

# UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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

EASTERTIDE @ UNION CHURCH

# NEW BEGINNINGS



## *That They May All Be One*

The Seventh Sunday of Easter  
10:00 A.M. Worship Service  
June 1, 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!***



**PRESERVICE MUSIC**

*Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound*

Newton

**WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY**

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

**PRELUDE**

*The Old Rugged Cross*

Bennard

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come, all who seek the embrace of God's love.

**People: We gather as one, welcomed and safe in God's presence.**

Leader: No matter who you are or where you have been, you are invited.

**People: We celebrate the inclusivity of God's grace.**

Leader: Let us break down the barriers of 'us and them.'

**People: Together, we honor our common humanity in God's family.**

**\* HYMN # 307**

*Glorious Things of You Are Spoken*

**\* INVOCATION PRAYER**

**Almighty God, we call upon you, and ask we recognize your presence among us today as we gather in unity and love. May your boundless grace and compassion fill our hearts, guiding us to reflect the oneness that Jesus prayed for. Help us to embody your peace and nurture a community where all are welcomed and valued. Amen.**

**\* RESPONSE # 756**

*Glory to God*

*(Leader sings 1<sup>st</sup> time through. Congregation joins on 2<sup>nd</sup> time)*

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!***

***Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!***

**INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER**

**PRAYER SONG # 769**

*Hear Our Prayer, O God*

*(Leader sings 1<sup>st</sup> time through. Congregation joins on 2<sup>nd</sup> time)*

***Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;***

***Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.***

**PASTORAL 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.**

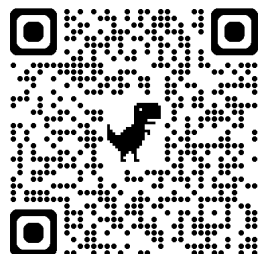
**ANTHEM**

*My Tribute*

Andrae Crouch

Tierra Whetstone – Mezzo Soprano • Ollie Townsend - Piano

**ANNOUNCE OFFERING**



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

*For e-giving, use the QR code on the right for Zelle (no transaction fees), the QR code on the left to give through Realm, or text "GIVEUCH" to 73256.*

*Thank you for contributing to the life & work of Union Church!*



**MISSION MOMENT**

**\* HYMN # 504**

*You Walk Along Our Shoreline*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*John 17:20-26*

Diane Oostendorp

**SERMON**

*That They May All Be One*

Rev. Robb Knuepfer

**\* COMMUNION HYMN # 349**

*I Come with Joy*

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*All are welcome at the Communion table. All means all. 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.*

*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.*

*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.....

**COMMUNION SONG**

*Blessed Be Your Name*

**\* 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**

*All Things Are Possible*

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* REPRISE**

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

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**FLOWERS** – Today's flowers are in loving memory of Joan and Alan Hurst for their 70th wedding anniversary from their family.

**STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS**

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

Bridge Pastor – Timothy C. Rhodes (h)

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 (h)

Tierra Whetstone-Christian (s)

Ushers – Joel Pundmann, Debbie Hopkins, and Sharon Bodziak

Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak (h)

Guitars – Andrew Sudhibhasilp (h)

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

Bass – Ben Dillinger(h)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday June 8, 11:15 to 1:30 pm, at Union Church

Join us for our annual All-Church Picnic Potluck! Parish Life will provide hotdogs and fried chicken...you provide the sides to share! We can't wait to see you there.

### HANG IN THERE CURRENT EVENTS GROUP

Our next Sunday discussion is **TODAY, June 1** at 11:15 a.m. in Classroom JK.

We will take summer off and resume on *August 24* with our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month rotation.

### VBS MISSION PROJECT

As part of a VBS (see below for registration) mission project, the children are collecting toiletries to support HCS Family Services. Families are in need of shampoo/conditioner, bars of soap, toothpaste, deodorant, and disposable razors. The VBS children will package the items for distribution at the food pantry. Please drop off donations in the black bin in the Gathering Place.



### CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

*Meaningful Questions in Readiness for Our New Senior Minister  
Responses from May 17 Discussion*

Perhaps you were able to pause and reflect on the following questions over the past week. Take a look below for responses captured during the discussion on May 17.

**What is Christian Community? What makes us different from other community organizations-the PTO, Rotary, a country club?**

- Follow Jesus' teachings, family, called to action, principles, support for all, multi-generational, hierarchy: faithful community-Christian-UCC, safe always- but also challenging!

**What does love look like in a Christian Community?**

- Care, accepting, unconditional, Agape, benefit all, selfless giving, non-judgmental, inclusive, respectful, give back with purpose, walk the talk, grow, share God's creation, discernment vs. critical judgement

**What does it mean to be lay led vs. clergy led?**

- Not always easy to discern!
- **Lay Led: Partnership, collaborative, funnel down from the members to clergy, church family sets tone for congregation, decision making = congregational**
- **Clergy Led: Spiritual guide, faith forward, decision making = clergy is authority**

**What does all the above mean for Union Church in the future, say in 2035?**

- AI sermons?!, in-person vs. virtual, community center/clinic, space sharing with other congregations, evolve dynamically, grow, ADAPT, weeknight service?, inclusive, accepting, interfaith, do less-but do well

**What will hold us together?**

- Longtime friendships, being agile and adaptive, UCC, progressive...looking forward!

### NEED A MEETING SPACE FOR YOUR AWESOME EVENT?

Contact Adriana, [akieffer@uchinsdale.org](mailto:akieffer@uchinsdale.org), to book a space.

## 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 Place – complete with changing tables on the lower and main levels.