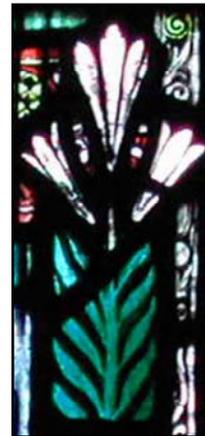


Together we celebrate the work of God's Spirit among us through Christian fellowship and service throughout our community, practicing a welcoming spirit, honoring each person, and challenging one another to seek God's purpose in the world – with the promise of joy, renewal, and spiritual growth.

(Mission Statement, adopted 1996)

# HYDE PARK UNION CHURCH

Chartered in 1874 in the Free Church Tradition  
American Baptist/United Church of Christ  
5600 South Woodlawn Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60637  
phone 773.363.6063 • fax 773.324.3874  
www.hpuc.org • office@hpuc.org



## April 2014

### April Church Calendar

#### Wednesday, April 2

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study, 6:00 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 3

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

#### Friday, April 4

Eumenical Worship in the Spirit of Taize, 7:00 p.m.

#### Sunday, April 6

Worship with Communion and Remembrance of Chicago's Fallen Children and Youth,, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Susan Johnson preaching

Second Hour Lenten Series: Finding Our Way: Centering Ourselves, Rev. Susan Johnson and Amanda Guthrie speaking

#### Wednesday, April 9

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 10

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, April 13

Worship with Children's Palm Sunday Pageant, 10:00 a.m.

Chili-making, 11:30 a.m.

#### Wednesday, April 16

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study, 6:00 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday Service and Dinner, 6:30 p.m.

#### Friday, April 18

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, April 20

Early Easter Worship, 7:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.

Easter Worship, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Susan Johnson preaching

#### Wednesday, April 23

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 24

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, April 27

Worship, 10:00 a.m., Amanda Guthrie preaching

#### Wednesday, April 30

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study, 6:00 p.m.

From the Senior Minister  
Rev. Susan Johnson

### *The Beauty of Holy Week*

It is right that we turn ourselves in the last days of Lent to the Jesus' suffering at the hands of ignorant and evil people, alternately caught up in and directing the earthly forces that condemned him to death. Many a year, we have confessed ourselves to be among the crowd that shouted in the confusion of their oppression, "Give us Barabbus!" But Holy Week should also be an incredibly beautiful time, a time when the reflection of Lent gives way to Christ's passion and God's intent for our lives.

Palm Sunday, in which we have traditionally involved our children and youth, is the counter-cultural celebration of a humble king, a gentle and saving presence among us. Jesus looks out over Jerusalem and laments, "Would that even today you knew the things which make for peace, but they are hid from your eyes!" And yet, he borrows a young donkey and rides into the city because he loves the people. What unfolds is extravagance of spontaneous joy. People spread their own clothing on the ground before him, they cut down palm branches, and create a veritable carpet. People hold up their children to be blessed; even a cursed old man climbs into a tree so that he can see. This year on Palm Sunday, the children will guide our *palmesel* through the congregation in joyful celebration of the One whom even the stones would have cried out to proclaim.

Maundy Thursday (6:30 p.m.) is an *agape feast* of Middle Eastern foods that Jesus and his disciples might have enjoyed. Culminating in the remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper with them, the focus of this service is on Communion and Jesus' establishment of a caring community in his blood. We receive the beauty of this sacramental celebration with all of our senses – hearing, sight, touch, taste and smell. "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you," Jesus tells his disciples in Luke, "for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." He would endure betrayal and abandonment, asking if this cup might pass from him, and yet this night we commemorate how he regarded the fellowship of this meal as a time to ask his disciples, and show them how, to love one another.

On Good Friday (7:30 p.m.), in Willie Pickens' able hands, the music of the Spirituals, along with Bach's *Passion Chorale* ("O Sacred Head Now Wounded"), will again express the passion of Christ, his benevolent suffering for our sake. As each scripture is read and each candle extinguished, the

*continued on page 2*

piano and bass will carry us through Jesus' horrible death into a profound gratitude for undying love. One of our Sacred Jazz offerings this year, we realize our devotion to Christ, as once written by Bernard of Clairveaux: What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest friend? For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end. O Make me Thine forever; And should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never Outlive my love to Thee."

Our early Easter service (7:30 a.m.) is an opportunity to sit together in the chancel, amidst the lilies and awash in the early sunlight through the stained glass. All of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances are woven into one lovely litany and leading us into Communion with the One who rules in our hearts even today.

Early Easter is followed by Easter Breakfast (8:15 - 9:45 a.m.) and activities for children, and the main Easter Service (10:00 a.m., as always). There will be special music that day, and as has been our tradition for many years, everyone is asked to literally join the choir up front for the singing of Handel's *Halleluiah Chorus*.

Each of our services throughout Holy Week has been conceived to awaken in us a renewed sense of God's love, Christ's sacrifice and victory, and the gift of the Holy Spirit in our midst. The true beauty of the week is in participation in every ritual and event – not as a memorial, but as the gifts to us which they are.

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### ***In Memoriam***

We learned this last month of the death of Emiko Adachi, beloved Nursery School teachers and church member. Emi was 92. As a Japanese American, she and her family had endured removal to remote internment camps during World War II. Following the war, Emi moved to Chicago, where she met and married George Adachi, who predeceased her, and they raised their family. Emi brought peace and tranquility to any setting and, when she retired from the Hyde Park Union Church Nursery School, even her retirement party – attended by 3 and 4 year-old students as well as older alumni, was the picture of the sweetness and calm she brought to every class. *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.* (Ps. 116:15).

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### ***The Sacred Circle***

*Rev. Erma Y. Croom, Director of the Gilead Ministry*

Recently I had an opportunity to visit some of the members of the Gilead Women's Auxiliary while they were engaged in stitching arts at Montgomery Place. These creative crafters were busy with various kinds of needle craft, knitting, crocheting, and cross-stitching. This circle of women was busy making their wonderful creations, creations that were to be included in layettes given for new born infants at

Jackson Park Hospital. As they worked skillfully at their crafts, we shared in conversation spurred by the richness of the moment and the sheer pleasure of each other's company. Sitting with this circle gave me a sense of the sacredness of their actions, every stitch a blessed sacrament and every crochet chain a prayer.

As I continued to share this sacred space my mind traveled back to a time when I was a girl, sitting at the feet of my great-grandmother Emma as she busied herself with her quilting. As I sat with excited anticipation, I was given pieces of fabric, needle and thread. She let me sew pieces together to add to the quilt. Granny Emma's quilts were well stitched together and heavy. They helped to keep my siblings and me warm in the winter. As my thoughts return to the stitching circle of the Gilead Women's Auxiliary, I think, "what a wonderful way to spend the afternoon." I feel inspired to take up crocheting again, a hobby I had abandoned long ago. I leave the women with a promise to myself to return soon and make my own contribution to this sacred circle of creativity, crocheting granny squares.

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### **Mother's Day for Jackson Park Hospital**

The Gilead Auxiliary is seeking donations of new or gently used items for layettes for newborns.

#### **Items needed included:**

- blankets
- receiving blankets
- sleepers
- onesies
- hats
- bibs
- socks

Items will be collected during the month of April. The goal is to supply and assemble at least 15 layettes.

Thank you for your support.

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## ***Palm Sunday Pageant***

*Amanda Guthrie*

This year, our Palm Sunday pageant comes from the Gospel of Matthew. We move from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey to the last supper and, finally, to Judas' betrayal and Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. This year, we will also explore some of what occurred in Jerusalem between those first two "scenes." After coming to the city, Jesus spends some of his final days teaching and healing in the temple. In this time, he is questioned by the religious leaders and uses parables to demonstrate and warn against their arrogance. When the leaders attempt to trap him in his words, Jesus answers in ways that "astound" the crowds. Students in Gifts 1 (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade) have spent the winter learning about Jesus' life. They have read stories about his youth and about his ministry as he taught through words, healing, and miracles. As Jesus shares some of his final words during the pageant, Gifts 1 students will share their thoughts about Jesus' teaching. In the pageant, Jesus will proceed to speak in parables about the coming judgment and encourage those present to remain watchful and ready. Students in Gifts 2 (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade) have spent the winter reading chapters from the gospels and from several New Testament letters through the lens of historical criticism and as theology. Most recently, they studied the book of Romans and thought about Paul's attempt to explain salvation and the message of the gospel to both Jewish and Gentile followers of Christ. During the pageant, they, along with some of the older students, will share what they think when they hear the phrase "The Kingdom of Heaven." This winter, Godly Play students have learned stories from both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament – stories of the lives of Jesus' followers, Peter, Philip, Dorcas, & John, and the stories of creation, Noah, Abram & Sarai, and the Exodus. Students in Godly Play will share a song with us during the pageant.

For the next few weeks, all of the students will be immersed in the story of this final week of Jesus' life. We look forward to bringing it to life for you during worship on Palm Sunday.



## ***The Hush of Darkness: Jazz Tenebrae***

*Jade Maze*

We are very pleased that Willie Pickens and Larry Gray will be intertwining introspective and reflective interpretations of the very familiar hymns and spirituals related to Good Friday in our Jazz Tenebrae service on Friday, April 18th at 7:30pm. Like the smoke from the extinguished candles, their piano and bass will wind and waft through the sanctuary invoking the gravity of this sacred service. Not one to miss.



## Holy Week

### Maundy Thursday, April 17

Service and Agape Meal, 6:30 p.m.

### Good Friday, April 18

Jazz Tenebrae Service, 7:30 p.m.

### Easter Sunday, April 20

Early Easter Service, 7:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast, 8:15 a.m.

Easter Service, 10:00 a.m.

**Please RSVP to the church office ([office@hpuc.org](mailto:office@hpuc.org))  
for the Maundy Thursday Agape Meal, the Easter  
Breakfast, and/or Easter Lily Orders.**

For the Maundy Thursday Agape Meal and the Easter  
Breakfast, please provide your name and the number  
of people attending.

For Easter Lily orders, please provide your name, the  
number of lilies you would like to order, and your  
dedication, if you would like to include one.  
Lilies are \$10 each.

## Ninth Annual "Taste of Hyde Park"

*a dinner and silent auction to benefit the Hyde  
Park Transitional Housing Project (HPTHP)*

**Where:** St. Paul & the Redeemer Church  
4945 S. Dorchester

**When:** Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Donations:** \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door, \$25 for  
students with ID, \$15 for children ages 6-17, children ages  
5 and under free (patrons contributing \$100 or more, paid  
in advance, will be recognized in the program)

**Tickets:** may be purchased before April 5 at  
[www.hpthp.org](http://www.hpthp.org) or buying a ticket from Ginni Cook or  
Marlene Vellinga; ticket purchases can also be arranged by  
emailing [hpthp@yahoo.com](mailto:hpthp@yahoo.com)

*HPTHP provides housing and mentoring services to  
homeless families for up to two years, helping them to  
achieve independent living. Founded in 2002 by the  
Hyde Park cluster of Interfaith Open Communities,  
HPTHP is supported by many Hyde Park and Kenwood  
congregations, individuals, and businesses and by the  
Hyde Park and Kenwood Interfaith Council.*

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**Hyde Park Union Church  
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