

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



What We Owe Each Other

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
September 27, 2026

Union Church Welcoming Statement

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.

A Union Church Core Commitment:

We love children and youth, and we seek to raise them with a curious, generous, personal, and socially engaged Christian faith.

You are welcome here!

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

Adagio
Union Bells

arr. McChesney

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

One: We gather together today, much in the same way as the disciples did before the festival of the Passover.

All: We gather as those in need of comfort and conviction.

One: There is no hierarchy here. No one is master over another.

All: We are equals in our servitude to God and to one another.

One: For there is but one Lord, one Teacher, who sets before us an example of how to live.

All: Let us seek God's blessing by doing to others what Christ did to his disciples.

One: Let us worship in spirit and in truth!

All: Let us sing praises, with love in our hearts and joy in our souls!

*HYMN #44

Beautiful Jesus

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU

*INVOCATION PRAYER

Loving God, we come before you each in our own particularity. Some of us seek your strength, while others seek your compassion. Some of us are seeking something specific, while others still aren't quite sure why they're here today.

Divine One, reveal your presence to all of us gathered here. Burn away that which separates us from you, so that we may better know your love, and share it with all whom we encounter.

May our eyes see and may our ears hear your Holy Word this morning, so our time together in worship may shape our lives in the week to come. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

PRAYER SONG

Hear Our Prayer

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

Lord of the Dance
Union Bells

arr. Krug

* Please rise in body and spirit



OFFERING

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



MISSION MOMENT

The Power of Generosity

*SONG

I Will Follow

Tomlin

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1, 3-17

Diane Oostendorp

SERMON

What We Owe Each Other

Rev. Grant Glowiak

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

*SONG

More Like Jesus

Ligertwood

*BENEDICTION

*REPRISE

Today's flowers are given by Kim and Mike Kiyosaki in loving memory of Dawn Feller.

STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

Bridge Pastor – Timothy C. Rhodes

Dir. of Christian Education – Penny Johnson

Section Leaders:

Associate Pastor – Grant Glowiak

Dir. of Audio & Visual Media – Adam Nakutis

Macy Danenhower

Associate Pastor – Robb Knuepfer

Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung

Manda Gervase

Interim Music Director & Organist – Oliver Townsend

Interim Choir Director – Mike Molloy

Jess Koehn

Bass – Ben Dillinger Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak

Guitar – Andrew Sudhibhasilp

Haven Wallgren-Lemmerman

Ushers – Virgil Oostendorp, Winnie Leathers, Danielle Tuck, Rich Tuck



—— Week of September 27, 2026 ——

**Do one small, unannounced act of service for
someone in your household or neighborhood
and don't seek credit.**



Every Soul Spark is built on a simple conviction:
transformation happens in ordinary moments,
not heroic ones.

We don't change simply by resolving to be
different. We change by doing one small thing
differently—repeatedly—until that practice
begins to shape who we are.

A Soul Spark is one simple, doable action that
connects Sunday's theme to daily life. It is not a
challenge, a project, or a heroic commitment. It
is a small, repeatable practice—something you
can actually do amid an ordinary week.

And we'd love to hear what happens. Drop your
pastors a note and tell us about your Soul Spark
experience—what you noticed, what surprised
you, or how the practice affected your week.
Sometimes a small spark is all it takes to begin a
transformation.

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?

Today, Union Church begins an exciting year-long journey called Soulcraft: The Art of Living.

Soulcraft is built on a simple conviction: most of us already know the kind of people we want to become. We know that kindness matters. Presence matters. Gratitude matters. Generosity matters. The challenge isn't knowing—it's living.

Throughout the coming program year, our worship, learning opportunities, small groups, and congregational life will work together to help us practice faith in everyday life. Each season will explore a different aspect of Christian living, and every week will include one simple "Soul Spark"—a practical invitation to carry Sunday's message into Monday and the week ahead. We'll begin by exploring what it means to build authentic community and be fully present with God & 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 as we begin crafting lives shaped by grace, compassion, and hope.

RESALE



Resale 2026 is just around the corner! Donations will be accepted until September 30th. Resale is Friday, October 2nd, 5:00 to 8:30 and Saturday, October 3rd, 9:00 to 1:00. Many of our church members have volunteered in the past, we need your help again to ensure a successful event! You can find forms to volunteer in the Gathering Place or scan the QR code to take you to the Signup page.



UNION CHURCH 160 YEAR CELEBRATION!

Sunday, October 25, 2026

October 16, 1866, the church was officially recognized as the Congregational Union Church of Hinsdale. The rest is "history" and YOU are part of it!

Join in the Celebration of Union Church's
160 Years!

Sunday, October 25

9:30 Worship

Special time to combine 9:00 and 10:00 Services

10:30-12:00 Celebration Brunch

Be part of the brunch team!

Saturday prep, serve, provide pastries, fruit, clean-up

Contact Penny Davey to join the team

Welcome

Whether this is your first time worshiping with Union Church of Hinsdale or you have been here for many years, we are grateful you are here. We believe every person is created in the image of God and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. Inspired by the open and generous hospitality of Jesus, we welcome everyone, without exception. Union is a community where faith is something we practice. We ask questions about what matters, grow in kindness and generosity, love and nurture our children and youth, and put our faith into action through service, community, and the pursuit of justice. Together, we seek to love God and one another, following the way of Jesus with curiosity, courage, grace, and hope.

You are welcome at Union. You belong here.



LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE

All worshipers are asked to please let us know you're here. Please locate and sign in on the black friendship pads found at the end of each row. Please use the pads to update the church with your information. As you pass the pad along the row, please greet those who are worshiping with you today.

PRAYER CARDS

In the black friendship pads you will find blue prayer cards. Please write your prayer joys and concerns on the card and place it in the offering plate. Your pastors are privileged to pray with you.

SOUND

Worship can be heard through "T" or "T-coil" settings of hearing aids. You may also ask an usher for a headset.

GIVING YOUR VALUES



Developing a Giving Philosophy: October 4, 11:15 - 12:30, Rowell Hall. Experience Dan Pallotta's Ted Talk, "The Way We Think About Charity is Dead Wrong"

(it's about 20 minutes). This talk inspired

his book *Uncharitable* and then the movie. Following the TED Talk we will have a workshop-style discussion with Rev. Tim Rhodes about crafting our own giving philosophies that are aligned with our values.

Join us on October 18, 11:15 to 12:30, in Room JK for a follow-up conversation from UCH financial advisors on planning, strategizing, and ways to support.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Union Church welcomes 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. It's got a little table, chairs, toys, and a collection of books. Also, help yourself to the red activity bags hanging in the Narthex designed to educate and engage the youngest amongst us. And please 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.

WORSHIP WITH LITTLE ONES

Have a little one that can't sit still? Is the hour-long church service somewhat unrealistic for your family? Try the 9:00 am! It's roughly 30 minutes of infant, toddler, and child friendly worship every Sunday in the chapel. 'Shakers' are provided so everyone can play along with the acoustic guitar, and dancing in the aisle is encouraged!

Rev. Grant seeks to teach parents and kids about God's love for them in a casual, laid-back atmosphere while still relying on 'traditional' elements of worship including the physical space itself, the Lord's Prayer, and monthly communion.

Although the service itself is geared towards families with little ones, all are welcome to join in the fun! Come check it out!

Women of a Certain Age

The next WOACA Meeting will take place on Sunday, October 11 after the 10:00 am worship service in Rowell Hall. Jane Walker, UCH member, and Hinsdale resident will present "Grandma Moses a Folk Artist". In keeping with The Art of Living- Soulcraft theme she will tell us about her extraordinary life who became an Artist/Painter at age 78.

The purpose of WOACA is for fellowship, friendship, and fun! All are welcome. No food or beverages will be served. For more information, please email Melissa Barnes Mann at elissamann403@gmail.com.

Camerata Chicago Orchestra



Join us for on October 18 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a stunning 2026 / 2027 Camerata Chicago season opening concert and enjoy Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's

Dream with excerpts from Shakespeare. Watch the magical tale unfold as Maestro Drostan Hall conducts and narrates. This is a family-friendly event by Union Church's Ensemble-in-Residence.

Camerata Chicago is thrilled to present the World Premiere of Fantasy on English Folk Tunes by our Composer-in-Residence Dr. Tony Payne.

UCH church members use coupon code UCOH for a 15% discount.

SEEKING CAR DONATION

Jeremiah Abeche's current car has reached the end of its life, and it's time to change the model. Jeremiah hails from Cameroon and is a friend of Union Church. He uses the car to get to his jobs, and so reliable transportation is critical, as is a smaller gas tank! We're hoping to find a used car that someone in our Union Church family might be willing to donate. If you have a vehicle, you're no longer using—or know someone who might—please consider reaching out. Even spreading the word helps. Please contact Vicky Hurst at hurkuhn@comcast.net if you need further information.

UNION CHURCH INFORMATION



For all the info on Union Church ministries and programs check out the website.

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH UPDATE

The Senior Minister Search Committee is excited to share that we are in the final phase of the search. If all goes well, we expect to conclude our work in the very short term. That is not a guarantee, but we believe we stand in a very good position right now after evaluating many candidates and having multiple deep conversations with those we thought to be the best fit. Especially now in this delicate part of the process, please continue to keep the entire committee and candidates in your prayers.

Service Beyond Our Walls

We know that our church family impacts others beyond the walls of our congregation, and we'd like to know about the organizations where you volunteer outside of the church. If you serve with a nonprofit, school, community group, advocacy organization, food pantry, care ministry, or other service agency, please let us know the organization's name by emailing or texting Vicky Hurst at hurkuhn@comcast.net, text 630-476-1549. During the 2027 Generosity Campaign we'll share the list and celebrate the many ways our congregation is living out its faith in service to others.

BAGS NEEDED

HCS Family Services: Paper Bags and Reusable Grocery Bags Needed. HCS Family Services uses grocery bags to distribute food to our neighbors in need. Union Church has collected paper grocery bags for a long time. Now reusable grocery bags are also needed. Please place your paper and reusable grocery bags in the large bin located by the north door. Plastic bags are no longer needed.

To support HCS directly please go to hcsfamilyservices.org and scroll down to Wishlist for needed food and supplies.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Union Church affiliates with the United Church of Christ (UCC). The UCC is a historic and forward leaning Christian community.

You may learn more about the UCC at UCC.org