



September 2022 Newsletter

The Pastor's Report

Pastor Dan Weyand-Geise

In February and March of 2020, we held our usual Sauerkraut suppers and Rummage sales within two weeks of each other. Both events likely were quite festive, fun, and faith-filled. I say "likely" because 2020 seems like an end of an era, or maybe it was the beginning of an era. One thing for sure that we can say as we look back – life has not been the same, nor will it be since then. If we didn't already know it, we are guaranteed that in life there is always change taking place. No matter covid or what.

It is now September 2022 and a new era begins with our Sauerkraut Supper taking place during the month of our church anniversary. With our 167th anniversary on September 22, our collective unconscious holds much wisdom and trust. Thankfully, a church with that kind of longevity realizes you cannot do things the same way if you wish to withstand the changes in life. In order to live to proclaim the Good News, a church and its members need to adapt, pivot, and live out their baptismal calling in new and different ways. This year's Sauerkraut supper is a perfect example of how an organization, individual, or church needs to adapt. This year's event is more like a festival atmosphere, or better yet, a combination of the church gatherings in Mt. Airy and moments at the Carriage House here on Glenview with some tried and true German recipes. There may be some who would want to have an indoor event with family-style serving. We are not in a place that this is wise. In fact, I think the change of date to the Fall and the change of serving procedures create possibilities that will delight old and young alike.

We are making good use of the green space that was created in 2021 by having the dinner outside under a tent. We will have music, ice cream, soft drinks, and beer available. Dinner hosts will serve you with your own package of the old favorites of Stehlin's sausage, potatoes, sauerkraut, spaetzle, carrots, and homemade cookies. A couple of cornhole stations will be set up for some fun.

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The Pastor's Report (cont.)

Live music by the talented Jimmy Wiederhold will be playing and conversation of old, new stories will be shared. Laughter and glad greetings, like always, will fill the atmosphere. This is why the Sauerkraut team has dubbed the event our Sauerkraut Supper and Fun-raiser. This event has always been about the fellowship. This year that is no different. I am absolutely convinced that those who attend will have a great time.

Reserve a dinner ticket now!! You can pay for it on-line or simply pay for the meal when you arrive. But we would like reservations by September 2. When you arrive for your dinner, go to the tent, sit and wait to be served. You are welcome to stay after you finish your meal. If I notice you have been here quite a while and others need a seat, I might pastorally ask you to give up your seat for someone else (btw - they taught me this in seminary☺). We plan to party from 4:30 – 7:30. If you don't call ahead for reservations, you can still come. No guarantee there will be a meal. But in good old, or is it new, First UCC tradition, we will find something for you. And, if it rains that day, well, we simply pivot and change our direction. I trust the innovative minds of First UCC folks, and I trust our visitors' enduring patience and good humor. I also trust that as we celebrate another church anniversary, that we will look back over the past two years and ahead to our future with the faith, hope, and love that has solidly guided each of us and the many before us. It is God's grace that has brought us this far, and it's God's grace that leads us ahead. Now let's go eat some kraut and spaetzle. To quote a recent song: "First Church indeed is serving sauerkraut dinners. Amen!!"

-Pastor Dan



In the Spotlight



With our Guild 2023 calendar in the process of being created (please see Guild announcement in newsletter), we want to highlight another of our 2022 calendar sponsors. This month it is **CAIN (Churches Active in Northside)**.

They are one of our beloved mission partners. In fact, in August they were inundated with more pantry visits than ever. More than 800 individuals were assisted. First Church provided a meal on August 28 to them. Thanks to Susie, Ed, Bev, and Ron for 146 meals that were distributed. Again, we thank CAIN for their partnership in ministry and support of the Guild calendar.



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What's the Buzz?

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

There are just a few weeks left before choir and handbell choir performances return for another fantastic year! While I am away on Sept. 4, Susie C. will be subbing for me. Special music guests who will entertain us with their talents this month include percussionists, Brian and Jennie Malone, and saxophonist Michael Sawzin. The now 7-member (!) choir's first performance takes place on September 11 and will resume singing weekly after that. The 8-member handbell choir (!) is gearing up for their first performance on September 25. You'll notice a new handbell layout in the sanctuary to accommodate our larger numbers. I want to take this moment to thank First UCC – musically, we did STEP UP!

We have two new faces in both groups; a challenge I presented this summer and you delivered. I am thrilled to begin a new season of music with everyone involved.

August 14 was the first meeting of come una, a collaborative youth choir for all Greater Cincinnati UCC congregations. Although we were small in number, we started listening to and learning fun, new music. Our next rehearsal will take place at 12:30pm on Sunday, September 11. We will meet in the First UCC narthex. If you know a young adult in grades 4-12 who is looking to make friends while creating music in a welcoming atmosphere, send them my way!

I continue to keep the church active in its social media presence, and the Sauerkraut Supper and FUNraiser has had great traction there. I plan on taking many photos and videos of the event to share for years to come. If you take photos that evening and are willing to have them shown on the church's social media accounts, please send them my way at james.firstucc@outlook.com. Have a great month!

- Jimmy



Jimmy Wiederhold
Director of Music, Media,
and Faith Formation

From the Pulpit to the Pew

We will not meet after church on September 11, but Pastor Dan will meet with anyone and all on September 25 to go a little further into reflection and discussion of the day's readings, service, and spiritual concerns following the 10:15 service. We meet about 10 minutes after the service and go until noon.

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 who are homeless in hotels. Along with College Hill Presbyterian and some other churches, we have committed to the week of November 28 here at First UCC. For the weeks of September 25 and October 30, College Hill Presbyterian will host. We have agreed to prepare the meal on Wednesdays of their host weeks. 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. We will have our 2023 host weeks soon.

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 – Annette Luken
 09/06 – Bob Beck
 09/10 – Eric Beckman
 09/12 – Dave Gillig
 09/15 – Alexander Rhodes
 09/15 – Sarah Bilz
 09/17 – Megan Keller
 09/18 – Don Fricke (95th)
 09/20 – Ruth Beck
 09/21 – Lynn Kluesener
 09/22 – Kim Podratz
 09/24 – Bette Smith
 09/26 – Ron Durrett
 09/26 – Kelley Gray
 09/27 – Darrell Copenhaver

~ Please Keep in Prayer ~

Family of Jackie Smith; Brenda (daughter of Ron Kirkman); Barb Shawn (aunt of Suwanna Kirkman); The Keys Family at the passing of Karen Green; Janet Eberst (cousin of Kim Ogden) at the passing of Janet's husband, Bob; 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); Sheila Spearman (daughter of Jackie Smith); Steve Smith (son of Jackie Smith); Jacqueline Forbis (daughter of Jackie Smith); Janet Roland and Cynthia Roland (nieces of Jackie Smith); Judy Henderson (friend of the Senior Social); Hannah Steinhard (daughter of Bruce & Kathie); Linda Blatt (friend of the Senior Social); 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; Agnes Patterson (friend of Jackie Smith); Larry, Carol Ann, and Sandy Brzezinski.

Follow us!



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Life of the Church

Congregational Meeting

We are accepting nominations for the Church Board. Our Congregational Meeting is October 23. If you would like to serve on the Board, it is a 3-year commitment with meetings usually on the second Monday of each month. These are hybrid meetings (both zoom and in-person). We have four spots available to be filled. Our by-laws state that you must be a member for at least a year and in good standing (a part of church life over the past year). Contact our current president June Bronnert or Gail Bauknecht, nominating team leader, or leave a message on the Church office phone with Kim Ogden, 513-541-7302, ext. 10.

No Fishes and Loaves until October 12

The Fishes and Loaves dinner crew will be busy volunteering elsewhere and not have their usual Wednesday meals until October 12. Thank you again to Gail Bauknecht, Ruth Beck, Ron Durrett, Paul and Lynn Kluesener, Jackie Smith, Lucille Isaacs, Dani Pawley, and Amy Weyand-Geise for their weekly commitment. There are also others who are a big part of the success of this ministry, including those who offer financial support. This ministry relies solely on people's generosity. By God's grace and people's gifts, we always have what we need.

All About Love and Sadness

Our book study of All About Love by bell hooks continues every other week. All are welcome to join. (See back of newsletter for schedule). However, we learned recently of the tragic death of Gloria San Miguel. She is the woman from Roebling Books who has worked with Amy and Dan in ordering the books. She was killed in a hit-and-run accident while riding her bicycle in Kentucky. The Roebling Book Store family is devastated. If you would like to contribute to a fund set up for her 3-year-old daughter, please visit the book store's website or speak with Amy WG.

Senior Social

There will not be Senior Social luncheons on September 7 and October 5. Both dates occur during a busy week at church. The church will be getting ready for the Sauerkraut Supper in September; then the Rummage Sale in October.

FYI from the Guild

The Guild had to cancel the BB Riverboat lunch cruise on September 22. We needed at least 15; only 5 or 6 had inquired. We hope to go in October. We'll meet on September 22 – bring a brown bag lunch. All are welcome!

Rummage Sale on October 8

Our rummage sale is back. Our last one was held on March 14, 2020 – then something happened. Volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office if you are able to assist. Set-up is the week of October 2. Linda Krebs and Bev Bosse are co-chairpersons of the event. October 8 from 9-1 is the event, but lots more time is needed to get ready.

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Life of the Church (cont.)

Guild Galore!

Lots happening with our Guild these days as they prepare their calendar and they tidy up our closets with the Rummage Sale in October. As important is the thank you we extend to them for the bereavement luncheon they prepared for the Perna family on August 27. The family is grateful for the wonderful variety and delights that were offered. It was the perfect way to celebrate the life of Roger Perna who had died earlier in the month. Roger was a beloved member of the College Hill community. He and his wife Belinda were members at First UCC in 2005.

Remembering Alice Hudson

First Church member Alice Hudson died on August 28. Alice will long be remembered for her ceramics, quirky comments, love of her dog Toby, and faith. She had been a resident of Llanfair for several years. Because of Covid, she had been unable to attend in-person services. Great thanks to members who stayed in touch with Alice over the past couple of years. She loved her church family. Her body was donated to science. A memorial service will be held at First UCC on October 1. Other details unknown at this time. Our condolences to her brother Roger Hurlburt and other family members.

Yes, 2023 is Soon Upon Us...

That means that the Ladies Guild will be collecting names, birthdays and anniversaries to put on the 2023 calendar. If you're new to First UCC, just look in the Fellowship Hall for the church calendar to see what all the "hub-bub" is about, or ask Anita Durrett and Kathie Steinhard, who are the official co-chairs of the calendar. This is a fund raiser for the Ladies Guild which supports the church by giving monies to the General Fund as well as supporting Mission outreach. Please see either of them to give your names/dates and money. Each entry is \$4 and you'll receive a copy of the calendar as well. We'll be collecting entries during the month of September and need everything by September 22nd (which is the birthday of First UCC). If you'd like to contribute and not have your name on the calendar, we'd be happy to apply any gifts towards this fund raiser (there is one family who does this yearly.) Should you have a small business you'd like to have featured on the calendar, please call Kathie @ 513-729-0121 (land line) and she'll give you more information. Many thanks!!

Step Up

The results of our Step Up initiatives are forthcoming. At this printing, the data is not known, but we will have this information on September 11 and it will be printed in the October newsletter. The CAIN Step Up is energized and the Eyeglass collection is extremely successful. Jimmy's Step Up for the music program and the Guild Step Up have already produced results! The Sauerkraut Supper Step Up is on schedule. More programs will be announced in the weeks to come.



*all
about
love*

NEW VISIONS

bell hooks

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.

First UCC members and friends have gathered over the past month to discuss the book. The conversations have been quite invigorating and insightful as we look to put the ideas into action. Please feel free to join even if you haven't been able to read the book or the chapter for the week. Here is the upcoming schedule:

Our proposed schedule: (flexible based on needs of group and pace of conversation)

- September 4 - Honesty: Be True to Love
- September 18 - Commitment: Let Love Be Love in Me
- October 2 - Spirituality: Divine Love
- October 16 - Values: Living by a Love Ethic
- November 6 - Greed: Simply Love
- November 20 - Community: Loving Communion
- December 4 - Mutuality: The Heart of Love
- December 11 - Romance: Sweet Love
- January 15 - Loss: Loving into Life and Death
- January 29 - Healing: Redemptive Love
- February 5 - Destiny: When Angels Speak of Love

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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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

Travis Mandery, Vice-President

Christy Meyer, Treasurer

Darrell Copenhaver, Financial Secretary

Christine Guillory, Recording Secretary

Ruth Beck

Milt Hauck

Bill Henrich

Kendra Pressley

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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