

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



“WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?”

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 A.M. Worship Service

August 23, 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.

What are we all about at Union Church, you ask?

Living lives of love, for God and all people.



GATHERING MUSIC

Carillon

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

PRELUDE

It is Well
David Sands, Cello

Bliss

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are often searching for our identities in a complex world.

All: Yet God knows who we are and loves us just as we are.

One: We sometimes question who God is.

All: God calls us to know God as our Lord and Savior.

One: We sometimes question our commitment to God because we are afraid, uncertain, or lacking confidence in our faith.

All: God calls us to recognize God's sovereignty and reassures us that our trust in God will allow us to overcome the obstacles of this life.

One: Let us remember God did not promise a life without challenges, but that God promises to be with us always.

All: And so, let us praise God in all that we think, say, and do.

***HYMN #26**

We Worship You, God

LYONS

***INVOCATION PRAYER**

God of the living, open our hearts to hear your Word, and our minds to recognize Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Give us courage to confess Christ not only with our lips. but through our lives, shaped by faith, love, justice, and mercy. Build us together as your church, steadfast against every power of death, and guide us in the ways of your kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.***

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

You Say
David Sands, Cello

Daigle, Van Der Beek, Nelson

* 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

Rebuilding Together
Church of the Isles

*HYMN #403

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-20

Maria Coyne

SERMON

“Who do you say that I am?”

Rev. Dr. Robb Knuepfer

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

*HYMN #439

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

EIN’ FESTE BURG

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

The Church is One Foundation

Wesley

Today's flowers are from The Hopkins Family in memory of Paul Nelson, their father/grandfather.

STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

Bridge Minister – Timothy C. Rhodes (h)
Associate Minister – Grant Glowiak (h/t)
Associate Minister – 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 – Abby Lombardi, George Lombardi, Sharon Bodziak

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.

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 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 kick off 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?!

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATIONS AND WISHES

Union Church's 160 birthday celebration is coming up on October 25. We've been collecting thoughts from church members and friends—things we celebrate about our church and wishes for the next 160 years—and we want to hear from you! You can fill out a card in the Gathering Place or scan the QR code to send us your thoughts online.



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.

LAST CALL! DEADLINE EXTENDED

We are approaching the deadline sign up for our Guatemala Community Connections trip on October 31st. We will need all participants to commit and pay the \$500 deposit **by September 1**. If you are interested but are still confirming your availability, please contact Trayce Biancalana at to discuss options.