

October 2022 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

The line stretched for about 30 yards outside the food pantry. There were white people, black, brown. Young men, retirees, women with children, teens. It is a familiar scene every Monday outside the CAIN pantry. All are there for a couple bags of groceries. Perhaps even more timely, they catch a meal from Phil's Place where churches like First UCC prepare a simple offering every Monday night. One hundred meals go to those in line without delay. If churches bring more meals, there is no doubt they will be gone by the time the doors open for the pantry next door.

Our religious heritage and story recall and honor meal time on a regular basis. Whether it is Abraham and Sarah feeding the visitors; Moses with a meal on the run; Mary and Martha preparing food for guests; or Jesus on the mountaintop, at seaside, or in the upper room, a meal invites us into relationship and community like nothing else. The talk begins around topics like the weather or how the Bengals, Reds, or UC are doing. Sometimes it stays there, and that is fine. But then there are those times when the surface is scratched and the exchange goes deeper. The conversation reaches those thin places in life – job limitations, family concerns, relationship heartaches, world worries, health issues, spiritual longing, or simple everyday angst.

At First UCC, you get that. A meal is where we make some of our finest connections. The congregation has a legacy that is built around noontime lunches in Northside where working folks sought out a chance to be together, to laugh, to devour a tasty sandwich or snack, then head back to work. Here in College Hill, we have reinvented those Hoffner occasions with our Fishes and Loaves Wednesday dinners, our Guild luncheons, IHN (Interfaith Housing Network), the Sauerkraut fun on the lawn, and our return to Northside with the Phil's Place dinners on Monday nights as I described above. Each of these presents us an opportunity to share blessings of food and drink and in turn to be blessed as we are blessing. Trust and fellowship deepen within the community and in our hearts. Our circle of community and faith widen.

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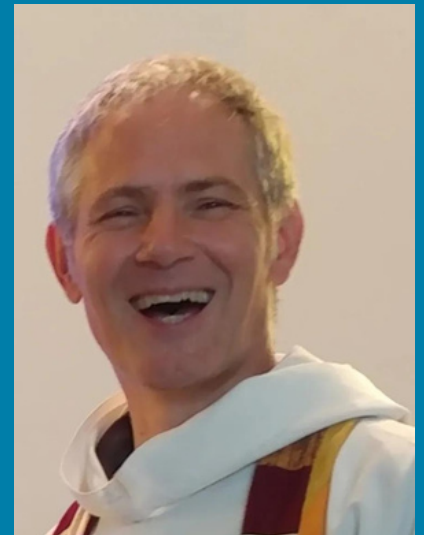


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First United Church of Christ
5808 Glenview Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45224
(513) 541-7302



www.firstunitedchurchofchrist.org



The Pastor's Report (cont.)

At last month's FUN-raiser, the Sauerkraut Supper, it was quite obvious the joy and thanksgiving that wafted through the air along with smells of kraut, sausage, and rye bread. Old friends reconnected and laughed; strangers delighted in the new acquaintances they made (reminding all of us that Cincinnati is really a small town after all!!) The occasion invigorates us to imagine in what other ways the church can extend the grace, love, and fellowship of our spiritual heritage. We are descendants of Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Ruth, Martha, Mary, Timothy, Paul, Joanna, Aquilla, Mary Magdalene. Here at First, we add the names of the sauerkraut saints – Ralph, Annette, Ray, Ruth and Doc, Betty and Don, Dorothy, Steve, Shirley and Will, and Betty. The list goes on and on. Beyond the dinner, there are many ways we are Church within our communities.

We are called to bring the healing ministry and love of Christ to our everyday encounters. Whether we are having dinner on a church lawn or standing in line at the grocery store, we don't wait to extend kindness and friendship. Will we always be greeted in the same way? Perhaps not. But it does not diminish or excuse us from our faithful expression of Christian love. Christ's example guides us in Northside, College Hill, and wherever our roads take us. On Monday nights, I invite you to join me at Phil's Place to pass out food, share in conversation, and just hang out. I will be there from 3 – 6. We simply receive the food from the group who has prepared it, then we pass out the food beginning around 4. This is not a commitment you need to make every week. I would like different folks each week. But my experience tells me that once a person gives it a try, then they will want to return. Something magical, or some might say holy, takes place when we break bread together.

As we head into October, we have held our Sauerkraut Dinner, our Rummage Sale is coming in early October, we are assisting with IHN, and conducting other ministry opportunities. Fall is always an exciting time. At church, this is also the case. Come be with us in worship – whether in person or on-line. We are blessed. May we continue to give thanks and be a blessing at the First UCC table of blessing. Excuse me now, I have to go eat.

Yours in Christ,
Dan



What's the Buzz?

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

For those of you who love autumn as much as me, you may be singing to yourself: "it's the most wonderful time of the year!" Surely, I can't be alone in loving the changing colors of the leaves, the cooler temps, and the excitement of many family gatherings in the next few months (not to mention, my November birthday!). There is a lot to be excited about in the life of First UCC as well. Musically, the choir and handbell choir are preparing for a busy season filled with great music! While the choir will continue their weekly performances, you can hear both groups on October 16 – this service will be an all-music event with offerings from the choirs, Tricia, myself, and my good friend, Austin, on trombone. Austin is a fellow IU graduate who now lives in Cincinnati with his fiancée, Becca; piccolo player for our very own Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra! I'm delighted to reunite with Austin seven years since completing my master's degree at IU.

Although music plays a huge role on October 16, the other Sundays in October have special musical treats as well. We start the month welcoming back Michael Sawzin, who will be bringing his saxophone this time to duet with Jimmy. The 9th of October will feature our own Bernie Wehman and beloved guest, Kevin, singing pieces that commemorate National Coming Out Day on October 11. Michael will return on October 23, while Jimmy has a few Halloween treats coming for you on the 30th.

come una, although small, had a fun first rehearsal back in August. Although the September meeting had to be rescheduled, I'm looking ahead to holding a rehearsal in October. I hope to have the group perform in our sanctuary before the new year. Most of the current members are from First UCC, but I'm excited to meet a new singer from my neck of the woods (Maineville, OH), who will be joining the group at only 11 years of age. Please spread the word to any youth who might be interested in singing; have them email me or talk with me after the service.

There isn't a lot to report on in the realm of technology. As always, I keep the website and social medias up to date nearly daily. If you have any feedback regarding the content of either source, please reach out to me and let me know. I am always open to suggestions! As I see the church accounts so often, fresh eyes are greatly appreciated.

- Jimmy



Jimmy Wiederhold
Director of Music, Media,
and Faith Formation

From the Pulpit to the Pew

A discussion of the day's readings, service, and spiritual concerns following the 10:15 service. We meet on October 9 this month. The 23rd is the Congregational meeting. The next Pulpit to the Pew would be November 6.

Found House - Interfaith Home Network (IHN)

Our support of this ministry continues as IHN returns back to the congregation after more than two years housing the families in hotels.

A great thanks to Paul and Lynn Kluesener and Gail Bauknecht for the terrific meal they prepared and served for the families on September 28 at College Hill Presbyterian Church. For the week of October 30, CHPC will again host. We have agreed to prepare the meal on Wednesday, November 2. We will host the families here the week of November 28. For our week in November, we will need assistance with laundry, set-up, meals, overnight hosts, prayer, financial support, and hospitality. Contact Pastor Dan or Linda Krebs if you have interest. BTW, our 2023 dates are the weeks of April 23, June 4, August 20, and December 10.

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
 10/05 – Lisa Shelton
 10/09 – Dan Weyand-Geise
 10/11 – Jeremy Richards
 10/16 – Chris Baldwin (18th)
 10/16 – Mason Baldwin (18th)
 10/16 – Anna Baldwin (18th)
 10/17 – Shepard Geiger-Behm
 10/18 – Kathy Bachman
 10/18 – Rosemary Geiger-Behm
 10/18 – Shelby Pressley
 10/24 – Matt Weiner
 10/27 – Brett Buttelwerth
 10/29 – Steve Susong

~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Lee Johnson (friend of Terri Stang); Russ Doyle (friend of Judy Henderson); Linda Blatt (friend of the Senior Social); Bryan (son of Susie Cairns); Family of Jackie Smith; Brenda (daughter of Ron Kirkman); Barb Shawn (aunt of Suwanna Kirkman); The Keys Family at the passing of Karen Green; Ron Kirkman and Family; Ralph Mueller (at the passing of his son, Dale); Ricky Dunn (grandson of Margie League); Danny Wesley (grandson of Margie League); Bill Hinken (brother of Margie League); Patsy Koch; Dave Hawkins' brother; Craig Smith (son of Jackie Smith); Kathy Skinner (friend of Jackie Smith); Mark (friend of Sharon, friend of the Senior Social); Kesha and Family (friends of Ron Kirkman); Michelle Richards (friend of the Senior Social); Faith Martin (friend of Linda Krebs); Sharon (friend of Hilda Faulkner); Pam (friend of Hilda Faulkner); Janet Roland and Cynthia Roland (nieces of Jackie Smith); Judy Henderson (friend of the Senior Social); Hannah Steinhard (daughter of Bruce & Kathie); Wilma (sister of Mary Day); Charlie (friend of Herb Brookbank); Stas Dharikov (Ukrainian friend of Christina Henderson); The Michael Krause Family (relatives of Ginny Kissel); Family of Linda Johnson (friend of Sharon & Ron Rodenbeck); Glenn Smith (son of Jackie Smith); Jared Weyand (nephew of Jim Weyand); TeriLynn Stackhouse and Family; Larry, Carol Ann, and Sandy Brzezinski.

Follow us!



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Life of the Church

Congregational Meeting

Our Congregational Meeting is October 23. We are accepting nominations for the Church Board. If you would like to serve on the Board, it is a 3-year commitment with meetings usually on the second Monday of each month. These are hybrid meetings (both zoom and in-person). We have four spots available to be filled. Our By-laws state that you must be a member for at least a year and in good standing (a part of church life over the past year). Contact our current president June Bronnert or Gail Bauknecht, nominating team leader, or leave a message on the church office phone with Kim Ogden, 513-541-7302, ext. 10. We will discuss an update of the By-laws at the Congregational meeting. Members will receive an electronic version of the Constitution the weekend of October 8. For those not on-line, you can request a hard copy of the proposed changes. Simply call the church office.

No Fishes and Loaves until October 19

The Fishes and Loaves dinner crew will be busy volunteering elsewhere and not have their usual Wednesday meals until October 19. Thank you again to Gail Bauknecht, Ruth Beck, Ron Durrett, Paul and Lynn Kluesener, Jackie Smith, Lucille Isaacs, Dani Pawley, and Amy Weyand-Geise for their weekly commitment. There are also others who are a big part of the success of this ministry, including those who offer financial support. This ministry relies solely on people's generosity. By God's grace and people's gifts, we always have what we need. We look forward to resuming on October 19.

FUNraiser Fantastic

We are pleased to report our Sauerkraut event was a success. We held the dinner outdoors and were blessed with great weather, fantastic volunteers, and delightful conversations and remembrances. The team of Gail Bauknecht, Sharon and Ron Rodenbeck, Linda Krebs, Lynn and Paul Kluesener, and Amy Weyand-Geise were simply outstanding in their leadership and commitment to making it a stress-free and fun event for all. My brother, Jeff, surprised me and came up from Atlanta. He was complimentary of all the young people who were there to volunteer. We had a great range of ages who served, greeted, parked, and played. Jeff loved the food and even met his old friend from grade school, Todd Beismann, who is married to Nancy Koch, the daughter of long-time member, Patsy. You just never know who you meet while eating spaetzle and the fun that goes with it. The memory of Ollie Helm tossing the corn hole bag will forever go down in Sauerkraut history!

Senior Social

There will not be a Senior Social luncheon October 5. That will be a busy week at church. The church will be getting ready for the Rummage Sale.

Thank You

Thanks to all of my church friends for their prayers and well wishes as I recover from knee surgery. – Ginny Kissel

(continued on next page)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

RUMMAGE SALE



9:00am - 1:00pm

First UCC

5808 Glenview Ave.

45224

\$5 bag sale starts at noon!

Life of the Church (cont.)

Rummage Sale

Our rummage sale is back. Our last one was held on March 14, 2020 – then something happened. Volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office if you are able to assist. Set-up is the week of October 2. Linda Krebs and Bev Bosse are co-chairpersons of the event. October 8 from 9-1 is the event, but lots more time is needed to get ready.

FYI from the Guild

The Guild had to cancel the BB Riverboat lunch cruise on September 22. We needed at least 15; only 5 or 6 had inquired. We hope to go this month. We'll meet on October 27. All are welcome!

MPB Party with a Purpose!

That On Monday, October 10 at WestSide Brewing on 3044 Harrison Avenue from 4:30 – 7:30, Pastor Dan and Jim Hill from SONKA will be celebrating their October 9 birthdays together. Money raised that evening will go toward our Mission Priority Board partners. Some of these partners include Kids4Peace, CAIN, MARCC, Hosea House in Northern Kentucky and others. Come and have fun. Party with a purpose!! Pastor Dan may just buy the first round. Come and find out if he is feeling generous on his birthday.



In the Spotlight



With our Guild 2023 calendar in the process of being created (please see Guild announcement in newsletter), we want to highlight another of our 2022 calendar sponsors. This month it is the **Ladies Night Out** group. This is a beloved group who have been meeting and organizing ways to give back to the community through their crafts and arts for more than two decades. As we approach the holidays, they will be sure to have goodies on sale. They in turn share the funds with noted charitable groups. For more information on how to be a part of this group, contact Sue Bilz or the church office. Again, thank you Ladies Night Out for your partnership in the fellowship and service of First UCC ministries and your support of the Guild calendar



*all
about
love*

NEW VISIONS

bell hooks

First UCC reads All About Love together!

Written by bell hooks, All About Love offers radical new ways to think about love by showing its interconnectedness in our private and public lives. The author explains how our everyday notions of what it means to give and receive love often fail us, and how these ideals are established in early childhood. She offers a rethinking of self-love (without narcissism) that will bring peace and compassion to our personal and professional lives, and asserts the place of love to end struggles between individuals, in communities, and among societies.

First UCC members and friends have gathered over the past month to discuss the book. The conversations have been quite invigorating and insightful as we look to put the ideas into action. Please feel free to join even if you haven't been able to read the book or the chapter for the week. Here is the upcoming schedule:

Our proposed schedule: (flexible based on needs of group and pace of conversation)

- October 2 - Spirituality: Divine Love
- October 16 - Values: Living by a Love Ethic
- November 6 - Greed: Simply Love
- November 20 - Community: Loving Communion
- December 4 - Mutuality: The Heart of Love
- December 11 - Romance: Sweet Love
- January 15 - Loss: Loving into Life and Death
- January 29 - Healing: Redemptive Love
- February 5 - Destiny: When Angels Speak of Love

Questions? Reach out to Amy Weyand-Geise:

Email: amyweyandgeise@gmail.com

Text or call: 513-317-2063

Reach out to Pastor Dan:

Email: danweyandgeise@gmail.com

Text or call: 513-317-2064

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

513-541-7302 | www.firstunitedchurchofchrist.org

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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

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Church Board:

June Bronnert, President

Travis Mandery, Vice-President

Christy Meyer, Treasurer

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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