



**October**

**2025 Newsletter**

## *The Pastor's Report*

We plan and plan for the party. We have checked our lists; crossed off the “to-do’s”; and we have done everything to make all just perfect for the big day. And it is. Oops, except for...

How well do you accept that things will never be perfect? The words I choose for this article will be hashed out and meticulously deliberated. My English professors will be recalled and my theological lessons will swirl in my mind as I rework this article, look for a different angle, spellcheck, and then send it to Kim Ogden to print. I will get to the end and say, “Good” and yet there will be something that is missing. It won’t quite capture my intention. And I have to be ok with that. I have a deadline. Kim is calling for the article NOW.

I really like the Creation interpretation where it imagines God created Man, and said, “Oh, I can do better than that...” then, God created Woman. I am not a Biblical literalist and my experience of God, the Universe, Scripture, and Tradition all teach me that life is truly a Process. It is a process that leads us in ever changing ways and in ways that life and death continue to happen. Resurrection and new life will come but the process will not be a perfectly straight path. Sickness, loss, injury, separation, celebration, and healing are all part of the scenery. Life is not to be lived linearly. In the Creation Story we read “And God saw that it was good” as the world is unfolding. “Good.” Notice it was not said God saw that it was perfect. There is a wholeness and holiness to God’s work, God’s creation.

Our two events in September were occasions we wanted to be perfect. The 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary down at the old church site was a beautiful occasion with friends from the old church, newer members here on Glenview and many from both eras. The weather was ideal, the cake incorporated photos from our church’s history, the service was a blessed reminder of God’s grace through the years. Yet, there were bees and lots of people we just could not get enough time to visit or exchange pleasantries. You may have seen so-so there, but never got a chance to go and talk with them. A beautiful day and just never enough time to soak it all in. Time stood still...and then we moved on.

The other September event was the Share the Journey concert for compassion on September 28 at First UCC. The concert raised money for three groups working with immigrants and refugees. The musicians all arrived safely from across the country. The church was transformed into a studio setting with cameras on stages, lighting, and sound systems throughout the building. Every person contributed freely of their time and

talents. The collection of money via Venmo or the QR code, or paper offerings all were successful. The attendance was in the ballpark of what we hoped. Yet, at the end of the night, the producer informed us that there was no audio! The entire event will only live on in photographs and in our mind's eye and ear. The producer felt horrible. "This was the perfect event, and I ruined it," he declared. Yet, Bobby Fisher, the organizer of the event, extended him grace, forgiveness, and love when he said, "Well, I guess God had other plans for us. It was a wonderful night in all ways." Perfectly said.

As we hear of loved ones struggling in life, or learn of world events that ignite our passion, our fears, or even our compassion, may we conclude each day, no matter what is going on, with a prayer of thanks. We are blessed to be alive. At the end of the day, God saw it all and it is good.

With all my imperfections and love,

Dan

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Fishes and Loaves Schedule**

Fishes and Loaves has resumed, but will be each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, rather than every week. Here is the upcoming schedule: October 22<sup>nd</sup>; November 12<sup>th</sup>; December 10<sup>th</sup>; January 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>; February 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>; March 25<sup>th</sup> (no meals the weeks of the fall and spring rummage sales).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Breast Cancer Awareness**

We are celebrating Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to wear pink! After church, there will be a reception in the fellowship hall sponsored by the Guild. Everyone is welcome to bring a dish (preferably pink in some way).

There will be a free will offering which will be donated to Cancer Family Care, who provides free services for cancer patients such as counseling, free wigs, Kroger gift cards, massage and healing touch.

Wear your pink and plan to join us!

## **What's the Buzz**

Do you have a favorite season? Undoubtably, mine is autumn. The cooler temps, gray skies, falling leaves and yes, even the shorter hours of daylight, bring me joy. I love nothing more than to spend a cool, autumn evening on the couch with a good book or curled up next to a bonfire with family. And let's not forget the colors; reds, oranges, browns, and yellows start filling the trees and then our front lawns. Pumpkins, gourds, hot cocoa, mums, and so much more echo the hues of the changing leaves. To me, autumn announces its arrival louder than the other seasons – have you noticed the fiery hues appearing around you? It's a beautiful thing, and I'm excited for this upcoming season.

In the life of the church, the choir and handbells begin their second month of performances. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, we hear from both groups! The handbell choir will, once again, feature our new hand chimes in an arrangement of "Shenandoah." The choir will perform its first of three Broadway tunes this month: "You Will Be Found" from the hit musical, "Dear Evan Hansen." On the 12<sup>th</sup>, the choir will perform "This Is Me" from the movie musical, "The Greatest Showman," in celebration of National Coming Out Day. The following week, the choir will perform a beloved, early spiritual fit for the season, "Deep River." They close out the month with an upbeat performance of "Seize the Day" from the musical, "Newsies," which offers a great message to make the most of the time we have.

The Family Center continues to be a blessing. The space is open as needed, it is beautiful, and it offers an option of comfort and ease that families appreciate. For the Sundays when families wish to remain in the sanctuary, I continue to offer coloring sheets, crayons, and clipboards on the Kids' Korner table in the narthex.

You may remember that for a few weeks (years ago), we had double projections on the walls for worship. Due to quite a few issues, it was easier to remove the second projector than to deal with the uncertainty of its operation. With that being said, I have inquired to have two permanent, high clarity projectors installed on the back wall. This installation would eliminate much of the clutter you see near the iPad – tables, cords, the laptop, etc. The PowerPoint slides will be remote controlled and easily seen by all since they will be projected on both sides of the sanctuary. The quote I received has been passed off to board members and I hope to see this upgrade come to the sanctuary soon. If you have questions or want to know more, come see me.

Have a great month!

Jimmy

## Keep in Prayer

*Rosella Jamison (member); Family of Terrence Stern-Enzi – “Ti” (co-worker of Gina Kern); Jody Eversole (friend of Suwanna Kirkman); Don Fricke (member); Hannah Steinhard (daughter of Bruce & Kathie Steinhard); Laura Hauck (member); Sandy Echols (member); Dorothy (aunt of Suwanna Kirkman); Joe (uncle of Suwanna Kirkman); Carolyn Bruckmann (friend of the church); 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); Christine White (friend of Jackie Smith); Joey Miller (grandson of Ron Kirkman); Cindy Moeller (friend of Bruce & Kathie Steinhard); Kimberly Morgan (cousin of Ron Kirkman); Brian Kirkman (son of Ron Kirkman); 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).*





10/01 – Bill & Margie Spatz (70<sup>th</sup>)  
10/02 – Chris & Scot Armstrong  
10/08 – JC & Jordan Owens  
10/15 – Ed & Bev Bosse  
10/15 – Rob & Gina Kern  
10/18 – Jeff & Jennifer Runck (30<sup>th</sup>)  
10/18 – Ron & Kathy Bachman  
10/26 – Jim & Carol Bitzenhofer

10/01 – Bruce Steinhard  
10/03 – Jenni Frost-Cornish  
10/04 – Angela Rodenbeck  
10/05 – Lisa Shelton  
10/09 – Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise  
10/13 – Keagan Malott  
10/13 – Lyra Bridget Rose  
10/16 – Chris Baldwin (21<sup>st</sup>)  
10/16 – Anna Baldwin (21<sup>st</sup>)  
10/16 – Mason Baldwin (21<sup>st</sup>)  
10/18 – Kathy Bachman  
10/27 – Brett Buttelwerth  
10/27 – Ethan Mutters (16<sup>th</sup>)  
10/31 – Sandy Brzezinski

## **Phil's Place Platitudes**

Great thanks to Deb Neumeister and her Senior Social crew for their service at Phil's Place on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and to Jean Krebs and the Finance Committee members for the meal on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Phil's Place typically serves more than 100 meals each Monday afternoon at CAIN. If you have a group interested in serving a meal in 2026, contact Pastor Dan or Ron Kirkman.

## **Rummage Sale – October 11**

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

## **Garden Days**

Garden Days in October will be Saturdays, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – noon. We will not have garden days on October 11<sup>th</sup> (Rummage Sale) nor October 25<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## **Ordination**

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

## **Washington UCC Christmas Plans – (From Pastor Melissa Stephens)**

It's not too early to remind you of the Christmas gift, clothing and food distribution at Washington UCC, is it? On Saturday, Dec. 13 we will set up our large meeting space to look like the North Pole! Parents and guardians will come by on Sunday, Dec. 14 to pick out toys, clothing, and food for their children ages 0-17. We need churches to sponsor families. We estimate the cost is about \$60 per child and families average 3 children each. More than 300 children from 88 families were served last year. It is an extremely heartwarming experience to see the abundance of God poured out.

## **Congregational Meetings Changed**

Since the congregation approved going to a calendar year budget, the Church Board voted to move the Congregational meetings to January and July. We will meet on January 18, 2026 (the 25<sup>th</sup> is the backup date) with July 26, 2026 used to plan for the Fall.

## **SONKA Gathering**

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.

# **First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes**

## **August 11, 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** -- Milt called the meeting to order.
- II. **Devotion** -- Pastor Dan asked us to reflect on the book he used “The Inner Game of Tennis” and read from the end section. Then he reflected, “In the Rhythm of Life so the Spirit may guide us.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report (Christy):** The July reports were accepted, and approval was given to pay August expenses, with one change noted – Christ Community Food Pantry is not the name anymore, as it has finally been changed to Heartbeat of the City.  
Motion: Darrell                      Second: Bruce                      Accepted: All in favor  
Bills:  
Motion: Bev                              Second: Darrell                      Accepted: All in favor
- IV. **Recording Secretary’s Report (Bruce)** – The June report was accepted with a few corrections.  
Motion: Tom                      Second: Gail                      Accepted: All in favor
- V. **Financial Secretary’s Report (Jean)** –  
Motion: Darrell                      Second: Bruce                      Accepted: All in favor

**Pastor’s Report** – Pastor Dan submitted his report to the Church Board

- **NEW STOP SIGNS at Belmont and Glenview, making it a 3 WAY STOP!!!**
- 
- **IHN Hosting** – noted in report
- **Fishes & Loaves** – noted in report
- **Phil’s** – noted in report



- Motion:                      Second:                      Accepted:

## VII. Committee Reports

**Finance Committee** – they are in the midst of the Budget Process. They will be suggesting a CAPITAL CAMPAIGN for major projects such as the Foundation Problems fixes, the Wheel Chair spaces in the Sanctuary, and other major projects, rather than continuing to turn to the Endowment Fund for money to pay for these projects.

Communion –  
Ministries we help –

- Ed shared thoughts on the grass and it was decided to trust the person who mows the grass as to when it needs to be cut.
- Family Center – The tile ledges by windows to be done soon along with work in the kitchen.
- Floor in Fellowship Hall was done and looks very nice.

- Music** – Starting up later this month.

**Meditation Garden** – work to be started in September.

**Batteries** – continue to be collected for recycling.

**Bags for C.A.I.N.** – we continue to collect them as they are used every week for the Food Pantry.

- **By-Laws (Bruce and Pastor Dan)** – The Constitution & By-Laws are available by contacting the office, Bruce Steinhard, or Pastor Dan
- Can the Endowment Committee come back with projections for the future?  
Also, should we consider a Professional Management of the Endowment Fund.  
Bill Henrich, Ed Bosse and Brian Beckman are the current members on the committee.
- Insurance -

Darrell – Exit Sign batteries for Fire escape should be checked every month. They are currently being done Quarterly.

Milt – Liability Insurance – check with the UCC Insurance Board  
Ed should report his findings to Milt  
We should ask Jim W. to check over the current policy.

Bruce – Brought to the attention that an Audit has not been done since Kathie S. was the treasurer. Jean said the Budget committee is also considering / recommending this be done.

**XI. Adjournment**

**Moved:** Gail

**Seconded:** Darrell

**Accepted:** All in Favor

**XII. Lord's Prayer**

*Submitted by: J. Bruce Steinhard  
Recording Secretary*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Finance Committee News**

We are 2/3 of the way through our 2025 budget. We expected to be over budget by \$462 at the end of August. We are \$17,601 over budget however, we are expecting one final Family Center invoice, which will bring us closer to our balanced budget goal.

We are in the process of creating the 2026 budget. The second draft was presented to the Board in September for feedback. Currently undergoing fine tuning; the third draft will go to the Board in October. There will be a special meeting in late October with Finance and the Board, to allow for final updates. The final draft will be presented to the Board in November for approval and sent to the Treasurer in December.

## **Open & Affirming (ONA) Covenant First United Church of Christ**

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 a 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

PHONE: 513-541-7302

E-mail: [firstunitedchurchofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedchurchofchrist@gmail.com)

Facebook Page: First United Church of Christ, Cincinnati

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

Ed Bosse

Bill Henrich

Gail Bauknecht

Beverly Smith

June Bronnert (past president)

Christy Meyer, Church Treasurer



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.