

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

9:00 a.m.
IN THE CHAPEL

10:00 a.m.
SANCTUARY + ONLINE

ADVENT
@ UNION CHURCH

UNION
CHURCH
OF CHRIST
HINSDALE

Being Messengers of Hope

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 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

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Richard S. Willis

WELCOME

Grant Glowiak

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you!**

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Danek Family

Leader: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" *Malachi 3:2b-3*.

People: **In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

Leader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

* HYMN

People Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:

Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, as we step into the second week of Advent, we admit our hearts are heavy, aware of the world's troubles: war, crime, famine, disease, and so many dangers. We admit that we let these challenges cause us to lose hope, to feel afraid, and to forget your promise of peace and salvation. Forgive us for our doubts, despair, and despondency. Help us to see beyond the chaos and recognize your presence and grace in our lives. Renew our spirits and fill us with the hope that comes from knowing you are always with us. Teach us to live out Jesus' message, bringing hope to those who are hurting, being a light in the darkness, and sharing your love with everyone we meet. 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

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Dan Forrest

**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 3:1-12* Lavina Gross

SERMON *Being Messengers of Hope* Robb Knuepfer

*** HYMN # 112** *Keep Awake, Be Always Ready*

PRAYER, ENDING WITH PRAYER WE LEARNED FROM JESUS

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 *Noel*

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**

*** HYMN (SEE SCREEN)** *What Child Is This?*

BENEDICTION

REPRISE

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 – Sharon Bodziak, Barb Herber, Christy and Randy Weimer		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)

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.

NEED SOMETHING ANNOUNCED IN THE MIDWEEK EMAIL OR ONLINE?

Send your text to communications@uchinsdale.org. Subject line "Email Blast."

TODAY'S EVENTS

ELEANOR'S CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

TODAY Sunday, December 8, following the 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services, in the Kitchen Classroom

Please join us today in the Kitchen Classroom (next to the Youth Room) after the 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. services to help stuff *Eleanor's Christmas Stockings*. All ages are welcome! Hot chocolate and cookies will be served! The following organizations will receive the 550 filled stockings 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 may be the only gifts these children and youth receive.



MINISTRY FAIR

TODAY Sunday, December 8, following the 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services, in the Gathering Place

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 & 10:00 services 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.

ALLEGREZZA: OH, WHAT FUN! A HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

Sunday, December 8, 3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Get swept away by the festive spirit at Allegrezza's Holiday Extravaganza: Oh, What Fun! This concert promises to be a joyous celebration, with several rousing renditions of the timeless classic "Jingle Bells" that will have you tapping your feet & singing along. The evening will also offer tender moments with Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium," capturing the serene beauty of the season. Adding to the fun, Julian Wachner's "The Snow Lay on the Ground," will thrill you with its dynamic arrangement for choir, brass, harp, organ, & percussion. This monumental concert has something for everyone. You won't want to miss it!

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE MINISTRY COMMITTEES

Worship Ministry

We coordinate the personal touches that make the church feel like a home. We identify volunteer ushers to greet the congregation and guests every week and serve communion on a monthly basis. We decorate the sanctuary and chapel with banners and flowers on special occasions. We perform many behind the scenes tasks that make our services welcoming, such as candle lighting on All Saints Day, providing handheld candles for Christmas Eve and honoring family and friends with poinsettias at Christmas and spring flowers at Easter.

Meetings: Currently meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Contact: JoAnne Beck: jbeck@joann-beck.com

Christian Education Ministry

We seek to nurture personal faith exploration, foster a sense of community, and encourage involvement in outreach. We work in conjunction with the Director of Christian Education (UCH staff member) and the Children's Committee to plan and conduct Sunday School and youth groups. We also sponsor learning opportunities for adults, such as themed seminars, speaker events, and facilitated discussion groups. We work in partnership with other UCH ministries to create/support programs such as Advent and Lenten family programs, Bible studies, Simple Supper groups, Vacation Bible School and the Christmas Pageant.

Meetings: Monthly, except July. Typically Tuesday evenings but can be flexible, in person or via phone/zoom if necessary.

Contact: Jennifer Weil: jennifersfry@yahoo.com

Ministry for Change

Our goal is to inspire, enlist and coordinate opportunities for service, both personal and financial. We identify needs in Hinsdale and beyond that can be served by our church. We have the unique opportunity to consider requests for support and

distribute financial and volunteer resources for programs that educate our church on opportunities for benevolent acts of kindness and compassion.

We also see mission and volunteer efforts as an important part of the international and domestic outreach of UCH. We strive to involve the congregation in efforts to support the Night Ministry, HCS Family Services, DuPage PADS, Green Halo Scholars and the Boulevard We also support the Union Church Soup Ministry that works with San Lucas UCC in Chicago. We are also stewards of the Dondi Mission Station Hospital Doctor Fund and have supported the Language Institute in Huambo, Angola. We work closely with Dreams & Hopes in Guatemala, providing biannual volunteer trips and agency support. Each member of our committee is a liaison to our mission agencies and coordinates with this agency to meet their needs.

Meetings: Monthly, except July. Typically Tuesday evenings but can be flexible, in person or via phone/zoom if necessary.

Contact: Heather Manning: Hhmanning20@hotmail.com

Parish Life Ministry

Our group looks to provide energy and vitality to the church community. We coordinate preparations for the holidays and other special occasions. We oversee Sunday morning coffee in the Gathering Place giving the congregation an opportunity to interact with visitors, new members, and longtime friends. We also coordinate the annual Easter Egg Hunt, the Union Church Picnic, Fourth of July on the lawn, Ice Cream Social, the installation of the annual Christmas decorations. We welcome many members to help give energy to all these activities!

Meetings: Meets once per month

Contact: Fran Evans: 630-986-1438

Music Ministry

Our members oversee our beautiful and diverse music program. We guide individuals and promote opportunities to be part of the music for services including special events. These opportunities include a talented Chancel Choir, the Handbell Choir, Children's Chimes, Children's Choir and a women's ensemble, Cantate. We also provide recommendations for special musical events and for musicians and musical instruments, and supervise the maintenance and use of the musical instruments, choir robes and choir library of the church.

Meetings: Meet after 10AM Services for 45 minutes the second Sunday of the month.

Contact: Julie Moser: moserjm19@gmail.com

Membership Development Ministry

We lead and empower the whole congregation in inviting and welcoming the community and non-members to worship, church programs and other church activities. We call upon new residents in and around our community that show interest in forming a connection to our congregation. We sponsor and host welcoming activities for key new member events throughout the year.

Meetings: Once a month for an hour, via Zoom. Date and time determined by the group. Generally meet 10-11 times / year.

Contact: Jennifer Mushynski: Jenni.mushynski@gmail.com

Endowment Fund Ministry

The Endowment Fund exists to augment the long-term financial needs of Union Church and its ministries. Our ministry has two primary responsibilities. First, to manage the investments and cash flow of the Endowment Fund. And second, to encourage additional gifts to the Endowment Fund and to recognize those who have given.

Meetings: Monthly, except July. Our meetings are usually less than 30 minutes, and the overall time commitment is low.

Contact: Scott Wentzel: swentzel@yahoo.com

Trustees Ministry

We are the ministry that are the caretakers of the real and personal property of our church. We are responsible for the maintenance and improvements and use of the church. We manage financial affairs as well as supervise the work of the Treasurer. We manage compensation of employees, review the records and invest the funds of the church. We are responsible for the procurement of supplies, furnishings and equipment, the acceptance of gifts, and management of all contracts & claims.

Meetings: Meet monthly on the second Tuesday

Contact: Cindy Klima: C.klima@Comcast.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTED MAGNIFIERS AVAILABLE DURING 10:00 WORSHIP

Beginning this Sunday, we will have lighted magnifier lenses available at the usher stand near the Gathering Place doors. Feel free to pick one up to use during the service (and/or access our bulletins on the church web site via your phone so you can expand the size or light based on what is best for you.)

IFF LUNCHEON AND WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION SILVER TEA

Wednesday, December 11, 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 & community, sharing the joy & peace of Christmas.

There will be extra parking available across the street in the parking garage.

Lunch is served at noon, \$15/person cash or check paid at the door. IFF is the hottest ticket in town!

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Jung at 630-688-1706 or ejung@uchinsdale.org.

IFF is community wide and all-inclusive for fellowship, lunch and programming while also supporting charities that help fight hunger and victims of domestic violence.

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 worship **this Sunday, December 8.**

If you indicated on the form your desire to take your poinsettia home, please do so after the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

WE'D LOVE TO SEE AND DISPLAY YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS!

Please include Union Church (137 S. Garfield, Hinsdale, IL 60521) on your mailing list this year and count us among your family and friends. We will display all the cards that we receive on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place for the congregation to enjoy together and be reminded of our connections, friendships and shared life here together at UCH over the winter season.

NEEDED: ONE PERSON/FAMILY TO HELP A FAMILY IN NEED

If you have the means and willingness to help a 'friend' of Union Church provide Christmas gifts for her family, please email Adriana Kieffer at Akieffer@uchinsdale.org. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

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!

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.

\$\$ **2024** \$\$

\$123,127

**Needed to
meet 2024
budgeted
plan/offering**



UCH Music Ministry
Presents

Shall I Rejoice

CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY

Chancel Choir, Union Bells, Cantate,
Children's Chimes, WE, and Chamber Orchestra

Dec | 15 | 2024

10:00 a.m.

The Union Church of Hinsdale
Sanctuary
137 S Garfield
Hinsdale, IL 60521
hinsdale.church



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