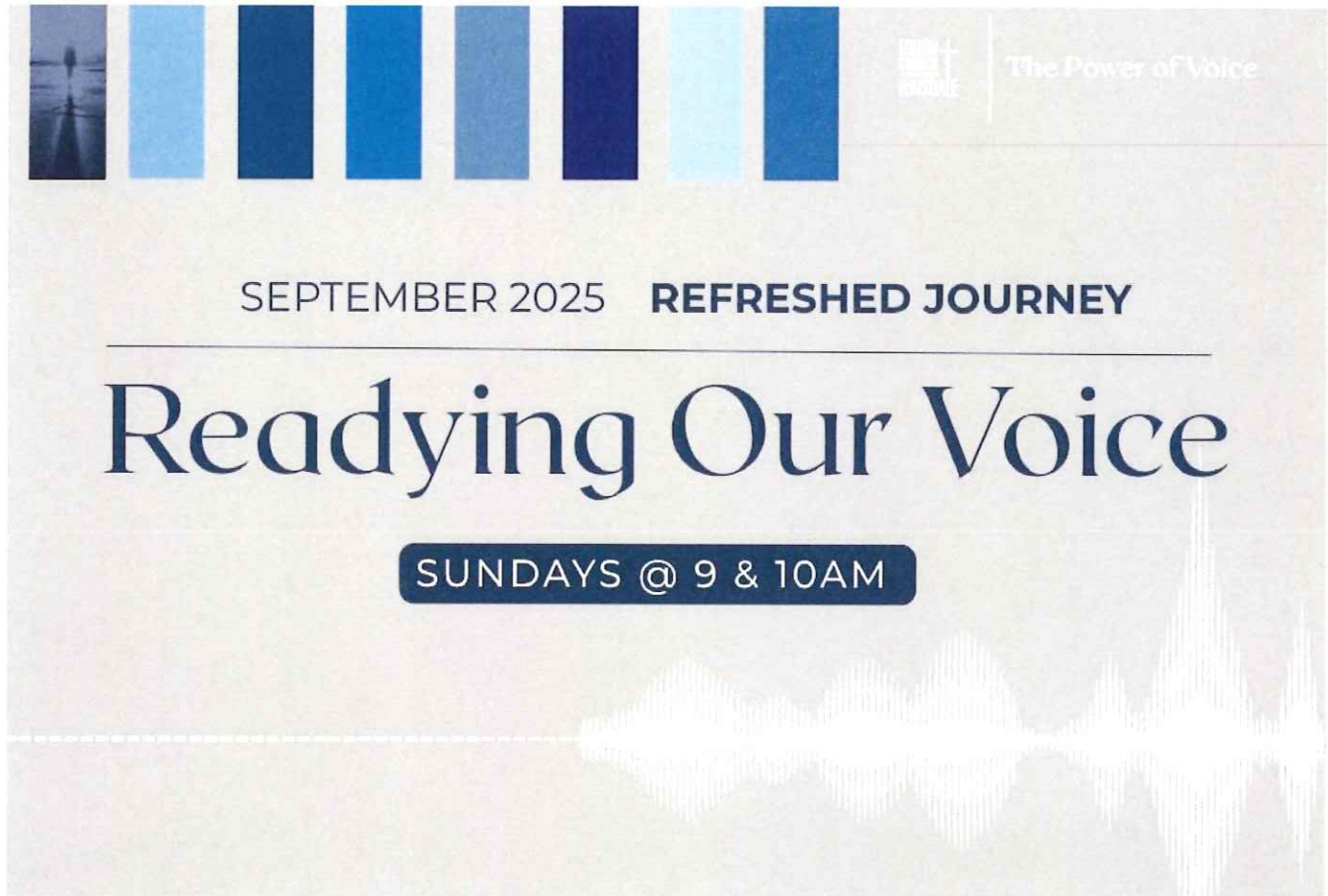


UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



The Foundation of Our Faith

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
September 14, 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 & 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.

As Union Church, one of our core commitments is:

We aim to grow in kindness and generosity with all people.

You are welcome here!



PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

PRELUDE

A New Song
Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Celebrating Life by Greg Dell*

One: Siblings in Christ, we have come to claim and celebrate life.

All: Life is a complicated business bearing the promises of sorrow and joy, mystery and light.

One: But the faithful in Christ gather to worship & celebrate that which gives life & defeats the powers of death.

All: Amen. We come alive with the promise of the creator of life: "Because I live, you shall live also."

One: Then let us begin this day with praise. The One who gives us life - from whom it can never be taken away - calls forth our praise.

All: To that we say, "Thanks be to God."

*** HYMN # 43**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*** INVOCATION PRAYER** *by Tim Graves*

Open our hearts, O God, to the wind sweeping through this room.

Open our whole selves to your abundant love. Amen.

*** RESPONSE # 793**

Holy, Holy

Argentine

(Leader sings 1st time through. Congregation joins on 2nd time)

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.

SEARCH TEAM COMMISSIONING *See Next Page*

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

PRAYER SONG

Hear Our Prayer, O God

(Leader sings 1st time through. Congregation joins on 2nd time)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

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

A New Jerusalem Rise

Kyle Pederson

CHILDREN DEPART FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Zelle (preferred)

Please memo designated fund/special offering

OFFERING



At this time, also please sign and 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

Resale

Claudia Moffat

* HYMN

Better Is One Day

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-21

Janet Birchenough-Koehn

SERMON

The Foundation of Our Faith

Rev. Robb Knuepfer

* HYMN

What A Friend

* BENEDICTION

* REPRISE

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

Litany for Commissioning the Senior Minister Search Committee

Invitation

Penny Davey, Moderator of Union Church: "I invite to come forward those who have been called to serve on the Senior Minister Search Committee."

Trayce Biancalana
Karen Botsoe
Suresh Chacko
Chase Culbertson
Lavina Gross

Jake Haunty
Anne Langguth
Joel Pundmann
JoAnn Roeschlein
Tom Shively

Introductions of the Senior Minister Search Committee Members

The Word 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

Emily Parwani

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Response

Moderator: There are different gifts.
People: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.
Moderator: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit.
People: To be used for the common good.

Address to the Committee Members:

Siblings in Christ, you have committed yourselves to a significant leadership task on behalf of the entire congregation. In recognition of the importance of your work, we pause to express our gratitude and to remind ourselves that you do not undertake this task alone; you will be guided by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the prayerful support of the members of this congregation, and the assistance of the United Church of Christ through the Illinois Conference.

Covenant

Committee Members:

We, who are serving on the Senior Minister Search Committee for the Union Church of Hinsdale, promise to perform faithfully the vital task of searching for a new Senior Minister. We pledge, with God’s guidance and your prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all we do, say, and decide. We will endeavor:

- to establish a harmonious working relationship within our committee;
- to maintain consistent attendance at our Search Committee meetings;
- to be open and patient listeners to each other and to the congregation;
- to listen carefully to your hopes and dreams as we consult with you, the members, in the development of a description of our church community; and the style of pastoral leadership we seek;
- to maintain strict confidentiality in all we read, say, and hear—protecting both the privacy of each other and of potential candidates;
- to review all profiles with open minds and hearts, treating all candidates fairly and justly;
- to seek decisions not made by majority rule, but by the coming together of minds, hearts, and souls in a consensus that will build a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this church.

* People:

We pledge, as a gathered community of faith, to be patient with you and to respect your need to be confidential in your task. We recognize that the work of our search committee is a difficult assignment and will take much effort. We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement throughout this season. These things we promise in the hope and belief that you will be faithful to the guidance of the Spirit as you seek a new Senior Minister to minister with us.

Blessing Prayer: Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes, Bridge Pastor

FLOWERS - Today's flowers are given by Virgil & Diane Oostendorp in memory of their parents, Edward & Frances Forsek and Bernard & Margaret Oostendorp.

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)	Manda Gervase (s)
Associate Pastor – Robb Knuepfer (h)	Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung (s)	Tierra Whetstone-Christian (s)
Dir. of Music & Worship – Stephen C Edwards (h/t)	Organist – Oliver Townsend (h)	Adam Fane (h)
		Jess Koehn (h)
Ushers – Laurie McMahon, Barbara Parsons, Christy Weimer, Randy Weimer		Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak (h)
		Guitar – Andrew Sudhibhasilp (h)
		Bass – Ben Dillinger(h)

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

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.

DON'T MISS A THING!

Keep up with all our upcoming events by following us on Facebook & Instagram and subscribing to our weekly newsletter. Visit www.hinsdale.church, and click on the

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We welcome children and their energy in all aspects of worship! We're glad you're here!

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. Later, the children will leave and go upstairs to our Sunday School space, returning before the last song.

There is always Sunday School & nursery care for younger children (under 5) in classroom 129 on the lower level.

Don't hesitate to ask an usher for help!

CHILDREN'S CHIMES

Children 4 and up are welcome to register and participate for Union Church's Fall Children's chimes! No experience needed!

Practices will be held on Wednesdays, September 24 and October 1 from 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The performance will be on Sunday, October 5 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Use the QR code to register!



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY REGISTRATION



We welcome children and their energy in all aspects of worship! We're glad you're here! Fall Sunday School registration is now live for the 10:00 a.m. service. For kindergarteners through 5th graders, use the QR code to the left. For children under 5, use the QR code to the right for nursery care. Questions? Email Penny pjohnson@uchinsdale.org.



SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Our Sunday School is a place where children discover God's love through stories and activities. To make this ministry possible, we need caring adults and youth to step in as teachers and helpers. Whether you can give one Sunday a month, a season, or the whole year, we'd love to have you be part of the team. All materials and support are provided—just bring your love for children and your faith to share. If you feel God's nudge to serve, please talk with Penny Johnson after worship or use the QR code.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EXTENDS BRIDGE MINISTRY

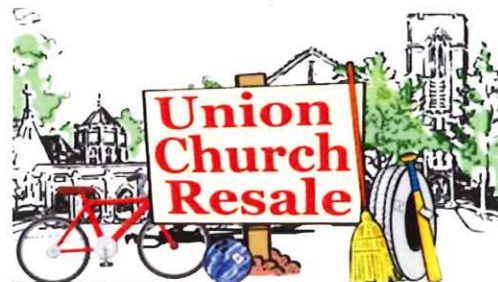
The Executive Council has extended Bridge Pastor Timothy C. Rhodes' initial nine-month contract (March 31- December 31) six more months, through June 30, 2026. This timing is helpful as the Search Committee commences their work. We are most grateful for the many ways Tim is leading us! Tim's expertise and wealth of experiences are providing solid footing as we move forward in the process of finding our new settled Senior Minister.

RESALE 2025

Union church's Resale has been a tradition for 60+ years! It may have a different look than in the past but its benefits are unchanged. This multi-generational event builds community, creates lasting friendships, helps us recycle our best stuff and allows us to share its benefits. Please join in the fun! Gather, gather & gather!

Goods drop off begins Sept 21 Sale Oct 3 & 4

hinsdale.church/resale-2025



MINISTRY FOR CHANGE

PACK SANDWICHES TO HELP THE NIGHT MINISTRY

Sunday, September 21, 11:15 in the Dining Hall

If you are looking for a powerful way to make an impact, even with limited time, look no further! Part of the Night Ministry's mission is to provide approximately 150 sack lunches monthly to children and families in need. This is where Union Church can help!

Volunteering less than 2 hours of your time, you can be part of the team that buys, assembles or delivers these lunches, this does not have to be a monthly commitment; sign up for the months that work for you!

This is a great family activity for kids of all ages or a way to gather those service hours.

Please use this link in the weekly email to sign up or simply join us in the Dining Room on September 21.



MINISTRY FOR CHANGE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday, September 23 at 7 pm in Rowell Hall

Can you spare 90 minutes to volunteer? The Ministry for Change is sponsoring its **second annual mini-career fair** for high school students in the Green Halo Scholars program.

Green Halo Scholars <https://greenhaloscholars.org> was founded in 2017 with a mission to support, mentor, and expand opportunities for motivated and committed first-generation and low-income students in the Western Suburbs of Chicago.

At the mini-career fair, scholars will rotate through interviewers, getting a brief introduction to their career paths. Preparation for volunteers is minimal. **Basically, interviewers sit and answer questions from scholars for an hour and a half about their job, experience and education.** Written guidance is provided on suggested topics for discussion.

We would love to have you join us! We're seeing interviewers in the following fields, but all professions are welcome: Cyber security, FBI/CIA, Medicine, Biology/medical lab sciences/biomedical sciences, Law, Psychiatry/psychology, including forensic/therapy, Product design, Education, Flight/pilot, Nursing, Study of diseases/pathology, Business, Meteorology, Pharmacy, Computer Science, Math, and Photography.

Contact Jane Grimm at jgrimm723@comcast.net or (312) 405-5918 if you are interested in volunteering as an interviewer.



DUPAGE PADS

UCH has been working with DuPage PADS for several years and continues to work alongside them providing meals for roughly 200 people and support for various projects. Volunteers shop, cook & serve a meal the 4th Tuesday of every month. A small group of volunteers have been assisting with these tasks for some time, and we would love some additional assistance with any of these tasks. Also, any help with recipes that serve 200 would be well received. See the weekly email for a link to the sign-up. Also, feel free to reach out directly to Jim Roeschlein at Jamesroeschlein411@gmail.com or 640-415-7897.



READYING OUR VOICE

The Power of Voice

This program year will focus on **The Power of Voice**. We begin in September with a sermon series called **Refreshed Journey**. We are **Readying our Voice** by learning how the Bible verses and stories from the lectionary help renew us. This will be a part of our messaging on **Kick-off Sunday, September 14**. Sunday School resumes that day as well. We look forward to embarking on a refreshed journey together as a congregation and celebrating all voices.

AN ADULT ED SERIES

CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS: SANITY IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

SEPTEMBER 14 & 21, 2025

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Rowell Hall

UNION
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Union Church is a
thinking church.

Together we ask
questions and
explore the
world beyond
ourselves. We
aim to grow in
kindness and
generosity with
all people.

Join us!

Are you frustrated, or disturbed, or just concerned about the divisiveness and conflict in our society today?

We seem to be embroiled in conflict on many topics, whether political, social, economic, and any number of issues. And this level of conflict is deeply affecting our relationships with one another, impacting families and friendships, as well as impacting our institutions, including the church.

We are offering a two-part adult education seminar on "Transformative Conflict" and you're invited to join us!

The workshop will be led by Rev. Dr. Robb Knuepfer. We will work with the book, **"Transforming Conflict," by Terasa Cooley.** Copies of the book are available for purchase in the church office for \$24. They are also available on Amazon.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Adriana Kieffer in the church office so we can plan for attendance and book orders.

You
Tube

hinsdale.church



GENEROUS. OPEN. CONNECTED.

We are an **Open and Affirming** congregation.

Senior Minister Search Committee

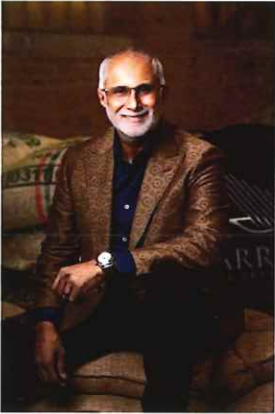
A wonderful group of members have committed themselves to the important task of searching for our new Senior Minister. Keep them and their work in your prayers. This is an exciting time for Union Church!



Trayce Biancalana I have been blessed to serve on various ministries at our church, with my favorite being Ministry for Change. I have also helped organize and participate in community-building trips to Guatemala, which have been especially meaningful. My three grown children grew up in this church and enjoyed the confirmation program. Professionally, I teach Spanish at both the middle and high school level. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, live music, hiking, traveling and reading and finding ways to stay connected to our community.



Karen Botsoe I have lived in the area since 2008 when my family moved to Illinois from Kennesaw, Georgia. I have been an Internal Medicine Physician for over 30 years, the blessed wife of Eugene for over 32 years, and the mother of 2 wonderful sons. I'm the proud daughter of an Episcopal minister and a High School Math teacher. Eugene and I currently live in Burr Ridge with 1 son and my mother who stays with me for 6-9 months each year. I joined Union Church of Hinsdale about 4 years ago. I didn't want a church that only focused on tradition or the intrinsic details of theology, but one that focused on mercy, love, and justice. I was also looking for a church that was welcoming and didn't treat me like a curiosity. I definitely found all of that here. I have found the members here to be genuine and caring. There are many ways to get involved in helping the people in our neighborhood, city, and in other countries. I am currently in my second year with the Trustees.



Suresh (Chris) Chacko I'm Suresh Chacko and am generally known outside family circles as Chris Chacko. My family and I have been members of Union Church for about three years, and we attended services here regularly for about a year prior to becoming members, traveling each Sunday from Chicago. We moved to Hinsdale shortly after our 3-year-old son, Dean, was born. We run a family-owned coffee roasting plant in Chicago called Sparrow Coffee that imports, roasts, and distributes our products to exceptional culinary establishments throughout the United States. We are currently working on opening our newest flagship retail store in downtown Clarendon Hills, which will be an extension of our first store we opened in downtown Naperville seven years ago. We feel blessed to have discovered the warmth of Union Church and its members. It is my sincere hope that I can help preserve what drew us here and become an asset to the committee as we work to seat our next Senior Pastor.



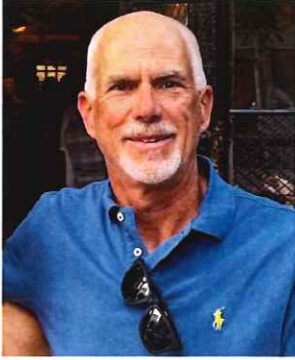
Chase Culbertson. I live in Clarendon Hills with my wife, Alyssa, and three children, Jack (5), Henry (3), and Lucy (2) -- plus our dog, Tucker! We moved back to the area this past May after starting our family and spending six years in Charlotte, North Carolina. I grew up in Hinsdale and was a member of the church before moving away. I spent many summers in VBS as a student and a director, and also went to the same preschool program my kids now attend! My extended family has remained extremely active in the church. I can't wait to ingrain my wife and children into the community. I am a private equity investor with a firm in the city. Alyssa is at home with the kids after a long career as a pediatric nurse. The kids love spending time outside with their cousins and neighbors, where they are constantly seen riding bikes and scooters up and down Prospect Park!

Lavina Gross Information and photo to follow

Jake Haunty Information and photo to follow



Anne Langguth I joined Union Church in 2024 after moving to Hinsdale from Iowa City. I am a pediatric ophthalmologist at Lurie Children's Hospital, married to Michael, and mom to Rosalie, who just started kindergarten. I love playing violin, harp, and piano, and also enjoy running and traveling. I was drawn to Union Church for its commitment to children's education, community outreach, and extraordinary music, and I am grateful to be part of this faith family.



Joel Pundmann Our family joined Union Church in 1997. My wife Sandy and I have three sons, Mike, Matt and Mark who enjoyed work tours at Union Church. I've been involved with ministries (Executive Council, Trustees, Youth, Worship and Membership), work tours and the gardening committee. I am very happily retired and enjoy traveling, traveling to see our sons, following my favorite non-Cub teams, the Cardinals and White Sox, watching sports, especially college sports, walking in Fullersburg, hiking, biking and volunteering.



JoAnn Roeschlein I have been a member of Union Church for the past four years. I have enjoyed being a part of a Simple Supper group with fellow members as well as serving on the Music Ministry. I have also helped my husband, Jim Roeschlein, with PADS, serving the homeless people in our community. I am passionate about serving the LGBTQ community, having volunteered for Youth Outlook for the past five years. I look forward to serving Union in assisting searching for a Senior Pastor who can help Union affirm and welcome all persons and fulfill our pledge to love, encourage and support one another as the Body of Christ.



Tom Shively I have been a member of Union Church for about 35 years. My wife Vera and I have lived in Hinsdale for slightly longer than that. I was one of the original members of the Board for Christian Social Justice. I currently serve on the New Members Ministry. I spent a little more than half of my working career as an engineer, the last 16 years as a high school teacher and department chair, primarily at two Chicago catholic schools, teaching Physics and Math. I also started and still own a small toothpaste business. I retired from teaching last year, though I still do some physics tutoring. We have two adult children, Dorothy and Zoe, both of whom live out of state. I like to read, mostly fiction, and spend time outdoors riding my bike or walking. I also love to find and try new restaurants.

PART OF AN ADULT EDUCATION
SERIES AT @UNION CHURCH

CliffsNotes

What does it mean to be UCC?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

11:15 a.m. in Rowell Hall

What do we believe?

What does it mean to be a part of Union Church of Hinsdale and a part of the United Church of Christ (UCC) denomination?

Come learn more or refresh your memory in a fast track mini-course presented by Rev. Grant Glowiak.

This is meant for current members, as well as those considering joining and wishing to learn more about our church.

It's good for *all of us* to learn more about who we are as a congregation and denomination!

**Save the Dates: Fall New Member Orientation
November 2 and November 5**

Union Church is a *thinking church*.

Together we ask questions and explore the world beyond ourselves. We aim to grow in kindness and generosity with *all people*.

Join us.



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This course is adapted from our long-running "Confirmation CliffsNotes" course, and created in collaboration between the Christian Education and Membership Ministries.

AN ADULT ED SERIES

Intellectual Freedom + the Freedom to Read

Presentation + Q&A



Freedom to Read Foundation
FREE PEOPLE READ FREELY™

OCTOBER 19, 2025

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Youth Room



Freedom to Read Foundation
FREE PEOPLE READ FREELY™

ALA American
Library
Association

The Freedom to Read Foundation was established in 1969 as a First Amendment legal defense organization affiliated with the American Library Association.

Come for a **presentation and Q&A session** with, **Joyce McIntosh, Assistant Program Director, Freedom to Read Foundation**, about the importance of intellectual freedom, how and where it is under attack, and what you can do about that. This event will take place Sunday, October 19 from 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.



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The Power of Voice
October - Protecting Voice

Union Church is a *thinking church*.

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explore the world beyond ourselves.
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generosity with ***all people***.

Join us.