

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

September 2025 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

If you are asked to remember a memorable celebration, which anniversary, birthday, or party comes to mind? What was the occasion? What parts of it still bring a warm memory to you? Who were the people? Why is that moment so special? Do you still celebrate the date?

Since you are reading this, consider this your invitation to First UCC's 170th anniversary party on Sunday September 21. WOW, the church started in 1855 – 10 years before the Civil War. The number alone is worth celebrating. The memories that the archives literally hold are impressive. Our record books do indeed go back to 1855 when baptisms, weddings, funerals all are recorded and preserved. I still enter the blessed names of our current roster of the faithful. Recently a son of the church was married and while looking through the books, I was able to see the names of his parents, his grandparents, and even his great-grandparents throughout the church's history. You get the picture. Beautifully filled with happiness, some tears and grief, and lots of love.

A closer look at the church reveals something else. First UCC is not a museum. We are not content to rest on the witness of the past saints of this congregation. When I listen to the conversations throughout our church these days, I hear from you that you want this church to remain relevant and meaningful. You want the church to make a difference in people's lives. You want this to be a place that provides sanctuary, compassion, welcome and love for all of God's people. You want the Sunday experience to inspire and to encourage you on your faith journey. You want this church to bless the community and individuals well beyond our time here on earth. That's what the small group in Northside envisioned back in 1855 when they laid the foundation for all

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The Pastor's Report (cont.)

these years.

Our anniversary celebration on the 21st will be memorable. We are going down to the site of the church on Hoffner street in Northside. Now, it is a holy space of gardens and civic engagement. The group called Happen is the proprietor of the grounds. They are thrilled we are coming to celebrate at 10:15 that Sunday morning. We will have music (of course Jimmy has something special in the works); some remembrances; festival food; and, of course, what would any party be without some cake.

I trust that no matter how long you have been a part of First UCC and in whatever way you remain connected, via Facebook, website, Senior Social, Sunday worship, or simply feeling a bit of nostalgic, you are invited to come down on the 21st. Even if you can't make that day, remember that the best trait this church has consistently tried to share is the love of Christ. It is this daily faith ingredient that attracts people to First UCC. Stop in anytime, meditate and pray as you walk the grounds, encounter the neighbors, and give thanks for all the ways God continues to bless First UCC. Happy Birthday First UCC. You have aged quite well!

In faith, hope, and love,
Pastor Dan

Learn More!
firstunitedchurchofchrist.org



Fall Blessings

Fair orchard trees wave their fruit-laden arms,
And nature smiles in her Autumnal charms.
- John Askham, "September"



What's the Buzz?

Updates on Music, Media, and Faith Formation

The summer season of special music guests has officially concluded. I give thanks to all of my talented friends who provided us with something unique and memorable each week. This month, I am excited to welcome back the chancel and handbell choirs! In the chancel choir, we see the familiar faces of Kay, Patty, August, Gina, Bev, Dani, Lisa, Bruce, Jeremy, Mason, Chris, and Tom. After a year away, we welcome back Teri Lynn. And joining us for the first time is Taylor – a sophomore at Xavier who came to our Ash Wednesday service earlier this year and fell in love with all things First UCC!

In the handbell choir, we are pleased to have Patty, Bev, August, Mason, Chris, Jean, and Sue back. Also returning to handbells after her year away is Teri Lynn. And the new faces we are greeting this season are Linda, Danae, and Kay! I will never get over the excitement of a new season with both returning and new faces. The music family at First UCC is a special group and I'm honored to get to work with them on a regular basis (and for their continued tolerance of my shenanigans!). Even though rehearsals have begun, I welcome new members to either group at any time! If you have any interest, please come talk to me and learn more about the fun process of making music with friends. We have a splendid time in both groups!

For this month, the chancel choir will perform "I Will Sing and Not Be Silent" on September 7, "You Raise Me Up" on the 14th, and "I've Got Joy" on the 21st down at Hoffner Street. They will be taking September 28th off as I am out of town. The handbell choir performs "Chapel Chimeings" on September 14th – a piece that features our new hand chime set! These chimes, in addition to permanent handbell tables, foam padding, and table covers, were made possible by the Krebs family in honor of Ginny Krebs. Thank you!

I'll close out my article with two big, additional highlights in the life of First UCC... first, the Family Center is up and running! We've had a little hiccup with sound, but I believe the last two weeks have been smooth sailing and when the families choose to use the space, it has been given rave reviews! But that is also the beauty of our worship – families are more than



Jimmy Wiederhold
Director of Music, Media,
and Faith Formation



What's the Buzz? (cont.)

welcome to stay in the sanctuary, and I am grateful that the congregation stepped up to allow families these options. Coming soon to the space is an original piece of art by a local artist!

Secondly, on August 26, we hosted Cincinnati's first ONA local gathering. Four congregations were represented by the 17 folks present. What a wonderful collection of queer folks, representing a range of age, race, and sexual and gender identities. We agreed that the group is a space for joy; existing to bring community and comfort to those of us who need a safe space. We hope to next gather on September 30 at Immanuel UCC in St. Bernard. Official details to be announced soon!

Have a great month!

Jimmy

LGBTQIA+ Next Gathering

First UCC hosted 17 LGBTQIA+ folks from four ONA congregations on Tuesday evening. The prayerful time was full of great conversation and planning for the future.

We are looking to have our next gathering on **Tuesday, September 30 at Immanuel UCC in St. Bernard**. There will be a sign-up and more information to share in the coming weeks! If you have any questions, please see Jimmy. Thanks to all of those from First UCC who attended on Tuesday, and to Sammi and Brad for helping with clean up!



Birthdays

09/06 – Bob Beck

09/13 – Baylor Owens

09/15 – Alexander Rhodes

09/15 – Sarah Bilz

09/18 – Don Fricke (98th)

09/20 – Ruth Beck

09/21 – Lynn Kluesener

09/22 – Steve Mutters

09/23 – Dani Wiseman (Sweet 16)

09/24 – Bette Smith (Jean Krebs' mother – 100 years young!)

09/26 – Ron Durrett

09/26 – Kelley Gray

09/27 – Darrell Copenhaver

Anniversaries

09/14 – Jim & Kathy Gorsler

09/23 – Jimmy Wiederhold & Gary Smith



~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Larry Heitkamp (dear friend of the Senior Social); Chelsea and Sophia (mother and baby – friends of Pam, Hilda Faulkner's friend); Katie and family (daughter of Bernice and Terry Morgan, friends of the church); 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 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); Hannah Steinhard (daughter of Bruce & Kathie Steinhard); Kimberly Morgan (cousin of Ron Kirkman); Brian Kirkman (son of Ron Kirkman); Family of Jim Knepper (family friend of the Kern's); Tiffany Nelson (friend of Ron Kirkman); Dale Merz (cousin of Michelle Richards); Pam and family (friends 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); Jack Parsons (father of Patti Baldwin); Michelle M. (cousin of Bev Bosse); Thomas (nephew of Hilda's friend, Pam); Kesha and Family (friends of Ron Kirkman); Charlie (friend of Herb Brookbank).



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.

Fishes and Loaves

Summer break continues for our Fishes and Loaves crew. The next meal will be Wednesday, September 24. Be sure to follow the Fishes and Loaves Facebook page or call the church office if interested in a meal.

Share the Journey

All are invited to the "Share the Journey" concert here at First UCC on Sunday September 28th at 7 p.m. Led by Bobby Fisher, his daughter Serenity, and her husband Michael Ronstadt, the concert has been an annual event since 2018, previously held at Xavier University's Bellarmine Chapel. This year the proceeds benefit Heartfelt Tidbits, Su Casa, and the Jesuit Refugee Service who assist the Immigrant and Refugee Community. To learn more about this group, you can go to shareinthejourney.com. Donations can be made online or with the Mission Priority Board of the UCC.

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Life of the Church (cont.)

Labor of Love

Beginning September 6, it's back to work on Saturday mornings in the Church Gardens. The months of July and August were quite hot and rainy. It kept the gardens much greener than usual for this time of year and led to extensive growth. Now that the cooler weather is here, there is work to be done. Amy and Pastor Dan will be there every Saturday from 9 – 12 through November, except for the Rummage Sale date on October 11 and on October 25. Otherwise, stop in for however long you can stay, 30 minutes, an hour, or the entire three hours. All help is appreciated. Tools are aplenty, but feel free to bring your own. Watch the church website for a garden page that will include a "Keep or Compost" section that will help all feel more comfortable working in the garden.

Calendar Time!

It's time again for the First UCC calendars. Please see Laura Copenhaver in the Fellowship Hall after service. Initial listings are \$7.00; any additional listings are \$4.00.

Conference and SONKA Gatherings

Our Heartland Conference annual gathering is at Ohio Wesleyan on Friday, September 26. The theme is "Into the Deep" as we gather. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Event starts at 10 and will conclude at 5:45. Keynote speaker is Dr. Molly Marshall, seminary president of the Twin Lakes. Pastor Dan has served on the planning team. Worship and the gathering are always inspiring. Registration is \$60 and includes lunch.

Also, mark your calendars for the SONKA gathering on November 15. This will be held at St. John's, 515 East Third Street, Dayton, OH 45402.

On August 26, our 513 Region gathered at Immanuel UCC and named First UCC's Rev. Teri Lynn Stackhouse as the candidate for the 513 Regional Minister. Plans again are in the works for a combined Ash Wednesday service on February 18, 2026 at a west side church. There also may be an Advent service. 513 region hopes to work together more often for ministry and witness.

July 2025

Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Treasurer: Christy Meyer (Treasurer)

Pastor: Dan Weyand-Geise

Excused:

I. **Call to Order – 7:18** Milt called the meeting to order.

II. **Devotion --** Pastor Dan

III. **Treasurer's Report (Christy):** The June reports were accepted, and approval was given to pay July's expenses.

Motion: Jean

Second: Darrell

Accepted: All in favor

Bills:

Motion: Tom

Second: Bruce

Accepted: All in Favor

Jean then reviewed expenses from the Renovation and changing to the Family Center.

Speaker for Room \$ 780.00

To view, please grab a physical copy in the narthex.

Next Month – Doors \$ 4,500.00 for Kitchen

IV. **Recording Secretary's Report (Bruce) –** The June report was accepted

Motion: Bill

Second: Darrell

Accepted: All in favor

V. **Financial Secretary's Report (Jean) –**

Motion: Gail

Second: Tom

Accepted: All in favor

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

- **Fishes & Loaves** – nothing to report
- **Phil's** – nothing to report
- **IHN Hosting** – nothing to report

Pastor Dan mentioned various outside groups that are possibly going to use the building. Ed raised the question about outside groups using the church facilities? Darrell, Bill and Gail all responded that part of the Insurance policy is an umbrella clause which covers us. Ed said he raised the question out of responsibility for the church facilities.

Motion: Darrell

Second: Tom

Accepted: All in favor with 1 Abstention

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July 2025

Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

VII. Committee Reports

- **Health Ministries** shared 3 new First Aid Kits have been obtained and placed around the church. Lisa S. will be putting together an article for the newsletter. She is also working on a training for the CPR with the AED which can be attended by Zoom.
- **Facilities** – Ed raised the question of the speaker system in the Family Center and who would adjust it. Bruce replied that Jimmy would do that.

Heat in the Family Center was raised as a concern and who is going to be turning on the heat. Who is designated? Since Jimmy is working with the families it was suggested that Jimmy be the one to check the temperature in the room.

Kitchen Doors – being changed over. It will take 2-3 days. July 28th – 29th

Rick Dunn – Thank you in the Newsletter

Pest Control – Ed said he had followed the person around as he checked the church for bugs. The cost for the Termites is \$ 650.00 and is done once a year. For bed bugs \$600.00, which is done every four (4) months. Bill said it is One Stop Pest Control.

- **Endowment (Bill)** - No report
- **Music (Jean)** – nothing to report
- **Budget (Jean)** – nothing to report

IX. Old Business

- **By-Laws (Bruce and Pastor Dan)** – The Constitution & By-Laws are available by contacting the office, Bruce Steinhard, or Pastor Dan.
- **Handicapped Accessible doors** are being put into budget for next year.
- **Budget concerns** – can the Endowment committee come back with a future projection for how long the fund will last at the current percentage rate we are using out of the endowment.
- **Ed -- Insurance Company** – there are 7 items to be done, recommended by the Insurance Company.

X. New Business -- none

XI. Adjournment

Moved: Darrell

Seconded: Gail

Accepted: All in Favor

XII. Lord's Prayer

*Submitted by: J. Bruce Steinhard
Recording Secretary*

Church Finances

First United Church of Christ 2025 Budget vs Actual Comparison through June 2025

To view, please grab a physical copy in the narthex.

Total Expenses	\$214,068.00	\$242,489.78	113%
Net INCOME	(\$464.00)	\$75,085.62	

Hello, First UCC! We are midway through our 2025 budget and expected to be \$464 in the red at the end of June. Unexpectedly the remodel is over budget but looks great! Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to beat our budgeted income projection AND provide a wonderful space for all to use!

Thank you sincerely, First UCC Finance Committee

First UCC Monthly Income Summary August 2025

	08/03/25	tithe.ly	Endowment	subtotal	%
Tithe	\$4,195.00	\$289.66		\$4,484.66	100%
Endowment	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Total Operating Funds	\$4,195.00	\$289.66	\$0.00	\$4,484.66	100%
Total Designated Funds					
DEPOSITS	\$4,955.00	\$261.78	\$0.00	\$5,216.78	
tithe.ly fees		\$9.70		\$9.70	
NET DEPOSITS	\$4,955.00	\$272.08	\$0.00	\$5,227.08	

To view, please grab a physical copy in the narthex.

Preview of October First UCC News

The Holy Week of Rummage Sale begins with set up on October 5th after church. Drop off on Wednesday and Thursday, the 8th and 9th, from 4 – 8 p.m. On Friday, the 10th, we will finish set up between 9 – noon. Saturday, October 11th is the actual sale from 9 – 1.

Garden Days in October will be Saturday, October 4th and the 18th from 9 - noon. We will not have garden days on October 11th (Rummage Sale) nor October 25th (Pastor in Pittsburgh). If you would like to work in the garden during the week, simply contact Pastor Dan or the church office to see what area would need attention. Garden clean up days will continue through November.

On October 18th, First UCC was again chosen as the site for the ordination of the Catholic women priests. Barbara Hanley will be ordained here that day. Pastor Dan will be a participant. All are invited to attend.

We are still entertaining the option of a Pet Blessing Day in October or early November. See Pastor Dan if you are interested in making this happen.

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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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.

