UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



Small Sabbaths

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
November 15, 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 know we have power,
and we use that power to make the world more like Jesus would want it to be.

You are welcome here!

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

PRELUDE *And Can It Be?* Arr. Forrest
Kevin Hall, Guitar

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Grant Glowiak

One: Beloved people of God, center in the moment, quiet your hearts, and pause from the busyness of life. The Lord, our Shepherd, invites us into the Divine presence.

All: The Lord is our Shepherd; we have all that we need. In God's presence, we find peace, comfort, & rest.

One: Even when the path is difficult and the valleys feel dark, our Shepherd walks beside us. God's goodness and mercy surround us, and God's presence gives us courage.

All: We are not alone. God's goodness follows us, sustaining us in mercy and holding us in love.

One: Let us worship the One who restores our souls!

All: With grateful hearts and peaceful spirits, let us worship God!

***HYMN #427** *God Made from One Blood* ST. DENIO

***INVOCATION PRAYER**

Gracious & loving God, our Shepherd, we come into your presence with grateful hearts. Amid life's busyness, you invite us to pause, to breathe, and to be still. Quiet our minds, calm our spirits, and help us lay down the worries & burdens we have carried into this place. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Remind us that we do not have to rush, strive, or have all the answers. In this moment, help us rest in the assurance that you are with us, guiding us, protecting us, and surrounding us with your goodness & mercy. May this time of worship renew our spirits, deepen our faith, and open our hearts to your love. Help us to be fully present with you and with one another. May we leave this place carrying the peace of the Good Shepherd in our hearts & to our neighbors. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Good Shepherd and source of life. Amen.

***RESPONSE** *Gloria*

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

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

Maureen Claffy
Michelle Fore
Megan Kloet Gill & James Gill (Peter & Georgina)
Mike Kucera
Tamsyn & David Pequet (Sienna, Ella, & Gavin)
Kathy & Tim Ramsey
Christina Chen & Josh Wong
(Michaela, Madeleine, & Emma)

QUESTIONS TO NEW MEMBERS AND THE CONGREGATION

UNION CHURCH COVENANT

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

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 THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CHORAL ANTHEM *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Johnson

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 Green Halo Scholars — Sara Miller
Sara Miller – Executive Director

SONG *Still Waters (Psalm 23)* Crawford

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 23 Winnie Leathers

SERMON Small Sabbaths Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

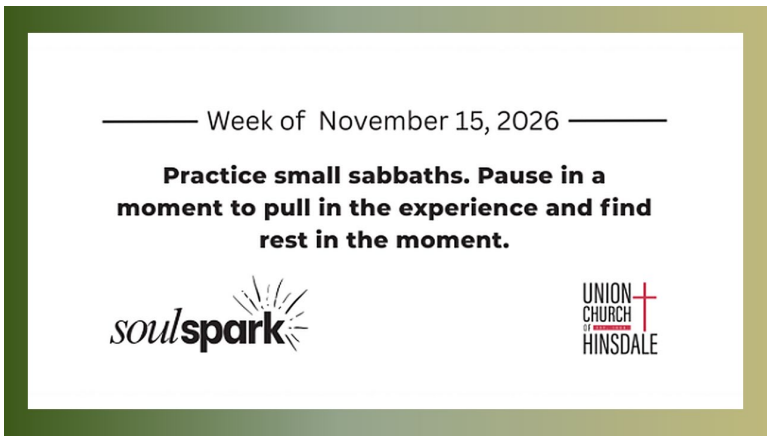
MOMENT OF REFLECTION

***SONG** *Your Grace Is Enough* Tomlin

***BENEDICTION**

***REPRISE**

Today's flowers are given by Bonnie Berg in loving memory of her husband, Carlton Berg.



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 ding 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.

CELEBRATE THE MINISTRY OF ROBB KNUEPFER

Sunday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.

Worship - Reception to Follow in the Gathering Place

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 and Nancy will continue to call Union Church their church home as members of the congregation.

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

Please join us on Sunday, December 6, at 10 a.m. as we celebrate Robb's ministry and give thanks for his years of service. A reception will follow worship. All are welcome.

Use this QR Code to contribute to a farewell gift for Robb.

STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

Bridge Minister – Timothy C. Rhodes
Associate Minister – Grant Glowiak
Associate Minister – Robb Knuepfer
Interim Music Director & Organist – Oliver Townsend
Bass – Ben Dillinger Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak

Dir. of Christian Education – Penny Johnson
Dir. of Audio & Visual Media – Adam Nakutis
Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung
Interim Choir Director – Mike Molloy
Guitar – Andrew Sudhibhasilp

Section Leaders:
Macy Danenhower
Manda Gervase
Kenneth Martin
Haven Wallgren-Lemmerman

Ushers –Maria Coyne, James Roeschlein, Christy and Randy Weimer

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 let us know you're here. Please locate and sign in on the black friendship pads found at the end of each row. You may 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

If you would like a sound assistance device, please contact an usher.

GENEROSITY CORNER

The annual pledge campaign is still underway, and we need your participation to plan the 2027 budget! To date we have received pledges of $300,000; our goal is $790,000. Use this QR Code to register your pledge today. Emails and letters are continuing to be sent out as reminders. Please thoughtfully consider how you can help our collective effort to make the world more like Jesus would want it to be, your support of Union Church can make a powerful difference.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The Christmas Pageant is one of the sweetest traditions at Union Church. Children ages 4 through 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 of the rehearsals, that's ok!

DON'T MISS A THING!

Keep up with all our upcoming events by following us on Facebook & Instagram and subscribing to our weekly newsletter.

ALL CHURCH WORKDAY
FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND SOUP!

Today, after 10 a.m. worship to 2 p.m.

Come to worship in your work clothes! It's time for some dusting and some wiping and some moving! All ages are invited to polish and clean. Stay or stop back in for as much or as little time as you can share. Soup and salad to meet all dietary desires will be provided!

THE SPARROW COFFEE STORY

Sunday, November 22,
11:15 a.m. 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 November our sermons focus on Attention & Gratitude and living unfiltered, finding contentment in the unshared moments. The story of Sparrow finding its way to a place that the Chacko family is proud to call home certainly touches on this theme and we can't wait to learn more.

MINISTRY FOR CHANGE
ELEANOR'S CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Stuffing of Eleanor's Christmas stockings will take place this year on Sunday, December 6th after the 9 and 10 am services. Everyone, and especially families with young children, are welcome! The filled stockings will go to needy children. Use this QR code to link to the Amazon wish list for the stockings. Items should be sent 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. 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.

UNION CHURCH INFORMATION

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

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING
GREEN HALO SCHOLARS

Our special offering for Thanksgiving this year will go Green Halo Scholars, one of the agencies supported by our Ministry for Change. The mission of Green Halo Scholars is to support, mentor, and expand opportunities for motivated and committed first-generation and low-income students in the Western Suburbs of Chicago, including those from Proviso East High School, Hinsdale Central and South, Downers Grove North and South, Bolingbrook, Lyons Township, and Naperville Central High School. Through college counseling, financial guidance, and career resources, Scholars are assisted as they apply to college, navigate campus, and pursue their postgraduate dreams. Scholars continue to be supported throughout their entire college careers. Scholars are nominated to participate by their school counselor based on their academic achievement. More information is available at their website.
Click the QR code to make a donation to Green Halo Scholars (choose Thanksgiving - Green Halo Agency from the drop-down menu) or send in a check made out to the church and put "Thanksgiving Offering" in the memo line.

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.
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. Email Dan Woodle dewisu73@sbcglobal.net with questions. See the link in the weekly email to order on Amazon with direct delivery to the church.

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan is the easy read book for the Advent Book Club with Rev. Tim Rhodes. We'll meet via Zoom on Sunday at 6: 30 p.m. beginning November 29. Please contact the church office to get the Zoom link.

NEW SENIOR MINISTER:
THE REV. DR. MICHAEL WOOLF

On Sunday, November 8, at a special business meeting, the congregation approved the Call of the Rev. Dr. Michael Woolf as Senior Minister of Union Church! We look forward to formally welcoming Michael, Anna, and their daughter, Zofia, at the beginning of the new year. Learn more about Michael's background via a link in the weekly email

HELP RUDOLPH'S BOUTIQUE: NOW COLLECTING TREASURES AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

December 5, 9-11 am, in the Dining Room

At Rudolph's Boutique, children can shop to find Christmas gifts for their families and friends. New and gently used items donated by you will surely bring a smile to someone's face when a child proudly presents their gift. The shop will be open for business on Saturday, December 5 and will be cash only.

We are collecting new and gently used items that can be sold in our boutique. Please find the collection in the Gathering Place.

Youth helpers: We are also looking for middle schoolers and high schoolers to assist our young shoppers in their quest for the perfect gifts while parents/guardians enjoy coffee and snacks upstairs in the Gathering Place. Adult helpers, we need your help with setup, sorting items, gift wrapping, and checkout. Use the QR code to sign up!

CAMERATA CHICAGO ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS: HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Sunday, November 22. 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Family-friendly Christmas portion - sing-along Hallelujah Chorus!
Enjoy the outstanding musical artistry of the Camerata Chicago Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Maestro Drostan Hall!

-Family friendly performance (approx. 1 hour)
-Hallelujah Chorus - Sing Along.
-Zadok the Priest Anthem.
-Soloists: Key'Mon Murrah, Camille Robles, Daniel Espinal and Laureano Quant.

Use coupon code UCOH for a 15% discount: See the weekly email for a link to purchase tickets.