

May 2022 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

Sometimes I wonder why it took so long to emerge from winter (remember the snow in mid-April?); and then there are moments like now that make me shake my head in wonder how Easter has come and gone and we are heading into May: College freshman are completing their first year; Mother's Day approaches; tulips are in full bloom; spring clothes are pulled from the closet; high school graduations begin to take place. There is a renewal of energy, attention, and purpose.

The pandemic can be equated with a long winter. Through the pandemic, our purpose at church was at times to connect with one another, check in on those who were alone or sick, serve the community in new ways through social media, drive-through visits, meals on wheels, etc. This long winter created growth in unforeseen ways. Though there remains a chill in the air, we are returning to something familiar. We have purpose and meaning again in familiar ways and in some new discoveries. Let me explain.

We have been planting seeds over the past two years. Our social media presence, community outreach, youth focus, Open and Affirming efforts, new choirs, adult education and youth classes starting in May – all of these reveal a different landscape. It is already quite apparent as with the bell choir and social media presentations (worship, Sunrise Salutations, website design), while with others the bulb is still waiting to come forth from the ground. Both Jimmy and I have church cards with “Be the Church” on the back of the card. It is a vision of church that propels us into the lives and world of everyday concerns and people.

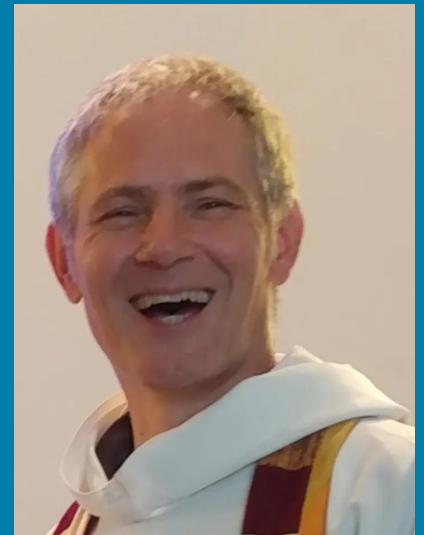


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The Pastor's Report (cont.)

First Church is a place of sanctuary and purpose with our ministries, outreach, and connection to the community and friends. Recently a dear musician and friend of the church came into our sanctuary to rehearse for an upcoming presentation. He walked in with a smile and a warm greeting to me and another, and stated emphatically, "I feel at home here. Lots of beautiful moments here!!" He is right. The Spring renews our spirit just as those moments in church, at fellowship, at work, in community service and at play can do the same. First UCC impacts and inspires people. May we come together in unity and song to care for the sick, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger. This is our call to Be the Church this month and every month. A new season is here.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dan



In the Spotlight



A long-time staple in Northside, this bakery remains a favorite for Pastor Dan to pick up pastries for meetings, church, or to go with his coffee. **Bonomini Bakery** is adjusting to changes in staff due to a sudden death. They are currently open on Fridays and Saturdays. They have always supplied First UCC with pies and salted rye for our sauerkraut dinners. We thank them for their support of our Guild Calendar.



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What's the Buzz?

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

The month of May means that after ten months of hard work and phenomenal performances, the choir and handbell choir will soon take a break for the summer. I remain incredibly grateful for every member's dedication to their respective group. Each one of them gives so much time, not only in rehearsal but outside of the church too, learning and perfecting a piece before its performance. While I will miss working with these groups the two and a half months they are on break, I am excited for the opportunity to welcome special music guests throughout the summer. If you want to share your talent with the church, come talk to me! A few individuals you will hear this summer include Kim Ogden, Sandy Brzezinski, the fantastic clarinet quartet of Mason, Anna, Katie, and myself, saxophonist Michael Sawzin, cellist Bryce Kessler, vocalists Jessica Fair and Cece Hunt, percussionists Jennie and Brian Malone, trumpeter Nathan Top, and trombonist Austin Pancner.

Regarding the church's social media accounts and website, there are two things I want to reiterate: first and most foremost, invite people to like and follow our accounts. Let them check us out through our online presence to see what we're all about. The younger generations are especially more likely to visit a place in person once they've checked out the place's socials and website and like what they've seen. Secondly, I am looking for someone to talk my ear off regarding the history of First UCC – from Apple and Hoffner Streets to present day Glenview Avenue. If this person is you, please let me know!

May is the start of many exciting things with our church's faith formation. Pastor Dan will begin after-service sessions with adults while I begin T.E.E.N.S. (a time of Teaching, Enlightening, Encouraging, Nurturing, Safety) with our young adults on May 22. After some fun ice breakers and getting to know one another, I will talk more about the group's focus of the year titled, "Be the Church." Yes, our bimonthly sessions will be designed around the very 6'x12' banner that will soon be hanging up in the narthex/lobby! By mid-May, the narthex will also welcome new youth posters and an activity table along the hospitality room wall. Keep an eye on the empty display cabinet... it, too, will soon be filled!



Jimmy Wiederhold
Director of Music, Media,
and Faith Formation



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We are just two months away from our youth trip to Washington D.C.! Thank you to everyone who has supported the youth and this trip through fundraisers like the Keurig coffee machine, breakfast on April 24 before the congregational meeting, and individual donations. Another youth breakfast is scheduled for Father's Day, June 19, so mark your calendars! Dan and I are very excited for the many adventures planned while we are in D.C., including reconnecting with Maddie Weyand-Geise and Christina Bilz. A huge thank you to the chaperones joining us for this adventure: Ander, Kendra, and Patty.

Have a great month!
Jimmy

Continued Prayers for Ukraine

Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.

All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for "Ukraine Relief." Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need. One can also mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**.

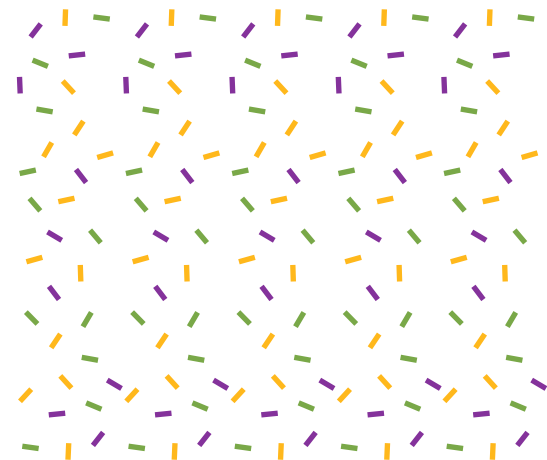
Please be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section. (See First UCC website / Faith in Action).

What's the Buzz? (cont.)



Anniversaries

05/16 – Matt & Lynn Weiner
 05/22 – Ron & Marilyn Mandery
 05/30 – Eric & Jenn Beckman



Birthdays

05/04 – Kyler Mandery (1st)
 05/06 – Tom, The Dog (13th)
 05/08 – Sharon Rodenbeck
 05/09 – Ron Mandery (70th)
 05/12 – Alex Beckman
 05/12 – J.C. Owens
 05/14 – Carol Bitzenhofer
 05/20 – Jim Kissel
 05/22 – Jenn Beckman
 05/28 – Debra Starddard
 (Pressley)
 05/29 – Kendra Pressley
 05/29 – Bernie Wehman

~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Sharon (friend of Hilda Faulkner); Pam (friend of Hilda Faulkner); Sheila Spearman (daughter of Jackie Smith); Steve Smith (son of Jackie Smith); Jacqueline Forbis (daughter of Jackie Smith); Janet Roland and Cynthia Roland (nieces of Jackie Smith); Brenda (daughter of Ron Kirkman); Family of Jim Hayes (Ron Hayes' brother); Judy Henderson (friend of the Senior Social); Hannah Steinhard (daughter of Bruce & Kathie); Family of Maggie Lane (dear friend of Jenny Schumacher); Linda Blatt (friend of the Senior Social); 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; Agnes Patterson (friend of Jackie Smith); Larry, Carol Ann and Sandy Brzezinski.

Follow us!



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First United Church of Christ

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Life of the Church

Tell Me About First UCC...

Pastor Dan will meet with anyone interested in learning more about First UCC on May 15 after church. It is a chance to ask questions and explore First UCC identity, traditions, and possibilities. Coffee and donuts provided.

Cincinnati Premier with a Neighbor Connection

Our Serbian Orthodox Church neighbors have invited us to the Cincinnati movie premier of "Beyond the Peak". It is a documentary story about a group of Orthodox friends who go on a spiritual retreat. The premier is on May 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Esquire Theatre on Ludlow Avenue in Clifton. See Pastor Dan if you're interested in tickets. They're \$15 each.

FYI from The Guild

This month's Guild meeting is Thursday, May 26. It's a covered dish luncheon that starts at noon; social hour beginning 11:30 a.m. All are welcome! We are exploring plans for an outdoor festival and Sauerkraut Dinner in early fall. Stay tuned for the exciting details.....

IHN New Name

Come On May 11 at 6:30 p.m. here at First Church, those who have been involved with IHN in the past are invited to hear about the new changes going on. For starters, they have a new name – Found House Interfaith Housing Network – but the same mission. Contact Pastor Dan for more information.

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Garden Beauty

For Easter weekend the garden was in nice shape despite a cold Spring. The pond and waterfall were flowing nicely. We will continue to prepare the garden for some upcoming planting (after Mother's Day). We also hope to have another butterfly release for a Sunday service to mark the garden's 20th anniversary. Details will be forthcoming. Call Amy WG at 513-317-2063 or Dan at 513-317-2064 if you have questions. We have some exciting flowers and colors that will be in abundance by May and June, but the preparation begins now.

Here are some additional ways to connect and continue your support of the garden:

- Evening work in the garden are announced via text/email, or you can make arrangements to meet; feel free to call Amy WG if you have some time to spare. Amy can send pics via text of areas that need focus.
- Service hours available for teens.
- Donate transplants from your garden or friends' gardens. Call Amy to make arrangements and discuss options.

How to join the group emails/texts/reminders:

Email: amyweyandgeise@gmail.com

Call/text her cell (see above for number)



March 2022

Council Meeting Minutes

First United Church of Christ Church Board Meeting Minutes March 14, 2022 – In-Person & Zoom

Attendance: Zoom attendees - Ruth Beck, June Bronnert, Travis Mandery, Kendra Pressley, Margie Spatz, (acting treasurer) Kathie Steinhard

In-Person -- Darrell Copenhaver, Milt Hauck, Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise
Invited guests: (neighbor) Doug Trimmel, Ed Bosse

Excused: Christine Guillory (college tours), Bill Henrich (snowbird)

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

II. Devotion: Pastor Dan opened the meeting with welcome of guest neighbor Doug Trimmel and had a prayer.

III. Neighbor's Perspective - Long-time Glenview homeowner Doug Trimmel wanted to speak with the Board and express his gratitude for the church's presence in the neighborhood. He highlighted several aspects of our church grounds that he and the neighbors appreciate. He is thankful for the recent clearance of honeysuckle between his property and the church's property. The church's recent decision to tear out parking lot for the green space is also appreciated. The neighbors love the pastoral feel of the church grounds and the ability to have a "slice of heaven on earth right in their own neighborhood." Doug left the church with some old photos of the original home and the carriage house. He shared some history of the estate.

IV. Presentation of Reports:

Recording Secretary's Report (Christine) January and February reports were reviewed and accepted. Milt Hauck made the motion to approve the reports; Ruth Beck seconded; all approved.

V. Financial Secretary's Report: Darrell presented. It was noted that Tithely donations have been made for the family who had the fire across from the church. Donations automatically receive a thank you, but Pastor Dan will follow up with the donors with update on the family's condition. Ruth Beck made motion to approve; Travis Mandery seconded; all approved.

VI. Financial Treasurer's Report: Kathie reported there are no unusual bills or expenses. Darrell Copenhaver made motion to approve; Travis Mandery seconded; all approved.

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March 2022

Council Meeting Minutes (cont.)

IV. Pastor's Report (Pastor Dan): Pastor Dan shared the following updates:

- *Soup and Share – Tuesday is our final time with Mary Laymon. Hope to continue these listening sessions as a congregation.*
- *College Hill Ministerium – Pastor Dan will be co-chair of this group.*
- **MARCC** – Annual meeting was nicely attended by UCC. Mayor spoke on issues of Housing and Community/Police Relations.
- **Sunday Worship** – Attendance coming back to more regular attendance
- **Pastoral Needs** – Pastor Dan shared that many in the congregation are experiencing stress and frustrations. He asked the Church Board to be sensitive to these needs, and to offer help when possible.
- **Communion** – First Church will be returning to the monthly celebration of Communion beginning in March (first Sunday of the month).

VII. Committee Reports

Facilities Team - Team received a bid of \$1900 to remove several trees, trimming, and mulching. In team's estimation, a very fair price for the services rendered. Board approved with Milt making recommendation and Ruth Beck seconding. All approved. This is the Mt. Airy group that has been used in the past.

Meditation Garden (Pastor Dan for Amy Weyand-Geise) – Wild flowers and other colorful designs will be planted in time. But first some serious spring cleanup will take place on Saturdays from 8:30 – 12:30 a.m. on March 19, 26, April 2 and 9th in preparation for baptism on the 9th and Holy Week beginning April 10.

Mission Team - CAIN again meeting in Fellowship Hall on the third Saturday of the month. Jean Krebs is still on CAIN board and opens. IHN

VII. Old Business

- A. By-laws Review** (Pastor Dan) – A group comprised of Christine Guillory, Bill Henrich, Bruce Steinhard, Bernie Wehman, and Pastor Dan is reviewing the 1993 document for needed updates. Group has begun work, but realized they will need to look at some other church's by-laws. The goal is to present changes to the Church Board later this year, followed by consideration by the congregation at the Fall Congregational Meeting in October.

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March 2022

Council Meeting Minutes (cont.)

- B. Church Insurance Policy** – Darrell Copenhaver and David Krebs are looking into options for a potential new insurance carrier. Eric Beckman has reached out to the church to examine the current policy and possibly present other options.
- C. Treasurer position** – Still awaiting word from Christy Meyer regarding her availability and her proposal to provide treasury services to the church.
- D. Congregational Meeting** – reminder that it is scheduled for April 24. Committees and Teams should submit a short report to be included in packets.

VIII. New Business

Scouts – Pastor Dan reported that Dennis Meyer from the Boy Scouts asked if the Church would be willing to host a Cub Scout troop. Board said Scouts likely welcomed to use the space pending more information.

Follow-up to the Boy Scout bankruptcy filing – still awaiting information on the proceedings.

Greg Pierson and Stephen Young would like to conduct a community concert at First on May 15. This would be in the afternoon. Board approved.

Question about the flags in the front. The pole seems to be shorter. Pastor Dan will ask Paul Kluesener about it. Paul has replaced the flags recently.

B. New Members – Successful meeting for inquiries into the church, Pastor Dan shared that he will hold a meeting again on April 3 with anyone interested in learning about First UCC.

IX. Executive Session – Board went into Executive Session to discuss budget. Pastor Dan was asked to leave the meeting at this point.

X. Adjournment

- Submitted by Darrell Copenhaver and Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise



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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