

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

# July 2025 Newsletter

## The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

**Our lives flow on in endless song; above earth's lamentation...**

The dramatization and anxiety are not exaggerated. Our older adults are afraid health care and housing costs will exceed their means; they feel less and less sure they can depend on anyone for support; families are left to their own devices. Our young people feel it as they ponder a future that forecasters say will be less secure than their parents' time. We do not trust our neighbors, even our own family, let alone the stranger we meet downtown or outside our comfort zone.

**I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.**

**Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing; It finds an echo in my soul – How can I keep from singing?...**

We are halfway through the year. Wars and conflicts continue in Ukraine, Gaza, Congo, and now Iran. Summertime heat has been accompanied by protests and counter protests in the United States and throughout the world. Can we hear the hymn that calls for a new creation? Is there an echo in your soul? My summer reading has included "Tears of Things" by Richard Rohr. There will be disorder that ultimately moves us to reorder. It is in this change that tears need to flow, Rohr writes. These are not tears of helplessness. Instead, the prophetic response is to move to a place of action that is filled with compassion. We are moved to tears where healing and love become our immediate responses; not fear, hatred, or violence. Rohr writes that the world grows deeper into the Sacred, to God, when we remain attentive to the sound of the prophets' calls. It is when we love our neighbor and identify with the poor. There are actions and injustices that will raise in us great anger and outrage. But when we listen to God's ways, we will find courage and strength to

(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 – Birthdays/Anniversaries
Page 5 – Prayer Requests
Page 6 – Life of the Church
Page 7 – Life of the Church (cont.)
Page 8 – Board Meeting Minutes
Page 9 – Meeting Minutes (cont.)
Page 10 – Meeting Minutes (cont.)
Page 11 – First UCC Covenant
Page 12 – Staff & Board Directory

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



[www.firstunitedchurchofchrist.org](http://www.firstunitedchurchofchrist.org)





# The Pastor's Report (cont.)

persevere, to bless, to cry, and to sing.  
**We lift our eyes; the cloud grows thin; We see the blue above it; And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it...**

Summer at First began Memorial Day weekend with the ordination of Bishop Paula Hoeffler and the Roman Catholic women priests. Yes, it is a far-off hymn in which Rome and the Vatican recognize women priests. But the clouds are lifting. Bishop Paula has the support of many in the city and beyond. The women priests are a group that welcomes all and extends an invitation to all to share in the sacrament of communion. Hunger, homelessness and poverty are in our midst. We can't escape these realities, yet, earlier this summer, we raised our highest amount of money for the Hunger Walk. There are efforts to address both the housing crisis and the food insecurities that thousands in our community face daily. Groups that we work with like CAIN, Heartbeat of the City (formerly Christ's Community), Found House, the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition make this their business and priority. Even our efforts with Phil's Place, Fishes and Loaves, and the Senior Group recognize that church life needs to encourage and support community. We need the chance to share time with others around a common meal.

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing; All things are mine since I am Christ's – how can I keep from singing.**

The remainder of the summer is filled with reminders that the peace of Christ does renew our spirits. Our God is the resource of a courage and joy that surpass our understanding. Go for a walk, sit out on the porch, listen to soulful music, read something inspirational. The events around Pride month sparked conversations and actions that remind us that all of humanity is blessed. God bestows upon every child a holiness and love. The tears of joy a parent sheds contain the hope for a life filled with beauty and blessing. As we continue along with this summer, may we cry these tears most especially when times are tough. Our lives flow on in endless song....

With Christ's Love,  
Pastor Dan

Learn More!  
firstunitedchurchofchrist.org





## What's the Buzz?

### Updates on Music, Media, and Faith Formation

Dan, Kim, and I frequently talk about the passing of time. When it seems like the days will go by slowly (as one might expect during the summer months), you blink, and the month of June is already behind us! I give thanks for the friends who shared their talents with us during June – Bodie and Hayden, Tricia and Bernie, Maxwell Fairman, Bryce Kessler (who filled in wonderfully for me while I was on vacation), and brothers Dylan and Zach Van Camp. Pride month is always an exciting and busy time, so I want to thank everyone who helped make the multi-faith celebration and festival a success. I loved seeing First UCC well-represented at both events. The fun continues in July...

Our first guest musician on July 6 is the talented trombonist, Austin Pancner. We have an eclectic array of instrumental Americana to share with you. On July 13, I have invited Bryce Kessler back as my collaborator; an easier Sunday than June 22 since he won't have to play everything alone. I am introducing a new friend to the congregation on July 20 – Brandon Langjahr is a music educator and professional cantor at Calvary Episcopal Church in Clifton. Our friendship goes back to 2012 when we were both students at Xavier University, and I am thrilled to have him at First. We will close out the month with Christmas in July on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A dear friend of the church, Jeff Martin, will bring his steel pan drums to help us get into the Christmas spirit. With the temps reaching triple digits recently, the thought of the cooler holiday season is just what we need!

At the time of writing the article, the family/nurturing center is very near completion! I'm in the process of meeting with the young families to hear what they imagine in the room, furniture- and toy- wise. I have also ordered the speaker and will install it soon, allowing families in the center to hear the service. Once the upstairs room is complete and furnished, I'll be getting with our young adults to transform the downstairs youth room to their ideal hangout spot. Bring on the fall movie nights!

Have a great month, and stay cool! – Jimmy



**Jimmy Wiederhold**  
Director of Music, Media,  
and Faith Formation





# **Birthdays**

07/06 – Jace Runck

07/07 – Brennan Newhouse

07/07 – Terri Stang

07/18 – Scot Armstrong

07/21 – Linda Krebs

07/25 – Ed Bosse

# **Anniversaries**

07/08 – David & Vicki Schaefer

07/10 – Darrell & Laura Copenhaver

07/23 – Joe & Sue Bilz





## ~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Kevin Richards (member); Joan Smith (daughter of the late Ollie Helm); Diane Ripley (friend of the Kirkman's); Elaine Lewis (Jackie Smith's granddaughter); Family of William Kirkman (uncle of Ron Kirkman); Bill & Nancy Baumann (friends of the church); Marvin Stamper (employee at C.M. Meyer & Assoc.); Su H. (friend of Bev Bosse); Darryl P. and Mickey P. (cousins of Bev Bosse); Friends from Clovernook (of Carol Ann White); Family of Anna Jean Shock (aunt of Ron Kirkman); 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); Michelle Richards (dear friend of the Senior Social); Nicole Farlow and 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); Diana Gross (dear friend of the Senior Social); Hannah Steinhard (daughter of Bruce & Kathie Steinhard); Family of Barb Shaw (Suwanna Kirkman's aunt); Vinnie Carivetti (friend of Paul Kluesener); Kimberly Morgan (cousin of Ron Kirkman); Brian Kirkman (son of Ron Kirkman); 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); 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); Kesha and Family (friends of Ron Kirkman); Charlie (friend of Herb Brookbank); Stas Dharikov (Ukrainian friend of Christina Henderson).



## Life of the Church

### With a Little Help from Our Friends

Thank you First UCC for the lovely 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of our time together. The service was beautiful and the luncheon was magnificent. Twenty-five years feels like yesterday. That is good. Our time together still brings joy, laughter, and authenticity to the world. There is a good energy and faithfulness. Pretty sure I won't be your pastor in 25 years, but I do plan to attend the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary service in 2055!! May we continue to listen to the still speaking God who has been so good to the First United Church of Christ and to each of us.

– With our love and appreciation, Pastor Dan and Amy

### Humble and Proud

First UCC was the site of the Pride Service on June 26. Many religious groups were represented and our own UCC director of the Open and Affirming network, Derek Terry, pastor of Pleasant Ridge UCC, was the keynote speaker. Jimmy and others were down at the Riverfront for the Pride Parade and Party on June 28. First UCC had a table with information about the church and our denomination. Thanks to all from First UCC who assisted and participated in these events.

### FC Jersey for Blood Donors

St. Clare Catholic Church here in College Hill is holding a blood drive July 31 from 12 -6 in their Parish Center. All donors will receive an FC Cincinnati jersey. Pretty cool swag for a simple donation that saves lives. There is a sign-up sheet using a bar code on the flyer in the fellowship hall. If you need assistance, see someone under the age of 60 or a senior who is tech savvy!





## Life of the Church (cont.)

### Women's Conference at First UCC

Dr. Lela Booker from Ignite the Fire ministries here in College Hill will be the keynote speaker for a Women's Conference. The "One Night with the King" will explore the Book of Esther here at First UCC on July 26 at 3 p.m. This is a FREE event. All are welcome. Please contact First UCC office to reserve a spot so they have a ballpark count for attendance.

### Memorials

*Gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of Gary Smith  
from Janet Copenhaver*

*Gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of Katherine Gutenson  
from Janet Copenhaver*

*Gift to the Music Fund in memory of Gary Smith  
from Kathie and Bruce Steinhard  
Jackie Smith*

*Gift to CAIN in honor of Pastor Dan's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
from Lucille Geise*

May 2025

# Board Meeting Minutes

## First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes May 12, 2025 (In-Person & Zoom)

**In attendance:** Milt Hauck, Tom Shelton, Darrell Copenhaver, Bruce Steinhard, Jean Krebs, Ed Bosse, Bev Smith

**Treasurer:** Christy Meyer (Treasurer)

**Pastor:** Dan Weyand-Geise

**Excused:** Gail Bauknecht

- I. **Call to Order** -- Milt called the meeting to order.
- II. **Devotion** -- Pastor Dan asked us to think of a blessing our Mom's gave to each of us. Each member shared a thought.
- III. **Recording Secretary's Report (Bruce)** – The April report was accepted.  
 Motion: Tom                      Second: Darrell                      Accepted: All in favor
- IV. **Treasurer's Report (Christy):** The April reports were accepted, with these comments, Bills are to go to the group responsible for them to be reviewed. Rodney had 2 major snows to clear. Deposits have been changed to match Jean's report. A lot of items are moving through restricted items (SONKA etc.). Approval was given to pay May expenses.  
 Motion: Bruce                      Second: Darrell                      Accepted: All in favor  
 Bills  
 Motion: Tom                      Second: Darrell                      Accepted: All in favor  
 Special Note: Why are some funds being held in the General Fund?
- V. **Financial Secretary's Report (Jean)** –  
 Page 2 Financial narrative

Motion: Darrell                      Second: Bev                      Accepted: All in favor

(continued on next page)



May 2025

# Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

- **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Dan submitted his report to the Church Board
- June 1 – Graduates and Teacher recognition
- General Synod is July 13 and Dan may be doing FB link for a service
- Music Fund – Jimmy's 5-year Anniversary next year and part of contract is 6 weeks off for study or other endeavors.
- Report Attendance to Church Board in the minutes.

Motion:

Second:

Accepted: All in favor

## VI. Committee Reports

### Finance

Are Holidays to be given in a Special envelope or in the regular envelope? Jean suggested that we look at developing a business plan to help guide the church and planning things that will need financial funds to support them.

Future goals would be part of this.

Jean brought up the Hunger Walk and that she is in a Friendly Competition to raise the most.

- **Endowment (Bill)** – Ed reported

### Facilities

- Ed shared the window will not be here by the end of May (it is installed now)
- The carpet in the Family Center got rolled down.
- Fellowship Hall – Rick Dunn is going to wax the floor, but everything will need to be moved out.
- Swinging doors into kitchen are still being looked into. Will these meet Fire Code?
- During this time Jean asked Ed, "How long will the Endowment Fund last if we keep depending on it?"
- Jean also asked Ed to present us a Money Received versus Money Spent for the Family Center.

May 2025

# Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

- **Health Committee**

The AED's are up and working

## IX. Old Business

- Music Fund –
- Dan – How do we build on the momentum?
- Phil's Place – Dan needs help with continuing this. Darrell can help on 4/19 at 1:00 pm
- **By-Laws (Bruce and Pastor Dan)** – The Constitution & By-Laws are available by contacting the office, Bruce Steinhard, or Pastor Dan

## X. New Business –

Darrell – Looking into Automatic doors for front entrance and bathrooms that are ADA compliant.

Jean – should we reopen the nursery area due to increase in young children coming? Discussion followed. We were reminded that the Family Center was done for this purpose so the parents could listen to the service and be with their children. Jimmy and Pastor Dan are looking toward the parents for guidance as to what is next with the Family Center and Youth education as we move forward.

Jean – Vision and Business Plan. Pastor Dan encouraged the boards to call the "business plan" something more like a "Vision" or "Faithful Future Plans", etc. Pastor Dan also mentioned that June Bronnert had been suggesting this idea over the past few years. She would be ideal to be a part of the visioning team. Need to form a sub-committee

**Motion: Jean                      Second: Darrell      Accepted: All in Favor**

Names are to be submitted for next meeting.

## XI. Adjournment

**Moved: Jean                      Seconded: Darrell                      Accepted: All in Favor**

## XII. Lord's Prayer

*Submitted by: J. Bruce Steinhard  
Recording Secretary*



# 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

Phone: 513-541-7302

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

Website: [www.firstunitedchurchofchrist.org](http://www.firstunitedchurchofchrist.org)

## 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.*

