

THE GOOD NEWS

*Deliberative
Dialogue:*
**Political
polarization**



**How might the
church respond?**

September 17, 2020 • 6PM to 8PM
via Zoom

Contact either church for the link &
password for the online meeting.

Pastor Daryl, Calvary: pastore@calvarylutheranangola.com
Pastor Nikki, FCUCC: PastorNikki@angolaucc.org

Points of Interest:

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TOWN HALLS AND DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUES

We met via Zoom after worship on August 23rd to have a Town Hall meeting to discuss the continued suspension of in-person worship and the results of our COVID-19 survey. It was a time not for telling everyone "this is how it will be, so sayeth the Pastor" (or Council . . . or COVID-19 Planning Team), but for letting everyone talk together and see one another while they do so. It was a time of gathering as the church to ask questions (thank you Dr. Teresa Smith for speaking on behalf of the COVID-19 Team), explain our feelings, and share our concerns.

According to Matthew 18:15-20, it's exactly the kind of work we should do together: gather to discuss things, even when they are hard, or emotional, or uncertain.

In this passage, Jesus is instructing the church about,

in the simplest sense, how to resolve differences. In the theological sense, He's telling the disciples how to handle sin in the congregation. Now, we didn't meet to address the sins of one member or another, but it's quite true that our meeting as a willing body of listeners and sharers, fends off a sin too many churches find themselves complicit in. The sin of silence. The sin of judgement without understanding. The sin of avoiding difficult things and letting discomfort and disengagement take root.

I know we didn't change the terms of the pandemic, but I believe we made it a bit easier to live through it having had the invitation to be seen and heard in the context of our God-centered, Jesus-following, Spirit-filled congregation. And we have the opportunity to continue in this way, to live as a community in Christ, just as Jesus asks us to do in the Matthew passage.

Matthew 18:15-20

"IF ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE CHURCH SINS AGAINST YOU, GO AND POINT OUT THE FAULT WHEN THE TWO OF YOU ARE ALONE. IF THE MEMBER LISTENS TO YOU, YOU HAVE REGAINED THAT ONE. BUT IF YOU ARE NOT LISTENED TO, TAKE ONE OR TWO OTHERS ALONG WITH YOU, SO THAT EVERY WORD MAY BE CONFIRMED BY THE EVIDENCE OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES. IF THE MEMBER REFUSES TO LISTEN TO THEM, TELL IT TO THE CHURCH; AND IF THE OFFENDER REFUSES TO LISTEN EVEN TO THE CHURCH, LET SUCH A ONE BE TO YOU AS A GENTILE AND A TAX COLLECTOR. TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU BIND ON EARTH WILL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN, AND WHATEVER YOU LOOSE ON EARTH WILL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN. AGAIN, TRULY I TELL YOU, IF TWO OF YOU AGREE ON EARTH ABOUT ANYTHING YOU ASK, IT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU BY MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED IN MY NAME, I AM THERE AMONG THEM."



continued on next page . . .

Do you see it? The opportunity? It's here: *"If two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* When we gather in Christ's name and work on putting aside fear of disagreeing so that we can experience the joy of consensus, of understanding, of setting a path forward that works for the betterment of all involved, we have the chance to be beneficiaries of God's gift of grace, bound right here on earth.

In that spirit, please consider joining me and Pastor Daryl Emowrey and Calvary Lutheran for our Deliberative Dialogue on Political Polarization. We'll meet online via Zoom on Sept. 17, 6-8 pm, and engage each other as the body of Christ, two or more coming together to say, "we aren't afraid to talk, and even to disagree, because we trust that those things we do hold in common will be blessed by God."

Sharing together difficult work for the glory of God and betterment of Creation is nothing short of miraculous, and you're invited to the miracle.



PASTOR NIKKI



Fine tune your writing strings and explore your creativity and spirituality! Starting on Fridays in July, join us in our UpWrite Facebook group (<https://bit.ly/UpWriteFCUCC>). Click that link, or enter it into your web browser, and request to join the group.

AN ECUMENICAL BLESSING SERVICE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

September 27th at 7 pm, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Pastor Nikki is participating in an ecumenical service of blessing for first responders. More information will be sent out in our weekly emails, announced during service, and added to upcoming bulletins. As of now, only first responders and their immediate families are invited to attend in person. The service will be live-streamed or recorded for those watching remotely.

DIRECTORY DELIVERIES: LAST CHANCE

Last chance, if you would like a church directory delivered to your home, please contact Ron Hays 260-466-0939 or Bonnie Snyder 260-665-3255.

HYMNAL DONATIONS

Although we are no longer taking orders to purchase a New Century Hymnal for personal use, you are welcome at anytime to donate \$20 per hymnal to offset the cost of pew and choir hymnals which are being purchased out of the music fund. Each \$20 donation replenishes the music fund and entitles the donor to personalize a bookplate for the inside cover of one of our pew hymnals. The bookplate is pictured to the right.



TUESDAY PRAYER

AT 10 AM

In September, Pastor Nikki will be live on Facebook offering Tuesday Prayer at 10. The prayer will later post to YouTube, for those who are not on Facebook. Join her at 10 am each Tuesday, or visit the Facebook or YouTube pages anytime to pray with her at your convenience.

You can find the Facebook Page here: <https://www.facebook.com/FCUCCAngola>
Our YouTube channel is here, where you can also find many of our previous sermons and services: <https://bit.ly/FCUCCVideos>.

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IN-PERSON PRAYER CIRCLE

Pastor Nikki will continue to host Tuesday evening Prayer Circle each Tuesday in September from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. At these small group meetings we will explore different prayer practices. Groups will be limited to 5 people. Please email or call Pastor Nikki (PastorNikki@angolaucc.org, 617-512-8692) to sign up for prayer circle.



PRAYER LIST:

You can send prayer requests to info@angolaucc.org.

PASTORAL VISIT:

If you would like a pastoral visit, please email or call Pastor Nikki at pastornikki@angolaucc.org or 617-512-8692 (text friendly).



VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Join us for coffee hour virtually on Fridays via Zoom video conference from 10-11:30 am. It's a great way to see and talk to your FCUCC friends. Start by visiting <https://bit.ly/FCUCCVirtualCoffeeHour>. If you need help, please contact us at info@angolaucc.org or PastorNikki@angolaucc.org.

SCRIPTURE STORIES

Join us via Zoom, Thursdays at noon for Scripture Stories with Pastor Nikki and January Simpson. Find us on Zoom at:

<https://zoom.us/j/886794478>
(type it into your browser)

September 3 Matthew 18:15-20

September 10 Matthew 18:21-35

September 17 Jonah 3:10-4:11

September 24 Exodus 17:1-7

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



SUBMITTED BY GAYLE NEWTON, CLERK

Treasurer's Report: Bruce reported that the church is doing well despite the COVID-19 situation, with most giving units keeping up with their pledges. However, our investments are down as expected.

Deacons Report: Deacons will be calling the congregation to see if they need a directory. Ron Hays is coordinating the delivery of directories as needed. Food was purchased and delivered to Joe Driver and his caregivers following the memorial service for Linda Driver on August 8, 2020.

Trustees Report: The window has been replaced and a new master lock put on the door. Trustees also had the filters in the air conditioners replaced. They are currently getting quotes from Larry's Lock and Safe for replacement of locks and working on other security issues.

ONA: Report on file, contact Clerk, no pressing news.

Pastor's Report: A new logo for the church has been designed.

Council approved January Simpson continuing once a week in helping with scripture stories through the end of the year.

Christian Education: Report on file, contact Clerk, no pressing news.

Missions Report: In the process of putting together a plan to collect school supplies. They are also working on a project of putting yard signs in the yards for teachers showing our support.

Financial Secretary: Work will begin on the Stewardship plan.

Pastoral Relations: Report on file, contact Clerk, no pressing news.

Welcoming: Report on file, contact Clerk, no pressing news.

Worship & Music: Report on file, contact Clerk, no pressing news.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council approved the Covid-19 team's recommendation that since cases are still going up, it is not safe yet to meet at church for worship. We will continue

worshipping virtually through September 13, 2021. Nikki will continue to meet with small groups of 5 or fewer with masks and social distancing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Surveys were received from 51 people and Nikki shared the results with the Council.

The Trustees and Nikki are meeting to put a key policy together.

FCUCC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Moderator: Liz Andres

Moderator-elect: Linda Mason Bohman

Treasurer: Bruce Andres

Financial Sec.: John French

Clerk: Gayle Newton

Christian Ed.: Jessica Lash, Stephanie Hine

Missions: Babett Ruby, Erin Johnson, Michelle Olson

ONA: Gayle Newton

Pastoral Realitions: Lois McEntarfer

Welcoming: Marj Lilley

Worship & Music: Lynn Syler

Deacons: Bonnie Snyder, Mark Elliott, Lauralee MacLeod, June (Bun) Mayer

Trustees: Gary VandenElst, Steve Newman, Cecil Fugate, Jim Wagenknecht



Calendar of Events

- September 1** 8 AM: ROMEOs via Zoom, <https://bit.ly/RomeosFCUCC>, password 310284
- September 8** 11 AM: Staff Meeting via Zoom
- September 13** 11 AM: Council Meeting following Sunday worship.
- September 15** 8 AM: ROMEOs via Zoom, <https://bit.ly/RomeosFCUCC>, password 310284
- September 17** 6 PM: Deliberative Dialogue, contact the church for the link and password
- September 27** 11:30 AM: Service of Installation of Pastor Nikki
- September 27** 7 PM: An Ecumenical Blessing Service for First Responders
- September 29** 8 AM: ROMEOs via Zoom, <https://bit.ly/RomeosFCUCC>, password 310284

Recurring Events

Tuesdays

- **10 AM:** Tuesday Prayer at Ten, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FCUCCAngola/>
- **6 PM:** Prayer Circle with Pastor Nikki: You must register in advance. Email or call Pastor Nikki.

Wednesdays

- **7 PM:** Chancel Choir via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/FCUCCChoir>, password 671381

Thursdays

- **12 PM:** Scripture Stories via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/FCUCCScriptureStories>

Fridays

- **10 AM:** Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/FCUCCCoffeeHour>

Sundays

- **10 AM:** Worship via Zoom <https://bit.ly/FCUCCZoomWorship> and password 165378
- **11 AM:** Sunday Fellowship following Worship via Zoom



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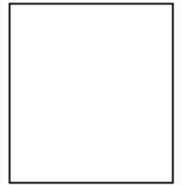
Email Office: info@angolaucc.org

Email Pastor Nikki: PastorNikki@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**



7 - Donna Daeger
13 - Zach Mahan
14 - Cathy French
17 - John Eddy
18 - Alison Lumbard
20 - Aaron Camargo
21 - Alida Frizzell

23 - Sue Myers
27 - Kristy Couch
27 - Claire Grandlienard
27 - Lynn Syler
28 - John Behee
29 - Margaret Frazier

3 - Ralph & Peggy McDowell
16 - Alan & Marj Stoudinger
18 - John & Cathy French
24 - Kim & Jeremy Rentz

September Birthdays & Anniversaries