

October

2026 Newsletter

Table of Contents

Page 3 – The Pastor’s Pen

Page 4 – What’s the Buzz?

Page 5 – October Events and Gift

Page 6 – Please Keep in Prayer

Page 7 – Please Keep in Prayer (cont.)

Page 8 – Birthdays and Anniversaries and FYI

Page 9 – Church Board Meeting Minutes

Page 10 – Church Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Page 11 – Our ONA Covenant Statement

Page 12 – Church Staff and Board Members

The Pastor's Pen

Is there a better non-Holiday month of the year than October? The weather is ideal the entire month. Brisk morning walks and late night firepits. School is in session with routines and celebrations of homecomings, falling leaves, and Halloween. Band season is melodiously marching on. Sports of all sorts are happening with Fall Classics (though we Reds fans have a hard time remembering what that is), football Sundays, even hockey and basketball begin this month. The same joyful feelings will happen these weeks at First UCC. Just think about this:

Garden days are delightful as we still reap the benefits of the zinnias, cosmos, castor beans, obedient plants, dahlias, anemone, marigolds, yarrow, sunflowers, and cannas that were planted earlier in the summer (Amy gave me the names 😊). Even the Golden Rod has dazzled the altar displays we have enjoyed through September and into October. Of course, the sacred second week of October means rummage sale. The camaraderie, shared history, and new beginnings will take place whether we plan it or not. The brilliance of community simply happens. Come up and lend a hand for the setup, or simply show up the day of the sale and see what's it all about. Take some time and witness a minor miracle as the fellowship hall is transformed into a maddingly, marvelous marketplace. And just like that, two hours after the sale concludes, the fellowship hall returns to its everyday look. Wow!! The magic of the month.

The last three weekends of October will have a wedding, our UCC Association Fall Gathering, and a pet blessing. Each of these is an opportunity for the ordinary to become something quite special and dare we say holy. On the 17th, Kathleen and Luke desired this site to begin their married life together. Joyful song and sacred vows will be shared. On the 24th, SONKA chose First to host the Fall gathering as we come together as collective churches to imagine who we are together. Our SONKA gatherings remind us that we are a uniting church. This means we look to widen the circle. An inclusive and broad welcome is extended to all. And, finally, the last Saturday of the month is the pet blessing. We will bless and give thanks for our furry friends who comfort us and delight us every day of the year. Our sincere love and feeling for our pets are actually a biblical imperative. We are to take care of one another and to care for the creation. That means Fido and Fluffy, Roscoe and Ralphie.

At the end of the month, we celebrate a religious holiday with secular tones. Halloween reminds us of our mortality and the holiness of those who have gone before us. Our saints, sinners, lovers, and friends are with us in flesh and in spirit. We celebrate the memory and the wisdom they hold for us. As we make our way into this month, thank you for your presence and place at First Church. May we continue to live out our baptismal promises with grace, kindness, charity, and love.

Pastor Dan

What's the Buzz? – Church Music, Media, and Faith Formation

In many ways, fall is the season of change. One could argue that change comes with every season, but I feel like this time has the most noticeable changes – leaves take on new colors, temperatures drop, and the darkness of night comes sooner. There are many changes taking place here at First UCC and it is an exciting time.

The week before Palm Sunday of this year, I started my usual Sunday morning tasks of turning on the sound system, setting up the projector and iPad, and practicing my music for worship. About 40 minutes later, the speakers in the sanctuary started to squeal and no matter what steps I took, the sound did not go away until I turned the system off. This started the church's journey towards a new sound system, microphones, live-streaming camera, and projectors. Although I initiated contact with the audio-visual companies, it was the dedicated team of Geralyn, Sammi, Tom, and a few others who really got the ball rolling on what we needed for a successful, digitally capable future while I was on sabbatical. And it is thanks to the entire congregation for voting to pay for these changes that will keep us growing and tech-savvy for decades to come.

At the time of writing this article, much of the new system has been installed. We hope to have a fully operational system by October 11. What changes does this bring to us on Sundays? The church's Wi-Fi is way more powerful; six ports spread throughout the building will guarantee strong signals for services on Sunday mornings as well as any event we host in the future. As I announced on September 27, you will need to sign in to the new guest Wi-Fi account. Password remains as "bethechurch".

There are new microphones coming to the choir loft and a wireless mic for Pastor Dan's use. All of which will be amplified by new speakers in the sanctuary, narthex, carport, parlor, fellowship hall, and very excitedly, the family center. Two high-definition projectors have been installed on the back wall and will project extremely clear images of the PowerPoint slides to BOTH sides of the sanctuary. ADA-accessible doors have also been installed at the front entrance, fellowship hall door, and will soon be added to the two main restrooms down the hall.

With all this change coming, I'm excited to share that there are new faces coming to both the choirs! As the music department continues to grow and flourish, you can look forward to a more diverse selection of music on Sunday mornings as well as new groups performing each month... more to come!

Have a great month! - Jimmy

October Events

Rummage Sale

Our rummage sale is coming up on Saturday, October 10th. Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with a Bag Sale at noon. Hope to see you there!

Interested in First UCC

Come join Pastor Dan on Sunday October 25th to learn more about the First United Church of Christ. We hope to have new members presented to the congregation sometime in December before Christmas. We will meet in October then again in November as a group. Pastor Dan is also available to meet individually if schedules do not work for the Sunday meetings.

SONKA Gathering

On October 24th, our UCC Association Gathering will take place here at First UCC. The session begins at 9 a.m. and will conclude in the early afternoon. It is a chance for our churches to come together and hear the good news that is happening throughout the Association and the Heartland Conference.

Pet Blessing on October 31

Our blessing takes place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 31st. Bring your dog and/or cat. Please have each on a leash or in a crate. We will gather up near the bell tower and proceed to the Meditation Garden.

WGs Thank First UCC

Nate and Elizabeth Weyand-Gilbert, along with Dan and Amy, thank First UCC for their support and love during the days leading up to the wedding on September 19 and the community party on the 20th. So many lovely people came who have been a significant part of Nate's life here at First for nearly his entire life. The welcome of Elizabeth was heartfelt and faith-filled. The fellowship hall was filled with lively conversation and beautiful expressions of love. Thank you.

Gift to the Memorial Fund in Honor of Nate & Elizabeth's wedding
From: Janet Copenhaver



Please Keep in Prayer

Amanda and family (daughter of Hilda Faulkner)
Bill Mayer (member)
Blake Webb (friend of Jackie Smith)
Brian Hawk (friend of Jenna - friend of the Senior Social)
Carolyn Bruckman (friend of the church)
Carolyn Hocker (Kelsey George's Grandmother)
Charlene Jones (sister of Jackie Smith)
Charlie (friend of Herb Brookbank)
Chelsea and Sophia (friends of Pam, Hilda Faulkner's friend)
Christa Easton (friend of Vicki Schaefer)
Christi Simmons (friend of Michelle Richards)
Christine White (friend of Jackie Smith)
Cindy & Mark Wolf (friends of the Colding's)
Cody (son-in-law of Suwanna Kirkman)
Daisy (friend of Hannah Steinhard)
Darrell & Laura Copenhaver (members)
Darryl P. and Mickey P. (cousins of Bev Bosse)
Dennis & Linda Ernst (cousin of Kim Ogden)
Diane Ripley (friend of the Kirkman's)
Dorothy (aunt of Suwanna Kirkman)
Elaine Lewis (Jackie Smith's granddaughter)
Eric Stacy (friend of the Steinhard's and Sehlhorst's)
Family of George Frazer (neighbor and friend of the Kirkman Family)
Family and friends of Jackie Smith
Family of Marty Villasuso (nephew of Hilda Faulkner)
Family and Congregation of Rev. Derek Terry (Pastor at St. Peter's UCC in Pleasant Ridge and Executive Director of Open & Affirming Coalition)
Family of Robby Villasuso (nephew of Hilda Faulkner)
Family of Terrence Stern-Enzi, "Tt" (co-worker of Gina Kern)
Fisher Family at the loss of their son (friends of the Kirkman's)
Grandma Judy
Haley (friend of the Copenhaver's)
Jackie Smith (member)
Jim & Carol Bitzenhofer (members)

John Faulkner (son of Hilda Faulkner)
Juanita Clark (sister-in-law of Lex Weyand)
Karen (friend of Diane Burger)
Katie and family (daughter of Bernice and Terry Morgan, friends of the church)
Kylir Baum (boyfriend of Dani Wiseman)
Laura Hauck (member)
Lucille Isaacs (member)
Lynne (friend of the church)
Marvin Stamper (employee at C.M. Meyer & Assoc.)
MaryJo O'Brien (friend of Michelle Richards)
Michelle M. (cousin of Bev Bosse)
Moe Wells (late husband of Elizabeth Wells)
Nancy Weyand (sister-in-law of Jim Weyand)
Nancy Whitaker (member – in Hospice at Llanfair)
Pam and family (friends of Hilda Faulkner)
Pastor Debbie Gamble (friend of Hilda Faulkner and CAIN)
Pat Froehle (member)
Ramon (grandson of Hilda Faulkner)
Ron Cummins (dear friend of Amanda Faulkner)
Ronald Meister (grandfather of Kelsey George)
Sandy Echols (member)
Sharon Kazee (prayer asked from Sandy Echols)
Stephanie (close friend of Mary Day & family)
Stephanie and family (at the loss of Stephanie's mother)
Su H. (friend of Bev Bosse)
Suwanna Kirkman (daughter-in-law of Ron Kirkman)
Teri Lynn Stackhouse (member)
Thomas (nephew of Hilda's friend, Pam)
Tina Maxwell (Sue Bilz' best friend)
Vicki Thorner (Sue Bilz' cousin)
Walt & Bobbie Roberts (uncle & aunt of Suwanna Kirkman)
Whiting Family (cousins of the Krebs Family)



Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

10/01 – Bill & Margie Spatz
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
10/26 – Jim & Carol Bitzenhofer

Birthdays

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

FYI

Reminder that Pizza with the Pastor is the first Sunday of the month. Dan and Amy will host on October 4th. First-timers always have a seat at the table – simply contact the church office or Pastor Dan or Amy to reserve a spot. Usually there's room for 12, but they can always make room for more.

First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes August 10, 2026 (In-Person & Zoom)

In attendance: Tom Shelton, June Bronnert, Milt Hauck, Bruce Steinhard, Jean Krebs, Ed Bosse, Gail Bauknecht, Bill Henrich, Bev Smith, Sammi Asplan, Pastor Dan, Christy Meyer, Dave Krebs, Geralyn Curtis

Treasurer: Christy Meyer (Treasurer)

Pastor: Dan Weyand-Geise

Call to Order – Tom called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Devotion – Derek Terry – St. Peter’s UCC (asked for his service to be at First UCC) – Moment of Silence.

Treasurer's Report (Christy): \$150,000 from Endowment. 3 Pay Periods. Jimmy's Sabbatical. Bills & Expenses.

Motion: June Second: Jean Accepted: All in favor

Minutes: Bev Second: Bill Accepted: All in favor

AV Report (Sammi)

Motion: Gail Second: Bev I Abstention

Old System – Contact Greg

Facilities (Dave)

- Door

- Bulwarks – Duke

- AV Upgrade

- Water in Electrical Box

- Tree Trimming

- Paul

- Rumpke (repl. Republic) – Starts the 18th

List of Vendors to Dave

Who Has Church Keys

Service / Start Peace earlier

Ed – Building

Brick & Mortar

Motion: Jean

Second: Sammi

Accepted: All in favor

\$10K at start; \$10K at end

Financial Secretary Report – Jean

Credit Card

Motion: Gail

Second: Bev

Accepted: All in favor

Comm. – Stewardship; Church Growth

Pastor

October 24 – Association Gathering, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 60 – 70

Derek's Service Next Thursday

Motion: Bill

Second: Jean

Accepted: All in favor

Endowment – Ed made the report.

Meditation Garden – Alexis this morning; plus 3 people to help.

Pastoral Relations: Jimmy – good time being away.

Kim – needs to meet with her committee.

Audit – met.

Health Ministry – Lisa

Old Business: Ed – check to Elevator Co. – petroleum charge. Company told Ed not to pay.

Bills – to various committees; check mailbox.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Motion: Milt

Second: Sammi

Accepted: All in favor

Lord's Prayer

Submitted by: J. Bruce Steinhard, Recording Secretary

Open & Affirming (ONA) Covenant of 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 UCC, 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 UCC. 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

email: firstunitedchurchofchrist@gmail.com

website: www.firstunitedchurchofchrist.org

Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram! @firstuccincy

Pastoral Team:

Dan Weyand-Geise, *Pastor*
ext. 17

Jimmy Wiederhold, *Director of Music, Media, and Faith Formation*
email: jimmy@firstuccincy.org

Kim Ogden, *Pastoral Administrator*
ext. 10

Church Board:

Tom Shelton, *President*

Milt Hauck, *Co-Vice President*

June Bronnert, *Co-Vice President*

Bruce Steinhard, *Recording Secretary*

Jean Krebs, *Financial Secretary*

Sammi Asplan

Gail Bauknecht

Ed Bosse

Bill Henrich

Beverly Smith

*Christy Meyer (*Treasurer*)



“God is still speaking.”