



2026 Newsletter

Table of Contents

Page 3 – The Pastor’s Report

Page 4 – The Pastor’s Report (cont.)

Page 5– Thank You and Misc.

Page 6 – What’s the Buzz?

Page 7 – What’s the Buzz? (cont.)

Page 8 – Please Keep in Prayer

Page 9 – Please Keep in Prayer (cont.)

Page 10 – Birthdays and Anniversaries and FYI

Page 11 – Church Board Meeting Minutes

Page 12 – Church Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Page 13 – Church Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Page 14 – Our ONA Covenant Statement

Page 15 – Church Staff and Board Members

The Pastor's Report

Take a glance at the Church Guild calendar, pull out your iPhone, or go old-school and peruse your desk calendar, there are plenty of occasions to celebrate in June.

The Baldwin family will celebrate Anna's marriage to Francis Bungabong on June 6. We congratulate them and keep them in our prayers. Anna converted to Catholicism and will be married by a former classmate of mine, Father Pete St. George at St. Clare Chapel in Hartwell on Compton Road. It is a beautiful setting to begin their marriage.

Amy and I, along with her parents, Jim and Lex, will celebrate our dogs Millie and Moses' birthdays on June 8. They turn six. What a blessing all of our pets are to us. Following that celebration, my family gathers on the 13th for the bridal shower at First UCC for our future daughter-in-law Elizabeth Gilbert. Then there are the birthdays. Three of our super volunteers/members: the ever-ready bunny Ron Kirkman has a birthday on the 14th, the forever young mother-of-the-choir and friend to many, Bev Bosse, celebrates on the 15th, and the resilient and timeless Jackie Smith turns 90 years old on Father's Day. Garden advocator/weeder Vickie Schaeffer and long-time member Margie Spatz also celebrate birthdays this month. Margie also hits the 9-0. Amazing! That's just the start. You ready for more celebrations? How about these familiar names:

Wedding Anniversaries for some of our very active couples: Ruth and Bob Beck are the uniquely happy clergy couple hitting 57 years together (they are quick to remind all that they turned June 13, 1969 into a lucky day!); Jim and Lex Weyand mark 58 years together; Bob and Deb Neumeister (Senior Social Extraordinaires) speed ahead to 55; Paul and Lynn Kluesener tied the knot in June of 1981; and our own beloved pastoral administrator Kim Ogden and her saintly husband Mike proceed to their 39th anniversary in June. There is more: Two of our most faithful on-line members, Jennifer and Steve Mutters, got hitched in 2005; Mendle and Charlene Adams, Darrell and Laura Copenhaver's daughter Kristen and her wife Tiffany along with our friends from Truth and Destiny, Pastor Lesley Jones and her wife Noni Gordon, all married in the historical June 2015. We also remember Milt and his deceased wife Judy Hauck and Diane and her late husband

Bruce Banker who will no doubt celebrate with a touch of melancholy and lots of love and memories in their hearts. I expect we have other friends of the church who got married in June. Extend them a congratulations and keep on partying.

Beyond these personal festivities, our church celebrates with Jimmy Wiederhold on the 10th anniversary of his serendipitous arrival here. Check out his delightful account of the circumstances that brought him here in his “What’s the Buzz” article (pages 6&7). I think all would agree, “it was a God thing.” There is resurrection, hope, and life even in a time of death.

Juneteenth (June 19) is a Federal Holiday. It is a day all Americans should celebrate and note. It has always been an important day in the lives of African-Americans since that momentous day in 1865 when the Emancipation Proclamation was finally shared with the people in Texas, about six months from the day President Lincoln issued the order that slaves be freed. Juneteenth was officially made a federal holiday in 2021. Parties will pop up, especially since the 19th lands on a Friday this year.

Finally, this month is when we celebrate the birth of the United Church of Christ on June 25, 1958. The anniversary happens to fall on the day in which First UCC also hosts the city’s Interfaith Pride Service. It is an honor that we were chosen for the second year in a row. Your hospitality is noted and celebrated. All are welcome to attend here that evening at 7 p.m. If it is anything like last years’ service, the leaders and the music will inspire you and bring joy.

Whether you personally are celebrating something in June, or living vicariously through another’s joy, take some time to be with friends and family this summer. You never need a reason to come together. But since it is June, you probably won’t have a hard time finding a reason to celebrate.

In faith, hope, and love. Celebrate the Good News of life in Christ always.

Dan

Thank You

Dear Pastor Dan, Staff, and Church Members,

Thanks for hosting the “Meet and Greet” for U.S. Congressman Greg Landsman on 3/29/26. We appreciate the openness of your church to discuss important political matters. – Bill & Barb Hanson

Summer Somethings

Two changes for our summer schedule of dinners. We want to try something different by hosting a pizza and salad night with Bingo beginning June 10th. We will begin with dinner at 6 and have Bingo following. We will then offer the same opportunity on July 8 and August 12.

A reminder that Fishes and Loaves will not be offered during the summer months. Their start up date in the Fall will be announced later this summer.

Church Sabbatical on July 19

A couple of events in July that you will want to note.

On July 19, the church will be on a sabbatical of its own. The Church Board decided to try something different and to encourage folks to be intentionally away. Rediscover what you like about First UCC. We are encouraging members and friends alike to go elsewhere to church that day. See what is happening in your friends’ church and congregations. Get an idea of something that is fresh and alive. Or rediscover a tradition that speaks to the collective spirit here at First Church. This will serve as a renewal. Both Jimmy and Pastor Dan are away on the 19th. It is the first Sunday of Jimmy’s sabbatical and Pastor Dan will be in Scotland for his goddaughter’s wedding. There will be no service at First UCC that day.

For members and friends alike, stay away on the 19th and maybe gain a perspective from visiting another church, or perhaps you go on a hike in nature, or stay home and watch another church’s online service, or simply remain in the St. Mattress of the Springs... wait for it... Ok. Whatever your choice, we return on July 26 for the Congregational Meeting. We changed the church calendar year to January – December. July 26 is close to the halfway point of the year. We will look at the budget proposals and at events/plans for the remainder of 2026. We also will invite folks to share what they may have discovered on their church sabbatical. We will remind everyone again of this day-away on July 19 as the weeks come. Until then, we do look forward to a wonderful month in June of music and worship at First UCC.

What's the Buzz? – Church Music, Media, and Faith Formation

Let's take a step back in time to Sunday, June 26, 2016. For some of you, you knew nothing about this church on the hill. Some of you lived nearby or drove by the grounds regularly, seeing that rainbow comma on the sign, thinking maybe one day you'd check out a service. Gosh, if only you could find out more about the church online... Others grew up attending the church on Hoffner Street and were preparing for yet another Sunday worship service with the people they've considered family for decades. For me, that day was the start of a relationship with a church that, in just five years' time, would become my full-time place of employment. If you haven't done the math, this month is my tenth anniversary with First UCC! Let's reminisce...

My journey with the church began when my maternal grandfather passed away in late March of that year. Instead of having me perform all the music at my grandfather's funeral, my uncle said that he would ask a college friend to come play piano and collaborate with me. I met this friend, Tricia Lenhof, just minutes before visitation hours began. Sure, we're both easy to get along with and the bond was instant, but the moment that sealed our friendship was our realization that the funeral home's piano had not been tuned in centuries – okay, that's probably an exaggeration, but the instrument was in terrible shape. As I was set to play on woodwind instruments that transpose, I had to change everything I had prepared. In the stress of it all, Tricia and I laughed our way through the service and before leaving she looked at me and said, "I must get you to come play at my church this summer."

June 26, 2016, I took my first steps into the sanctuary on Glenview Avenue. For the next four years, I had the honor of playing once a month with Tricia as a special music guest. I enjoyed these therapeutic Sunday performances, as I also served as Ursuline Academy's Director of Performing Arts throughout the week and needed this opportunity to make music just for fun. My fellow teachers know that the education life is not for the weak and when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the stressors multiplied drastically. It was also around this time that Tricia decided to retire, having given 30 years to the congregation on both Hoffner Street and Glenview Avenue. I'll never forget the call from her saying that she's retiring and I'm the one the church wants as their next music director. "Now?!" I ask her. "This really isn't a good time, and the church is so far from my home in

Lebanon...” “Well,” Tricia began, “think about it. And think about what it would take to get you here. They want you, so they will make it work.”

October 4, 2020 was my first service as First UCC’s music director. I continued this part-time work on top of my classroom responsibilities for the rest of the school year. And then on the final Sunday of February in 2021, as the church was preparing to reopen its doors after a year of being fully remote, I sat in the sanctuary with just Dan and Amy and was profoundly moved by Dan’s sermon. While I don’t remember all of it exactly (sorry Dan), I do recall him highlighting the actions of our young adults during the pandemic as well as ways to live out our Open and Affirming covenant statement. I reflected on his words for a few days and then, while at dinner on March 5, I composed an email to him and Amy that changed both my life and the life of the church forever: I wanted to do more for First UCC and get this small, mission-driven congregation known to the community and beyond.

In just three short months, the church board, Dan, Amy, and I created my current role, negotiated salary and job responsibilities, and I began as Director of Music, Media, and Faith Formation on July 1, 2021. I bothered then-president Christine Guillory tirelessly during those months as my school contract renewal date was nearing. So, thank you for your patience with me, Christine! But, as it always does in one way or another, everything worked out. There are countless wonderful things I’ve been able to do for the church in the last five years... from building a new website and establishing a social media presence to creating a handbell choir and growing the chancel choir, plus the coffee dates and fun adventures with the youth... I’m so happy to be part of this congregation. No matter your journey to the church, I’m grateful you found this place and I’m honored to be your person for music, media, and faith formation. The sentence I used to close out that email on March 5, 2021, “I’ve discovered I’m happiest when I’m at First UCC...” still rings true today. I’m excited for the future of First UCC and how I will be a part of it.

To accompany the celebration of my tenth anniversary, I’m excited to share that Tricia will join me on Sunday, June 28 for a service full of exciting piano and organ duets! Truly, it will be a full-circle celebration of all that we’ve done together since that first date in 2016. Thanks to all of you for going on this journey with me, and here’s to many years to come.

Have a great month! - Jimmy

Please Keep in Prayer

Amanda and family (daughter of Hilda Faulkner)
Barry & Judy Jamison (members)
Blake Webb (friend of Jackie Smith)
Bill Mayer (member)
Brian Kirkman (son of Ron Kirkman)
Carolyn Bruckmann (friend of the church)
Carolyn Hocker (Kelsey George's Grandmother)
Charlene Jones (sister of Jackie Smith)
Charlie (friend of Herb Brookbank)
Chelsea and Sophia (friends of Pam, Hilda Faulkner's friend)
Christi Simmons (friend of Michelle Richards)
Christine White (friend of Jackie Smith)
Cindy & Mark Wolf (friends of the Colding's)
Cody (son-in-law of Suwanna Kirkman)
Daisy (friend of Hannah Steinhard)
Darrell Copenhaver (member)
Darryl P. and Mickey P. (cousins of Bev Bosse)
David Krebs (member)
Diane Ripley (friend of the Kirkman's)
Dorothy (aunt of Suwanna Kirkman)
Elaine Lewis (Jackie Smith's granddaughter)
Elsie & Bob Biddle (aunt and uncle of the Krebs Family)
Eric Stacy (friend of the Steinhard's and Sehlhorst's)
Family of Carol Ann White (member)
Family of Don Fricke (member)
Family of Gary Smith (husband of Sandy; stepfather of Patty Baldwin)
Family of George Frazer (neighbor and friend of the Kirkman Family)
Family of Jack Parsons (father of Patty Baldwin)
Family and friends of Jackie Smith
Family of Terrence Stern-Enzi, "Tt" (co-worker of Gina Kern)
Haley (friend of the Copenhaver's)
Jackie Smith (member)
Jim & Carol Bitzenhofer (members)
Joan Schmidt (daughter of the late Ollie Helm)

Katie and family (daughter of Bernice and Terry Morgan, friends of the church)
Laura Hauck (member)
Lea Pirro (daughter of Lucille Isaacs)
Lucille Isaacs (member)
Lynne (friend of the church)
Marvin Stamper (employee at C.M. Meyer & Assoc.)
MaryJo O'Brien (friend of Michelle Richards)
Michelle M. (cousin of Bev Bosse)
Michelle Richards (dear friend of the Senior Social)
Mike Ogden (husband of Kim Ogden)
Nancy Whitaker (member)
Pam and family (friends of Hilda Faulkner)
Pastor Debbie Gamble (friend of Hilda Faulkner and CAIN)
Pat Froehle (member)
Ramon (grandson of Hilda Faulkner)
Ron Kirkman (member)
Ron Cummins (dear friend of Amanda Faulkner)
Sandy Echols (member)
Sharon Kazee (prayer asked from Sandy Echols)
Stephanie (close friend of Mary Day & family)
Stephanie and family (at the loss of Stephanie's mother)
Su H. (friend of Bev Bosse)
Suwanna Kirkman (daughter-in-law of Ron Kirkman)
Thomas (nephew of Hilda's friend, Pam)
Tina Maxwell (Sue Bilz' best friend)
Vicki Thorner (Sue Bilz' cousin)
Walt & Bobbie Roberts (uncle & aunt of Suwanna Kirkman)
Whiting Family (cousins of the Krebs Family)



Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 06/04 – Steve & Jennifer Mutters
- 06/13 – Paul & Lynn Kluesener
- 06/13 – Bob & Ruth Beck
- 06/18 – Ron & Cindy Beckman
- 06/22 – Jim & Lex Weyand
- 06/26 – Bob & Deb Neumeister (55th)
- 06/27 – Mike & Kim Ogden

Birthdays

- 06/01 – Misti Cornish
- 06/05 – Jeff Rodenbeck
- 06/05 – Jim Bitzenhofer
- 06/06 – Luke Rodenbeck
- 06/08 – Moses Ben Weise
- 06/08 – Millie Mae, sister of Mo
- 06/11 – Susie Cairns
- 06/14 – Ron Kirkman
- 06/15 – Bev Bosse
- 06/21 – Jackie Smith (90th)
- 06/26 – Vicki Schaefer
- 06/28 – Margie Spatz (90th)

FYI

Reminder that Pizza with the Pastor is the first Sunday of the month. Dan and Amy will host on June 7th. First-timers always have a seat at the table – simply contact the church office or Pastor Dan or Amy to reserve a spot. Usually there's room for 13, but they can always make room for more.

**First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2026 (In-Person & Zoom)**

In attendance: Tom Shelton, Milt Hauck, June Bronnert, Bruce Steinhard, Jean Krebs, Gail Bauknecht, Ed Bosse, Bev Smith, Sammi Asplan, GERALYN CURTIS - Visitor

Treasurer: Christy Meyer (Treasurer) – Not in Attendance

Pastor: Dan Weyand-Geise

Excused: Bill Henrich, Brad Kramer

I. **Call to Order** -- Tom called the meeting to order.

II. **Devotion** -- Pastor Dan asked us to answer the question, “What is the Function of the Church?” Some of the answers were “To be the hands and community of Jesus to reach out to the world.” Micah 6:8 was also quoted.

III. **Treasurer’s Report (Christy):**

Motion: Second: Accepted: All in favor

Pay the Bills

Motion: Second: Accepted: All in favor

IV. **Financial Committee’s Input**

Geralyn was here to give us some information regarding her and other’s research regarding GRANTS that are possibly available to the church to help pay for some of the projects that the church is facing. She had a handout and discussed it. The church has been inviting outside groups to use our facility which will look good in the requests. The emphasis right now is on Technology and Outreach that assists other groups. Other items which will help in the requests is having attendance numbers and demographics by zip code.

V. **Recording Secretary’s Report (Bruce)** – The March report was accepted

Motion: Jean Second: Sammi Accepted: All in favor

VI. **Financial Secretary's Report (Jean)** – she went over the report and accepted it. She also led discussion of the Financial and Control Policies.

Motion: Gail Second: June Accepted: All in favor

June had forms for Volunteers for the Washington UCC Summer program.

VII. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Dan submitted his report to the Church Board Meeting, which included the following updates and reflections:

- Shared information about some of the new visitors from our services.
- Shared information
- Sent a note to Mendel Adams

Motion: Gail Second: Bev Accepted: All in favor

VIII. **Committee Reports**

- **Endowment**
 - Ed shared the fund has increased over the past quarter.
 - Tom asked the committee to present a list of all investments at the next meeting.
 - Endowment meeting April 2nd
- **Pastoral Relations** – to be headed up by June
- **Youth** – June told us she is working to get a group together who will discuss what things can be done to get the youth together for fun and faith formation.
- **Facilities** – Waiting for companies to get back to them. Waiting for a quote for brick around front of church. They were asked to get all members helping to get quotes and do the work. Jean asked if they were getting quotes for the parking lot.

- **Music (Jean)** – nothing to report
- **Budget (Jean)** – already covered

IX. **Old Business**

- Ed had asked about who was going to take pictures for the items needed for insurance purposes. Sammi volunteered to help take pictures.
- **By-Laws (Bruce and Pastor Dan)** – The Constitution & By-Laws are available by contacting the office, Bruce Steinhard, or Pastor Dan

X. **New Business –**

- **Truck parked in parking lot.** Told it does not matter.
- **Ed** – told about finding doors unlocked or open when no groups are meeting in the church. **All groups need to make sure all doors are closed and locked.**

XI. **Adjournment**

Moved: Gail

Seconded: Jean

Accepted: All in Favor

XII. **Lord's Prayer**

Submitted by: J. Bruce Steinhard

Recording Secretary

Open & Affirming (ONA) Covenant of First United Church of Christ

We, the members of First United Church of Christ, welcome you...

- ♥ If you are Asian, Black, Brown, Hispanic, Native American, or White;
- ♥ If you are male, female, transgender, or gender non-conforming;
- ♥ If you are 3 years old, 33 years old, or 103 years old;
- ♥ If you are from just down the street, from across the country, or from another part of the globe;
- ♥ If you grew up at Hoffner Church, were confirmed in the Catholic Church, got married in a non-denominational church, worshipped in a synagogue or mosque, or have never attended a religious service;
- ♥ If you are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated, or partnered;
- ♥ If you are straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or unsure of your sexuality;
- ♥ If you are a Democrat, Independent or Republican, affiliated with another political party or no party at all;
- ♥ If you have, or have had, addictions, phobias, or a criminal record;
- ♥ If you own your home, rent, live with your parents, or are homeless;
- ♥ If you were baptized at First UCC, or are worshipping here for the first time;
- ♥ If you attend services every week, once a month, or once a year;
- ♥ If you have typical or atypical skills, no matter your abilities or disabilities;

However the rest of the world describes you, and however you describe yourself: You are a beloved child of God and are welcome at First UCC. Being fully welcome in our community here at First United Church of Christ means that as we keep the love of Christ at the center of all we do, our congregation will:

- ♥ Always seek to affirm the person that you are with loving hearts and open minds.
- ♥ Follow the way of Christ Jesus with you in loving and being loved by both God and neighbor, with the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.
- ♥ Support and encourage you in your ongoing spiritual and religious journey.
- ♥ Love you for the person you are by living out our denomination's promise that

“No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at First United Church of Christ.”

First United Church of Christ

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Milt Hauck, *Co-Vice President*

June Bronnert, *Co-Vice President*

Bruce Steinhard, *Recording Secretary*

Jean Krebs, *Financial Secretary*

Christy Meyer, *Church Treasurer*

Sammi Asplan

Brad Kramer

Gail Bauknecht

Ed Bosse

Bill Henrich

Beverly Smith



“God is still speaking.”

