

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

June 2025 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

I will take a chance and state that when we were children, all of us looked forward to June. School is out for the summer. Endless days of play in the neighborhood, at pools, on baseball fields, at band camps, at Vacation Bible School, or simply indoors with a favorite snack playing games or watching reruns of Andy Griffith. We all looked forward to June.

You're an adult now. Do you still look forward to summer? Do you take advantage of the long evenings to walk the neighborhood; work in the garden early before it gets too hot; sit on the front step and listen to the sound of cicadas and birds serenading the break of day; hang out near a fire pit as the crickets usher in the summer nights; host an out-of-town guest for a night or two; make a day-trip to visit an old friend; or dip your toes into the neighborhood pool? Summer pops with adventure and moments to remember.

If you still are reading, I wanted to bury the lead. You see June marks a significant date for us. You, First Church friend, and the Weyand-Geise family have been together now 25 years. We began our time together on June 4, 2000. That is amazing in these days no matter what one's calling. Marriages don't last that long, let alone friendships, jobs, or church pastorates. What inspires me is I feel like summer vacation is beginning again for me here at First UCC. By this I mean that there is an excitement that still resides in the congregation in our covenant together. It is bigger than you or me. It actually is bigger than us. It is about the calling to be in community with one another. We witness to an Eternal care, service, love, and hope. We continue to discern how God is calling us to be in faithful witness to the world.

In addition to the pastoral celebration of 25 years, I look forward to June as we honor graduates, men (Father's Day), and contrary to some reports, Pride month. Since 1999, June was officially designated as Pride month because it

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The Pastor's Report (cont.)

commemorates the advocacy for Gay rights because of the 1969 Stonewall riots and uprisings. The '69 uprisings revealed that people were sick and tired of the hate, the fear, and prejudice. This June 26, First UCC serves as the host congregation for Cincinnati's interfaith Pride service. Musicians, clergy, advocates, and families will come here knowing First UCC is a safe place that welcomes and affirms all. The prophetic witness and pastoral support are not just a summer highlight, but a part of the covenant and life here at First UCC that I am proud of. It is our commitment to stand with all that energizes me for this June and beyond. I look forward to celebrating on June 8 at church our 25-year anniversary. But more importantly, I look forward to hearing what excites you about the summer of '25 and what we might envision for the summers that God has in store in our immediate future and long after you and I are gone. I give thanks for our past, present, and our futures together.

Come, stop in, and cool off here at Church. There is always something faithful happening here that connects us all and reminds us all that we are part of the Beloved Community.

Yours in Christ,
Dan

Sympathy and Prayers

Katherine Gutenson's funeral is at Arlington Memorial Gardens funeral home on Friday, June 6 / visitation from 5:00-6:30 p.m.; funeral from 6:30-7:00.

Gary Smith's memorial service was at First Church on Thursday, May 29.

Our sympathy and prayers to their families.

Learn More!
firstunitedchurchofchrist.org





What's the Buzz?

Updates on Music, Media, and Faith Formation

With another successful season of chancel and handbell choir behind us, the summer months welcome in lots of special music guests. We begin June with one of NKU's *Jesus Christ Superstar* stars, Bodie Moore, who played Judas. He sang with ease and great agility during the show, so you don't want to miss the songs he's bringing to First! On June 8, there are a handful of special guests bringing joyful music to the Weyand-Geise anniversary celebration. Their appearance is a surprise, so you'll just need to be there to hear them!

On June 15, Father's Day, I invite anyone who wants to serenade the dads to join me for two songs that day. We will rehearse at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, as well as at 9:30 Father's Day morning. Come sing with me – it's always a good time! Maxwell Fairman and his violin will also be here to share some great classical pieces! I will be out of town on June 22 but will return for the service on June 29, where I will be joined by brothers Dylan and Zach Van Camp. If their names don't sound familiar, you will recognize Dylan's face and voice, as he was Jean Valjean in our recent *Les Misérables* service – his version of "Bring Him Home" had many of us in tears.

I'm delighted to share so many Pride events happening in the life of the church. Friday, June 6 is Pride Night with the Cincinnati Reds. We have a group of about 20 going and it is sure to be a great time. On June 26, First UCC hosts the Interfaith Pride service with Rev. Derek Terry as the guest speaker – amazing UCC representation! And on Saturday, June 28, First UCC has a table at the Cincinnati Pride Festival at Sawyer Point. If you would like to hang out with me that day and show the city how great our church is, just let me know! Growing up Catholic, and then playing organ for a Methodist church for four years, I didn't always feel welcome in church... truth be told, there were times I felt more unwelcome than welcome. But here at First UCC, I love that we are Open and Affirming and that we live out our covenant statement every day; welcoming everyone no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey. So, thank you.

Have a great month! – Jimmy



Jimmy Wiederhold

Director of Music, Media,
and Faith Formation



Birthdays

06/01 – Misti Cornish (30th)
 06/05 – Jeff Rodenbeck
 06/05 – Jim Bitzenhofer
 06/06 – Luke Rodenbeck
 06/08 – Moses Ben Weise
 06/08 – Millie Mae, sister of Mo
 06/11 – Susie Cairns
 06/14 – Ron Kirkman
 06/15 – Bev Bosse
 06/17 – Marilyn Mandery
 06/26 – Vicki Schaefer
 06/28 – Margie Spatz

Anniversaries

06/04 – Pastor Dan's 25th Year as Our Pastor
 06/04 – Steve & Jennifer Mutters (20th)
 06/13 – Paul & Lynn Kluesener
 06/13 – Bob & Ruth Beck
 06/18 – Ron & Cindy Beckman
 06/22 – Jim & Lex Weyand
 06/26 – Bob & Deb Neumeister
 06/27 – Mike & Kim Ogden



~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Family of Gary Smith (husband of Sandy; step-father of Patty Baldwin); Family of Katherine Gutenson (aunt of Kathie Steinhard); Sharon Kazee (prayer asked from Sandy Echols); Lucille Isaacs (member); Michelle Richards (dear friend of the Senior Social); Nicole Farlow & Family (friends of Kim Ogden); Terry Morgan (husband of Bernice Morgan, friends of the church); Christine White (friend of Jackie Smith); Joey Miller (grandson of Ron Kirkman); Cindy Moeller (friend of Bruce & Kathie Steinhard); Family of Bruce Banker (member); Family of Judy Henderson (dear friend of the Senior Social); Diana Gross (friend of the Senior Social); Hannah Steinhard (daughter of Bruce & Kathie Steinhard); Family of Barb Shaw (Suwanna Kirkman's aunt); Family of Christina Smith (Little Dutch Bakery); Vinnie Carivetti (friend of Paul Kluesener); Kimberly Morgan (cousin of Ron Kirkman); Brian Kirkman (son of Ron Kirkman); Family of Ginny Krebs; Family of Bob Lewis (brother-in-law of Kay Young); Family of Jim Knepper (family friend of the Kern's); Tiffany Nelson (friend of Ron Kirkman); Ramon (grandson of Hilda Faulkner); Dale Merz (cousin of Michelle Richards); Beth Luken (sister of Dan Luken; friend of the Krebs' family); Irina (church friend); Joyce Napier (friend of the Krebs' family); Pam and family (friend of Hilda Faulkner); Amanda and family (daughter of Hilda Faulkner); Sherry (friend of Carol Ann White and the Senior Social); Kelly Ann Pennington (sister-in-law of Suwanna Kirkman); Family and friends of Jackie Smith; Vicki Thorner (Sue Bilz' cousin); Tina Maxwell (Sue Bilz' best friend); Beverly & Mike Rose (dear friends of Suwanna Kirkman); Faith & Dave Martin (friends of Linda Krebs); Jack Parsons (father of Patti Baldwin); Michelle M. (cousin of Bev Bosse); Thomas (nephew of Hilda's friend, Pam); Heather Nichols (niece of Susan Ley); Mark (friend of Sharon, friend of the Senior Social); Kesha and Family (friends of Ron Kirkman); Charlie (friend of Herb Brookbank); Stas Dharikov (Ukrainian friend of Christina Henderson).



Life of the Church

Letter from the United Church of Christ

Dear Friends at First United Church of Christ:

Thank you for your generous donation to the United Church of Christ to support hurricane disaster relief. Your gift of \$1,555.00 was received from your Ladies Guild on 12/30/2024. Through your gift, families who have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support.

Your gift enables the church to be present with people amid this catastrophic and life-changing situations, offering immediate relief and providing long-term recovery support. Working through a network of partners, the church lives out its call to care for our neighbors as we strive together toward a just world for all.

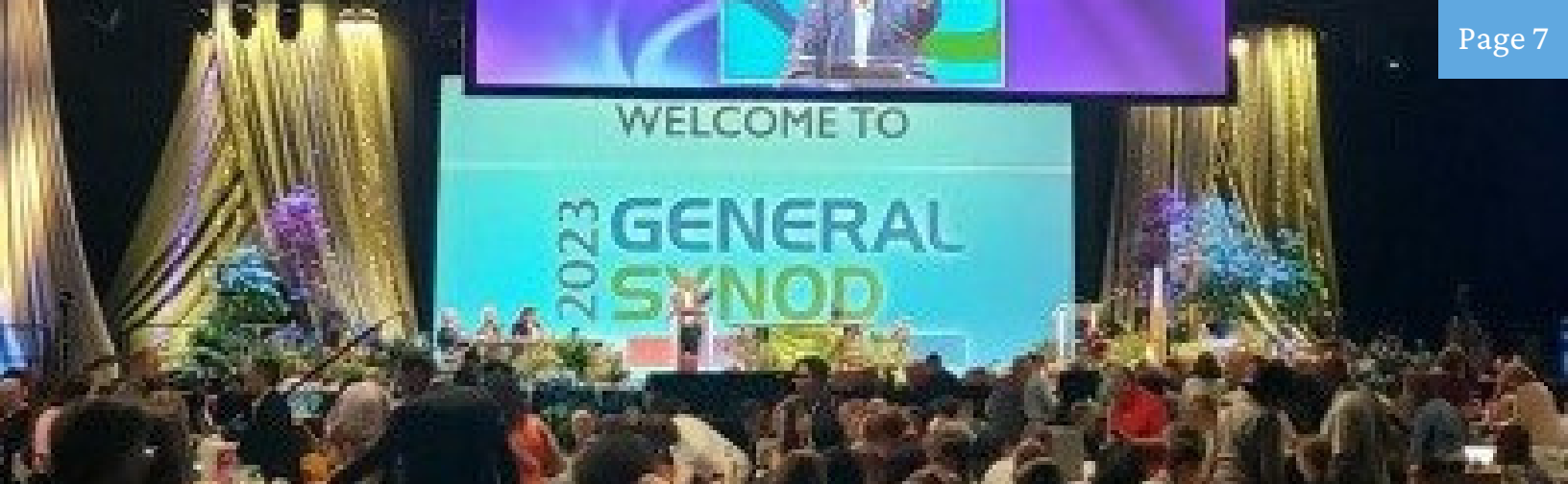
Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. With the help of our partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance as the United Church of Christ continues to build a just world for all. If you have questions regarding your donation, please feel free to contact us at giving@ucc.org or 1-800-846-6822.

In faith,

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

General Minister and President



Life of the Church (cont.)

Goin' to Kansas City...

First UCC's Luke Bronnert, a recent graduate of Ross High School, has agreed again to serve as a delegate to our UCC General Synod July 11 – 15 in Kansas City. He is one of 68 delegates representing the Heartland Conference at Synod where the UCC gathers every two years to celebrate and plan as a denomination. As one of the servants of the church, Luke is giving of his time and energy to serve on our behalf in the national assembly of the United Church of Christ. He served as a delegate in Indianapolis in 2023.

First UCC is encouraged to support delegates, not just Luke, financially through this year's Strengthen the Church offering. Strengthen the Church is the one national offering for which the Conference can retain half of what is given for needs within our conference community.

The cost per delegate is around \$1,800 to register, house, feed, and provide transportation. Each delegate's registration fee has been paid from Conference funds and a stipend is being given to each delegate by the Heartland Conference and National UCC. Yet this stipend will not completely cover a delegate's costs.

You may give by donating directly through our church's offering or by going through the conference at heartlanducc.org to make a donation. Thank you, Luke, and thank you First UCC for your commitment to the wider church.





Life of the Church (cont.)

Hunger Walk: Steppin' in Style

Great job First UCC again in your efforts to support CAIN's food pantry. More than \$6,300 was raised that CAIN will use as credit when purchasing food for their pantry. We had set a goal of \$5,000. It was a beautiful morning. Check out the photos from the event on our website and Facebook pages.



Graduates, Pastor, Men, and Pride

June at First UCC will highlight several special moments. June 1, we honor our high school and college graduates; on June 8, we will celebrate as a congregation a silver anniversary with Pastor Dan and his family here at First UCC; on the 15th the women of the church might have a few surprises in store for the men of the congregation on Father's Day; on the 22nd we will have a special guest musician; then on June 26 and June 29 we will celebrate Pride Month with an interfaith service (see Pastor Dan's article) and our own Open and Affirming Sunday (29th). Summer at First UCC is always special. Come join us.

April 2025

Board Meeting Minutes

First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes April 14, 2025 (In-Person & Zoom)

In attendance: Milt Hauck, Tom Shelton, Darrell Copenhaver, Bruce Steinhard, Gail Bauknecht, Ed Bosse, Bill Henrich, Bev Smith

Treasurer: Christy Meyer (Treasurer) represented by Dennis Meyer

Pastor: Dan Weyand-Geise

Excused: Jean Krebs

I. **Call to Order** -- Milt called the meeting to order.

II. **Devotion** -- Pastor Dan

Pastor Dan asked each of us to share something we are "Grateful For", based on his sermon yesterday. All board members shared.

III. **Recording Secretary's Report (Bruce)** -- The March Minutes were accepted with one correction for the newsletter.

Motion: Bill Second: Tom Accepted: All in favor

IV. **Treasurer's Report (Christy by Dennis):** The March reports were accepted, and approval was given to pay April's expenses. With some clarifications. Storage expense is for Sunday Service Recordings. The last 2 Sunday's offerings were not deposited as Jean has been on vacation.

Motion: Second: Accepted: All in favor

Bills:

Motion: Bill Second: Ed Accepted: All in favor

V. **Financial Secretary's Report (Darrell)** --

Motion: Tom Second: Bill Accepted: All in favor

VI. **Pastor's Report** -- Pastor Dan submitted his report to the Church Board.

- Spatz family will be moving to Washington State to live with their daughter there. We had over 100 people in church for their send off with an even larger than normal attendance of 75 – 80 and a large extended family there for Bill and Margie.
- Palm Sunday we had 83 in attendance.
- In May we will be having the Ordination Service of Paula Hoeffler as she is ordained as Bishop of the group of which she is part.
- June 1st we will celebrate our GRADUATES.
- June 8th is Pentecost and we will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Pastor Dan being First U.C.C.'s minister

VII. **Committee Reports**

Facilities

- Darrell shared that tiles in the sanctuary are being replaced.
- Ed announced the electricity will be off on Thursday at some point.

(continued on next page)

April 2025

Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

- Family Center carpet will be installed next Monday, (Note of Caution – if you do go into the FAMILY CENTER be careful as there is extra padding under the carpet for the protection of our young ones)
- Family Center will be installed the end of May)
- Family Center - heating – members will need to be trained on what to do for the heat.
- Some parlor lights need to be replaced.
- Ed also announced the committee is working on another 5 – 6 projects.

Brand New Recycling Dumpster, and we need volunteers to check weekly.

- **Music (Jean)** – Jean on vacation
- **Budget (Jean)** – Jean on vacation
- **Endowment (Ed)**
- **Meditation Garden – Pastor Dan** we had over 20 people helping get the garden areas ready.
- **Health Ministry** – we had a donation of eye glass cases

AED's – there will be training for them in the near future. Volunteers must be able to get down next to a person on the floor in order to do this.

VIII. Old Business

- **Grease Trap** – done.
- **Dishwasher** – it takes 20 minutes to fill and be ready for use.
- **By-Laws (Bruce and Pastor Dan)** – the proposed revisions to the Constitution & By-Laws will be presented at the Semi – Annual Meeting.

IX. New Business –

Ed presented the Investment Policy of the Endowment for discussion as it pertains to the budget. Discussion followed.

Bruce asked why we had gotten away from mowing the church's grass and paid to have it mowed. Discussion followed. If you are interested in being taught how to use the zero-turn mower and helping occasionally with mowing the grounds, please talk to Pastor Dan, Bruce, or Darrell. Pastor Dan announced that Luke Bronnert will be an Ohio Delegate to General Synod again.

XI. Adjournment

Moved: Darrell

Seconded: Bill

Accepted: All in Favor

XII. Lord's Prayer

*Submitted by: J. Bruce Steinhard
Recording Secretary*

(The next Board meeting is Monday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m.)

Our Covenant

We, the members of First UCC, 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 UCC, or are
worshipping here
for the
first time;

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 United Church of Christ.** Being fully welcome in our community here at First UCC 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:

Milt Hauck, President

Tom Shelton, Vice President

Darrell Copenhaver, Co-Vice President

Bruce Steinhard, Recording Secretary

Jean Krebs, Financial Secretary

Gail Bauknecht

Ed Bosse

Bill Henrich

Beverly Smith

June Bronnert (past president)

Christy Meyer, Church Treasurer

Follow Us!



@firstuccincy

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.

