

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



June 2014

June Church Calendar

Sunday, June 1

Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Larry Greenfield preaching

Coffee Hour, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 4

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 5

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 6

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

Sunday, June 8

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

Chili-making, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 11

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, June 15

Children's Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 18

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 22

Worship, 10:00 a.m., Preacher TBA

Summer Series: "Listening for the Spirit in Not-so-Ordinary Time", 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 25

Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, June 29

Worship, 10:00 a.m., Preacher TBA

Summer Series: "Listening for the Spirit in Not-so-Ordinary Time", 11:30 a.m.

From the Senior Minister

Rev. Susan Johnson

Summer Worship Series, June 22-August 24: "Listening for the Spirit in Not-so-Ordinary Time"

Each summer our Summer Worship Series captures the imaginations of our members, friends, and visitors at a time of year when attendance and enthusiasm might otherwise flag. This year we embrace the liturgical season as our theme, with a very important twist: "**Listening for the Spirit in Not-So-Ordinary Time.**" Described below, it presumes that the summer's preachers know and care about our church at a deeper level, so all of our summer preachers come from within our membership.

"Ordinary Time" is the long stretch between Pentecost and Advent, however we would contend that our times are anything but ordinary. We are dealing with all sorts of challenges and changes, external and internal. Human beings like a certain amount of change, but no one embraces upheaval. And much of what is happening to us in Hyde Park, in Chicago, in the U.S., and around the globe represents enormous change.

- Some change is macroscopic and global: Both climate change and revolutionary and civil conflicts call for global interrelationship. In the midst of this, we experience new distrust and the greatest number of displaced persons since the advent of the nation-state.
- Some change we share with broader communities but experience as local: Like many churches and synagogues, our membership is aging, our financial support is decreasing, volunteerism is dwindling, buildings which once soared into the heavens consume resources and cry out for repair. In Hyde Park, secularist and individualist perspectives dominate the local culture, as the neighborhood itself is predicted to become younger, more affluent, and ever more diverse in the years ahead.
- Some change is decidedly personal: We are not immune to illness, accident, disability, economic loss, or other hardships which propel change. New patterns of marriage and relationship challenge our ideas of what family life is or should be. Diversity in workplace and family life challenge our ideas about who we are, what our cultural and ethical values can be.

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- All of this demands theological reflection and change. One Chicago rabbi recently lamented that his congregation would rather go through the motions and enjoy the stability of a happy fellowship rather than wrestle with the serious questions brought to the doorstep of the synagogue by the world. As one example, he said that the Holocaust changed forever how we think of God acting in the world, but we continue to use the same concepts and language about God.

At Hyde Park Union we'd like to spend the summer talking together through the sermons on how we listen for the Spirit in the midst of rapid change. How to be courageous, calm, active and hopeful. Beginning July 13th, we will also enjoy Sacred Jazz as a part of our worship life, a musical tradition that embraces improvisation and celebrates responding to the Spirit in the moment. Preachers (so far) include: Erma Croom, Amanda Guthrie, Justin Howell, Susan Johnson, Jack Lesniewski, Noema Bradnanska Ondrasek, Al Sharp, Wesley Sun. As soon as the preaching roster is finalized, we will send it to the congregation.

Meaningful Moments

Rev. Erma Croom, Director of the Gilead Ministry

The month of May was marked by some very meaningful moments for the Gilead Ministry and the Gilead Women's Auxiliary. The month began with the Gilead Ministry chaplains participating in Jackson Park Hospital's Nurses' Week celebration by providing a "Blessing of the Hands" ceremony as part of the kick-off for the week long observance. Our prayer for the nurses as we anointed their hands was, "Bless these hands and make them instruments of healing." After the opening ceremony the chaplains went to each unit in the hospital offering the blessing of hands. During the remainder of the Nurses' Week observance the nurses at Jackson Park Hospital were treated to breakfast, a luncheon and an ice cream social in appreciation for their dedicated service. Gilead Ministry chaplains are grateful to have participated in the celebration honoring the nurses at Jackson Park Hospital.

Another highlight for the month of May was my first experience of Mother's Day layette assembly at Hyde Park Union Church. It was a delightful experience to see the needle craft of the Stitching Arts group, the generous donations and contributions of Gilead Women's Auxiliary and others, come together in the assembly of layettes for newborns at Jackson Park Hospital. This collaboration created a meaningful moment full of purposeful, enjoyable and charitable acts of kindness. The process of assembling the items was carried out with remarkable ease and care. Placed in each layette was a little stuffed toy or book, in addition to onesies, blankets, hats, sleepers, diapers, and socks. Once the event was over, the group had assembled 24 layettes. One participant declared enthusiastically, "More than had been expected!" When I returned to the OB department with an arm full of newly assembled layettes, the

nursing staff was overjoyed. They were very appreciative of the layettes filled with much needed items for new mothers at Jackson Park Hospital and their new arrivals. I am thankful for the opportunity to participate in the assembly of these precious gifts. I can't think of a better way to spend a Mother's Day afternoon.

Songbirds are Spreading Their Wings

Jade Maze

We've had such a wealth of wonderful singers in our midst even in the short time I've been here at HPUC. The b i t t e r s w e e t experience with our college students is that they graduate and oft times their life's journey requires them to move to other places to pursue their dreams. Suzanne Whitney will be greatly missed. Her presence here has been one of



grace and beauty in both voice and character. She is transferring to the University of Colorado to continue her music studies. We wish her the best. Suzanne is originally from the area, so, perhaps we can coax her to come and sing when she visits family! Many blessings, Suzanne.

Many of you have heard that Timothy Graham, our wonderful baritone, will be moving to St. Paul, Minnesota this summer. Well...it's true. His history is long at this church. We will keep you posted as we get closer to his departure. His service here at HPUC has to be celebrated.

Our vocal intern, Matthew Kijowski, will be with us through August. He will be studying voice, piano and worship leadership at North Park University in the fall. He's very talented and has received a sizeable scholarship to pursue his music studies.

Last but not least, Kacey Kurpinski will be studying in Europe this summer. Kacey won her fellowship in a competition. She'll be back in the fall to tell us of her adventures, but in the meantime, she needs a little help. Her costs are covered once she arrives in Europe for her studies, but she has to get there on her own. She will be putting on a benefit concert here at Hyde Park Union on **June 14th at 7 p.m.** It should be a lovely evening of classical music and a wonderful way to spend a summer evening. I'll be there. Hope you can make it!

Thank You!

Amanda Guthrie

“Thank you” is a phrase I cannot say enough throughout the Sunday School year at HPUC. I am so grateful for those who volunteer to teach Sunday School – for those who spend several Sundays in a row with our students diving deeper with them into Scripture, imaging what it means for our lives today. I am grateful for those who contribute to all-church and family events like the September Picnic, Fall Festival, and Valentine’s Day Baking. These events give all of us the opportunity to get to know one another better, to become family to one another. I am grateful for the Christian Education committee who works both in front of and behind the scenes to give our children and youth the best Christian education possible. The entire staffs of HPUC and the Hyde Park Korean United Methodist Church collaborate to give our students regular opportunities to serve and lead, and I am so grateful to have such a great team with whom to brainstorm and try new things. I am grateful for all of our students; they each contribute something unique to our program, and I know our ministry of education to them is mutual. And I am, of course, continuously grateful to God for the call and opportunity to work with and be a part of this amazing community. I am extremely blessed.

And I know that I am not the only one who feels this way. Each of us at HPUC and HPKUMC is touched by the program for children and youth, and we know what a difference it makes to our community. The students, too, look forward to meeting and working with new adults in Sunday School, to leading worship and pageants and Animal Poetry, and to the many opportunities to fellowship with one another throughout the year.

On June 15th during worship, we will take the opportunity to say “Thank You” – to one another and to God. It is important that we take this time to recognize that we are so blessed to learn from and grow with one another. That God really is working through each of us to remind one another of the good news of the kingdom and to share this message with those our community serves. Paul calls us to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Please join us on the 15th so that, as a community, we can express our gratitude for one another.



Health & Homelessness

On Monday evening, June 16, the Hyde Park Transitional Housing Project will hold its annual meeting at Augustana Lutheran Church, 5500 S. Woodlawn Ave. Sign-in and light refreshments will begin at 6:45 p.m. The program portion, from 7 to 8:15 p.m., to which all are invited, is titled "Health and Homelessness", and will feature a three person panel who will address the topic, with time available for questions and discussion. For more information, you are invited to visit www.hpthp.org or send an email to hpthp@yahoo.com.

Summer Series:

Listening for the Spirit in Not-so-Ordinary Time

June 22-August 24

**with Sacred Jazz
beginning July 13**

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