

# UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



## ***Rustling Donkeys***

Palm Sunday

10:00 A.M. Worship Service

March 29, 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 believe all people are created in the image of God, worthy of love and belonging.***

*You are welcome here!*



## Worship Will Begin in the Gathering Space

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Rev. Dr. Robert C. Knuepfer

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today we gather to follow the one who shows us the way to glory.

**All: We come with palms in our hands and hope in our hearts, seeking the courage to follow.**

One: We remember the one who rode a donkey instead of a warhorse, choosing vulnerability over violence.

**All: With joyful hearts we join the parade of hope.**

One: The road ahead leads to a cross, yet we march on, trusting that love has the final word.

**All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Our God! Let us join the procession of courage and joy.**

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #216

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.

O promised one of Israel, of David's royal line,  
The one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine.  
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,  
Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.  
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ we sing,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

### \* INVOCATION PRAYER

**Guiding God, we gather today in the bright light of this parade, caught up in the infectious joy of a crowd that believes a better world is possible. We breathe in the scent of cedar and palm, letting the rhythm of "Hosanna" stir our spirits and wake our weary hearts.**

**We thank you for the gift of discipleship that calls us to walk alongside Jesus. Grant us the grace to find delight in the work of justice and holy mischief in the face of empire.**

**As we join in the march of Jesus, may our laughter be our resistance and our joy be our strength. Remind us that even though the road ahead is long, we do not walk it alone, and we do not walk it without a song. Be in our singing, our silence, and our solidarity this day. 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.***

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## **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!

**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**

*O Love!*

arr. Eline Hagenberg

**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**

*UCECP Scholarship Fund*

**\* HYMN**

*Hosanna*

Brooke Ligertwood

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Mark 11:1-11*

Diane Oostendorp

**SERMON**

*Donkey Rustling*

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

**MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

**\* HYMN**

*Hosanna (Praise is Rising)*

Baloche and Brown

**\* BENEDICTION**

**REPRISE**

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

Today's flowers are given in remembrance of parents, Dr. Walter and Mary Wood, by their family.

**HOLY WEEK**



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



**Good Friday**  
Online Reflections (YouTube)



**Maundy Thursday**  
7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary



**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



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



## 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 – Virgil Oostendorp, Vicky Hurst, Kirk and Jane Grimm

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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## 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!

There is no Sunday school for children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade 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.

## SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING

### UCECP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To help provide children in need with a boost on their educational journey, Union Church of Hinsdale has designated the Easter Special Offering to benefit the UCECP Scholarship Fund.

UCECP has educated preschool children since 1955. Helping parents with the financial demands of a quality early childhood education has always been central to the school's mission. Today, you can help support young learners and relieve the financial burden for their families by contributing to the scholarship fund.

All proceeds will directly benefit the UCECP Scholarship Fund. You may contribute online by using the QR code on the right, use a yellow envelope during worship or send a check designated for the "UCECP Scholarship Fund" to the church office.

Thank you for your generous support of our community's children.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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.



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### 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!



## 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](mailto:sara@greenhaloscholars.org).



### Community Connections Tip to Guatemala: In Partnership with Sueños 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



**DREAMS & HOPES**  
To educate. To equip. To empower.

Watch the weekly email for details about an informational meeting in May! Questions? Contact Trayce Biancalana — [Traycebiancs@yahoo.com](mailto:Traycebiancs@yahoo.com).

## ONGOING MONTHLY EVENTS

### Current Events Group and Sandwich Making

Sunday, April 19, at 11:15 (both groups)



## UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS



### EASTER EGG HUNT

*Saturday April 4, 10:00 a.m., meet in the Gathering Place*

There will be eggs! Oh, and donuts, and the Easter Bunny! Open to preschool ages through age 10. The egg hunt for preschool age children will be in the playground area, and the older kids will hunt for eggs on the lawn. No registration required. Simply come and join us...and bring a friend.

### ADULT ED: SOUND BATH

Sunday, April 12, 11:15 to 12:30 p.m., in the Youth Room

A sound bath is an immersive experience where you are "bathed" in sound waves that are produced by various instruments. In a guided meditation, you will have the chance to relax and reset during the spring season of new growth and our April focus on honoring the planet and natural world.

You are welcome to use the youth room sofas, sit in a chair or bring a yoga mat and pillow and spread out on the floor. Please dress comfortably. This unique experience can be enjoyed by adults of all ages.



### WORSHIP IN THE WOODS

*Sundays, April 12 and 19, 9:00 a.m., at Fullersburg Woods*

Fresh air and movement are good for us all. Celebrate the changing colors and seasons as we "Worship in the Woods" and take our church service in the form of a 30-minute hike at Fullersburg Woods (flat terrain, roughly 1/2 mile). Meet near the Nature Center off the main parking lot or at any of the four stops along the way for prayer, reflection, gratitude, wonder and a celebration of the beauty all around us. We step off right at 9:00. All are welcome!



### A MURDER MYSTERY COCKTAIL PARTY

**April 18, 2026 | 6:30-9:30 p.m. | Rowell Hall**

Join us for an immersive, interactive evening of intrigue where guests become part of the story. Enjoy an elegant cocktail-style dinner reception with curated small plates and themed cocktails.

**Masquerade attire encouraged – and don't forget your alibi.**

**RSVP by April 10**

