

Our Mission Statement

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.



March 31, 2019

First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation

10:00 a.m.

Getting Started at FCUCC



Pastor Deb offers a Welcoming Class quarterly; the next class will be Sunday, **April 28**, following worship. The class is for those who are new to our congregation and want to find out more about our church and the United Church of Christ, and for those who wish to officially join our church family. Questions? Contact Pastor Deb at 260-665-9362.

Our Staff

Reverend Deb Davis, *minister*
Rita Lechleidner, *licensed minister*
David Grim, LM, *seminary intern*
Lynn Syler, *music director*
John Curtis, *pianist*
Jeanine Samuelson, *pianist*
Brad Crossland, *percussionist*
Donna Daeger, *child care*
Erica Mays, *website coordinator*

Contact Information

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I know you. I love you.
My arms are held wide open
to embrace you.

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 31, 2019

Liturgical Color: Violet

**You are invited to stand.*

Ring the Bell>Welcome

Prelude

“Wondrous Grace”

arr. Mary Ann Fritz

Call to Worship

The Psalmist said, “O God, you are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah.”

“Blessed are those who are open with God, whom God holds nothing against, even while they hold nothing back from God.”

Sometimes in life we need an honest break, a hide-away, a place to get away from it all.

Sometimes along our Lenten journeys we need a base, a time-out, a punctuation, a way to pause, like the Psalmist, and say “Selah!”

Selah! Whatever it means.

This morning we say it like a strike in the sacred music, like a bookmark for that sacred hiding place.

Come, sisters and brothers. Come let us take a break, and worship together in the beauty of holiness, in spirit and in truth. Selah.

* Hymn

“All Are Welcome”

Insert/Screen

Gathering Prayer

Prayer of Reconciliation/Assurance of Pardon

O God, Jesus taught about a prodigal son of wandering and return. And we too celebrate all the home-comings in our lives. But home-comings aren’t always easy. Your grace, O God, can seem unfair. Your pardons undeserved. Help us, O God, to think about trying your way of extravagant grace, not just for those who deserve it, but for all who need it. And in this time of silence, may we think about those who need a home-coming with us as well.

Sung Response

“I Will Change Your Name”

Special Music

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

arr. Lloyd Larson

Youth Storytime

Celia Motz

Following Youth Storytime, youth may go downstairs to Sunday school or remain in worship; five years and below may also choose to go to the childcare room down the main hallway.

Morning Prayers/Savior’s Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins/trespases/debts

as we forgive those who sin against us/as we forgive those who trespass against us/as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing of Gifts

Offertory

“Meditation in A Minor”

Catherine Rollins

* Doxology

Refreshed by living waters, renewed by living bread, may we, your sons and daughters, by your own hand be led.

Accept the gifts we offer; receive the lives we owe.

Unite us in your service; may seeds of justice grow!

* Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, may we never squander the gifts you have given us. May we never regret using our wealth to create a bigger world for more people. May we give with thanksgiving for your extravagant love of us. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-32

* Hymn

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

No. 627

Morning Meditation

“Grace”

Reverend Deb Davis

Period of Quiet Reflection

* Hymn

“Amazing Grace!”

No. 546

* Unison Blessing and Benediction

There, God waits. Can you see?

There, God stands arms outstretched, ready to receive and welcome us home.

Let us go and do likewise. Amen.

* Postlude

“Sonata in A Minor”

Domenico Scarlatti



Mission Opportunities

Cahoots Teen Coffee House - This coffeehouse is located at 218 W. Maumee St. and provides a safe place for youth to "hang out" and fill their time with fun and healthy activities. On the weekend, Cahoots hosts a free open-mic night to all musicians, unless they've scheduled a concert featuring touring musicians! Cahoots has a full line of coffee beverages, lunch and snacks. Volunteers from our church include: Marj Lilley and Liz Andres, board members; Lauralee MacLeod, mentoring program; and Bun Mayer, kitchen. Come grab a cup of coffee or visit cahootscoffeecafe.com for more information!

JOIN US AT CAHOOTS
on May 19 for a "Kick-Off to Summer" brunch fundraiser!
(9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Mason House of Hope - The site of the CHOICE Program, which offers post-high school training to special-needs young adults through the Northeast Special Education Co-Op.

Faith Community Health Clinic - Open on the first, third and fourth Wednesday evenings from 4 to 8 p.m., this community clinic is located at Holy Family Episcopal Church. The clinic's director is our own Dr. Teresa Smith, supported by many



Opportunity to Donate to FCUCC Now!

Scan this QR code with your smart phone to donate via PayPal.

There is also a donate button on our website: angolaucc.org



Android phones may need a free QR code reader app from the Google Play store.

iPhones have a QR code reader in the built-in Wallet app.

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you are here!

Please pick up one of the "Please Return" visitor's packets that are located on the Information Table at the east entrance and in the vestibule of the main entrance.

Join us downstairs following worship for refreshments and conversation!

Questions about the church? Call Pastor Deb at 260-665-9362

Visit our website at AngolaUCC.org Like us on Facebook!

E-mail the office at info@angolaucc.org E-mail Pastor Deb at revdeb@davis@aol.com

Today at FCUCC

Those participating in this morning's service include: usher, *Gary VandenElst*; greeters, *Sue Myers* and *Celia Motz*; youth storytime, *Celia Motz*; liturgist, *Marj Lilley*; special music: *Chancel Choir* under the direction of *Lynn Syler*; pianists, *John Curtis*, *Jeri Mow* and *Jeanine Samuelson*; guitarist, *George Weller*; percussionist, *Brad Crossland*; offering counter; *Marge Stouinger*; seminary intern, *David Grim, LM*; and our pastor: *Reverend Deb Davis*.

- Thanks to **Eysters, Harris** and **Marge Mueller** for this morning's refreshments.
- The **childcare room** is available today, for children five and below, down the main hallway; children are also welcome to stay in worship. There are **activity bags** for children to use during worship located in the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Printed copies of **past sermons** are located on a windowsill at the back of the sanctuary; **CDs** of the past four Sunday worship services are on the Information Table. Sermon texts and videos are also available on our website: angolaucc.org.

Basket Offering



Our Basket Offering this week will go to **Turning Point Shelter**, which provides living accommodations for the homeless. Toss your dollars in the baskets, which are located at the exits of the sanctuary. Thanks!

Upcoming Events

April 7 - Immigration Discussion	11:30 a.m.	Community Room
April 18 - Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
April 19 - Community Good Friday Service	12 noon	Sanctuary
April 21 - Sunrise Service	7:00 p.m.	Ball Lake
April 21 - Easter Pancake Breakfast	8:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hall
April 21 - Easter Worship	10:00 a.m.	Sanctuary

One Great Hour of Sharing



Today we will receive our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Funds collected across our United Church of Christ make it possible for our national setting to offer disaster relief across the globe when there is a hurricane, wildfires and other natural disasters. Special envelopes are in the pews. Please give as you are able.

Lent: *From Captivity to Freedom*

We are journeying through Lent with the theme *Breaking Our Chains: From Captivity to Freedom*. There are pieces of paper, stapler and a pen on our Lenten table. You are invited to write a word or a phrase that signifies a “link” in your life’s chain that you are working to heal this Lent.

You may add your link to the paper chain anytime throughout Lent and we will then include these links in our prayers each Sunday. By making this chain we will symbolically let the community help us carry the burden.



Immigration Discussion

Today we will gather following worship to discuss the book, *Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion and Truth in the Immigration Debate*, by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang. We will plan to discuss the first half of the book today, the last half next Sunday on the 7th. Obtain a copy of the book and start reading!



Thursday Evening Opportunities

This Thursday, David’s group will continue discussing Rob Bell’s book, *“What We Talk about When We Talk about God.”* The group will not meet on Thursday, April 18 due to Maundy Thursday worship.



This Week at FCUCC: March 31 - April 7

Today	10:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Youth Sunday School Coffee Hour Immigration Discussion Narcotics Anonymous	Classrooms Fellowship Hall Community Room Fellowship Hall
M-F	8:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m.	CHOICE Alcoholics Anonymous	Mason House Fellowship Hall
M-TH	3:15 p.m.	CONNECT	Classrooms
Monday	7:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. 12 noon 7:30 p.m.	Men’s Breakfast Soup & Scripture AA/AI-Anon	Mama’s Place Cahoots Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Fellowship Hall
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	David Grim/ Book	Community Room
Friday	7:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Fellowship Hall
Sunday	10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Worship/Holy Communion Youth Sunday School Coffee Hour Immigration Discussion Narcotics Anonymous	Sanctuary Classrooms Fellowship Hall Community Room Fellowship Hall

May 5 Birthday Celebration!

On Sunday, May 5, we will celebrate our 150th anniversary as a congregation! Conference minister, the Reverend Chad Abbott, will be with us for the celebration and will be preaching during our morning worship. Following worship and lunch, we will have 150 “cupcakes on the lawn” so the entire community can come by and help us celebrate!

We will also be making 150 banners to hang around the church on that weekend and we will be giving each child who comes a new or gently used book to keep. David Synder is building a “Little Library” which will be in our front yard permanently ... always filled with books for children to borrow.

There will also be a special activity for our children and youth!

