



October 2021 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

As my sabbatical continues during the month of October, I am confident the church will be thrilled with the quality of preaching in the pulpit at First UCC. I chose colleagues whom I respect and ones who are different in style than perhaps you have experienced before. All three in October are younger than I am and will no doubt bring a freshness to Scripture and Worship. Blessings to First UCC. I miss you and look forward to being back with you in November. – Pastor Dan

The pulpit this month will be filled in Pastor Dan's absence by the following:

October 3 & 10 – Jonathan Bradner. Jon is recently approved for ordination within the United Church of Christ. He has served at Nexus UCC in Springboro. He is active in the Open and Affirming process of the UCC and active in racial justice issues across the city. He and his wife Molly live in White Oak. Jonathan's UCC membership is here at First UCC.

October 17 & 24 – We welcome our friend and colleague in ministry Pastor Lesley Jones to First UCC. She is pastor of Truth and Destiny. Pastor Lesley has traveled with Pastor Dan to Rubate, Kenya; she is part of the IHN ministry; and many outreach and social justice work here in the city.

October 31 – First UCC welcomes Meghan Snyder to the pulpit on Reformation Sunday. Meghan is a long-time friend of Pastor Dan and Amy. She has been an IHN coordinator for several years. She brings a deep passion for justice, ministry, and life for all. She has her master's degree in religion from Xavier University.

No doubt that my favorite month of the year is October. What's not to like about this month? We have ideal weather – both warm enough to continue to be outdoors, and cool enough to take evening strolls with a sweater or even short sleeves. The October landscape is soulful with colors changing and still signs of summer delights. School is back in session; all kinds of sports seasons are happening; you can still play golf if that is your passion – tennis for me outdoors, please. And many birthdays to celebrate and remember, including mine. My sabbatical in September centered primarily on family and friends. My sabbatical continues in October but will be truly away for study, relaxation, and renewal. Amy and I are in Kauai combining her work, my sabbatical study, and our vacation. We will continue our Sunrise Salutations, but the time difference means that it will be more like a lunchtime pick-me-up for everyone at First UCC. We are planning to be on Facebook Live at 12:30. Again, thank you for your prayers, support, and trust. This time away is already sowing some seeds that I believe will bear good fruit for First UCC and our ministry together. Aloha!

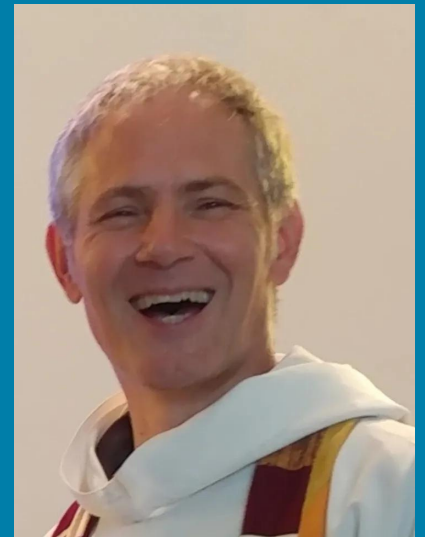


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Jimmy Wiederhold

Director of Music, Media, and
Faith Formation

Musical Moment

Choir: Choir rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7:00 in the choir room. Everyone ages 13 and up are welcome to join! The choir is preparing for a busy fall season of singing - and are already looking ahead to Advent and Christmas music!

Handbell Choir: Handbell choir rehearsals began September 13 and are off to a great start! Rehearsals are held at 6:00 p.m. in the choir room. All ages and music abilities are welcome! Either see Jimmy after the service or email him to inform him of your interest.

Soup & Share

The Church Board invites you to participate in a series of three monthly gatherings we're calling "Soup & Share" -- to intentionally pray and listen with the Spirit about our present, past, and future. While Pastor Dan and Amy take much-needed sabbatical time away this fall for renewal and reflection, this will be the congregation's opportunity to do the same. With food and fellowship, of course! (Many thanks to the Fishes & Loaves crew for providing simple meals of soup or chili for our evenings together.) The gathering on September 28th went very well! When asked to describe the evening in one word, answers included: grateful, togetherness, friendship, stories, enlightened, and community.

Tuesday, Oct. 26th – Past – What do we remember and celebrate about our history as a congregation? What defines us?

Tuesday, Nov. 16th – Future – First Church will celebrate 200 years as a congregation in 35 years. What will that look like? Where is the Spirit calling us?

The sessions will be facilitated by the Rev. Mary Laymon. Educated in the Lutheran tradition, Pastor Mary serves as executive director of Tikkun Farm in Mt. Healthy and as part-time pastor at St. Simon of Cyrene Episcopal Church in Lincoln Heights.

All First Church members and friends are invited to participate. Meal and fellowship will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the program to follow from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Christine at caguillory@gmail.com or 513-312-9880.

Anniversaries

- 10/01 – Bill & Margie Spatz
- 10/02 – Chris & Scot Armstrong
- 10/03 – Brady & Ashley Bosse
- 10/06 – Gary & Sandy Smith
- 10/12 – Karen & Sarah Geiger-Behm
- 10/15 – Ed & Bev Bosse
- 10/18 – Jeff & Jennifer Runck
- 10/26 – Jim & Carol Bitzenhofer



Birthdays

- 10/01 – Bruce Steinhard
- 10/02 – Katie Serda
- 10/03 – Jenni Frost-Cornish
- 10/03 – Sharon Thompson
- 10/04 – Angela Rodenbeck (50th)
- 10/09 – Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise
- 10/16 – Mason Baldwin
- 10/16 – Anna Baldwin
- 10/16 – Chris Baldwin
- 10/17 – Shepard Geiger-Behm
- 10/18 – Rosemary Geiger-Behm
- 10/24 – Matt Weiner
- 10/27 – Brett Buttlerwerth
- 10/29 – Steve Susong

~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Elizabeth and Loren (granddaughters of Ron Kirkman); Brother of Ron Hayes; Nadine (niece of Kathie Steinhard); Larry, Carol Ann and Sandy Brzezinski; Patsy Koch; Shirley Henrich; Marilyn Blau; 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'); Chuck Parmenter (friend of First Church); Dan Stevens (friend of The Kirkman's); Trista Manigault (neighbor of Christine Guillory); 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; Ron, Brian and Suwana Kirkman; 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

FYI - Vacation

Kim Ogden will be on vacation the week of October 4. She'll return to the office on Tuesday, October 12.

Congregational Meeting - October 17

We will have our Fall Congregational Meeting immediately after service on Sunday, October 17. Please have any reports in to the office by Wednesday, October 13. Many thanks!

Cincinnati Civic Orchestra Concert - October 24

The Cincinnati Civic Orchestra will be having a concert at: Glendale Lyceum at 3:00 p.m. on October 24, 2021 The concert is free – donations are accepted.

Ladies Guild Lunch - October 28

The next Ladies Guild lunch will be held on October 28 at noon at Red Squirrel restaurant, 8227 Colerain Ave. (near the corner of Colerain and Galbraith Roads). Come join us!

Thanks to green thumbs and mulching men!

First UCC's beautiful space continues to receive rave reviews from the neighbors and members. Rodney Stang does an outstanding job on the church grounds. Nate, Ander, and Ike Weyand-Geise accomplished some good mulching and garden work over the past few weeks. More garden work will be needed during the month of November to get it ready for winter. Nate will be organizing these efforts, along with Amy W-G.

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 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 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:

Christine Guillory, President

Dan Luken, Vice-President

David Krebs, Financial Secretary

Kathie Steinhard, Treasurer

June Bronnert, Recording Secretary

Kendra Pressley, Assistant Recording Secretary

Sarah Bilz

Darrell Copenhaver

Bill Henrich

Barry Jamison

Travis Mandery

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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for all
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