are called to be God’s hands at work in the world. We live in wildly divisive times, and yet we are called to remember our connection with other Christians *throughout the world*.

Our God welcomes us in, dreaming of a world united through a common sacred meal. This Fall, our stewardship theme (which you will hear more about in the near future) is “Dreaming God’s Dream,” an invitation to dream alongside God, a future for ourselves, for our church and for our world. 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 dreaming 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 dreams and work of our church and in the future we desire.

As we dream together let us respond in faith and create a vibrant future as First Congregational UCC, Angola, NY!

Peace,
Pastor Jen



Annual Fall Bazaar

Saturday, October 25th, 2025
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, Nov. 6th and Friday Nov. 7th 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!

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 Chicken BBQ Dinner Fundraiser on September 13th and the SoulShine Revival on September 20th! All your help is greatly appreciated and a great way to see our fellowship at work. Don't forget to volunteer for the Sub Sale on Wednesday, October 8th and the Annual Fall Bazaar on October 25th.

J.O.Y. Fellowship

Dinner at the Rust Belt was enjoyed by all. Please continue to check the sign-up sheets for upcoming events and outings in October. Supper club is scheduled for Thursday Nov. 13, 2025 at Ilio DiPaolo's Restaurant. Watch for the sign-up sheet.

God Bless, Anne Becker

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!

Let's Share the Good News (and Our Website!)

Have you checked out our church's website lately? www.christchurchangola.com is more than just a place to find Sunday service times. It's our digital "front porch" — the welcome mat we put out for our community and the wider world. In today's world, a lot of people look online first when they're curious about a church. A friendly website helps them see who we are, what we believe, and how we live out God's love together. Every click, every shared link, is a little invitation: Come and see what Christ is doing here at UCC Angola! But here's the fun part: our website is also a place where your stories belong. Photos of Vacation Bible School crafts, fellowship hour smiles, testimonies of faith, or even that moment when the choir hit the perfect harmony — these are the things that bring our online presence to life. Think of it this way: our website is like a scrapbook that keeps growing, page by page, as we share what God is doing in our lives. And the more we share, the more people can connect — whether they're neighbors down the street or friends across the country. □□□ How You Can Help 1. Visit the site — see what's new, going on and upcoming! 2. Share it — post a link on Facebook, text it to a friend, or mention it in conversation. 3. Contribute — send in photos, stories, or reflections that show what our church family means to you. Together, we can make christchurchangola.com not just a website, but a living witness of faith, love, and community. So go ahead — click, share, smile, repeat!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 12, 2025 we will hold our
Annual Congregational Meeting following worship in Updyke Hall.
We will be presenting the Proposed 2026 Budget.

The Friendship Fridge



We are starting something exciting this fall; 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.
- ☺ Did your zucchini harvest grow a bit wild but will spoil before you can use it all?

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 will be located in the front hall of the church by the Main Street entrance. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Jen, Manni or Tom McMullen.



Halloween Happening at Dunkirk Conference Center October 18, 2025

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 5th. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. We greatly appreciate it! Hope to see many of you there!



Sunday school is back in full swing!

We are so excited to have our kiddos back. Our Rally Day tail gaiting party was a hit! The kids enjoyed a scavenger hunt prepared by Pastor Jen Mazur which included pages and trinkets to give our kids tools to help in their daily lives. Then enjoyed their own special selection of coffee hour snacks along with some face painting to prep for the Bills game.

All of our three classes; Pre-K, K-4 and Youth group are always excited to have new faces join us. Every week we plan fun lessons with crafts or games for the kids to enjoy. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors about our dedicated and fun opportunities for kids of all ages!

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.



SEPTEMBER TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Our meeting was held on September 09, 2025, from 4:00-6:30PM, opened with prayer and roundtable.

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

We had a busy summer and now headed into fall and Advent: Rally day, Chicken BBQ, Sub sale, Fall Bazaar, Music Ministry- 2nd Annual SoulShine Revival, 132 NORTH, Budget prep and Congregational Meeting!!!

Pastor Jen reported on many hospital and home visits, Memorial services & funerals. Thanksgiving service will be on November 23rd at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Lake St. at 6:30pm.

Discussed future productions by Evangola Community Theater in December; snowplowing bid was once again awarded to EarthsCore Excavating-Anthony Fuchs; outside clean-up is needed and one day cereal drive for OGN.

As I write this, it is 9-11-25 – The Angola Fire Dept. has the huge American Flag on display to honor and remember-**NEVER FORGET!!!**

GOD BLESS AMERICA-“THE LAND OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE”



Football pools by “Friends of the Church” was voted and accepted again for this year. Proceeds to be used toward copier lease in church office, Go Bills!!! The games will be September 18th, October 26th, November 2nd, December 14th, January against Jets (TBD) and January playoff game (TBD). We will also be offering Super Bowl with \$50 squares.



Peace~
Jean Galfo

UPCOMING EVENTS HERE
AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC &
IN THE COMMUNITY

Wednesday, October 8th, Sub Sale

Sunday, October 12th, Congregational Meeting following worship

Saturday, October 18th, Halloween Happenings at Dunkirk Camp

**Sunday, October 19th, Fall Foliage Train Ride from 2-4pm at NY & Erie
Railroad in Gowanda**

**Saturday, October 25th, Annual Fall Bazaar
10:00am - 4:00pm**

**Thursday, November 6th and Friday November 7th Pre-Sale Pie Pick-up
from 10am -1pm**

Thursday, November 13th, Supper Club at Ilio DiPaolo's at 6pm

Friday, November 14th, Free Community Dinner at 6pm

Wednesday, November 19th, Sub Sale

**Sunday, November 23rd, 6:30pm LSACC Thanksgiving Service at
St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

Sunday, November 30th, Memorial Star Service during 10am worship

Saturday, December 13th, Christmas in the Village

**Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Services will be at 6:30pm and
10:30pm**

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 29, 2025
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 716-264-7026, Michelle in the Church Office 716-549-2115 or
716-262-6171, 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 08, 2025**
- **There is PLENTY of room for your article!!!**