



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

First News May 2022

...is an inclusive community
of Christian faith, living out the good news
of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ.

Open, Welcoming, and Affirming

Inside This Issue

Pastor Petersen-Mutai's Perspective	1
Worship	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybrid Worship • Sermon Talk Backs • Lectionary Texts 	
Faith Formation	3-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Update • Job Opportunity • Nursery & CLT • Consumer-Free Kids • Book Clubs • Lunch & Learns • Scripture Study • Tuesday Café • LtQ2 Cancelled 	
Inreach & Outreach	6-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee Hour Returns! • Pizza & Play and Sunday Fundays • Our Afghan Guests • Ukraine Support • Food Donations • IKC Gathering 	
Communications	9-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Your Pres. • Monthly Meetings • Annual Reports • Congregant Musings • Food Policy • Birthdays • Egg Hunt! 	

Pastor Petersen-Mutai's Perspective: On Meeting & Greeting

As you are likely aware, we began our journey together well into the pandemic and before vaccines were available making it impossible for us to come together for the customary meet-and-greets that take place when a new pastor and congregation begin their ministry together. While I have thoroughly enjoyed connecting with many of you after worship; before, during, and after various educational offerings; through Committee, Board, and Council meetings; and even one-on-one in your homes or out on a walk; I continue to long for the opportunity to simply spend time with you all with no agenda other than to connect with one another and continue getting to know each other. I am exceedingly grateful that we have begun to offer opportunities for our congregation to gather informally through coffee hour after worship and the upcoming "Pizza & Play" and "Sunday Fundays," and yet I still want more! So, I enlisted the help of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) to help organize opportunities specifically focused on us building our relationship—pastor-to-congregant, congregant-to-pastor—as we didn't have the opportunity to have such small group gatherings when I first arrived.

Laurie Eynon, the incoming PRC chair, recently shared a request for hosts to facilitate these small, informal gatherings via Monday Musings. As I am so looking forward to moving forward with these opportunities to connect, I remind you of that request here and encourage you to consider accepting the invitation to serve as a host. Hosts would simply invite 6-8 people from church to meet with me for 60-90 minutes in Rogers Williams Hall (or another location of your choosing). The invitees may be from a group you are in like a book club, have shared interests, or be church friends; or you can offer an open invitation to get a diversity of folks together; whatever works for you. As host, you and I will determine a mutually agreeable date and time. Light refreshments may be served if desired, but the goal is to make it as easy as possible for the host while offering a time for attendees to gather and get acquainted. If you are interested in bringing together such a group, you may contact Laurie (leynon73@icloud.com or 812-336-1219) or me (revpetersenmutai@firstuc.org or 812-727-4414).

As the Rev. Dr. Hannah Adams Ingram reminded us as she offered a thought-provoking and inspiring sermon on April 24, relationship is essential to living out a life of faith. I look forward to hearing from you soon and gathering together that we might continue growing in our relationship with one another.



Hybrid WORSHIP

Hybrid Worship

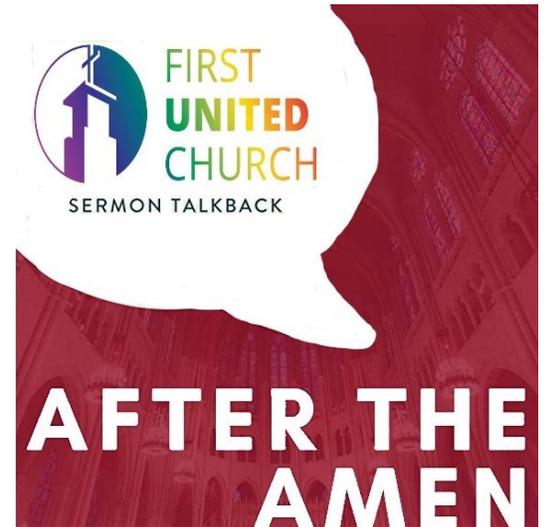
You are invited to join us each Sunday morning as we gather together for hybrid worship welcoming congregants to join in person in the sanctuary for communal worship as well as online via Zoom webinar. Mask usage is optional for all in-person worshippers, and social distancing should be maintained. Join the Zoom Webinar by clicking [here](#) (Dial-in number: (312) 626-6799; Webinar ID: 828 3681 0281).

A recording of each service will generally be posted on Sunday evening on First United's Vimeo channel (where you can access all of our previous worship services): www.vimeo.com/firstunitedchurch.

Your feedback on how to improve the virtual/hybrid worship experience is always welcome.

Sermon Talk Backs

Throughout the season of Lent, worship participants were invited to remain after the service for sermon talk backs to discuss what they had heard and what questions remained with a moderated discussion on the sermon. As we move forward into Eastertide, we will continue to offer folks an opportunity to engage in rich conversation with one another and Rev. Petersen-Mutai one Sunday each month. The May Sermon Talk back will take place on **Sunday, May 15th immediately following the worship service**. Conversation may center on the sermon of the day or a message offered during a previous Sunday's service. Those gathering in person are invited to grab a quick snack from the coffee hour table and meet in **Roger Williams Hall**; those joining virtually can simply **stay on the Zoom webinar** (you will be made a "panelist" so you can participate in the conversation). Thanks to Byron Bangert and Rebecca Hoke-McCall for continuing to facilitate these conversations on a monthly basis!



Lectionary Texts

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
May 1	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
May 8	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
May 15	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
May 22	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29
May 29	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26

Faith Formation

Board of Christian Education

Molly Koontz, Chair

The Board of Education had the privilege of reviewing two excellent scholarship applications and awarding the Derrick Ping Scholarship to Kate Raphael and the Walling-Troxal Scholarship to Danae Reddick. Kate Raphael plans to use the scholarship to support her studies at the UC Berkeley School of Journalism, and Danae Reddick plans to use the scholarship to support her studies at the Kodaly Institute in Kecskemet, Hungary, where she will pursue a non-degree Diploma in Kodaly Music Pedagogy. We look forward to recognizing these students during **Education Sunday on May 15th**. Thank you to our generous scholarship donors who make these scholarship opportunities possible!

The Board of Education hosted a one-hour Climate Change Justice Forum in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 24th immediately following the church worship service. Participants listened to presentations and participated in discussions led by Dr. Ben Brabson, a climate scientist at Indiana University, and Madi Hirschland, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Creation Care Partners in Bloomington. Participants left the sessions with information about the science behind climate change and practical steps to take in their own lives. A follow-up session examining climate change from different faith perspectives will occur this summer as part of the Board's Summer Series events (details forthcoming).

The Board continues to work on updating First United's Safe Church Policy and aims to have a proposed policy ready to be presented to the Church Council by mid-May. Other upcoming events related to children and youth include the Earth care event sponsored by the Bloomington Multifaith Alliance: Children & Youth committee, which will be hosted at First United Church on Saturday, May 14th from 2pm-4pm (see page 4 for more information), and a potential partnership with First Presbyterian Church and other local churches to provide a Vacation Bible School experience this summer.

Job Opportunity!

First United is still seeking to hire a qualified person who is passionate about working with young people and committed to First United's progressive Christian theology and values as a part-time Director of Children's and Youth Ministries. Please see the job description [here](#). Share widely or apply today! Candidates should respond to Lisa Stanger (info@firstuc.org) with a resume and email cover letter detailing relevant experience and intent to apply. Thank you for your help!

Nursery Care Available!

First United's Nursery is open, and young children are welcome to spend time on **Sundays from 10am-11:45am** playing in the nursery or on the playground, weather permitting. Masks are required indoors for all nursery workers, volunteers, and children over age 2. Molly Koontz is currently the contact person for nursery scheduling and questions.

Children's Learning Time

Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to a time of learning, fun, and crafts during the last half of the service. The kids will go to **Room 2** with their teachers right after the Children's Time during the service. Their adults can pick them up either there or on the playground once worship is finished. On the first Sunday of the month, children will begin in the classroom and join the rest of the congregation in the sanctuary to celebrate communion. Masks and distancing continue to be required in the CLT classroom; safety is our top priority. Guardians are always welcome to visit!

We are exceedingly grateful to have Ted Winger serving as our Lead CLT Teacher as we search for a new Director of Children's & Youth Ministries and would love to have a few additional adults interested in helping with the classes sign up to help teach on a rotating schedule to enrich the program for the kids. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to Molly Koontz, Pastor Jessica, or any member of the Board of Education.

Bloomington Multifaith Alliance: Children & Youth
Presents

Consumer-Free Kids

**Making room on Earth
by consuming less**

**SAT., MAY 14
10:00-11:30 A.M.**

at First United Church
2420 E. Third St., Bloomington, IN 47401

Learn about...

- Zero-Waste Lunchboxes
- Mend it! Fix it!
- Eco-Bricks
- No-Buy Day
- Toy Swap (bring your gently used toys)
- A Sycamore Landtrust Presentation
- and More!

Questions? Contact 812-217-7211, kelly@fpcbloomington.org

Faith Formation

First United's Feminist Book Club

Our feminist women's book club continues to meet in a hybrid pattern. We meet after church on the **second Sunday of the month** in **Roger Williams Hall** face-to-face and have a **Zoom** link for anyone who would prefer to join virtually. As always, we welcome new members to visit as a guest. We are women who have a lively discussion **starting at 12 noon**, following worship for about an hour. We read recent fiction "by women, for women or about women." Members are equally split with women from our church and the community beyond who actively discuss our book each month. Feminist women of all ages are invited to join us.

- For **May 8th**, we'll read & discuss "Of Women and Salt" by Gabriela Garcia – Winner of the Isabel Allende Most Inspirational Fiction Award along with other Latino Book Awards for best fiction — this sweeping, masterful debut about a daughter's fateful choice, a mother motivated by her own past, and a family legacy that begins in Cuba before either of them were born.
- For **June 12th**, we've chosen "A Town Called Solace" by Mary Lawson — This novel was a 2021 Booker Prize candidate and tells of a family in crisis: rebellious teenager Rose been missing for weeks with no word, and Rose's younger sister, the feisty and fierce Clara, keeps a daily vigil. Told through three distinct, compelling points of view the novel cuts back and forth among these unforgettable characters to uncover grief, remorse, and love that connect families, both the ones we're born into and the ones we choose. It is a deeply humane novel by a great storyteller.

You may check out our book club's Pinterest listing: <http://pinterest.com/reginammoore/feminist-book-club/> has our group's past selections if you wish to check out earlier choices. For Zoom or more information contact facilitator Cindy Stone, stonec@indiana.edu.

Racial Justice Lunch & Learns

Our Racial Justice Lunch and Learns **via Zoom** (click [here](#)) will pick back up on **Thursday, May 5th, 12pm-1pm**, and continue to meet at noon on the first and third Thursdays of each month. For the next three months, the group will explore the New York Times Magazine 1619 Project (published in 2019). There is no reading required prior to the first conversation as that session will serve as an introduction and orientation to the five sessions to come; a reading schedule and questions to consider will be shared at that time. Please consider joining in these faithful conversations about the 1619 Project as we continue to seek the truth of our history and how it continues to shape our lives and structures today and, of course, discern ways we can enact justice.

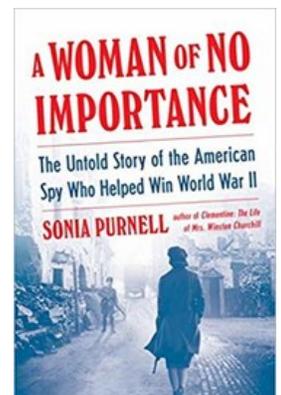
Off-Topic Scripture Circle: New Time!

You are invited to join with members and friends of First United on **Thursday evenings, 5:30pm-6:30pm** to check in and explore the week's lectionary scripture readings in a casual setting where you will never be asked to leave your brain or your heart at the door. We will meet **via Zoom** only (at least for the first couple of months) to be more accessible to folks after work and near dinnertime; join the Zoom meeting [here](#).

Reader's Choice Book Group

The Reader's Choice Book Group will meet **Monday, May 9th, 1:30pm** at the home of Jean Peters, 2455 Tamarack Trail, Apt. 104 (Meadowood). The book for discussion is "A Woman of No Importance," a biography by Sonia Purnell. It's the untold story of Virginia Hall, an American spy who helped to win WWII but never received the recognition she deserved. Virginia came from a prominent Baltimore family, spoke five languages and studied for seven years at prestigious universities in the U.S.A. and France. She wanted to be an ambassador. Despite her qualifications, she was rejected by the State Department. She was recruited by the British Secret Service that welcomed women of guile and courage into its ranks to lead covert operations into Nazi occupied France. At one point, she recruited and organized hundreds of men as French Resistance fighters. After the war, she joined the CIA.

The Book Group meets the second Monday of the month and everyone is always welcome.



Tuesday Virtual Café and Discussion

Faith Formation (cont.)

Join us in person or online at **10am-11:30am each Tuesday** for a time of informal conversation followed by thought-provoking theological study and discussion. We are currently a quarter of the way into a 36-session video series entitled *The History of Christianity: From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Together we are seeking to discover the phenomenal story of Christianity's first 1,500 years, with all its remarkable diversity and complex dimensions, as professor Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson examines Christianity's origins, rise, and civilization-shaping activities from its inception to the Reformation.

Previous participation and perfect attendance not required. Those interested and able are welcome to gather in Roger Williams Hall; those wanting to join online via Zoom can do so [here](#).

Living the Questions 2.0 CANCELLED

The offering of Flight 1 of Living the Questions 2.0 set for Tuesday evenings throughout Eastertide has been cancelled due to low participation. We will regroup and try again later at a different time that will hopefully work better for our community to engage conversation around these thought-provoking questions as we seek to live out our Progressive Christian identity more fully.

Inreach & Outreach

Coffee Hour Returns!

Our first post-COVID Coffee Hour will be May 1st in the Fellowship Hall Foyer immediately following the Sunday morning worship service, and all are encouraged to enjoy a time of conversation and light snack. Doors to the playground and pavilion will be open and additional seating will be conveniently available in Fellowship Hall.

Through May, June, and July, we anticipate twice-a-month Coffee Hours (May 1st & 15th, June 12th & 26th, and July 10th & 24th), and by August, we hope to resume our "every-Sunday" routine. As you are undoubtedly aware, Coffee Hour depends on volunteer hosts, and we encourage everyone to consider that task. Whether or not you are acquainted with our Coffee Hour routine and kitchen, we encourage you to partner with someone else; hence, our signup sheet has space for two volunteers. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Clear instructions regarding setup/cleanup and guidelines for serving snacks like trail mix, etc., will be posted in the kitchen and emailed to each volunteer. All food, drink, and serving supplies are provided by the church, though hosts are free to supplement items if they wish.

Another small step...but a giant leap toward our new "normal."

Monthly Pizza & Play and Sunday Fundays

Members and friends of First United are invited to gather for two new monthly opportunities for fun and fellowship. **Pizza & Play will be offered the first Friday of each month, 5:30pm-7:30pm (beginning Friday, May 6th), and Sunday Fundays will be offered the third Sunday of each month, 2pm-4pm (beginning Sunday, May 15th).** For both gatherings, families and friends are invited to come together for an informal play time in Fellowship Hall and on our playground and surrounding area. As the name implies, pizza and drinks will be provided for the *Pizza & Play* times, and a light snack will be available for each *Sunday Funday*. Feel free to bring an indoor and/or outdoor game/activity to share! And, please do **contact Pastor Jessica if you are planning to attend the May 6th Pizza & Play by May 4th and if you have any particular dietary needs** so she can be sure to have enough food on hand.



Inreach & Outreach (cont.)

Our Afghan Guests:

Two Opportunities to Gather

You are invited to a **surprise baby shower** for our Afghan guests, Brishna and Ahad. The shower will be on **Saturday, May 7th from 2pm-4pm** at a family home. Please RSVP to Hopi Stosberg (hopi@stosberg.com) by Friday, May 6th, and she will share the address with you. It is near RCA park. Brishna has a registry at Target. You can find it by clicking [here](#).

Additionally, we will hold our first **church potluck luncheon** since the start of the pandemic in honor of the Afghan family that we support. After worship on **Sunday, May 22nd**, bring a dish (or just yourself) and come meet the Afghan family that First United has sponsored for the last four months. Ahad and Brishna will bring a couple of Afghan dishes to share too, and we will all break bread together!

Food for Habitat Workers

Our Board of Outreach provided lunch for 35 hard-working Habitat for Humanity volunteers today, Friday, April 29th. Habitat is currently engaged in a house building blitz erecting three houses in two months' time and invited First United to offer a gift of thanks (aka Friday lunch) for their dedicated volunteers.

As this was a special request from Habitat for Humanity (above and beyond our budgeted financial support), the Board is seeking donations to help offset costs incurred. If you are able to give, please mark your check/donation with "Habitat for Humanity" and place it in the offering on a Sunday or deliver it to the church office. Thank you for giving as you are able!

Support Ukraine

Both the UCC and the ABC-USA are actively offering support to Ukrainians during the ongoing Russian invasion. International Ministries, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, has sent an initial grant of \$15,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) emergency relief to the European Baptist Federation to provide humanitarian aid for Ukrainian Baptists. And, as a member of the ACT Alliance, UCC support is being targeted to people most in need through humanitarian relief partners with a history of working in the region; UCC aid also is being extended through Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, the relief agency of the Reformed Church in Hungary.

You are invited to learn more about and contribute to the ABC-USA and UCC efforts [here](#) (ABC-USA) and [here](#) (UCC). One can also write a check made payable either to:

- "International Ministries" and mailed to: International Ministries, Attn: Gifts Processing, 1003 W 9th Avenue, Ste A, King of Prussia, PA 19406 or
- "United Church of Christ" and mailed to: United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194 (be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section).

Food Drive for Humans and Pets

Mark your calendar: Another food drive for humans and pets! **Saturday, May 21st, 10am-2pm**. Join us to help make a difference for those in our community who are in need. Sign up [here](#) to help receive donations.

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) focuses on providing short-term emergency food for people in need, while also working with them on long-term goals and priorities. Area 10 Agency on Aging supports seniors and those with disabilities, enabling them to keep their cherished pet companions by assisting with pet food donations when their owners are in need.

When shopping for human food, MCUM recommends purchasing items that you or your family would enjoy. You can also consider buying things that would be needed together, for example - purchase spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, or peanut butter and jelly, soup and crackers. Currently, the most needed items are: **Toilet paper, Reusable/Cloth Bags, Canned Meat (Tuna, chicken, beef), Peanut Butter, Dried Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Cereal, Ready to eat soups/chili/pasta, Canned vegetables (carrots, greens, potatoes)**. Checks made out to First United (with "MCUM" for human support or "Area 10" for pet support in the memo) are also much appreciated. Area 10 Agency on Aging accepts pet food of all types, dry or canned, large bags and small. Dry food is okay if it has been opened, so long as it is still usable. They also accept pet treats.

See you on May 21st! Thanks in advance!

Rooted, Reaching, Reformed: IKC Annual Gathering

The 2022 Annual Gathering of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference UCC will convene in a hybrid format on June 2nd and June 3rd with those participating in person gathering at Friedens UCC in Indianapolis. Members and friends of First United are encouraged to consider participating in this opportunity to engage with our wider church family. Registration fees are \$100/person for in-person participation and \$50/person for online attendees. Please contact Pastor Jessica if you are interested in attending and would like assistance in covering these costs (we have funds budgeted for this purpose). Learn more and register online by clicking [here](#). The agenda for the gathering is as follows:

June 2nd—Registration (In-Person), Opening Worship, and Fellowship Time

- 6pm-7pm Check In and Badge Pickup
- 7pm-8:30pm Opening Worship, Preacher Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas
(Rev. Petersen-Mutai will help lead the music!)
- 8:30pm - Fellowship Time with Light refreshments

June 3rd—Keynote, Plenary, Workshops, and Banquet Celebration

- 8:30am-10am Plenary
- 10:30am-11:15am Keynote Address by Drs. Deborah Krause and David Mellott
- 11:45am-1pm Lunch Break (Lunch on your own at Food Trucks)
- 1:30pm-2:20pm Workshops
(Pastor Jessica will help lead the workshop offered by the IKC Justice and Witness Ministries Anti-racism Task Force, and Rev. Dr. Hannah Adams Ingram will help lead the workshop on Leadership Formation in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference)
- 2:30pm-4:50pm Plenary with break
- 6pm-8pm Banquet Celebration

Volunteer Opportunities!

Your help is needed at the IKC Annual Gathering this year! If you are able and available on Thursday, June 2nd (evening) or Friday, June 3rd, you are encouraged to find a spot where you would like to volunteer and sign up! Many shifts are short, and the Planning Team would be most appreciative of your help and love to see you there! There are in-person and virtual opportunities to help this year, including: Setup and Teardown, Hospitality, Virtual Tech Stewards, Greeters, and Food Service Assistance. Click [here](#) to see all of the volunteer opportunities and sign up today!

Additionally, the Planning Team is in need of help from Conference congregations to supply food items for the Annual Gathering Banquet. A Sign-Up Genius site has been set up for those who willing and able to donate the needed items. Please click [here](#) to see what items are being requested and to sign up to help. Specific drop off dates and times will be communicated at a later date, but please plan to **deliver to Frieden's UCC** (8300 S. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46217) **the week of May 30th, 2022** (Contact Pastor Jessica if you would like help getting your contribution to Indianapolis as she will be attending the meeting in person and is willing to haul food if needed.). Becky Moore, the Annual Gathering coordinator, will be in touch with those who sign up to communicate details about drop off locations and times for your items. She can be reached at r.sowder@sbcglobal.net for any questions or correspondence. Thank you for your willingness to help in any way to make this Annual Meeting Banquet a truly abundant and joyful feast!



Communications

From Your President

Rebecca Keith, President



We made some great progress in April regarding our technology upgrades. The Council approved the final project scope and will be able to go ahead with improvements as soon as possible. A big thank you goes to Mary Peckham and Mitchell Farmer for writing and securing a grant that will, in part, fund this project. The balance will be used by a budget item not utilized; therefore, there is not a need to use additional endowment funds for this project. This is a BIG win! And another big shout-out to Mitchell for shepherding this project and working with the tech consultants to get the price down, fine-tune what we need and can afford, and translate the project specs to those of us not versed in this language. THANK YOU, MITCH!

At the Council meeting, we had a brief presentation by Matt Wagner, our United Church Funds account manager. He talked to us about the excellent investment philosophy and practice that the UCF engages in. We hope to have him back to speak to the congregation at some point, too. Pulling back the curtain on these mysterious money issues (to some!) will help us all become better stewards of our donors' wishes. Related to that topic is First United's need for a third member of the Memorial Endowment Committee. This committee meets just quarterly and no experience with high level investing is necessarily needed: only a desire to help, learn, and guide our Finance Committee and ultimately the Church Council to good decisions. While the MEC does not have the final authority, per the bylaws, this three-person committee is an important part of our structure of checks and balances. As of this date, I have asked three women to serve in this role, and all three have declined. We need you, and if you are so interested, please reach out to me directly.

Also, the Council reviewed the progress and work completed by the Bylaws Review Committee, and we are almost ready to approve. During the month of May, the Council will be making final changes, then during the May Council Meeting on May 18th, we will approve the Bylaws and Constitution and forward to the Congregation for formal adoption during the **June 12th Congregational Meeting**.

Additionally, on **Sunday, May 22nd after worship**, the Nominating Committee's **Slate of Officers and new Board Members will be presented to the congregation for a vote of approval**. Our slate is not yet full. If you are interested in getting involved in the governance of our church, please see me – we need you for the next year of volunteer activities and service to God's people in our community.

Monthly Board, Committee, and Council Meetings

The Permanent Boards of the congregation, Finance Committee, and Church Council will meet at the following times to plan and support the various ministries we offer as First United. The wider congregation is always invited and encouraged to participate in this process; you encouraged to reach out to the appropriate chairperson if you have matters for them to discuss.

- Outreach (Keith Gerber; Kim Yaussy Albright) — Monday, May 9th, 6:30pm
- Building & Grounds (Ted Wininger) — Wednesday, May 11th, 6:30pm
- Christian Education (Molly Koontz) — Wednesday, May 11th, 6:30pm
- Worship (Siri Loescher) — Thursday, May 12th, 6:30pm
- Finance (Kyle Hetrick) — Monday, May 16th, 3:30pm
- Church Council (Rebecca Keith) — Wednesday, May 18th, 6:30pm

2022 Annual Reports

In preparation for First United's Annual Congregational Meeting, set for Sunday, June 12th (after morning worship); **2022 Annual Reports are due into Lisa** in the church office by **May 23rd**. Thank you!

Congregant Monday Musings

Many thanks to Laurie Eynon, the incoming chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee, for offering April's "Congregant Monday Musing." While those serving in official church capacities are certain welcome to use this monthly email, all members and friends of First United are invited and encouraged to share your thoughts to be featured via this special weekly emailing on the third Monday of the month. You are encouraged to offer your perspectives, curiosities, questionings, suggestions, ideas (you get the picture) with one another via a monthly Congregant Monday Musing. This opportunity is offered in an effort to help us get to know each other better while also encouraging and challenging each other to grow in living out your faith (that doesn't mean your contribution needs to be specifically or even remotely faith related). Obviously, this objective cannot be reached without your help. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Pastor Jessica or Lisa so that your contribution can be scheduled along with other congregant contributors throughout the year in addition to the regular monthly offerings Rebecca, Sam, and Pastor Jessica will continue to share.

Thank you for considering the invitation to share yourself and your thoughts with our congregation in this unique way. May this provide a valuable opportunity for us to connect with one another in new and different ways as we continue to deal with the challenges of the pandemic and engage in limited in-person activities (when such thoughts and ideas would more naturally be shared among our community).

May Birthdays

- 3 Ralph Gaebler
- 3 Cora LaGrange
- 5 Barbara Clark
- 5 William LaGrange
- 6 Tim Stout
- 6 John Werner
- 9 Nancy Ivie
- 9 Donovan Keith-Reeves
- 15 Kristi McCann
- 15 Max Potter
- 17 Jefferson Fowler
- 19 Alex Stosberg
- 20 Linda Hunt
- 21 Brenda Fiscus
- 22 Aidan Koontz
- 24 Shannon McCann
- 25 Sue Shindell
- 27 Sandy Shapshay
- 28 Jabali Mutai
- 28 Ethlyn Taylor
- 28 Dave Edgerton

Happy Birthday!

Notice a birthday missing?
Please contact Lisa
in the office!



Food Policy

During their April 20th meeting, the Church Council temporarily approved to serving of food and drinks in the church building. This change was effective immediately. A reminder that masking in the building continues to be optional (but required for the nursery and CLT) and social distancing is still to be observed. Vaccination continues to be strongly recommended for all who are eligible.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this unknown terrain together. Please be in touch with Rebecca Keith, Church President, or other members of the Council with any questions regarding this change in our policy.



First United Church
2420 E. 3rd Street
Bloomington, IN 47401



First News is a newsletter for the members and friends of First United Church.

Deadline for the June edition is May 23rd.

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President	Rebecca Keith	812-325-0145 (Cell)	rekeith@iu.edu

**The church office is open regularly Monday through Friday, 9am-4:30pm (12pm-1pm lunch hour).
Stop in or contact the church office if you have a need or question.**

Visit us on the web: www.firstuc.org —  Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/firstuc

United Church of Christ: www.ucc.org — Indiana-Kentucky Conference: www.ikcucc.org

American Baptist Churches USA: www.abc-usa.org — Rochester/Genesee Region: www.abcrgr.org