

First United Church of Christ
5808 Glenview Ave.
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August 2025 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

Recently I preached a sermon that I entitled “Bountiful Ways.” That will not likely jar anyone’s memory who was there to hear it. But if I had said this was the sermon that I proclaimed, “WTF!!” I bet some of you will remember some of your own takeaways from that sermon.

So now that you have read here that I proclaimed a sermon with “WTF” you might wonder whether this might just be a recurring phrase for each sermon. I think we are on to something. In our pews each Sunday, I believe nearly everyone comes to church with a heaviness or at least some moment that can lead them to sacred conversation and holy encounters. As I noted in the sermon, it is not just the moments of dread and despair that lead us to shout “WTF” but also those moments of wonder and surprise. Those “Bountiful Ways” of turkey appearances, rainbows, and children’s laughter, or the beauty of the wise older person in our midst that gives us pause to proclaim “WTF.”

These summer days of heated debates over religious, political, international, cultural, and individual concerns, are uncomfortable and disheartening. Church small groups like the Guild, Ladies Night Out, the Sisterhood of Seekers, Fishes and Loaves, or even the Pizza with the Pastor moments provide some space for “WTF” conversation. Perhaps you have an online group or a support group that you attend. Great! Look for healthy ways to unpack “WTF” is going on inside and outside of you.

In response to the “Bountiful Ways” sermon, I have had a handful of people say they thought I was going to end the sermon by revealing a more sanitized and religious spin to the question “What the *!+#!?” They suggested “WTF” stood for “Where’s the Faith.” YES! This is exactly where “Bountiful Ways” take us. It’s August and we are in the second half of

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The Pastor's Report (cont.)

2025. "Where's the Faith" leads us to meaning and purpose. Our UCC Region 513 will gather on August 25th at Immanuel UCC in St. Bernard to explore some activities and common ministry opportunities. This will be a pot-luck gathering like last Fall's meeting when we had representatives from more than 17 local UCC churches. It is a chance to hear what others are doing; where we can partner; how we can witness to the wider community around issues of mission, service, and advocacy. "Where's The Faith?" – come join us on the 25th or on Sunday mornings or throughout the week as you check in the website or Facebook page. "WTF" – I hear it and see it quite often – faithful expressions of love, health, and justice.

(Another WTF) With the Faithful,
Dan



Pizza with the Pastor

Our next Pizza with the Pastor is Sunday, August 3rd. There are still spots available. If you've never been to one, join us – it's a real treat! See Pastor Dan or Amy.

Region 513 Gathering

On Monday, August 25th, there will be a gathering of the Region 513 UCC churches. This will take place at Immanuel UCC in St. Bernard at 6:30 p.m. It will be a potluck gathering, as we had last fall. There were 17 churches represented at that meeting. We hope for more individuals to attend this year.

Learn More!
firstunitedchurchofchrist.org





What's the Buzz?

Updates on Music, Media, and Faith Formation

August is greeting us with some good news – cooler temperatures! What a hot summer it has been not only with the weather, but with all the great music my friends have brought to the sanctuary each Sunday! We will welcome six more guests before the choir and handbells return for another exciting season.

On August 3, fellow woodwind doubler Matt Warner will bring his array of instruments. Matt was last at church for our Wicked service in January, playing the alto saxophone. Between the two of us, there will be seven different woodwinds used on the 3rd! On August 10, Katherine Jennings returns to First UCC and she and I will be performing works from Broadway's famous composer, Jason Robert Brown. The highly adored couple of Brian and Jennie Malone are with me on August 17 and I have asked them for another bluegrass/country music service – it was a big hit last summer!

I'm excited to share that on the 24th, our special music guest may not be known to many of you, but he holds a very dear place in the heart of Bev Smith – it is her talented son, Austin! In a "it's a small world" moment, Austin and I have known one another for well over a decade, having performed together on oboe during my undergrad years. And although he resides out of state, he is in town for one weekend and is willing to share his talent with us! We close out the month with a new friend of the church, Corbin Keene. Corbin and I met on a gig in November; he is a sophomore saxophone major at CCM. He saw my posts about First UCC, really liked our message (and the music), and has been attending services whenever his schedule allows. I'm excited to have Corbin back in Cincinnati after his summer at home, and I know he will be a delight closing out our summer of special music.

Finally, here are a few important updates and dates to remember... Wednesday, August 13 at 7:00pm is an information session for anyone interested in being part of chancel or handbell choir. Originally, I was meeting with handbell folks on Sunday the 17th but that is the



Jimmy Wiederhold
Director of Music, Media,
and Faith Formation



What's the Buzz? (cont.)

next Sisterhood of Seekers meeting, and I know we can't be in two places at once! Next, the family center has sound! We've had a trial run, and I've heard it was a great success. I'm ready to begin designing the space with furniture – young families, I'm looking at you! Please text me or find me after church on a Sunday and let's begin decorating. We have a lot of furniture and toys in the basement to go through.

I will be gathering members the Cincinnati ONA Coalition this month to discuss ideas and create an action plan for the churches. I appreciate the questions and ideas that have come my way since I shared my ONA insight on July 27. I would like to also meet with First UCC's ONA committee – those who helped guide us to becoming ONA in 2018. I'd also welcome new voices and ideas to the group. More information to come on that soon.

Have a great month!

Jimmy

The Enneagram

Join our Heartland Conference for “From Role to Soul” – Exploring the Enneagram.” This workshop is FREE on August 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Camp Christian in Marysville. Contact Christine Guillory or the church office for more information.

Thanks, Rick!

If you haven't had a chance to go into the Fellowship Hall, take a peek. Thanks to Rick Dunn, the floors are absolutely stunning! Fantastic job, Rick! Many thanks for all your hard work.



Birthdays

08/06 – Wendy Hawkins

08/09 – Janet Copenhaver

* 08/10 – Dani Powley *

08/14 – Jeff Runck

08/17 – Patty Baldwin

08/21 – Anita Durrett

08/22 – Kathie Steinhard (The Big 7-0)

08/23 – Amanda Krebs

08/24 – Katie Rhodes

08/27 – Lucille Geise

Anniversaries

08/18 – Bruce & Kathie Steinhard

08/27 – David & Jean Krebs



~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Bill Mayer (member); Kathie Steinhard (member); Lynne (friend of the church); Connie Edwards (cousin of Kim Ogden); Ramon (grandson of Hilda Faulkner); 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); Sharon Kazez (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); 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); 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

In partnership with City Gospel Mission's Whiz Kids Program

We are currently seeking compassionate, committed volunteers to serve as literacy and math tutors for children in grades K–5. Over 25 families which includes 32 students have already signed up, eager to receive support academically and spiritually.

- When: Tuesdays, 2:45–3:45 PM (just one hour a week)
- Where: College Hill Academy (right in the heart of the community)
- Commitment: September through April
- No teaching experience needed just a heart for children and a desire to make a lasting impact.

All supplies, training, and support are provided. Tutors will build trusted relationships, help with reading and math, and share God's love through a consistent, encouraging presence.

If you or someone in your congregation is looking for a meaningful way to serve in College Hill, we invite you to join us. This is more than tutoring, it's discipleship, mentorship, and mission all wrapped into one hour a week. For more information or to get involved, please contact Nikki McKenna Director of Family Ministries at College Hill Presbyterian at nmckenna@chpc.org or call 513-491-5571.

June 2025

Board Meeting Minutes

First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes June 9, 2025 (In-Person & Zoom)

In attendance: Milt Hauck, Tom Shelton, Darrell Copenhaver, Bruce Steinhard, Jean Krebs, Ed Bosse, Bill Henrich, 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
Note from Ian Leventhal, a recent graduate, for the gift received from the church.
- III. **Recording Secretary's Report (Bruce)** – The May 2025 report was accepted with two corrections.
Motion: Tom Second: Darrell Accepted: All in favor
- IV. **Treasurer's Report (Christy):** The May 2025 reports were accepted, and approval was given to pay June's expenses.
Motion: Jean Second: Bev Accepted: All in favor

Motion to Pay Bills – contingent on \$24,069.00 from the Endowment Fund.
Motion: Jean Second: Tom Accepted: All with one exception
Ed is to contact the bank regarding transfer ASAP.
- V. **Financial Secretary's Report (Jean)** – see the packet
Motion: Second: Accepted: All in favor

Jean then presented the 2025 Budget
Motion: Bruce Second: Tom Accepted: All in favor
- VI. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Dan submitted
 -
 -
 Received.
- VII. **Committee Reports**
Health Ministries Report – See the Handout

(continued on next page)

June 2025

Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Facilities

- Ed shared the “Family Center” is coming along well. It will cost \$1000.00 to get sound into the room.
- Fellowship Hall floor needs to be done. Rick Dunn has been asked to do it again and he will be doing it July 1st – 3rd and maybe longer. So, no Seniors on Wednesday or Fishes and Loaves.
- Doors from the Kitchen in to Fellowship Hall. They are to swing into the Fellowship Hall. The cost is approximately \$4,500 and will be taken out of Building Maintenance.

IX. Old Business

- **By-Laws (Bruce and Pastor Dan)** – The Constitution & By-Laws are available by contacting the office, Bruce Steinhard, or Pastor Dan.
Darrell – ADA – the cost of having the front doors and the men’s and women’s bathroom doors with automatic openers will cost approximately \$6,700.00.

- **Vision and Business Plan 200** –

The following persons were suggested for the committee: June Bronnert, Christine G., Jean K., and Jimmy. Any other suggestions should be brought to Pastor Dan or Milt’s attention or to the next Board meeting. We need younger people also.

X. New Business –

Milt – Letter in the mail from the Census Bureau. Bruce will take the letter and try to do research on it. Report at next Board Meeting.

Pastor Dan – Our neighbors next door in the house have invited us to tour the house.

Milt – Wheel Chair Accessibility in and around the church and our members or visitors.

Bruce – Item to health ministries.

Jean – Suggested outsourcing the Endowment Fund. There was some discussion regarding costs and management of the fund and suggested we looking to this and compare who could do it.

Motion: Jean

Second: Bill

Accepted: All in Favor

June 2025

Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Current Members of Endowment: Ed B., Brian Beckman, Bill H.
It was suggested that we work on getting some younger members on the Committee also.

XI. Adjournment

Moved: Darrell **Second:** Bill **Accepted:** All in Favor

XII. Lord's Prayer

Submitted by: J. Bruce Steinhard
Recording Secretary

First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes June 29, 2025 (In-Person)

In attendance: Milt Hauck, Tom Shelton, Bruce Steinhard, Jean Krebs, Ed Bosse, Bill Henrich

Milt called a short meeting of Church Board members who could attend after church for the purpose of approving the spending of funds for the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Pastor Dan being the pastor of First U.C.C. on June 1, 2025 for the luncheon.

XI. Adjournment

Moved: **Seconded:** **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

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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!



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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.

