

The Good

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

ANGOLA, IN

OCTOBER 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Annual Diversity Sunday, October 27th.
- Men's Breakfast meets at Mama's Place at 8:00 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of October.

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Get Ready for Halloween with Trunk 'R Treat!



Once again this Halloween, October 31, we will have **Trunk 'R Treat** in our church parking lot from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the youth of our city. If you are willing to decorate your car and park it in the lot that evening, please let Bonnie Snyder know.

We will also need lots of candy- individually wrapped, gum, toothbrushes ... whatever you think kids might like! We will also need lots of ghosts,

witches, angels and whatever else you would like to be, wandering in the parking lot and helping to pass out goodies. Let Bonnie know if you can help with any of these tasks!



You may bring donations to the church at any time!



Code Breakers



VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED

We are starting a new mission project! Code Breakers is a phonics-based reading project for 2nd graders who are reading significantly below grade level.

We are piloting the program with one teacher at Ryan Park Elementary School. We will work with the identified students Monday through Thursday at 10:30 for ½ hour. We need 2 volunteers for each of the four days. The program will start sometime in October. The initial phase will run until Christmas, when we will evaluate our effectiveness. Our students don't have significant learning problems, but they do need direct, consistent instruction.

We will start with 4-5 students. We will have a conference room available for our use. We want to have 2 volunteers for each day so that if someone is out, we have adequate coverage and the students don't have to miss a day.

Please contact Jill Noyes or Bruce Andres if you are interested in volunteering or learning more about this exciting new mission opportunity.





Rev. John P. Gardner

“I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

— Maya Angelou

From the Pastor's Screen

Musing on Transition

Dear Friends,

The coming of autumn brings thoughts of harvest to mind, and the enjoyment of festivals that celebrate the plenty God has provided for the nourishment of life. As the psalmist reminds us: **“The earth is full of God’s unfailing love”** (Psalm 33:50). Yet another psalm credits God with crowning **“the year with...bounty”**; the hills are girded with joy, meadows are clothed with flocks, the valleys are decked with grain. (Psalm 65:9-13) And God’s people, awed by such wonder, **“shout and sing together for joy.”**

October is a busy, beautiful time of the year, full of orchard fruit, pumpkin orange, and fallen leaves. It is a transitional month: the routines of summer are retired; the first frost is not far off. Some folks are preparing to depart for winter residences, warmer climes. My goodness, they will be missed.

In the church the fall season provides time to reflect upon the theme of stewardship, and to consider how our resources, our gifts and offerings, serve to empower ministry and advance mission. For five weeks this fall (October 13-November 10) we will ponder “The Way” charted by Jesus (“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”, John 14:6). Members and friends of FCUCC will be invited to share in Commitment Sunday on November 10 with a pledge of time, talent, and financial resources.

Throughout this stewardship time we will be using a Marty Haugen hymn from the Chalice Hymnal entitled, “Gather Us In” (No. 284). Haugen’s work as a contemporary hymn writer and composer has often found a receptive audience in UCC circles.

Raised and trained as a Lutheran, Haugen has since found a home working in the UCC. He writes with a clear vision and appreciation for God’s love that creates and sustains beloved community for all God’s children. No exceptions.

In the 4th verse of “Gather Us In”, Haugen has written:

**Not just in buildings, small and confining,
not in some heaven, light years away;
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is God present, and now is the day.**

**Gather us in and hold us forever
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all people together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

In the few months that I’ve shared your journey, I’ve learned that a unique **“light is shining”** in the ministry of FCUCC. It is evident in the congregation’s spirited and engaging worship, in the church’s mission and outreach, in every day of the week when the church’s doors are open wide, supporting a variety of programs that serve to transform people’s lives. Your participation is critical to funding and forwarding this vital gospel enterprise. So I appeal: please, when the time comes to make a commitment, be generous. Pledge your support to promote the work of FCUCC. In doing so, may we make plain “the Way” of Jesus, and exalt the God whose grace is ample and evident in this place.

Blessings,
John P. Gardner



Church Picture Directory

We are putting together a new picture directory spearheaded by Vicki Harris. She has contacted Bill Eyster, who has graciously agreed to take everyone’s pictures after church on **October 6th** and **October 13th**. So please mark your calendars and plan on attending one of these dates.



Ongoing Opportunities



No-Book Book Club

This month, we are gathering for breakfast on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, October 9 and 23. 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, October 10, 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 1st and 3rd Tuesday, October 1 and 15. Join us at Mama's Place at 8am.

Reflections:

Meets every 4th Thursday on October 24 from 6:30-7:30 p.m., downstairs in the youth lounge. Bring something inspirational to share as we reflect together.

Church Council Highlights

Church Council met on Sunday, September 15, and the following items were among those discussed/approved/reported:

Treasurer: Bruce Andres, Treasurer, reported that general offerings, both pledged and other, were below the budgeted expectation, for the second month in a row, in spite of good attendance. This will be watched to see if it continues. When requests for financial assistance for specific needs are made to the general church membership and extra monies are collected, these excesses will be kept under the Missions budget to be used for following requests.

Deacons: The Trunk n' Treat event will be held on Halloween in the church parking lot. The Harvest Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 16. Bags filled with school supplies have been delivered to the Church World Service Headquarters in Mary-

land along with postage to mail them overseas.

Trustees: The periodic church's fire inspection went well. CHOICE are resuming cleaning each week with Rosie Camargo doing a thorough monthly cleaning. Bell tower and the chapel roof repairs have been completed.

Welcoming: First-time visitors are enjoying being welcomed with the pop corn gifts.

Fellowship Hall Acoustics: Rod Lewis, along with the Trustees, is looking to improve the acoustics in the Fellowship Hall. We will keep you updated.

Church Garden Club: Anne Eddy has formed a Church Garden Club to improve the Chapel's landscaping. She and its members are clearing out weeds and brush, and looking into adding new plants.

Submitted by Vicki Harris, Clerk



The next Council meeting will be Sunday, October 13th, following worship.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries



- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| 2 – Claudia Camargo | 16 – Cec Shultz | 6 – Marilyn and Steve Newman |
| 5 – Donna Hankins | 17 – Doug Robinett | 19 – Jill and Dick Powers |
| 8 – Lois McEntarfer | 18 – Taylor Byrne | 23 – Linda Mason Bohman and Ted Bohman |
| 10 – Gayle Newton | 18 - Cate Grandlienard | |
| 11 – Jane Papsdorf | 23 – John Curtis | |
| 14 – Marge Mueller | 28 – Paul Schmidt, MD | |
| 15 – Andy Boneff | 29 – Norma Baker | |

October Volunteers

We received a total of \$1,618.28 grant money from the Steuben County Community Foundation from a Victoria J. Willis fund and a Dick and Fran Wilder fund.

Date	Liturgist	Greeters	Children's Sermon
Oct 06	Lynn Simons	Ron Hays and Janis Groth	Marj Lilley
Oct 13	Marj Lilley	Claudia and Rosie Camargo	Celia Motz
Oct 20	Jim McEntarfer	Celia Motz and Sue Myers	Vicki Harris
Oct 27	Lois McEntarfer	John and Judy Behee	Rita Lechleidner

Date	Usher	Refreshments	Counter
Oct 06	To be Announced	Kim Rentz and Liz Andres	Gary VandenElst
Oct 13	To be Announced	Sponsored by Linda and Joe Driver	Dave Syler
Oct 20	To be Announced	John and Cathy French	John French
Oct 27	To be Announced	Gary and Sally VandenElst	Marge Mueller

A sing-out for Art Eberhardt at Cameron Woods. We received a wonderful thank you letter from Art's daughter. She said that Art was "thrilled to see you and hear you" sing!



October Calendar

- 1 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Mama's Place
- Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 2 - Bell and Chancel Choir 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.
- 6 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- 8 - Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 9 - No-Book Club 8:00 a.m. Bob Evans
- Bell and Chancel Choir 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.
- 10 - WordHouse 6:30 p.m. Youth Lounge
- 13 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- Council Meets 11:15 Community Room
- 14 - COLUMBUS DAY
- 15 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Mama's Place
- Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 16 - Bell and Chancel Choir 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.
- 20 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- Pulse Event 11:15 Sanctuary
- 21 - Senator Braun-Mary Martin 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall
- 22 - Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 23 - No-Book Club 8:00 a.m. Bob Evans
- Bell and Chancel Choir 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.
- 24 - Reflections 6:30 p.m. Youth Lounge
- 27 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- Diversity Sunday 10:15 a.m.
- 29 - Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 30 - Bell and Chancel Choir 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.

Master Sergeant Veryl Carpenter and daughter, Cheri, were part of a recent Honor Flight Northeast Indiana that offers veterans a free trip to Washington, D.C.

On right - Veryl is seen visiting the Korean War Memorial.



On left - Veryl is visiting Arlington Cemetery.

Annual 'Diversity Sunday' Planned for October 27

Our annual Diversity Sunday will be October 27. During our worship on that day, students from Trine's Multicultural Student Organization will participate in our worship as they share some of their stories with us.

Under the leadership of Deb McHenry, the students began participating in our worship in 2010 following our Sacred Conversation on Race in 2009.

This annual service has been one of the ways of continuing that conversation as we hear from these students, who come

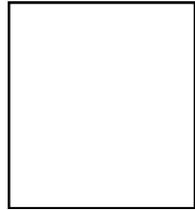
to Trine from throughout the world to continue their educations. Join us on October 27 for this worship that is always inspiring, thought-provoking and challenging!



**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**



Community Harvest Dinner Saturday, November 16

Our annual Community Harvest Dinner will be Saturday, November 16, from 5-7 p.m. This will be a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner offered free to our community. Please plan to come so we can offer great hospitality to our neighbors!

Donations are being collected to help make this a great feast. Volunteers are needed, if you can help please contact Mark Elliott or Ron Hays.

