



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



August 2022 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

So how many steps did you get in today?" "My doctor says I need to get up to 10,000 steps a day." "Ugh, I only did 2,000 steps today." If we want to stay healthy, it is important for us to get our steps in. We hear this daily. We check our fit-bits and iPhone religiously. We pay attention even if we don't have any devices to remind us of the number of steps we have made.

As your Spiritual Fitness coach, I tell you now is the time for the Church to "STEP UP." We have added a part to our Sunday services in which an individual and/or group remind us during the announcements that we have opportunities to be Christian in our response to needs within and beyond the Church. In past years this has been called our "Mission Moment." I find myself eagerly awaiting each week to hear how Church folks share their excitement about ways others can serve within the church community. One week it is a challenge to fill our CAIN buckets with cleaning supplies and hygiene items; the next week it is our Music team tapping the stand and calling for more choir and handbell participants. Soon it will be our Sauerkraut and Rummage Sale teams inviting volunteers to have fun and be in fellowship at these events. Let Jimmy or me know what and how you want to "STEP UP" and you are invited to share.

As with our literal exercise steps and activity, one must be ready for the challenge. That's where the spiritual renewal and life of the church equip us for ministry and service. Our prayer life, study, worship, music, and fellowship inspire us to want to step up and serve. It's really a chicken-and-egg proposition. The more inspired and equipped we are, the more we step up; and the more often we step up the likelihood then exists that we need to refuel and be energized. (continued on next page)



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www.firstunitedchurchofchrist.org



The Pastor's Report (cont.)

I love it that First Church folks always step up when the moment is called for especially in the daily commitments of our Faith Walk, i.e., friendships, service, hospitality, and care. As we head into the dog-days of summer, it's time to hydrate, towel-off, and STEP UP!!

Blessings on our Walk of Faith together,
Pastor Dan



In the Spotlight



We give thanks for the sponsors of our Guild Calendar. This month we would like to highlight **Stehlin's Meat Market**. Our Sauerkraut Dinner coming up in September will again feature First Church's special order from Stehlin's. They have been in business since 1913 (Linda Krebs assures us her mother was not born then...) They are located right at I-275 on Colerain Avenue in Bevis. A great group to connect and work with whenever you need some party supplies or simply your weekly creations for the grill.



What's the Buzz?

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

Although this is the August newsletter, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful youth trip to Washington D.C. last month. It was a life-changing experience for me, and I hope the other chaperones and youth involved feel the same way. We connected (and reconnected) with so many great people along the way: Sam, Henry, Trista, Christina, Maddie, and others whose names are slipping my mind right now. If you want to see pictures of our adventures, check out the church's Facebook or Instagram pages or head to the narthex, as I've updated the display on the left-hand side. Thank you to everyone for their prayers and support in making this trip possible. I look forward to many more in the future!

August will be another month filled with special guest musicians. Among them will be familiar faces from our congregation (Christina, Bruce, Bernie, and Tricia to name a few) as well as Jessica and Cece from Wilmington. Other friends of mine, Brian and Jennie Malone, were originally scheduled to perform at First UCC this month but will instead be special guests in September – I am excited to feature this dynamic duo in a service and play alongside them. August also welcomes the start of choir and handbell choir rehearsals! The first one being the week of August 15 (either Monday or Wednesday rehearsals – I will have a final decision soon). I would love to see two new faces in each group this season so if you have any interest in singing or ringing a bell, please talk to me!

August 14 will be the first meeting of *come una*, a collaborative youth choir for all Greater Cincinnati UCC congregations. I recorded an introductory video to be shared with the congregations and any youth who may be interested – you can view it at www.firstunitedchurchofchrist.org/come-una. Once established, the group will perform on a monthly cycle throughout all the participating churches and will be a staple in the ChoirFest, once it is up and running again. If you know a young adult in grades 4-12 who is looking to make friends while creating music in a welcoming atmosphere, send them my way!

We are blessed to have a busy church social calendar, and August is no different. As we prepare for the sauerkraut dinner in September and the rummage sale the month after,



Jimmy Wiederhold

Director of Music, Media,
and Faith Formation

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What's the Buzz? (cont.)

we have a lot of opportunities to gather as a church for activities and outings taking place all over the city. August 6 is the FC Cincinnati game (see me for tickets). Festival of Faiths is a great event for our youth taking place on Xavier University's campus on August 7. Come una meets on the 14th while the 19th is a trip to Kings Island. Add to that the wonderful work we do with Fishes and Loaves, Guild meetings, Senior Socials, and choir and handbell choir, there are so many great ways we connect as a church family and "Be the Church" in addition to Sunday worship. I'm thrilled to be part of all of this, and I look forward to the fun month ahead.

Have a great month!

Jimmy

North Avondale Honors

Recently, the North Avondale Press included in their newsletter an article on First Church member Ginny Krebs. It's a wonderful tribute to someone who has blessed our congregation in many ways, over many decades.

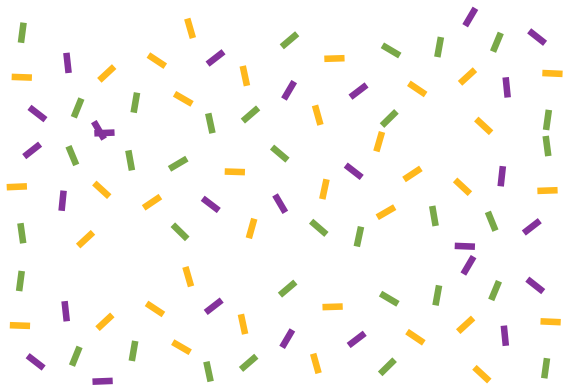
Here is a portion of the article. Copies of the entire article are available upon request.

Mrs. Virginia ("Ginny") Krebs has called 59 Kessler Place HOME for her entire life – all 87 years of it! In fact, she was born in the bedroom that she currently sleeps in. And the family goes back even further.... Ginny keeps busy! She completes puzzles, is an armchair game show contestant, is active in her church, keeps her weekly hair salon appointment and spends time with her family. She credits her longevity with having faith and going to church, helping others, having family close by, being just a bit stubborn (we know this at First Church, don't we? Ha ha!), sometimes threatening the kids that she's taking them out of the will, and having a glass of wine every night. Sounds like a plan. Please join me in toasting Ginny and her family!



Anniversaries

08/18 – Bruce & Kathie Steinhard
08/27 – David & Jean Krebs



Birthdays

08/06 – Wendy Hawkins
08/09 – Janet Copenhaver
08/14 – Jeff Runck
08/17 – Patty Baldwin
08/21 – Anita Durrett
08/22 – Kathie Steinhard
08/23 – Amanda Krebs
08/24 – Katie Rhodes
08/27 – Lucille Geise

~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Barb Shawn (aunt of Suwanna Kirkman); The Keys Family at the passing of Karen Green; Janet Eberst (cousin of Kim Ogden) at the passing of Janet's husband, Bob; Ron Kirkman and Family; Ralph Mueller (at the passing of his son, Dale); Ricky Dunn (grandson of Margie League); 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); 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!



@firstuccincy



Life of the Church

Festival of Faiths

The Greater Cincinnati interfaith community will once again unite during the 5th annual Festival of Faiths—a week-long, hybrid celebration from July 31 – August 7, 2022 held at the Xavier's Cintas Center. More than 30 faith organizations representing 13 world religions will participate in the week's activities to bring meaningful, entertaining, and educational programming. Pastor Dan will be at the UCC booth on Sunday, August 7 from noon to 3.

Save the Date - September 10 - Sauerkraut Dinner/Festival!

Our Sauerkraut Dinner this year will be an outdoor festival on September 10. We'll have a beer tent, corn hole games, and lots of fun!! The excitement is already building!! Tickets will be going on sale soon. More information will be shared at our Sunday services throughout August.

Two Beloved Saints of the Church

Two celebrations of life will be held in August for dear friends of First Church members and Pastor Dan and Amy. Jean Siddall was a long-time leader at Washington UCC. Her dynamism and character inspired many from First Church through the years. Her service is being held on August 6 at Mt. Pleasant Retirement Center Chapel located at 225 Britton Lane in Monroe, Ohio at 1 p.m.

On August 27 here at First UCC, we will celebrate the life of Roger Perna at 11 a.m. followed by a Guild luncheon reception. Roger and his wife Belinda have been fixtures in the College Hill community since 2004. His service and outreach within churches and the neighborhood have made lasting impressions.

FYI from The Guild

This month's Guild meeting is Thursday, August 25. We'll meet at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch. Our speaker is from Arlington Memorial Gardens. All are welcome!

Phil's Place Dinner

The next Phil's Place dinner will take place on Monday, August 29. Big thanks to Susie Cairns for leading these efforts each time.

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Life of the Church (cont.)

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 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

Questions?

Reach out to Amy Weyand-Geise:

Email: amyweyandgeise@gmail.com

Text or call: 513-317-2063

Reach out to Pastor Dan:

Email: danweyandgeise@gmail.com

Text or call: 513-317-2064

June 2022

Board Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2022

PRESENT: Pastor Dan, Milt Hauck, Bill Henrich, Darrell Copenhaver, June Bronnert, Ruth Beck, Kathy Steinhard (?) and perhaps others.

Lacking a quorum, any decisions made at this meeting will need to be ratified at our next Church Board meeting.

Darrell reported on Corpus Com. – Fishes and Loaves. He noted that the Church Board contributed over \$1,000 to the Hunger Walk. The Music Fund received over \$800. Youth Fund is doing well. CAIN will be doing much better with the funds raised by First UCC.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Dan noted that attendance at worship has been stable. He noted that Jeanne Phillips will be subbing for Jimmy during the next few weeks.

The Youth Trip is a go. American University will be housing our students and youth leaders. No additional insurance is needed for the trip as long as parent have signed the liability forms for their kids.

Dan noted that the Sauerkraut Dinner is scheduled for Sept. 10th and will be an outdoor event. No additional funds are needed for serving beer as long as the beer is served by a designated bartender from a designated brew house or bar.

Pastor Dan noted that adult education is taking place in the church parlor following worship several Sundays a month.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COM. (it's a dirty business ha-ha)

Darrell reported that the gutters are clogged and will need attention soon. Pastor Dan noted that he knows someone who might be interested in the task. Darrell also noted that the church property was hit with some

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June 2022

Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

vandalism. Spray painting was found on several locations including the Boy Scouts' trailer. He and Ed Bosse cleaned up the paint.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill, Christine, and Pastor Dan need to meet regarding an update to the Constitution of the church.

Kathy Steinhard and Christy Meyer are looking at proposing a procedure for getting and paying bills. June will check with Kathy to clarify the procedure. Darrell has indicated he is willing to be a conduit for getting the bills to Christy.

NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Derek Terry who has been one of our guest preachers, was designated leadership of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC.

Another issue discussed was how to take care of expenses which lay persons might incur while working on a project. Darrell noted that his work on the Buildings and Grounds Com. Gives him a maximum of \$600.00 that he is authorized to spend without further Board involvement. Should a project require more than that, he will need to seek Board approval. Perhaps this is a model for how to cover expenses incurred by laypersons on behalf of the church.

There being no further business, we adjourned at about *8:15 p.m. Irrelevantly submitted by Ruth Beck in the absence of Christine.

NEXT MEETING: July 11, 2022, 7 p.m.

The May minutes were omitted from the July newsletter. They're available upon request. See or contact Kim Ogden (513-541-7302, ext. 10).

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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