



# HINCKLEY UPDATE

**A free monthly newsletter provided by the Hinckley First  
United Methodist Church December -Volume 12- 2023**



This month we begin the season of Advent and wait with anticipation for Christmas. I wanted to share with you an entry from a free devotional written by Kate Bowler called *Bless the Advent We Actually Have*. If you are interested in accessing and reading more of the devotional it is available here:

[https://katebowler.com/seasonal\\_devotional/blessthisadvent/](https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/blessthisadvent/)

*“Advent is a time marked by waiting. We wait for God to make all things right. For justice to be meted out. For world leaders to make the right decisions. For wrongs to be righted. For our communities to be safe spaces for the vulnerable. For our earth to heal. We wait for our lives to get easier—for us to have the financial security we need, for our relationships to be restored, for our bodies to ache less. We wait for our parents to understand us and our families to feel whole. We wait for our kids and grandkids to be healed or come back home. We wait for the grief to end.*

*But the waiting of Advent is one marked by hope. We wait with expectancy. With anticipation for the in-breaking of God to make all things new. And yet, hope can feel like a drug that must be carefully administered. Too much and we’re setting ourselves up for disappointment or disillusionment. Too little and we’re freighted with despair.*

*As we sit amidst our shattered dreams of what was not possible or what came undone, of what we have lost or of what was never healed, it is difficult to know what hope is supposed to look like...now. What are we hoping for exactly? How do we find real hope in the midst of all our disappointment? How do we stay awake to the kind of possibility Advent asks of us?*

*Especially when we no longer have the privilege of childish dreams of sugar plums and gumdrops. We have been awakened to the reality of pain and suffering. We no longer crave niceties or easy promises. We want the really real. We need true hope.*

*Of course, there will come a day when we don’t need to hope. Like the psalmist describes, a future will come where we will “run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint” (Isaiah 40:30-31). The long arc of God’s love will redeem and remake the whole world - and us in it.*

*Hope, then, is the function of struggle. It is the realization of our limitations or of our lack of agency or of the inability for us to save ourselves and the ones we love. This kind of hope is not a wishlist sent to Santa Claus. Advent hope is gritty. It shirks all false optimism. It is hope as protest. Hope in the face of impossibilities. As writer Barbara Brown Taylor said, “whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark.”*

*As we wait—expectantly—for God to break into our world, into our communities, into our lives, may we have the eyes to see, soft hearts toward others, and open hands to what God has for us now. Trusting that something new is going to break forth amid this Advent darkness.”*

I pray that the Advent and Christmas that you have is blessed just the way it is.

With hope,  
Rev. Derek Rogers

# CHURCH AND VILLAGE DIRECTORY

## Hinckley Update Publication Guidelines

The Hinckley Update is published on the first of each month by the

**Hinckley First United Methodist Church** as a free service to the community.

The Update is a strictly informational publication which is published to disseminate information or to promote area events to the public for local churches, the library, local non-profit groups, and service organizations.

Following the guidelines stated above, no for-profit business information, advertising with a personal bias will be published.

Due to limited space, personal announcements for publication cannot be included.

**Deadline for submissions to the January 2024 Update is due by Friday, December 15, 2023.**

Submit info to:

[hinckleyumcupdate60520@gmail.com](mailto:hinckleyumcupdate60520@gmail.com)

For further info, contact HFUMC at 815/286-7102 Tues- Fri from 9am-1pm

Contributions are always welcome. Thank you.

Village of Hinckley website:

<http://hincklevil.com>

### Village of Hinckley Board of Trustees

Meetings are held on the second & fourth Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the Hinckley Village Hall, 720 James Street. If that Monday falls on a holiday, the Board meets the following Tuesday.

### Hinckley Public Library District

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at the Hinckley Public Library, 100 N. Maple Street.

### Squaw Grove Township Board

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Hinckley Community Building.

## Church Information

### Hinckley First United Methodist Church

801 N. Sycamore Street Phone: 815/286-7102

Services: Sunday - 9:30 am with Children's Church during Worship

Fellowship - 10:30 am

Adult Sunday School - 10:45 am

Office hours: Tues - Fri from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

AA Meets every Tues. at 6:00 pm. Website: [www.hinckleyfirstumc.org](http://www.hinckleyfirstumc.org)

### Covenant Restoration Church

181 N. Sycamore Street Phone: 815/286-7131

Services: Sunday - 9:30 am

Sunday Prayer & Praise Service - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 pm Friday Prayer Service - 8:00 pm

### Grace Fellowship Church

17081 Owens Road Phone: 630/318-6420

Service & Children's Church: Sunday - 9:45 am

2nd Sunday of the month is Family Sunday.

Community Groups begin quarterly. Website: [www.gracefc.com](http://www.gracefc.com)

### Immanuel Lutheran Church

12760 Lee Rd. Phone: 815/286-3885

Sunday Worship Times: Sept - May 10:15 am, June - Aug. 9:00 am

Men's Bible Study: Every Saturday except 1st Sat. of the month 7:00 am

Website: [www.immanuel-hinckley.org](http://www.immanuel-hinckley.org)

### St. Paul's United Church of Christ

324 West McKinley Street Phone: 815/286-3391

Sunday Service: Sunday Worship Service - 9:30 am

Coffee fellowship immediately following Sunday Service.

Website: [www.stpaulshinckley.org](http://www.stpaulshinckley.org)



**HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY**  
"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"

**HAFP is located at 190 W. Lincoln Hwy Waterman, IL**

HAFP serves the people in Hinckley, Big Rock, Maple Park and Waterman. If you or someone you know can benefit from receiving food, please bring 2 forms of identification including one with a photo ID on the distribution day.

Financial donations can be mailed to:  
HAFP, PO Box 463, Hinckley 60520.

Every \$1.00 donated can provide approximately 20 meals for the hungry. Please call or text our number at 815-286-7275 for any questions or more information. Thank you.

Need more information?

<http://www.hinckleyareafoodpantry.org/>

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HinckleyAreaFoodPantry>

# HBR CUSD #429 Updates and Highlights

Greetings HBR Community~

As we wrap up the first semester of this school year, we wanted to share some highlights with you:



ES: At the elementary school, we have just completed Trimester 1. From Early Childhood to 5th grade, we are learning so many new things each day. We welcomed several new teachers and paraprofessionals to our team this year and are finding our rhythm as we help our students be their best selves every day. We are implementing a new reading resource this year that incorporates fascinating nonfiction topics, such as medieval times and the solar system, as we teach reading skills and comprehension strategies. Outside of the classroom walls, our students have experienced a concert at the Kishwaukee Symphony, several apple orchards and pumpkin farms, Feed My Starving Children and the Morton Arboretum.

At the middle school we are now a quarter into our new schedule that supports grade level teams. This structure has provided some targeted remediation and enrichment for students. We also have weekly incentives for students to positively contribute to our Character Strong lessons, which is our SEL curricular resource, and also IXL, which is a program that provides personalized instruction that meets each learner at their level. We have weekly grade-level incentives to encourage students to use IXL on a regular basis!

This semester at the high school we are seeking to support student learning in the classroom through Flex Period changes, grade level team meetings, and a focus on Tier 1 practices. At the same time we recognize the importance of experiences outside of the classroom. Our students have had multiple opportunities this semester to pursue these experiences. Mr. Abbs, our counselor, has traveled with students to four career exploration opportunities to date with more opportunities coming in the spring. Three students in the FEA are exploring a career in teaching by observing and assisting regularly in classrooms at the middle and elementary schools. Seventeen high school students are serving as mentors once a month to build relationships with middle and elementary school students. Our students have also experienced our annual Leadership Retreat, the FFA National Convention, and a Shakespeare play in Chicago. These opportunities are a valuable part of the high school experience and create lasting memories that can impact a student's perspective and open new ideas for life after high school.

At the district level, we have completed a needs assessment for facilities improvements and worked to develop a multi-phase plan to complete the targeted needs. We have entered into an agreement with Engie to provide project management and oversight for the work. Stay up to date on our progress by accessing the facilities improvement page on our [website](#).

**We wish you all a wonderful holiday season!**

~Jessica Sonntag, Superintendent



# Hinckley Lions Club News



## Come Light the Tree with Santa

Lions members will be serving free hot chocolate on Friday December 1 from 5-6 p.m. as the community gathers to welcome Santa and light the town Christmas tree on the Community Building lawn. The Hinckley Festival Association has planned a craft show with Christmas gift items in the Community Building from 5-8 p.m. and there will also be treats for purchase. The Girl Scouts will be singing carols at 5:30 p.m. on the patio and Santa promises to arrive for the tree lighting at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities and help our community share the Christmas spirit.



## Grow Mobile Offers Free Food December 5

The Lions Club will again be assisting with the distribution of free groceries in Hinckley on December 5. The food items are supplied by the DeKalb County Community Gardens and Northern Illinois Food Bank for anyone who stops between 4 and 5 p.m. The Mobile will be parked in the First United Methodist Church parking lot, 801 N Sycamore St.

The Community Gardens has received a grant to help provide people in our area with wholesome foods. Share the word about this distribution with others who could benefit from the food items. The next visit of the Grow Mobile will be on February 6.

## Queen of Hearts Game About to Payout

Even if we don't find the missing "Queen of Hearts" in the Hinckley Lions card game, there will soon be a payout. The rules state when the jackpot approaches \$100,000, a winner must be chosen, a payout made, and the game starts over. Come and watch the excitement! The Lions Club card raffle has created a lot of interest as participants guess where the Queen of Hearts may be in the deck of cards. Lion Jerry Bahl is camped out by the Queen sign at J&K's Half Moon to explain the rules and where to look for the Queen. You can follow the game on the Hinckley Lions Club Facebook page. Drawings are held each Wednesday at 7 p.m. at J&K's Half Moon.

## Christmas Gifts for Seniors

A longstanding tradition of the Lions Club will be continued on December 16 as members deliver gift bags to older residents of our community. The program started as a reminder that people were appreciated and not forgotten as they retired and were less active in the community. The club gathers items for the bags including items from local businesses that will bring a smile and a good taste. It's another way to say thank you and wish them a Merry Christmas.



## Recycling Bin Receives New Paint

The Lions recycling bin outside of the Hinckley Library has been removed for a "face lift." In the meantime, you can leave recycling items in the library book return outside of the Community Building, 100 Maple St. The recycling bin was showing its age so needed a paint job and new decals.

The club participates in the Lions International recycling program to repurpose, reuse and recycle a growing list of items to avoid filling our landfills. We welcome old eyeglasses, tattered flags, hearing aids, keys, key fobs, wire, desk top ink cartridges, brass, and cell phones. Package the smaller items in a plastic bag and—for now--drop all items in the library book return slot outside of the building. Lions Club International helps us respectfully retire flags and repurpose other items. Thank you for helping Lions on their mission of service.

Contact Lion Secretary Mark Bernhardt ([mark.bernhardy@gmail.com](mailto:mark.bernhardy@gmail.com)) for more information. Lions meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the backroom of J&K's Half Moon.



# HAPPENINGS AT THE LIBRARY



The post-holiday season is a great time to join a **book club**. Stay warm with a good book and fend off the isolation that the winter months bring. The library offers book clubs for adults and kids. If our meeting times don't work for you, consider starting your own.

We can request copies of your chosen book through interlibrary loan so your attendees don't have to buy every title.



Have questions? Reach out! Call the library at 815-286-3220, message us on Facebook, or send an email through our website at [www.hinckleylibrary.org](http://www.hinckleylibrary.org).

## [Are you looking for a holiday gift idea?](#)

Consider making a donation in a loved one's name to the library building project. Every donation will be acknowledged according to the amount given. Your name will go on a plaque inside a new book for gifts under \$500. A donor wall will be featured in the entryway of the new building to honor gifts above \$500. We are happy to discuss naming rights for gifts above \$20,000. Your donation is also tax-deductible! Make a lasting impact on the Hinckley community this holiday season with a gift that will be remembered for generations.

Scan this QR code to make an online donation.



## The Hinckley Area Food Pantry is looking for a volunteer treasurer on our Board of Directors!

The treasurer manages our financial operations, including processing donations, deposits, paying invoices, tracking expenses, and managing government filing requirements.

This volunteer position is essential for our operations and it's a great way to give back to our community!

Email [HAFP93@gmail.com](mailto:HAFP93@gmail.com) to learn more.

HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY



Join us most mornings beginning at 8AM located at HFUMC for ***Fitness at First***. Come and walk or exercise with us at your own pace. Bring a friend or exercise partner along with you. This is open to everyone and no reservations are needed.

Call Mary Pritchard at 815-751-3033

## Grief Support Group :

Offering support meetings to all who are grieving a personal loss at **Hinckley First United Methodist Church** at 7 PM. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for any meeting.

Meetings this month are on: **Wednesday, December 13th & December 27th**



Please feel free to reach out with questions or comments at [lbbhealthandwellness@gmail.com](mailto:lbbhealthandwellness@gmail.com) or call/text 815-520-0026.

## Join us for our Open House and 30th Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday, December 2 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

190 W. Lincoln Hwy. Waterman, IL 60556

Come see our new facility, learn about the pantry, how we serve the community, and help us honor our 30 years of service.

HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY



## Year-End Update



### United Methodist Church Recognized for its History

The Illinois State Historical Society has recognized and celebrated the Hinckley First United Methodist Church for continuously serving the community for 171 years. The church was the first religious group to organize and build a house of worship in the settlement that became Hinckley. Its records of births, marriages, deaths, and life events are invaluable historic records. Watch for the story about the church in the first HHS newsletter of 2024.

### Looking for a Unique Gift?

The Historical Society may be able to supply that unique gift for someone special this holiday season. We have a specially designed Christmas tree ornament for Hinckley. The blue glass ball features landmarks and a unique Hinckley identifier. The museum also has an assortment of books about Hinckley history, Chief Shabbona, country schools, DeKalb County, and Illinois. Stop by on Saturdays or call 815-761-4058 for an appointment to visit at other times.

### Museum Winter Hours

The museum will be closed for the winter from December 17 until April 5. However, feel welcome to call Bob (815-761-4058) for an appointment to visit the museum during this time or to discuss artifacts you would like to place in the museum.

### Looking for High School Yearbooks

Our collection of Hinckley and HBR high school yearbooks go back nearly a hundred years. You are welcome to take a look at their photos of graduates, school activities and artistic designs over the years. While we have about half of the yearbooks since 1924, we would like to find copies of yearbooks from **1932 to 1949, 1966, 1998 to 2003, and 2013 to 2016.**

If you have any of these yearbooks we are missing, please call HHS or send us an email. Our volunteers will digitize the yearbook and you can keep the original copy.

### Wishing You Enjoyable Holidays

As we look through our archives of Hinckley newspapers, we find that merchants were regularly running advertisements wishing residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The Historical Society continues that tradition by wishing everyone glad tidings and wishes for wonderful days ahead. We also thank you for becoming members of the society and for your donations that support our programs, operations and exhibits.

Donations to the Hinckley Historical Society are tax deductible. HHS has also created an Endowment Fund to recognize and remember those who have been an important part of our community. Contact HHS for more information.

*Our museum, located at 141 East Lincoln Avenue, Hinckley, IL 60520, is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon until December 16. It will be closed from December 17 until March 15. You can still call Bob (815-761-4058) for an appointment to visit during the winter. Follow us on Facebook. Email: [Hinckleyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:Hinckleyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) and visit our web site: [HinckleyHistoricalSociety.com](http://HinckleyHistoricalSociety.com).*



## St. Paul's UCC Hinckley

**Annual Cookie Walk and Bake Sale, Christmas crafts.**

**Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 8am-12noon**

Homemade cookies, candy, and other baked goods

**Cookies and candy will be \$9.00 per lb.**

\*\* We will also have Grandma's Attic where we will sell gently used Christmas items for very reasonable prices. \*\*



**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

**(324 W. McKinley Ave.)**

**Corner of View and McKinley St. Hinckley**

St. Paul's is handicapped accessible with a handi-lift located in the narthex (front entrance).

Please use McKinley St. entrance. Questions call or text Donna 815-742-7258

**Bring the whole family to Hinckley's biggest holiday event! On Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, this year's Tree Lighting will include a vendor show along with its traditional festivities.**

Get your holiday shopping done with 10+ craft and vendor booths like Tupperware, homemade Christmas décor, H-BR spirit wear, and more. Enjoy free hot cocoa courtesy of the Hinckley Lions Club and purchase warm cinnamon rolls and cookies from Fran's Cozy Kitchen.

All activities will be held at the Hinckley Community Building at 100 Maple St. The vendor show will be inside from 5:00-8:00pm, the Girl Scouts will sing carols outside at 5:30, and Santa will arrive to light the tree at 6:00. The Hinckley Fire District's "Keep the Wreath Red" display will also be featured at this event, a reminder to practice fire safety when decorating for the holidays.



Hello! My name is Stephanie Long and I am the new Parks and Recreation Coordinator for the village. I am looking forward to bringing many classes and programs to our community. This process is going to start slow and steady and we will build on as the program develops! I am open to any suggestions you may have or if you'd like to offer your skills and talents to teach a class of some kind. I will be sending a flyer in each water bill so you are aware of the classes and programs we are offering during each season. We will start a few classes and programs after the New Year, so please stay tuned!

Please check out our Facebook Group: [Hinckley Parks and Recreation](#)

Please contact me with any questions or thoughts: [sbye85@gmail.com](mailto:sbye85@gmail.com)

Thank you! I am looking forward to future events!

Stephanie Long



## Illinois Sesquicentennial House of Worship

**The Illinois Historical Society has recognized the Hinckley First United Methodist Church as a Illinois Sesquicentennial House of Worship in September 2023.**

This history of the Hinckley First United Methodist Church aligns with the development of the State of Illinois, DeKalb County, Squaw Grove Township, and the Village of Hinckley. As early as 1834 settlers began to build log cabins in Squaw Grove township. Methodist missionaries and circuit riders began holding meetings in the community in 1835 and DeKalb County was established in 1837.

The formal beginnings of the HFUMC were from a religious class led by C.F. Wright with meetings in homes in Squaw Grove Township in 1852. The “Squaw Grove Appointment” was one stop on a circuit of five small settlements in the north central Illinois area. The Squaw Grove Methodist Episcopal Church building was erected on the west side of what is now the Village of Hinckley in 1869. The church building was moved from its original location to the center of the new town of Hinckley in 1874.

In 1899, the name changed to First Methodist Episcopal Church and a new church was built and dedicated. On February 22, 1923, the church building and its contents were destroyed by fire. The cornerstone for the new Methodist Episcopal Church was laid on September 23, 1923. and a new church building rose from the ashes of the old one. The dedication was held on May 24, 1924. In May of 1926, fire once again threatened the church building, but the building survived.

In 1990, it became apparent that both extensive repair and remodeling needed to be done, or a new building needed to be built to serve the growing community. A generous bequest allowed the congregation to purchase 10 acres of land on the north side of Hinckley. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 31, 1998. Work on the new building began during the spring of 1999 with completion coming in December of that same year.

On January 2, 2000, the congregation celebrated the new year and new millennium as 250 people gathered to praise God and to dedicate their new church home. This fourth building is the current home of the Hinckley First United Methodist Church. We are proud to recognize 171 years of service for this congregation.

### **Library Project Receives More Support**

A donation from the DeKalb County Community Foundation (DCCF) helped the Hinckley Public Library take another step toward achieving a long-standing dream. The \$50,000 grant will help renovate a downtown building for a new, larger library.

“Empowering communities through education and access to knowledge is at the heart of our mission,” said Jolene Willis, Grants Director for DCCF. “We are proud to announce our grant in support of Hinckley Public Library District’s new building project, ensuring that the library remains strong and vibrant for the future.”

The library is seeking grants and donations totaling \$2,250,000 for the project reports Rylie Roubal, Hinckley Public Library Director. This grant brings the library to about half of the goal and will allow development of a construction timeline and new roof.

The new location for the library will more than double its current space, solve library accessibility issues, as well as help rejuvenate the appearance of the downtown. More than 10,000 patrons visit the library each year to attend programs, check out books, use the public computers, and connect with each other.

**Since 1993, DCCF has successfully connected people who care with causes that benefit organizations and communities throughout DeKalb County. The Foundation is located at 475 DeKalb Ave., Sycamore, IL**

**Village  
News**