

September 2021 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

I am extremely grateful for the time to be on sabbatical. For the month of September, I plan to travel with family and reconnect with some old friends whom I am not able to visit often because of pastoral duties and call. The first part of September I will travel with my mom to see some of my nieces and nephews for the first time in quite a while. The second half of the month I will be with Amy, my four children, their friends, and mine in Pittsburgh and D.C. The entire month promises to nurture the bonds of friendship, love, and community.

September will also be time away knowing that you are blessed as a congregation. September is the anniversary month for the church – 166 years on September 22nd. It is a month in which we can both imagine what is in store for us as we witness to the power of faith, love, and promise. God's promises do not leave us. I have some ideas of what might be ahead for us, but I have learned that the Spirit will instruct and lead. Our call is to listen.

With all of that in mind, while I am away, the Church will engage in some intentional listening sessions with the Rev. Mary Laymon. She is an ordained Lutheran pastor who has served congregations and is currently the director of the wonderfully creative Tikkun Farm in Mt. Healthy. She brings to us the skills of a group leader and facilitator with a pastor's heart and wisdom. She will be with the congregation each month during my sabbatical to have us listen to the Spirit that calls and moves within us and beyond us. September 28th is the first session. I trust we will have a terrific attendance. I would like to hear that we have 50 or more in attendance. We can easily do that. Surprise me, and make it 75 or more. Dazzle me by having 100+ in attendance. We really can!! It is important for the whole church to be a part of the process. It will begin with a light meal around 6:30; the session will begin at 7 (more information for that is in this newsletter). For September, the pulpit will be filled by some terrific friends and colleagues of yours and mine. On the 5th and 12th the Rev. Derek Terry will be here. He pastors St. Peter's in Pleasant Ridge. He is a UCC pastor with a terrific theological mind and pastoral heart. He brings great joy and love to the pulpit.

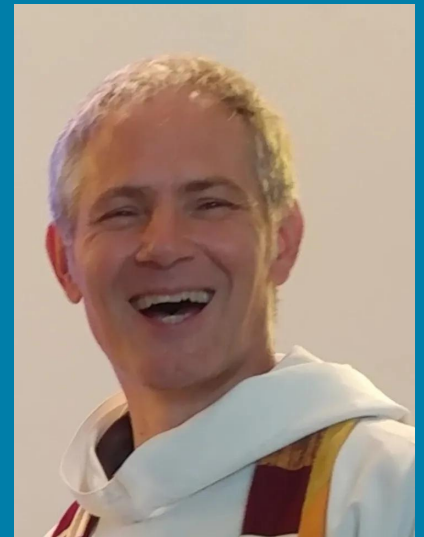


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The Pastor's Report

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On September 19th, the Rev. Karen Geiger-Behm will preach. We all appreciate Karen's compassion and intellect when she enters the pulpit. She is not only a dear colleague of mine, but my sister-from-another mister. She is a blessing with her insight and experience of First UCC through more than a decade of being connected with the Church. She serves as chaplain at Children's.

Finally, on September 26th, our trusted friend and partner in ministry, Ralph Williams, will be here to share the passion and witness of his ministry here in College Hill and throughout the city with Heartbeat of the City. He and his wife Lisa are entering new areas of ministry not only in College Hill but throughout the city.

I trust the month will be blessed for both you and me. Again, First UCC is dear to my heart. You inspire me; you bring me great joy, laughter, and love; you trust me; and I give thanks for all of the ministry we continue to respond to. I also believe that there is much that awaits this congregation. Boring Cries always seem to be in the air at First UCC. I feel like this sabbatical is another one of those times in our life together. Blessings and love to you for the month of September.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dan



Musical Moment



Choir: The choir is off to a great start with rehearsals and now singing every Sunday! If you have any interest in praising God through song, please see Jimmy. You can email him at james.firstucc@outlook.com. You do not have to read music to join and anyone from age 13 and up is welcome. Choir rehearsals are on Mondays. Rehearsals are held in the choir room starting at 7:00 p.m. If the doors are locked, ring the bell and someone will come let you in!

Handbell Choir: Handbell choir rehearsals begin on Monday, September 13 and will be at 6:00 p.m. in the choir room. All ages and music abilities are welcome! Either see Jimmy after the service or email him to inform him of your interest.



Jimmy Wiederhold

Director of Music, Media, and
Faith Formation

Anniversaries

09/02 – Patrick & Katie Serda
 09/05 – Brett & Laura Bosse
 09/06 – Steve & Mary Susong
 09/10 – Travis & Jessica Mandery
 09/21 – Ron & Sharon Rodenbeck
 09/23 – Jimmy Wiederhold & Gary Smith



Birthdays

09/06 – Bob Beck
 09/10 – Eric Beckman
 09/15 – Alexander Rhodes
 09/15 – Sarah Bilz (21st)
 09/17 – Megan Keller
 09/18 – Don Fricke (94th)
 09/20 – Ruth Beck
 09/22 – Kim Podratz
 09/24 – Bette Smith
 09/26 – Ron Durrett
 09/26 – Becky Tarvin
 09/27 – Darrell Copenhaver
 09/27 – Alice Hudson

~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Brian Kirkman (son of Ron Kirkman); Jeremy Richards (son of Michelle Richards); Tim Williams (friend of Jackie Smith); continued prayers for Deanna Bilz (Joe's mother); The Family of Jackie Froman; The Wehman Family; Chuck Parmenter (friend of First Church); Dan Stevens (friend of The Kirkman's); Trista Manigault (neighbor of Christine Guillory); Sarah M. Stinebuck (great-granddaughter of Jackie Smith); The Family of Vera Fleshman (Steve Copenhaver's mother-in-law); Rob Rabalais (uncle of Christine Guillory); The Hauck Family at the death of Judy's brother, Bill Jesse; Mary Tires (friend of the Kirkman's); Chrissy (friend of the Kirkman's); Jackie Smith and Family at the death of her son, Gary; Ron, Brian and Suwana Kirkman; John Buelsing (son-in-law of Jackie Smith); Charlene Jones (sister of Jackie Smith); Donald Jones (brother of Jackie Smith); Janet Roland (niece of Jackie Smith).

*Our prayers are with Shirley Henrich, who fell recently and is hospitalized. The body is a bit bruised, but her spirit and mind are strong. With Love, your Church Family



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your generous gift and also your support. First UCC has a special place in my heart and I'm so lucky to be a part of the family.

Love, Riley Bronnert, now a freshman in the UC DAAP program

Follow us!



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Life of the Church

When I'm 64 and More...

Come join other UCC friends (known and unknown) on September 20th at the Westside Brewery in order to support the efforts of the Mission Priority Board. Proceeds from the food and drink sales that night will go to support our UCC collaborative efforts. It also happens to be the birthdate of both Joan Allen (MPB treasurer) and Ruth Beck (beloved First UCC member). Come and raise a toast – “we still need them; we still feed them... when they’re 64 and more!!”

Mission Moments for September

CAIN continues to be a place where First UCC is a partner and a recipient of this Northside ministry. Pastor Dan often relies on CAIN to provide for financial, food, and hygiene assistance to our members and visitors alike. Your financial contributions mean much to the success of CAIN’s ministry. First UCC makes monthly donation; First UCC also participates in the life at CAIN; we have members who serve on their board; members who serve at the monthly dinner; members who serve weekly in the CAIN pantry. Thank you to both First UCC friends and CAIN for this long-time collaboration. – Pastor Dan

SONKA – Our partnership with other UCC congregations is solidified by our Southern Ohio Northern Kentucky Association. We proudly connect and serve with these friends in Christ. Our Mission Priority Board allows us to make a unified effort. The Fall Association meeting for SONKA will be a zoom meeting on November 6. Robin Meyers from Plymouth UCC in Oklahoma City will be a keynote speaker. Robin is part of the Living the Questions series that we have used here at First UCC. Please try to attend. This is a gathering that yields strong connections and blessings for many. Pastor Dan’s term as past moderator comes to a close. He will continue to serve as SONKA’s representative to the Board of Directors for the Heartland Conference (formerly known as the Ohio Conference). These groups better equip us as an Open and Affirming congregation, and Our Whole Lives (OWL) center, partners in MARCC (Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati), IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network). Church is about what we do beyond our Sunday gathering. Our SONKA affiliation equips us for ministry.

We Unpaved the Parking Lot and Put Up Paradise!

Our recently completed Green Space and soon-to-be newly paved lot are the talk of the neighborhood. After a summer of delays that called on patience and process, the green space in the north part of the grounds is complete (grass still needs to grow, but the late August rains are sure helping). The neighbors almost collectively are saying, “WOW!!” As our neighbor Doug Trimmel at The Oaks on the corner said, “This is brilliant. Only in College Hill would there be people who want to take up pavement in order to have green space.” Doug, a College Hill historian, is quick to remind all that in 1813-1814, William Cary, having migrated from New Hampshire to Cincinnati in 1802, purchased 491 acres north of Cincinnati along what is now Hamilton Avenue. Cary built a log cabin and moved his family to this “wilderness,” then known as Mill Creek Township. Cary called the area around First UCC as a “Slice of Paradise.” The area became a wealthy suburb called Pleasant Hill, but later adopted the name College Hill because of several schools that were established there in the nineteenth century: Cary’s Academy for Boys was established in 1832 and soon became Farmers College. It was later named Belmont College and still later taken over by the Ohio Military Institute. Also, the Ohio Female College operated in the area from 1849 to 1873. When Pastor Dan returns from Sabbatical, we hope to have Doug speak on the history of the area and the First UCC site (maybe a cool spring day out in the new garden space!!)



Gifts to the Church

Gift to the Team for the Need in Memory of Gary Smith

From: Jackie Smith

Gift to Fishes and Loaves in Memory of Gary Smith

From: Bev Wegman

Gift to the General Fund

From: the Jarrett Family

While the Pastor's Away, First Church will... Plan? Pray? Play? All of the Above!

The Church Board invites you to participate in a series of three monthly gatherings we're calling "Soup & Share" -- to intentionally pray and listen with the Spirit about our present, past, and future. While Pastor Dan and Amy take much-needed sabbatical time away this fall for renewal and reflection, this will be the congregation's opportunity to do the same. With food and fellowship, of course! (Many thanks to the Fishes & Loaves crew for providing simple meals of soup or chili for our evenings together.)

Tuesday, Sept. 28 – Present– How are you? How has the isolation and disruption of Covid been for you? What do we celebrate? What are we anxious about?

Tuesday, Oct. 26 – Past– What do we remember and celebrate about our history as a congregation? What defines us?

Tuesday, Nov. 16 – Future– First Church will celebrate 200 years as a congregation in 35 years. What will that look like? Where is the Spirit calling us?

The sessions will be facilitated by the Rev. Mary Laymon. Educated in the Lutheran tradition, Pastor Mary serves as executive director of Tikkun Farm in Mt. Healthy and as part-time pastor at St. Simon of Cyrene Episcopal Church in Lincoln Heights.

All First Church members and friends are invited to participate. Meal and fellowship will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the program to follow from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Christine at caguillory@gmail.com or 513-312-9880.

Kudos to the Cooks, etc.

A shout-out to ALL who make Fishes & Loaves a rousing success! From the cooks, to those who take care of the drive-through; those who clean up – everyone who keeps this going week after week. More than 80 meals are served on Wednesdays! Thanks to extra people who have stepped up to keep Fishes & Loaves going for the 3 months Pastor Dan and Amy will be away. You're all awesome!

Church Updates



July 2021

Council Meeting Minutes

First United Church of Christ Board Meeting

Date: July 12, 2021–Zoom & In Person

Attendees: Kathie Steinhard, Bill Henrich, Christine Guillory, Travis Mandery, June Bronnert, Darrell Copenhaver, and Pastor Dan

Excused: Dave Krebs, Barry Jamison, Kendra Pressley, Dan Luken, Margie Spatz, and Sarah Bilz;

Guest: n/a

- I. Call to Order: Christine called meeting to order online.
- II. Devotions: Pastor Dan lead the group in prayer.
- III. Acceptance/Approval of minutes from last meeting, financial secretary report, and treasurer reports
 - a. Review of June minutes:
 - i. Motion to accept:
 - ii. Second to accept:
 - iii. All in favor-
 - b. Financial secretary report:
 - i. Motion to accept:
 - ii. Second to accept:
 - iii. All accepted: All in favor
 - c. Treasurer report:
 - i. Motion to accept:
 - ii. Second to accept:
 - iii. All accepted: All in favor
- IV. Pastor's report: See pastor's report for full details, highlights are as follows:
 - a. Music mission festival planning for August 15th on the "Avenue". Application was denied with College Hill officials. The church will host but other sponsors requested the date move to December 5th.
 - b. Facility requests:
 - i. Tuesday evening meditation meeting (Mel - retired UCC minister) 7pm to 8pm. Request for him to have a key.
 - ii. Jeanie Phillips violin group
 - iii. IHN to have annual retreat September 16th or 17th (9am to 2pm)
 - iv. Fishes and Loaves not doing indoor seating until at least 2022.
 - c. Youth update: Jimmy has officially started and all planning and coordination going well.
 - d. Plans for sabbatical continue. Dan and Jimmy are coordinating.
- V. Committee Reports:
 - a. Facilities management:
 - i. Darrell to contact Hoffman to find out when they are going to start work on the back lights.
 - ii. Green space update:

July 2021

Council Meeting Minutes

1. Still awaiting on permit approval from the city which is necessary to obtain.
 2. The person in charge of the permit is detailed oriented and requires specific detailed information.
- b. Youth ministry: Jimmy has started and met with subgroup to align direction of program as he begins his work. Group will continue to meet every other month. Camp Washington UCC counselors attended the Reds game with the church as there were extra tickets. Larry Bronnert has coordinated with Camp Washington UCC to arrange a golf outing at Avon Fields.
 - c. Mission and service: Senior social group has been meeting on Wednesday's.
 - d. Health ministry: n/a
 - e. Open and affirming team: n/a
 - f. Music: Jimmy is coordinating for choir.
 - g. Endowment: Still awaiting committee meeting in July. The start of the fiscal year (October) it was budgeted to defer the full draw in order to support Dan's sabbatical. This is keeping within the spending policy. The June withdraw was at the full amount.
 - h. Social media and communication committee: a new tablet was purchased through a donation to support online ministry.
 - i. Others: n/a
- VI. Old business:
- a. Still waiting on information from Hummel to provide recommendations on church foundation.
 - b. The church needs a total of four licenses: one for Facebook from both companies and one for You Tube. Kathie to follow up with Jimmy on where this stands now that he is on staff.
- VII. New business:
- a. Upcoming wedding - the church should receive different donations due to use of fellowship hall and rehearsal dinner.
- VIII. Approval to pay current bills
- a. Motion to pay bills:
 - b. Second to pay bills:
 - c. All accepted: All in favor
- IX. Adjournment-prayer:
- a. Motion to adjourn:
 - b. Second to adjourn:
 - c. All accepted: All in favor
- X. Closed in Prayer

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 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

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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:

Christine Guillory, President

Dan Luken, Vice-President

David Krebs, Financial Secretary

Kathie Steinhard, Treasurer

June Bronnert, Recording Secretary

Kendra Pressley, Assistant Recording Secretary

Sarah Bilz

Darrell Copenhaver

Bill Henrich

Barry Jamison

Travis Mandery

Margie Spatz



*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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