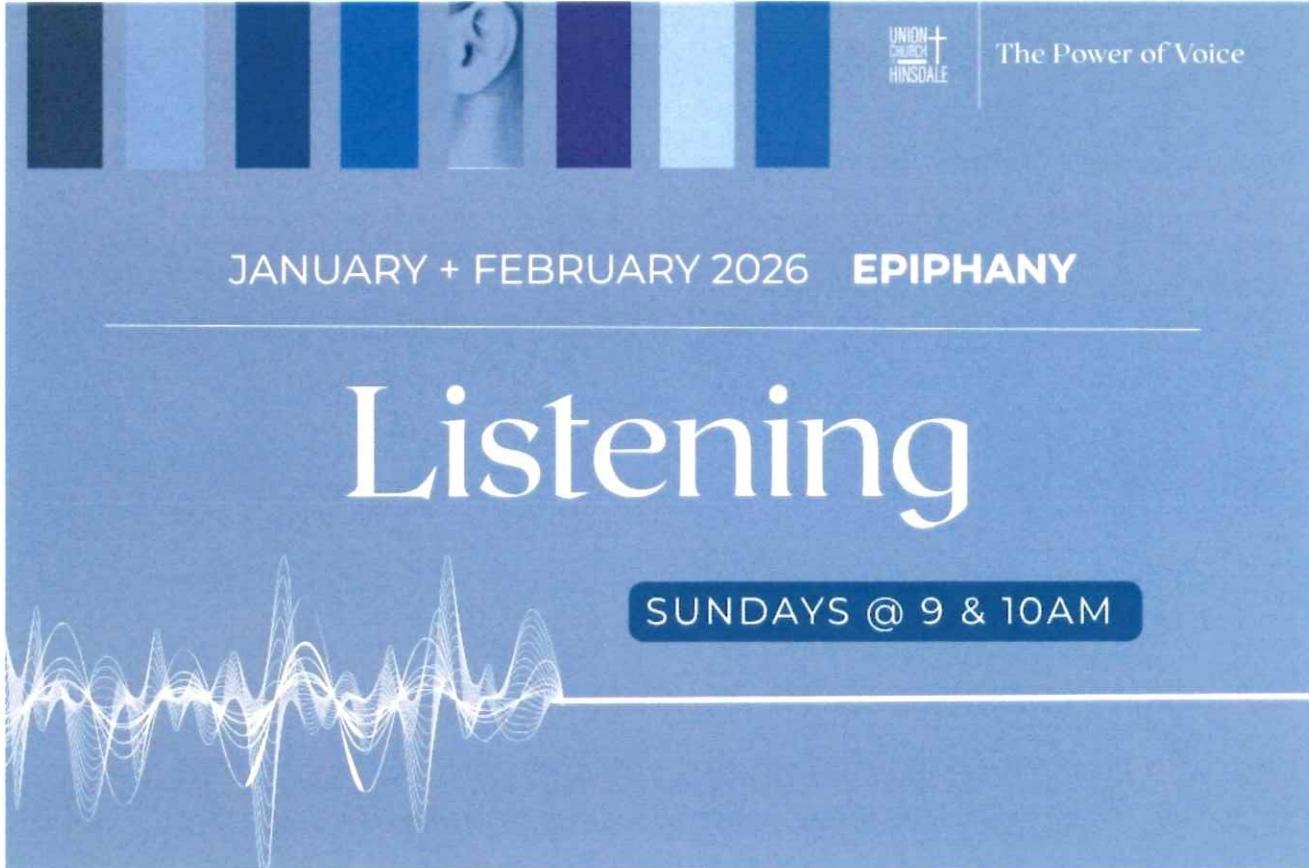


# UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



## It's Not About You

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
10:00 A.M. Worship Service  
January 18, 2026

*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

*My Tribute*

Crouch

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke Carmody and Gaylen Saviano

One: The God of our ancestors is the God of our dreams. We gather today to remember that God created us all in the divine image.

All: **and so, we still have the courage to dream boldly.**

One: We remember the ways God delivered our people through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time,

All: **and so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

One: God is the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love leading toward a beloved community where all are equally seen and radically embraced

All: **and so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

One: We gather today remembering God's presence amongst us and the call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God and neighbor

All: **and so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

#### \* HYMN #472

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

#### \* INVOCATION PRAYER

Charlie Parwani

God of our weary years and God of our silent tears, you who have brought us so far on the way, we invite your presence into our midst as we pay tribute to all who have labored for justice, equality, and love. We pray that in this moment you would strengthen us to continue to fight for the fulfillment of an ennobling dream. Help us to labor so that every valley is exalted, every hill and mountain made low, the rough places are plain, and the crooked places made straight so that the glory of the Lord is revealed, and all flesh see it together. Let your love guide us to see one another as fully human with diverse hues, colors, ethnicities, and cultures, and respect the content of their character. Let your spirit strengthen us so we may live your dream today and in every tomorrow. Amen

#### \* RESPONSE

*Sing Alleluia to the Lord*

Linda Stassen

***Sing alleluia to the Lord! Sing alleluia to the Lord!  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia to the Lord***

#### INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

#### PRAYER SONG

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*

Taizé

***Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia.***

#### PASTORAL PRAYER, ENDING WITH A 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.

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

**ROUND**

*Move Forward with Love*  
Congregation and Chancel Choir

Jane Rameseyer Miller

# Move Forward with Love

Remembering Renee Nicole Macklin Good

"Her voice is the one singing the song that is stuck in your head"

Music and lyrics by  
Jane Ramseyer Miller

**♩ = 106** Swing 8ths

①

Let us move for - ward with love, em - brace our world-wide neigh-bor - hood.

②

Move for - ward with love. (snap, snap) Move for - ward for Good.

**Zipper Verse**: let us **SING** forward with love  
let us **WALK** forward with love  
...breathe, heal, pray, shout, march, etc - create your own!

© 2026 Jane Ramseyer Miller  
JRMusic567@gmail.com

## CHILDREN DEPART FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

### 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!



**Zelle (preferred)**

Please memo designated fund/special offering

### MISSION MOMENT

\* HYMN #602

*Savior God Above*

?

### SCRIPTURE READING

*Exodus 3:1-14*

Grace Carmody and Emily Parwani

### INTRODUCTION OF DR. STEPHANIE BUCKHANON CROWDER

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

### SERMON

*It's Not About You*

Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder

### MOMENT OF REFLECTION

\* HYMN

*What a Friend*

\* BENEDICTION

### REPRISE

**FLOWERS** - Today's flowers are given by Richard and JoAnn Beck in loving memory of their parents.

### **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 – Barbara Herber, Graeme Carmody		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

### **FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTHS**

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. Don't hesitate to ask an usher for help!

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

### **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.

### **THE VOICE OF STEPHANIE BUCKHANON CROWDER**

Stephanie 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.



### **IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES**

#### **ANNUAL MEETING**

*Sunday, January 25, 2026, after 10:00 worship, in the Sanctuary*

Make note on your calendar for the Union Church Annual Meeting immediately following 10:00 worship on January 25. This yearly event is important as it is when we gather as a congregation to conduct the business of our church. New ministry members will be elected this year and there are proposed changes to the Constitution. Print copies of the proposed changes are available in the Gathering Place Proposed Constitutional changes include:

- Updated language for clarity, consistency, and to reflect current practice
- Replacement of ARTICLE VII to reflect the UCECP/UCH Task Force Recommendations

## LEADERSHIP RETREAT: "MEANINGFUL MEETINGS"

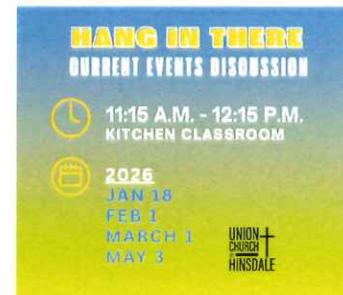
*Saturday, January 31, 8:30 a.m., in Rowell Hall*

Annually, current ministry members are joined by the newly elected members to come together for a Saturday morning retreat. All church members are welcome to come for this morning of leadership enrichment, enlightenment, and comradery. Rev. Tim Rhodes will be leading us in thoughtful exercises centered around Meaningful Meetings. Join us for coffee and bagels at 8:30 a.m. in Rowell Hall. The morning wraps up at 12:30 p.m. following a work session over lunch.

## THE "HANG IN THERE" CURRENT EVENTS GROUP

*Today, January 18, 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 2025 to do just that. We will meet monthly on the first Sunday of each month, except this month, January. Feel free to join us anytime!



## PACK SANDWICHES TO HELP THE NIGHT MINISTRY

*Today, January 18, 11:15 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 and families in need. This is where Union Church can help!

Join us in the Dining Room on today!

## NEED SOMETHING ANNOUNCED IN THE MIDWEEK EMAIL OR ONLINE?

Send any requests to disseminate information to the Union Church congregation to [communications@uchinsdale.org](mailto: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!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFICE HOURS

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the office will be closed on Monday, January 19. We will resume regular office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20.

*"The time is always right to do that right thing." - Martin Luther King Jr.*

### PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

There are several constitutional changes being proposed at the Annual Meeting scheduled on Sunday, January 25 immediately following the 10:00 service. Please find a summary of the changes and a rendition of the proposed Union Church Constitution with the additions in green and rewording or removals in red on the desk as you enter the Gathering Place. To be good stewards of the environment, a limited number of copies of the Constitution will be printed prior to the full printing of the Annual Report. If you do not find a copy available at the Gathering Place desk, please contact Adriana by phone or email.

## PET PICS WELCOME!

We'd love for you to contribute a picture of your pet to our wall of love! Please bring a hard copy to post on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space on *Sunday January 25* as we welcome Professor Ken Stone as he speaks on the sacred nature of Animals.

All submissions are welcome: fish and fowl, dogs and cats, lizards and hermit crabs! Bring your pic and share the fun!



### FLOWER DEDICATION OPPORTUNITY

Would you like to sponsor a floral arrangement for a Sunday service in the Sanctuary? The beautiful flowers could be to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, special event, in memory of a loved one – or just because! Please contact Gail Weber, the Altar Flower Coordinator, at [gailweb@att.net](mailto:gailweb@att.net) for additional information and to reserve a date for 2025.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Sunday services at Union Church are supported by and rely on volunteers for things to run smoothly. Two of the critical positions requiring volunteers are scripture reader and ushers.

Please consider volunteering by scanning the QR code.

Or you can sign up or get more information by reaching out to Randy Weimer at [randy.weimer@gmail.com](mailto:randy.weimer@gmail.com).

## 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

## NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 25: THE VOICE OF DR. KEN STONE



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."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CAMERATA CHICAGO ORCHESTRA PRESENTS: VALENTINE'S ROMANCE

Sunday, February 15, 3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Enjoy a romantic evening with the wonderful violinist Yi-Jia Susanne Hou on Valentines Day Weekend serenading you with the Carmen Fantasy by Sarasate, the romance for violin and orchestra by Beethoven and love inspired works by Kreisler. Conducted by Maestro Drostan Hall, Camerata Chicago will also delight you with the celebrated Hungarian Dances by Brahms and the famous Intermezzo from the opera Cavalleria Rusticana by Mascagni.

Yi-Jia Susanne Hou and the Camerata Chamber Orchestra will perform:

- Beethoven Romance for Violin and Orchestra
- Fritz Kreisler's Liebesleid and Liebesfreud
- Carmen Fantasy by Sarasate
- Tchaikovsky Serenade Melancolique
- Elgar Salut d'Amore
- Mascagni Intermezzo from the Opera Cavalleria Rusticana
- Brahms Hungarian Dances

After Discount: Adult \$42.50; Senior \$34; Students \$8.50; Children 14 & under \$1.70. Discount coupon available online only and not at the door.





*A new tradition*



## Trivia Mixer

Union Church Membership

**Thursday, Feb 12  
6-8 p.m.**

*(We'll start **AT 6 p.m.** so please be on time!)*

**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!**



**Registration is required and space is limited to 50 people.**

Scan the QR code or call the office to register and you'll be placed on a team!

Remember it's 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!*

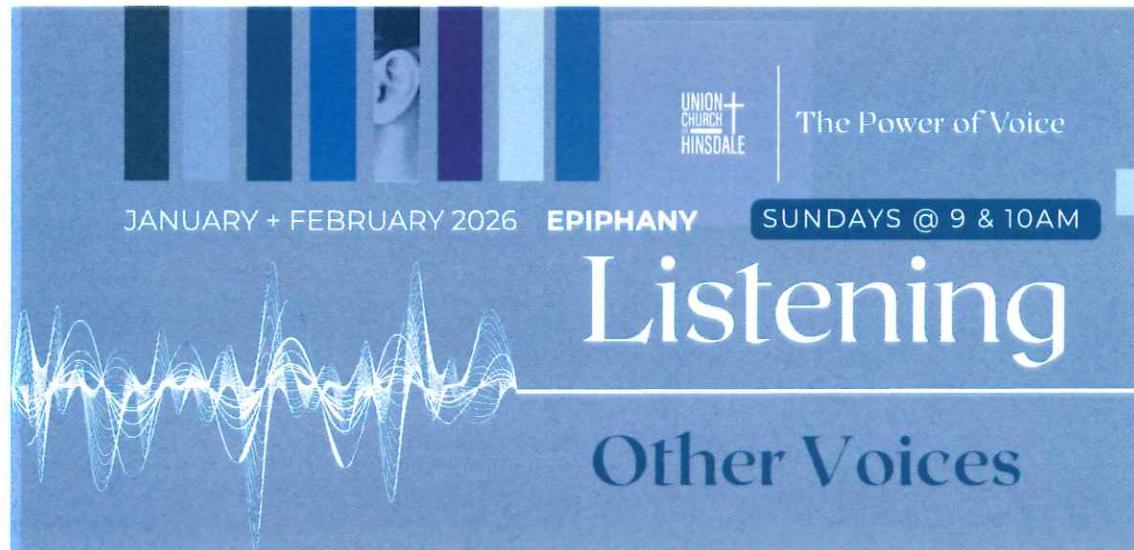


**GENEROUS. OPEN. CONNECTED.**

*We are an open and affirming Congregation.*



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



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

#### 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.

FEB  
15

**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.



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