

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
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July 2014

July Church Calendar

Wednesday, July 2

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Friday, July 4

Church Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day

Sunday, July 6

Summer Series Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m., Amanda Guthrie preaching

Summer Series Discussion Over Coffee, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 9

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Friday, July 11

Ecumenical Worship in the Spirit of Taizé, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 13

Summer Series Worship with Jazz and Remembrance of Chicago's Fallen Children and Youth, 10:00 a.m., Noema Bradnanska preaching

Chili-making, 11:30 a.m.

Summer Series Discussion Over Coffee, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 16

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 20

Summer Series Worship, 10:00 a.m., Al Sharp preaching

Summer Series Discussion Over Coffee, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 23

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 24

Summer Dinner and Video Prep, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 27

Worship, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Erma Croom preaching

Summer Series Discussion Over Coffee, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 30

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

From the Senior Minister Rev. Susan Johnson

At its retreat, the Church Board voted unanimously to create a Strategic Planning Task Force to look at the church's programs and staffing in light of future financial constraints once the Lilly grant ends in June 2015. They will also look at creative options maximizing the church's resources.

The Motion for a Strategic Planning Task Force reads: *...that a Strategic Planning Task Force be appointed by the Board, including the Property & Finance Committee and at least four to six other members who have served as Moderator or Treasurer in the past, to provide a written strategic planning report to the Board. The Sr. Minister and Moderator will serve as ex officio members of this task force.*

In its report, the task force shall examine the assets and liabilities of the church, including real estate and buildings; the regular and capital expenses of the church, with specific examination of current staffing; and the volunteer hours and roles necessary to pursue the various programs and missions of the church. The task force will make recommendations for the near-future use of these human and material resources, including recommendations on the constellation of staff and implications for programs, beginning July 2015.

The report, which will be mailed electronically in advance to Board members, will be presented at the September meeting of the Board, in anticipation of a congregational meeting shortly thereafter. {By friendly amendment, Rev. Dr. Larry Greenfield was also added to the list of members to be asked to serve on the task force.

The Rationale for this motion is that in July 2015, the Church will no longer be supported by a Lilly Endowment grant and must begin to plan for a smaller pastoral staff and smaller program budget. The Property and Finance Committee feels strongly that all of the cuts possible have already been made to the budget without significant negative impact on programs and services. The strategic planning now necessary exceeds the work of the Property & Finance Committee alone, and requires individuals who are experienced in the oversight of the full church program.

Active Former Moderators and Treasurers, who have accepted appointment to the Task Force, along with members of the Property & Finance Committee include: Caroline Anderson, Fred Anderson, Jon Art, Susan Art, Christine Bailey, Richard Barnard, Fred Behlen, Ted Cook, Malvirse Dervin, Larry Haverkamp, Diane Howard, Pamela Mearsheimer, Tony Montag, Margaret O'Dell, and Willie Pickens.

The Task Force will at least three times, and will finish its work by Labor Day. Its work will be data driven. Church staff are in the process of collecting relevant data, which will include: current financial budget v actual and balance sheet, an appraisal of the church's property (land and building), staff job descriptions, and reports from each of the church staff on the programs we are currently doing and what it takes to support them in terms of dollars, staffing and volunteer hours, and an analysis which the Presbyterians did of demographic

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trends for Kenwood, Hyde Park and Woodlawn, based on recent census data. The Task Force will meet with and without staff present. The commitment of the Task Force is to prepare a report on creative options to be given to the Church Board.

As the Senior Minister of Hyde Park Union for over a quarter of a century, I am very pleased that we will take this time to think strategically about the future shape of this very good congregation. And I feel confident that their deliberations will not only include important questions about the property and finances of the church, but also our mission and ministry, within the church and beyond on its walls. We do work hard to keep the institution running, and we have put together a wide range of important programs that build our fellowship, educate our children and adults, and contribute to the wider community. But as much as we shape the church as a spiritual community, we are also always shaping ourselves as its members. The report of the Task Force will be a very important opportunity for church members to discuss what this church means to them and what they mean to its ongoing life and ministry.

Jackson Park Hospital Gets an "A" and Gilead Ministry Says Goodbye

Rev. Erma Croom, Director of the Gilead Ministry

Things seem to be looking up for Jackson Park Hospital these days. A recent Chicago Tribune newspaper article highlighting survey results from the Leapfrog group lists Jackson Park Hospital among several Hospitals in Chicago to receive an 'A' in the area of patient-safety. The 'A' rating is a rebound from the 'F' Jackson Park Hospital received in a similar survey in 2012.¹ Hat's off to Jackson Park Hospital for this turnaround in their performance.

The good news regarding an improved patient-safety rating for Jackson Park Hospital was somewhat overshadowed however, as Gilead Ministry said goodbye to Staff Chaplain Jeffery Challberg. For those of you who don't know, this summer, Jeffery and his fiancée Leah are moving to Minneapolis, Minnesota. After getting married on August 9th they will both begin CPE residencies at two different Minnesota hospitals, Jeffery at Fairview Southdale Hospital and Leah at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital.

On Tuesday, June 17th, Gilead Ministry gave Jeffery a big send off. Cake and other refreshments were available for all who came to say farewell. Many of the staff from the hospital including the President Mr. Merritt Hasbrouck and the CEO Dr. William Dorsey stopped by the Chaplain's office to offer well wishes. Many others who were not able to attend the celebration wrote their expressions of appreciation on cards that were circulated throughout the hospital. The thoughtful expressions extended to Jeffery by the administration and staff at Jackson Park Hospital, I believe are an indication of their genuine appreciation for his pastoral ministry. While with us Jeffery supported families in crisis, conducted daily pastoral visits and ran weekly spiritual groups on the men's Behavioral Medicine unit. His pleasant, calm demeanor and thoughtful, supportive presence brought comfort and support to many of the staff, patients and their family members.

I am thankful for the opportunity to get to know and work with Jeffery these past four months I have served as director.

I particularly appreciate the refreshing insights Jeffery has shared during our occasional deep conversations. He is an excellent chaplain and has been a blessing to Gilead Ministry. He will be greatly missed. Jeffery expressed recently that he and Leah are "very excited about this new chapter in their lives!" Gilead Ministry and the staff of Jackson Park Hospital are equally excited and very happy for them. We wish them all the best!

¹ Editorial, (2014, June 7). (An 'A' for Jackson Park Hospital) *Chicago Tribune*. Retrieved from http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-06-07/opinion/ct-jackson-park-hospital-leapfrog-edit-0607-20140607_1_leapfrog-group-patient-safety-jackson-park-hospital.

Dinners & Video Prep Over the Summer

Amanda Guthrie

In the fall, we'd like to make a video about our congregation to put on the church website. More and more people first learn about our community by searching online, and this video will give visitors an idea of who we are and what is important to us.

Some of you may remember watching a [video](#) created by First Congregational UCC of Manhattan, KS at our church meeting in January. It is a beautifully-done video, which highlights their community's welcoming and inclusive attitude, as well as the programs and values that are most critical to their life as a community. At our first dinner in June, we re-watched this video and considered what programs and aspects of our community life at HPUC that we would want to highlight. We considered the questions: What do you think of when you think of our church community? What are the things you want people to know about our church? We then discussed the themes and values that arose over the course of our conversation.

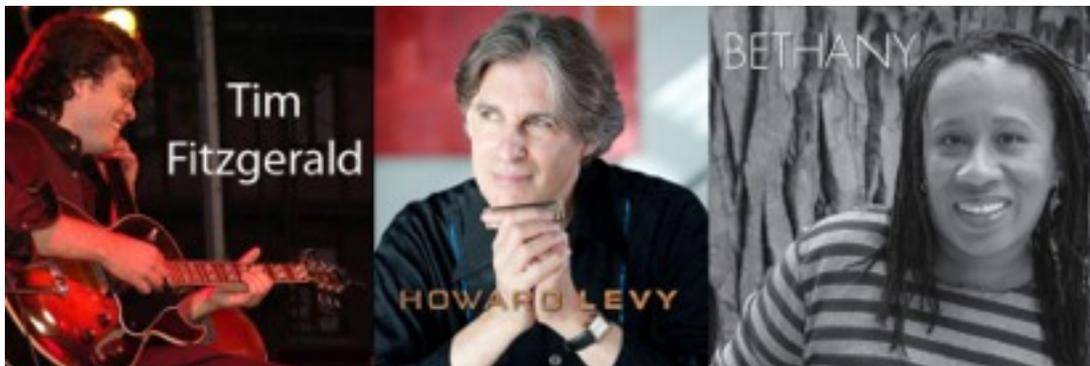
In July, we'll have our second dinner together on Thursday the 24th. During this dinner, our conversation will focus on what happens here on Sunday mornings. Jade will talk about her work with and vision for the music program, and, together, we'll consider what our relationship is to music and sacred arts. We'll consider: What aspects of Sunday morning will be most important to share in this video? We'll meet for our third dinner on Thursday, August 14th. At this dinner, we'll actually begin to "story board." We'll think about what stories, events, and images we want to capture in the film. We'll review the contributions that we've gathered from the first two dinners, and begin planning how we can convey those things most effectively.

To ensure that this video will accurately reflect our community's identity and values, we hope that there will be a lot of participation in the planning process and as we begin to film. With summer vacation schedules, if you are unable to make any of the dinners but would like to share your thoughts about what should be included in the video and what aspects of our community life are most important to you, please feel free to share them with Amanda & Susan in person or via email. You can also add your thoughts to the posters that are hanging in the Social Hall. And be on the lookout for a survey that will also ask for your input!

Let Your Glory Fall: Sacred Jazz Starting July 13

Jade Maze

Where to begin...for seven weeks our sanctuary will be filled with some of the most incredible musicians from all over our city. We Chicagoans are truly blessed with a rich and deep well to draw from. Our seven-week Sacred Jazz Series will be kicked off by the phenomenal vocalist **Saalik Ziyad** and his Z Trio. Ziyad has appeared in George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*



under the direction of Bobby McFerrin at the Ravinia Music Festival in Illinois, he is a wonderful scat singer and fully emerged in all things jazz. We will be guitar heavy at the end of the series with the smooth jazz sounds of **Buddy Fambro**, whose been playing in the *Motown the Musical* show at the Oriental Theater all summer, and bebopper **Tim Fitzgerald** whose book of Wes Montgomery transcriptions is held in the highest regard. Our own **Bethany Pickens** and her trio will lead worship on week three. We all may take her a bit for granted, but let us not forget that she has received Outstanding Pianist and Composer awards at the Elmhurst Jazz Festival, Notre Dame Jazz Festival and Music Fest USA (Philadelphia). It'll be great to hear her gifts. Also joining us will be pianist/composer **Peter Saltzman** fresh off a run of his one-man show *Piano Diaries* (at the Athenaeum through July 6th), and pianist **Chris Mahieu** for a more subtle service amid all the joyful noise.

With a barely contained bit of smugness, I am proud to tell you that on July twentieth we will be honored with the presence of the highly acclaimed **Howard Levy**! Multiple Grammy- Award winner Howard Levy is an acknowledged master of the diatonic harmonica, a superb pianist, innovative composer, recording artist, bandleader, teacher, producer, and Chicago area resident. His musical travels have taken him all over the geographical world and the musical map. Equally at home in Jazz, Classical music, Rock, Folk, Latin, and World Music, he brings a fresh lyrical approach to whatever he plays. This has made him a favorite with audiences worldwide, and a recording artist sought after by the likes of Kenny Loggins, Dolly Parton, Paquito D'Rivera, Styx, Donald Fagen, and Paul Simon.

He is perhaps best known for the four CD's he recorded with Bela Fleck and The Flecktones, a unique band that set the musical world on its ear back in the early 1990's. He got back together with the band in 2010 and recorded the CD *Rocket Science*. They toured extensively in 2011-2012, and Howard won a Grammy for Best Instrumental Composition for "Life in Eleven", which he wrote with Bela Fleck. His solo Jazz CD, *Alone and Together* on Balkan Samba, and his Jazz trio CD *Tonight and Tomorrow* on the Chicago Sessions label, both received 4-star reviews in *DownBeat*. In 2011 Howard also released a classical CD featuring his "Concerto for Diatonic Harmonica and Orchestra," the first concerto ever composed for the diatonic harmonica. He has performed the piece more than 20 times in the US and Europe.

We are in for some spirited worship! Thanks be to God!



In Memoriam

We mourn the death on May 30 of Dr. Benjamin Spargo, M.D., who with his wife Barbara was a member of this church for many years. Ben was a nephrologist, and his groundbreaking work in the use of electron microscopy in diagnosing kidney disease transformed medical practice in the field. At the time of his death, he was in assisted living at Montgomery Place. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

In Conjunction with Our Summer Series

Yoga & Centering Prayer: Coming to Present to Listen for the Spirit

All levels welcome.

If you have any serious injuries or medical concerns, please be sure to discuss practicing yoga with your doctor.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda at amanda@hpuc.org.

Calendar (7-8pm):

Mondays: July 7, July 21, July 28, August 4, August 11, August 18, & August 25



Church Dinners: Listening for the Spirit as a Community

Join us for fellowship and conversation. We will discuss how the Spirit has moved in our community in the past and try to discern together where the Spirit is leading us next.

Calendar (7-9pm):

Thursdays: July 24, & August 14



**Hyde Park Union Church
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