



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



February 2023 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

I can forget to thank people. Did I tell this person I appreciated their kindness? Did I let my brother know I loved the Christmas gift he gave us? Gratitude is a spiritual gift that reflects maturity, humility, and joy. We have an abundance at First UCC to be grateful for. As I sit down to write this reflection, it is only two weeks into the New Year. So much happened here at Church from the Christmas Eve flood that I wonder if I took the time to be mindful and grateful for God's blessings to this congregation and to our community. I can forget to be grateful. How about you?

February is the month of St. Valentine's Day and the start of our Lenten season. Valentine's Day is the obvious expression of thankfulness for love in our lives. You can send the greetings to neighbors, aunts, uncles, partners, and siblings. Perhaps in grade school you were invited to write Valentines to all of your classmates. Maybe these days you send a general Facebook message giving thanks for all of your friends. Or maybe you still go old school and write a card or make a phone call to that dear relative reminding them of your affection and appreciation for them in your life.

Whatever your practice, I encourage you to extend this mindfulness and thoughtfulness into the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday is February 22. The liturgical season serves as an opportunity to be appreciative for life. We can practice being mindful of God in our daily existence. "From dust you came, to dust you shall return." "Return to God, and remember you are a beloved child of God." We receive the ashes on our foreheads. It's like the parent with the gentle reminder, "Did you tell grandma thanks for the gift?" Oh yeah!!

(continued on next page)



Table of Contents

- Page 1 - The Pastor's Report
- Page 2 - The Pastor's Report (cont.)
All About Love
- Page 3 - Anniversaries & Birthdays
Prayer Requests
- Page 4 - Life of the Church
- Page 5 - Life of the Church (cont.)
- Page 6 - Board Meeting Minutes
- Page 7 - Meeting Minutes (cont.)
- Page 8 - Meeting Minutes (cont.)
- Page 9 - Meeting Minutes (cont.)
- Page 10 - First UCC Covenant
- Page 11 - Staff and Board Directory

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The Pastor's Report (cont.)

This past holiday season was like nothing we have experienced in my time with you. I came away grateful to be a part of this congregation. First Church folks have been terrific. The efforts of the clean-up; the extra time members have spent meeting with the insurance company; being here with the cleanup crews; organizing rooms; or showing up for Sunday worship even with the mess all around, I am thankful for the extra efforts and time of this congregation. Your outreach to one another and to the community is quite appealing. You have a love language that reveals itself in word, action, gifts, and in your time devoted to practicing the love of Christ in all that you do. The year is just beginning but our Christian practice and lives are always a source of compassion and love. May we remember to give thanks for each day.

Blessings and thank you always,
Pastor Dan

*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.

As we head into the second half of the book, First UCC members and friends continue to gather to discuss the book. Discussions have been lively, filled with laughter, and great insight. Feel free to join us even if you haven't previously attended. Our intention is simply to examine the many facets of Love and consider ways to practice and incorporate them into our lives. *(Book study resumes this month)*

Anniversaries

02/25 – Dan & Amy Weyand-Geise



Birthdays

02/03 – Barb Carl

02/05 – Carol Marksberry

02/07 – Maddie Weyand-Geise

02/09 – Mandi Cornish

02/12 – Braden Buttelerwerth

02/14 – Amy Weyand-Geise

02/17 – Shelly Steiner

02/25 – Ron Rodenbeck

02/25 – Jason Rodenbeck

02/27 – David Krebs

02/28 – Laura Copenhaver

~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Joe S. and Nicara W. (dear friends of Ed and Bev Bosse); Jim Kissel and the entire Kissel family at the passing of Ginny; Stephanie (friend of Mary Day); The Weyand Family at the passing of Jared Weyand (nephew of Jim); The Family of Terry Berger at his passing (First Church member and friend of Pastor Dan); Sharon Godsey (niece of Ginny Krebs); Heather Nichols (niece of Susan Ley); Senior Social and the Family of Linda Blatt at her passing; Margie & Robert Barnett (neighbors of Linda Krebs); Kathy & Jim Finegan (mother and stepfather of Christine Guillory); Mary Sanker (cousin of Janet Copenhaver); Amber Matson (cousin of Kim Ogden); Dan McClanahan (son of Ollie Helm); Lee Johnson (friend of Terri Stang); Bryan (son of Susie Cairns); Family of Jackie Smith; Brenda (daughter of Ron Kirkman); Barb Shawn (aunt of Suwana Kirkman); 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); Charlie (friend of Herb Brookbank); Stas Dharikov (Ukrainian friend of Christina Henderson); Family of Linda Johnson (friend of Sharon & Ron Rodenbeck); Glenn Smith (son of Jackie Smith); Larry, Carol Ann, and Sandy Brzezinski.

Deepest Sympathy

To Jim Kissel and the entire Kissel family at the passing of Ginny on Sunday, January 15.

Ginny was a dear member of the church who will be sorely missed. There will be a Celebration of Life service here at First Church in the near future.

Follow us!



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Life of the Church

Great Thanks

To Jimmy and Kim for making sure the bell tower didn't fall over or for any more flooding while Amy and I were away in January. We look forward to being back with everyone for worship on February 5 and celebrating with communion. - Pastor Dan

Mission Update

Volunteer Tutors at Washington UCC

Dear Supporting Churches: our after-school tutoring program, Homework Club, starts the second semester the week of January 23. We are seeking your help in publicizing our need for volunteer tutors. The program, which serves students age 6-12 from low-income families, operates from 4-5:30 p.m. to form a relationship with their matched student. Thank you for any help. - Laurel Humes, Tutor Coordinator and Nancy Matthew, Director

Faith in Action Breakfast

Join us February 14 at 8:30 AM for a panel discussion on the role faith communities play in addressing the affordable housing crisis. Found House IHN's mission is to provide shelter, housing, and support to families experiencing housing insecurity and to strengthen those services through interfaith and community partnerships. Cost of the breakfast is \$30. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: WWW.FOUNDHOUSE.ORG/FIABREAKFAST

Senior Social and Fishes and Loaves

Our Wednesday groups – Senior Social at noon and Fishes & Loaves from 5-6 p.m. (pick-up) are still having to adjust to water effects in the kitchen. We will have Fishes and Loaves beginning February 8 since they are able to prepare their meals off-site. The Senior Social will have to wait until further notice to resume. We will be back together – just not now. Thanks to everyone for their patience during our “down” time.

Ash Wednesday

Services will be held February 22 at noon and 7:00 p.m. at First UCC.

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Life of the Church (cont.)

More Mission Updates

In January I had two delightful meetings with Washington UCC's new pastor Melissa Stephens. The first was with First UCC member Larry Bronnert and Melissa. Larry continues his involvement with Washington UCC's Homework Club. It was a chance to introduce Melissa and hear what her ideas are for the community. Much like CAIN in Northside, Washington UCC is essential as a sanctuary or safe place for many in Camp. Melissa looks forward to ways First UCC can continue to support the ministry there. We hope to hold an upcoming meeting with other UCC pastors and congregations to emphasize the collaborative efforts needed to sustain Washington UCC. I hope to have Pastor Melissa out here on a Sunday morning to share a mission moment with our congregation.

The other meeting was with UCC clergy as we gathered for dinner in Newport, courtesy of the gracious act of David Hosea, a longtime supporter and member of the UCC and community social outreach. There, I also was with Pastor Stephens, Laurel and Mel Humes, and several other longtime UCC clergy and their partners. I came away from the three hours feeling renewed in my convictions about the UCC's potential to make a difference in our metropolitan area and in our local churches. People like Laurel and Mel, along with so many in our own congregation are making a beautiful difference in their neighborhoods. The food programs like Fishes and Loaves, or Phil's Place are like what some other congregations do. Churches bring a spirit of compassion and the way of Jesus into what we do.

Phil's Place continues to be a hangout for me on most Mondays. If others would like to join me to serve the meals, feel free to stop in between 3-5 down at CAIN, 4230 Hamilton Avenue in Northside. Thanks to Cairns & Crew (Susie, Gail Bauknecht, Ruth Beck, Ed Bosse, and Ron Kirkman) for their work on the January 30th dinner. One hundred and thirty-three meals were handed out. CAIN staff and the guests appreciate you and the wonderful hospitality and meal each time.

Noah's Ark Progress - aka our flood cleanup

As of January 13, we were awaiting our Insurance Board's financial determinations for the water damage from Christmas Eve. We have a team that will focus on the rebuild. Jimmy Wiederhold will chair the group and report to the Church Board. The Church Board will continue to update folks when there is more to report. Thank you for your patience. The Bible is not explicit about how long it took to build the ark, but we trust that like Noah, a new creation awaits us. Fortunately, the pipes did not burst for 40 days.

December 2022

Board Meeting Minutes

First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes Dec. 12, 2022 (In-Person & Zoom)

In attendance: Ruth Beck (via Zoom), Ed Bosse, June Bronnert, Darrell Copenhaver, Christy Meyer (Treasurer), Christine Guillory, Milt Hauck, Bill Henrich, Travis Mandery, Margie Spatz, Bruce Steinhard, Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

Excused:

Visitor: Teri Lynn Stackhouse (for presentation of proposal)

- I. **Call to Order** -- Christine called the meeting to order.
- II. **Devotion** - Pastor Dan - Linus "What is the meaning of Christmas?"
- III. **Recording Secretary's Report (Bruce)** – The November minutes were accepted with three corrections.
Moved: Travis Second: Darrell Accepted: All in favor
- IV. **Treasurer's Report (Christy)** sent by email and packet passed out 2 packets – checkbook register and spreadsheet & Transaction Listing (preferred)
Moved: Darrell Second: Christine Accepted: All in favor
Christy can do reports the way she prefers.

The Bills needing to be paid was presented.

Moved: Travis Second: Darrell Accepted: All in favor

Other items asked about by Margie – she asked about end of the year payroll and the Boy Scout Troop. Christy told us ADP will finish out the year then Christy will be taking over the payroll. She also informed us that the Boy Scout Troop is disbanding and Dennis Meyer will work to find a troop that can use the equipment stored in the church and work with the church on what happens to the trailer.

- V. **Guest – Teri Lynn Stackhouse – Health Ministry Plan**
Teri had submitted a plan for the Board to review last month and explained her plan to use her ministry skill in Health Ministry through a Five Way Covenant with First UCC, Right Mind Wellness Center, The Heartland Conference, SONKA Association and herself. The plan helps keep her supported and within boundaries that will be set up.
There are several areas that Teri will help First UCC with including the Health Ministries TEAM, inventory of supplies in the room, and presenting health information to the members and community.

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December 2022

Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Moved: Bill

Second: Milt

Approved: All in Favor

Teri then left the meeting via zoom and the Board continued with other business.

VI. Financial Secretary's Report

Moved: Bill

Second: Margie

Approved: All in Favor

VII. Pastor's Report (Pastor Dan)

Pastor Dan asked us for volunteers to read for Christmas Eve services and excused those in choir.

On December 18 we will have a Luncheon after the Worship Service for all those that wish to participate. The Meat will be provided and members and guests are asked to bring a dish to share.

He expressed his appreciation to the Senior Social group for helping with Linda Blatt's meal after the service, especially to Jackie Smith.

We continue to gather cake mix for Christ's Community and is asking Luke and Joey to help with taking them over to the church.

I.H.N. – Pastor Dan reported there are 3 new churches that will be helping us, St. John's UCC in Reading, Cincinnati Mennonite Church and The Unitarian Church in Clifton.

MARCC – Ruth, Bruce and Mimi attended along with other UCC members and a good meal and great discussion was held by all in attendance.

CAIN – Susie continues to help cook for CAIN and the cost is supported by our church and other donors who cover extra costs. The church approved 3 hostings and other groups are helping. Pastor Dan and Bruce took supplies gathered from St. Xavier High School students to CAIN. Bev Watanabe is a great help at helping us do this ministry.

Pastor Dan then asked us to read over the article he had given to Board members and to consider how this might inform our churches ministry in the future. Bruce shared that he and Kathie had recently watched a movie from the library along the same line called "ALL SAINTS".

Pastor Dan finished by reporting about our facilities being used by the movie crew for the actors and crew for lunch while in the College Hill area.

VIII. Facilities Committee – paper of needed work (Darrell and Ed)

Darrell and Ed discussed the list and the main immediate concern being the sink hole in the property near Belmont Ave. It has been determined that the water is not coming from our pipes or building but might be coming from one of the adjoining properties near that area. They are trying to determine where the water

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December 2022

Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

is coming from, and Darrell has discussed the matter with Cincinnati Water Works, Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewer District and the City of Cincinnati, and no one acknowledges that the problem is theirs. Travis suggested we look at the blue prints for the property to see if we can see any possibilities.

Darrell also discussed that the lights in the back by the small parking lots are in need of being cleaned out.

Darrell also has gotten the parking lot light aligned to come on and turn off at the right times again.

Dennis Meyer moved the Scout trailer so it is not sinking into the ground.

- **Youth Ministry** – No report. They did start a book study on Sunday and went out together.
- **Mission Committee** – Christine asked if we could consider using the money to be received from the movie's use of the church be used to give back to the College Hill Community.

Pastor Dan then shared about our mission work with Camp Washington UCC.

Larry Bronnert is a volunteer there almost every week. They are getting a new Pastor. Bruce shared that they had lost a key volunteer in Jean Sidall, who passed away in the last six months.

ONA – nothing to bring up.

- **Endowment (Bill)** – June had sent out the “White Paper” from Brian Beckman and the Board will need to approve this in the future.
- **Budget (June)** – June reported that the Budget Committee has met. They presented the working budget worksheet, which showed 3 possible scenarios and a raise was approved as part of the budget.

Moved: Milt

Second: Bill

Approved: All in favor

IX. Old Business

Stewardship Letter – Bruce asked about sending out a Stewardship letter to the congregation, promoting each individual consider how generous God has shared with them and what they can share in return. June suggested the Talent Form not be sent out but at a later time after the TEAMS have been worked out.

SONKA - Bruce also shared with the Board how the Association will possibly be using regional coordinators due to lack of funding. He then asked that we promote the 5 for 5 offerings of the UCC.

X. New Business -- none

XI. Adjournment (around 9:00 pm)

December 2022 and January 2023 SPECIAL MEETING

Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Moved: Milt

Second: Travis

Approved: All in favor

Submitted by: J. Bruce Steinhard

Recording Secretary

Reminders for next meeting –

By-Laws (June) – After discussion, the Board agreed that a preview of the proposed revisions to the Constitution & By-Laws will be presented at the October 23 Congregational Meeting. The committee's work will continue, with final recommendations to be offered at the Spring 2023 Congregational Meeting.

First UCC Church Board SPECIAL Meeting Minutes

Jan 3, 2023 (In-Person & Zoom)

In attendance: Ruth Beck (via Zoom), Ed Bosse, June Bronnert, Darrell Copenhaver, Christy Meyer (Treasurer), Christine Guillory, Milt Hauck, Bill Henrich, Travis Mandery, Bruce Steinhard, Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

Excused: Margie Spatz

IX. **Call to Order** -- June called the meeting to order.

X. **Devotion** - Pastor Dan - Prayer

XI. **Recording Secretary's Report (Bruce)** – None

Moved:

Second:

Accepted:

XII. The purpose of this meeting was to get updates on everything that has been happening since the WATER LINE breaks on Christmas Eve.

Bruce reported that Kathie Steinhard called the Insurance Board and left a message for them.

Ed reported that Sue Bilz and Christina had come to church early to practice and discovered the water right away and called the Cincinnati Fire Department, who came and turned the main water supply off. Sue then notified others and the word spread to members. Some came to help.

The water was found in the Narthex, hallway, parlor, Health Ministries office, and on the 1st floor in the hallway, electrical room, storage rooms, and a couple classrooms.

Ed then reported that water was still running on Christmas morning and on Monday morning, as the main valve had not been turned off fully or there was a problem. Ed also reported that both he and Dan Luken had made numerous calls to plumbers to find one that would come and help. Eric B

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

Christine Guillory, Vice-President

Christy Meyer, Treasurer

Darrell Copenhaver, Financial Secretary

Bruce Steinhard, Recording Secretary

Ruth Beck

Ed Bosse

Milt Hauck

Bill Henrich

Travis Mandery

Margie Spatz

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*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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