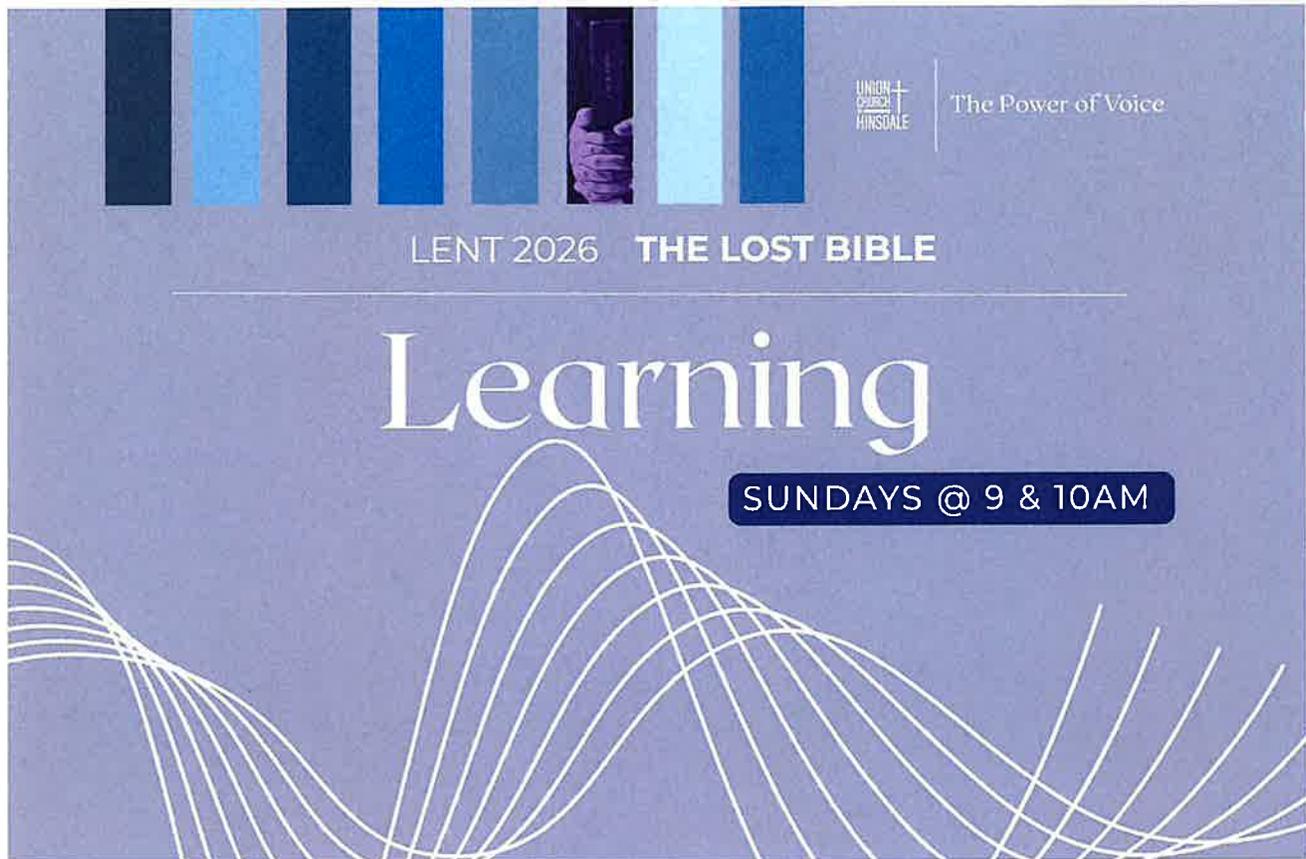


UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



Fire, Storms, & Beasts: Thecla, a Female Disciple

Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
March 15, 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!

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Rev. Grant Glowiak

PRELUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Lopez

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, all who are called by a love that liberates and a faith that gives courage to speak and act.

All: We come, trusting that God calls all people—without exception—to lives of purpose and freedom.

One: Call us to follow Christ so we may live beyond fear, beyond restriction, beyond silence.

All: We gather to listen for God's empowering call.

One: Let us worship the God who sends companions into the world to proclaim good news with their whole lives.

All: We worship with courage, equality, and hope, ready to live the gospel in word and deed.

*** HYMN #473**

Blessed Assurance

*** INVOCATION PRAYER**

Holy and Life-Giving God, you call us into a courage that defies fear and faithfulness that breaks every chain. Stir our spirits so we may rise to live freely in the way of Christ. Stir us now with bold and liberating love that inspires us to resist injustice, honor the body, and proclaim Good News without hesitation. Where power seeks to silence, give us voice; where tradition confines, open new paths of freedom and trust. Gather us as companions on your journey, equal in calling, diverse in gifts, and united in love. Amen.

*** RESPONSE #756**

Glory to God

Jacques Berthier

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, Let all sing praise, let all sing praise!***

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

PRAYER SONG

Hear Our Prayer O Lord

Whelpton

***Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us your peace.***

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

Deep Waters

Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir • Lucy Tarabour – solo

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!*



* = Those who are able and willing, please stand

MISSION MOMENT

* HYMN #32

God of the Sparrow

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts of Paul and Thecla: Chapter 9

SERMON

Fire, Storms, & Beasts: Thecla, a Female Disciple

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

* HYMN

Build Your Kingdom Here

* BENEDICTION

REPRISE

FLOWERS - Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Carol Jordan Altenbern, mom of Claudine Altenbern and grandma to Jackie Roberts, Julianne Altenbern and Jake Roberts.

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)

Jess Koehn (h)

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

Organist – Oliver Townsend (h)

Ushers – Michael Kucera, Penny Davey, Gail Weber

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)

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.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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, and click on the 'Connect' button for more info!



**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.**

HAPPENING TODAY

SANDWICH MAKING FOR THE NIGHT MINISTRY

Today, and every 3rd Sunday, 11:15 a.m., in the Kitchen Classroom

YOUTH BELL CHOIR

Today, March 15, 10:45 to 11:30, in the Bell Room

Ready to make some noise?

Students in 6th to 12th grade are invited to join our bell ringing group! Whether you've never touched a bell before or you already love music, you are welcome - no experience required.

Interested? Contact Elizabeth Jung, UCH Bell Director, at 630-688-1706 or ejugster88@gmail.com for more information. Don't miss your chance to jump in and ring with us!



COOKING UP A CAREER WITH JULIANNA ALTENBERN

Today, March 15, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., in the Youth Room

How Julianne started a business at 22...

After graduating college and working in the restaurant industry, Julianne took a leap and started her own personal chef business at 22. In this talk, she opens up about taking risks, trusting her instincts, and how food became the foundation of her career.

Be sure to stop by the treat table at Parish Life's Coffee Hour before the presentation for a taste of one of Juju's delicious cakes!

UPCOMING EVENTS

VBS: ALL ABOARD! COME RIDE THE PEACE TRAIN

June 22 to 26, 12:45 to 3:00 p.m., at Union Church of Hinsdale

Registration is open!

Get ready for a week of fun, friendship, and faith at Union Church of Hinsdale's VBS! This year, we're hopping on the Peace Train to explore what it means to live as peacemakers. Each day, kids will:



- Discover inspiring Bible stories
- Learn how God's peace includes everyone
- Practice kindness, courage, and compassion
- Play games, enjoy snacks, and create arts and crafts

From God's promise of peace to sharing it in the world, your child will learn that peace isn't just something we talk about — it's something we live!



MIDNIGHT AT THE MASQUERADE: A MURDER MYSTERY COCKTAIL PARTY

Saturday, April 18, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Union Church

Tickets starting at \$45

Join us for an immersive, interactive evening of intrigue where guests become part of the story. Question suspects, gather clues, and work together to solve the crime—before one unsuspecting partygoer is revealed as the killer. Enjoy an elegant cocktail-style dinner reception with curated small plates and themed cocktails. Masquerade attire encouraged — and don't forget your alibi. For more details and registration, please scan the QR code.



EASTER FLOWERS

With Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Each year, to add visual joy and beauty to our Easter service, we adorn the sanctuary with Easter flowers. If you would like to purchase an Easter flower to adorn our sanctuary and/or donate a plant in the name of a loved one.

There will be members of the Worship Ministry in the Gathering Place **this Sunday** to take your order. If you are unable to make it in person, you have the option to complete your order online! Please follow the QR code and select 'flowers' from the dropdown menu. In the memo line, please indicate whether the plant is in memory or in honor of, the names (one dedication per plant please), who the plant is given by, and whether you will be donating your flower(s) to homebound members or taking them home after the April 5 Easter service. Please use the QR code to **order your flowers by March 20**.



Volunteers are needed to help deliver flowers to our homebound friends. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

MINISTRY FOR CHANGE

GREEN HALO SCHOLARS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Ministry for Change's agency, Green Halo Scholars, is looking for mentors for its incoming scholars. More information can be found at <https://greenhaloscholars.org/mentors/> or contact Executive Director, Sara Miller, at sara@greenhaloscholars.org.

Green Halo Scholars' mission is to support, mentor, and expand opportunities for motivated and committed first-generation and low-income students in the Western Suburbs of Chicago. Through college counseling, financial guidance, and career resources, they support scholars as they apply to college, navigate campus, and pursue their postgraduate dreams.



SPIRITUAL LIGHT: REFLECTIONS ON THE WINDOWS AT UNION CHURCH

Wednesdays during Lent

As you prepare for this time of devotion, you may wish to light a candle and pause for a moment of quiet, allowing yourself to enter a spirit of peace and reflection and welcome God's spiritual light into your life during this sacred season.

Each Wednesday during Lent, we invite you to explore the beauty and meaning of the stained-glass windows at Union Church through a brief YouTube devotion found by using the QR code in each Sunday's bulletin or through the link sent to your email each Wednesday during Lent at noon.



UCECP

PRESCHOOL PROM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The UCECP is looking for church members to volunteer at the Preschool Prom at the Community House on April 30. This is one of the sweetest nights of the year for the UCECP community and a great way for the church to show our support of the school families by giving them some time to enjoy the event with their children. It is a fun night full of joy. It is wonderful to see the excitement of the children. Teenage helpers are welcome and this can count towards your service hours needed for school activities. If you are available, please consider signing up with the QR code on the left.



Carpool Coffee is Back!

Wednesdays after spring break: April 8, 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13

UCECP and Cafe La Fortuna team up again for Happy Hump Day Coffee! This is our small way to make life just a little easier for our UCECP families, while supporting a wonderful local business. What's more? Cafe La Fortuna gives 20% back to the UCECP parent fund.

Please note, your order is the same each week. You are billed once through your tuition for all six weeks. Your coffee will be waiting for you at the end of the carpool line (look for Angela from La Fortuna near the accessibility spaces in the 3rd St. lot).

Scan the QR code to place your **order by March 27**.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

UCH March Madness Bracket Pool: Gambling for Jesus!

Do you have what it takes to be the UCH March Madness Champion?

Here's how it works:

1. If you don't have an ESPN profile, then make one first. It's free.
2. Then go to espn.com, click on the 'Fantasy' tab, and click 'Men's Tournament Challenge' and/or 'Women's Tournament Challenge.'
3. Click on the 'Groups' tab – our group name is 'Union Church 2026' and our password is 'UCH137'
4. Fill out your bracket after *Selection Sunday*, March 15th, but before the first game on Thursday, March 19th.
5. Give me, Grant, \$20 per bracket, in cash or Venmo me - @Grant-Glowiak

If you don't want to do it electronically, get me a paper bracket filled out by Wednesday March 18th so I can enter it digitally and I'll track it for you.

You can enter up to 10 total brackets, 5 for the men's and 5 for the women's.

The winner gets to direct all the money in the pot to any outreach activity related to Union Church. This can be a mission partner such as The Night Ministry or The Boulevard, it can provide scholarship money for UCECP or go to the UCECI project, or it can go to a one-off mission project like Eleanor's Stockings.

And just as a heads up, definitely do not try to write this off on your taxes.

Matthew 3:12 (with Grant's edits):

His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his [winning picks] into the barn and burning up the [busted brackets] with unquenchable fire."

Questions? Email me at gglowiak@uchinsdale.org or text me at 708-606-4723.

THE OSTREGA UHL PROJECT: IMPASSIONED TRIOS FT. TIMOTHY ARCHBOLD, CELLIST

Friday, March 20, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Join us in our next installment of our Classical Masterworks concert series for an evening of Impassioned Trios. We will perform Bach's A Major Violin Sonata (in a rare trio format), Brahms' Sonata for Piano & Cella, and Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1. This program epitomizes the robust exuberance & melodic yearning of all 3 composers' most popular chamber works.

This performance is free, and all are welcome to attend! A \$20 suggested donation per household, free-will offering.

Community Connections Tip to Guatemala: In Partnership with Suenos y Esperanzas

Our mission is reducing poverty in Guatemala's Mayan communities through education. Sueños y Esperanzas educates, equips, and empowers Mayan children and youth to build a hopeful future. We help students gain the skills to succeed in school and pursue meaningful careers.

Our Programs:

- Abejitas (Little Bees): Preparing students for middle & high school
- Parenting Program: Supporting families as children stay in school
- We-Connect Computer Program: Weekly tech classes & computer access

Trip Details:

- Trip Dates: Oct 31 – Nov 8
- Optional side trip: Oct 28 – Nov 1
- Cost: \$1,850 (includes food, lodging, in country transportation) plus airfare
- Open to ages 13+
- Activities include Home construction, smokeless stove building, various cultural experiences

Watch the weekly email for details about an informational meeting in May! Questions? Contact Trayce Biancalana —

Traycebiancs@yahoo.com.



SPOTLIGHT: IRAN

SUNDAY | MARCH 22

IN ROWELL HALL

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

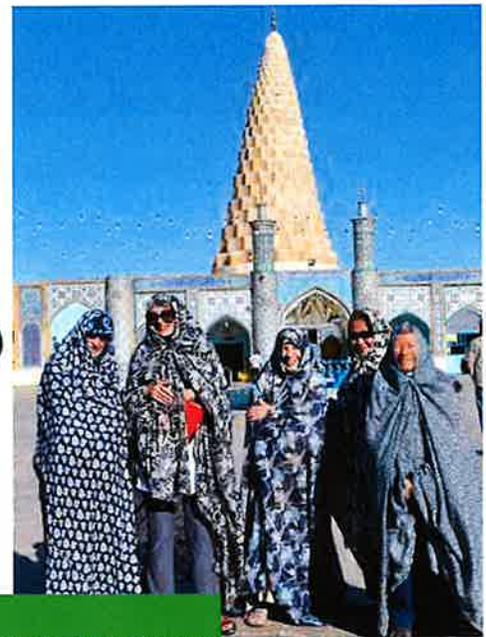
EVERYONE WELCOME!

During a trip to Iran 13 years ago, June Scott hiked with a group to a remote village that was so off the beaten path, supplies were brought in by burro.

June approached an elderly woman sitting on a doorstep wearing a customary head covering. "She asked if we were Americans, and we said, 'Yes,' "She said, 'You know what? We like Americans. We do not like governments.'"

June is considered a Super-Ager, part of The Healthy Aging Care Center at the University of Chicago. She has visited more than 100 different countries in pursuit of her globetrotting passion for experiencing other cultures. She credits her late husband with instilling in her a sense of adventure before he passed away 25 years ago.

Learn more about the beautiful country, culture and people of Iran from travel enthusiast and beloved member of Union Church, June Scott who traveled there in 2013.



UNION
CHURCH
OF
HINSDALE

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.



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

LENT 2026 THE LOST BIBLE

Learning

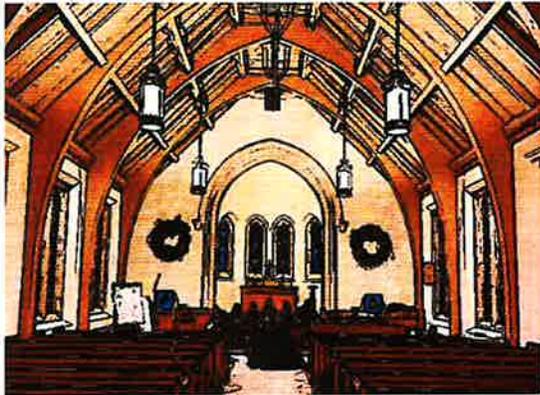
UNION
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The Power of Voice

SUNDAYS

9:00 a.m. | Chapel
Kid-Approved Service

10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary + Online
*Worship-for-All (optional Sunday School
+ nursery care available)*



Worship for the whole family

ABOUT THE 9:00 a.m. SERVICE

This kid-approved service is held at **9:00 a.m. in the Chapel**. It's a brief, casual service intended as a first step towards worship for children. We embrace movement, curious little minds, and music at this service.

Wednesdays during Lent
Feb 25 - March 25

"Spiritual Light - The Windows of Union Church"
Online reflections on our stained glass windows will be posted on our YouTube by noon on Wednesdays!

HOLY WEEK

MAR
29

Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. | Chapel
10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary + Online

APR
3

Good Friday

Online Reflections (YouTube)

APR
2

Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

APR
4

Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 a.m. | Gathering Place

EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 5, 2026

9:00 a.m.
Kid-Approved Service
In the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m.
Worship-for-All
Sanctuary + Online

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

