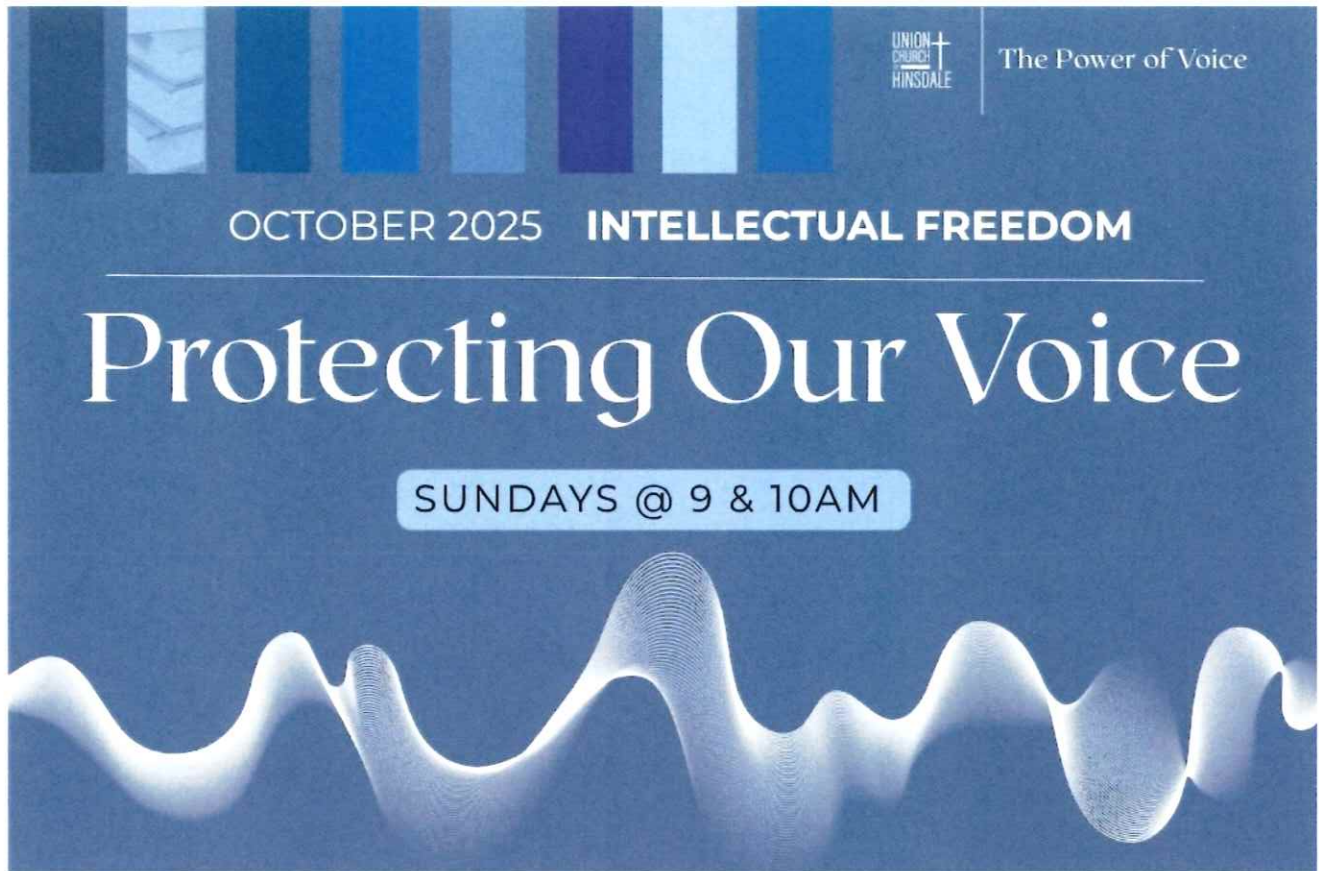


UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



Light Amidst Darkness

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
October 26, 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:

***God is real, and we deepen our faith by taking the time
to get to know God Better***

You are welcome here!



WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

PRELUDE

One Voice
WE and Chancel Choir

Ruth Moody

* CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 27)

One: The Lord is our light and our salvation. Whom shall we fear?

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives. Of whom shall we be afraid?

One: We seek to live in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives,

All: to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in the holy temple.

One: For the Lord will hide us in the divine shelter in the day of trouble, and set us high upon a rock.

All: With our heads lifted high we will offer shouts of joy! We will sing and make melody to the Holy One!

* HYMN #43

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

* INVOCATION PRAYER (inspired by Psalm 27)

Hear, O Lord, when we cry aloud. Be gracious unto us and answer us, for it is your face we seek. Teach us your way and lead us on your level path. Grant us your courage and strength, as we wait to see your goodness in our world. Amen.

* RESPONSE # 793

Holy, Holy

Argentine

***Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.***

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

PRAYER SONG

Hear Our Prayer, O God

***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

Come Away
Chancel Choir

Ken Medema

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

* HYMN

By Our Love

* = Those who are able and willing, please stand

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 2:7-11

Janet Birchenough-Koehn

SERMON

Light Amidst Darkness

Rev. Grant Glowiak

* HYMN

Children of Light

* BENEDICTION

* REPRISE

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

FLOWERS - Today's flowers are given by Fran Evans in memory of her parents, Frank & Cornelia Allgire.

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)	<u>Section Leaders</u>
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, Virgil Oostendorp, Melissa Mann, Barbara Parsons

Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak (h)

Guitar – Andrew Sudhibhasilp (h)

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

Bass – Ben Dillinger(h)

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 K - 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 during the 10am service. You may drop off children before the service.

Don't hesitate to ask an usher for help!

NEED SOMETHING ANNOUNCED IN THE MIDWEEK EMAIL OR ONLINE?

Send any requests to disseminate information to the Union Church congregation to communications@uchinsdale.org. The deadline for newsletter submissions is Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. Anything received after the deadline will be placed in the e-blast the following week. This allows the email to be distributed to everyone involved in getting the word out.

Please put "Email Blast" in the subject line. Thanks!

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 'Connect' button for more info!

CHURCH NEWS

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Senior Minister Search Committee is off and running! Their first meeting was held last week. The first three meetings involve training by Transitional Ministry Pathways. Woven into the training is work that leads the members to become a solid team, working together on behalf of all of us. UCC denominational guidance will follow. Please hold the Search Committee members and their sacred work close in your prayers.

MUSIC

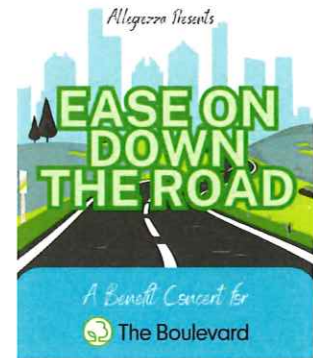
EASE ON DOWN THE ROAD WITH THE BOULEVARD OF CHICAGO

Today, October 26, at 4:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Join us for an evening of music as the Allegranza Singers present *Ease on Down the Road*, a special benefit concert for The Boulevard of Chicago!

This inspiring performance will not only fill the room with harmony but will also help raise vital support for The Boulevard's mission of providing medical respite care & housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Following the concert, guests are invited to enjoy light refreshments & connect with others who share a commitment to community, compassion, and healing. Mark your calendars & bring your friends! Follow the link in the weekly email to purchase tickets!



MINISTRY FOR CHANGE

ELEANOR'S CHRISTMAS STOCKING SEWING PARTY

Friday, November 7, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., in the Dining Room

Do you like to sew? Or have you always wanted to learn? Then come to the Ministry for Change Sewing Party on November 7 to make stockings for students at Graves School in Summit, which we'll stuff on December 7 after both services. Claudia Moffat, sewer extraordinaire, will be teaching how to make stockings. No sewing experience needed! Questions? Contact Jane Grimm, jgrimm723723@comcast.net.

ELEANOR'S CHRISTMAS STOCKING

We need your help with Eleanor's Christmas Stockings! This Ministry for Change project, named in memory of our beloved Eleanor Patterson, gives filled Christmas stockings to underserved children in the church's wider community. This year we'll be providing 300+ stockings to Pre-Kindergarteners, Kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd graders at Graves School, a bi-lingual grade school in Summit, IL. To do that, we need your help. Please:

- Bring your left-over Halloween candy to church. Boxes will be in the Gathering Space by Nov 1 for donations.
- Contribute stocking contents by ordering online through our Amazon wish list or by purchasing and bringing items to the Gathering Space. The list of items we need will be available later in October.
- Mark your calendar for the Christmas stocking stuffing event on **Sunday, December 7** after the 9 and 10 am services. Everyone, and especially families with young children, are welcome!
- Ask your dentist for donations of individually wrapped children's toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste. Deposit them in the designated boxes starting November 1st.

If you would like to help with the stocking project or have any questions, please contact Jane Grimm, jgrimm723@comcast.net. Thank you.

HCS TOILET PAPER AND PAPER TOWEL DRIVE

You may prefer 'under' or 'over' – we prefer donations! We are looking for wrapped single roll or a pack not exceeding 6 rolls of toilet paper. Paper towels should be single wrapped or packages not exceeding 2 rolls.

There is a black bin in the Gathering Place available for any toilet paper or paper towel donations. A member of the Ministry for Change will deliver any donations made to HCS for Union Church members' convenience.

FOR EVERYONE

MONTHLY MAHJONG MEETUP

We had a great time with our Mahjong 101 lessons from The Mahjong Guild last week. Congratulations to Dani Diaz for being our first to get "Mahj!". The group who took lessons would like to continue a monthly meet-up for beginners.

If you're interested in being a part of the play, to learn alongside each other and have some fun, please contact Carissa Kapcar, ckapcar@uchinsdale.org.



UNION CHURCH AT ANDERSON'S BOOKSHOP

Last week Rev. Grant Glowiak and Adriana Kieffer represented Union Church as the Community Bridging Partner at the Anderson's Bookshop monthly Banned Book Club in Downers Grove. The book was *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and Grant and Adriana were able to talk about how sharing stories is faithful work, tying it to the lesson of the good Samaritan. Their conversation was rich and thoughtful and very well received by all of the Anderson's patrons who were there that night. They all enjoyed learning more about our efforts to support protecting voice and intellectual freedom this month at UCH. Thank you, Adriana and Grant!

THANK YOU FOR RESALE!

Resale! week was a flurry of activity. The church was full of people turning chaos into order. During the week, we visited, shared joys and challenges, made new friends, and strengthened our connections with friends from within our church and the wider community.

There are so many people to thank! Department heads, Gail Weber, Rose Ross, Kim Notaro, Bill Fountain, and Andy Johnson, and those who worked alongside them for most of the week- Maria Coyne, Ruth Finlay, Barb Parsons, Sharon Bodziak, and Rose's brother Ben Herstine, who's willingness to help is always a joy. We had 76 identified volunteers giving a minimum of 1,100 hours. Thirty-four percent of those volunteers were non-Union Church members. Unsold items were distributed to several nonprofits within our community.

Thank you to everyone who donated, sorted, moved tables, cashiered, and shopped. Resale! is truly a whole church event! Our gross is over \$13,000 - amazing! However, the true treasure of Resale! is our time spent together.

With gratitude,
Elizabeth Krainc
Kathy Eisel-Intorcia
Claudia Moffat

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

NEW MEMBER CLASSES THIS FALL!

Sunday, November 2, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Rowell Hall and Sunday, May 16, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (via Zoom)

New Member Welcome Service: November 16, 10:00 a.m. worship service

We will be welcoming our next New Member Class this fall. If you'd like to be a part of it, please contact Joel Pundman, joelpundman@gmail.com, or Carissa Kapcar, ckapcar@uchinsdale.org

NOVEMBER SERMON THEME

Unabashed Gratitude is a way of living that recognizes all the ways God blesses our lives and the lives of those we love. Unabashed Gratitude—we live life with a heart of abundance and an attitude of joy. From this perspective we are open to people and experiences that invite others to see God's presence in the world.



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.



ON ADVENT SUNDAYS...

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

ONLINE | REV. TIM RHODES

Sundays | 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

Advent Book Discussion

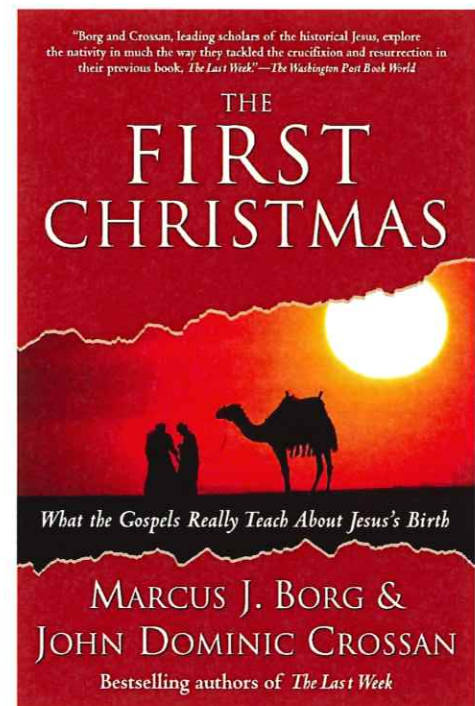
Join Rev. Tim Rhodes every Sunday evening in Advent via Zoom for a discussion on the book *The First Christmas*.

Two top Jesus scholars, Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, join forces to help readers see the real Christmas story buried in the familiar Bible accounts and offer a clear and uplifting message of hope and peace.

Sundays | 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

**NOV 30 DEC 14
DEC 7 DEC 21**

RSVP to Adriana in the church office for the Zoom link, sign up in the Gathering Place or simply tear off the RSVP note below and put it in the offering basket. We have a few copies of the book in the church office for \$10, or they are available on Amazon.



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

GENEROUS. OPEN. CONNECTED.

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.



SUPER AGERS

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 7

IN ROWELL HALL

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

What is a SuperAger?

A SuperAger is an individual over age 80 with memory abilities comparable to those in their 50s and 60s.

Join Dr. Emily Rogalski of the SuperAging Research Initiative and our own Union Church super ager, June Scott, to learn more about this positive and proactive approach to understanding aging.

The University of Chicago is a leading institution in SuperAging research, focusing on individuals over 80 with exceptional memory performance.

The SuperAging Research Initiative, led by Dr. Emily Rogalski, studies these individuals to identify factors that contribute to healthy cognitive aging and potentially prevent or delay Alzheimer's disease.

In essence, the SuperAging research at UChicago is a positive and proactive approach to understanding aging, with the potential to benefit not just individuals but also society as a whole.



June Scott and some of her SuperAger friends!

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.