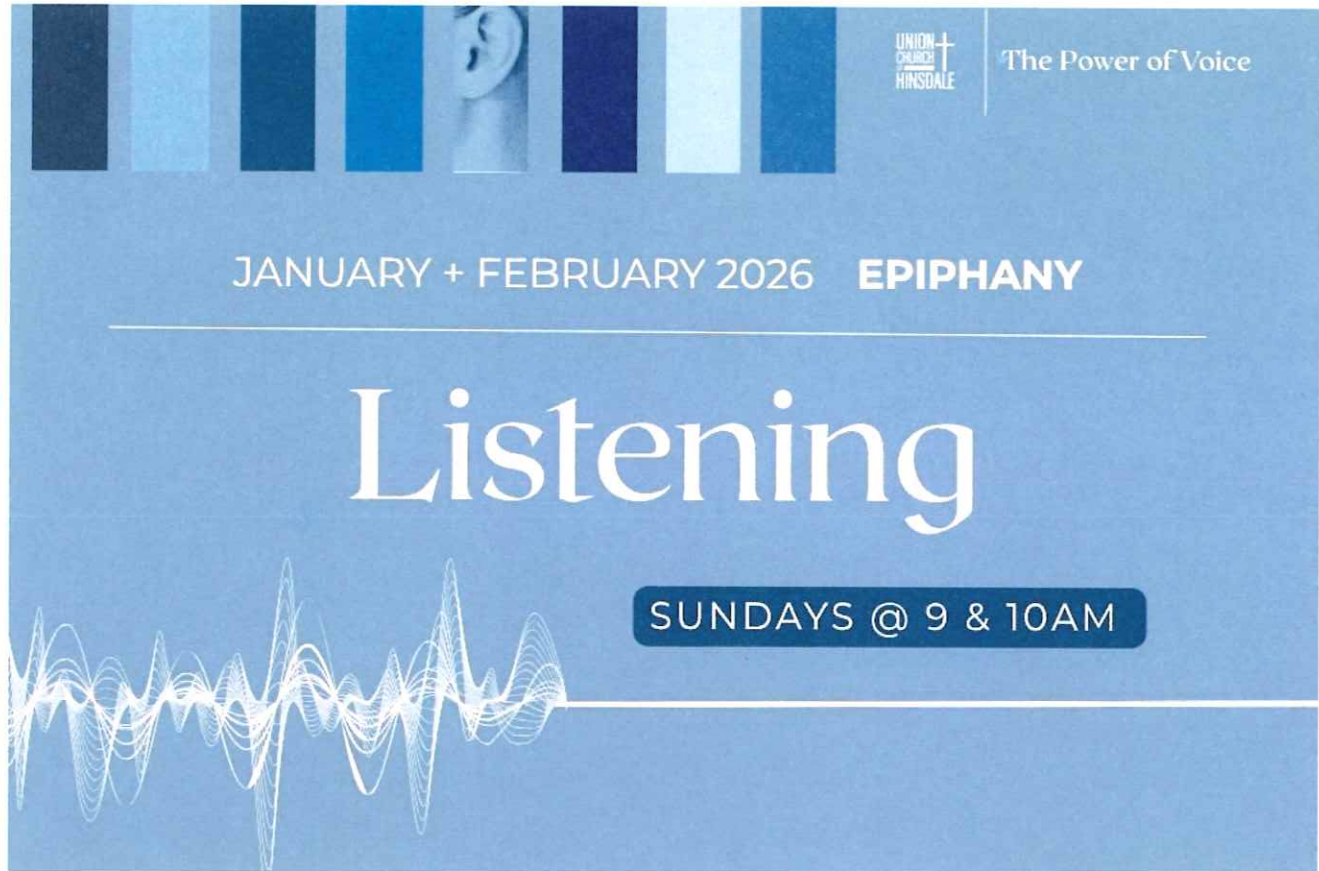


# UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



## Joy in Our Pockets: Confetti for a Broken World

Epiphany  
10:00 A.M. Worship Service  
January 4, 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 aim to grow in kindness and generosity with all people.***

*You are welcome here!*



## WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

## SONG OF GATHERING

*Be Holy, Hear the Whisper*

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP - A Jewish New Year Call to Worship

One: People of Israel, hear the ancient call! The time of judgment is upon us; the King is coming!

**All: We hear the voice of the Shofar!**

One: Awaken, O sleepers! Return to the Source of Life!

**All: We rise to meet You, O God!**

One: Let the piercing cries of the Shofar usher in a year of blessing, mercy, and peace!

**All: Amen! May the New Year be blessed.**

## \* HYMN

*Asher Yatzar*

## \* INVOCATION PRAYER - By Rev. Penny L. Lowes

Holy God, the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful. We need you as much today as in times of old. Many sow in tears, and go out weeping. Replenish our lands, fill our hearts with gladness, restore our faith in you and each other, wipe away the tears of despair. As we worship today, we tilt an ear to listen close. Let the voice of your angel fill our minds with new understandings. We are waiting for you. Speak to us today. Amen.

## \* RESPONSE

*Sing Alleluia to the Lord*

Linda Stassen

(Soloist sings, congregation joins second time)

***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

(Soloist sings, congregation joins second time)

***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

*Elohai N'tzor*

Danny Maseng

WE

## CHILDREN DEPART FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

**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!





**SCRIPTURE READING***Psalms 126*

Virgil Oostendorp

**INTRODUCTION OF RABBI JESSICA WAINER**

Rev. Robert Knuepfer

**SERMON***Joy in Our Pockets: Confetti for a Broken World*

Rabbi Jessica Wainer

**MOMENT OF REFLECTION****\* COMMUNION HYMN***Sow in Tears***CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, OFFERING, AND A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE**

*All are welcome at the Communion table. All means all. Please take a piece of bread and a cup. You may partake of the elements either before or after returning to the pew. Those not coming forward will be served in the pews.*

*At this time, also please sign & pass the Attendance Sheets – they help us care for members & welcome visitors.*

*Thanks for giving to the life of UCH!*

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Leader:** It is right and our greatest joy.....

**COMMUNION SONG***Olam Chesed***\* PRAYER OF GRATITUDE (in unison)**

**We thank you, O God, for giving us your grace through the visible signs of this bread and vine, uniting us with Christ, and helping us become the body of Christ for the world. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall join with all nations and peoples in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\* HYMN***Little Bit of Love***BENEDICTION****REPRISE**


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**FLOWERS** - Today's flowers are given by Vivi-Anne Erikson in loving memory of her husband, Bill Erikson.

**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 – Randy Weimer, Christy Weimer, 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)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOMING RABBI JESSICA WAINER

Union Church is privileged to hear the voice of Rabbi Wainer, Associate Rabbi at Congregation Etz Chaim in Lombard, Illinois. Her message is titled, *Joy in Our Pockets: Confetti for a Broken World*.

A native of Oak Park, Illinois, Rabbi Wainer graduated from and was ordained by Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio. She is also a graduate of Xavier University and Indiana University and serves as head of faculty for the Union of Reform Judaism's Six-Points Creative Arts Academy.

### WELCOME RECEPTION FOR DIRECTOR, KIMBERLY CHOATE

Sunday, January 11, 9:15 to 10:00 a.m.

We are excited to welcome Kimberly Choate as UCECP Director! She brings a wealth of experience to the role with 28 years in early childhood education, serving 10 as a director. Please join in a Celebration Reception, Sunday, January 11 to greet Kimberly. Stay a little after the 9:00 service or come early for the 10:00 worship for the reception in the Gathering Place and to tour our beautiful preschool facilities.



### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, AN ADULT ED OFFERING

Understanding (and maybe even embracing) AI

Sunday, January 11, 11:15 to 12:30 p.m., Rowell Hall

Come learn more about AI from Alice Locatell, local technology specialist. This presentation will prepare us for a sermon on AI at the end of February and our Epiphany Listening/Other Voices sermon series.

### THE "HANG IN THERE" CURRENT EVENTS GROUP – DATE CHANGE!

Sunday, 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!

### 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 11: THE VOICE OF IMAM TARIQ EL-AMIN

Imam 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.