



# June 2022 Newsletter

## The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

### “Ok, Time to Get out of bed”

I'm pretty sure most people at some point in their lives have either said this to themselves or had a parent screaming this phrase from outside the teenager's bedroom door. With the war atrocities in Ukraine, the shootings in a Buffalo grocery store, also in a California church, and horrifically at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, it is expected that many of us want to pull the bed covers over our heads and remain there. The sad and hopeless feelings are profound even if we don't know any of the victims or if we are even remotely tied to the situation. There is a heaviness to life that all are feeling these days.

### “Ok, Time to Get out of bed”

On Memorial Day, thousands got out of bed and meandered downtown to make a difference. The annual Hunger Walk took place with a great turnout from First UCC (30+). People rallied around a common cause to serve the community and address hunger. It was a festive event where old and new friends alike hung out together and cheered everyone on; hoofed it over the Clay Wade Bailey Bridge and strolled back to the Banks; or they sprinted their way through the streets of Covington and back past Paul Brown Stadium like our own Jimmy W did in an impressive time of under 25 minutes – he finished in the top 25 of the men!! Ander and Nate WG were the fastest fruit and egg in the race!! (see photos if you don't know what that means). With the events of the Spring throughout the world, the Hunger Walk was a bit cathartic for all who participated. Once we got out of bed, we felt like we were doing something positive for the community and for our spirit.

### “Ok, Time to Get out of bed”

Of course, the next morning the muscles were a bit sore, the back ached, and the feet needed to soak a little longer in Epsom salt.



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## The Pastor's Report (cont.)

We awoke to news of Russia's continued push into Ukraine; more stories about the families in Uvalde whose lives are destroyed; the political arguments that become more heated around women's rights over her own body; the opinions that divide families over gun laws. It is clear that a difficult summer stretch lies ahead for all of us. We make a difference, and the challenges of life still present themselves.

### “Ok, Time to Get out of bed”

We are to take a cue from our Hunger Walk. Stretch the muscles, drink lots of water, nourish our bodies and souls as we encounter the world. It is a marathon. It is life. There will be pain and sweat, heartache and fatigue, but there is also the view of thousands of others of goodwill. Women, men, children along the way who will bring delight and smiles. We will see views of beauty and grace along the pathways of life. Families do come together in moments of grief and heartache. Enemies and opponents on various issues like guns, health issues, education, you name it, can come together and arrive at thoughtful, safe and just decisions. Hard conversations will take place. But it all starts with your decision. Don't hide or shy away. The spirit of God is here. A spirit of good will, compassion, joy and love. The people of God are cheering along the way. But it starts with you – “Time to get out of bed!!”

Summer blessings and honor be upon all of us.

Pastor Dan



## In the Spotlight



This month's Guild calendar sponsor that we highlight is **Hodapp's Funeral Home** in College Hill. They are an integral part of the College Hill community and do so much more than just service families in times of need. They are located on Hamilton Avenue and are a wonderful family who are excellent with their care and professionalism.



# What's the Buzz?

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

Ah, June. A wonderful month of warmth, summer vacations, and a time to reconnect with the outdoors. I'm looking forward to my annual family trip to Norris Lake, Tennessee, where I spend my days on my parents' boat – something I have done since I was eight years old. Although the choir and handbell choir have the next three months off, each Sunday will be full of music featuring many wonderful musicians, both church members as well as friends of mine. On June 5, Greg Rogers will be joining me with his cello for a beautiful meditation on Handel's Cello Sonata in g minor. June 12 will feature Anna and Mason B. and myself on clarinets for a day of uplifting trios. I will be away June 19 but when I return for Pride Sunday on June 26, I will be joined by Sandy Brzezinski for a performance of "You'll Never Walk Alone" – a perfect tribute for the day.

The trophy case in Fellowship Hall has been updated to include artifacts from the church on Hoffner Street – be sure to check it out next time you're around! On Pentecost Sunday, June 5, Pastor Dan and I will reveal the new "Be the Church" banner that will be on display in the narthex (above the entrance to Fellowship Hall and the hallway). The banner arrived in mid-May and looks wonderful! Other additions to the narthex include the Kids' Korner (with weekly activities that are age-appropriate and fitting for the week's scripture readings), as well as framed documents of our covenant near Fellowship Hall, and next to the Parlor, our ONA certification.

We are just one month away from our youth trip to Washington D.C.! Plans for the week are being finalized, transportation and housing is secured, and we are counting down the moments until we get to go explore our nation's capital! 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. Dan and I are very excited for the many adventures we have planned, 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



**Jimmy Wiederhold**

Director of Music, Media,  
and Faith Formation

## From the Pulpit to the Pew

Here's an opportunity to spend a few extra minutes after church bringing out thoughts, feelings, or memories that the service may have sparked. Join Pastor Dan for prayer and conversation following church. We are calling it "from the Pulpit to the Pew." It is a way to share and spark your spiritual imagination. We will meet in the church parlor on the same days the teens gather for their study. In June the dates are June 12 and 24. Our first gathering in May was filled with laughter, insight, and quiet reflection.

## 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).

## Anniversaries

06/13 – Paul & Lynn Kluesener  
 06/18 – Ron & Cindy Beckman  
 06/22 – Jim & Lex Weyand  
 06/27 – Mike & Kim Ogden (35th)



## Birthdays

06/01 – Misti Cornish  
 06/05 – June Bronnert  
 06/05 – Jim Bitzenhofer  
 06/05 – Jeff Rodenbeck (50th)  
 06/06 – Luke Rodenbeck (16th)  
 06/08 – Mo,  
           Brother of Tom the Dog  
 06/10 – Emily Mayer  
 06/11 – Susie Cairns  
 06/13 – Karen Geiger-Behm  
 06/14 – Ron Kirkman  
 06/15 – Bev Bosse  
 06/17 – Marilyn Mandery  
 06/23 – Dawnya Froman  
 06/30 – Brian Beckman

## ~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

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); 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); Judy Henderson (friend of the Senior Social); Hannah Steinhard (daughter of Bruce & Kathie); 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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# Life of the Church

## Greetings to All...

Patsy Koch, longtime member of First Church, wanted me to pass along her love to everyone. She is no longer able to come to church. She misses everyone very much. She sends her best to all her church family and friends. You're in her prayers. Please keep her in your prayers, as well. – Kim Ogden

## Garden Beauty

The lush rains of May have produced some brilliant colors and textures in all of our gardens. Here at First Church the same holds true. We were able to transplant some hosta, lillies and lamb's ears to fill in some of the front gardens as well as the meditation garden. Thank you to Sue Bilz and the WG home gardens for these donations. You may have also noticed the beautiful Itoh Peony that bloomed right in front of the bell tower. This unique beauty was courtesy of Mickey Heiob. Thank you, Mickey. You had people wondering what kind of flower it was. The rock walls are being changed a bit and we appreciate Nate WG and Bill Spatz for their continued assistance with the rocks and the garden spaces at First UCC. The pond and waterfall are turned on during the Sunday services. The water flows nicely and the water lilies and fish are quite happy. We do not keep the pond running during the week.

Again, if you want to assist, please contact Amy. We love volunteers, but also appreciate it if you do not pull out anything if you are not 100% sure it is a weed. After 20 years, Pastor Dan is almost to the point he can identify weeds, but even then, he checks or leaves things alone when he is unsure. There are plenty of beds on the grounds that simply need raked and fluffed. The grounds are absolutely gorgeous and something all can enjoy. There are wonderful places to meditate, pray, and meet. This summer marks the 20th year. We will have a special occasion to mark the anniversary. More details will be coming in June. Thank you for all of the donations. "For the beauty of the Earth!!"

## FYI from The Guild

This month's Guild meeting is Thursday, June 23 (TBD). We'll meet at noon. All are welcome! We are exploring plans for an outdoor festival and Sauerkraut Dinner in early fall. Stay tuned for the exciting details...



*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 will gather after our morning worship service twice a month to share insights as we read our way through the many facets of Love and consider ways to put these ideas into action.

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

- July 17 – Introduction and Conversation
- July 31 – Grace: Touched by Love
- August 7 - Clarity: Give Love Words
- August 21 - Justice: Childhood Love Lessons
- September 4 - Honesty: Be True to Love
- September 18 - Commitment: Let Love Be Love in Me
- 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

### **How to get your copy of the book:**

- Visit your favorite book seller
- Download a copy from Libby onto your tablet or iReader
- Roebling Point Books will have copies available for 15% off retail price between June 1 and July 17. You don't need to say anything special to receive the discount.
  - Address: 306 Greenup St, Covington, KY 41011
  - Stay and enjoy a coffee while you browse!
- Let Amy WG know you need a copy before July 10. She'll pick it up for you and have it available on July 17 - \$15

Questions? Reach out to Amy Weyand-Geise:

Email: [amyweyandgeise@gmail.com](mailto:amyweyandgeise@gmail.com)

Text or call: 513-317-2063

Reach out to Pastor Dan:

Email: [danweyandgeise@gmail.com](mailto:danweyandgeise@gmail.com)

Text or call: 513-317-2064

April 2022

# Council Meeting Minutes

**First United Church of Christ  
Church Board Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2022 – held at CAIN’s Annette’s Place & via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Ruth Beck, June Bronnert, Darrell Copenhaver, Christine Guillory, Milt Hauck, Bill Henrich, Kendra Pressley, Kathie Steinhard, Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise.

**Excused:** Margie Spatz

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

**II. Devotion:** Pastor Dan opened the meeting with prayer.

**A. Recording Secretary’s Report (Christine)**

1. Motion to accept: Ruth
2. Second: Darrell
3. Accepted: all in favor

**B. Financial Secretary’s Report (Darrell)**

1. Motion to accept: Bill
2. Second: Christine
3. Accepted: all in favor

**C. Treasurer’s Report (Kathie)**

1. Motion to accept: Darrell
2. Second: Bill
3. Accepted: all in favor

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

- A. **Services** – Pastor Dan shared times for Easter week services and events, and requested help from Church Board members to serve as greeters, readers, and Easter-egg hidiers. Dan noted that there are extra funds in the budget for special music at Easter and Christmas. Kathie and Bill will coordinate check-writing between the Memorial Fund and the General Fund.
- B. **Educational gatherings** – After-church gatherings for youth and adults will begin in mid-May, with Pastor Dan leading sessions for adults and Jimmy and other volunteers with youth. Jimmy will provide more details at the Congregational Meeting. Donut sponsors are needed for these events. A sign-up sheet will be created.
- C. **Mission** – CAIN’s ribbon cutting for Annette’s Place (named for Annette Liebing) and their pantry re-opening was held April 11, with Ollie Helm

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April 2022

# Council Meeting Minutes (cont.)

recognized for her volunteer efforts. Christ's Community is becoming involved with housing and foster care, in addition to their pantry. IHN will continue housing families experiencing homelessness in motels through the summer. First Church's drive for the neighborhood family affected by fire raised more than \$2,000 in cash and gift cards. Many thanks to those who donated.

- D. ***Congregational Meeting*** – The meeting will be held Sunday, April 24 following church service. The Youth will prepare a breakfast fundraiser for their summer trip to D.C. Committee heads are asked to submit a 1-page report to share at the meeting.
- E. ***Sauerkraut Dinner*** – Pastor Dan and Amy are interested in holding an outdoor Sauerkraut Dinner, along with beer/wine tent, in September 2022. The Church Board was in support. The idea will be presented at the Congregational Meeting.
- F. ***May 1*** – Pastor Dan shared that he will be away for a retreat on Sunday, May 1. Rev. Karen Geiger-Behm will preach.

### III. Committee Reports

A. ***Facilities*** (Darrell) – Another company will be coming out to look at and offer recommendations and an estimate to deal with the building's foundation issues. An issue was reported about fill dirt being used under the topsoil in the new Green Space, which will be addressed when Rack returns this spring to work on the planned walkways and reseeded.

B. ***Meditation Garden*** (Pastor Dan for Amy) – The garden crew was able to hold a few Saturday work days, but several were cancelled due to rain and cold. The pond still needs to be drained.

### IV. Old Business – NONE

### V. New Business

A. ***Offering During Church Service*** – A suggestion was made to consider incorporating an offering collection during church service again (which had been suspended during Covid). After discussion, the Church Board agreed to continue placing baskets at the back of the church, to be presented at the altar during service.

### VI. Adjournment

### VII. Lord's Prayer

*Submitted by Christine Guillory  
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

Travis Mandery, Vice-President

Treasurer – Kathie Steinhard, 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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