



January 2022 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

What are you looking forward to in 2022? The Christmas season is the perfect time to plan and to look ahead. The time between now and Epiphany is ideal. It is the in-between time of the last week of December just past the New Year festivities.

Christmas services here at First gave us a glimpse of the excitement that people feel about returning to church. There was a beautiful atmosphere and feeling around church this year. I think everyone appreciated being able to see one another. Christmas last year just wasn't the same. We are all tired of the separation. And yet, the Covid variants are something we have to take seriously. We know better how to care for ourselves and for our neighbors. We can get tested; we can get vaccinated; we can get the booster shot. I hope and expect us to be together more often as 2022 unfolds. The attendance at the services and the general goodwill that was exchanged during Advent and Christmas give me great anticipation for the New Year.

I look forward to more bell choir and voice choir performances in 2022; perhaps a UCC choir festival in the Spring. I look forward to youth gatherings; possibly an OWL class in 2022. I look forward to our youth going on a mission trip in the summer, mission work together. I look forward to the Zoom meetings with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) class that Amy and I are conducting on relationships this winter; I look forward to the ways we begin to create special moments for the newly created green space. I look forward to our work with our mission partners as the needs for housing, education, family services are greater than ever; and I look forward to seeing and hearing face-to-face from the church family and from the community. Where is the Spirit calling you to look in 2022? What holds promise for you in 2022?

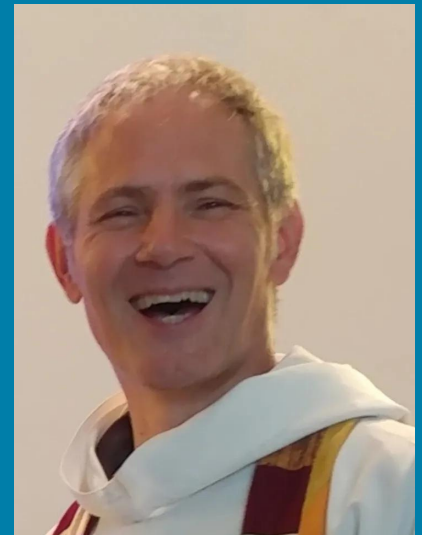


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First United Church of Christ
 5808 Glenview Ave.
 Cincinnati, OH 45224
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www.firstunitedchurchofchrist.org

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The Pastor's Report (continued)

Perhaps you are considering a career change. Maybe a move. A new friendship, or even a deeper commitment to a family member or friend. A new year is always a great time to evaluate and pivot. I invite you to use this in-between time to pray, ponder, and meditate on the important things in your life. Allow the Christmas message of courage, trust, and love to guide you.

On behalf of Amy and our family, I thank you for all of the ways you bless our lives. We are grateful for the ways all of us minister to one another and to the community. May we continue to be instruments of peace, healing, and love to the world in 2022.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dan



Thank You



Thank You from Washington UCC

We received a thank you letter from Washington UCC for our gift of \$350. It helped to provide 350 needy children and their families a happier Christmas!

Thank You from Christ's Community

We also received a thank you from Christ's Community for our participation in their Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. They provided us with 10 hams and items for families at Christmas.



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What's the Buzz?

Updates on Music, Media, and Faith Formation at First UCC

MUSIC

Christmas Eve was unforgettable. It brought me so much joy to celebrate the evening in a sanctuary filled with others. Jeanne Phillips and Christina Bilz shined at the 6pm service. I asked Ursuline Academy's new Performing Arts Director (my old role) and very good friend of mine, Michael Sawzin, to join me for the 11pm service; having a fellow woodwind musician play was a great opportunity for me to bring woodwinds of my own. I thoroughly enjoyed the collaboration and I've heard the congregation did too. The handbell choir and choir gave excellent performances on two upbeat pieces: Good Christian Men, Rejoice and I Saw Three Ships. The evening was made even better with Dan Luken's touching performance of Mary, Did You Know? as well as the interspersed congregational carols.

Looking ahead to 2022, there are so many exciting things coming in our music ministry. On January 2, Mandi Cornish and I will bring out our saxophones for a special collaboration before she goes back to college. Tricia will be back on January 16, and we'll be performing new music that honors Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. I am so excited to share that, thanks to a generous anonymous donor, Michael Sawzin will be joining me on a monthly basis! I look forward to writing some challenging duets and featuring more of the woodwind family when Michael is around. Tricia will also continue her monthly performances at First UCC and with the addition of youth performances, the choir, and handbell choir, there is sure to be a lot of phenomenal moments to come. I hope you're as excited as I am for what 2022 has in store!

MEDIA

Facebook, Instagram, and the church's website are updated three to four times each week. There's been so much to share in the life of the church, including special music guests, happenings with the Guild, memories during Advent season, and the weekly "what's to come" in Pastor Dan's sermon. While the Facebook and Instagram feed are consistent and easy to view, I want to point out a few neat features on our website:

- Home Page
 - It always features a link to our latest service and there's now a section to view both Christmas Eve services
 - Digital Newsletter – updated monthly with pretty colors and photos!
- Faith In Action
 - A link to help those impacted by the tornadoes in Kentucky is at the top of the page
 - Scroll down to check out videos of all the great musicians at First UCC!
- Follow Us!
 - A link to the latest Sunrise Salutation is always available here
 - Interactive Maps showing every place Dan and Amy have been for their Sunrise Salutations – this includes outside the city to Washington D.C, Colorado, and Hawaii

FAITH FORMATION

I've loved working with some of our youth through music. Their talents on handbells, clarinet, saxophone, and even technology have added so much to our services. This Advent season, it has been wonderful seeing and talking with youth as they are home for the holidays. I'm excited to share that Pastor Dan and I are starting to work on a Summer 2022 Youth Mission Trip to Washington D.C.! This trip will be a great opportunity for our youth to not only help those in need, but also explore our nation's capital with two people who have made the city their home: Maddie Weyand-Geise and Christina Bilz. While we are still in the beginning phase of planning, be sure to keep an eye on social media, weekly bulletins, and upcoming monthly newsletters for more information as details are finalized!



Jimmy Wiederhold
Director of Music, Media,
and Faith Formation





Anniversaries

01/15 – Eddie & Sarah Bosse
 01/26 – Jason & Holly Rodenbeck (20th)
 01/29 – Justin & Ashley Runck
 01/29 – Dave & Wendy Hawkins

Birthdays

01/03 – Carol Ann White	01/14 – Grace Armstrong	01/27 – Virginia Krebs
01/03 – Mary Susong	01/14 – Dave Hawkins	01/28 – Nate Weyand-Geise
01/08 – Tom Shelton	01/17 – Jordan Runck	01/28 – Cindy Beckman
01/08 – Ron Hayes	01/19 – Lex Weyand	01/30 – Paul Kluesener
01/09 – Holly Rodenbeck	01/19 – Diane Burger	01/30 – Chris Armstrong
01/13 – Susan Bilz	01/24 – Christina Bilz	01/31 – Jim Weyand
		01/31 – Larry Bronnert

~Please Keep in Prayer~

Family of Shirley Henrich; Family of Marilyn Blau; TeriLynn Stackhouse and Family at the death of Will; Christina Henderson (daughter of Judy Henderson); Ginny Krebs; Laura Hauck; Jackie Smith; Ron Kirkman and family; Agnes Patterson (friend of Jackie Smith); Larry Heitkamp (friend of First Church); Maxine Day (friend of Jackie Smith); Kameron Schuler (grandson of Bruce and Kathie Steinhard); Brenda (daughter of Ron Kirkman); Kaitlin (granddaughter of Ron Kirkman); Cindy (friend of Ron Hayes); Jim (brother of Ron Hayes); Elizabeth and Lauren (granddaughters of Ron Kirkman); Nadine (niece of Kathie Steinhard); Larry, Carol Ann and Sandy Brzezinski; Patsy Koch; The Baldwin Family at the death of Ceil Fink (sister-in-law of Patty (Matt's sister) and aunt of Anna, Chris and Mason); Brian Kirkman (son of Ron Kirkman); Jeremy Richards (son of Michelle Richards); Tim Williams (friend of Jackie Smith); continued prayers for Deanna Bilz (Joe's mother) and cousins Linda, Vicki and Randall; Dan S. (friend of the Bilz's); Chuck Parmenter (friend of First Church); Dan Stevens (friend of The Kirkman's); Sarah M. Stinebuck (great-granddaughter of Jackie Smith); The Family of Vera Fleshman (Steve Copenhaver's mother-in-law); Rob Rabalais (uncle of Christine Guillory); Mary Tires (friend of the Kirkman's); Chrissy (friend of the Kirkman's); Jackie Smith and Family at the death of her son, Gary; John Buelsing (son-in-law of Jackie Smith); Charlene Jones (sister of Jackie Smith); Donald Jones (brother of Jackie Smith); Janet Roland (niece of Jackie Smith).

Follow us!



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Life of the Church

Memorials

Gifts to the Music Fund in Memory of Shirley Henrich, from:

Ginny Kissel; Fred & Carol Pennekamp; Lawrence & Mary Eckhoff; Norbert Henrich; Michael & Linda LeVally; Ron & Sharon Rodenbeck; Jim & Carol Bitzenhofer; Steve & Mary Susong; Ralph Weis & Family; Linda Krebs; Virginia Krebs; Bill & Lynn Karas; The Guild; Robert & Christine Schlegel; Yvonne Benson; Marlene Wheeler; Diane & Ken Burger; Pat & Russel Weis; Ed & Bev Bosse; Janet Copenhaver; Milt Hauck; David & Jean Krebs

Gift to the General Fund in Memory of Shirley Henrich, from:

Dave & Barb Carl

Gift to Fishes & Loaves in Memory of Shirley Henrich, from:

Jackie Smith

Gift to Fishes & Loaves in Memory of Will Stackhouse, from:

Jackie Smith

Gift to the General Fund in Memory of Marilyn Blau, from:

Dave & Barb Carl

Gift to the Music Fund in Memory of Howard & Dorothy Dick, from:

Jim & Carol Bitzenhofer

“In the Spotlight”

We want to highlight Koch Refrigeration Company. We thank them for all they do for us throughout the year. Thank you so much, Jim Bitzenhofer and Staff!

Christmas Next Door

If you come by the church on January 6 in the evening, you might be surprised our parking lot is a bit busy. We will serve as an overflow for the Serbian Church next door. As an Orthodox Church, they celebrate Christmas with the coming of the magi to visit the Christ child. Our prayers are with our neighbors and for the community as we head into the New Year.

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Life of the Church (cont.)

Lifeline Screenings

Lifeline screenings will again take place at First UCC on January 19, 2022. For more information or to register for an appointment, please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit: <https://lisa.social/HSC>

Phil's Place

First UCC will again serve the dinners at Phil's Place at CAIN on the last Monday of January. Our usual maître d' Susie Cairns is not able to prepare this month's meal. There is a mystery chef waiting to be revealed. The meal is usually for 100+ dinners. If you would like to assist with the food preparation or even take on the entire meal, please contact Pastor Dan.

2022 Church Birthday Calendar

If you've not noticed, Anita Durrett and Kathie Steinhard gave everyone something to ponder each month, an added "goodie". January's is dedicated to Ginny Krebs. Our 2022 photo was taken by Bruce Steinhard, we'd like to thank him for his generosity. Also, when shopping at establishments shown on the calendar, PLEASE mention to them that you saw their ad. It makes it much easier come July when we need to ask for their renewal. And lastly, if you did not receive your ordered copy, please let Kathie or Anita know.

Offering Envelopes

Should you be needing a new packet of offering envelopes, please let Darrell Copenhaver or Kathie know, we'll be happy to get some for you. And don't forget to use them! Thanks! - Kathie Steinhard

Sunrise Salutations

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pastor Dan and his wife, Amy, decided to use social media as a means of bringing the beauty and history of Cincinnati to those of us stuck at home. Since September 2020, they have explored many gorgeous parks and landmarks within the city limits, and have even ventured outside of the Ohio Valley region to Colorado, Washington D.C., and Hawaii! Though our church doors have reopened for in-person services, we continue our Sunrise Salutations every week and invite you to join us via Facebook live! This quiet time of peace, prayer, and scripture, while experiencing nature as it awakens, is the best way to begin your Wednesday at 7:00 a.m., or later on the Facebook page.

November 2021

Council Meeting Minutes

First United Church of Christ Church Board Meeting Minutes Nov. 8, 2021 – In-Person & Zoom

Attendance: Ruth Beck, June Bronnert, Darrell Copenhaver, Christine Guillory, Milt Hauck, Bill Henrich, Travis Mandery, Kathie Steinhard

Excused: Kendra Pressley, Margie Spatz, Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

I. Call to Order: Christine called the meeting to order

II. Church Board Officer Elections (Christine):

The following individuals were nominated and approved by acclamation by the Board.

Recording Secretary: Christine Guillory

Financial Secretary: Darrell Copenhaver

Treasurer: Open (Kathie Steinhard serving until a replacement is found)

Vice President: Travis Mandery

President: June Bronnert

II. Acceptance/Approval of Reports:

A. Recording Secretary's Report (June)

1. Motion to accept: Milt
2. Second: Darrell
3. Accepted: all in favor

B. Financial Secretary's Report (Darrell)

1. Motion to accept (pending resolution of \$28 discrepancy): Bill
2. Second: Christine
3. Accepted: all in favor

C. Treasurer's Report (Kathie)

1. Motion to accept: Travis
2. Second: Darrell
3. Accepted: all in favor

III. Committee Reports

A. Facilities Management (Darrell)

1. During a termite inspection, evidence of mold was discovered in the furnace room. Darrell will seek cost estimates for remediation. This led to a discussion about the church foundation issues and susceptibility to moisture in the building. Darrell will get in touch with Dan Luken to coordinate next steps on the foundation project. Anyone with foundation contacts is asked to share those with Darrell.

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November 2021

Council Meeting Minutes

2. Hillside cleanup was conducted by Bruce Steinhard and a friend. Darrell noted that volunteers or others should probably do this again in the spring.
3. Grounds & Meditation Garden volunteers were asked to not pull perennials without checking with Amy Weyand-Geise first.
4. Darrell reported that Ron Durrett has volunteered to re-fill the soda machine on an ongoing basis. Thanks to Ron for taking over that task.

B. Mission (Christine & Ruth)

1. Mission Priority Board Choir Fest is scheduled for the afternoon of Dec. 5 at First UCC. We will provide simple refreshments and at least one raffle basket.
2. First UCC is collecting brownie/cake mixes for Christ's Community Thanksgiving baskets.
3. IHN food delivery continues on Wednesdays, with about 35 meals prepared each week.

C. Endowment (Christine) – As a follow-up from the fall Congregational Meeting, the church's Endowment Fund total is \$4.79 million.

D. Budget (Darrell)

1. Darrell will convene a meeting of the Budget committee in the coming weeks to finalize the draft budget for Board review.
2. Kathie reported that the church's building insurance likely will increase in 2022, according to our insurance broker. She will seek additional bids for alternative providers.

E. Audiovisual (Christine) – Christine reported that a new laptop was purchased for use with projecting the order of service/broadcasting on Facebook Live during Sunday worship.

IV. Old Business

A. Property Transfer – The issue of the potential transfer of a small parcel of First UCC's property to a neighbor has been tabled until Pastor Dan returns from sabbatical.

B. Soup & Share (Christine) – The next session will be Tuesday, Nov. 16.

C. By-laws Review (Christine) – The group discussed the proposed revisions to First UCC's by-laws, which were prepared by Bruce Steinhard. Kathie will ask Bruce if he is willing to chair a review committee.

D. Election Hosting (Christine)

1. Thanks to those who helped with locking and unlocking the building for the Hamilton County Board of Elections.
2. Kathie reported that there was a problem with one of the doors locking. Darrell will have someone look at it.

V. New Business – none

VI. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn: Christine
- B. Second: Bill
- C. Accepted: all in favor

Our Covenant

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 Church, or are worshipping here for the first time;

If you attend services every week, once a month, or once 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 Church. 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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Pastoral Team:

Dan Weyand-Geise - Pastor, Ext. 17

Jimmy Wiederhold - Director of Music, Media, and Faith Formation, Ext. 11

Kim Ogden - Pastoral Administrator, Ext. 10

Church Board:

June Bronnert, President

Travis Mandery, Vice-President

Treasurer – Open (Kathie Steinhard serving in interim)

Darrell Copenhaver, Financial Secretary

Christine Guillory, Recording Secretary

Ruth Beck

Milt Hauck

Bill Henrich

Kendra Pressley

Margie Spatz



*Keeping the love of Christ at the center of everything we do so that all members
will be empowered to become Spirit-Led Servant Leaders.*

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