



September 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

E-mail: ucc_angola@verizon.net

Website: www.christchurchangola.com

THE FOLLOWING TOOK PLACE IN AUGUST

Baptism: Beverly Anne Riggs
Noah Thomas Cooper



SEPTEMBER 07, 2026
CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

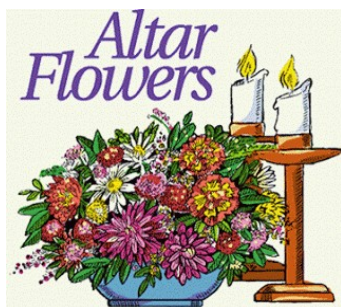
SCHEDULED TO SERVE IN SEPTEMBER

Head Usher—Michelle Becker

	Ushers	Greeter	Reader
09/06	Gayl Weinheimer, Cherryl Vincent-Becker JonnyAnn Roach, Carol Ann Obrochta	Dale Ketterer	Donna Nagel
09/13	Dale Ketterer, Kathy Bienias	Marjorie McCarthy	Jessica Ludwig
09/20	Bill Ludwig, Jessica Ludwig	Laurie Ludwig	Allie Ludwig
09/27	Joan Blais, Paul Becker	Gayl Weinheimer	Ronda Marvel
	Counters		
09/06	Michelle Becker, JonnyAnn Roach		
09/13	Chris Beith, Darlene DePasquale		
09/20	Marcia Whittemore, Sue Weinheimer		
09/27	Judy Strade, Annette Reynolds		

ALTAR FLOWERS

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



Nancy Ward & Bob Fuerst
Brian & Stacey Smith
Michelle Becker & Jennifer Kessler
Marcia Whittemore
Gayl Weinheimer
Marjorie McCarthy
Maria & Tom McMullen
Bob & Kathy Bienias
Barb Raab & Kristen 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 716-549-2115.

BULLETINS

We would like to thank July & August Bulletin Dedication:



Darlene DePasquale gave July bulletins to the Glory of God, and to my 2 families (Biological & Church) and Kathy & Bob Bienias gave August bulletins to the Glory of God, and In Honor of our 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.

The Rhythms of the Road

Luke 24: 13-35

September always feels like a second New Year. As the relaxed days of summer fade, our calendars suddenly fill with school and community group schedules, Fall activities, changing seasons, a return to regular routines, and of course Bills' Games (yes, and Steelers and Patriots, too). It is easy to view this transition as the end of summer freedom. However, in the economy of God's grace, routines are not ruts. They are the very spaces where holy transformation takes root. The greatest challenge—and the greatest joy—of this season is learning how to recognize Jesus in the ordinary rhythms of our daily lives, trusting that He is actively walking alongside us in those “ordinary” moments.

In the Gospel of Luke, we find the story of an ordinary routine colliding with divine creativity when we encounter two disciples were walking the long, dusty, familiar seven-mile road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were heartbroken, heavy with grief, and re-entering a completely ordinary, routine physical journey. As they walked their usual path, a stranger joined them. They didn't recognize Him at first. But as they traveled together, this stranger opened up the scriptures, bringing a completely fresh, vibrant perspective to their ancient stories.

The high point of this journey didn't happen in a palace or a flashy spectacle. It happened at a regular dinner table. When the stranger took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, “their eyes were opened and they recognized him.” Jesus had taken a completely ordinary evening routine—sharing a simple meal—and transformed it into a moment of radical, life-changing revelation.

Our life together as First Congregational UCC—Angola, NY operates much like that road to Emmaus. True spiritual vibrancy thrives when a faithful, gospel-centered community commits to the ordinary rhythms of grace together.

As we re-enter our “Autumn Rhythm”—our weekly schedules on North Main Street, our mission remains clear. Our vibrancy shines brightest in the familiar moments that tie us together:

- Hearing the joyful noise of our children returning to Sunday School rooms.
- Preparing for the Revival and Community Dinner, the Fall Bazaar, Halloween Happenings at Dunkirk, and other fun fellowship and mission events.
- Lingering a little longer over a warm cup of coffee and yummy treat and catching up during coffee hour.
- Gathering around the table for Holy Communion, remembering that Christ meets us in the breaking of the bread.

- Lifting our voices together, enriched by the musical gifts of our choir and band.

These routines are not just items on a calendar. They are the structural heartbeat of a church that values giving, caring, and reaching out.

One of my favorite things about being part of the United Church of Christ is the reminder that “God is still speaking!” A return to routine does not mean we simply repeat the past without expectation. Instead, it is our stable foundation gives us the courage to embrace holy innovation.

Just like the disciples on the road, discerning God’s direction requires open hearts and active hands as together we listen for the where the Holy Spirit is moving us, share fresh and creative ideas, and commit to the table—looking for Jesus not just in the big moments, but in the ordinary spaces of our life together. Let us move into this new season of our life together with expectant hearts, trusting that our steady and faith-filled rhythms will pave the way for God’s extraordinary, creative work in Angola and beyond.

Peace,

Pastor Jen



Do U-NO Jesus? Rally Day Sunday September 13th

***“I want to know Christ...” —
Philippians 3:10***



Rally Day is here and it isn’t just for kids—it’s for all of us! It’s a chance to return to the rhythm of church, reconnect with our church family, deepen our relationship with God, and discover where we fit on God’s team.

This year, we’re kicking off church school with “*Do U-NO Jesus?*” Just like every UNO card has a purpose in the game, every one of us has a place in God’s family. Together, we’ll learn, laugh, grow, and discover new ways to know and follow Jesus.

Come play, learn, worship, and celebrate with us! There’s a place for everyone on God’s team!

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.

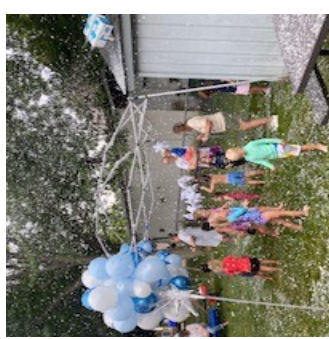
The refrigerator will be located in the front hall of the church by the Main Street entrance.

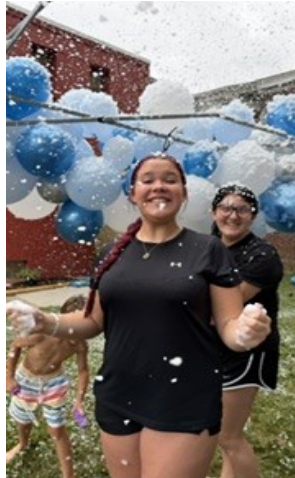
In addition to the fridge we will be revamping the area to have shelves for pantry items as we see the need for these items as well. If you know of anyone that could benefit from any of the items please feel free to take whatever they may need.

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

SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE VBS 2026

We had 30 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 we had “snow in July”, 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 12, 2026

11:30am – 4:30pm/or until sold out

\$16.00

Eat-in, Take-out or Drive-Thru

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

Pre-sale Tickets call 716-549-2115





Summer Sunday school update!

What a summer we've had! The kiddos have had the best time spending our time together PLAYING! We have such a variety of ages of kiddos; it's heartwarming to see them develop relationships during our short time together on Sundays. If you haven't gotten a chance, make sure to stop by our rock garden in the side yard of the church. The kids painted and decorated rocks with Mrs. Michelle. We have some very talented artists among us! At the church picnic we opened it up to adults painting rocks as well. And the adults were crazy and enjoyed making their rocks!

I want to thank the volunteers who stepped up during the summer to give our regular Sunday School teachers a break. Rally Day is September 13th; join us to kick off a new year of Sunday School and celebrate our youth.

Enjoy the rest of summer!

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 11th, 4-6:35pm with usual business conducted and reports read.

VBS was a huge success with 30 children and 28 adults participating.

Proposed classes/ meetings to be held here such as AA and mental Health/First Aid.

Church property: A fundraiser is to be planned for the roof, thank you Allie Ludwig. The parking lot will need to be postponed until 2027. Evans Police did a security walk through and complimented us on our preparedness and video system. A new Housekeeper was hired and started Aug. 1st. Just an FYI, the church no longer has the PO Box for mailing please use 132 N Main St. if mailing anything to the church in the future.

Sunday school will start up soon and plans for fall & winter activities (YIKES!) are underway, even Strawberry Social for June 10th & 11th 2027!

A lengthy discussion was held regarding Main St. and community activity and the use of therapy dog through "SPCA-Paws for Love."

Summer is winding down-the Erie County Fair is underway, cicadas are trilling- here comes September! Have a safe Labor Day!

Peace~Jean Galfo

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 11th.

Update on David Donner Faith Formation Fund:

I have the pleasure of announcing that we have raised \$13,049.00 from donations and bequests. We have invested \$12,000.00 in United Church Funds and we have earned \$1,376.82 interest so far since account has been opened. 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

Next meeting is September 20th following worship. Please see Anne Becker if you have ideas for a dinner or outing. Halloween Happenings will be Saturday, October 17th and the Fall Bazaar on Saturday, Oct. 24th. Please consider helping with Bazaar set-up, making pies, making baked goods, working in the kitchen or booths.

~ God Bless Anne Becker

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

On Saturday, October 17th, we will once again be at Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center. Last 4 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 11th. 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.

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 24th, 2026

Booths Open 10:00am to 4:00pm

Dining Room 11:00am to 3:00pm

Come and see our booths
**THEME BASKETS, CRAFT VENDORS,
FARMER'S MARKET, BAKE GOODS,
RADA KNIVES AND BECKER'S BISTRO**

Always mindful of spending we are updating our files in the way in which the newsletters are distributed, based on your personal preference. The changes will become effective for the October 2026 Newsletter. Please complete this form, and return it to Michelle Becker as soon as possible.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Check One: ☐ I can pick up at church ☐ I would like it emailed

☐ I would like it mailed

UPCOMING EVENTS HERE
AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC &
IN THE COMMUNITY

**The Farm Market in parking lot across from Angola Public Library from
1:00-2:00 on Sept. 3rd, 17th and Oct. 1st, Oct. 15th and Oct. 29th.**

**Friday, Sept. 11 & Saturday, Sept. 12th, Evangola Community Theater presents
“A Rock’s Story” at 7:30pm**

**Saturday, September 12th, Chicken BBQ Dinner
Eat-in, Take Out or Drive Thru
11:30 am-4:30 pm/or until sold out**

**Sunday, September 13th, Back to Church “Rally Day”, return of Sunday school
and Church Choir**

Tuesday, Sept. 15th, Congregational Boundaries from 6:00-8:30pm

**Thursday, Sept. 17th and Friday, Sept. 18th, Evangola Community Theater
presents “A Rock’s Story” at 7:30pm**

**Saturday, September 19th, 3rd Annual SoulShine Revival from 3:00-5:00pm and
Community Dinner from 5:00-7:00pm
Come and enjoy music, scripture and fellowship and
Friends of the Village Build-A-Boo Workshop at MPB from 1:00-4:00pm**

Thursday, September 24th, 132 NORTH at 6:30pm

**Friday, Sept. 25th and Saturday, Sept. 26th, Saturday, Evangola Community
Theater presents “A Rock’s Story” at 7:30pm**

**Thursday, Oct. 1st, Fall Bible Study at 5:30pm with more dates to follow, listen
for announcements**

Wednesday, October 7th, Sub Sale, Orders due Friday, October 2nd

Sunday, October 11th, Congregational Meeting following worship

**Saturday, October 17th, Halloween Happenings at Dunkirk Camp and
Country Line Dancing Outdoor from 1:00-3:00pm, location TBD**

Saturday, October 24th, Annual Fall Bazaar 10:00am - 4:00pm

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

TIME VALUE MAIL
Mailed on August 28th, 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 September 9th, 2026**
- **There is PLENTY of room for your article!!!**