

THE GOOD NEWS

November 1, 2011

A Publication of The Union Church of Hinsdale, U.C.C.

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STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, November 6, 2011

**All Members are asked to join us
for worship on November 6 and
to bring their pledge card for 2012.**

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do
you not perceive it?"*

- Isaiah 43:19(a)



Our Staff

Transitional Minister:

Rev. Dr. Tom Zoelzer

Associate Minister:

Rev. Dr. Thom Parrott-Sheffer

Director of Children's

Christian Education:

Penny Johnson

Director of Youth Formation:

Jeremy Hylan

Music Ministry Coordinator

and Director of Children

and Youth Choirs:

Roberta Wentling

Director of the Chancel Choir:

Joanna Wernette

Director of

Contemporary Music:

Brad Nye

Handbell Director:

Elizabeth Jung

Director of Early

Childhood Programs:

Jennifer Keldahl

Senior Operations Administrator:

Merrilee Hall

Financial Manager:

Gaby Perez

Project Manager:

Joel Graczyk

Communications Assistant:

Melanie Burton

Buildings and Grounds:

Jim Vojtek, Bob Brija

Director of Music

Ministries Emeritus:

Michael Surratt

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Worship

9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Healing Prayer Service

3rd Sundays at 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sundays

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Union Church of Hinsdale

137 S. Garfield Ave

Hinsdale, IL 60521

(630) 323.4303

<http://UCHinsdale.org>



"Stone Soup"

Exploring the Church as Community!

Join us at 9:00 or 10:30 each Sunday!

November 6:

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

We are invited to bring our pledges for the new year and place them on the communion table for consecration. It is a sacred moment of faith and commitment as we "move forward" into a new day.

Communion will be observed at both services.

November 13: Rev. Dr. Melbalenia D. Evans, guest preacher

Rev. Evans is the Acting Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship and Church Vitality for the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. Her topic will be "What Does it Mean to be part of the United Church of Christ Today"

November 20: Thanksgiving Sunday

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, we count our blessing and contemplate how being thankful gives us an attitude of gratitude.

November 27: First Sunday of Advent

ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP THIS DAY AT 10:00 a.m.

followed by an all church Advent event.



Special Worship Services Coming Up!

November 23, 7:00 p.m. – in the Chapel: THANKSGIVING EVE

Rev. Tom Zoelzer and the Chancel Choir will lead us in a traditional service of familiar hymns and prayers to thank God for the bounty of harvest time.

Communion will be observed at both services.

December 18, Sunday Morning Worship:

9:00 a.m.: A Christmas Cantata, featuring the Chancel Choir

10:30 a.m.: Lessons & Carols, featuring the Joyful Noise Band

December 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m.: Family Christmas Eve w/Pageant

8:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve worship w/Chancel Choir, Brass & Bells

11:00 p.m.: Candlelight worship w/Joyful Noise Band, Brass & Bells

December 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP THIS DAY AT 10:00 a.m.

January 1, 2012: NEW YEAR'S DAY

ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP THIS DAY AT 10:00 a.m.



Will White, our former choir director (and composer of the choral/instrumental work that was premiered on Mike Surratt's last Sunday with us) has been appointed assistant conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony. He is maintaining his Chicago connection by doing the pre-concert lecture for several of the Chicago Symphony concerts this season. Will has been booked to do presentations on November 17 and 19; January 19, 20, 21; and February 23 and 24. The concerts start @8:00, with

Will's lecture beginning @7:00. He is always well-prepared and enthusiastic about the music, a thoroughly enjoyable lecturer.



“Getting to know your Endowment Ministry...”

The Endowment Ministry is responsible for managing, growing and distributing income from the Church’s Endowment Fund. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide members and friends of the Church with an opportunity to leave a **permanent legacy** at Union Church. The Endowment Fund is one of three sources of income for the church, the other two being the annual pledge campaign and capital campaigns as needed to meet the special needs of the Church. Each year, the Endowment Fund Ministry distributes an amount equal to 5% of the average value of the entire fund over the preceding three years. In 2010, approximately \$65,000 was distributed in total, with \$54,000 of that going into the General Fund of the Church to be distributed as part of the budget process.

We would enjoy telling you more about the spiritual and economic advantages of giving to the Endowment Fund. Please contact Jeff Zimmer (630-321-9322/ jeffreyzimmer@comcast.net) or Bill Sutton (630-325-1588/ wsutton18@comcast.net) of the Endowment Ministry or Tom Zoelzer (630-590-6695/ tzoelzer@uchinsdale.org) for more information on how to make a gift to the Endowment Fund.



Congratulations to Joel Gratcyk, the Union Church Project Manager!

The new Union Church of Hinsdale website, as designed by Joel Gratcyk, has been chosen to be featured on the denomination’s website; as a design “that works.”

Congratulations to Joel for a great job on the new website. If you haven’t checked it out, take a look at <http://www.uchinsdale.org>



Meet someone you should know!

Call Joan Hurst at (630) 325.2548 for reservations.

Come to Lunch!

Come to Brunch!

Come to Grant Square Restaurant!

Sunday, November 6th after the 9:00 service.

Make a Commitment!

Make a Reservation!



Next Steps and Moving Forward

I want to thank everyone for taking the time to attend a Cottage Meeting sometime in September or October! Cottage Meetings are designed to give people a voice about how things are going, how things could be in the life of a congregation, and where the Spirit of Christ is leading us into our future. Your participation has helped this process!

The next step is as follows: In November, the Transitional Steering Committee, who organized the Cottage Meetings, will begin analyzing all the comments (66 pages of comments as of the middle of October) by dividing comments into four categories: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth, and threats. They will then begin writing summaries of these four categories based on the comments and share the information with the congregation, the Executive Council, and the Senior Minister Search Committee that will start meeting in January. (Craig Schaefer, Union Church Moderator, is now accepting nominations of people for the Senior Minister Search Committee. See page 7 for more information.) Anyone who would like a copy of all the comments at the cottage meetings can come to the church to read the comments or ask for a copy.

The next step after the analyzing and reporting phase is two fold: 1) The Senior Minister Search Committee will take all the data and use it to make a Church Profile that will be shared with potential candidates for a Senior Minister and become the basis of how the Search Committee evaluates candidates and 2) The Transitional Steering Committee will work with the Executive Council and Ministries to address issues that can be addressed now for healing, growth, and new life. This step is about helping Union Church heal and take the steps to become a thriving, vibrant congregation so that the next Senior Minister can add his or her value and vision to the vision that is emerging in the congregation.

Transition time is about transparency, healing, visioning, changing, preparing, and committing to new leadership and a new day. The Cottage Meetings completes step 2 in a five step process that ends with the call of a new Senior Minister. You have been great so far! Continue to pray, continue to speak the truth in love, continue to be hard on issues and soft on people, and continue to imagine what God has in store for us!

Stewardship Sunday - November 6

Sunday, November 6 is an important day at Union Church. This is when members and friends are asked to bring the pledge card they received at the end of October to a service of worship to be consecrated for their ministry of stewardship in 2012. Giving is a spiritual discipline for followers of Christ, and throughout our stewardship drive, I have been speaking about the biblical principle of percentage giving and becoming a ½ tither on the way to becoming a tither by moving up 1% per year until you get to that ½ tithe or tithe. In September and October, the elected lay leadership of the congregation and the staff were asked to pledge in advance of the stewardship drive to pave the way to the future. As of the middle of October, 81 families have pledged over \$363,000.

For 2012, everyone who increases their current pledge or makes a new pledge can designate where their increase will go in four categories listed on their pledge card. Designation will become effective once the \$1 million basic pledge goal is reached. It's a new day at Union Church! First-rate churches have first-rate givers. Your faithful pledge will help us move forward into a new day. Thank you in advance for your faithful and meaningful pledge!

Rev. Dr. Tom Zoelzer
Transitional Senior Minister
Union Church of Hinsdale, U.C.C.



Last May, a member of the Trustee Ministry and the Stewardship Committee met with each Ministry. Members of the ministry teams were asked to brainstorm ideas of what they would do if they had additional money. Below are some of the 62 things the Ministries said they would like to fund.

- Hire a Volunteer Coordinator
- Insure funding for section leaders
- Budget leadership training and development
- Hire outside speakers for Social Justice and Adult classes
- Buy furniture and sound abatement for Gathering Place
- Restore funding to 5 agencies cut from 2011 budget
- Fund additional activities for different age groups and also intergenerational
- Become a teaching church; have a CTS intern on a regular basis
- Repair pews that are split and obtain additional pew cushions
- Advertise within community our special events and activities
- Install air conditioning in the dining room
- Upgrade audio/visual system in sanctuary
- Restore the Rainbow program for children
- Provide child care for adult programs
- Purchase a new server for the office





Women's Fellowship Gatherings November Meetings

Thursday, November 3 **9:15 a.m.**

Unit 1 Union Church Lounge
2 & 3 "Guatemala Mission Trip,
with Stacey Hurst."

12:30 p.m.

Unit 4 Home of Phyllis Bock
845 S. Bruner St.

7:00 p.m.

Unit 5 Home of Bev Schmidt
1220 Indian Head

Friday, November 4 **1:00 p.m.**

Unit 6 Union Church – Rowell Hall
"Green Roofs", with Nancy Ballantine

If you would be interested in attending a Friday afternoon meeting, please contact Barb Voorhees: (630) 323.3359.

Getting Control of Your Holidays

Wednesdays, 9:15-10:30 a.m. ongoing through December

You know the feeling—you step into a store to pick up nothing more than a loaf of bread on a beautiful fall day, and suddenly you're surrounded by a sea of lights, garland and bows and the scent of pine. IT CAN'T BE CHRISTMAS ALREADY!! **Don't let the season control you!**



Every Wednesday morning you can join a small group to explore: Ideas to maintain healthy eating habits at holiday parties, family gatherings, etc. – Ways to get control of all your holiday activities and traditions - is there a need to re-evaluate – How to establish a plan for the season that allows you to get your "to do's" done and still have some free time – Methods to reduce stress! Come join the discussion.



Holly Market - Saturday, November 19th, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A stress-free way to get holiday shopping done and give back at the same time! Shop for unique gifts from a variety of vendors whose work benefits people in need around the world, particularly women and children. While you shop, your children may get their shopping done at **The Rudolph's Boutique**. An adult or youth "personal shopper" will accompany your child through the boutique helping him/her pick out items for the whole family—gift wrapping included! The prices are "child-sized" as well; \$10 or \$15 goes a very long way at Rudolph's! When the shopping is done, relax for lunch at the Jingle Bell Café, and have your picture taken with Santa. It's the perfect Christmas shopping day!

Organizations participating in the mission marketplace at time of publication are: **BaBaBlankets** (Ghana), **Haramabee** (HIV/AIDS relief), **Schools for Sierra Leone**, **Ten Thousand Villages** (Fair Trade), **Equal Exchange** (Coffee/Cocoa), **Girls Home in Jalapa, Guatemala**, **PEO Chapter HF** (Women's Education).

(All proceeds from Rudolph's Boutique, Jingle Bell Café and Photos with Santa will be donated to an organization to be determined by Women's Association.)

Resale 2011 Thank You

Many thanks to our members, volunteers, department chairs and Union Church staff for a successful Resale 2011. We enjoyed talking with everyone and catching up on what has been happening with you and your family. That spirit of community is one of the best parts of Resale. With your help we were able to take in approximately \$41,000.00. There are still some outstanding expenses which need to be paid before we know the actual amount that is going to be given to charities and non-profit organizations.

- Eleanor Patterson & Mary Bock



Opportunities for Service & Involvement



Allegro Handbell Ensemble appreciates your support by ordering from **Market Day** in November. The holidays are right around the corner so make yours easier by ordering holiday pies from Market Day.

Orders are due at the Church by **Mon., Nov. 14;**
online orders due at 11:00pm **Wed., Nov. 16.**

Pick up your order from the church on **Sat., Nov 19 – 9:30-10:00.** Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

In Search of Lay Visitors

One of the ministries of Union Church is for lay members of the congregation in partnership with the pastoral staff to call on members of the congregation who are less able to be away from their homes or residential facilities. Lay Visitors are assigned people to write notes to, contact by telephone, or make a visit. It is a ministry of care that currently includes 16 Lay Visitors.



This ministry is looking for one or two more to join the team. If you have the gift of bringing compassion and care and would like to learn more about joining this ministry contact Beth Saphir, the chair of the Lay Visitors, at bsaphir@sbcglobal.net.



NOMINEES ARE NOW BEING RECEIVED FOR THE SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Senior Minister Search Committee will begin meeting in January 2012. The Executive Council is now receiving nominations from the congregation concerning who should serve on this important committee.

Committee members will meet 3 or 4 times a month, first to construct a church profile and then conduct a national search (with the help of the United Church of Christ). If you would like to nominate yourself or others who you feel would do a quality job in finding a Senior Minister candidate, contact Union Church Moderator, Craig Schaefer at laurilas@megapathdsi.net.



Thanksgiving Offering - 2011

Union Church has had a relationship with Interfaith House for close to 20 years through the involvement of Tom and Nancy Hanson and the leadership of our Mission ministry. Since opening their doors, Interfaith House has served over 6,600 homeless men and women at our 64-bed facility in Chicago's Garfield Park neighborhood. They play a unique role among the network of groups addressing the challenges faced by the Chicago area's homeless population, filling what was a service gap. Interfaith House helps homeless adults with medical recovery needs that cannot be appropriately addressed in a shelter environment. Most of their residents come to them directly from a hospital or clinic. They were the first, and remain the only such organization in Illinois. Please remember our mission partner this Thanksgiving. ALL loose offering - including checks - go to Interfaith House. We need our generic Union Church envelope in the pew, any offering in those envelopes or the regular giving envelopes (numbered ones) will go to the church.

The Union Church of Hinsdale
United Church of Christ
137 S Garfield Ave, Hinsdale, IL 60521



Dave Engle, Men's Club Speaker
November 9, 2011

Mr. Engle will present a program sharing
"A Student's Experience of China."

Join us as we explore this ever-changing country.

Men's Club meets at noon in the Dining Room at Church.