



2026 Newsletter

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The Pastor's Report

Thirty-one years ago today, February 25, I changed my name and my life has been blessed forevermore. Amy and I got married on a balmy, 65-degree day in 1995 at Bellarmine Chapel. No one has to remind me that I hit the lottery. I have now been a "Weyand-Geise" longer in my lifetime than a "Geise." The name change was the way I honored my idea of equality in a marriage, my respect for Amy's family and their heritage, and my faith in the bond we were creating.

On the first Sunday of Lent, my sermon title was "For Real." I used the Genesis story of Creation to ask various questions of our beliefs. Our faith reminds us that For Real, Jesus cares about the poor. For Real, Jesus welcomes the stranger and includes all. For Real, what would Jesus say about our treatment of immigrants? Of the poor? Of our children? For Real, how does our belief in Creation underlie our actions toward animals, earth, and one another? And, For Real, how do men treat women? I stressed in the sermon that we are partners. We are co-creators in this world. Woman and Man are created equally in the image of God.

March 8 is International Women's Day. More than just with the words we pronounce, this is a day in which people challenge nations to change policies that denigrate women; to oppose laws that take away women's rights to make health care decisions about their own bodies; to call out practices that reinforce employment and wage disparities. International Women's Day needs to turn into something that is lasting and emblazoned in our hearts. For Real, how are we treating women in this country these days? For our part as church, I am pleased to see the activity and leadership from our Guild, the Ladies Night Out, Sisterhood of Seekers, the Wine and Chocolate group, and the different teams and board that women lead. Our women at church lead and work collaboratively.

Never would I insist any couple hyphenate their names. But I do insist that they honor each other in their actions, words, and silence. In our need to inflate our egos and placate our ambitions, men, especially, find it difficult to let go of power and control. Recently at a church gathering, the group was most blessed when the men remained quiet long enough to allow the women to speak truth. It was a productive and fruitful exchange of ideas. All left the meeting feeling like our 513 church region is pulling closer together and working on becoming a better reflection of God's call to serve and to love. A worthwhile gathering on so many levels. Oh yeah, a woman was in charge of the group that day.

I will always commit myself to honoring Amy in public and in private. We share the joys and sorrows, good times and bad, sickness and health in life together. For the men reading this article, I implore you to treat the women with whom you work or are in relationship with kindness, respect, honor and equality. Locker room humor, condescension, disrespect are not in play. They never were appropriate. They definitely are not now. It is not faithful and true to our religious values and beliefs. It is inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ. God changed all of our names to Beloved Children. May we honor this calling as we journey through Lent and beyond Easter. This is FOR REAL.

Pastor Dan

Upcoming Events

RUMMAGE SALE SCHEDULE – SIGN UP SHEET IN NARTHEX

Next Sunday, March 8 – Set up tables after church

Wednesday, March 11, 4-7 p.m. – Drop off – organize tables

Thursday, March 12, 4-7 p.m. – Drop off – organize tables

Friday, March 13, 9-noon – Finish organizing tables – 12:30 lunch at Lake Nina

Saturday, March 14...THE BIG DAY! Please arrive by 8:30 a.m.

Sale – 9 a.m.-1 p.m., \$5 Bag Sale at 1:00. Lunch is provided.

Come join in the fun!

Easter Flowers

It is time to order Easter flowers! We offer Daffodils, Hyacinths, and Tulips at \$17.50 each, and Easter Lilies at \$23.50 each. Order forms are located on the table in the narthex. Orders are due by Sunday, March 15. See Gail Bauknecht with questions. Thank you!

Yarn Needed

Hilda Faulkner / for making scrubbers for rummage sale

Unused yarn or end of yarn (nothing thick), nothing too thin, either. It is to combine with the material she uses to make scrubbers. If anyone has some unused yarn that they don't need, it would be great for her to have this to make these for the rummage sale. Thank you.

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

It is February 23rd and I'm writing this article inside a Kia dealership in Dayton, Ohio as it is snowing huge flurries outside. Just last week, we had a day reach nearly 70°. Two weeks ago, the choir sang "In the Bleak Midwinter" and as I am days away from departing for a vacation to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, all I can do is hum that tune repeatedly... winter is still here. Although March arrives on Sunday, Mother Nature is reminding us that spring does not officially begin until the 20th of the month.

Of the five Sundays in March, I will be missing the first three. Thanks to Tricia Lenhof and Jeanne Phillips for covering the music on these Sunday mornings. And a big thanks goes out to Bernie Wehman and Chris and Mason Baldwin for their assistance in the PowerPoint and iPad while I am away. I return from vacation on March 1 and will be in office throughout the week, but my commitments to The Wiz national tour at the Aronoff are why I am taking off March 8 and 15. I've spoken to a few of you about this but if you are seeing the show, please come say hi!

My absence gives the chancel and handbell choirs a small break from rehearsals, but I'm pleased to share that Tricia has agreed to lead the chancel choir in their anthem, "O God, Most Holy" on March 15. They then sing "When You Prayed Beneath the Trees" on March 22. For Palm Sunday on the 29th, they have two anthems: "Entrance into Jerusalem" and "How Deep the Father's Love for Us." Although you won't hear the handbells perform this month, they are gearing up for two anthems on Easter morning, April 5 – "Hope Abides" and "Easter Rejoicing." As always, the music these two groups bring to life is sure to lift spirits and help us all worship in a moving way. I can't thank the members enough for their time and commitment.

Speaking of Palm Sunday - following the service, Pastor Dan and I are holding a Church Curiosity session in Fellowship Hall. We started these gatherings a couple years ago to provide new friends and members an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the life of the church. Even if you've been around First UCC for years, we welcome you and your curiosity! We are fortunate to say that First UCC church life is growing and changing in wonderful ways, so we'd love to hear your feedback and/or questions.

Have a great month!

Jimmy

Lenten Studies

The month of March allows us to do things a bit different at church for Lent. Here are each Sundays events following church. You will notice throughout the sanctuary are Icons with stories of modern day saints, activists, social prophets, and ordinary heroes.

March 1 - Quiet time following the service for those who want to spend time in prayer and study of the icons and the stories. Pizza with Pastor at the Weyand-Geise home. Some Washington UCC folks will be there along with at least 4 or 5 from First UCC.

March 8 – Pastor Dan will hold a showing of the series "Living the Questions." This is a faith exploration among theologians, pastors, and community leaders. We will likely have this in the sanctuary along with time for some discussion and quiet reflection after church service. Time frame will be from 11:30 - 12:30.

March 15 – Another “Living the Questions” episode followed by Quiet Time/Retreat/Journaling, then a Q/A as we discuss what is in our hearts following. We are setting this from 11:30 – 1:00, but it could go on until 2:00 if needed. There is a choral recital from Jeanne Phillips students at 2:30. You are welcome to stay for that, too.

March 22 - (Handbell practice) We will possibly do one more "Living the Questions" in the parlor.

March 29 - Church Curiosity. Jimmy and Pastor Dan, along with Board members, meet with anyone to answer questions about the church, membership and participation, etc. Hope to have you join us.

Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee News

February 2026

The Capital Campaign has received two member donations, totaling \$5,250, to kick off fund raising. The Campaign Funds have been deposited in a Marcus: by Goldman Sachs online savings account, earning 3.65% Annual Percentage Yield.

Recap of Church Facility Projects presented at the Congregational Meeting: Interior

1. The sanctuary audio and video system needs updating.
2. Installing automatic doors to the main entrance doors and first floor restrooms.
3. Shorten designated pew(s) to accommodate wheelchairs in the sanctuary, out of the main aisle.

Exterior

1. Brick and Mortar Repairs:
 - a. Salt has ruined the bottom of the wall of bricks to the right of the entry door to the fellowship hall, between that door and the left doors to the narthex. A separate contract to repair the wall is necessary. We expect this project to be expensive.
 - b. The walkway on the north side of the church that goes around the kitchen to the hallway needs improved drainage. The wall that supports this sidewalk has brick and mortar damage.
 - c. Twelve pillars support the entrance overhang. They need new mortar and a few new replacement bricks that were destroyed by salt when we were removing snow and ice. We need a contractor to do the work, but the expense is reasonable.
 - d. The bell tower has several missing blocks/bricks and needs to be repaired.
2. Parking Lot:
 - a. Needs all existing cracks repaired.
 - b. Needs to be resurfaced.
 - c. Duke Energy requires us to build a solid barrier between the new external box and the parking lot to prevent damage to the box and the components.
3. Foundation Work:
 - a. Undetermined work is needed to address exterior water issues.
 - b. The facilities team is collecting necessary information.
4. The outdoor playset needs replaced.

If you would like more information, have a project idea, or would like to be part of the capital campaign team, please call or text Jean Krebs at 513-703-4536. All ideas and volunteers are welcome.

Please Keep in Prayer

Eric Stacy (friend of the Steinhard's and Sehlhorst's)
Christi Simmons (friend of Michelle Richards)
MaryJo O'Brien (friend of Michelle Richards)
Barry & Judy Jamison (members)
Amanda and family (daughter of Hilda Faulkner)
Beverly & Mike Rose (dear friends of Suwanna Kirkman)
Blake Webb (friend of Jackie Smith)
Bill Mayer (member)
Brian Kirkman (son of Ron Kirkman)
Carolyn Bruckmann (friend of the church)
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)
Daisy (friend of Hannah Steinhard)
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)
Family and friends of Jackie Smith
Family of Anna Jean Shock (aunt of Ron Kirkman)
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 of Terrence Stern-Enzi, "Tt" (co-worker of Gina Kern)
Family of William Kirkman (uncle of Ron Kirkman)
Friends from Clovernook (of Carol Ann White)
Haley (friend of the Copenhaver's)
Jessica (friend of Carol Ann White)

Joan Schmidt (daughter of the late Ollie Helm)
Jody Eversole (friend of Suwanna Kirkman)
Joe (uncle of Suwanna Kirkman)
Joey Miller (grandson of Ron Kirkman)
Katie and family (daughter of Bernice and Terry Morgan, friends of the church)
Kelly Ann Pennington (sister-in-law of Suwanna Kirkman)
Kesha and Family (friends of Ron Kirkman)
Kimberly Morgan (cousin of Ron Kirkman)
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)
Pam and family (friends of Hilda Faulkner)
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)
Su H. (friend of Bev Bosse)
Thomas (nephew of Hilda's friend, Pam)
Tiffany Nelson (friend of Ron Kirkman)
Tina Maxwell (Sue Bilz' best friend)
Vicki Thorner (Sue Bilz' cousin)
Whiting Family (cousins of the Krebs Family)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

03/03 – Bill Henrich
03/03 – Sandy Smith
03/07 – Jean Krebs
03/10 - Tommy Buttelwerth
03/12 – Paul Gray
03/13 – Ike Weyand-Geise
03/13 – Ander Weyand-Geise
03/14 – Milt Hauck
03/17 – Brody Mutters
03/20 – Joe Bilz
03/26 – Levi Runck
03/28 – Hilda Faulkner
03/30 – Jeremy Filson

Anniversaries

03/24 – Ron & Anita Durrett

FYI

Reminder that Pizza with the Pastor is usually the first Sunday of the month. Except for April 5th, which is Easter Sunday! By the way, March is filled already.

On Sunday, March 15th at 2:30, Jeanne Phillips will have a concert of her students in the sanctuary. All are invited to attend.

**First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2026 (In-Person & Zoom)**

In attendance: Milt Hauck, Tom Shelton, Darrell Copenhaver, Bruce Steinhard, Jean Krebs, Gail Bauknecht, Ed Bosse, Bev Smith

Treasurer: Christy Meyer (Treasurer)

Pastor: Dan Weyand-Geise

Excused: Bill Henrich

- I. Call to Order -- Milt called the meeting to order.
- II. Devotion -- Pastor Dan spoke about Don Fricke, who displays part of the best traits of the church.

He then spoke about Pizza with the Pastor, with past Presidents of the church. He asked each of them what they were most proud of... , Advice to Tom, and gave thanks to the Board.

He then asked us for One Word for the past year.

Thankful... for the Board and the people that stepped up.

Kitchen... the doors being set to open into the Fellowship Hall and the new dishwasher.

Members and New Members

Kids bringing Offering to the front

The Family Room

Jean's and the committee's work on the Budget.

Pastor Dan then closed by leading us in singing "I Come to the Garden Alone"

- III. Recording Secretary's Report (Bruce) – The December report was accepted with two corrections.

Motion: Second: Accepted: All in favor

IV.

- V. Treasurer's Report (Christy): The December reports were accepted, and approval was given to pay January expenses. Two comments were made – AED, the yearly charge was taken out of Health Ministries. Hoffman Electric will be fixing the parking lot light.

Motion: Milt Second: Jean Accepted: All in favor

Bills -

Motion: Darrell Second: Bev Accepted: All in favor

VI. Financial Secretary's Report (Jean) –

With the Budget being presented at the congregational meeting, discussion came up about how many bids are needed. It was decided 2 – 3 bids are needed on NEW Capital Improvements and / or Budgeted Projects.

Motion: Gail Second: Darrell Accepted: All in favor as amended

Report -

Motion: Bruce Second: Darrell Accepted: All in favor

VII. Pastor's Report – Pastor Dan submitted his report to the Church Board

January 18th is the Congregational Meeting

MLK Service will be at the Baptist Church

Christmas Eve service was well attended

Ash Wednesday Noon here, 6 pm service TBD

Phil's Place has now been renamed as Annette's Cafe

- IHN Hosting --
- Fishes & Loaves –
- Phil's

Motion: Milt Second: Darrell Accepted: All in favor

VIII. Committee Reports

- Endowment
- Facilities – Meeting postponed with neighbor
- Music (Jean) – nothing to report
- Budget (Jean) – nothing to report
-

IX. Old Business

- Jean - We received a Thank You from Camp Washington for the Christmas gifts given
- Jean – Capital Improvements to be a separate promotion from the Budget. It was suggested to have Brian Beckman do a slide presentation like he had done previously. It should cover how long the Fund will last if

we continue using over the 5% recommended amount. Jean would like all Capital Improvement recommendations given to here asap.

- Bruce – brought to the attention the need for knives, forks and spoons for Camp Washington, as people have been leaving theirs behind when moving.
- A member brought up old traditions, such as the Sauer Kraut Dinner, and trying to have it this year. Pastor Dan informed all of us that many families have been too busy to do things this year and we have volunteers who no longer can help out at the dinner or during prep work.
- Nominating (Milt) –
- By-Laws (Bruce and Pastor Dan) – The Constitution & By-Laws are available by contacting the office, Bruce Steinhard, or Pastor Dan

IX. New Business –

Gail – informed us that we have a new Christmas Tree thanks to Ed Bosse getting us a great price on a tree.

Pastor Dan – Told us who the new board members being presented will be.

- Told us that several members are asking about forming a men's group.
- Some members are interested in more community groups meeting here.
- Jeremy's Group is doing well, with 15 – 20 people attending.
- An Interfaith Youth Group needs Sunday afternoon to meet.

Bruce – brought up that several time Pastor Dan is making sure the church is closed up after church or asking Darrell, me or Gail about doing it. Bruce suggested we come up with a list of Board Members who will volunteer to make sure the church is closed up each Sunday on a given day.

XI. Adjournment

Moved: Milt

Seconded: Jean

Accepted: All in Favor

XII. Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Dan

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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Kim Ogden, *Pastoral Administrator*
ext. 10

Church Board:

Tom Shelton, *President*

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.”