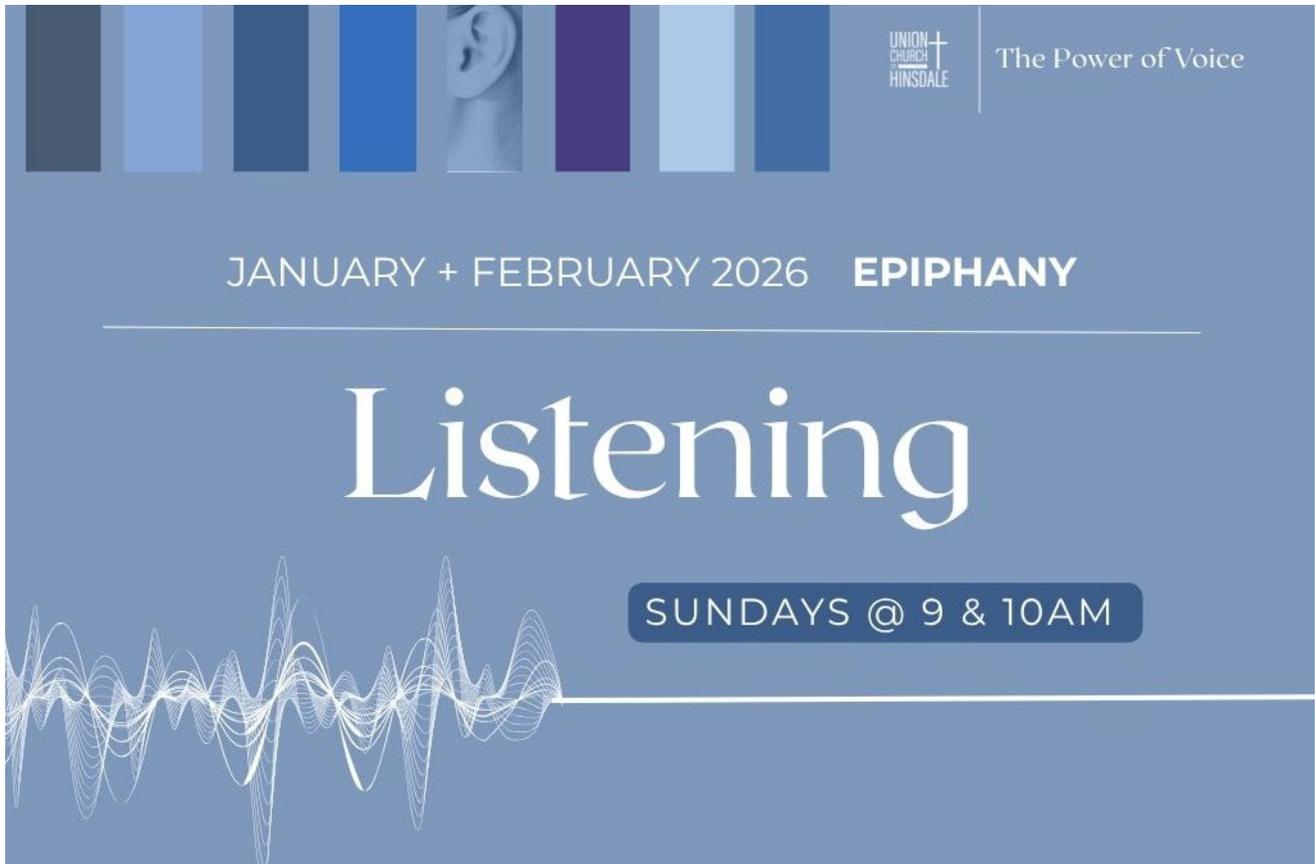


# UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



UNION CHURCH HINSDALE

The Power of Voice

JANUARY + FEBRUARY 2026 EPIPHANY

# Listening

SUNDAYS @ 9 & 10AM

## ***Ask the Animals, and They Will Teach You***

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
10:00 A.M. Worship Service  
January 25, 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 strive to live lives of love for God and all people.***

*You are welcome here!*



**PRESERVICE MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY**

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

**PRELUDE**

*Variations on "St. Peter"*

Reinagle

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: With the whole of creation, we join to worship.

**All: We are all our kin living on this planet, from the busiest bee to the tallest giraffe.**

One: We remember our animal relatives who have become extinct:

Dodo birds, Stellar's sea cows, Labrador ducks and Rocky Mountain Locusts.

**All: We join our brothers and sisters in praising God,**

One: Gliding eagles and watchful cougars, gorillas in the mist and polar bears in the snow.

**All: We raise the kin we have come to love,**

One: The stray cat and the backyard dog, the goat, the pony, and the little lamb.

**All: With all our animal family in all the world we raise our voices to the skies in a family festival of praise.**

One: Sing, family, sing!

**All: A song of praise for all creatures!**

**\* HYMN # 32**

*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

**\* INVOCATION PRAYER**

**O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands, fish and fowl, beast and lizard, all a blessing. Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you give us food from animals to replenish our energies. Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; for the sake of our comfort, you give us domestic animals as companions. Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you care for us even as you care for the birds of the air. Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe, and we are privileged to be among all your creation. We join with the whole of creation in praise for the abundance of life. 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.**

**ANTHEM**

*Bless the Beasts and Children*  
Chancel Choir

**CHILDREN DEPART FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

## OFFERING



**Zelle (preferred)**

Please memo designated fund/special 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

*The Earth is Yours*

### SCRIPTURE READING

*Job 12:7-12*

Julie Moser

### INTRODUCTION OF DR. KEN STONE

Rev. Grant Glowiak

### SERMON

*Ask the Animals, and They Will Teach You*

Dr. Ken Stone

## MOMENT OF REFLECTION

### \* HYMN

*Let Everything That Has Breath*

### \* BENEDICTION

## REPRISE

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## 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)

Adam Fane (h)

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

Organist – Oliver Townsend (h)

Jess Koehn (h)

Ushers –Virgil Oostendorp, Sharon Bodziak, Christy and Randy Weimer

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)

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## 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.

## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**ANNUAL MEETING** - Today, January 25, 2026, after 10:00 worship, in the Sanctuary

**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**

Sunday, February 1, 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 last February (happy 1-year anniversary!) to do just that. We will meet monthly on the first Sunday of each month. Feel free to join us anytime!

**TRIVIA MIXER: A NEW TRADITION FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Thursday, Feb 12, 6 to 8 p.m., Neat Kitchen in Westmont

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. Call the church office to register and you'll be placed on a team! We'll start AT 6 p.m. so please be on time! Cost is \$25 and includes food. Thank you to the Membership Ministry for putting this together!

**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.

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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HCS FAMILY SERVICES DIAPER DRIVE**

With your donations, we can keep little ones dry, clean, and happy. We need sizes 2 to 6. Diaper donations can be dropped off in a bin inside the Union Church Gathering Place or can be made to HCS online.

**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, etc. 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 2026.



**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).

**THE VOICE OF ANDREW JOHNSON**

Sunday, February 1

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.