UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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



And Be Thankful

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
November 22, 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 *We Come As Guests Invited* Diemer

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

One: Let the peace of Christ dwell among us. Let gratitude fill our hearts, and let the love of God guide our lives.

All: We come to worship with thankful hearts, seeking the peace of Christ and the wisdom of God's Spirit.

One: Let the word of Christ live richly within us as we teach one another, encourage one another, and sing with grace in our hearts to God.

All: We gather to celebrate, encourage, and to lift our voices in praise.

One: Whatever we do, in word or deed, giving thanks to God through Christ.

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

***HYMN #422** *Come, O Thankful People, Come* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

***INVOCATION PRAYER**

Giving God, we gather in your presence with thankful hearts. Let the peace of Christ dwell within us and among us. Let your Spirit take root in our hearts; shaping our thoughts, guiding our words, and directing our actions. Help us to be generous in encouragement, gracious in spirit, and joyful in praise. Open our lives to your guidance, and lead us into this time of worship with gratitude and grace. 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 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 *Down to the River to Pray* arr. Curry

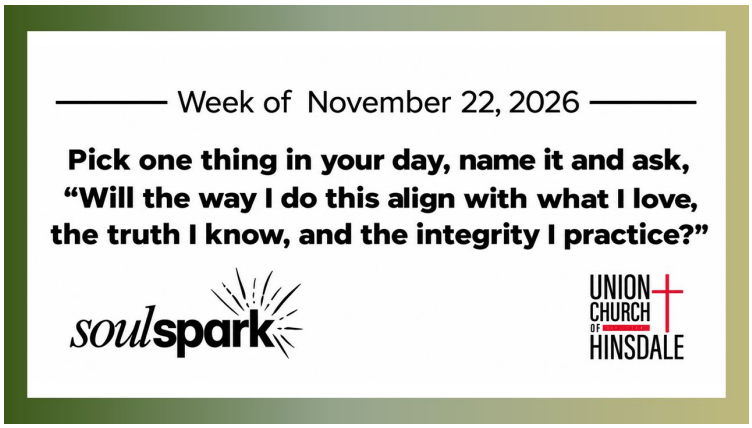
OFFERING

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!

*Please Rise in body and Spirit

Mission Moment		
Song	*Gratitude*	Lake
Scripture Reading	Colossians 3.12-17	Diane Oostendorp
Sermon	And Be Thankful	Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes
Moment of Reflection		
***Song**	*God I'm Just Grateful*	Moore
***Benediction**		
***Reprise**		

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Gayle Trask and Donald Trask by their daughters, Nancy Trask and Elizabeth Jung and their families.



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. Sometimes a small spark is all it takes to begin a transformation.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Ann Bel Geddes

For all the good things I do have
and for all the good things I have had
and for all the good things I will have,
for what I am,
for what I have been,
for what I can be,
for what I shall be,
Thank you, God.

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 – Debbie Hopkins, Abby Lombardi, George Lombardi

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.

THE SPARROW COFFEE STORY

TODAY

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.

CAMERATA CHICAGO ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS: HANDEL'S MESSIAH

TODAY, 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.

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.

NIGHT MINISTRY BACKPACKS: VOLUNTEER EVENT

Today at 11:15, in room JK

Please join us in filling backpacks with personal hygiene and other needed supplies for youth and adults served by The Night Ministry (thenightministry.org), one of the agencies supported by our Ministry for Change. Many of these people are unhoused or have otherwise unstable living arrangements. Everyone is welcome including families with young children.

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.

Woman's Association's
Annual Christmas Program and Silver Tea

December 10, 1 p.m.
Rowell Hall

A festive and fun and free event to enjoy without any stress of the season. All are welcome!

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.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
FOR UCECP PRESCHOOL WINTER CARNIVAL
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

The preschool is getting ready for a fun-filled Winter Carnival, and we would love your help!
We are reaching out to our church family to see if anyone would be willing to volunteer their time to help make this special event a success. Whether you can help with gingerbread house decorating, assist with making "fake" snow & reindeer food, help with our milk & cookies station, or simply lend an extra hand, your support would mean so much!
This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our preschool families, connect with our community, and bring a little extra joy to the children this winter.
If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Kelsey Ramsey at or use the QR Code.

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.

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!

GENEROSTIY CORNER

The annual pledge campaign is still underway, and we need your participation in order to plan the 2027 budget! To date we have received pledges of **$451,975.88**; our goal is $790,000. Please use The QR Code to make your pledge and/ or monthly subscription. You can contact Ann Gleason at 630-590-6654 or at agleason@uchinsdale.org to communicate your financial commitment.