

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

137 S Garfield Ave., Hinsdale, IL 60521 • United Church of Christ



The Cost of Discipleship

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost
October 27, 2024

Our Welcoming Statement, adopted January 28, 2024:

We are all called by God as disciples of Christ. We affirm & welcome all persons as precious to God, just as they are. As a community of faith, in the service of God, we are enriched by our differences including diversity of gender identity and expression, age, marital & economic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, race, and physical & mental abilities and qualities. We affirm that the Holy Spirit gathers us as a congregation in which all persons are invited to participate equally in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, concerns, & joys of our community of faith. We pledge to love, encourage, & support one another as the Body of Christ.

What are we all about at Union Church?

Living lives of love for God and all people.

You are welcome here!

A GATHERING IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE 8TH DAY OF CREATION

* = Those who are able and willing, please stand

PRELUDE

Ollie Townsend

WELCOME

Stephen Edwards

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you!**

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who calls us to serve.

People: **We gather to follow Christ's radical call to help the least among us.**

Leader: In our worship, may we grow in compassion and commitment.

People: **We commit to the cost of discipleship, embracing love and justice.**

Leader: Let us bring our authenticity and our talents to the community of faith.

All: **Together, we worship and grow, bringing all of who we are, to share in God's grace.
Let us worship God!**

* HYMN # 12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we have not always heeded your call to serve the least among us. We have been slow to act in love and quick to judge. Forgive us for the times we have prioritized our comfort over the needs of others. Help us to embrace the path of true discipleship, growing in compassion and commitment. Renew our hearts, that we may bring our talents to your community of faith, serving with justice and love. In your mercy, hear our prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

* GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end! Amen, Amen.*

LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

ANTHEM

Sing Me to Heaven
Chancel Choir

Daniel Gawthrop

**Children are invited to meet Penny at the front for Sunday School. As the children depart, we will exchange these blessings:
Congregation: May God be with you there. Children: And may God be with you here.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:40

Melissa Mann

SERMON

The Cost of Discipleship

Robb Knuepfer

* HYMN # 448

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY*Revelation Song*

At this time, please sign & pass the Attendance Sheets – they help us care for members & welcome visitors.

For e-giving, head to www.hinsdale.church. Tap 'Menu,' then select the 'Live Generously' tab, and tap 'Make a Contribution.' Or text "GIVEUCH" to 73256. Thanks for giving to the life & work of Union Church!

*** DOXOLOGY**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done!
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.***

*** PRAYER OF GRATITUDE***** CLOSING HYMN***Children of Light***BENEDICTION****REPRISE**

FLOWERS –Today's flowers are given by Bonnie Eigel and family in loving memory of Jay Eigel.

STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

*(h = he/him/his, s = she/her/hers, t = they/them/theirs)**

Associate Minister – Grant Glowiak (h/t)	Dir. of Audio & Visual Media – Adam Nakutis (h)	<u>Section Leaders</u>
Associate Minister – Robb Knuepfer (h)	Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung (s)	Jess Koehn (h)
Dir. of Christian Education – Penny Johnson (s)	Guest Organist/Pianist – Ollie Townsend	Coleman Dziedzic (h)
Dir. of Music and Worship – Stephen C Edwards (h/t)		Dei Nikoi (s)
		Tierra Whetstone-Christian (s)
Ushers – Judy Cochran, Penny Davey, Christy and Randy Weimer		Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak (h)
		Bass – Ben Dillinger(h)
* Go to https://tinyurl.com/ymabnh5t for a guide to gender identity terms		Guitar – Andrew Sudhibhasilp (h)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children kindergarten through 5th grade will begin in the Sanctuary with their families. After the Life of the Faith Community, the children will leave and go upstairs to our Sunday School space, returning before the last song.

Also, there is always Sunday School and nursery care for younger children in classroom 129 on the lower level.

RESTROOMS

To find the gender-neutral restroom, exit through the main doors of the Sanctuary into The Gathering Place. Follow the glass doors on your left until a hallway opens on your left. It is a few steps down that hallway on your right.

Gendered restrooms are located just off The Gathering Space - complete with changing tables on the lower and main levels.

DON'T MISS A THING!

Keep up with all our upcoming events by following us on Facebook & Instagram and subscribing to our weekly newsletter.

Head over to hinsdale.church, and click on the 'Connect' button for more info!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANTATE!

Monday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Cantate! will be performing at Oak Trace Retirement Home – A performance you won't want to miss!

CHILDREN'S CHIMES (BELL CHOIR) NOVEMBER

Rehearse: October 30 and November 6, perform on November 10 at the 10:00 a.m. service

Children ages 4+ are welcome to join our children's chimes (bell choir). No experience is necessary - this is a gentle way for children to have their first musical performance experience and we have a wide range of ages.

Email Penny Johnson (pjohnson@uchinsdale.org) with questions, or simply come on October 30 and give it a try!

Find the link in the weekly email to register.

Save the date for other Advent activities designed with families in mind. See the flyer at the end of the bulletin and share with your friends, family, and neighbors. All are welcome - no exceptions!

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES SUNDAY

November 3, 10:00 a.m. service

Each year on the Sunday after All Saints Day (Nov. 1) we pause to remember and honor our loved ones who have died in the past twelve months. All will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one and say their name aloud or in one's heart in prayer. If you would like to have your loved one's name included in a list that is read during the service, please email Rev. Grant Glowiak, gglowiak@uchinsdale.org **no later than October 30.**

ELECTION DAY MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

November 5, 7:00 a.m. service

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE
Election Day Morning Prayer
Nov. 5, 2024 @ 7 a.m.
Meet outdoors in the Close (courtyard)
UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

Election season is upon us and early voting is now open in DuPage County!

If you feel existential angst/dread reading that, then this may be for you. Need a moment of prayer and reflection before the day takes hold?

Join us for coffee and a brief, outdoor prayer service to center ourselves in peace and calm on election day morning.

See the weekly email for early voting info.

MFC SEEKING STOCKING MAKERS

The Ministry for Change is seeking people who like to sew to help make stockings for the Eleanor's Christmas Stockings Project, which provides filled Christmas stockings to underserved children in the church's wider community. Pattern and instructions will be provided. If you are interested in sewing stockings, please contact Jane Grimm at jgrimm723@comcast.net.

BRIDGING BORDERS
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS TO DIGNITY, CIVILITY, & DIALOGUE
in Rowell Hall after 10:00 a.m. service
NOVEMBER 3, 2024

As we head into election week there is sure to be a lot of noise coming our way in the coming days. To help center ourselves and in the spirit of our fall theme, "All Means All", we want to elevate the voice of some of the most important among us: **children.**

EVERYONE WELCOME!

This is a deeply moving presentation about a study that was carried out at Bonita (Beautiful) and La Escuelita (The Small School), two federally-funded Head Start Child-Parent Centers located within two miles of the U.S./Mexico border.

Teresa Acevedo will walk us through a research project that began as a study of fences, walls, and enclosures common to the experience of all children and lead to the story of the border fence, as described by the young students.

Terry is an early childhood consultant and the executive director and co-founder of the Tucson Children's Project, which works to develop community projects that bring people and resources together in dialogue and further understanding.

Presented in Partnership:

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE UCECP

GENEROUS. OPEN. CONNECTED.
We are an open and affirming Congregation.

Union Church is a *thinking church.*
Together we ask questions and explore the world beyond ourselves. We aim to grow in kindness and generosity with *all people.*
Join us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTER-FAITH FELLOWSHIP (IFF) LUNCHEON

Wednesday, November 13, 11:30 to 1:30, in the Dining Room

The Jolly Boys are back to bring joy and heartfelt appreciation to our Veterans, and we couldn't be more excited! This event is not just about honoring those who have served; it's a vibrant celebration that embodies the core values of love and kindness. With the harmonious sounds of music filling the air, we'll come together as a community, uniting in gratitude and respect for our heroes. So, whether you're a long-time member or new to our church family, we invite you to join us in this uplifting occasion. Let's create beautiful memories together, filled with laughter, song, and a shared sense of belonging. Mark your calendars and prepare to be part of something truly special—your presence will make all the difference!



Lunch is \$15 per person cash or check paid at the door and will be served at noon.

IFF is the hottest ticket in town so make your reservation today!

Reservations are requested and must be received no later than November 7, 2024

For reservations click the link in the weekly email or contact Elizabeth Jung at 630-688-1706 or ejung@uchinsdale.org.

IFF is a group for fellowship and inclusivity while also supporting worthy causes with donations made by your participation.

2025 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN: WE ARE THE CHURCH



Generosity Word of the Week – Worship, Growth...Discipleship!

So you may think it is cheating a bit to squeeze 3 words into the last week of the Generosity Campaign. There has been a lot to say in this four-week (maybe shortest ever) campaign. Your grace is accepted!

...just as you did it to one of the least of these members of my family, you did it to me **Matthew 25:40**

With Robb addressing ***How much does it cost to get to Heaven?*** this Sunday, it is a good time to directly ask ***How much does it cost for UCH to create meaningful and joyful worship that promotes spiritual growth and prepares us to do the work of the church in the world through our discipleship?***

Practically speaking, it is a bit shy of \$1 million...collectively...from all of us. All means all. Thank you for your generosity!

NOW COLLECTING TREASURES AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RUDOLPH'S BOUTIQUE

Saturday, December 7, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m., in the Dining Room

We are collecting **new & gently used items** now in the bins in the Gathering Place for our boutique.

Children will shop the boutique to find Christmas gifts for their families. Cash only.

Youth helpers: We are also looking for volunteers and youth helpers to assist our young shoppers. It's very cute and we know many of you love doing this! Find the link in the weekly email to sign up!

And adult helpers, we need your help gift wrapping and at check-out and sorting ahead of time. Use the QR code to sign up!



WINTER SERMON SERIES 'ELECTION'

It's voting season – so let's have some fun! In the spirit of our Congregationalist tradition, we want to hear from you as we plan for our Winter Sermon Series. Use the QR code (or physical ballots) to let us know which sermon series you are most interested in for the season between Epiphany and Lent.

- *The Theology of Film* - exploring how the Christian faith is portrayed both implicitly and explicitly in film
- *Theology of Music in Worship* - exploring the theology of everything from classical hymns to contemporary worship music
- *The Good Place* - digging deep into the popular TV show (on Netflix) *The Good Place*, and its theological implications

**Voting continues on October 13, 20 & 27. Results will be announced on the Sunday before the national election, November 3.*



ELEANOR'S CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Sunday, December 8, after 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. services, in Youth Room

It's time to get ready for Eleanor's Christmas Stockings! This Ministry for Change project, named in memory of our beloved Eleanor Patterson, provides filled Christmas stockings to underserved children in the church's wider community. Last year we filled 300+ stockings. Our goal this year is to fill 500! To do that, we need your help:

- **Starting November 1st** put your **left-over Halloween candy in the donation boxes in the Gathering Space.**
- Contribute stocking contents by ordering online through our Amazon wish list or by purchasing and bringing items to the Gathering Space. Wish lists will be available in late October.
- Mark your calendar: On Sunday, December 8 after the 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. services there will be a Christmas stocking stuffing event in the Youth Room. Everyone, and especially families with young children, are welcome! The church's children and youth will also be stuffing stockings during their Gather & Grow time on December 4th.
- Ask your dentist for donations of individually wrapped children's toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste. Deposit them in the designated boxes starting November 1st.

For questions or to help with the stocking project, please email Jane Grimm jgrimm723@comcast.net. Thank you!

DISCOVERY TEAM BEGINS WORK

The Discovery Team met on October 9 and October 21 to begin its work. They started with team and relationship building for their work together, along with a comprehensive view of the work they will be doing.

After a conversation about personality types & an exploration of the assets the team brings to the work with the congregation, the team selected leadership through a process of nominating the people felt best suited for the work. The leadership is:

Co-Conveners: *Ann Reiland* and *Kim Kiyosaki*

- Sets the agenda for the meetings, inspires the team, and holds the team accountable to tasks and their deadlines.

Communicator: *David Hess*

- Serves as conduit between the congregation and the Discovery Team, sharing the work of the team & articulating next steps.

Clerk: *Jackie Roberts* - Takes the minutes for the meetings and keeps track of the work.

Chaplain: *Kim Kiyosaki* - Organizes devotions & prayers, continuing to circle the work of discernment back to the Spirit.

The next meeting will include a discussion of the homework of evaluating resources. The team makes choices about exploring Union Church's immediate context and evaluates surveys for input from a wide cross section of the congregation. A plan and a timeline will be developed over the next meeting or two.

The team will meet weekly through the first week of December. More meeting times will be determined as they focus.

Please continue to pray for the work of the Discovery Team! Look for ways you can be involved in this process, coming soon!

Discovery Team: *Maria Coyne, Chris Happ, David Hess, Kim Kiyosaki, Ann Reiland, Jackie Roberts, and Rob Schaeffer*

OFFICE FINANCIAL MEMO

Thank you for your support! Please make every effort to complete your pledge as early in the quarter as possible. As we enter the last quarter of this calendar year, we want to share a few options on fulfilling your pledge commitment:

- Online contributions:

<https://onrealm.org/uchinsdale/-/form/give/now>

- Text "GIVEUCH" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you.
- We also accept **Zelle!** No fees (recipient email: accounting@uchinsdale.org)

Donating long-term appreciated securities minimizes capital gains taxes when you contribute these assets directly to a charity! Discuss with your CPA or tax professional. If you will be using stock to donate towards your 2024, 2025 pledge, remember to contact me or Ann Gleason at agleason@uchinsdale.org when you arrange the gift with your broker.

Make a charitable donation to offset the tax cost of a traditional IRA to Roth IRA conversion.

Make all checks payable to Union Church of Hinsdale and note on the memo line of your check what you are donating to – for example: 2024, 2025 pledge, Thanksgiving Offering, etc. Thank you, *Gaby Gleason*, Financial Manager