



November 2022 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

A story of Thanksgiving and Serendipity. Recently, I'm preparing to host the weekly dinner at CAIN called Phil's Place. More than 125 people will be served. It's one of my first weeks to host. Within a day of taking on this assignment, the church who was to provide a meal canceled. We had to scramble to come up with a meal. Pizza is always a great alternative, so pizza it was. But we needed something else. Time was running out. It was three hours before my time to be at CAIN. Just pizza for dinner wouldn't do it. Then, out of the blue, a UCC church member calls saying she had "Goodie Bags" to drop off to use however I wanted to use them. The bags contained more than enough healthy snacks and fun items for 50 families. The perfect amount. Thank you, CAIN, for hosting these weekly meals; Thank you, UCC, for being a part of ministry beyond our walls; Thank you, Holy Spirit, for always arriving at the right time!

Our fall schedules are full. School days and events pack the weeks. Summer vacations are forgotten as the workload just piles up like the leaves. Metaphorically and literally, we can feel dumped on by life. Yet, this month of November is the time we set aside to say two words that we can forget to say – Thank You. When each of you goes to prayer or sits in the pews on a Sunday, listens to music, or maybe just takes a stroll along your street, there is no doubt in my mind that you discover the blessing of the Spirit as you utter your prayers of "Thank You." Sunday worship and gatherings continue to inspire and enliven our spiritual thankfulness. I give thanks for all of this and so much more. It is the faithful witness and support of those who are homebound. Their prayers, their kind words, and their beloved connection and support of the church make a difference.

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The Pastor's Report (cont.)

As I look out the church office windows, I give thanks for the beauty of the day and our church property. I give thanks as I see church volunteers tending the property and getting it ready for winter. We recall with great joy the Sauerkraut dinner in September as reunion and new beginnings were in the air; or in October with the dedication, hard work, and commitment on display at the Rummage Sale and at our Congregational Meeting; then in November, we will no doubt witness tenderness and compassion as we host IHN (Interfaith Housing Network) families for the first time since January 2020.

Financial concerns and hardship always make it hard to feel grateful. Add in a health issue or emotional stress, and I admit every one of us is tested to feel thankful. There is no easy formula to wake up feeling gratitude when we know what awaits us. Nor even at the end of the day we may still be in a place of great distress. Pain, loss, and grief are all quite real and profound. And, of course, the November elections will cause all of us to roll our eyes in disgust and disappointment. There will be moments of great anxiety as we fear what will happen if so-and-so gets elected. There will be the temptation to say there is nothing to be thankful for because of election results. We can choose to live with this kind of despair and fear. But I urge you to remember our better angels as we are instruments of God's hope and courage. We are to pronounce a gospel of freedom and life for all. We commit to our covenant of welcome and hospitality.

November is the perfect pause before winter arrives to remind us that our world is blessed with beauty, possibility, and love. If injury and illness are part of your daily challenge, or maybe it is emotional distress, I encourage you to turn to your spiritual and emotional foundations. A trusted friend, a faithful counselor, a compassionate confidante – better yet, your heavenly angels. Faith, hope, and love remain. And the greatest of these is love.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Dan

P.S. I give thanks for Kim Ogden as she interacts with members and visitors, as she prints bulletins, newsletters, and congregational reports; I give thanks as I hear Jimmy practicing on the piano and organ upstairs and as I scroll through his creative website and Instagram posts; I give thanks for the pile of messages and notes from congregants, community, and church folks that end up on my desk; I give thanks for the church that reminds me of God's spirit and blessing. Happy November!



What's the Buzz?

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

Did you know that this year, Advent starts on the earliest possible day it can? November 27! But I'm jumping ahead of myself. The cooling temperatures and falling leaves continue to put me in a good spirit. Some of my favorite pieces of music center around the holiday season. Christmas music ranks high, but my love of holiday music spans from the spooky Halloween tunes to even the songs depicting the gray dulls of winter.

The choir, handbell choir, and selections I make for my prelude and postlude this season will highlight the classics as well as introduce you to some new pieces.

We begin this month with the choir anthem, "God of the Ages, History's Maker" on the 6th. It incorporates the well-known tune of "Morning Has Broken" with the hymn of "God of the Ages." Bernie will be adding his voice to that service during special music singing the welcoming "At This Table," written and made known by Idina Menzel. The handbell choir returns on November 13 performing "Just As I Am" as a reminder that everyone is invited to sit at our table this season and always. On November 20, Bryce Kessler returns to First to collaborate with the choir on "For Everyone Born." This song is my favorite of the Thanksgiving season and I look forward to having the cello part played live. Michael will also be playing on the 20th and the trios between him, Bryce, and me are sure to be a fun time. The final Sunday of the month, the beginning of Advent season (!), is when I will be away. Susie Cairns has gratefully agreed to sub for me, and I know she will do a great job.

In my report for the Congregational Meeting, I mentioned the beauty of meeting individually with the youth (and young at heart) over coffee. Although we are all juggling busy schedules during this time of the year, I value the opportunity to catch up on life, advise as needed, and remind them that I am always a listening ear and shoulder to lean on.



Jimmy Wiederhold
Director of Music, Media,
and Faith Formation



What's the Buzz? (cont.)

I am thankful to those who are giving their time and talent taking part in come una. My goal is to hold a few more rehearsals this winter and perform a concert or two at First UCC and surrounding churches this spring. Please let me know if you know any young adults interested in singing in a fun group of friends!

I am working on a social media project for the month of November so if you follow the church on Facebook or Instagram, keep an eye out for cute videos with familiar faces! I'll be experimenting with the projector situation over the next few weeks. For the time being, the right-side projector will be down so I can plug in to the brighter projector on the left-hand side nearest Pastor Dan and the Facebook stream. I hope that I can resolve the laptop's tendency to disconnect frequently throughout the service as I know it is distracting to me and others.

It's hard to believe that my next newsletter article will be all about Advent, Christmas, and the possibility of snow on the ground... 2022 has been quick, super fun, and I can't thank you all enough for welcoming me into the First UCC family! It has been a wonderful time so far and the future is bright. I am thankful for the busy life of the church and for everything all of you do.

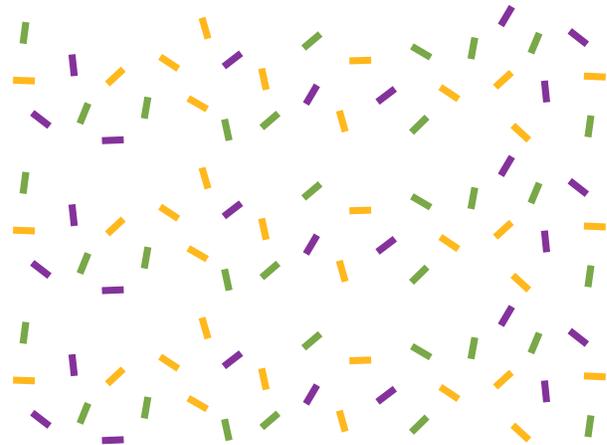
Have a great month!

Jimmy



Anniversaries

11/02 – Bob & Tricia Lenhof
 11/28 – Tom & Lisa Shelton
 11/29 – Jeff & Angela Rodenbeck



Birthdays

11/03 – Jenny Schumacher (90th)
 11/04 – Bill Mayer
 11/12 – Kim Ogden
 11/13 – Christine Guillory
 11/16 – Ron Beckman
 11/18 – Abigail Beckman
 11/19 – Raegan Keller
 11/20 – Mary Day
 11/20 – August Armstrong
 11/21 – Michelle Richards
 11/25 – Laura Hauck
 11/25 – Bob Lenhof
 11/26 – Hannah Steinhard
 11/27 – Jimmy Wiederhold
 11/29 – Estelle Armstrong

~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Dan McClanahan (son of Ollie Helm); Mike Ogden (husband of Kim Ogden); Lee Johnson (friend of Terri Stang); Russ Doyle (friend of Judy Henderson); Linda Blatt (friend of the Senior Social); Bryan (son of Susie Cairns); Family of Jackie Smith; Brenda (daughter of Ron Kirkman); Barb Shawn (aunt of Suwana Kirkman); The Keys Family at the passing of Karen Green; Ron Kirkman and Family; Ralph Mueller (at the passing of his son, Dale); Ricky Dunn (grandson of Margie League); 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); Hannah Steinhard (daughter of Bruce & Kathie); Wilma (sister of Mary Day); Charlie (friend of Herb Brookbank); Stas Dharikov (Ukrainian friend of Christina Henderson); The Michael Krause Family (relatives of Ginny Kissel); Family of Linda Johnson (friend of Sharon & Ron Rodenbeck); Glenn Smith (son of Jackie Smith); Jared Weyand (nephew of Jim Weyand); TeriLynn Stackhouse and Family; Larry, Carol Ann, and Sandy Brzezinski.

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Life of the Church

Memorials

Gift to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Dorothy Kissel

From: Virginia Kissel and Jim Kissel

Pastoral Administrator Out for 2 Weeks

Kim Ogden will be out of the office until November 15. Her husband had hip replacement surgery on October 31. Prayers for Mike are greatly appreciated!

Rummage Sale Success!

THANK YOU...for whatever part you played in helping make the rummage sale a success. The proceeds from the sale will allow the Guild to continue our work for First Church and our mission partners. Mark your calendars for the next rummage sale... March 11, 2023. - Linda and Bev

Party with a Purpose was Priceless!

Great thanks for everyone's support to the Mission Priority Board's event on October 10 at the West Side Brewing Company on Harrison Avenue in Westwood. MPB is the way our UCC churches unite around common causes throughout the area such as IHN, CAIN, Christ's Community, Kids4Peace and more. With a special donation from another church, nearly \$3000 was collected for the event. One of the gift baskets at the event was won by First UCC's own Jim Weyand. The entire evening made for a nice birthday outreach and fun fellowship. Seven other UCC churches were represented at the event, though I am pretty sure First UCC had the most in attendance. Thank you. - Pastor Dan

FYI from the Guild

Our November meeting will take place on the 17th (the week before Thanksgiving). We'll have a luncheon at noon, followed by our meeting. The updated Guild Directory will be distributed at that time. All are welcome to come!

CAIN

The last Monday in October First UCC serves as host for Phil's Place down at CAIN. Pastor Dan is there each Monday night. If you are interested in assisting him, do not hesitate to contact him. Most weeks, more than 50 families are there for a meal. If you have a youth interested in assisting, they can earn service hours for their school if needed. Great thanks as usual to Susie Cairns for her meal. Our next date to host is December 19.

Christ's Community

It's the most wonderful time of the year again... the Holidays are upon us. Christ's Community in College Hill has begun its food drive collection. As a partner in ministry, First UCC is being asked to provide 200 cake boxes/cookie mixes and \$200 to offset some other costs. Your food and/or cash donations are greatly appreciated. Christ's Community will distribute the goods at its service on November 22. Thank you for our community connection and support of Christ's Community's ministry. Other College Hill Churches that partner with us at CCCH are St. Clare's, College Hill Presbyterian, House of Joy and Bishop Todd O'Neal, Grace Episcopal, Consolation Baptist on Marlowe, New Life, Good News with Pastor Martin (a devout Steelers fan), and Bread from Heaven.



In the Spotlight



Our 2023 calendar will soon be coming to your church pew! In the meantime, we continue to highlight our 2022 calendar sponsors. As the holidays approach, some of you may be inclined to visit **Schwartz Jewelers** on Hamilton Avenue. They are a long-time business in the College Hill Business District and provide quality merchandise for weddings; anniversaries; engagements, and the like. They have been a sponsor of our church calendar for many years.

Thank you to Schwartz Jewelers and all the businesses that support our calendar. We look forward to “unveiling” the 2023 calendar.

Found House - Interfaith Home Network (IHN)

Our support of this ministry continues as IHN returns back to the congregation after more than two years housing the families in hotels. A great thanks to Paul and Lynn Kluesener and Gail Bauknecht for the terrific meal they prepared and served for the families on September 28 at College Hill Presbyterian Church. For the week of October 30, CHPC will again host. We have agreed to prepare the meal on Wednesday, November 2. We will host the families here the week of November 28. For our week in November, we will need assistance with laundry, set-up, meals, overnight hosts, prayer, financial support, and hospitality. Contact Pastor Dan or Linda Krebs if you have interest.

BTW, our 2023 dates are the weeks of April 23, June 4, August 20, and December 10.

September 2022

Board Meeting Minutes

First UCC Church Board Meeting Minutes Sept. 12, 2022 (In-Person & Zoom)

In attendance: Ruth Beck, June Bronnert, Darrell Copenhaver, Christy Dennis (Treasurer), Christine Guillory, Milt Hauck, Bill Henrich, Travis Mandery, Margie Spatz, Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise; **Guest:** Ed Bosse (Facilities); **Excused:** Kendra Pressley

- I. **Devotion:** Pastor Dan opened the meeting with prayer.
- II. **Call to Order:** June called the meeting to order.
- III. **Recording Secretary's Report** – The August report will be emailed to Church Board members for approval.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report (Christy):** The August reports were accepted, and approval was given to pay September expenses.
Motion: Bill
Second: Darrell
Accepted: All in favor

The Board welcomed Christy to her first in-person Church Board meeting. There was discussion about the process for paying special music expenses to be covered by the Music Fund. Musicians will be paid out of the General Fund by Christy, and reimbursed by Bill on behalf of the Music Fund. Christy reported that the insurance company will now charge for paper bills; there was agreement that she should set these up for online delivery. After discussion, it was agreed that checks made out to Christy for her services as treasurer should be written by another signer and that she may be the co-signer.

- V. **Facilities Committee (Ed):** Ed reported that there are approximately 25 stumps on the church property that the Facilities Committee would like to have ground and removed. On a motion by Ruth, seconded by Darrell, the Church Board authorized Arbor Care to do this work at a cost of no more than \$1,800. Darrell will work with a free service to identify the location of underground utility lines prior to the work.

Ed shared that the storage area doors near the kitchen would not open prior to Sauerkraut Supper, and that he arranged for a friend to repair them. As a thank you, the Church Board will offer Ed's friend some free sausage leftover from the dinner.

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September 2022

Board Meeting Minutes

Darrell reported that the convection oven has been malfunctioning, for which he has obtained a repair estimate of \$2,800. After discussion, the Church Board agreed that those who frequently use the oven (Fishes & Loaves and Senior Social) will be asked to investigate whether repair or replacement is in order. Pastor Dan will relay the message to those groups.

VI. **Financial Secretary's Report (Darrell)**: The August report was accepted:

Motion: Bill

Second: Milt

Accepted: All in favor

VII. **Pastor's Report (Pastor Dan)**: Pastor Dan shared the following updates:

- **Found House (formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality Network)**
- **CAIN** – First Church's next Phil's Place meal hosting will be Oct. 31, which occurs during months of the year in which a fifth Monday occurs. On a motion by Christine, seconded by Darrell, the Church Board agreed to increase the budget for each hosting to no more than \$300 (an increase from \$200). Susie Cairns coordinates these meals, which typically feed approximately 125 people. Pastor Dan also shared that he will be regularly volunteering as a greeter at Phil's place on Monday afternoons. He will share regular updates with the Church Board on his increased involvement.
- **Welcoming New Members**
- **Sauerkraut Support**
- **Heartland Conference** – Pastor Dan will be attending the annual gathering in person in Columbus, and Jimmy Wiederhold plans to attend some portions online.

VIII. **Committee Reports**

- **By-laws & Constitution (Pastor Dan)** – Pastor Dan thanked Bruce Steinhard for his work to draft updates to the church's by-laws and constitution, which have not been updated since 1995. The draft document will be distributed to the Church Board in time to review and approve by early October. The document will be distributed to the congregation by email by Oct. 9 so that everyone will have two weeks to review before a vote to approve at the Oct. 23 Fall Congregational Meeting.
- **Youth (Pastor Dan)** – The committee will be meeting with Jimmy soon to discuss fall and winter Youth programming plans. A suggestion was made that more frequent reports be presented to the Church Board from the Youth Committee.

September 2022

Board Meeting Minutes

- **Mission (Pastor Dan)** – Pastor Dan reported that he will be meeting soon with a group from Christ’s Community. At Washington UCC, Homework Club is starting up again. And, they are interviewing candidates for a new pastor.
- **Health Ministry (Pastor Dan)** – The group continues to help church members as needed, including loaning equipment and with financial needs.
- **Endowment (Bill)** – The current balance of the Endowment Fund is approximately \$4.7 million. The committee met recently, and performed an audit. Bill reported that the committee recently sold some stock in order to have more cash on hand. He suggested that the by-laws be updated to require bonding for members of the Endowment Committee (as is required for the treasurer). The group reiterated that a report of the Endowment Fund’s balance and losses/gains should be presented to the Church Board and at Congregational Meetings twice a year.

IX. Old Business

- **Budget (Darrell)** – The Budget Committee will submit a proposed budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year to the Church Board at the October meeting, to be approved by the congregation at the Fall Congregational Meeting.

X. New Business

- **Nominating Committee (June)** – Four spots on the Church Board are up for renewal or new members in 2022. Terms are a 3-year commitment, which includes a monthly meeting (currently held in-person and by Zoom on the second Monday evening of the month). Church Board membership is open to those who have been a member of First UCC for at least a year. Those interested are encouraged to contact Gail Bauknecht, Pastor Dan, or June.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: Travis

Second: Milt

Accepted: All in favor

XII. Lord’s Prayer

*Submitted by: Christine Guillory
Recording Secretary*

August Board Minutes available upon request

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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Travis Mandery, Vice-President

Christy Meyer, Treasurer

Darrell Copenhaver, Financial Secretary

Christine Guillory, Recording Secretary

Ruth Beck

Ed Bosse

Milt Hauck

Bill Henrich

Margie Spatz

Bruce Steinhard

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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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