

The Good

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

ANGOLA, IN

SEPTEMBER 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **ONA Celebration.** August 25, 2019.
- **Men's Breakfast** meets at **Mama's Place** at 8:00 a.m. on the second and third Tuesdays of September.

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Welcome to our new Musicians



We are pleased to introduce Dr. Vaughn Roste, our church's new Director of Music. As a congregation we look forward to sharing of his many wonderful talents. Vaughn has over 20 years of experience in church music ministry working for a variety of church denominations. His education includes two Bachelor degrees, one in theological studies and one in the music arts, a Master of Music degree and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree. His most recent employment was serving as Director of Choral Studies at Purdue Ft. Wayne University. He has stated that he is "deeply committed to being part of a regularly-worshipping spiritual community," and that he "was seeking a position wherein his musical, organizational, and leadership skills could be utilized to the mutual benefit and in the service of God." He also said that he would like to be called "Vaughn," and his last name is pronounced "Rostee." We welcome you Vaughn and look forward to the sharing of your talents as well as your friendship.

Phil Zimmerman is our new accompanist and bell choir director. He has been involved in church music most of his adult life serving as organist and choir director and administrative assistant for Forest Park United Methodist Church in Ft. Wayne churches for twenty-five years. He was previously employed as the administrative assistant for Salem UCC church in Ft. Wayne. His brother Carl lives in Pleasant Lake and has helped with our Choice program.



Our accompanist and bell director, Phil Zimmerman, would like to start bell choir rehearsals Wednesday, September 4 at 5:45. New ringers are welcome. It is anticipated that all of the previous bell choir members will attend and be ready to start a new season. Also our new Director of Music, Vaughn Roste has indicated he would like to start this seasons chancel choir rehearsals Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00. Returning choir members and all new singers are welcome.





Rev. John P. Gardner

“Isn't it amazing that we are all made in God's image, and yet there is so much diversity among God's people?”

— Desmond Tutu

From the Pastor's Screen

Musing on Transition

Dear Friends,

This past Sunday we had opportunity to celebrate FCUCC's 6th anniversary as an “open and affirming congregation” in the United Church of Christ. It was a special occasion to thank God for the courage and conviction of those members who studied and prayed and voted to advance the vision of extravagant welcome and inclusivity that prevails in the church today.

During the worship service Bruce Andres shared with the congregation the framed certificate from the Open and Affirming (ONA) Coalition. It will soon be displayed in the main hallway outside the church office. Bruce also mentioned the need for an on-going ONA ministry team, which will help promote and evaluate the church's ONA ministry, mission, and advocacy. If you are interested in serving on this team, please speak with me, Bruce, or Gayle Newton.

Some materials were handed out on Sunday from the ONA Coalition urging the church to be steadfast and diligent in keeping its covenant. We were reminded: the “ONA covenant is an opportunity to grow, to build new relationships, and to become a visible and

trusted partner with your LGBTQ neighbors and their families.” This thought was echoed in the litany of observance we prayed: “Thank you, O God, for spicing life and ministry with an array of friends for the journey. May we continue to learn: in our diversity there is strength and a way to understand the inclusiveness of Your love.”

The work of proclaiming the dignity and worth of all people created in the image of God is never ending. Counter prevailing cultural forces are well entrenched, often in religious communities, giving license to bigoted attitudes and hateful behaviors.

I hope and pray FCUCC will stay fully engaged in the struggle for justice and peace (UCC Statement of Faith), and fully invested in the work of manifesting a broader expression of Christian faith. There is much pain to heal and peace to grow. So may we keep strong the resolve to build beloved community, and to advance the love of Jesus Christ: for our good, the good of our children, and the glory of God's name.

Blessings,

John P. Gardner



ONA Celebration Pictures

Ongoing Opportunities



No-Book Book Club

This month, we are gathering for breakfast on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, September 11 and 25. We have no agenda and no book to read! Join us at Bob Evans at 8:00 for breakfast and fun conversation!

WordHouse

WordHouse will meet on Thursday, September 12, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the downstairs teen lounge.

Soup & Scripture

John P. Gardner, Transitional Pastor, leads a Soup & Scripture session at Cahoots each Tuesday at 12 noon. Join us for a look at the lectionary scriptures for the next Sunday.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast group will meet on Tuesday, September 10 and 17. Join us at Mama's Place at 8am.

Reflections:

Meets every 4th Thursday on September 26 from 6:30-7:30 p.m., downstairs in the youth lounge. Bring something inspirational to share as we reflect together.



The next Council meeting will be Sunday, September 15th, following worship.

Church Council Highlights

Church Council met on Sunday, August 11, and the following items were among those discussed/approved/reported:

Treasurer: July's expenses were down since we are not currently paying a full-time minister, which helped to compensate for the decreased income due to lower attendance. Increased income is expected from August's higher attendance.

The final total of the Rev. Deb Davis Scholarship came to \$4,000 to assist a single mother with costs for attending Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago. Thank You to all who contributed!

Deacons: Deacon's arranged the Wing Haven Service. They collected school supplies for Cahoots, as well as for projects. They will sponsor the October Trunk n Treat event. The ROMEO'S (Men's Breakfast Group) is organizing and cooking the annual Harvest Community Dinner, November 16, and are asking for donations of desserts, and assistance with set up, clean-up and marketing .

Christian Education: Jill Noyes is looking for Sunday

School teachers for the fall. She will be scheduling two teachers per Sunday, in case of higher attendance. Please contact her if you're interested.

Music: The Music Search Committee continues to look for a new music/choir director. *(However, since the meeting Vaughn Roste has accepted the position.)*

Trustees: Trustees have handled air conditioning repairs for both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, in addition to carpet cleaning, repairing one of the kitchen refrigerators, and patching a wall due to water damage downstairs.

If anyone has issues with the doors needing to be unlocked Sunday morning, they need to contact Mark Elliott.

Old Business: Erica Mays will continue handling the church's IT needs after they move to Montana, with Mark Elliot taking care of Sunday's Worship Service.

New Business A) Our Chapel will be part of a Christmas Walk on December 7th, a fundraiser for Cahoots.

B) We are establishing an Open & Affirming Committee which will organize a celebration on August 25th ONA Anniversary, and oversee future updates on this important topic. For more information contact Bruce Andres or Gayle Newton.

C) Michelle Armstrong, our Administrative Assistant Report will be out of the office November 6 – 15, with Rita Lechleidner assisting in the office while she is out.

Mission: Lois McEntarfer is in the process of recruiting those who would like to participate in the January 2020 trip to Arizona to assist in the immigration program. Please contact her for more information and check church emails.

She also is planning a visit to the offices of our Indiana State Senators (who are currently on hiatus) with the hopes of having conversations with them about the immigrant situation, gun control and other issues as well. She will ask the church office to send out an email inviting others to join her.

Submitted by Vicki Harris, Clerk

September Birthdays and



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|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7 - Donna Daeger | 23 - Sue Myers | 3 - Ralph & Peggy McDowell |
| 13 - Zach Mahan | 27 - Kristy Couch | 16 - Alan & Marj Stoudinger |
| 14 - Cathy French | 27 - Claire Grandlienard | 18 - John & Cathy French |
| 17 - John Eddy | 27 - Lynn Syler | 24 - Kim & Jeremy Rentz |
| 18 - Alison Lumbard | 28 - John Behee | |
| 20 - Aaron Camargo | 29 - Margaret Frazier | |
| 21 - Alida Frizzell | | |

September Volunteers

We raised a total of \$835 to help the lady with the utility bill. The extra funds will be set aside to assist with future needs.

Date	Liturgist	Greeters	Children's Sermon
Sep 01	Rita Lechleidner	Jim and Vicki Harris	Marj Lilley
Sep 08	Marj Lilley	Norma Baker and Janis Groth	Vicki Harris
Sep 15	John French	Jennifer Decker and Janis Groth	Rita Lechleidner
Sep 22	Jim Simons	Marty Diller and Judith Behee	Celia Motz
Sep 29	Lois McEntarfer	Rita Lechleidner and Norma Baker	Michelle Olson

Date	Usher	Refreshments	Counter
Sep 01	Veryl Carpenter	Marty, Jeanine, Lauralee, Sally W.	Jim and Lynn Simons
Sep 08	Veryl Carpenter	Barb and Bill Bryan	Marge Stoudinger
Sep 15	Veryl Carpenter	Lois and Jim McEntarfer	Claudia Camargo
Sep 22	Veryl Carpenter	Vicki Harris and Marge Mueller	Dave Syler
Sep 29	Veryl Carpenter	Brad and Jill Noyes	Marge Mueller

Stephanie Hine greeted students who stopped by our church's table at the Trine Campus Carnival that welcomed new students, Thursday, August 22.



Over 20 members from FCUCC met the morning of August 22 with Mary Martin, Regional Director from Indiana Senator Mike Braun's office

September Calendar

- 1 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School Fall Session 10:15 a.m.
- 2 - **LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED**
- 3 - Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 4 - Bell and Chancel Choir 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.
- 8 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- 10 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Mama's Place
- Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 11 - No-Book Club 8:00 a.m. Bob Evans
- Bell and Chancel Choir 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.
- 12 - WordHouse 6:30 p.m. Youth Lounge
- 15 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- Council Meets 11:15 Community Room
- 17 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Mama's Place
- Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 18 - Bell and Chancel Choir 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.
- 22 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- 24 - Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 25 - No-Book Club 8:00 a.m. Bob Evans
- Bell and Chancel Choir 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.
- 26 - Reflections 6:30 p.m. Youth Lounge
- 29 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

School Supply Project

A Big Thank You for a Hands-on project with Practical Impact.

Church World Service Kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to families and communities in need around the world and here at home. The kits include hygiene, cleaning and school supplies.

We chose school kits, as the supplies were readily available right now with the school season starting. These kits will give many children some of the basic tools for learning.

We thank all of you who so generously brought in enough supplies to fill 32 bags! And a big thanks to those who sewed the needed cloth totes, those who helped fill them (Sunday School kids, Griffin, Amelia and Arianna) and those who donated money for the shipping costs. You all make up a generous, loving congregation!



From the *Chicago Theological Seminary*

Dear Friends at First Congregational UCC, Angola,

We are so grateful for our recent gift, *in honor of the service and retirement of your Pastor Deborah Davis*, in the amount of \$4,000.00. This gift, in support of Scholarship, was received on 8/12/19. In keeping with your wishes, once we have welcomed our incoming class, we will identify a recipient and send you a profile of a "single mom/seminarian" who will be helped by your gift to continue their seminary education.

Your generosity and faithful support help CTS to continue our legacy of providing rigorous, dynamic, and progressive theological scholarship. In a complex world that needs ethical leaders of faith now more than ever, your gift to help develop *Leaders for the Next* will have a real and lasting impact.

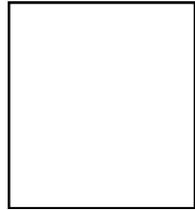
Thank you again for your partnership.

In Gratitude, Lisa Notter
Vice President for Advancement

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
314 West Maumee Street
Angola, Indiana 46703**

Phone: 260-665-9362
Email Office: info@angolaucc.org
Email Pastor John P. Gardner: jpg@angolaucc.org
Website: angolaucc.org

First Congregational United Church of Christ, as an inclusive and caring Christian community, welcomes into its full life and ministry persons of every race, ethnic background, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status, criminal history and faith background. As we serve those within our church family, the community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ, we celebrate each person's uniqueness and look forward to the gifts they bring to us.



God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Sunday School Fall Session
September 1st for K - 5th Grade!
Older Kids are Welcome to Help

Calendar
Marker

