

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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September 2014

September Church Calendar

Monday, September 1
Church Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day

Friday, September 5
Worship in the Spirit of Taizé, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 7
Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Susan Johnson preaching

Church Picnic, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, September 8
Yoga and Centering Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10
Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 11
Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 14
Worship with Remembrance of Chicago's Fallen Children and Youth, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Susan Johnson preaching

Chili-making, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, September 15
Yoga and Centering Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17
Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 18
Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 21
Worship, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Susan Johnson preaching

Second Hour, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, September 22
Yoga and Centering Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24
Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 25
Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 28
Jazz Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Larry Greenfield preaching

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

Monday, September 29
Yoga and Centering Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

From the Senior Minister
Rev. Susan Johnson

Spirit-filled Worship: Where Do We Go From Here?

As we conclude a wonderful summer series, I want to take stock of all that we received in a liturgical season called "Ordinary Time." Our time this summer was extraordinary in so many ways, and the Spirit was assuredly present with us. We enjoyed very good preaching by people who are well-known (and now even better known) to us as members of our own congregation, and we engaged in lively conversation with them afterward. For seven of the ten weeks we were also engaged with musicians who represent not only the breadth of sacred jazz, but some of Chicago's finest jazz talent. These musicians served as a kind of embodied illustration of how two or three together can listen for the Spirit – as it speaks within themselves, but also in each other and in the room – and respond. In fact, we all responded – through the sermon discussions, through congregational singing, but also through standing and swaying, clapping and toe-tapping, and if you were there one Sunday in particular, you even heard spontaneous harmony from several members joining Jade in an *a cappella* introit! We had energy and lots of participation. So, where does a wonderful summer like that lead us?

Here is where it leads me, and it's a funny thing – because this is where it also led the folks who ate and talked together on Thursday nights about adding a church video to our website. This summer is proof that we are so much more than diverse, though we are indeed quite diverse. We are not only diverse in the ways that interest demographers: race and ethnicity, age, gender, marital status and familial relationships, sexual orientation and expression, educational background, religious tradition, socio-economic class. We are also theologically diverse, a diversity expressed through our interpretation of scripture, our personal hymnody, even what speaks to us musically. We are more than diverse, however, because we desire to be part of a spiritual community that expresses that diversity, that learns and grows and is transformed by it, a community that uses its diversity as a tool for God's service both within the church and around the world.

I want to take a moment to thank all of the fine preachers – every single one from our congregation – who contributed to a series that helped us reflect together on our spiritual response (not just our reaction) to times of uncertainty and rapid change. Amanda and I welcomed the opportunity to share the pulpit with: Jeff Challberg, Al Sharp, Erma Croom, Noema Bradnanska, Wesley Sun, Justin Howell, Jack Lesniewski and Fred Behlen. And I want to commend our Music Director, Jade Maze, who prepares for us an incredibly fine-tuned balance among our diverse musical tastes, and whose own musical breadth and talent also make possible a stretching of our own boundaries to include music and worship styles which are new to us – even a transformation of who we are.

There is no hidden agenda beyond this deepening and stretching of our fellowship except this: that we should know and appreciate one another more deeply, listen to each other more openly, care for each other more deftly, and work together with greater trust and enjoyment in both worship and service. The more we attend to our diversity with faith and love, trust and openness, the more Spirit-filled we will be. It does not go unnoticed. The musicians who were our guests this summer saw and felt it in us; we simply need to feel it and respond to it in ourselves.

Young adults comment that they desire a greater sense of participation and spontaneity in worship than the older traditional forms of worship afford. It is sometimes hard to find the balance between a cherished tradition and the need for new ways. This summer was an opportunity, at the risk of mixing metaphors, to put a toe in the water without rocking the boat. We resist chaos, but we cannot reasonably expect to grow (in numbers, or in spirit) if we refuse change. Let's respond first to the diversity we already have. Let's invest in it – in each other -- and see how we are transformed. Let's redouble our efforts to know and appreciate one another, and – as the apostle Paul has written, outdo each other in love and humility – and see where that Holy Spirit sends us.

Sunday School: A Special & Sacred Time

Amanda Guthrie

During the Sunday School year, students make their way from the sanctuary to three different classrooms. The first day, returning students will help show those new to the class what to do – where to settle in as the time together begins. This year, students in Godly Play will also help our new teacher learn the ropes. We are so grateful for Maweja Henderson's willingness and eagerness to take on this role. In GIFTS 1 & 2, students begin each class by praying the Daily Examen together. There is no one right way to pray the Examen. I like to begin by asking students to take 2-3 deep breaths together and to close their eyes. As we settle in, I read the steps of the Examen aloud, breathing and pausing between each in order to make room for each of our thoughts and prayers. The following are the steps of the Examen: become aware of God's presence; review the day with gratitude; pay attention to our emotions; choose one feature of the day and pray from it; and look toward tomorrow. The Daily Examen sets the tone for our time together – a time spent learning about our God and considering what a relationship with God can look like. We learn about and from Grace, Inspiration, Faith, Tradition, and Service. This time is set apart from the rest of the week – it is special and sacred. On the first day of the Sunday School year, students, together with teachers, will decide how they will treat God's Word, how they will Interact, Focus, Trust one another, and Share. Each student will be responsible for following these commitments and to encouraging his/her classmates to do the same.

In GIFTS 1, we learn about God from reading some of the major stories in the Bible and wondering together about their implications for our lives today. We then engage in a fun activity that helps reinforce the ideas we learned. This fall, students will look at the Hebrew Scriptures, reading the story of creation and learning about Ruth and Naomi, Samuel and Saul, the prophet Elijah and others. They will consider what it means that humans are made in the image of God, how God calls us into relationship with one another and with God as God's people. They will also learn how God can use us to spread God's message and do God's work in the world.

This year in GIFTS 2, students will learn about the important figures and major events in the formation of the Church over the past two millennia. Later in the year, they will study the formation of our two denominations and consider how our expressions of faith both differ from and are similar to others. Students will read about individuals who took big risks for their faith and the way the Church has transformed again and again as people have sought to follow God's call. Through all of this, they will consider the way tradition evolves and how the Spirit is still at work in the world today.

Sunday School is, indeed, a special and sacred time. It is worshipful and fun and the Spirit moves as our students engage in thoughtful conversation. As we study God's word and the history of the Church, we see that our lives are not so unlike the lives of individuals throughout time who have sought to understand and know and be in relationship with God. We can learn from their experiences as we examine our own lives for the ways in which God is working in them. Join us in this exciting adventure by teaching a unit of either GIFTS 1 or 2. There are 11 units over the course of the 2014-15 Sunday School year, so we are in need of 22 volunteers total. A brief teacher training will follow worship on Sunday, September 28. If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know!

To Everything There is a Season

Rev. Erma Croom, Director of the Gilead Ministry

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven..."
(Ecclesiastes 3:1a)

The year is rapidly passing. I can't believe it is more than half over. Summer season is gradually making its transition into fall and the changing of the season finds many of us preparing to bid a reluctant adieu to this summer's pleasantly warm weather, summer vacations, the soothing, inspirational sounds of our "Summer Sacred Jazz" series, leisurely walks and peaceful bike rides along the lakefront in the summer sun. The end of summer marks a return to school, falling leaves, pumpkins, and a subtle but profound shift in our climate, our moods and our activities.

For the Gilead Ministry the arrival of the fall season means the arrival of new interns from our partnering seminaries and the University of Chicago Divinity School. The fact that the staff, patients, and family members are welcoming and appreciative of the Gilead Ministry and the presence of Chaplains and Chaplain Interns makes Jackson Park Hospital an ideal learning laboratory. In addition, Jackson Park Hospital offers students seeking to explore and test their call to Chaplaincy an excellent opportunity to learn and grow from their visits and encounters with staff, patients, and family members at various points of need.

The end of summer also means the continuance of Jackson Park Hospital's September 11 observance, an event held annually in collaboration with the Gilead Ministry. The observance is an opportunity to remember those whose lives were lost in the attacks on September 11, those who have died in war and other tragic events and to recognize and honor first responders for their dedicated service. The Gilead Ministry will be continuing the tradition of making ribbons to give to staff, patients, and family members in remembrance of September 11 at the Hyde Park Union Church annual picnic on Sunday, September 7.

The seasons come and go, and with the passing of the seasons there are changes, but it is always good to know that even with the changes there are aspects of the seasons that remain constant. For the Gilead Ministry the aspects of fall, that are constant for us, include, the opportunities to contribute to the transformation and development of women and men seeking to test and explore their call to chaplaincy ministry. The continuous collaboration of the Gilead Women's Auxiliary and Hyde Park Union Church on joint projects contributes to the well-being of patients, family members, and staff at Jackson Park Hospital.

It's a New Dawn, It's a New Day, It's a New Life...and I'm Feelin' Good!

Jade Maze



We have lots of new and exciting things happening in the music ministry at Hyde Park. We've had to say our bittersweet good-byes to volunteer pianist Melody Harter (children's choir accompanist), Tim Graham (long term choir section leader), Suzanne Whitney (choir section leader) and Matthew Kijowski, (vocal intern); three have moved out of the state to pursue the next exciting chapter in their lives, and Matthew is starting his college career in piano/voice and worship leadership at North Park University. So, many blessings to them on their future endeavors. They are strong servants of God, and will be a blessing to all in their new communities.

The good news is that we have been blessed right here at Hyde Park Union Church with many new enthusiastic participants:

Starting in late September, we will have a new children's choir accompanist. Ting Ting Xu is a University of Chicago student. She was looking for a place to use her piano talents and Christine Bailey mentioned our need. Ting Ting visited HPUC this summer, loved the service and can't wait to get started!

Our alto section leader position will be taken over by Chelsea Gurtowsky. She was here once as a sub and is eager to come back. Chelsea earned her Bachelors in Vocal Performance at the University of Indianapolis and is currently working on her Masters at Roosevelt University.

I'm happy to announce we have a new and, might I add, adorable vocal intern. Ten-year-old Miguel Calderon has already started, so look for him in the children's choir and services throughout the year.

Welcome back choir. Welcome back Rudy. Welcome back Franci Acosta and the Children's choir. Welcome back Snow Adams (continuing vocal intern). I believe we will have an exciting new season of ministry!

SPECIAL GUESTS

I'm happy to inform you that our good friend, Dr. Stephen Alltop (Alice Millar Chapel, Northwestern University) will be our guest organist on Sunday, September 14th. This will be his third appearance here at HPUC, and I'm very excited to have him back.

Another returning artist will be trumpeter Victor Garcia and his quartet on our Sacred Jazz Service on Sunday, September 28th. We saw him last when he and saxophonist Rocky Year wowed the congregation on the Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday service back in January.

We are hosting the Hyde Park Jazz Festival on Saturday, September 27th. Our guest artists are trumpeter Art Hoyle, and vocalist Maggi Brown. Mark your calendars!

We are truly blessed to have such stellar and renowned musicians coming through our church from jazz to classical. It is truly an honor.

NOW IS THE TIME

Do you sing? Now would be the perfect time to come try out for the choir. We need more volunteer singers. You don't have to have a perfect voice. The section leaders are there to help, as well as Rudy and myself. If you're interested, just show up at rehearsal (Thursdays at 7:30pm, we start September 4th). It's a friendly environment and all are welcome.

Do your kids need a ministry to participate in? I highly recommend the children's choir. Franci Acosta is a fantastic, passionate director. They will get a wonderful foundation in music and hands on service to God and the community. The rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 9:15am starting in September.

Questions? Just reach out to me at jade@hpuc.org, call 708-938-5796 or catch me after service. Very sincerely, Jade Maze.



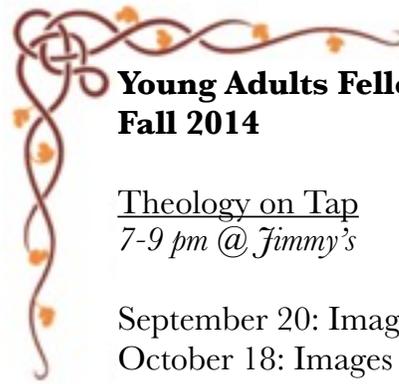
The National Alliance on Mental Illness advocates for access to services, treatment, supports and research and is steadfast in its commitment to raise awareness and build a community of hope for all those in need.

**Join the HPUC team in the
2014 5K NAMI Walk on September 27.**

The walk begins at 4:00 p.m. and registration is free. Contact Pamela Mearsheimer or Pastor Amanda for more information.

Join us for the Church Picnic!

Sunday, September 7 after worship
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!



**Young Adults Fellowship
Fall 2014**

Theology on Tap
7-9 pm @ Jimmy's

September 20: Images of God
October 18: Images of Jesus
November 15: Images of the Spirit

Fellowship Activities

October 25: Apple Picking
December 6: Christmas Party

Yoga and Centering Prayer

will continue in the Fall on Mondays at 7 p.m. beginning September 8. All levels are welcome, and please bring your own mat!

**Hyde Park Union Church
5600 S. Woodlawn Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637**