

# UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



## *Children's Christmas Pageant*

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
10:00 A.M. Worship Service  
December 21, 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 are a thinking church, so we ask questions  
to discern what really matters in life.***

**You are welcome here!**



## PRESERVICE MUSIC

### WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

### PRELUDE

*Fantasy on 'O Come, All Ye Faithful'*

arr. Varner

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Grant Glowiak

On this Children's Christmas Pageant Sunday, we gather with wonder and joy, celebrating the Christ-light that shines through every child among us, as we gather and welcome God's love made new in our world.

Let us join our voices together in worship.

### \* HYMN #135

*O Come, All You Faithful*  
(stanzas 1-3)

### \* INVOCATION PRAYER

Holy One, as we gather on this exciting day, draw near to us and let your presence fill this space with wonder, joy, and the wide-open imagination of every child. Open our hearts to the story they share, that your love might be born in us again and shine through us into the world.

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Mushynski Family

### ADVENT HYMN – See Next Page

*Light the Candle*  
(Stanzas 1 – 4)

### ANTHEM

*Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star*  
Nancy Sullivan – Director

Preschoolers  
and Kindergarteners

### THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*Part One*

### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

*The People's Resource Center*

We'd love to get to know you! If you are visiting and would like a follow-up conversation with our clergy or church staff, please leave your name & contact info in the black friendship pads found at the end of the pews.

All gifts placed in the gold envelopes will go to the People's Resource Center.

**Zelle (preferred)**

All other gifts will go to UCH. Thanks for giving to the life & work of UCH!

Please memo designated fund/special offering



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!



### OFFERTORY

*We Three Kings*  
Children's Chimes

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further the dream of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

### ANTHEM

*Were You There on that Christmas Night*

Natalie Sleeth

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Graders • Stephen C Edwards – Director • Ollie Townsend – Piano

### THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*Part Two*

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

*An Advent Candlelighting Carol*  
**Light the Candle**

Jaroslav J. Vajda

Carl Schalk

Gently **P**

(Advent 1) Light the candle of LOVE to-day, the Giv-er of love is  
(Advent 2) Light the candle of PEACE to-day, the Giv-er of peace is  
(Advent 3) Light the candle of JOY to-day, the Giv-er of joy is  
(Advent 4) Light the candle of HOPE to-day, the Giv-er of hope will  
(Christmas) Light the candle of CHRIST to-day, the Giv-er of light is

here! \_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the love we live and die for, but

here! \_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the peace we fight and cry for, but

here! \_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the joy we crave and pray for, but

come! \_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the hope we long and wait for, but

here! \_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the light we grope and sigh for, but

on - ly Christ can give. \_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and

on - ly Christ can give. \_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and

on - ly Christ can give. \_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and

on - ly Christ can give. \_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and

on - ly Christ can give. \_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and

glow with love, light up the world a - round you.

glow with peace, light up the world a - round you.

glow with joy, light up the world a - round you.

glow with hope, light up the world a - round you.

glow with light, light up the world a - round you.

Flick-er and flame and glow with love, light up the world a -

Flick-er and flame and glow with peace, light up the world a -

Flick-er and flame and glow with joy, light up the world a -

Flick-er and flame and glow with hope, light up the world a -

Flick-er and flame and glow with light, light up the world a -

round \_\_\_\_\_ you. \_\_\_\_\_

## LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

\* HYMN

*Joy to the World*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen*

arr. Davis

## 2025 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CAST

<u>Littlest Angels</u>	<u>Donkeys</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Narrators</u>
Jack Culbertson	Leo Benjelloun	Parker Dowling	James Logan	Quinn Houser
Teddy Hughes	Olivia Dowling	Hattie Hughes	Beck Koehn	Bella Parro
Jack Hutchins	Logan Houser	Maddie Mushynski		Adelaide Saviano
Ellie London	Henry Hutchins	Ava Poetter	<u>Angel</u>	Gaylen Saviano
Thiago Parro	Sammy Logan		Charlotte Poetter	Morgan Saviano
Maeve Schaefer	Theo Mushynski	<u>Doves</u>		George Schaefer
Maggie Schaefer	Rosalie Ott	Keaton Houser	<u>Inn Keeper</u>	Alexandra Weil
<b>Mary</b>	<b>Joseph</b>	Savannah Parro	Kai Koehn	Henry Weil
Antonia Logan	George Schaefer	Jackson Schaefer		

## STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Bridge Pastor – Timothy C. Rhodes (h)	Dir. of Audio & Visual Media – Adam Nakutis (h)	<u>Section Leaders</u>
Associate Pastor – Grant Glowiak (h/t)	Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung (s)	Manda Gervase (s)
Associate Pastor – Robb Knuepfer (h)	9:00 a.m. Worship Leader – Bree Gordon	Tierra Whetstone-Christian (s)
Dir. of Music & Worship – Stephen C Edwards (h/t)	Organist – Oliver Townsend (h)	Adam Fane (h)
Dir. of Christian Education – Penny Johnson (s)		Jess Koehn (h)
Ushers – Chris, Jack, Lucy, & Vivian Kapcar, and Sharon Bodziak		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.

## 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.

We won't have Sunday school today for elementary school children, since so many of them are already in the pageant!

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!

## WE'D LOVE TO SEE & DISPLAY YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS! IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Please include Union Church (137 S. Garfield, Hinsdale, IL 60521) on your mailing list this year and count us among your family and friends. We will display all the cards that we receive on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place for the congregation to enjoy together and be reminded of our connections, friendships and shared life here together at UCH over the winter season.

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

### THE NIGHT MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

*TODAY Sunday, December 21, 11:15 a.m. in the Dining Room*

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 & 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 or a way to gather those service hours. See the link in the weekly email to sign up to volunteer or just join us in the Dining Room!

### UCECP AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MITTEN TREE

We are collecting **new** mittens, hats & scarfs for our mitten tree at the top of the main stairs. Your donations will help support the children of our Mission Ministries. UCECP families can send their donations with their child, and they will personally place their items on the tree. Members & friends of UCH, you may also place your items on the tree or bring them to Adriana in the church office to place on the Mitten Tree. Thank you for helping to spread kindness and warmth during this winter season!

### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING - THE PEOPLES RESOURCE CENTER

For our Christmas offering this year, we encourage you to make a special contribution to our Ministry for Change partner Peoples Resource Center.

Peoples Resource Center's mission is to respond to basic human needs, promote dignity and justice, and build a future of hope & opportunity for residents of DuPage County. Services include food pantry, clothing, financial assistance, adult literacy, jobs assistance, technology access, computer training and art enrichment.

Every service is offered free of charge. PRC is a "neighbor to neighbor" resource, efficiently using its donations through the power of over 2500 volunteers. It has two onsite locations in Wheaton and Westmont, and over 30 partner sites used to bring services closer to neighbors in need. Visit <https://www.peoplesrc.org/> for more information.

Demand for services has increased significantly due to both inflation and cuts in funding for federal programs such as SNAP benefits. Funding cuts have also increased PRC's food costs as cuts in funding to the Department of Agriculture reduced the amount of subsidized food available to purchase.

The Union Church has supported PRC this year with a back-to-school supply drive. We also provided direct funding for food costs through Ministry for Change's budget. Our continued support will help ensure PRC can continue to meet the needs of our neighbors at a critical time. For the Christmas Offering (running now through the 31st), you may donate to PRC or make a special contribution to the church - or do both! You have two easy options for giving:

- 1) Give online through the church website. On the giving page <https://onrealm.org/uchinsdale/-/form/give/now> under 'fund,' select either "Christmas Offering – Peoples Resource Center" (all amounts donated under this selection will be donated to PRC) or "Christmas Offering- Union Church Ministries" (all amounts donated under this selection will be shared by ministries of the church generally) and complete the rest of the information. To give to both, please complete two separate transactions.
- 2) Deposit a check in the offering basket using one of the goldenrod envelopes during service OR send in a check. If some or all of your donation is intended for Peoples Resource Center, please tell the church office of the split in the memo line or in a separate note. If all of your gift is intended solely for Union Church, just send the check.

**All gifts placed in the golden envelopes will go to the People's Resource Center.  
All other gifts will go to UCH. Thanks for giving to the life and work of Union Church!**

*For e-giving, use the QR code on the right for Zelle  
(no fees – please memo designated fund/special offering),  
or the QR code on the left to give via Realm, or text "GIVEUCH" to 73256.*



**Sandwich**  
**MAKING**

EVERY  
**3RD SUNDAY**  
AFTER  
SERVICE  
**11:15a.m. - 1:00p.m.**  
DINING ROOM

Join us in supporting  
our mission partner...

UNION CHURCH  
HINSDALE | THE NIGHT MINISTRY

8/17, 9/21, 10/19, 11/6, 12/21  
Service opportunity open to all ages!



**People's Resource Center**



**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.*



# **UNDERSTANDING** *(and maybe even embracing)*

## **AI**

**SUNDAY | JANUARY 11**

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

**IN ROWELL HALL**

*An Adult Ed discussion to prepare us for a sermon about AI in February as a part of our "Other Voices" Epiphany Series*

**Join Alice Locatelli as she helps us make sense of change, especially when it comes to new technology.**

Alice Locatelli has spent her career translating complicated systems like AI/ChatGPT, blockchain, and crypto into something real people can actually use. She's led teams through major transformations, launched new digital products, and taught everyone from board members to book clubs how to adapt without needing a teenager to translate.

Alice holds degrees from Emory (Computer Science), Stanford (Education), and Chicago Booth (MBA). She's currently an executive at a international professional association, where she oversees technology, customer experience, and innovation. More than titles, she's known for being clear, kind, and fiercely effective.



A local mom, Alice brings a grounded, practical voice to a fast-moving world. She believes learning new tech doesn't have to be intimidating... and that everything goes better with good coffee and a few honest questions.



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

**GENEROUS. OPEN. CONNECTED.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **THE "HANG IN THERE" CURRENT EVENTS GROUP**

*Sunday, January 4, 11:15 a.m., in the Kitchen Classroom*

Feeling the need to connect with others as we all navigate our way through what can be disorienting current events? This group began coming together in February to do just that. We meet monthly on the first Sunday. Feel free to join us anytime!

### **SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE**

On December 2, the Senior Minister Search Committee had our first Search and Call meeting with Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley and Rev. Dr. JJ Flag of the Illinois

Conference United Church of Christ. It was a great first session with them and we are now embarking on the 'meat' of the search process as we put together our search profile, and they guide us on the most important part of this process - kicking off the search! We will continue to meet with them & learn from their significant depth of experience. As always, please continue to keep the entire committee in your prayers. ~ The Senior Minister Search Committee

### **CHOATE NAMED UCECP DIRECTOR**

After a nationwide search, Union Church of Hinsdale is delighted to welcome Kimberly Choate as Director of UCECP beginning January 1, 2026. "I'm honored to be joining a fantastic preschool that has the teachers at its core & is dedicated to developing young children through play-based academics. We're going to have a bright future at UCECP." said Choate. Search Committee Chair, Nadine Woodle said, "Kimberly's experience & passion for children aligns perfectly with the values of UCECP."

Having served as a Preschool Director for ten years, an Assistant Director for seven years, and a preschool teacher for eleven years, Choate brings an abiding passion for early childhood education to the Director position. Choate has a Master's in Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development from National-Lewis University and serves on the Current Birth to Five, Illinois State Advisory Committee. Choate is the Acting UCECP Director.

Please plan to join Kimberly for a welcome celebration, Sunday, January 11, 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Place.

## **HANG IN THERE** **CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION**



11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.  
KITCHEN CLASSROOM

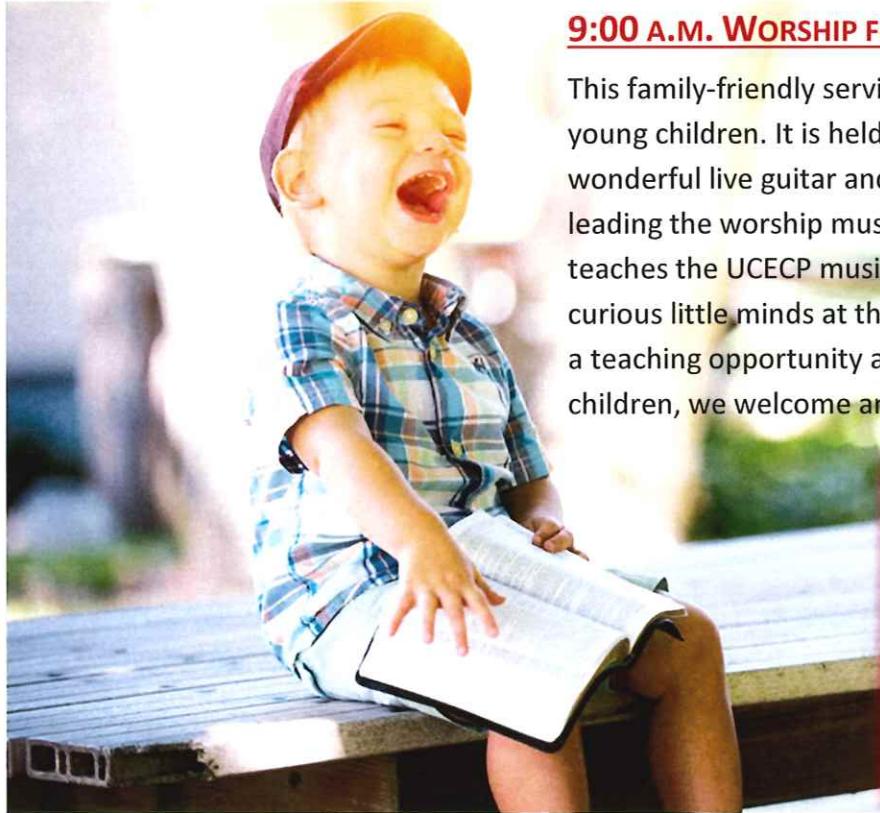


2025      2026  
AUG 24      JAN 4  
OCT 5      FEB 1  
NOV 2      MARCH 1  
APRIL 5      MAY 3

UNION  
CHURCH  
HINSDALE

### **9:00 A.M. WORSHIP FOR FAMILIES WITH LITTLE ONES**

This family-friendly service in the chapel embraces the busy energy of young children. It is held every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in our Chapel with wonderful live guitar and piano. In fact, you'll usually find a familiar face leading the worship music: Cole! Cole led this year's VBS and also teaches the UCECP music class. We embrace movement and busy curious little minds at this 25 – 30 minute service. While it is designed as a teaching opportunity and introduction to Christian worship for young children, we welcome anyone of any age or family stage.



**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.***

## **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](http://www.hinsdale.church), and click on the 'Connect' button for more info!



JANUARY + FEBRUARY 2026

EPIPHANY

UNION  
CHURCH  
HINSDALE

The Power of Voice

SUNDAYS @ 9 & 10AM

# Listening Other Voices

JAN  
4

**Rabbi Jessica Wainer** was ordained by the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in 2016 and previously served as the associate rabbi and director of congregational learning for Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation in Reston, VA. She loves to develop creative worship experiences, walk with families through their times of sorrow and joy, and bring Torah to life for people of all ages. In addition to her ordination, Rabbi Wainer earned a Master's degree in Hebrew Letters in 2015 from Hebrew Union College, as well as a Master's in Education Administration from Xavier University in 2015. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Jewish Studies, with honors, and minored in Hebrew and Psychology from Indiana University - Bloomington. Rabbi Wainer currently serves as the head of faculty for the Union of Reform Judaism's Six-Points Creative Arts Academy where she is a founding faculty member. She also previously served on the Central Conference of American Rabbi Taskforce on Women's Experience in the Rabbinate.

JAN  
11

**Imam Tariq El-Amin** has served as the Resident Imam & Chairman of the Board of Masjid Al-Taqwa since 2013. Servant, and Participatory, leadership ground his leadership and community building philosophy. He is an active part of local, national, and international Inter & Intrafaith Community efforts. Imam El-Amin's convictions have led him to serve as a board member of The Abolition Institute (an international anti-slavery nonprofit), supporting their work here and abroad. In the past, Imam Tariq has served as the nightly host/producer of Radio Islam, a live talk program where he conversed with politicians, artists, activists, etc, and also gave social commentary on the issues of the day. He is the former Director of Civic Engagement & Interfaith Services at the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago and a past appointee to the Illinois Muslim Advisory Council, established by former Governor Pat Quinn. Imam Tariq is completing a Masters Of Divinity, with a focus on Islamic Chaplaincy from Bayan Islamic Graduate School/Chicago Theological Seminary.

JAN  
18

**Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder** is a Bible in/and pop culture educator. Her focus on New Testament literature provides the lens for traversing the re-contextualization of such texts in present media. While engaging what she terms "womanist maternal thought," she explores ways in which the Bible speaks to current-day motherhood through an African American lens. As a dually-aligned National Baptist and Disciples of Christ minister, Professor Crowder employs creative code-switching means to communicate in both the church and the academy. From 2018-2023 she was the first African American and first woman to serve as Vice President of Academic Affairs/Academic Dean at Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS). In 2021 she became the first African American woman to become Full Professor at CTS..



**GENEROUS. OPEN. CONNECTED.**

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

Join us  
during  
Epiphany as  
we gather to  
listen to  
speakers  
that  
represent  
other voices.



[hinsdale.church](http://hinsdale.church)



JANUARY + FEBRUARY 2026

EPIPHANY

UNION  
CHURCH  
HINSDALE

The Power of Voice

SUNDAYS @ 9 & 10AM

# Listening Other Voices

JAN  
25

**Dr. Ken Stone, *God and Animals*** | Professor Stone, a Lambda Literary Award winner, focuses his research on the relationship between critical theory and biblical interpretation and matters of gender, sexuality, animals, and ecology. "I always encourage students to question their own assumptions about the content and interpretation of the Bible. Such a process of questioning need not be destructive, but rather creates opportunities for pursuing a two-fold goal. On the one hand, we must obtain a thorough knowledge of both the surprising diversity of the biblical writings and their historical and socio-cultural contexts. On the other hand, we must reflect critically on the difficult process of interpreting and teaching those writings in a manner that will help us transform our own world toward greater justice and mercy."

FEB  
1

**Andrew Johnson, *Native Spirituality*** | Andy Johnson is the executive director of the Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He lobbies for legislation as part of the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative.

FEB  
8

**Antoinette Daniels, *Differently Abled and Faith Communities*** | Rev. Daniels is a healthcare Chaplain (BCCI – ACC) at the Shirley Ryan Abilitylab in Chicago. A native of Meridian, MS, she grew up in Los Angeles and has traveled the world while working for the Episcopal Church in various capacities. She has earned a B.A. in Psychobiology (UCLA), an MBA (Baruch College, NYC), and an M.Div. (Loyola University, Chicago). She is a member of St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church in Hyde Park, where she met the Rev. Tim Murray, an Episcopal Deacon, in the parking lot, and they subsequently married in 2021.

FEB  
15

## Where Faith Meets AI

AI provides this biography of Artificial Intelligence: AI traces its evolution from ancient myths (Talos, Golems) and early mechanical concepts (Pascal's calculator, Da Vinci's knight) through foundational theories (Turing Test in 1950), the coining of the term "Artificial Intelligence" at Dartmouth in 1956, the first expert systems (DENDRAL, SAINT), and key milestones like Deep Blue (1997) and AlphaGo (2016). The modern era is defined by deep learning, GPUs, Large Language Models (LLMs like GPT-3/4), and generative AI, transforming it from a niche research field into ubiquitous technology impacting daily life through virtual assistants, search, and creative tools.

Join us  
during  
Epiphany as  
we gather to  
listen to  
speakers  
that  
represent  
other voices.



**GENEROUS. OPEN. CONNECTED.**

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



[hinsdale.church](http://hinsdale.church)



**SAVE THE DATE**

## **Trivia Mixer**

Union Church Membership



*A new tradition*

**Thursday, Feb 12**

Neat Kitchen | Westmont

*Cost is \$25 & includes food*

Do you see familiar faces in the church pews each week, catch a name on an email or new member bio and think to yourself, "Gee, I'd like to get to know them better..." Well, here's your chance!

Join us for a NEW Union Church tradition and have some fun this winter: a Trivia Mixer!

***Look for sign-ups in January, then be placed on a team.***

Remember its a mixer - so everyone will be mixed up and not necessarily with people you know well, but working with their teammates to answer trivia questions.

Get ready to share your trivia knowledge and have some fun, while getting to know your fellow (new and old) Union Church members.

*Everyone welcome!*



**GENEROUS. OPEN. CONNECTED.**

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

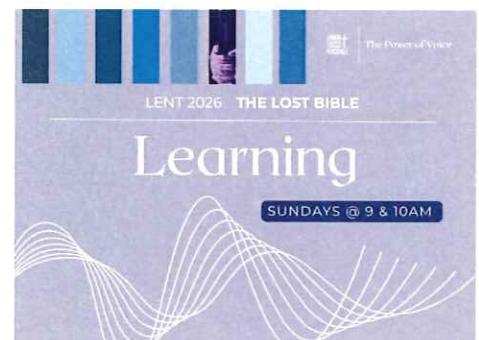
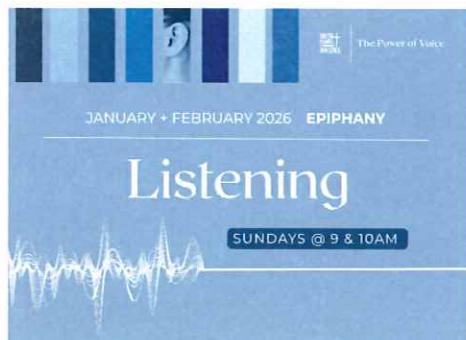
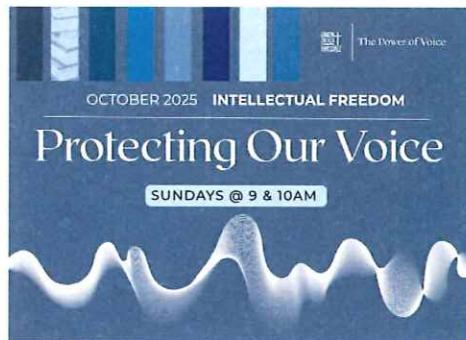
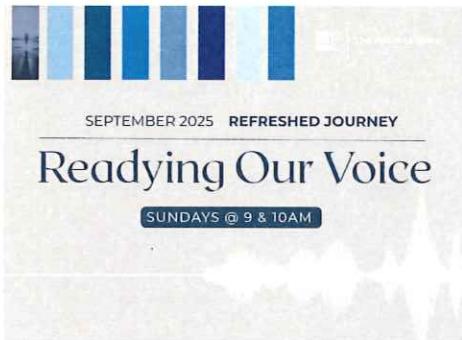


[hinsdale.church](http://hinsdale.church)



# The Power of Voice

Elevating thoughts, strengthening connections.



**GENEROUS. OPEN. CONNECTED.**

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



## THE LONGEST NIGHT

*Tonight! at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel*

Recently, I was sitting with someone whose emotions were unexpectedly filling her heart and eyes. She was experiencing this heightened emotional state primarily due to the persistent presence of the holidays. I often feel the same.

Throughout the year we lose jobs, friends, homes, health, loved ones and pieces of our lives. During the holidays, these losses can feel overwhelming. Acknowledging and addressing these raised sensitivities can help us through the season. Perhaps you do not feel joy or are uncomfortable with the mandatory good cheer that seems to be required by all the twinkling lights and merry songs. Please know that you are not alone.

Many people feel overwhelmed during this season and I invite you to embrace an opportunity to acknowledge and address your feelings. The Longest Night of the year is December 21 and at 7:30 p.m. Union Church is hosting a *Longest Night Service* where song, prayer, and scripture will help lighten the darkness you may be feeling. This time will offer comfort those who suffer, courage to those who feel afraid, patience to those who feel overwhelmed, and hope to those who are lost.

Please plan to join me in the Chapel for this special night of help and healing – *Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes*

Dear friend of Union Church,

Christmas is a season of joy; songs, bells, lights, smiles, renewing long connections and starting new ones. The joy of singing carols in church with friends. The joy of family gathered. The joy of being alive.

Joy is a feeling of immense pleasure and happiness, and Christmas is filled with the promise of joy and cheer. But when our joy comes from external things, it is fleeting. The true source of joy is knowing God is present in our lives. Joy is not a season, or a present, or a cookie. Joy for Christians is knowing God is with us, sharing and inspiring our life.

I see angels all around me; people helping, people sharing, people giving, people laughing, people dancing, people hugging, people sharing good news of great joy. These angels are not only in our community but are angels around the world bringing good news of great joy to one and all. I hope and pray that you are an angel of God's joy this Christmas.

Join the joy of Christmas with Union Church of Hinsdale. Enclosed you will find listings of Union's Christmas services and celebrations. You are welcome to join the joy and bring a friend.

Recently I read wonderful Christmas benediction from Ray Pritchard, "May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. God bless you now and forever.

*Tim*

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes | Bridge Minster

## The Longest Night

DECEMBER 21 @ 7:30 P.M.

in the Chapel

UNION  
CHURCH  
HINSDALE

The angel proclaimed, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the world!"  
Luke 2:10

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Carrie* *Elizabeth* *Tim*  
*grant* *Peney* *Robb*  
*Andy* *Franisco*  
*John* *Holly*  
*Anna*

...and all your friends at Union!

## OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

In observance of Christmas Day, the office will be closed on December 25 and 26. We will resume regular hours, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 29. The office will also be closed on New Year's Day and will resume regular hours on Friday, Jan. 2. Have a blessed & joyous Christmas and New Year!

DEC  
**24**  
2025

## Christmas Eve Services

4:00 P.M. | Worship for Families  
7:35 P.M. | Alumni Bells  
8:00 P.M. | Worship for All