

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



The Journey Begins

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 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 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Thomas Helmore
Ollie Townsend

WELCOME Stephen Edwards

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you!**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** Tom and Vera Shively and Kevin Le

Leader: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

People: **While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.**

Leader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign. (light candle)

All: **The Journey Begins! Let us praise the Holy One!**

*** HYMN # 116** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
(stanzas 1, 2, 6, & 7)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, Gracious God, that we have not always turned to you for guidance. At times, we have allowed the world’s time to dominate your time. Forgive us for our sins of hurriedness and impatience. Forgive us when we have slumbered instead of remaining alert, waiting and watching for you. Forgive us for allowing the world’s fears to become our fears. Shine upon us this Advent season so that we may be restored unto you. Guide us into your time. As we call upon your name, hear our prayers and give us life. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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

HYMN #122 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**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 *Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:34-36* Diane Oostendorp

SERMON *Count Your Blessings* Josh Heikkila

*** HYMN # 102** *O How Shall I Receive You*

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, OUR OFFERING, AND A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Grant Glowiak

All are welcome at the Communion table. All means all. Come forward down the center aisle, and return via the outside aisles, starting with those in the balcony and working forward. Please take a piece of bread and a cup. You may partake of the elements either before or after returning to the pew. Those not coming forward will be served in the pews.

You can find a picture of the ingredients list in the announcements section.

As you come forward to the Communion table, you may light a candle in memory of a loved one. Candles both represent the light that shines in the darkness of grief, as well as the rising of our prayers to God.

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

Plates are provided at the front for your gifts/offering. For e-giving, head to www.hinsdale.church, or text "GIVEUCH" to 73256. Thanks for giving to the life & work of Union Church!

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right and our greatest joy..... and we pray together as Jesus taught us:

All: 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.

COMMUNION SONG

Come Now Our King

August and Barnes

WE

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE *(in unison)*

We thank you, O God, for giving us your grace through the visible signs of this bread and "wine," uniting us with Christ, and helping us become the body of Christ for the world. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall join with all nations and peoples in the joy of your eternal realm, including those who have died and are gathered close to you now. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

* HYMN (SEE SCREEN)

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

BENEDICTION

REPRISE

FLOWERS –Today's flowers are given by Craig and Marilyn Schaefer in loving memory of their parents.

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)

Section Leaders

Associate Minister – Robb Knuepfer (h)

Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung (s)

Jess Koehn (h)

Dir. of Christian Education – Penny Johnson (s)

Coleman Dziedzic (h)

Dir. of Music and Worship – Stephen C Edwards (h/t)

Dei Nikoi (s)

Tierra Whetstone-Christian (s)

Ushers – Joel Pundmann, Barbara Parsons, Christina Porterfield

Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak (h)

Guitars – Andrew Sudhibhasilp (h) and James Lang (h)

* Go to <https://tinyurl.com/ymabnh5t> for a guide to gender identity terms

Bass – Ben Dillinger(h)

Communion Bread Ingredients: Water, sourdough (rice flour), Rice starch, cornstarch, modified cellulose, caramelized sugar syrup, psyllium, seed husk, sunflower oil, pea protein, yeast, millet flour, citrus fiber, rice flour, quinoa flour, salt, guar gum, corn flour, rice syrup. May contain: Sesame.

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 www.hinsdale.church, and click on the 'Connect' button for more info!

WEEKLY BULLETINS ARE NOW ONLINE!

Our weekly bulletins/worship orders are now online. You can access them via the UCH web site and/or our YouTube channel. This way if you're worshipping at home/on the go, you can follow along.

Or you can follow along in person on your phone and reduce the number of bulletins we print each week!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW SENIOR PASTOR SURVEY - HAVE YOU SHARED YOUR THOUGHTS?

Thank you to those that have taken the time to answer this important survey. So far, we have received over 100 responses! Please encourage all family and friends associated with UCH to participate, including youth members (15+ yrs.). Today is the last day to participate.

For assistance with the survey, call Maria Coyne at 708-280-8150 or email Jackie Roberts jacquelineroberts323@gmail.com. You are also invited to use the computer in the volunteer office if you do not have access to a pc, laptop or tablet.



\$\$ 2024 \$\$

\$149,567

Needed to meet
2024
budgeted
plan/offering

MINISTRY FAIR

We need your talents and contributions! We are currently recruiting for 2025 members to all UCH Ministries. There are a probably more ways to get involved than many of us know, and we welcome all, including high school students.

Join us for a Ministry Fair after the 9:00 and 10:00 services December 8th in the Gathering Space. Please stop by and meet with current ministry leaders who will be happy to share more about their activities, time commitments and how you can engage.

IFF LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 1, 11:45 to 1:30 p.m.

Lunch is served in the Dining Room (lower level), and the program will be in the Sanctuary with tea to follow in Rowell Hall

Hinsdale High School Chamber Choir will again present us with a festive and heartwarming celebration of the holiday season. Please join us as the sounds of the choir fills the Sanctuary, evoking the warmth of the season.

Following the program, you are invited to attend the Silver Tea for dessert provided by the Women's Association of Union Church. The event is a wonderful way to gather with friends, family and community, sharing the joy and peace that Christmas brings. There will be extra parking available across the street in the parking garage.

Lunch is \$15 per person cash or check paid at the door and will be served at noon. Reservations are requested and must be received no later than December 5, 2024. Reservations are possible by calling Elizabeth Jung at **630-688-1706**, or by email, ejung@uchinsdale.org.

MUSIC

CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY

December 15, at the 10:00 a.m. service

Be sure to enjoy ALL of our music ministry groups - including handbells! We are so fortunate to have such strong music programming at UCH! Here's a special note from Ann Reiland about our music:

"Make A Joyful Noise Unto The Lord" For me, that psalm excerpt has a direct correlation to UCH music. Musical offerings here feed my spiritual soul, lift me up, give me joy and connect me to worship.

COLLECTIONS

NOW COLLECTING TREASURES AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RUDOLPH'S BOUTIQUE

At this time, the only **new & gently used items** we need are **men's/boy's treasures and mugs**. Thank you to all who have donated thus far!

Youth helpers: 2 more slots are available for volunteers and youth helpers to assist our young shoppers. It's very cute and we know many of you love doing this! Please use the QR code to sign up.

And adult helpers, we are still in need of help with setup on Friday, December 6. Morning and evening times available. Please use the QR code to sign up!



THANKSGIVING OFFERING

For our Thanksgiving Offering this year, we encourage you to make a special contribution to our Ministry for Change partner,

The Boulevard, which provides medical respite care for homeless individuals in Chicago. As you may know, the City of Chicago is facing a huge budget gap. This shortfall will impact the government funding to agencies like The Boulevard, as we look to continue to support the 64-bed facility.



Union Church has been a long-time supporter of The Boulevard, as our own **Nancy Hanson** is a founding member, and **Christy Weimer** is the current Chair of the Board of Directors. This summer Union Church provided funding for new outdoor furniture for the residents at the facility in Garfield Park.

For the Thanksgiving Offering (running November 17th through December 8th), you may donate to The Boulevard or make a special contribution to the church - or do both! You have two easy options for giving:

- 1) Give online through the church website. Find the link in the weekly email, or, on the giving page, under "fund," select either "Thanksgiving Offering – The Boulevard" (all amounts donated under this selection will be donated to The Boulevard) or "Thanksgiving Offering - Union Church Ministries" (all amounts donated under this selection will be shared by ministries of the church generally) and complete the rest of the information. To give to both, please complete two separate transactions.
- 2) Deposit a check in the offering plate during service OR send in a check. If some/all of your donation is for The Boulevard, please tell us the split in the memo line or in a separate note. If all of your gift is intended solely for UCH, just send the check.

POINSETTIAS

Christmas is coming...SOON! Again, we are taking orders for poinsettias. Forms can be found throughout the building to be filled out and turned in with payment to Adriana in the church office by **December 13!** If you are more of an online person, you can order poinsettias by going to onrealm.org/uchinsdale/give and finding "flowers/plants" in the dropdown menu. The poinsettia cost is \$25.00. This is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize your loved ones and/or gift a plant to loved ones.

All those honored and memorialized will be included in our Christmas Eve bulletins along with their donors' names. Help us make the Union Church Sanctuary even more beautiful for Christmas Eve! Members of the Worship Ministry will be available for taking poinsettia orders in the Gathering Place after the worship services this Sunday, December 10.

If you have ordered a poinsettia plant and have indicated you want to take it home, you may do so after the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.