

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



Courage is a Shapeshifter, Vanessa Lemen

Courage is a Shapeshifter

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 A.M. Worship Service

August 16, 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.

You are welcome here!



GATHERING MUSIC

Move on In Majesty

Mansfield

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

PRELUDE

There Is A Redeemer

Green

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Life does not always unfold as we hope.

All: Yet God meets us in every challenge and calls us forward in faith.

One: When the way ahead is uncertain and our hearts rise in fear,

All: We will not surrender to fear; we will trust God to meet us at life's challenges.

One: Let us worship the One who gives us courage for today and hope for tomorrow.

All: With God beside us, we will face the whole of life and live with courageous faith.

***HYMN #22**

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

LOBE DEN HERREN

***INVOCATION PRAYER**

Gracious God, you are the One who has shaped us, formed us from the dust of the earth, and breathed into us the gift of life. You have called us to praise you not only with our voices, but with the lives we lead, the choices we make, and the love we offer to one another. When the way before us is uncertain, give us courage. When the world feels troubled, give us peace. When our strength is failing, remind us that we do not walk alone.

Shape us again this day, O God. Mold our hearts toward compassion, our minds toward wisdom, our hands toward service, and our lives toward justice and joy.

May our worship rise as praise, and may our praise become a way of living. Through all that lies ahead, help us trust your presence and follow where your Spirit leads.

We come before you now with grateful hearts and open lives. Receive our worship, renew our courage, and make us faithful instruments of your love. Amen

***RESPONSE**

Holy, Holy

Argentine

***Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words, you are holy, God.***

BACKPACK BLESSING Insert

Penny Johnson

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

PRAYER SONG #769

Hear Our Prayer

***Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
incline your ear to us, 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

Fight Song/Amazing Grace
Anne Langguth, Violin

Platten and Bassett

* Please rise in body and spirit

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

Chikore Mission School, Zimbabwe

*HYMN #59

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

NETTLETON

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 15.21-28

Vicky Hurst

SERMON

Courage is a Shapeshifter

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

*HYMN Insert

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
(Here I Am Lord)*

HERE I AM

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Glorious Majesty

Smith

Today's flowers are given by Ann Reiland in loving memory of her husband, Bob.

STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

Bridge Pastor – Timothy C. Rhodes (h)
Associate Pastor – Grant Glowiak (h/t)
Associate Pastor – Robb Knuepfer (h)

Dir. of Christian Education – Penny Johnson (s)
Dir. of Audio & Visual Media – Adam Nakutis (h)
Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung (s)
Organist/Interim Director of Music– Oliver Townsend (h)

h = he/him/his, s = she/her/hers, t = they/them/theirs

Ushers – Anne Glaser, Scott Glaser, Vicky Hurst, Penny Davey

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.

ONGOING MONTHLY EVENTS

SANDWICH MAKING AND PACKING FOR THE NIGHT MINISTRY

Today, after 10:00 a.m. worship, in the Kitchen Classroom

BEGINNER'S MAHJONG

Thursdays, August 20, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in
Rowell Hall



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

COMING THIS SEPTEMBER: SOULCRAFT- THE ART OF LIVING

What if church was more than a place to learn about faith? What if it became a place to practice it? We'll begin in September by exploring what it means to build authentic community and to be fully present with God and one another. Along the way we'll reflect on our digital lives, stewardship, relationships, forgiveness, purpose, legacy, and the everyday practices that shape faithful living.

Whether you've been part of Union Church for decades or you're just beginning to explore faith, Soulcraft offers a place to grow—one small practice at a time.

Join Union Church this September as we begin crafting lives shaped by grace, compassion, and hope. We can't wait to begin the journey together.

UCECP KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Sunday August 30, 9:00 a.m., in the Chapel

Join us at the 9:00 a.m. family service for a backpack blessing to kickoff the UCECP program year. Following the service, all will be invited to the playground where parents/caregivers and children can connect and play.

PET BLESSING

Sunday, September 13, both 9:00 and 10:00 services will be held outside

Bring your pet, a picture of your pet, or a stuffed animal for a special blessing. Please send any pictures of pets to Adriana at akieffer@uchinsdale.org by Thursday, September 10.

PARISH LIFE

DID SOMEONE SAY GIRL SCOUT COOKIES?!

This Sunday, August 16th and Sunday, August 30, Parish Life will be selling Girl Scout Cookies after the 9:00 and 10:00 services in the Gathering Place.

We have all the flavors so make sure to stop by to grab your favorite! Cash only please.

ROOT BEER FLOAT SUNDAY

Sunday, August 23, after both 9:00 and 10:00 services, on the Patio outside of the Gathering Place

Parish Life will be making Root Beer Floats on the Patio after the 9:00 and 10:00 services. Be sure and stop by to enjoy this refreshing treat. It's never too early to enjoy a float!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's hard to believe that Sunday School is starting today! We're excited to welcome our children and families back for another year of learning, growing, and sharing in community. All children are welcome in Sunday School, whether or not they have registered. We do ask families to complete a quick registration, so we have the information we need to plan for the

year and to communicate with parents and caregivers. Please use the QR code on the left to register children under 5. Registration for children kindergarten through 5th grade is on the right.



THIS FALL, UNION CHURCH FANTASY FOOTBALL IS BACK

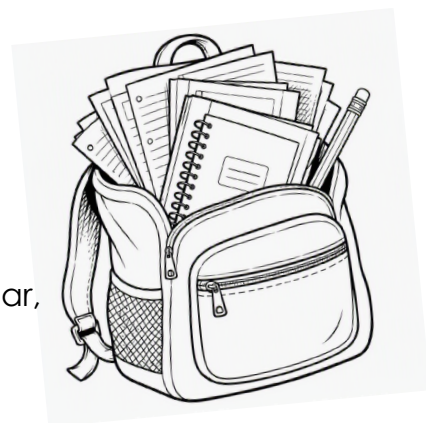
If this is your first time, you may be asking: What makes this league different from any other league? Instead of a 'buy-in,' when you sign up for this league you are committing to hosting (or co-hosting) at least one Monday Night Football game for the other players in the league. How you host is up to you. You can go all in and host it at your home with made-from-scratch tailgate fare, or you can just pick the bar everyone meets at. You can even host it at the church and order pizzas if you want! If you go the "host at the church route" please contact Adriana Kieffer to make sure there is a room available.

We're going to shoot for 12-team leagues (pending how many people sign up). If you're interested, please sign up using the QR code **no later than Tuesday September 1**. The drafts for all leagues (done online but gathering in person is encouraged) will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday September 8.



Backpack Blessing

Children of God and neighbors to all humankind,
as you carry your backpack along your adventures this year,
you will encounter many children of God.
Treat the people you meet on your path
with kindness, curiosity, and compassion,
because Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.
Let us pray, Almighty God, we bring before you these instruments of teaching
and of learning. We pray that your Holy Spirit of wisdom go forth with all
who carry them this year: that all bearers of briefcases and of backpacks
will rest secure in the knowledge of your abiding strength, peace and love.
May we, grow in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and with society.
Amen.

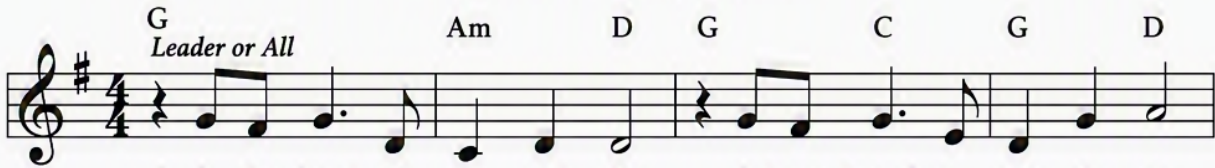


Prayer for the School Year

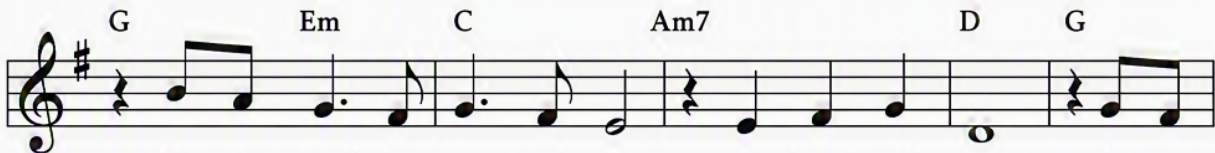
Loving God,
you are the God of all neighbors,
and you made each of us with tenderness and care.
Whether we are learning at school,
playing at recess,
practicing sports or dance,
or creating art or music,
help us see the people around us as beloved children of God,
and neighbors in your kin-dom.
When it is difficult to be kind,
when we are annoyed by differences,
or confused by others' choices, help us show patience and grace.
Encourage our hearts and minds to be loving to our neighbors.
And when we are feeling lonely or disconnected from the neighbors around us,
help them show us kindness, so everyone—EVERYONE—feels included and loved.
Amen.

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

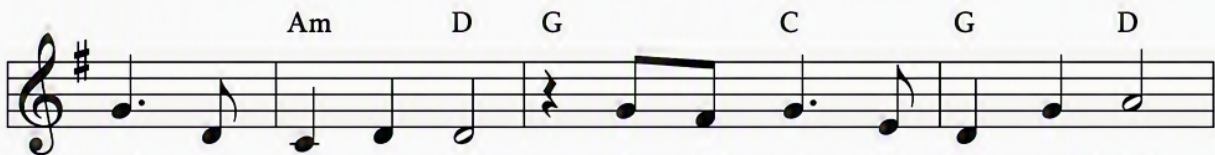
Here I Am, Lord



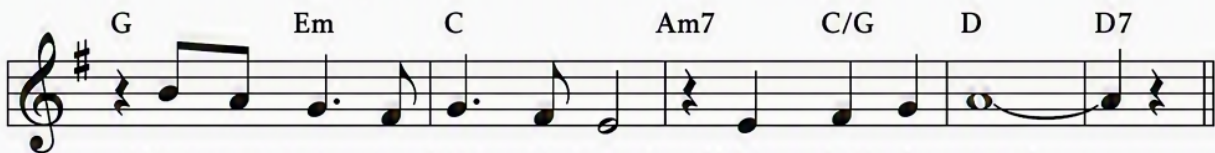
1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



• All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 • I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 • I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

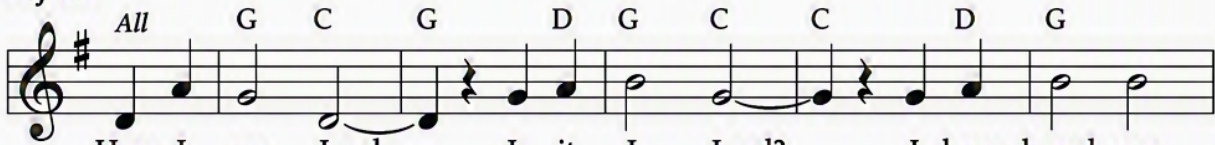


made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 • break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 • bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

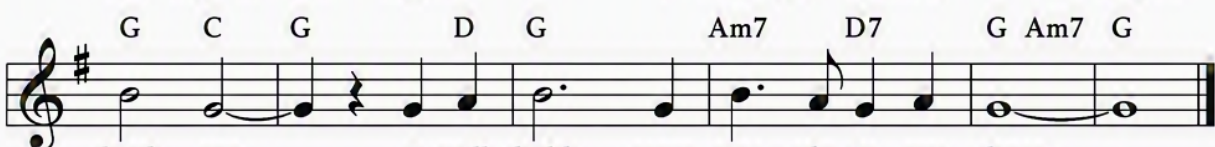
Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.