

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



## October 2014

From the Senior Minister  
Rev. Susan Johnson

### October Church Calendar

**Mondays, 7 p.m. (except October 13) -  
Yoga and Centering Prayer**

**Wednesdays, 1 p.m. - Bible Study**

**Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. - Senior Choir  
Rehearsal**

**Friday, October 3**  
Taizé Worship, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 5**  
Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m., Rev.  
Susan Johnson preaching

Congregational Meeting on the Strategic  
Plan, 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, October 12**  
Worship with Remembrance of Chicago's  
Fallen Children and Youth, 10:00 a.m., Rev.  
Susan Johnson preaching

Congregational meeting on the Strategic  
plan, 11:30 a.m.

Chili-making, 11:30 a.m.

**Monday, October 13**  
NO Yoga and Centering Prayer

**Saturday, October 18**  
Theology on Tap, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 19**  
Worship, 10:00 a.m., Amanda Guthrie  
preaching

Second Hour Stewardship Series:  
Conversation with Elizabeth Cohen Morris,  
11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, October 26**  
Worship, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Susan Johnson  
preaching

Second Hour Stewardship Series:  
Discussion on *How Much is Enough:  
Money and the Good Life*, Rev. Susan  
Johnson and Cheryl Haugh leading, 11:30  
a.m.

### ***An Ecclesiastical Trifecta: Videotaping, Stewardship and a Strategic Plan - JOIN US!!!***

Okay, yes, we are taking on a lot this fall, but when one stops to think about the actual work, we are all about one thing: articulating the identity and vision of our congregation so that we can garner and coordinate the resources to accomplish it.

Hyde Park Union Church has a rich 140 year history, most of it on the corner of 56<sup>th</sup> and South Woodlawn Avenue. Though times have changed, there are common threads throughout that history to the present day that remain the same. We have a very serious relationship with sacred and historical texts. We do not settle for conventional answers to biblical or spiritual questions, and in some ways trust the ongoing struggle for meaning over any definitive solution to a problem. We demand of our church and, of ourselves individually, that we serve the community around us, particularly its most vulnerable residents. At one time it was immigrants, at another time veterans, at all times children – and particularly poor children and families, victims of violence, the hungry, the homeless.

But more than particular ministries, which are the programmatic way we respond to our call, in our video and our stewardship campaign we wanted to uncover and express our aspiration as a spiritual community. We not only realize how diverse we are as a group, we treasure this diversity as a blessing to be explored. We are concerned that the busyness of our lives is crowding out our opportunities to be in deeper fellowship with one another. We believe that “church” is an essential way for all of us, including children, to learn more about faith in Christ, and to relate our faith to our daily lives. And we treasure the opportunity and responsibility to connect with one another, and to plan for effective action as a congregation in the cause of God's mercy, justice and peace. It is as we express God's love for us all that we make a place for peace and justice in the world.

As we participate in the filming of our church video over the next several weeks, we will also engage in conversations about our strategic plan for the next two to three years, and we will commit our own pledges and gifts to this church and its vision for the time to come.

So, is this one overarching emphasis, or three different programs? It's pretty much up to us. Every week we exemplify in worship who we are in our programs and ministries. We are also carefully planning for our future, and thoughtfully engaging our own resources in support of this church and its mission.

People say, “It's a trifecta” in three senses. Sometimes it means, it is a good bet (e.g., horse racing). Sometimes it just suggests three related contests. But just sometimes it suggests something like the opposite of the “perfect storm.” Our trifecta just might be a Christ-filled moment when our calling, our resources, and our strategic plan all come together.

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## ***A Little Communal Housekeeping***

Remember when the conductor on the Illinois Central used to end his safety announcement with the admonition, “And kindly keep your feet out of the seats?” Well, it’s time for a little straight talk about wear and tear on our sanctuary, and social hall and parlor. They are 108 and 88 years old respectively and, though they have undergone serious renovation in the last twenty years, they are beginning to fray again in places. We also have three grand pianos – two Steinways, as well as a Baldwin in the choir room – that have seen better days.

It took major fundraising efforts and generous seed donors to carry out the renovations we did years ago, not to mention that we would always prefer to fundraise for our programs and ministries. We need to take care of the building and furnishings we’ve got. It probably goes without saying that the Social Hall flooring will need to be replaced relatively soon, but in the parlor some of the furniture has been broken, the upholstery is becoming frayed, and the piano is scratched all over and has a couple of ivories missing. The body of the sanctuary piano, too, is pretty beat up, the seams of pews often crammed with writing implements and food. Alvin Palmer has to clean up everything we leave around, and coffee cups and water bottles often leave rings on the organ, the pianos, various ledges and tables. We can do better and preserve our resources at the same time.

One last bit of communal housekeeping: The electric bill reflects that we are leaving the lights on everywhere we go. (btw: The light switches in the parlor are hard to find; they are on the east wall, just to the left of the doors.) Please do your part to keep up our beautiful building...and keep your feet out of the seats :}

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### ***“Inasmuch As You Did it to One of the Least of These”***

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

<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ (Matthew 24: 35 and 36 NIV)

The month of October and the words from the above passage, “I was sick and you looked after me” have special significance for Gilead Ministry and for the chaplains who provide support to those who need care at Jackson Park Hospital. October is the month when the work of chaplains receives special recognition. October 19 – 25 marks the national observance of Pastoral Care Week. Pastoral Care Week is an opportunity for organizations and institutions to recognize the spiritual caregivers in their midst and the ministry which care givers provide. Pastoral care professionals celebrate the week by attending various conferences, seminars and events that provide opportunities for them to broaden their knowledge, build on their skills as pastoral care givers, and network with other pastoral care professionals.

What is the work of a chaplain? As we approach Pastoral Care Week, I think it is important to reflect on this question.

The scriptural passage from the gospel of Matthew, quoted above, conveys the idea that informs the ministry provided by Pastoral Care Givers in general and specifically the chaplains who serve the staff, interns and volunteers of Gilead Ministry. Chaplains minister to people’s spiritual and emotional needs in the midst of their suffering. We dare to go wherever the need is, regardless of the circumstances. Last week, while making my daily rounds, on the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), I thought about the importance of Gilead Ministry. The spiritual care that this ministry provides was brought home to me in a very profound way. I encountered a patient who was in the depth of suffering and despair at the time of my visit. At that moment the patient needed some one just to listen and empathize and a safe space to give expression to the overwhelming experience of fear, frustration, and immense suffering. In that moment there was no room for trite statements or clichés, no space for feeble attempts to make things better.

The moment required me to be fully present in his hard place and draw on my pastoral skills of active listening and empathetic understanding. It also required me to be grounded in my own spirituality so that I could help the patient draw on the source of strength that was needed to cope with a seemingly unbearable condition. In that moment of caring, the full measure of my pastoral presence and skills was required. And in that moment, I and the patient received a precious gift, the gift of God’s grace, a gift that brought comfort and relief to the patient and a degree of assurance and insight to me. At the end of the visit the patient thanked me for the visit and for caring. This visit is not unlike several encounters the chaplains of Gilead Ministry have on a regular basis.

As we look forward to celebrating pastoral care week and the ongoing work of Gilead Ministry, we recall the words of Jesus, “I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!” (Matthew 25:40 NLT) These words confirm the significance of the services Gilead Ministry provides to patients, family members, and staff at Jackson Park Hospital.

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### **Gilead Ministry Winter Clothing Drive**

Gilead Ministry is now receiving donations of clothing items for the winter for patients who are in need of them on the Behavioral Medicine Unit at Jackson Park Hospital. Items may include coats, jackets, sweaters, gloves, hats, etc.

Persons wanting to donate may bring their clothing items to the church or call Rev. Erma at the Gilead Ministry at 773-947-7608 to schedule a pick-up.



***The Spirit is Always Here, So Keep Listening...***  
*Jade Maze*

We ended the month of September with the beautiful, peaceful sounds of the Victor Garcia Quartet and our wonderful choir. Our next sacred jazz service will be on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. We have yet another fantastic returning artist: guitarist Fareed Haque and his trio. [Fareed.com](http://Fareed.com)

The sweet sounds of youth will once again bless our Sunday services as the children retake their post under the watchful eye of their music director Francy Acosta. I'm so looking forward to their musical contribution come the first Sunday of October!

You'll also hear a new baritone section leader within the next month in the senior choir, so keep your ears and eyes open for that as well. I've had many inquiries and am narrowing down the pool quickly.

Last but not least, please mark your calendars for Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10pm. I just got off the phone with 90.9fm WDCB DJ Scott Hammer, and he has invited me to come on his program and sing some spirituals, etc. He has an annual tradition of having live sacred music on his program near All Hallows' Eve to counteract Halloween's darker side. He's giving me a full forty-five minutes, so I will see if I can bring some of our past musical guests and some of our singers on air as well so we can all spread the good news. Scott Hammer is nearing his one-thousandth show and twenty-year anniversary on the air. [Hambone's Blues Party](http://Hambone's Blues Party)

Looking forward to a lively, uplifting season!

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***The More, The Merrier***  
*Amanda Guthrie*

This year, our church is partnering with University Church on a joint Confirmation Class and Youth Group. This idea to partner with a neighboring church on some of our programming for children and youth came from a conversation with the parents at HPUC near the end of last school year. So Pastor Julian (of University Church) and I spent some time this summer brainstorming what kinds of things we might do together. We went to Six Flags in July and hope there will be more opportunities for having some fun over the course of the year. We also decided that Confirmation and Youth Group would be two good, regular opportunities for our students to fellowship and get to know and learn from one another.

Confirmation Class for students in 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade began in September. We will continue to meet on the third Sunday of the month through May, with HPUC and University Church alternating hosting responsibilities. Students will first worship and eat lunch together. They'll be at HPUC in October, so please be sure to extend a warm welcome to the students from University Church! Together, we'll read through a resource from the United Church of Christ called "My Confirmation." Both HPUC and University Church are joint UCC churches. We will learn more about our other denominations, American Baptist and Disciples of Christ,

later in the year. Topics in "My Confirmation" include The Bible, Christian Beliefs, The Christian Way of Life, The Christian Church, and Christianity in Action. Students, along with their parents, pastors, and mentors, each will sign a covenant confirming their commitment to confirmation class. They will commit to attending all Confirmation Classes and trips to other places of worship, attending and participating regularly in worship, participating in two service projects over the course of the year, interviewing members of the two churches, and writing their own statement of faith by the end of the year. If you are interested in being a conversation partner in one of the Confirmation Classes or being interviewed about your faith by the students, please let me know!

We will also partner with University Church for Youth Group. Youth Group is open to students in 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. We'll gather monthly for pizza, games, and conversation.

The Christian Education Committee at HPUC would also like to extend an invitation to our friends and neighbors to our annual Fall Festival on October 25<sup>th</sup>, from 4-6pm. We'll eat pizza and cookies, make crafts, and, as is tradition, watch "The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown." If you would like to volunteer to make a treat or to bring a bag of apples, please let me know! We ask that each family donate \$5 for dinner.

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**\*Like\* Hyde Park Union Church  
on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hydeparkunionchurch) to connect  
with our community online!**

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**Young Adult Fellowship in October**

**October 18<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm at Jimmy's:  
Theology on Tap, discussing Images of  
Jesus**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>: Apple Picking**



***Yoga & Centering Prayer  
Continues Through The Fall  
Mondays at 7pm  
(except for October 13<sup>th</sup>)***

*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](mailto:amanda@hpuc.org).*



# Fall Festival

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm  
Pizza & Cookies  
Crafts

And, of course:  
"It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown"



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