



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



March 2023 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

As Amy and I walked the Ohio riverfront on our anniversary we remembered our wedding day and the fabulous gathering of 350 or so. We both come from large extended families and we had at least three church families of faith who danced the night away with us. As we remembered the day, Amy wondered how many new people are in our lives since then? How many were not even born then? WOW, the hundreds of youth we have met through the church, let alone our four, were not even in our imagination on our wedding day. My guess would be that none of you who are reading this were at the wedding. Yet, now you are a vital part of our lives, a reminder of the love and promise in our marriage that is rooted in God's blessing and presence. No one needs to inform me that I hit the proverbial celestial lottery.

First Church experiences the same dynamic today. We look back at our 4history and recall so many lovely and faithful people who were with us. Some for decades, some for their confirmation, while others for only a season or two. We notice those who are no longer present, but we cannot lose sight of the beauty and love of those who are here. As our church staff of Jimmy, Kim and I discuss regularly, we need to be attentive to what and where you are. Yes, you are the ones who bring joy and life into First UCC now. You are creating holy memories and meaningful expressions of faith. God is indeed blessing First UCC and all of us these days. I see it in the commitment of our bell choir and chancel choir; I see it in our Senior Social and Fishes and Loaves faithful; it is with our church board members; our building and restoration crew as they look to the new possibilities. I am grateful for those who fill the pews on Sunday or attend Facebook Live or even the early risers online for our Sunrise Salutation. All of this is to say, we hold everyone in prayer and stand strong in the faith together.

(continued on next page)



Table of Contents

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

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The Pastor's Report (cont.)

As I mentioned in last week's sermon, Amy and I regularly call each other to conversation over three blessings of a particular time and/or place, e.g., our honeymoon memories, a recollection from a church event, or a family gathering. It spurs a sense of gratitude and soulfulness within us. We are now turning to a similar practice, but one that has us looking forward. You try it: think of three things you look forward to – e.g., over the next five years, or in an upcoming season. This practice calls us to imagine the future. I invite you and our Church to do the same. In Lent, what are three things we look forward to over the next five weeks as we head to Easter on April 9? What three things might God be calling you to be about -- a commitment to call a church member once a week? send cards to members in need of prayer and blessing? or maybe attending worship online or in person each week? Perhaps something else stirs within you. Listen to this calling, discern it with a companion, and then be attentive to those around you.

Again, I invite you to tap into your memories of loved ones and give thanks. But I also encourage you to look around church on a Sunday and notice the individual or family whom you do not know or do not know well who is here now. I trust that they and you are here because people seek to be inspired and encouraged in their faith journey. I am thankful for the number of people who brighten these days here at First Church. Easter will be here in no time. Let us cherish the present and look to resurrection in all times of life.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dan

P.S. On behalf of my mom and my family, thank you for your prayers. Lucy is recovering and doing better following open-heart surgery on February 6.



What's the Buzz?

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

Pastor Dan's message this past Sunday (February 26) is one that I hope to keep with me not only throughout Lent but for many months to come. It is the reminder that you don't have to give up laughter in Lent. Life can often weigh us down, but laughter, time with friends and family, time in nature, prayer/meditation, and other great moments can lift us up and move us forward. I always enjoy the weekly laughter that takes place during choir, handbell choir, the youth bible study, and staff conversations in the office with Dan and Kim. I am grateful for the many church connections that have helped me (and will continue to help me) laugh and move forward this Lenten season and beyond.

This month, the choir will be performing a variety of tunes with genres ranging from contemporary Christian to a Dolly Parton hit. Each week, I hope the songs' messages will stick with you and excite you for Easter morning on April 9. The handbell choir will be playing their rendition of "Beautiful Savior" on March 5. I am excited to announce yet another new face to the group... thank you, Jay, for your willingness to ring with us! Although the sanctuary can't get any bigger for handbell tables, I will do all that I can to make room for anyone who wants to be part of the group! The same goes for the adult choir and *come una*.

On Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25, Dan and I attended the Heartland Conference's Faith Formation Convention. We had great conversations with fellow faith formation leaders in our state, and these chats energized me to continue thinking outside of the box, especially how we as a church can be the church by being more involved in the community. Currently, our youth continues to read and discuss Brianna Wiest's "The Mountain is You." I am looking at another book to follow up this one, though I see us getting out and about the community more this spring and summer. I am in conversation with the music director at Lakeview UCC in Maineville (whose daughter takes part in *come una*) about taking First UCC's youth to one of their Sunday services; we would combine with their adult choir to perform a piece or two. This would be a wonderful opportunity to highlight the youth in their church as I did in our sanctuary in January. I will have more information in the coming weeks.

The work I do on the church's social media accounts and website is hours of planning, designing, and executing content that accurately portrays our mission, faith in action, and all that we believe at First UCC. If you notice any errors on our Facebook, Instagram, or website, please let me know and I will promptly update it. If you are active in any aspect of the church and would like an activity or event highlighted on our media platforms, please let me know! I try to feature all that we do in the life of the church, but maybe I've missed something or couldn't be at an event to take pictures, so let's chat and I'll create such a post!

This month, throughout Lent, and for years to come, remember this: keep laughing, find joy in the little things, and spend time with the people you love.

Have a great month!
Jimmy

You are a beloved child of God!



Jimmy Wiederhold
Director of Music, Media,
and Faith Formation

Anniversaries

03/12 – Larry & Carol Ann Brzezinski (25th)

03/24 – Ron & Anita Durrett



Birthdays

03/03 – Bill Henrich

03/03 – Sandy Smith

03/05 – Gary Smith

03/07 – Jean Krebs

03/10 – Tommy Buttelwerth

03/12 – Paul Gray

03/13 – Ander Weyand-Geise

03/13 – Ike Weyand-Geise

03/14 – Milt Hauck

03/19 – Mike Keller

03/19 – Miss Kiki LaRue Durrett

03/20 – Joe Bilz

03/26 – Rev. Henry Marksberry

03/26 – Levi Runck

03/28 – Hilda Faulkner

03/29 – MiMi Chamberlin

~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Diane Burger and Megan Fissel (at the passing of Megan's boyfriend, Michael Zieverink); Dennis Godsey (nephew of Ginny Krebs); Dawn (friend of Dani Powley); Paula H. and family (friends of Ed and Bev Bosse); The Bitzenhofer Family at the passing of Jim's sister, Mary Lou Kiefer; Nicara W. (dear friend of Ed and Bev Bosse); Jim Kissel and the entire Kissel family at the passing of Ginny; Stephanie (friend of Mary Day); Sharon Godsey (niece of Ginny Krebs); Heather Nichols (niece of Susan Ley); Margie & Robert Barnett (neighbors of Linda Krebs); Kathy & Jim Finegan (mother and stepfather of Christine Guillory); Mary Sanker (cousin of Janet Copenhaver); Dan McClanahan (son of Ollie Helm); Lee Johnson (friend of Terri Stang); Family of Jackie Smith; Brenda (daughter of Ron Kirkman); Barb Shawn (aunt of Suwanna 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); 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 and Ron Rodenbeck); Glenn Smith (son of Jackie Smith).

Follow us!



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Life of the Church

Memorials

Gift to the General Fund in Memory of Mary Lou Kiefer

From: David and Barbara Carl

Gift to the Meditation Garden in Memory of Ginny Kissel

From: Ginny Krebs

Senior Social and Fishes and Loaves

It is good to have both groups back up and running! We thank everyone for their patience during the last couple of months. (No Senior Social or Fishes & Loaves on March 1). Will resume on March 8.

No Rummage Sale

Due to the ongoing renovations, we won't be having our March rummage sale. We hope to have our October rummage sale. Store up!

The Guild

The next luncheon/meeting of the Guild is on Thursday, March 23 in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!

Celebration of Life

There will be a Celebration of Life for Ginny Kissel on Saturday, March 25, at 1:00 p.m. An ice cream social will follow in the fellowship hall.

Deepest Sympathy

To Jim and Carol Bitzenhofer at the death of Jim's beloved sister, Mary Lou Kiefer. She was always a faithful rummage sale worker. Mary Lou died on February 5. Her services were February 11.

Our prayers also go out to Diane Burger and her daughter Megan Fissel at the death of Megan's boyfriend, Michael Zieverink. Services were held February 15.

January 2023

Board Meeting Minutes

First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes January 9, 2023 (In-Person & Zoom)

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

Excused: Margie Spatz

- I. **Call to Order** -- June called the meeting to order.
- II. **Devotion** -- Pastor Dan
- III. **Treasurer's Report (Christy):** The December reports were accepted, and approval was given to pay December and some water related expenses. It was suggested that we provide Christy with an address list of all Mission Partners. We also differentiated for her the Youth Fund versus Youth General Fund. We then instructed her to pay the plumber for the work due to water damage done. Ed would also like to be paid for the dehumidifiers he rented and that be submitted as part of the expenses for the cleanup. A.K. Butler to be paid for 12/26 trip to clear out grease trap area. Milt then suggested Christy create a "Noah's Flood" Category for all related flood expenses.
 Motion: Travis Second: Bruce Approved: All
 Motion to Pay Bills: Milt Second: Darrell Approved: All in favor
- IV. **Recording Secretary's Report (Bruce's)** – The December report with 1 correction along with the Special Meeting for Water Damage report and the Notes from the meeting with the insurance Adjuster was accepted.
 Motion: Ruth Second: Travis Approved: All in favor
- V. **Financial Secretary's Report (Darrell)** –The December report was accepted:
 Motion: Christine Second: Milt Accepted: All in favor
- VI. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Dan submitted his report to the Church Board

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- VII. **Constitution and By-Laws** – Bruce reminded the Board that April Congregational Meeting will be upon us soon and that we need to finish the work done. It was decided that the smaller group of Bruce, Pastor Dan, Christine, Bill and Bernie W. work on this and make recommendations to the board. Once

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January 2023

Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Pastor Dan is back from his vacation this will start. We then discussed a date for the Congregational Meeting and **APRIL 23, 2023** was set for it.

VIII. MISSIONS TEAM

Washington UCC - Pastor Dan reported on several of our Missions endeavors. Larry B. is on the Washington UCC Board and they have a new part-time minister, Melissa. She has been invited to come and share a Mission Moment in February.

MARCC – ZOOM meeting this Wednesday at Noon to discuss the housing Health Ministries – TeriLynn and Kathie S. worked after church Sunday to start to go through things from the office.

IX. **MUSIC TEAM** – lots of things happening with the choir and bell choir and special guests. Great change for New Year's Day service. Special Music coming the rest of the month.

X. Facilities Committee (Ed)

Mitigation – report from All Brothers has yet to be received. They told Ed it would be here this week.

Insurance Investigator's Report – Notes were written up from the meeting and sent to members of the Board. We then suggested that we ask if the "carpet" can be separate from the "General Contractor's" work.

Questions were asked about policy and are we up to date code wise. Fans were used to help out and will be returned to IHN area.

Insurance will coach us on how to make sure we report all things that happened and all repairs. We need to get the volunteers (list from 12/24) to give us how many hours they worked helping clean up. We are to list work done, pictures of damaged goods for F&L. Document all things related, tools that were damaged in rooms, trophies, financial records need to be gone through and other church memorabilia.

We need all bills submitted for things done. We also talked about submitting the increased water bill since we were instructed to turn the faucets on and the main valve was not totally turned off.

IX. Old Business –

Pastor Dan brought up that the MOVIE should be sending us a check in the next week for use of our facility during the filming here in College Hill.

Bruce asked the Church Board about when we might send out a Stewardship Letter which encourages the members and friends to Cultivate Generous

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January 2023

Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Congregations. It was decided to send it out in February after we know more about our financial needs for the renovation after the Christmas Eve Flooding.

The Church Board decided we need a separate committee for the RESTORATION. Several names were suggested with specific skills.
 Moved – Christine Second – Darrell Approved – All in Favor

XI. New Business –

Sink Hole – Ed reported he had consulted with the plumber, who said the hole is not expanding and could wait till the spring for more feedback. No report has been received yet from the City, Water Works or Sewer District. Darrell reported that Geiler Plumbing is checking on the problem.

Ed also reported that Bill Spatz had noticed the vent in the Kitchen wall was in need of repair / replacement and this was done for a cost of \$75.00. The bill is to be submitted.

Water by Grease Trap in Laundry Room – A.K. Bulter reported that the grease trap needs to be replaced as the welds are leaking and causing the problem. They have a company which they use for these, Robert Jones, who will make a new one for a cost of \$1,965.00.

Moved: Darrell Second: Christine Approved: All approved

It was also suggested that before the new grease trap be installed that the floor around that area be cleaned up. A couple of names were suggested to help with this job. Pastor Dan will follow up.

XI. Adjournment

Moved: Ruth Beck Second: Travis Approved: All approved

XII. Lord's Prayer

Led by Pastor Dan

*Submitted by: Bruce Steinhard
 Recording Secretary*

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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