UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



160 Years of Union Church

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 A.M. Worship Service
October 25, 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 strive to live lives of love for God and all people.

You are welcome here!

FOR TODAY:

To commemorate the 1918 'Walk Up the Hill' of the Presbyterians to join with the Congregational Church of Hinsdale to form Union Church, we will begin in the Gathering Place and process into the sanctuary singing the same hymn they did 108 years ago – Onward, Christian Soldiers

382 Onward, Christian Soldiers

Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D. *with Refrain*
Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900



WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY Rev. Dr. Robb Knuepfer

PRELUDE *Exuberant Joy* Sherman
Union Bells

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *Union Church Covenant*
(Adopted 1918, Revised 1990)

One: Believing in Jesus Christ as our Redeemer and Lord,
All: Trusting in His revelation of the loving Heavenly Father,
One: Acknowledging our dependence upon the Holy Spirit,
All: We covenant with each other
One: To worship and work together as loyal disciples of Jesus,
All: To live among all people a life of righteousness and love,
One: And to do all within our power
All: To promote the reign of God's will in all human relations.

***HYMN #85** *I Woke Up This Morning*

***INVOCATION PRAYER** *A Prayer by Rev. Wilfred Rowell*
*(*Pastor of Union Church, 1918-1942)

We pray Thee, O God, that in life's dark days we may have the light of Thy wisdom and the warmth of Thy love to guide and bless us. May we realize that we are never alone, but that Thy almighty strength is always available to us. Deepen our faith and empower our spirits to live and work for Thee and for the triumph of Thy Kingdom of love and brotherhood over all the world. 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 *Crown Him* Forrest
Chancel Choir

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.
Thanks for giving to the life of Union Church!

MISSION MOMENT	*Search Team Update*	Penny Davey
***ANTHEM**	*Let Us Be Joyful* Union Bells	Sherman
SCRIPTURE READING	*Isaiah 43:1-2, 18-21*	Emily Parwani
SERMON	*Pitching Change*	Rev. Grant Glowiak
MOMENT OF REFLECTION		
***HYMN #391**	*In the Midst of New Dimensions*	
***BENEDICTION**		
***POSTLUDE**	*Now Thank We All Our God*	Karg-Elert

Today's flowers are given by Fran Evans in memory of her parents, Frank & Cornelia Allgire.

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING AND SENIOR MINISTER CANDIDATE'S WEEKEND

This is an exciting time for Union Church! After a time of personal discernment and conversations with current pastoral staff revealed no internal candidates, the Search Committee began its extensive and prayerful external search. Following months of work and much consideration, the Search Committee is now delighted to recommend a candidate for the position of Senior Minister and formally invites the congregation to meet the Candidate the weekend of November 7 & 8.

Per Article VIII, Section 4 of the Union Church of Hinsdale Constitution, the Executive Council calls a Special Business Meeting of the congregation for **Sunday, November 8, following 10:00 worship service**, for the sole purpose of a **congregational vote** to call the Candidate. The meeting will take place at Union Church of Hinsdale and online. Online instructions will follow.

On **Saturday, November 7** all members and friends of the congregation are invited to a "Meet the Candidate" **Open House** and Ice Cream Social from **2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** in the Gathering Place.

On **Sunday, November 8** the **sermon** will be shared by the Candidate at **10:00 a.m. Worship** in the Sanctuary & Online. Afterward, a **Special Business Meeting** will begin at **11:00 a.m.** for the Search Committee Presentation and **Congregational Vote.**

The work of the Search Committee was built on the foundation of congregational input as gathered by the dedicated Discovery Team. Search Committee members were nominated by the congregation and the group formed represents the breadth and depth of our membership. The details of their work are confidential. We trust them and thank them greatly for their most valuable service. Thank you to everyone for prayerful support during this important time in the life of our church.

Week of October 25, 2026

Send an email to Union Church expressing gratitude for one aspect in the life of Union.

soulspark

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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.

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.



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!

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. All elementary school aged children will stay with their families in worship today so we can celebrate our 160th birthday together!

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 & concerns on the card and place it in the offering plate. Your pastors are privileged to pray with you.

UNION CHURCH INFORMATION

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

SOUND

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

STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

Bridge Minister – Timothy C. Rhodes
Associate Minister – Grant Glowiak
Associate Minister – Robb Knuepfer
Interim Music Director & Organist – Oliver Townsend
Dir. of Christian Education – Penny Johnson
Dir. of Audio & Visual Media – Adam Nakutis
Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung
Interim Choir Director – Mike Molloy
Section Leaders:
Macy Danenhower
Manda Gervase

Bass – Ben Dillinger Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak Guitar – Andrew Sudhibhasilp Haven Wallgren-Lemmerman

Ushers –Winnie Leathers, Gail Weber

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SPARROW COFFEE STORY

Sunday, November 22, 11:15 to 12:30 p.m., in Rowell Hall

Let's celebrate the opening of Sparrow Coffee in Clarendon Hills. Join church members and Sparrow owners, Chris (Suresh) and Liz Chacko as they share their story of starting Sparrow and opening its newest cafe, right here in Clarendon Hills.

In Nov. we'll focus on Attention & Gratitude, and finding contentment in the unshared moments. The story of Sparrow finding its way to the place the Chacko family is proud to call home directly touches on this theme & we can't wait to learn more!

CELEBRATE THE MINISTRY OF ROBB KNUEPFER

Sunday, December 6, 10:00 a.m. Worship
Reception to Follow in Rowell Hall

After decades of leadership at Union Church and 10 years of pastoral ministry, the Rev. Dr. Robert C. Knuepfer, Jr., is concluding his pastoral service to the congregation. Robb & Nancy will continue to call Union Church their home as members of the congregation.

Robb's ministry has touched UCH in countless ways, often through quiet, unrecognized moments that have made a lasting difference in the lives of individuals and families. His legacy continues in the faith, relationships, and ministries he has helped nurture over the years.

Please join us on Sunday, December 6, as we celebrate Robb's ministry and give thanks for his years of service. A reception will follow worship. All are welcome!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Our Christmas Pageant is one of the sweetest traditions at Union Church. Children ages 4 - 5th grade each play a role in telling the Christmas story by learning a few short lines and traditional songs. Middle school youths narrate. **We have four weekday rehearsals beginning on November 18 and a dress rehearsal before sharing our pageant with the congregation on Sunday, December 20.** If you can't make all the rehearsals, that's ok! Email Penny Johnson, pjohnson@uchinsdale.org, with questions.

ELEANOR'S CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Stuffing of Eleanor's Christmas stockings will take place this year on Sunday, December 6th after the 9:00 and 10 am services. Everyone, and especially families with young children, are welcome! The filled stockings will go to needy children. So please save your wrapped leftover Halloween candy and bring it to church!

Use this QR code to access the Amazon wish list for the stockings. Please send items directly to the church.

If you would rather purchase items on your own, we need small (no bigger than the size of your hand), new/clean stuffed animals. We love beanie babies, but any brand is great. And please ask your dentist for donations of individually wrapped children's toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste! Donation boxes will be in the Gathering Space by November 1st.

If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Jane Grimm at jgrimm723@comcast.net.

SOCKS AND SKIVVIES DRIVE FOR THE BOULEVARD

The Boulevard of Chicago provides high-quality cost-effective medical respite care, holistic support and housing services to help ill and injured and homeless adults break the cycle of homelessness, restore their health and rebuild their lives. Union Church has supported The Boulevard since its founding in 1994 by Nancy Hanson, a Union Church member, and others.

We are collecting NEW WHITE SOCKS AND SKIVVIES in men's sizes XL, XXL, and 3XL and women's sizes M, L, XL, and XXL. Some smaller men's sizes, M and L, are also needed. Men are 75% of the population, so we need more men's sizes. Please place the new socks and skivvies in the bin in the Gathering Place. For questions email Dan Woodle dewisu73@sbcglobal.net.

See the link in the weekly email to order on Amazon with direct delivery to the church.

GREETINGS AND WISHES FROM FORMER UCH MINISTERS

Tanya Sadagopan

I wish you all well as you celebrate the many years of ministry at Union. My blessings go with you.

Greg Skiba

My congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful celebration and reunion for those able to be present.

Tom Zoelzer

Congratulations Union Church on 160 years of Christian faith and service! You have been a bright light for your community and beyond for many years! I am pleased to be a small part of your 160 years first as a Transitional Senior Minister and then in retirement, a fellow church member. Looking back, you have so much to celebrate and appreciate! However, you are a forwarding looking congregation, and I know you have many years of faithful living ahead with powerful words preached, dynamics lessons learned, and mighty deeds accomplished in Jesus' name.

Dick and Pam Nye

For 17 years we were privileged to be part of that beloved congregation, with so many accomplished, good and caring people. Oh, sometimes strong opinions were a challenge but a sense of God's forgiving, loving presence helped us along the way.

Now you about to celebrate a 160th anniversary and preparing to begin writing a new and exciting chapter in the story of Union Church. God bless you, dear people of God! We hold you in our prayerful hearts. - Dick and Pam Nye (1985-2002)

Anna V. Copeland

Beloved in Christ, we join your celebration today from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where we're launching Wild Spirit Community, a retreat house for transformative faith, extravagant hospitality and compassionate service. Just after our 130th anniversary celebration, we met for the first time on a July Sunday hot enough to melt wax. It was the last re-sale weekend prior to the capital construction project, and items were for sale from the parsonage next door. One of the Trustees passed me that day and remarked, "The good news is that we will probably hire you. The bad news is that we'll tear down the pastor's house before you arrive."

One month later, we broke ground for the expanded facility, and in the years that followed, we did together what church folks do. We created new visioning plans to secure our vision and future, remodeled and rebuilt the church, and retired the capital debt. We expanded ministries for children and adults, including LOGOS, Simple Supper Bible Studies and Soup making ministries. International partnerships expanded through Common Hope, Habitat for Humanity and the Bridgeman Center in; Mexico, Guatemala, India and South Africa.

Yet the legacy of every generation is remembered, not by the plans we made and what we accomplished, but by those lives changed by the power of God made known to us through Christ. We celebrated 85 baptisms, 40 weddings and 105 funerals in those years, and walked through the financial crisis of 2008. We grieved the death of a young Dad and soldier serving in Afghanistan, and we embraced new life as we baptized an 85-year-old at a rainforest waterfall while on mission in Central America.

The memory fades now of usual things like constructing new human resource policy, updating governance, and creating an inclusive welcome statement. Yet faith formed then, like faith strengthened today endures. I give you now for your celebration and promising future the same words I left you with then. "Whatever the future may hold, I pray that the Union Church of Hinsdale will continue to be faithful to God through Christ, to invite people into the life of Christ and relationship with the church, and through faith, to change the world.

Grace, Mercy and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland
Director, Wild Spirit Community
San Miguel de Allende

A Brief History of the Union Church of Hinsdale

1862: William Robbins buys 800 acres of land with the intention of building the town now known as Hinsdale.

1865: Charles M. Barnes, former army chaplain and distinguished 'Village Father,' moves to Hinsdale. With the Lyonsville Congregational Church miles away, Rev. Barnes founds a non-denominational church out of the only building large enough to accommodate everyone: the railroad depot, later garnering the name the Prairie Depot Church.

1866: Clarendon Mussey Saunders, a seminary student at CTS, begins his field education at the Lyonsville Congregational Church. He takes the train to Hinsdale and is then picked up by Lyonsville parishioners. Several months later, Rev. Barnes vacated his position and the first ever ministerial call in Hinsdale is extended to Saunders. Saunders continues his work at Lyonsville on Sunday morning, then heads over to Hinsdale (with the choir in tow) for an afternoon worship service. **Starting a long, illustrious tradition of music at UCH!**

Around this time, we get the first official documentation of an effort to start an 'official' congregation. On August 12, 1866 we officially became The Congregational Union Church, with both the Rev. C. M. Barnes, and his wife, as well as William Robbins and his wife among the founding members. **This makes us the oldest permanent organization formed in Hinsdale, with the descendants of Robbins still members to this day!** And our location of worship moves from the train station to the second floor of Academy Hall, the first floor serving as the local schoolhouse.

1869: Upon Sanders' departure the previous year, we extend our second call to **Rev. Flavel Bascom.** With 36 years of ministry experience, he was an early, ardent, and outspoken **abolitionist**, perhaps with more prominence and consistency than any other pastor in the state. Additionally, he was a vigorous defender of the **rights of women** to speak in church and hold church office.

1873: Construction on a new building is halted after only a few months due to the 'Panic of 1873'. **Bad timing! We were forced to roof over the foundation and meet in the basement with a tiny stove for heat in the winter…for 8 years!**

1889: The Presbyterian Church of Hinsdale was founded.

1896: The Congregational Church shows motion pictures in Hinsdale for the first time.

1916: The Congregationalists raze their old building and lay the cornerstone for the new one.

1917: The new Union Church is dedicated.

1918: The members of the Congregational Church, The Presbyterian Church, and select families from the Unitarian church, joined together to form the church in its present form, **The Union Church of Hinsdale**.

1930: Wilfred A. Rowell, senior pastor of UCH, is listed on the *Who's Who of Chicago* List.

1935: In the heart of the depression, we close the year with **$6.00** in the treasury.

1951: New Parish House and Chapel additions are completed.

1953: Union Church calls its **first female pastor**, Rev. Barbara Holleroth, as well as her husband, Rev. Hugo Holleroth.

1955: 5000 sq. ft. of classroom space added to accommodate the new **Christian Family Day School** (now known as UCECP).

1961: Union Church votes to join the **United Church of Christ**.

1964: A special meeting of the Congregation is called to adopt a statement saying that Union Church's declared principle of diversity meant exactly what it said: that **Union Church would indeed welcome people of all races & national origins.**

1970: Union Church's 'The House,' a youth center, opens a counseling center for draft inductees.

2003: Substantial addition completed reflecting a commitment to youth, early childhood education, music, and hospitality.

2024: Union Church votes to become **Open and Affirming** of all people, affirming that we are enriched by our differences including diversity of gender identity & expression, age, marital & economic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, race, and physical & mental abilities & qualities.