

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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

EASTERTIDE @ UNION CHURCH

NEW BEGINNINGS



John: An Epilogue

The Third Sunday of Easter
May 4, 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 *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound* Newton

WELCOME Stephen C Edwards

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Sing and Rejoice!* Halquist

*** HYMN # 300** *Jesus Shall Reign*

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your path in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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.*

TRANSITION UPDATE Penny Davey

LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY Rev. Grant Glowiak

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS Rev. Robb Knuepfer

Haley Burrige Chrestionson & Jason Chrestionson (Miles)

Diana Dixon (Wren)

Laura Conley & Edward Donnelly (Abby, Oliver, & Ethan)

Karel & David Brown

Moira Lawler & Adam Rosenbloom (Rhys & Nell)

Mary & Erik Garrett (Elizabeth)

The Forsythe Family

Esther Workman & Brendan Durkin

Jolie & Mike Quick (Siena & Avery)

Wonkyung (Wendy) Sung & Griffin Foster

QUESTIONS TO NEW MEMBERS AND THE CONGREGATION

UNION CHURCH COVENANT

Believing in Jesus Christ as our Redeemer and Lord,
trusting in His revelation of the loving Heavenly Father,
acknowledging our dependence upon the Holy Spirit,
we covenant with each other to worship
and work together as loyal disciples of Jesus,
to live among all people a life of righteousness and love,
and to do all within our power
to promote the reign of God's will in all human relations.

FLOWERS - Today's flowers are given in honor of Don Finlay for his many years of maintaining and beautifying the church grounds, by the Union Church Gardening Committee (Doug, Bruce, Joel, John, Craig and Dan).

ANTHEM*For the Beauty of the Earth*

arr. Blevins

Amanda Gronlund – *Clarinet* • Kate Weil – *Violin* • Ollie Townsend – *Piano***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 21:1-19*

Jane Grimm

SERMON*John: An Epilogue*

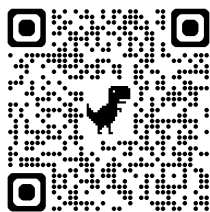
Rev. Grant Glowiak

*** HYMN # 172***Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult*

Stanzas 1, 3-5

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.

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!

Zelle
(Preferred)

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:

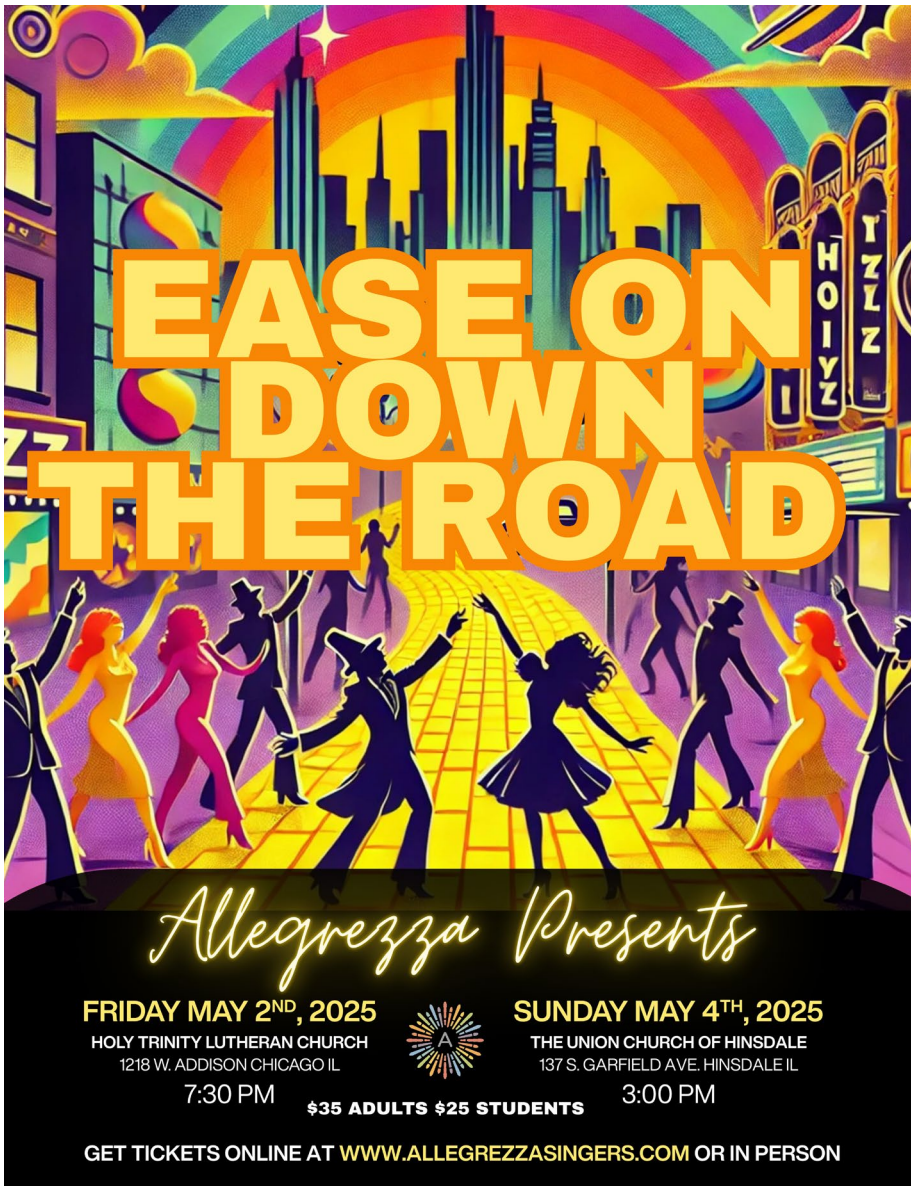
All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG*God of Justice***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)***What a Friend**** BENEDICTION****REPRISE**

TODAY!



ALLEGREZZA

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

Join Allegrezza for *Ease on Down the Road*, a captivating concert celebrating the connections and diverse experiences we encounter along life's journey. From reflective moments in intimate friendships & self-discovery to the joy & 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 3:00 p.m.!

STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Bridge Pastor – Timothy C. Rhodes (h)

Associate Pastor – Grant Glowiak (h/t)

Associate Pastor – Robb Knuepfer (h)

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

Dir. of Christian Education – Penny Johnson (s)

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

Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung (s)

Organist – Oliver Townsend (h)

Section Leaders

Jess Koehn (h)

Coleman Dziedzic (h)

Dei Nikoi (s)

Tierra Whetstone-Christian (s)

Ushers –Barbara Parsons, Jane and Kirk Grimm

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

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We welcome children and their energy in all aspects of worship!

Is it helpful for your child to move around? Consider sitting near the Narthex (under the balcony) and using that space. Also, help yourself to the red activity bags hanging in the Narthex designed to educate and engage the youngest amongst us.

For Sunday School, 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 (under 5) in classroom 129 on the lower level.

Don't hesitate to ask an usher for help in finding any of these. We're glad you're here!

NEED SOMETHING ANNOUNCED IN THE MIDWEEK EMAIL OR ONLINE?

Send it to communications@uchinsdale.org.

Subject line "Email Blast."

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

POVERTY: A DISCUSSION WITH MATTHEW DESMOND

Viewing on Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, the Youth Room

Opportunity for the "Hang in There" Current Events Group, and any others. All are welcome!

The Clarendon Hills Library is one of many libraries participating in Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a series of virtual programs with well-known authors & others. On Tuesday, May 13, ILP is presenting *Poverty: A Discussion with Matthew Desmond*, author of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, MacArthur Genius grant winner, and current Princeton professor.

Come watch and discuss it with others in the Youth Room here at UCH. You can also register to watch at home by searching their program calendar at www.clarendonhillslibrary.org.

INTER-FAITH FELLOWSHIP (IFF) LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 14, 11:45 to 1:30, in the Dining Room

Please join us for Andy Johnson discussing The 1883 Chicago Treaty.

The Chicago Treaty was an agreement between the US government and several indigenous tribes from the Great Plains and Midwest regions to relocate them to reservations away from their ancestral lands. This was to facilitate the railroad expansion and American settlement. The commemorative stone on Wolf Rd at Plainfield in Western Springs marks this now infamous treaty.

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.

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

IFF is the hottest ticket in town! **Reservations are requested and must be received no later than Sunday May 1, 202**

For questions or to make a reservation contact Elizabeth Jung at 630-688-1706 or ejung@uchinsdale.org.



MOZART'S REQUIEM MAY 18 HINSDALE



CAMERATA CHICAGO ORCHESTRA & CHOIR: MOZART'S REQUIEM

Sunday, May 18, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Family friendly performance of Mozart's iconic masterpiece presented here at Union Church! Don't miss this exciting & delightful concert experience with world-class soloists! Interested? See the weekly email for a link to purchase tickets.

Enjoy the outstanding musical artistry of Camerata Chicago and its choir performing the famous Requiem by Mozart!

- Four wonderful soloists conducted by Maestro Drostan Hall including Robin Wiper, Lauren Decker, Martin Luther Clark and Wm. Clay Thompson.
- Elite orchestra and choir with top Chicago area musicians.
- Entertaining and educational musical anecdotes about the music and its vivacious composer.
- Generously supported by Deby and Jamie Fellowes.

Special Offer for Union Church members and friends *Use coupon code UCOH for a 25% DISCOUNT*

WOMEN OF A CERTAIN AGE

Sunday, May 25, after 10:00 am Worship, in Rowell Hall

Laurie McMahon, UCH member, will host a potluck lunch at her home, 311 E. 6th Street in Hinsdale. The purpose of WOACA is for fellowship, friendship, & fun! All are welcome!!! For more info, email Melissa Barnes Mann, melissamann403@gmail.com.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

June 16 to 20, 12:45 to 3:00 pm, at Union Church

Participants: Ages 4 - 5th grade

Youth Helpers: Middle School & High School

\$75/child (or max \$200/family)



Summer is coming soon and so is Vacation Bible School! This is the best week of the year when the church is full of excited children ready to celebrate their faith, sing songs, play games, do mission projects, make new friendships, and have fun! The Children's Committee is excited to host this year's Road Trip VBS and welcome the kids in the church, UCECP families, and the greater community to join us for a summer camp adventure with God!

Scan the QR code to register. Contact Penny Johnson, pjohnson@uchinsdale.org, for more information.

We also need adult volunteers. If you haven't helped before, know that being a part of this uplifting week forms friendships,

community and connections by working with and learning from these contagiously fun children! We'd love to have you!

HANG IN THERE CURRENT EVENTS GROUP

Due to the busyness of May, we will not meet this month. However, we hope you will attend the viewing of the documentary *Poverty: A Discussion with Matthew Desmond* on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. This is being offered as part of the Clarendon Hills Public Library and we thank Lucy Tarabour for bringing it to us.

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

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

GUATEMALA TRIP 2026

We are planning an outreach trip (Adult Work Tour) to Guatemala in 2026! Are you interested? If so, please contact Trayce Biancalana, traycebiancs@yahoo.com. This trip is open to anyone over age 13.

Dates are yet to be determined & still flexible at this point. We hope to accommodate a timeframe that suits as many people as possible.

NEED A MEETING SPACE FOR YOUR AWESOME EVENT?

Contact Adriana, akieffer@uchinsdale.org, to book a space.

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.



SENIOR PASTOR TRANSITION NEWS

WHERE ARE WE? UNION CHURCH AND THE TRANSITION PROCESS

Easter reminded us that endings do not have the final word. God continues to work through the power of the Spirit and through God's people. God is faithful still and God is working with us in our transition. Where are we in our work together?

Recently, on *March 31*, Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes came on board as our Bridge Pastor. He is in the process of immersing himself in understanding the church, its dynamics, celebrations and challenges. Meanwhile, the Discovery Team presented its report to the Executive Council and it was received and shared with the congregation on *April 4*.

Moving forward in two concurrent tracks: **Preparation** and **Search**

As we have discussed throughout this transition, there are two concurrent tracks of work that we are doing together:

- **Preparation** – One track is to make sure Union Church is in the best possible place for our next Senior Minister. This means knowing who we are and what we are called to do and be in this moment in time as well as knowing what we need in our next Senior Minister. It also means dealing with issues that need to be addressed to insure the next pastor's success. The Discovery Team pointed to some of those issues. The Executive Council is considering and prioritizing what issues need to be addressed now. We will all do more work through this upcoming gathering for the whole congregation.

LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

Saturday, May 17, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., in the Youth Room

These discussions will determine what we as UCH will focus on during the rest of our transition time. See more below.

- **Search** – The second track is to work on the process of calling a new Senior Minister. The work of the Discovery Team set the stage for the Search Team for the next Senior Minister. Now during the next two weeks, we ask for your help. *Who do you think has the needed gifts, talents and time to invest in serving on a team that will call the next Senior Minister?*

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

Calling for Recommendations

The Search Committee will need to represent the whole of Union Church, ideally with people who can see the big picture yet also are able to complete specific and sometimes small tasks. This is a large time commitment starting with weekly meetings. Submit your recommendations using the form available in *The Gathering Place* or online via a link in the weekly email. Return your recommendations to the Gathering Place or to Penny Davey at penelopedavey@gmail.com by **May 5**.

The Team of 7 will be putting together a slate that represents the whole of Union Church. The Executive Council will vote on the team and they will be commissioned *June 15*. The Search Committee will then be trained by Transitional Ministry Pathways and Tim Rhodes. Once trained, the Search Committee will work together to create a Church Profile, following the United Church of Christ process.

What can you do to help?

- Pray for Union Church and our transition process.
- Join the conversation on *Saturday, May 17, 8:30-10:00 a.m.*
- Listen for the nudge of the Spirit: who should serve on the Search Team? What gifts and talents do they bring to the work? Share your recommendations by May 5.

LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

Saturday, May 17, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., in the Youth Room

To make sure Union Church is in the best possible place for our next Senior Minister, it means knowing who we are as a church and what we are called to do and be in this moment in time... as well as knowing what we need in our next Senior Minister. The Discovery Team has shared their findings and recommendations. The Executive Council is considering and prioritizing what issues need to be addressed now. We will all do more work through this upcoming gathering. Join this important discussion!

SAVE THE DATES FOR RESALE 2025!

Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4

Resale is BACK! Collections begin *Sunday, September 28*.

Drop-off will be in the Dining Room. Volunteers will be needed as well. More info to come!

