

The Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Phone 716-549-2115 or 716-262-6171

E-mail: ucc_angola@verizon.net

Website: www.christchurchangola.com

THE FOLLOWING TOOK PLACE IN AUGUST

Funeral Service: Ronald C. Lehning



SEPTEMBER 01, 2025
CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

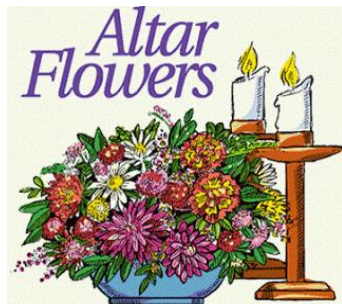
SCHEDULED TO SERVE IN SEPTEMBER

Head Usher—Michelle Becker

	Ushers	Greeter	Reader
09/07	Carrie Ward-Marcynski, Emerson Ward Eric Marcynski, Carol Ann Obrochta	Sally Needham	Carrie Ward-Marcynski
09/14	Dale Ketterer, Kathy Bienias	Gayl Weinheimer	Jessica Ludwig
09/21	Bill Ludwig, Jessica Ludwig	Laurie Ludwig	Bob Fuerst
09/28	Gayl Weinheimer, Cherryll Vincent-Becker	Marjorie McCarthy	Kathy Bienias
	Counters		
09/07	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach		
09/14	Chris Beith, Darlene DePasquale		
09/21	Marcia Whittemore, Judy Fuerst		
09/28	Judy Strade, Annette Reynolds		

ALTAR FLOWERS

We would like to thank July & August Altar Flower Dedicators:



Marjorie McCarthy

Michelle Becker

Maria & Tom McMullen

Bob & Kathy Bienias

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.

BULLETINS

We would like to thank July & August Bulletin Dedication:



Gayl Weinheimer gave July bulletins to the Glory of God, and In Memory of Loved Ones and Kathy & Bob Bienias gave August bulletins to the Glory of God, and In Honor of our 54th Wedding Anniversary

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.

Go Team!

It was he who “gave gifts to people”; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ. And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature.

(Ephesians 4:11-13)

It's hard to believe we have come to the end of another summer. Officially summer ends on Monday, September 22, but soon we will be returning to our Fall routines.

Before we officially turn the page, however, I want to take a moment to celebrate the vibrant life of our church over the summer months. Some say that summer is a slow time in church life; not for us! Summer attendance remained consistent, we had wonderful music during worship, our coffee hours and fellowship time were top notch; everyone's presence and participation in the life of our church made a difference!

I am encouraged by the spirit that fills our church; a genuine warmth, an enthusiasm for mission and ministry, a sense of purpose and a welcoming energy. In many ways it reminds me of a “team spirit.”

Team spirit is not something that is difficult to understand in Western New York. Especially now, you likely can't go 24 hours without seeing a Buffalo Bills logo or hearing the greeting of “Go Bills!” We even have a 4-year old in our congregation who loves to cheer, “Let's go, Buffalo!” after the “Amen!” in a children's moment.

Our church family, a vital and vibrant branch of the family of God, is very much like a good sports team. The good news is, there are no cuts! Each one of us has made the team and each one of us has a role to play.

Our goal is not how many points we can score or games we can win, but sharing the love of Jesus. *That* goal is too big for any one person to do on their own; it takes all of us! It takes all of us working together, using our unique talents, experiences, and abilities as we move our team around the field in service to God and others. We are all needed to “do” the ministry that God is calling us to at First Congregational UCC—Angola, NY!

Just like the scripture from Ephesians, God has called us to be a team! God is our coach and we are called to step into our roles on the “special teams.” Together we are the Body of Christ. Let us use the gifts that God has given each of us in our life together. As the saying goes, “TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!”

Go Team!

Go Team!

Rally Day 2025

Sunday, September 14th



Join us on Sunday, September 14th for an exciting Rally Day, kicking off a new church year! Regular Sunday School classes will begin with exciting opportunities to learn and grow as members of God’s team!

Rally Day is not just for kids! It is a day for adults to return to church, too! It’s a day to re-establish the routine of coming to church, of deepening your relationship with God, enjoying fellowship with your church family, and, of course, filling your position on God’s team!

We will continue the celebration after worship with a special “Tailgate Coffee Hour!”

Bring your backpack (or your school bag, your briefcase, your purse, your toolbox) for a special “BACKPACK BLESSING!”

***Working together as part of God’s Team,
we can do incredible things!***



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.

To Pastor Jen, the "Gang of Scoundrels" and members of First Congregational UCC

Firehouse Church would like to thank everyone involved in providing a joyful and memorable evening of praise and worship.

The meeting together of two Christian families in the way we did last night gives extra special meaning to the verse in Psalms: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" Psalm 133:1

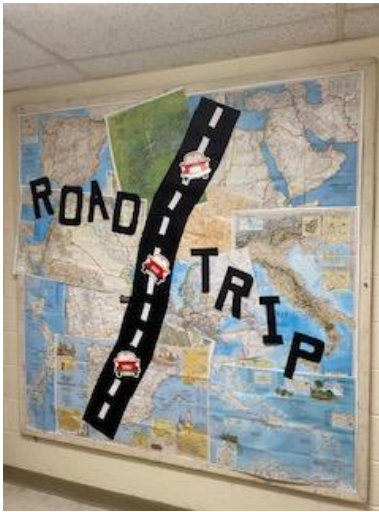
Please know that our members were blessed in a beautiful and meaningful way, not only by the great music, but the outpouring of love that they all experienced. May God bless you and continue to pour out his love,

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim & Patty Swinnerton

ROAD TRIP VBS 2025

We had 25 children join us for VBS this year with about 20 volunteers. I believe this was one of the best themes that the children loved yet. I know we say that every year but just the excitement this year was unbelievable. This year the made shift “car wash” was the best, thank you to Carol Ann Obrochta and Tom McMullen for their new ideas. From the songs we sang to the bible stories, crafts, snacks and recreation, fun was had by all!





CHICKEN BBQ DINNER

Includes ½ chicken, buttered spuds, baked beans,
Roll and dessert

Saturday, September 13, 2025

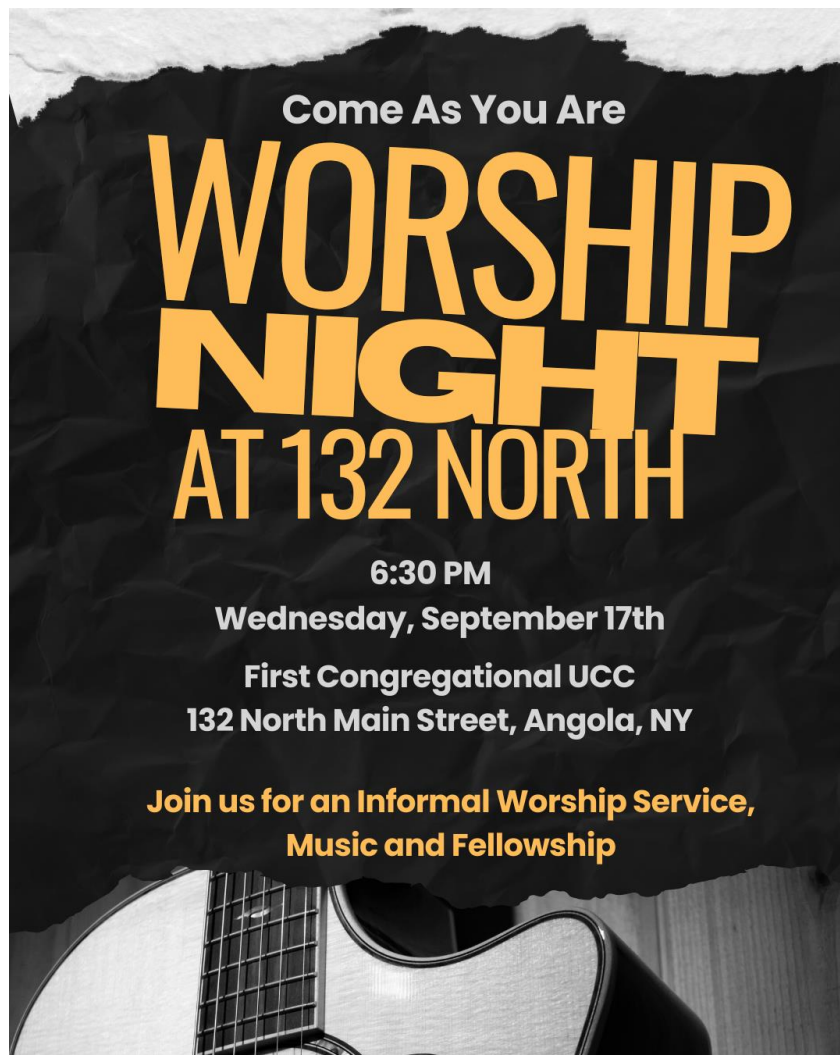
11:30am – 4:30pm/or until sold out

\$15.00

Eat-in, Take-out or Drive-Thru

**First Congregational UCC
132 N. Main St., Angola**

Pre-sale Tickets call 716-549-2115



2ND ANNUAL SOULSHINE REVIVAL



Saturday September 20, 2025

Music 3:00-5:00pm

Pot Luck Dinner from 5:00-6:00pm

Music ~ Scripture ~ Fellowship

Hosted by First Congregational United Church of Christ

132 N Main St

Angola, NY 14006

Bring a lawn chair, family and friends!



Summer Sunday school update!

The kids have had a busy couple of weeks full of PLAY. We love getting to mix all our kids and see the different ages come together. Outside games, sock matching, musical chairs and water paly have been some of our top activities. We are truly blessed to have the fun and imaginative group of kiddos in our church.

The countdown is on for the first day of school and Fall Sunday school to start up again. September 14, 2025 is “Rally Day” and we have some fun in store for all the kiddos-big and small! Be sure to join us for the fun! Call/text Tiffany for any questions on the upcoming Sunday plans.

We are very excited this year, our littlest friends are super lucky as Miss Maria is returning, Miss Barb and Miss Kristen will be returning for our middle group of friends, and our oldest group will have Miss Tiffany as their leader again. We are very blessed to have all of them work with our children and help them grow in faith!

Please plan on joining us. Please make sure you fill out a new registration form for this year. Extra forms are located outside the church office.

~ Tiffany Hurd

AUGUST TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Trustees met on August 10th, 4-6:30pm with usual business conducted. Future church plans discussed: Rally day, 132 NORTH, 2nd Annual SoulShine Revival, Fall Bazaar, Advent plans, Stewardship Sunday and future missions.

Church property: Update security video, replace de-humidifiers, Evangola Community Theater needs to pick up risers that are still on stage from performances and purchase refrigerator/freezer.

Rental property: Lawn has been leveled, seeded and straw laid down, sidewalk still needs to be done by the Village of Angola, Kathy (#196) still needs to sign lease and Bill (#194) plumbing issues will be his responsibility in future.

Main St Grant: Kurt Weinheimer and Michelle Becker filled out the grant and handed it in to the Village. We are applying for help with the generator, some windows, an electronic church sign, repairing of front steps and painting of the front of the church.

Peace~

JonnyAnn Roach

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Your Finance Committee will be meeting to work on next year's budget on September 22nd at 6:30pm. Michelle will be handing out blank budgets to different committees for input. Please make sure to get them back to Michelle. We will be presenting the budget at the Congregational Meeting on October 12th.

Update on David Donner Faith Formation Fund:

I have the pleasure of announcing that we have raised \$12,894.00 from donations and bequests. We have invested \$10,000.00 in United Church Funds and we have earned \$696.41 interest so far. If you would like to donate we are still accepting donations for this fund. You may mail, give in offering plate or drop off your donation in the church office. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible!

JOY FELLOWSHIP

Supper Club is back! It will be at Rust Belt Restaurant on Lake Shore Rd. in Hamburg on Thursday, Sept. 11th at 6:00pm. Please sign-up in Updyke Hall as we need to give a head count the week prior. If you have any questions please see Anne Becker. Halloween Happenings will be Saturday, October 18th, Gowanda train ride on Sunday, October 19th and the Fall Bazaar on Saturday, Oct. 25th. Please consider helping with Bazaar set-up, making pies, working in the kitchen or booths. Please see Anne Becker if you have ideas for a dinner or outing in November. Next meeting is September 7th following worship.
~ God Bless Anne Becker



HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

On Saturday, October 18th, we will once again be at Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center. Last 3 years have been a blast and we had many people from our congregation help hand out candy, water, chips and pretzels, fruit snacks, etc. We will be asking again for donations of candy, water, chips and pretzels, fruit snacks, etc. and have it dropped off by Sunday, October 12th. If you have any Halloween decorations you will no longer be using and would like to donate them, we will be decorating the school house for that day.

Fall Foliage Train Ride

We will be enjoying a trip to NY & Lake Erie Railroad located at 50 Commercial St. in Gowanda NY for a fall foliage train ride. It will be on Sunday, October 19th from 2-4pm. We need to meet there by 1:30pm. It will be a 2 hour train ride from Gowanda to South Dayton and back. We have a 45 minute layover in South Dayton to let you explore the area before turning around and heading back to Gowanda. Prices are \$21 for adults, \$17 for children (3-12) and \$19 for seniors (62+). We have a sign-up sheet in Updyke Hall if you are interested. We do need to give a head count by September 21st. Please see Michelle for payment as this needs to be paid when we confirm head count.

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



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, CRAFT VENDORS, TIMELESS TREASURES,
BOOK NOOK, FARMER'S MARKET, BAKE GOODS,
RADA KNIVES AND BECKER'S BISTRO**



UPCOMING EVENTS HERE AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC & IN THE COMMUNITY

Thursday, Sept. 11th, Supper Club – Rust Belt Restaurant, at 6:00pm

Sunday, September 13th, Chicken BBQ Dinner

Eat-in, Take Out or Drive Thru

11:30 am-4:30 pm/or until sold out

Sunday, September 14th, Back to Church “Rally Day”

Wednesday, September 17th, 132 NORTH at 7pm

Saturday, September 20th, 2nd Annual SoulShine Revival from 3:00-6:00pm

Come and enjoy music, scripture and fellowship

Wednesday, October 8th, Sub Sale, Orders due Friday, October 3rd

Sunday, October 12th, Congregational Meeting following worship

Saturday, October 18th, Halloween Happenings at Dunkirk Camp

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

Saturday, October 25th, Annual Fall Bazaar

10:00am - 4:00pm

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

TIME VALUE MAIL
Mailed on August 28th, 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 September 10th, 2025**
 - **There is PLENTY of room for your article!!!**