



2026 Newsletter

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The Pastor's Pen

“We will always love you...”

My mind and heart are full as I sit down to write this Pastor's Pen. We learn to pivot and move on in life from the moment we are born. There is the delicate art of being present and then transitioning to what needs our attention. A challenge is to remember what we have experienced and learned. Wisdom comes when we are attentive and adaptive.

“You were rich as you could be, in your coat of many colors...”

August events pummeled us to be alert. The rain and wind left many without power during the second week and beyond. Tree damage is all around and throughout the area. We find candles, borrow a generator, clean out the refrigerator, and pick up branches. We survive. In the third week of the month, we absorbed the brutal shocking news of Derek Terry's untimely death. He was a leader within the church and the LGBTQ+ community nationwide. He was a colleague and friend to both Jimmy and me. He represented the hope within our United Church of Christ. Sudden deaths especially teach us to listen, to share stories, to sit with the unknown. We seek healing and wisdom as we ponder our own moments of sadness and despair. We look for ways to be aware of others who may be suffering. The church glowed with tears of sadness and celebration. We move forward yet never to forget them.

“Wildflowers don't care where they grow...”

I entered the last week of the month and anticipated a slow news week and a respite from the outbreaks of pastoral concerns. Then, we all learned of Dolly's death. As many have commented, she represented the best of America. Everyone loved Dolly. From Hillary Clinton to Donald Trump, the sincere and touching tributes came over social media and, more importantly, in our conversations and daily occurrences. We lean into the joy and faith that Dolly brought to us. We listen to her music, relive funny moments on screen and in interviews. In describing her style and persona, Dolly said, “I've created this and played it up. But this isn't all I am.” She then emphasized, “It's not even most of what I am. Hopefully people can see beneath the hair to know there's a brain, beneath the boobs to know there's a heart, and behind all the other stuff to know there's

some talent.” We paid attention and saw all of the talent and more. In her devotion to her own family, her generosity to those in need, her affirmation of all people, and in her living faith, Dolly inspired us to be better versions of ourselves.

“I can see the light of a clear blue morning...”

September is here. And what a month awaits the church. On Labor Day weekend, Dave Hawkins and Bobby Fisher provide the soul and sound. We are planning a Sunday service to celebrate and to share our summer wisdom, fun, and continued healing. It is appropriate that we will have communion served at the services not only on the first Sunday of the month, but also at our services on the 13th and 20th. Like last year, we will have worship at the site of the church on Hoffner Street in Northside on the 13th. Last year was a beautiful day of remembrance. This year will celebrate the history and look to the future. We also welcome back Jimmy. Then, on the 20th we again gather as community back at First UCC on Glenview. Amy and I invite everyone to attend church for our son Nate and Elizabeth’s wedding weekend. After the Sunday service, we will have a lunch provided by Tortilleria Garcia’s. We will serve in the fellowship hall and the outdoors Green Space will have a tent set up for dining and conversation. It will be an emotional and fulfilling celebration. This community has meant so much to Nate that he and his bride want to spend their first full day as a married couple in community with those who have loved them and modeled for them love and friendship.

“I wish you joy and happiness, But above all of this I wish you love...”

Not sure I could be more surprised and emotionally spent as I was in August. But I have a feeling September will bring more than its share of sadness, melancholy, kindness, joy, and happiness. And as our faith reminds us, most assuredly, there will be Love at the center of it all. For the great cloud of witnesses like Derek and Dolly and all of the beloved from our historical Apple Street, Hoffner Street and Glenview Avenue church sites remind us of this central fact of faith - we are rich in our coat of many colors. May we rely on this faith in all of our days and in all of the ways life unfolds.

Pastor Dan

September and Beyond

Special Nuptials!

We're all looking forward to the wedding of Nate Weyand-Geise and Elizabeth Gilbert! Their wedding takes place on Saturday, September 19 with immediate family and their friends. The following day, September 20, all are invited to our Sunday worship where Nate and Elizabeth will take part in the service. After the service, all are invited to stay for a luncheon. Nate and Elizabeth request no gifts. The catered luncheon is their gift to the community that has been a part of their lives. Nate and his siblings grew up in the church and are grateful for the many models of faith and love.

New Faith Formation Offerings

The Faith Formation Team of SONKA is excited to announce the first offering of our third year of In The Deep End! Rev. Mark Anthony will be offering FANTASTICAL FAITH in September!

IN THE DEEP END for September - Exploring the Christian Faith Together, Wednesday nights on September 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

FANTASTICAL FAITH: God and Religion in the writings of Tolkien, Lewis, L'Engel and others. To register, please email Ruth Hopkins at ruhop@me.com to get the free zoom link.

Conference Gathering

Registration for the September 25th Annual Gathering is now open. The link is available on HeartlandUCC.org. Contact Pastor Dan for more information.

To Jimmy... Welcome Back!!

Our time together on September 13th at the church's former site on Hoffner Street offers us many reasons to celebrate our 171 years anniversary. The best reason is that Jimmy Wiederhold is back with us following his eight-week sabbatical. We have missed him and the faith and talents he brings to the congregation and the community. While he was away, Jimmy's dedication to the church remained quite evident. Behind the scenes he kept our social media present active with some surprise posts. He also served in a ministerial and musical role with events surrounding Derek Terry's death. Jimmy, you are blessing to many. We look forward to hearing about your travels and your performances. Thank you and Welcome Back!!

At our service on the 13th, we will celebrate the history of the church AND look to the future. We have much to celebrate and to anticipate. We will have guests and members share what they find First UCC to be for the them and the community. We will also share in communion and some tasty treats after the service. Street parking is available. We are counting on good weather. We will pivot if we need to pivot. Email and social media will provide updates.

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 Copenhaver (member)
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)
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)
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

09/14 – Jim & Kathy Gorsler

09/19 – Nate & Elizabeth W-G's Wedding Day!

09/23 – Jimmy Wiederhold & Gary Smith

Birthdays

09/06 – Bob Beck

09/13 – Baylor Owens

09/15 – Alexander Rhodes

09/15 – Sarah Bilz

09/20 – Ruth Beck

09/21 – Lynn Kluesener

09/22 – Steve Mutters

09/23 – Dani Wiseman

09/24 – Bette Smith

09/26 – Kelley Gray

09/27 – Darrell Copenhaver

09/28 – Elizabeth Gilbert (W-G)

**Happy Belated Birthday to Anita Durrett, whose birthday was August 21st.*

My sincere apologies for the omission in last month's newsletter, Anita!

Hope you had a great day.

FYI

Reminder that Pizza with the Pastor is the first Sunday of the month. Dan and Amy will host on September 6th. 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 July 13, 2026 (In-Person & Zoom)

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

Treasurer: Christy Meyer (Treasurer)

Pastor: Dan Weyand-Geise - excused

Excused: June Bronnert, Gail Bauknecht

- I. **Call to Order** -- Tom called the meeting to order.
- II. **Devotion** – Bruce led the Board in a short meditation and prayer
- III. **Treasurer’s Report (Christy):** Christy reported there were no unusual expenses this month. Ed asked about the TK Elevator bill.
Motion: Bruce Second: Jean Accepted: All in favor
Bills –
Motion: Jean Second: Bev Accepted: All in favor
- IV. **Recording Secretary’s Report (Bruce):** The June report was accepted with no correction.
Motion: Bill Second: Jean Accepted: All in favor
- V. **Financial Secretary’s Report (Jean):** one change raised
Motion: Bill Second: Bev Accepted: All in favor
- VI. **Pastor’s Report** – Pastor Dan submitted his report to the Church Board Meeting

Motion: Bill Second: Jean Accepted: All in favor
- VII. **Committee Reports**
 - **Endowment** – Ed made the report.
 - **Meditation Garden** – Amy is getting the help of another Master Gardener – Alexis. They are recommending some tree trimming to be done, especially along the Belmont driveway in the back.

- **Pastoral Relations** – The committee is talking about raises and future retirement plans.
- **Audit Committee** – June 23 meeting at 1 pm at Christy's office with Sue, Kathie, Bill, Dave K. in attendance.
- **Health Ministries** – nothing to report at this time.
- **Facilities** – Meeting 7/15 at 6 pm
- **Music (Jean)** – nothing to share
- **Budget (Jean)** – nothing to share

IX. **Old Business**

- **By-Laws (Bruce and Pastor Dan)** – The Constitution & By-Laws are available by contacting the office, Bruce Steinhard, or Pastor Dan.

X. **New Business**

- **Tree Trimming - \$950.00**
Motion – Bruce **Second** – Sammi **Accepted:** All in favor
- Church Growth Committee has nothing in the budget. It was suggested that the \$200.00 in Stewardship Committee could be used for that. That money is for Stewardship Committee needs not Church Growth.
- Ed brought up the Dumpsters for garbage and recycling. He talked to both Republic and Rumpke about pricing. Republic \$140.00 /month and Rumpke \$96.00 /month.
Motion: Bev **Seconded:** Bill **Accepted:** All in Favor

XI. **Adjournment**

Moved: Milt **Seconded:** Ed **Accepted:** All in Favor

XII. **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

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Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram! @firstuccincy

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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."