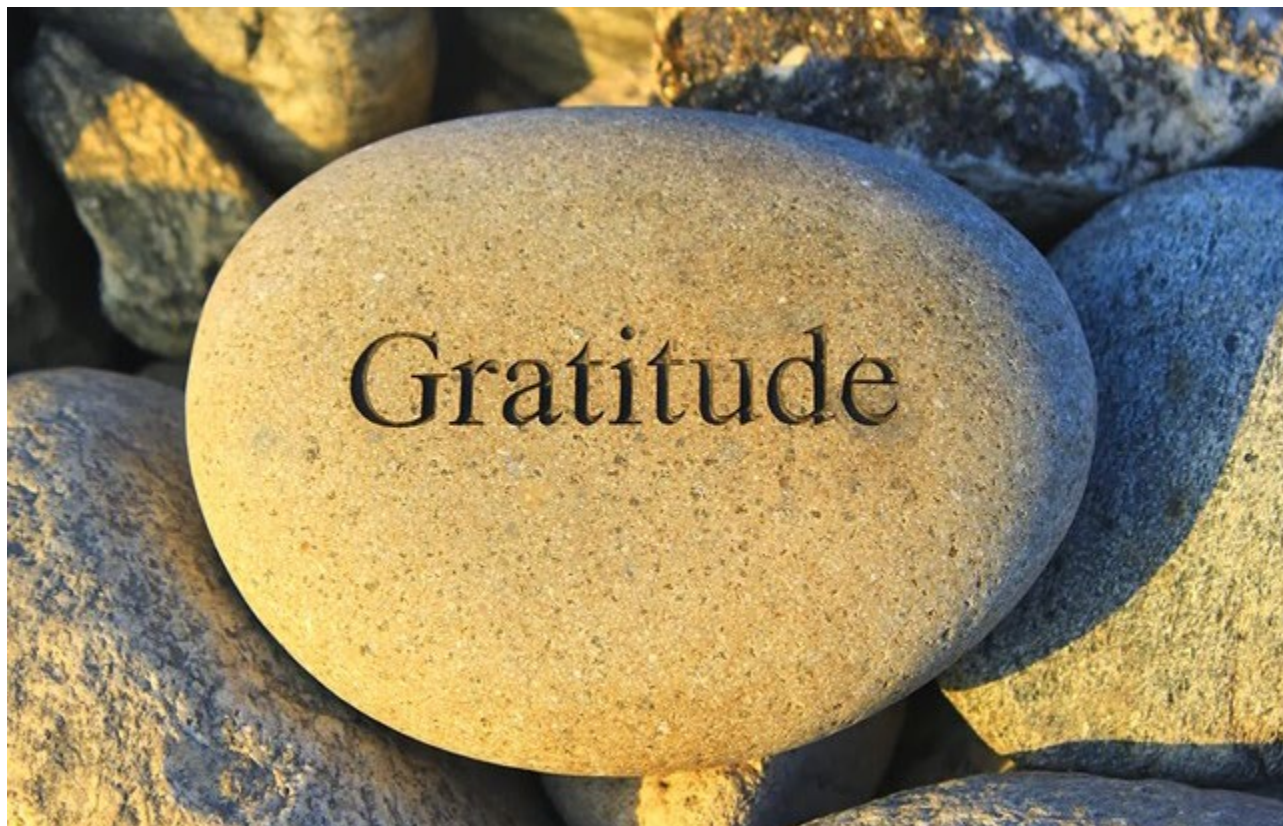


# UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



## *Thanksgiving and Giving Thanks*

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
November 24, 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 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF CREATION

---

\* = Those who are able and willing, please stand

**PRELUDE** *Nun Danket Alle Gott* Sigfrid Karg-elert  
Ollie Townsend - Organ

**WELCOME** Stephen C Edwards

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you!**

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Friends, the time is near. How have you used the gifts God has entrusted to you?

People: **We have brought our gifts to the house of God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks for these gifts and the opportunities to serve.

People: **We thank God for the many blessings in our lives.**

Leader: Faithful God, accept our offerings and our gratitude today.

All: **Loving God, receive our praise and thanks. Amen. Let us worship God!**

\* **OPENING HYMN #422** *Come, O Thankful People, Come*

## \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of mercy and justice, you have given us so many talents and gifts to be used in your world. You have given us these gifts because you trust us to use them well — and you will be with us in all our work. But we sometimes disappoint you when we denigrate the value of the talents or become so fearful of failure that we don't believe that we are capable of helping in this world. Lord, forgive us. Help us to trust in the gifts you have given to us and to trust in your guidance in using them. Forgive us when we are fearful, stubborn, apathetic, indifferent to the needs around us. Give us hearts for serving you all our days. In Jesus' name 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

*\*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.*

**ANTHEM** *Sing Gently* Eric Whitacre  
Chancel Choir

**SCRIPTURE** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-18 Melissa Mann

**SERMON** *Thanksgiving and Giving Thanks* Robb Knuepfer

\* **HYMN #420** *We Praise You, O God*

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

*Counting Every Blessing*

*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](http://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

\* HYMN (SEE SCREEN)

*Sing Wherever I Go*

BENEDICTION

REPRISE

**FLOWERS** – Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Marty Eisel by the Eisel Intorcica family.

**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)		Coleman Dziedzic (h)
Dir. of Music and Worship – Stephen C Edwards (h/t)		Dei Nikoi (s)
		Tierra Whetstone-Christian (s)
Ushers – Jane Grimm, Kirk Grimm, Laurie McMahon, Maria Coyne		Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak (h)
	Guitars – Andrew Sudhibhasilp (h) and James Lang (h)	
* Go to <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ymabnh5t">https://tinyurl.com/ymabnh5t</a> for a guide to gender identity terms		Bass – Ben Dillinger(h)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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!

## 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](http://www.hinsdale.church), and click on the 'Connect' button for more info!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW SENIOR PASTOR SURVEY - HAVE YOU SHARED YOUR THOUGHTS?

The Discovery Team invites you to share your hopes & dreams for Union Church and the qualities you want to see in our next senior pastor! An online survey is now open for all members & friends of UCH. Use the QR code to the right to take the survey. Paper copies of the survey are also available in the church office hallway on the counter between Grant and Stephen's office.



Thank you to those that have taken the time to answer this important survey. So far, we have received 111 responses! Please encourage all family and friends associated with the UCH to participate, including youth members (15+ yrs.).

For assistance with the survey, call Maria Coyne at 708-280-8150 or email Jackie Roberts [jacquelineroberts323@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### SAVE-THE-DATE FOR A GUEST PREACHER

*Sunday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m.*

Reverend Josh Heikkila will be joining us to preach for the first Sunday in Advent. He will bring a unique, and worldwide, perspective to the season. Josh lives in Accra, Ghana and will be in the States visiting family over Thanksgiving (including his cousin, Carissa!). He has served as the regional liaison to West Africa for the Presbyterian Mission Agency since 2009.

Prior to his life in 'professional' ministry, Josh earned a bachelor's degree in math and social sciences from Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, and then worked as a survey specialist for the National Opinion Researcher and as a paralegal for the U.S. Department of Justice. Later, he was awarded a Master of Divinity in 2002 from the University of Chicago, where he served as a student intern for both the University of Chicago and First Presbyterian Church. Josh is currently celebrating the twenty-year anniversary since his ordination in 2004 at Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago. He then served for five years as an associate pastor of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota before beginning his work in Ghana.

Immediately following the 10:00 service in Rowell Hall, Josh will share a presentation on life and the church in West Africa.

## MUSIC

### HANDBELL UPDATE

We are very excited to have had the handbells refurbished - it has been over 20 years! There are many moving parts, literally, within each bell. All of the inner workings of each bell need to be repaired and/or strengthened for the bells to ring correctly. Many thanks to Liz Jung for researching and contracting a group to do this for us.

For many of us at Union, music is an essential part of our church experience...From Liz Jung:

**Melody** that helps me express joy, gratitude and reverence. It  
**Unites** us in a harmony of voices that bring a sense of shared purpose, while it  
**Stirs** my soul. It is an  
**Invitation** to open my heart to a greater good and  
**Celebrate** God's spirit.

### 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.*

\$\$ 2024 \$\$

\$149,567

Needed to meet  
2024  
budgeted  
plan/offering



## 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:** 3 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!



### ELEANOR'S CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

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



Help us fill 500 stockings for children served by our Ministry for Change and its partners by depositing the following items in the designated boxes in the Gathering Space before November 27:

- Left-over wrapped Halloween candy
- Hot wheels/matchbox type toy cars
- Chapstick
- Children's toothbrushes
- Travel size toothpaste

*Ask your dentist to donate toothbrushes & toothpaste or purchase them yourself (toothbrushes must be individually packaged).* Or go to our Amazon wish list (QR code) to purchase other items. **Please check the church shipping address when you order.**

The following organizations will be receiving the filled stockings for children this year:

**Graves School** (in Summit, IL, pre-K, K and 1st grade), **Stepping Stones** (provides support for women and children who suffer the effects of sex trafficking), **New Life Centers** (provides shelters for recent immigrants), **The Night Ministry** (provides services to youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness).

In some cases, the stockings will be the only gifts these children receive. **Please help us fill Eleanor's Christmas Stockings on December 8<sup>th</sup> in the Youth Room after the 9:00 and 10 a.m. services.** All are welcome! Thank you for your generosity.

Questions? Please contact Jane Grimm, [jgrimm723@comcast.net](mailto:jgrimm723@comcast.net).

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> through December 8<sup>th</sup>), 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.