

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

137 S. Garfield Avenue, Hinsdale, IL 60521 • UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Loved Into the Future

Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 6, 2025

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

Holy Spirit, Breathe On Me
Ollie Townsend

McKinney

WELCOME

Grant Glowiak

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you!**

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Spring is blooming!

People: **In all the land, new life is happening!**

Leader: Feel the wonder and power of God's creative energy.

People: **Feel the awe and joy of God's love for us.**

Leader: Let us worship God with a full sense of joy and expectation.

All: **Let us open our lives to God's lavish love.**

* HYMN # 6

Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, help us. When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love, when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing, help us. Merciful God, forgive us. When we have been selfish, when we have been cruel, when we have closed our ears to the cries of others, forgive us. Powerful God, heal us. When we are so broken we cannot move, when we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds, when we are too ashamed to seek community, heal us. Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope, to accept your grace and hear your reconciling Word. 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

My Song Is Love Unknown
Anne Michael Langguth – Violin • David Sands – Cello

Karen Marroli

**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

John 12:1-8

Diane Oostendorp

SERMON

Loved Into the Future

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

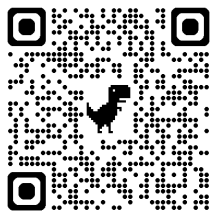
*HYMN (See Screen)

By Our Love

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, AND OUR OFFERING

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.

Realm



For a list of ingredients in our gluten free communion bread, see the photo of the package in the announcements section. At this time, also please sign & pass the Attendance Sheets – they help us care for members & welcome visitors.

Zelle
(Preferred)



Plates are provided at the front for your gifts/offering. 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 of UCH!

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

Ah Holy Jesus

arr. Jason King

Chloe Banda and Elizabeth Jung – *Handbells* • Connie Riemer – *Piano*

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. 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)*

I Refuse

BENEDICTION

REPRISE

FLOWERS - Today's flowers are given by Kathryn and Charlotte Sjöholm in loving memory of Eric and Andy Sjöholm who are watching together in Cubbie blue. Go, Cubs, Go!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Younger children kindergarten through 5th grade will begin in the Sanctuary with their families. After the Anthem, 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."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCOVERY TEAM PRESENTATION

TODAY April 6, following 10:00 worship, in Rowell Hall

Members of the Discovery Team will be presenting highlights of their report after the 10:00 a.m. service. The report has been approved by Executive Council and is accessible on the church website. Paper copies will also be available on the bureau in the Gathering Place. Requests for raw data from the survey, listening sessions or the ExecutiveInsite (the demographics report noted in the Discovery Team's report) may be sent to Adriana AKieffer@uchinsdale.org in the church office.

Ann Reiland, Kim Kyosaki, *Co-Chairs* David Hess, *Communication Chair*
Maria Coyne, Chris Happ, Brooks Hibner, Jackie Roberts, Rob Schaefer

IFF LUNCHEON

*Wednesday, April 9, 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.,
in the Dining Room (lower level)*

Please join us for Dr. Becky Preston, MD "A Medical Mission to Ecuador". Dr. Preston, a local physician, will share her experiences on medical missions with Medical Ministry International. She her mission work has taken her to Central America, southern Mexico, Thailand, and Romania. Her interest began in the 1970's but really developed in 1994. **Reservations are requested and must be received no later than TODAY Sunday April 6.**



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. It's the hottest ticket in town so make your reservation today!

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

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

PASSION MUSIC (see flyer)

Sunday, April 13, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service

Join us for an unforgettable Palm/Passion Sunday Service as the Chancel Choir of the Union Church of Hinsdale presents Will Todd's Passion Music. This powerful and moving work blends classical and jazz elements, creating a unique and uplifting musical experience. Featuring our very own incredible gospel soloist Tierra Whetstone, this performance promises to be a highlight of your Lenten Journey. Don't miss this opportunity to witness a beautiful fusion of musical styles and heartfelt expression. Invite your friends and family for a service of inspiration and joy!

WOMEN OF A CERTAIN AGE

Sunday, April 13, after 10:00 am Worship, in Rowell Hall

Our wonderful speaker & UCH member, June Scott, will speak about her trip to Patagonia. No food or beverages served.

Sunday, May 18, after 10:00 am Worship

Union Church Member Laurie McMahon, will host us in her lovely home for a POTLUCK LUNCH, at 311 East Sixth Street, Hinsdale. Please bring a dish to share!

The purpose of WOACA is for fellowship, friendship, and fun! All are welcome!!!

For more info, email Melissa Barnes Mann, melissamann403@gmail.com.

STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Bridge Pastor – Timothy C. Rhodes

Dir. of Christian Education – Penny Johnson (s)

Section Leaders

Associate Pastor – Grant Glowiak (h/t)

Dir. of Audio & Visual Media – Adam Nakutis (h)

Jess Koehn (h)

Associate Pastor – Robb Knuepfer (h)

Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung (s)

Coleman Dziedzic (h)

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

Organist – Oliver Townsend

Dei Nikoi (s)

Tierra Whetstone-Christian (s)

Ushers – Fran Evans, Melissa Mann, Christy and Randy Weimer

Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak (h)

Guitars – Andrew Sudhibhasilp (h)

Bass – Ben Dillinger(h)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING AUTHENTIC WOMEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Every Wednesday starting April 9, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., on Zoom

Join us as we mingle friendship & growth using a non-fiction book as our 'springboard' for discussion! We read ~30 pages a week --and sometimes some of us don't read the chapter but enjoy the discussion. We are mixture of backgrounds which makes our discussions varied & delightful. We range from 10 to 14 depending on schedules. Jacki Sluder is our paid moderator and brings great organization to the discussions. For more info, please contact Sue Nibeck Suenibeck@comcast.net.

In honor of our Mental Health in this time of "uncertainty" -- yet in a glorious spring -we have chosen a hilarious look at the past and slightly bemoaning the signs of "graceful aging." - *I Remember Nothing: And Other Reflections* by Nora Ephron

Ephron is known for her excellent screenwriting of *When Harry Met Sally*, *Sleepless in Seattle* and *Julie and Julia*. She relates problems we're all going through -- 'Who Are You?', struggles with technology, how to entertain, etc. -- all with witty memories of her life. She wrote this book when she was in her 70's and we're looking forward to laughing at life and ourselves!

For more info, contact Sue Nibeck Suenibeck@comcast.net.

CURRENT EVENTS CONVERSATION /HANG IN THERE GROUP

Sunday, April 13 -- Meet to discuss any recent events

Saturday, April 26 -- A workshop: "How Did Jesus Deal with Conflict?" (see flyer)

No meeting on Sunday, April 27

Meetings held on every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month to discuss current events from all angles.

EASTER LILIES FOR EASTER SERVICES

April 14 Order Deadline

Each year, to add visual joy & beauty to our Easter service, we adorn the sanctuary with Easter Lilies. If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily to adorn our sanctuary and/or donate a lily in the name of a loved one, see the below:



To complete your order, we need two things:

1) your order form/information, 2) your payment.

There will be members of the worship ministry in the Gathering Place on *April 6 & April 13* to take your order. If you are unable to make it in person, you can find a link in the weekly email to download an order form, complete it, and either email it to Adriana akieffer@uchinsdale.org or send it via regular mail to the church office.

For the payment, you also have two options. You can make the \$25/plant payment online through a link in the weekly email (select "flowers" from the drop-down menu). Or you can send a check in the amount of \$25 per plant to the church office, payable to Union Church (with "Easter flowers" on the memo line).

Please indicate if you will take your flower(s) home after the Easter service, or if you donate them to homebound members and friends. **Volunteers are needed to help deliver flowers to our homebound friends.** Your help would be greatly appreciated.

GREETERS NEEDED

Spring is here and Easter is near, which means now is good a time as ever to volunteer as a greeter before a Sunday service at Union Church in the next few weeks! Greeting is a wonderfully low-maintenance way for you to help out and get involved at UCH. It's a great way to connect with other members of the church and is a **very low time commitment**, as we only ask you to arrive fifteen minutes before a usual 10:00 service. Find links in the weekly email to an FAQ sheet for more information or to sign up and select the dates that will work for you!

COMMUNION BREAD INGREDIENTS

INGREDIENTS: Water, Sourdough (rice flour, water), Rice starch, Corn starch, 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.

Manufactured by Dr. Schar USA, Inc. 305 Heron Drive Swedesboro, NJ 08085.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTE OUR EASTER SERVICE TIMES

*Making your Easter brunch & family plans? Note that we are worshipping at **8:30** and **10:30** that morning in the Sanctuary. The service times are a bit different than a usual Sunday - but we all know, there's nothing usual about this very special day!*

UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SERVICE TRIP

Are you or is someone you know a high schooler looking for a service trip this summer? Union is teaming up with Redeemer Lutheran to send 8 – 12th graders to North Carolina June 22 - 27, to volunteer in communities still dealing with last year's Hurricane Helene. We'll fly to Asheville, NC and stay at Lutheridge, a youth summer camp. Questions? Contact by phone at 630-384-9457 or email amushynski@uchinsdale.org.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Showcasing good news and fun happenings for members of our Union community.

UCH kids have been featured in The Hinsdalean the past few weeks. Below, see young athlete Stevie Standing on the cover and high school water-polo player Teagan Manning in the Student Athlete Profile. Congrats Stevie and Teagan! If you have a photo/story to share in the weekly e-blast, please email communications@uchinsdale.org!



Sunday, Apr 27 @ 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (In-Person)
and/or
Wednesday, Apr 30 @ 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. (ZOOM)

Questions/RSVP to

Tom Shively, tom.shively@sbcglobal.net
or Carissa Kapcar, ckapcar@uchinsdale.org



We are an **open and affirming** Congregation.



STUDENT ATHLETE PROFILE



Teagan Manning
Oak Brook

How long have you been playing water polo?

I started freshman year. I tried it out because I was interested in the sport. I really like team sports. I really like being in the water. I tried it and I just loved it.

What do you love about it?

I just feel like myself in the water. I can sort of let things go and fall into the

create and environment where everyone feels like they want to be there and they're contributing and it's fun.

What are your plans for next year?

I get my final college decisions back at the end of this week. Right now I've gotten into a couple of schools which I'm really excited about, specifically UVA, Tufts, Grinnell. I'm hoping to play club in college and just make friends that way.

ALLEGREZZA (see flyer)

Sunday, May 4, 3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Join Allegrezza for "Ease on Down the Road," a captivating concert that celebrates the diverse experiences and the connections we encounter along life's journey. From reflective moments in intimate friendships and self-discovery to the joy and silliness that make the journey worthwhile. This performance features iconic songs like "Ease on Down the Road" from The Wiz, Elton John's "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road," and Stephen Paulus's "The Road Home." Don't miss guest soloist Tierra Whetstone's rousing rendition of "Midnight Train to Georgia." Experience the magic on May 4 at The Union Church of Hinsdale at 3:00 p.m.

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Going for the gold

Stevie Standing and James Martin are off to the races in a relay race held Saturday morning at The Community House during the Fit n' Fun for Kids class. The class covers dozens of cardio activities, from bean bags to relay races. And it also helps improve motor development, spatial awareness, cognitive ability and socialization skills. (Jim Slonoff photo)

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.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.