



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



# January 2023 Newsletter

## The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

The pipes at church burst on Christmas Eve. What a blessing!! Yes, what a blessing that we had not closed church earlier when most others had cancelled their services. Our church would have been empty for possibly three days, and there might not have been a metaphorical Christmas birth let alone Easter resurrection from that damage. Fortunately, Sue and Christina Bilz had arrived early for the Christmas Eve service and came upon the flood. Two by two others entered the First UCC ark and began to bail out the water and begin the journey back to a dry facility. The Narthex, parish nurse office, and the downstairs boiler room were the areas mainly affected. I've always considered myself a "Glass Half-Full kind of person." This Christmas, my glass and our church's glass runneth over. We are blessed and fortunate.

Beyond the limited damage, our collective cup runneth over for many reasons. The spirit of the Advent season was beautiful. From the church gatherings of the Senior Social and the Guild to our Sunday Christmas luncheon there was a joyful camaraderie and love. The Senior group gathered only days following the death of one of their main contributors, Linda Blatt. The Guild laughed and made merrily even as members have challenges in their lives. And the Church paused and celebrated together on December 18th with the rush of the season upon all. First Church served hundreds this season at our shared ministries of CAIN and Christ's Community in addition to the beloved souls within our walls. Even the manger scene figures made it to dry land before the water did any damage to them. These are snapshots of the holiness of the season. I trust you have your own reasons to see the seasonal glass as half full.

Both Jimmy and my phones and social media accounts were blowing up when news got out about the water leak. The community responded with support, prayers, towels and buckets. The collective efforts were symbolic of making room at the inn for the Christ child to be born.

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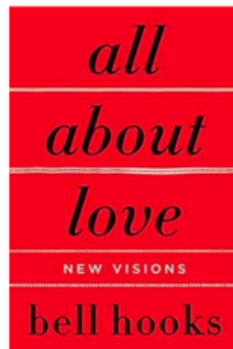


## The Pastor's Report (cont.)

As one holy irreverent soul remarked, “Well, Mary’s water has broken – baby Jesus is coming!” Yes, it was a holy night. Another remarked that in all of their years in Cincinnati, this may have been one of the best Christmas’ they had had because of the simplicity and reminder of what is most important. Our faith, our love, our friends, the message of the Christ child – God is with us. We are not alone.

We begin the New Year with lots ahead of us at First UCC. Services will resume in-person on January 1. I’d love to see many familiar faces in-person or on-line. I imagine that just like the flood of 1937 or the storm of 1993, the people gathered shortly after those events and they remembered why they are part of a faith community in the first place. Like them, it is because of our faith. It is our search for the holy and the remembrance that God dwells among us. Along with the heavenly hosts, we sing Hosanna in the Highest!! God blesses us each day – come hell or high water. Turn on the water and let the blessings flow. Christ is born today!

Yours in Christ,  
Dan



### First UCC reads All About Love together!

Written by bell hooks, All About Love offers radical new ways to think about love by showing its interconnectedness in our private and public lives. The author explains how our everyday notions of what it means to give and receive love often fail us, and how these ideals are established in early childhood. She offers a rethinking of self-love (without narcissism) that will bring peace and compassion to our personal and professional lives, and asserts the place of love to end struggles between individuals, in communities, and among societies.

As we head into the second half of the book, First UCC members and friends continue to gather to discuss the book. Discussions have been lively, filled with laughter, and great insight. Feel free to join us even if you haven’t previously attended. Our intention is simply to examine the many facets of Love and consider ways to practice and incorporate them into our lives.

***We are on break for the month of January; we’ll resume in February.***

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# What's the Buzz?

Updates on Music, Media, and Faith Formation at First UCC

Happy New Year! Although I'm not one to commit myself to a New Year Resolution (it's not for a lack of trying but I'll save you my explanation), I do love reflecting on the past year and looking ahead to the exciting changes coming in the new year. In 2022, we saw growth in the choir and handbell choir as well as the formation of come una, the youth choir. We saw our social media presence reach larger audiences, with more weekly viewers during services and follower counts nearly a third larger than 2021. We saw a handful of active youth taking part in some T.E.E.N.S. gatherings – charity walks, sporting events, a breakfast fundraiser, a book club, and a four-day trek around Washington D.C. With open arms, First United Church of Christ is embracing what it means to “Be the Church.” We see this on a weekly basis with Phil's Place, Fishes and Loaves, support to our mission partners, our music and youth programs, and the giving of our time, talents, and treasures in any way we can. But we are also being the church through our outreach online; by being active and allowing those to celebrate with us no matter where they are, we are truly welcoming and embracing all. So, what does 2023 have in store for the life of the church?

January performances for the choir take place the 1st, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. Because I will be away on vacation during the January 8th service, the choir will have that Sunday off. I am grateful to Marion Peraza and her son, Ari, for providing the music for that service; I know it will be nothing short of spectacular! The choir anthems will feature some well-known tunes, though I'm most excited to introduce the congregation to a piece titled “If We Stand As One,” in which members of come una will be joining our adult choir to sing as one! The handbells' monthly performance will be on January 29th, performing a fun arrangement of “All Things Bright and Beautiful.” We share our sanctuary with many talented guest musicians and this month, we welcome back Katherine Jennings on the first, Jessica and Cece from Wilmington on the 15th, and also on the 15th...



**Jimmy Wiederhold**  
Director of Music, Media,  
and Faith Formation





## What's the Buzz? (cont.)



Maxwell Fairman! He is home from college and I am thrilled to have him and his violin join us. It's always a joy to collaborate with Maxwell and I'm glad he reached out while he's in town.

In December, I started a book club focusing on Brianna Wiest's "The Mountain Is You." The group has had two successful discussions and I look forward to meeting regularly again after the holidays and my vacation are over. It isn't too late to join in the conversation if you know someone interested in contributing to our talks centering around self-sabotage and bettering our mental health. Dan and I have had early discussions regarding the summer and a possible youth "camp-in" at the church. Since we went out of state last year, I'd like to spend our time together focusing on helping our community while building friendships and memories in our backyard that is Cincinnati. I will have more information on the summer "camp-in" in next month's newsletter.

Have a great month!

Jimmy



## Super Bowl Party??



As we follow the Bengals, a couple of die-hards have mentioned the idea of a Super Bowl party on February 12. Let's see how the playoffs go and maybe, just maybe, the Bengals deliver again. The Conference Championship is January 30. We will have more information on February 1. Stay tuned and until then, "Who-Dey!!"



## Anniversaries

01/15 – Eddie & Sarah Bosse  
 01/26 – Jason & Holly Rodenbeck  
 01/29 – Justin & Ashley Runck

**B** 01/08 – Ron Hayes  
**I** 01/08 – Tom Shelton  
**R** 01/09 – Holly Rodenbeck  
**T** 01/09 – Bill Spatz (88!)  
**H** 01/13 – Susan Bilz  
**D** 01/14 – Grace Armstrong  
**A** 01/14 – Dave Hawkins  
**Y** 01/17 – Jordan Owens  
**S** 01/19 – Lex Weyand

01/19 – Diane Burger  
 01/24 – Christina Bilz  
 01/27 – Virginia Krebs  
 01/28 – Nate Weyand-Geise  
 01/28 – Cindy Beckman  
 01/30 – Chris Armstrong  
 01/30 – Paul Kluesener  
 01/31 – Jim Weyand

## ~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

*The Weyand Family at the passing of Jared Weyand (nephew of Jim); The Family of Terry Berger at his passing (First Church member and friend of Pastor Dan); Sharon Godsey (niece of Ginny Krebs); Kay Gutenson (aunt of Kathie Steinhard); Heather Nichols (niece of Susan Ley); Senior Social and the Family of Linda Blatt at her passing; Margie & Robert Barnett (neighbors of Linda Krebs); Kathy & Jim Finegan (mother and stepfather of Christine Guillory); Mary Sanker (cousin of Janet Copenhaver); Amber Matson (cousin of Kim Ogden); Dan McClanahan (son of Ollie Helm); Lee Johnson (friend of Terri Stang); Bryan (son of Susie Cairns); Family of Jackie Smith; Brenda (daughter of Ron Kirkman); Barb Shawn (aunt of Suwanna Kirkman); Danny Wesley (grandson of Margie League); Bill Hinken (brother of Margie League); Patsy Koch; Dave Hawkins' brother; Craig Smith (son of Jackie Smith); Kathy Skinner (friend of Jackie Smith); Mark (friend of Sharon, friend of the Senior Social); Kesha and Family (friends of Ron Kirkman); Michelle Richards (friend of the Senior Social); Faith Martin (friend of Linda Krebs); Sharon (friend of Hilda Faulkner); Pam (friend of Hilda Faulkner); Janet Roland and Cynthia Roland (nieces of Jackie Smith); Judy Henderson (friend of the Senior Social); Wilma (sister of Mary Day); Charlie (friend of Herb Brookbank); Stas Dharikov (Ukrainian friend of Christina Henderson); Family of Linda Johnson (friend of Sharon & Ron Rodenbeck); Glenn Smith (son of Jackie Smith); Larry, Carol Ann, and Sandy Brzezinski.*

Follow us!



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# Life of the Church

## MLK Service

College Hill will hold its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. service on Sunday January 15 at 5 p.m. at Consolation Baptist Church on Marlowe Avenue. The College Hill Ministerium organizes this event. Dave Hawkins will be there along with Bishop Todd O'Neal and guest speaker Iris Roley to speak about community relations in light of King's legacy and vision for America.

## Phil's Place

At the end of January, we again host a meal down at Phil's Place in Northside. This is the weekly dinner on Monday nights. It is a blessing to be able to serve more than 100 meals. The need is there. Families and individuals are always appreciative of the food and the kindness extended. This is only our small part in addressing the issues of food insecurity. Thank you. With more volunteers and financial support, we would like to increase the number of Mondays we serve at CAIN. Currently we are signed up for 5 Mondays in 2023.

## Anniversary Travels

Amy and I will be away with Amy's parents Jim and Lex from January 14-31 to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with a wonderful cruise and travel to Ecuador. Lex hits a certain milestone (we will let her tell you) and Jim celebrates his birthday at the end of the month (he's 2 years younger for a couple of weeks). January 14-15 mark Amy and my 30th anniversary as a couple. First date ended with a wonderful hug... honest, that's all.

Rev. Derrick Terry, Rev. Diane Vego, and Rev. Karen Geiger-Behm will be filling the pulpit. All three are familiar to the congregation. Derrick preached during Dan's sabbatical, while Diane attended here before she was ordained in 2018. She is director of the Appalachian Ministries. Of course, everyone loves Karen. She has a new role with Children's Hospital as their chaplain of the Hospice team. While I am away, I have a couple of other clergy who will handle any on-call emergencies (of the pastoral kind, not the building ones. Refer those to Ed, Darrell or Dan!!) I look forward to being back with stories of shark and sea tortoise encounters along with visitations from red-footed booby birds.



November 2022

# Board Meeting Minutes

## First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes Nov. 14, 2022 (In-Person & Zoom)

**In attendance:** Ruth Beck (via zoom), Ed Bosse, June Bronnert, Darrell Copenhaver, Christine Guillory, Milt Hauck, Bill Henrich, Margie Spatz (via zoom), Bruce Steinhard, Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

**Excused:** Travis Mandery (new baby born), Christy Meyer (Treasurer)

- I. **Call to Order -- June** called the meeting to order.
- II. **Devotion -- Pastor Dan**
- III. **Election of Officers –**  
 President – June was nominated by Christine, seconded by Milt  
 Vice President – Christine was nominated by Ruth, seconded by June  
 Recording Secretary – Bruce was nominated by Milt (after some kind words from Pastor Dan), seconded by Bill  
 Financial Secretary – Darrell was nominated by Bill, seconded by Bruce
- IV. **Recording Secretary’s Report (Bruce) –** The October report was accepted with one correction.  
 Motion: Ruth                      Second: Darrell                      Accepted: All in favor
- V. **Financial Secretaries Report –** there was one correction to the report after verifying with Ed and Bill. The amount of the transfer from the Endowment Fund was \$17,160.00.  
 Motion: Bill                      Second: Bruce                      Accepted: All in favor
- VI. Margie and Ruth voiced they were having problems hearing all the discussion. All members agreed to speak up and Pastor Dan moved the tablet toward the speaker during the rest of the meeting. Margie also said Bill S. wants to know about the Scout Trailer and the sink hole.
- VII. **Treasurer’s Report –** Christy’s report was copied for all present to discuss. We were concerned regarding the format of her pages. Milt commented that a statement of revenue and expenses is what he wants to see, other than that there is too much information. Attachment #1 is the regular report, Attachment #2 had question regarding it and that we might use it for future use. The October reports were accepted, and approval was given to pay November expenses.  
 Motion: Bill                      Second: Christine                      Accepted: All in favor

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November 2022

# Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

- VIII. **Music Fund** – Bill reported that the fund was instituted in 1955 as a separate fund. Up to this point, it has had occasional use until the last 5 or so years. It is being used more by Jimmy than previously used. Therefore, with the permission of Virginia Krebs and himself, he closed the account at Northside Bank and deposited the money into the music part of the general fund for distribution by the Treasurer. The balance of the account and the transfer was \$1,751.69. The receipt was given to Darrell.
- IX. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Dan submitted his report to the Church Board, which included the following updates and reflections:

**Health Ministry proposal** from Teri Lynn Stackhouse. She will be invited to the December meeting to discuss her proposal with the board.

- **Phil's Place** – Pastor Dan is coordinating greeting guests and distributing meals at CAIN on Monday afternoons. He welcomes volunteers to help with this ministry. First Church continues to provide meals on the fifth Monday of the month, and as needed. Dan thanked Lynn and Paul Kluesener and Susie Cairns for their leadership with meal preparation.
- **IHN Hosting** – Our first hosting since the pandemic will be the week of November 27, coordinated by Linda Krebs and Pastor Dan. We will host four weeks in 2023.
- **Book Study & Pulpit to the Pew Series** – Pastor Dan reported that these Sunday activities take place on alternating Sundays, offering an opportunity for deeper reflection on texts and spiritual conversation. All are welcome to join.
- **Friends and New Members** – December 11<sup>th</sup> will be the date for this and a recommitment from a member.
- **Baptisms/Confirmations/Weddings/Funerals** – Pastor Dan reports he was very busy with all these things during the past month.
- **November 20<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Dan gone and Teri Lynn Stackhouse will be the supply minister.

Bruce asked about the Ceremony of the Rose, which usually happens in November. Pastor Dan said it had just been forgotten and after some discussion it was decided to have it in the Spring of next year.

- X. **Director of Music, Media and Faith Formation Report**  
Jimmy's report covered the areas of Music, Media and Faith Formation (see his report for more information)



November 2022

# Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

## XI. Committee Reports

- Mission (Pastor Dan)** – he reported on Phil’s Place as he continues to be there on Mondays from 3 to 5 pm, and anybody is welcome to help pass out meals. We are doing Phil’s 3 weeks but not Memorial Day as it falls on the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday of May.

IHN – First will host IHN 4 times and assist 4 times during the next year. Christ Community CH we have done good on collecting for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

St. X will be having their can drive and Pastor Dan and Bruce will be delivering to C.A.I.N.
- SONKA Meeting** – Bruce reported on the recent SONKA meeting done via ZOOM and proposed plan to move from Association Minister to Regional Elders who would be over a group of churches and the ministers serving them.
- Christmas Pageant** – Pastor Dan reported that Jean Krebs is interested in putting on an intergenerational pageant for the church and is working on getting it together.
- Facilities Managers** – Darrell reported that the water lines were blown out and leaks discovers and the grease trap was cleaned out. The sink hole problem will be worked on. The Scout trailer is sinking into the group and needs to be addressed. Pastor Dan will talk with Dennis. Bill and Ed brought up that the trailer belongs to the church.
- Endowment (Bill)** – Bill reported that the committee has a meeting scheduled for later in November. Brian Beckman is a great asset and presented a White Paper to the Endowment Committee which lays out their philosophy, plans and how long the funds will last in supporting the church. A draft of the White Paper was distributed to the Church Board members.

## IX. Old Business

- Background Check** – Bruce brought up the need to do background checks per UCC Insurance Board. Christine and June have worked on this issue in the past and reported it is difficult to enforce. Pastor Dan commented the Church is willing to pay for the checks. Pastor Dan also reported that

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November 2022

## Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Jimmy brought his Background Check from the school he served to the board when he was being considered. In the future, Chaperones for Youth Trips should have a background done before the trip.

- **Nominating (Pastor Dan)** – Pastor Dan said he wants to do installation of new board members and officers on December 11, 2022.

### **X. New Business –**

Meeting Time for Board -- Due to comments from Ruth and Margie during the earlier part of the meeting, the members at church (due to the tablet powering off for lack of battery life) discussed what could be done. Suggestions discussed were 1. Having the meeting on Saturday morning, 2. On Sunday after church, 3. Checking on Margie's speaker situation and better microphone connection, 4. Possibly picking Margie up and taking her home. Meetings on Saturday and Sunday would interfere with other plans members have over the weekends. Pastor Dan will check with Jimmy regarding microphone situation, and with Margie about being brought to church and taken home.

### **XII. Adjournment**

Motion: Christine      Second: Milt

### **XII. Lord's Prayer**

*Submitted by: Bruce Steinhard  
Recording Secretary*



# Our Covenant

**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 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

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[firstunitedchurchofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedchurchofchrist@gmail.com)



## 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:

June Bronnert, President

Christine Guillory, Vice-President

Christy Meyer, Treasurer

Darrell Copenhaver, Financial Secretary

Bruce Steinhard, Recording Secretary

Ruth Beck

Ed Bosse

Milt Hauck

Bill Henrich

Travis Mandery

Margie Spatz

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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.*



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