October 2026

The Messenger

The Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ
132 N. Main Street
Angola, NY 14006
Phone: 716-549-2115 or 716-262-6171
Email: ucc_angola@verizon.net
Website: **www.christchurchangola.com**

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Scheduled to Serve in October

Head Usher—Rob Ingrassia

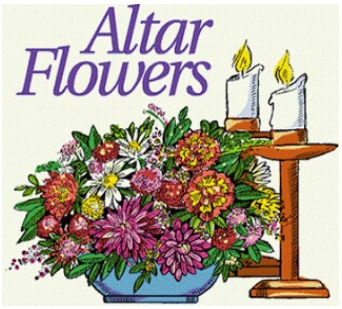
	Ushers	Greeter	Reader
10/04	Carrie/Emerson Ward, Eric Marcynski JonnyAnn Roach, Michelle Becker	Marjorie McCarthy	Donna Nagel
10/11	Carol Ann Obrochta, JonnyAnn Roach	Gayl Weinheimer	Randy Addison
10/18	Jessica Ludwig, Allie Ludwig	Laurie Ludwig	Kathy Bienias
10/25	Gayl Weinheimer, Cherryl Vincent-Becker	Joan Blais	Gregg Clark III

Counters

10/04 Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach
10/11 John MacPherson, Judy Strade
10/18 Sue Weinheimer, Jessica Ludwig
10/25 Marcia Whittemore, Darlene DePasquale

ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank September Altar Flower Dedicators:



Barb Raab

Kathy & Bob Bienias

Donner & Mazur Families

Rachel & Lia Garrasi

Ludwig Family

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:



Carrie & Eric Marcynski gave this month's bulletins to the Glory of God, and In celebration of our second wedding anniversary, Parker's SENIOR year in high school and Emerson's first year in middle school. This month we will also celebrate Gabe's 20th birthday, his "re-birthday", and his gotcha day. We also dedicate this bulletin with great thanks and love to our church family that has prayed for and supported our family these past few months.

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…

A Harvest of Contentment

October is one of my favorite months of the year! The crisp October air brings a beautiful, noticeable shift. The leaves are turning beautiful and bold shades of oranges and reds, the mornings are much cooler, and nature gently starts to slow down, reminding us of the sacred cycles of rest. For many of us, however, our calendars are doing the exact opposite. At church we are gearing up for World Communion Sunday, the Halloween Happening, and of course, our Annual Bazaar. In my drive to and from church I have noticed farmers working over time making the most of each daylight moment to harvest the last crops of the year. And, on top of our day-to-day schedules, we are now standing on the edge of the frantic holiday rush; a season that often brings a lot of pressure, longer than usual to-do lists, and packed schedules.

Before the chaos of the coming months pulls us in, however, autumn invites us to hit pause and cultivate a different kind of harvest: a harvest of contentment.

In Leviticus 23:33-43, God established the Feast of Booths (or *Sukkot*). Held at the very end of the agricultural year once the harvest was safely gathered, it was the ultimate festival of thanksgiving. Yet, God's instructions for this celebration were remarkably distinct and beautifully unique. The people weren't told to build bigger barns, prepare more fields or immediately map out the next year's labor. Instead, they were commanded to stop working, build temporary shelters (booths) out of leafy branches, and simply rest and rejoice in God's provision together for seven days.

This ancient rhythm offers us two important lessons for finding sufficiency and gratitude right now:

- **Embracing "Enough":** The festival took place *after* the in-gathering. It was an intentional pause to look at what was already present and declare it enough. Before we rush into a season dominated by consumerism and the pressure to buy, do, or acquire more, we are invited to pause and take inventory of God's current faithfulness. Contentment begins when we resist the cultural narrative of scarcity and realize that, in Christ, what we have right now is enough.

- **Creating Space to Breathe:** In the ancient tradition, this festival opened with a “holy convocation,” a sacred gathering where the people were commanded to a deliberate halt of ordinary work, a temporary, short time-out. True gratitude cannot be rushed or mass-produced; it requires us to unplug and step away from the grind. If we do not actively carve out space to pause and rest, even if just for a couple moments each day, the noise of our expectations will drown out our praises.

This October, let’s challenge ourselves to create our own little “booths” of stillness in our week. In busy-ness find a short time each day to be with God. Step away from the pressure of the upcoming holiday grind, turn off the screens, and step out into the cool autumn breeze. Let the changing season remind you that we are held by a grace that provides, sustains, and holds our past and our future securely in its hands. Let’s harvest a spirit of quiet satisfaction and shared gratitude that carries us joyfully and peacefully into the months ahead.

In peace and gratitude,
Pastor Jen

Bible Study is Back

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 returns on Thursday evenings. 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.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the Chicken BBQ Dinner Fundraiser on September 12th and the SoulShine Revival/ Spaghetti Community Dinner on September 19th! All your help is greatly appreciated and a great way to see our fellowship at work. We were able to serve over 70 Spaghetti Dinners free to the community. Don't forget to volunteer for the Sub Sale on Wednesday, October 7th and the Annual Fall Bazaar on October 24th.

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!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 11, 2026 we will hold our
Annual Congregational Meeting following worship in Updyke Hall.
We will be presenting the Proposed 2027 Budget.



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 garden 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 unopened.

☺ 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.

In addition to the fridge we will be revamping the area to have shelves for pantry items as we see the need for these items as well. If you know of anyone that could benefit from any of the items please feel free to take whatever they may need.

If you have any questions, please see Pastor Jen, Manni or Tom.





Halloween Happening at Dunkirk Conference Center

October 17, 2026

Begins at 3:30pm, 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 11th. 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!

Hello and welcome back to Sunday school! If you missed it- our Rally Day theme this year was “Do U-No Jesus?” Pastor Jen provided us with multiple fun activities and lessons downstairs to get us kicked off for the school year.

Along with other things for the new Sunday school year, envelopes were passed out on Rally Day for our Sunday school kiddos. We did explain to the kids downstairs that they are to use these envelopes for a weekly offering to the church. It could be a penny they find on the sidewalk, loose change they find rolling around their dad’s truck, or even tooth fairy money! If your kids missed out on our rally day fun please see Tiffany to get them up to speed.

All of our Sunday school teachers are excited for the new year and hope to see you all soon!

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.

~Tiffany Hurd, Superintendent


U-NO


U-NO


U-NO
JESUS



SEPTEMBER TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Our meeting was held on September 08, 2026, from 4:00-6:30PM, opened with prayer and round table/ popcorn prayers.

Usual business conducted and reports were heard.

Properties: Rental energy audit was done, follow up needed; Belmont inspection successful with minor repairs (a few outlets needing updating). Two new dehumidifiers will be purchased to replace defective ones; Sanctuary construction discussed and estimate to be obtained to remodel first 3 rows of pews.

Future Missions discussed for early 2027; Meat raffle fundraiser for roof is in planning stage. Annual Fall Bazaar was discussed and we need more craft vendors, "Book Nook" will be open and basket donations are being accepted.

So here we are-Summer is ending and Fall is creeping in-sure flew by!
New adventures for all our students have started and we wish them success –
Teachers and staff too!

NEVER FORGET 9-11-01!

Peace~
Jean Galfo





Annual Fall Bazaar

First Congregational UCC



132 N Main St

Angola, NY 14006



Saturday, October 24, 2026

Booths Open 10am-4pm

Dining Room 11am-3pm

Come and see us!

Theme Baskets

Craft Vendors



Farmer's Market

Bake Goods

Pies



RADA Knives

Book Nook

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 always have such a good response with our bake sale 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 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. 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!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL & IN THE COMMUNITY

Thursday, October 1st, Potluck Dinner at 5:15pm and Bible Study at 5:45pm

Wednesday, October 7th, Sub Sale

Thursday, October 8th, Potluck Dinner at 5:15pm and Bible Study at 5:45pm

Friday, October 9th, Kid's Craft Night at 6pm and
The Strictly Hip Live at The Angola Theatre at 8pm
(tickets available at www.angolatheatre.com)

Sunday, October 11th, Congregational Meeting following worship

Thursday, October 15th, Potluck Dinner at 5:15pm and Bible Study at 5:45pm

Friday, October 16th, EverHaunt opens for the season
(tickets available at www.everhaunt.com)

Saturday, October 17th, Halloween Happenings at Dunkirk Camp and
Country Line Dancing Outdoors (Halloween themed)in the Village of Angola
from 1-3pm

Tuesday, October 20th, Evans Garden Club at Angola Library
from 6:30-9:30pm

Thursday, October 22nd, Potluck Dinner at 5:15pm and Bible Study at 5:45pm

Saturday, October 24th, Annual Fall Bazaar from 10:00am – 4:00pm and
Mike Randall as Mark Twain Live at The Angola Theatre at 3pm
(tickets available at www.angolatheatre.com)

Tuesday, October 27th, Evans Garden Club at FCUCC from 6:30-9:30pm

Thursday, October 29th, Potluck Dinner at 5:15pm and Bible Study at 5:45pm

Tuesday, November 3rd, Evans Garden Club at FCUCC from 6:30-9:30pm

Thursday, November 5th and Friday November 6th Pre-Sale Pie Pick-up
from 10am -1pm

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

TIME VALUE MAIL
Mailed on September 28, 2026
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 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 October 14, 2026**

- **There is PLENTY of room for your article!!!**