

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
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September 2015

September Church Calendar

Regular Weekly Events:

Mondays - Yoga & Centering Prayer, 7:00 p.m.,
except September 7

Wednesdays - Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Thursdays - Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
beginning September 10

Friday, September 4
Taizé Worship, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 6
Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, September 7
Church Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day

Thursday, September 10
Sacred Jazz Institute Jam Session, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 13
Summer Series Worship with Remembrance of Chicago's Fallen Children and Youth, 10:00 a.m.

Chili-making, 11:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour and Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

Board Meeting

Sunday, September 20
Homecoming
Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Homecoming Church Picnic, 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 26
Hyde Park Jazz Festival

Sunday, September 27
Sacred Jazz Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

Second Hour: Call Committee Update on Search Process, 12:00 p.m.

From the Interim Minister
Douglas R. Sharp

Non-Random Thoughts

I continue to reflect on some of the observations I made in my sermon on August 23. That's somewhat unusual for me, but in conversations I've had with congregants since that Sunday I have heard even more comments to suggest that my sense is accurate. In the sermon I stated that over the months that I have been here I have observed three fairly distinct churches at HPUC, somewhat overlapping to be sure, but nonetheless clear in their contours and simultaneous in their existence.

The first is one I called a "refuge church," a community to which people may come to gain respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life and find spiritual nourishment in the quiet of prayer, introspection and interpersonal sharing. This type of church is one that values a more contemplative approach to spiritual formation, with a view to renewing the human body-and-spirit in preparation for the days to come.

The second type of church I called a "civic church." This is a community that is aligned with some of the socioeconomic structures in the larger community, or put differently: a community that essentially reflects the social and economic configurations of the larger society and internalizes those as its own. A church of this type will take some initiative to educate and enculturate the membership into a more expansive and responsible participation in civil society, principally in support of socioeconomic stability.

The third type of church is an "advocate church" where people are insistent on contesting the prevailing socioeconomic order, engaging in active criticism and, where called for, offering some resistance to social, economic, and political institutions. People in a church of this type are activists and see the role of the church as being an active voice and presence in the larger community in order to advance and secure a just cause or an equitable outcome to a situation of inequity. Members in an advocate church want to leverage a cause with the collectivity of the church rather than depend on or simply encourage individuals to act on their own.

Now what strikes me about these three churches evident at HPUC is the fact that these are discrete and somewhat divergent ways to be and do church, and yet each is housed alongside the others in the congregation that is Hyde Park Union Church. I think this is one manifestation of the diversity in this congregation, and I note this because I believe it's appropriate to identify the many ways this community is acknowledging and celebrating diversity on the one hand, and being intentional in constructing unity on the other.

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There is no legitimate reason why these distinct types of churches should struggle against one another, and I don't think they are. At the same time, however, it is important for HPUC members and friends to appreciate this diversity while finding a kind of epicenter in one or the other of these types; people need to have a "room" within the "house" to inhabit. It is also important for the lay leadership, who engage in programming for the congregation, to account for these "churches" in the development of the program goals and activities that will shape the common life of the spiritual community in the months ahead.

This theme of diverse church-types will find its way into other of my messages on Sunday mornings in the days to come. I may not talk specifically about these three types of church, but I will want to share some thoughts on other patterns of diversity among us and the ways in which that can shape the HPUC of the future.

One way in which these types of churches can be the topic of conversations is during the Fall Series of Second Hour events. I have asked each of the six standing committees (Christian Education, Fellowship, Mission & Social Concerns, Personnel & Pastoral Relations, Property & Finance, and Worship & Music) to take leadership of a Second Hour session to present their *raison d'etre* and their goals for the coming program year to the congregation for conversation and input. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a schedule of those sessions. These conversations will provide opportunity for the members and friends to contribute to the development of responses to such matters as "Who are we?" and "What is our fundamental purpose?" and "How are we seeking to accomplish this?"

Shifting gears here: Hyde Park Union Church will have its own Homecoming this fall, on September 20. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more information. Bring yourself and a friend. Bring two or three friends, for that matter.

In our worship on October 11, we will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the University of Chicago and the significant relation between "church and academy" that has historically existed between these two institutions. Guests from the university will be speaking in worship, and during Second Hour that day Ted Cook will give a presentation on that historic relation.

In other news: I anticipate that the good people of HPUC will welcome the Rev. Dr. Chakravarthy Zadda-Ravindra to the church. As an Associate Regional Minister for the ABC Metro Chicago region, Chaks will be staging a good part of his work in the region's campus ministry to South Asian students from the corner of 56th and Woodlawn. I will introduce him in a Sunday morning worship in early September.

And finally, I would like to hear from interested people on two possible activities. First, I'm eager to learn if there is

anyone interested in being part of a once-a-month book group in which the participants take turns selecting the books to be read, one book each month (short, in either fiction or non-fiction) with a gathering for discussion on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday evening in someone's home. And second, perhaps there are some out there who would be interested in a weekly book group discussing non-fiction literature of topics germane to spiritual journey and formation, meeting Thursday morning from 10:30-noon at the church. If you have an interest in either of these, please send me an email at douglas@hpuc.org. In the meantime, bible study continues on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the parlor.



Come celebrate homecoming Sunday with us on September 20, 2015!

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." - Revelation 7:9-12

Hyde Park Union church will celebrate homecoming Sunday this year on Sunday September 20, 2015. Please come and celebrate our 141 year and bring a friend to church. Check out what we have planned for the upcoming year. Meet and greet new and old friends after church at the picnic following the service. This is an exciting year for Hyde Park Union Church so come and visit with us.

We look forward to seeing you!

HPUC Fall Second Hour Series



- Presentations by HPUC Standing Committees on their purpose, function and goals
- Advent -- Christine D. Pohl, *Living Into Community: Cultivating Practices that Sustain Us*

September 13	Board Meeting
September 20	Homecoming Picnic
September 27	Call Committee update on search process
October 4	Property and Finance Committee presents
October 11	Ted Cook, University of Chicago 125 th Anniversary and HPUC
October 18*	Mission and Social Concerns Committee presents
October 25*	Christian Education Committee presents
November 1*	Worship and Music Committee presents
November 8*	Fellowship Committee presents
November 15**	Personnel and Pastoral Relations Committee presents
November 22	Pohl: "Introduction: Four Practices that Sustain Community" – pp. 1-16
November 29	Advent 1—Joy [Pohl: "Embracing Gratitude as a Way of Life" – pp. 17-60]
December 6	Advent 2—Hope [Pohl: "Making and Keeping Promises" – pp. 61-110]
December 13	Advent 3—Peace [Pohl: "Living Truthfully" – p. 111-158]
December 20	Advent 4—Love [Pohl: "Practicing Hospitality and Beyond" – pp. 159-176]
December 27	No Second Hour

* Stewardship Campaign

** Pledge Sunday

Gilead Ministry: Gearing Up for Fall

Rev. Erma Y. Croom, Director of Gilead Ministry

Fall season usually arrives with a display of a variety of rich, vibrant colors. With the many hues of fall also comes a returning of students to school and the procession of numerous seasonal activities and events that seem to usher in the various holidays and holiday celebrations. The fall season at Gilead Ministry means also the arrival of new interns from our partnering seminaries. This fall Gilead Ministry welcomes Irma Spencer and Cristian Bitter. Irma is a second year student at McCormick Theological Seminary. She is a non-traditional student with many years of work and ministry experience. Irma is a supervisor at United States Steel and has been employed there since 1977. She serves at Grace Fellowship Baptist Church where her responsibilities include: Director of Christian Education, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, member of the Trustee Board. Irma is also President of the Board of Trustees at Matthew House Chicago, a homeless day shelter.

Cristian is a second year student at Chicago Theological Seminary and serves as a youth minister at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Naperville. Prior to entering ministry Cristian was employed in the business marketing sector. He is currently employed at Chicago Theological Seminary. A commissioning ceremony will be held for Irma and Cristian Sunday, September 13 during the 10:00 a.m. morning worship service.

Also in September, Gilead Ministry will continue its traditional 911 observance at Jackson Park Hospital. 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. Gilead Ministry will also continue the tradition of making ribbons to give to staff, patients, and family members in remembrance of September 11.

It is a wonderful gift to be able to serve at Jackson Park Hospital, to support its various seasonal events and to work collaboratively with Hyde Park Union Church in its many outreach efforts to Jackson Park Hospital. It is a gift for which the staff and interns of Gilead Ministry are very grateful.

From the Fellowship Committee

Greetings from the Fellowship Committee! Our new committee members are Caroline Anderson (chair), Felipe Alaniz, Sophie Behlen, and Bernie Harley, with extra volunteer help from Shirley Alexander and Sylvia Pomerleau.

CHURCH PICNIC - SEPT 20TH

We will be hosting our annual church picnic on September 20th following the worship service. After

the summer, when many among us have been "going out and coming in", this is a great time to sit and enjoy each other's company and catch up.

As has been the tradition, the Fellowship Committee will provide hot dogs and beverages, and we invite you to bring a side, salad or dessert to share. Please email Sophie Behlen (sophiebehlen@gmail.com) to let us know what you will bring. Or sign up on a list that we will have at the church.

This year, in order to avoid competing with the yellow jackets for our food, we will set up in the social hall. Barbecuing will, of course, be done outside and then the food brought in. We look forward to a great meal together.

COFFEE HOUR

Starting in September the Fellowship Committee will organize Coffee Hour in a different way. We are experimenting with ways to make Coffee Hour easier to participate in.

- 1] There will always be a basic coffee hour including: coffee, tea, cookies or pretzels, and juice.
- 2] There will be a sign-up board for anyone who wishes to supplement the basic coffee hour.
- 3] There will be a member of the Fellowship committee there to help set up on most Sundays, so anyone who signs up to provide extras will have the help of a knowledgeable partner.

Look for the big sign-up board in the Social Hall.

Many thanks from your Fellowship Committee,

Caroline, Felipe, Sophie and Bernie

How Do You Play? *Jeff Challberg*

As August ends, so does my Clinical Pastoral Education residency. As I wrote in my last update to you all, this year has been full of personal change and growth. This personal integrative work was in constant conversation with the residency's layers of curriculum. One of the most important refrains of that curriculum reminded us to attend to "self-care and resiliency."

Now, some of you, readers, may resonate with my confession that when the going gets tough, whether personally or professionally, my propensity is to work harder. Moreover, my experience is that we live in a culture that in many ways either rewards or expects such a redoubling of effort; if there's work unfinished, it can seem preposterous to go home. Most insidiously, "self-care" can become a kind of task, treated as subservient to our working (and not as a good in-itself). Self-care, whatever the form, can become serious business indeed.

My propensity to literally "work it out" didn't go unnoticed by my fellow chaplains. "Self-care" was put in a radical new light for me by a pithy, brilliant question: "How do you play?" It has been put to me repeatedly and by many people this year. I love the question, now, because I think it is a beautifully simple way of asking, "How do you access creativity and joy?" Self-care in times of change, challenge, and even crisis, isn't just about helping us maintain some sustainable functionality. It is remembering that we are not only called to repair a broken world, but to simultaneously participate in the ongoing creation of a whole one.

The realm of the sacred includes room for playfulness, laughter, and enjoyment. As I have tried to make it a practice, I realized play can be (surprisingly) challenging. It takes some fortitude to turn away from work (whether work-work, grief-work, church-work, volunteer-work, or study-work) for what might look like frivolity. But I'm ever more convinced of play's importance, of its capacity to restore my soul, its capacity to reconnect living with flourishing.

One mentor asked, "What are you bringing to others if your own cup is empty?"

And then she asks again: "How do you play?"

Members and friends of HPUC are invited to donate flowers for the Communion Table in the chancel for worship on non-Communion Sundays.

Flowers may be given to memorialize a friend or loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. The cost of flowers is a minimum of \$35 for a small bouquet. Requests for flowers for the chancel may be made to the Church Office or to the Worship & Music Committee (worshipmusic@hpuc.org). Sign-up sheets will also be available in the Social Hall during coffee hour.

Thank you for enhancing our Sunday worship with the gift of flowers!



New Beginnings: Steamrolling Ahead

Jade Maze

As we wind up the summer at HPUC, I can honestly say it has been refreshing and inspiring between our guest speakers and the wonderful guest musicians we have had. From banjo player Michael Miles to organist Dr. Stephen Alltop, harmonica player Howard Levy to composer Robert Irving III, we have had several masters in the house. I truly feel a little younger and therefore full of energy and excitement as the fall quickly approaches.

Season openers:

- Our children's music director, Francy Acosta, will be back in place. She will be holding an **OPEN HOUSE FOR HPUC CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE CHOIR ROOM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, BEFORE SERVICE AT 9:15 a.m.**
- Choir rehearsals start back **THURSDAY, September 10th at 7:30 p.m.** in the choir room. So if you are looking for a ministry to serve, and you enjoy singing, please, don't be shy. Come on by to watch, participate or ask questions. We would love to have you join us!!!
- You may be seeing a few candidates come through and play on Sundays to see if they are a fit for our accompaniment needs on piano and organ. We are very deliberately taking our time in hopes of getting the right person, the right fit.

Hyde Park Jazz Festival:

- The jazz fest will take place the weekend of September 26th & 27th. We are hosting not two but three artists this year on Saturday: 3 p.m. - The Alexis Lombré Quintet, 5 p.m. - Ari Brown Quintet, and 6:30 p.m. - Geof Bradfield and Jeff Parker play Monk.

Alexis Lombré is a young 18 year-old woman headed off to the University of Michigan to study jazz piano. She was in the house band at our last jam, and I am proud of her and honored that she has been recognized by the HPJF.

Sacred Jazz Service:

- We will have a Sacred Jazz Service in conjunction with the Hyde Park Jazz Festival on Sunday, September 27th at 10 a.m. Our guest artist is the **Chuck Webb Band**. Chuck is a phenomenal bass player that stylistically can play the gamut of jazz and soul while consistently putting his personal stamp on it. He is a rarity. Can't wait.

HPUC Youth Jam Sessions:

- We've been having a great time at the 2nd Thursday jam sessions this summer! The poster says from 9-90, but the 7 year-olds have had something to say as well. A reminder that the jams will continue through the 2nd Thursday in November. Please keep sending your kids, or bring your own instrument. The parents have been having a great time as well. They really enjoy seeing their kids in action and have been relaxing and getting to know each other. It's really been lovely.

HPUC Youth in Action:

- Our young people had a wonderful opportunity. Ravinia asked me to put together a choir for the Opera for the Young performance of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Martin Theatre. Lots of our families were on vacation, but Liberty and Trinity Bryant, Miguel Calderon and Leah Charles were in town, so we put them to work. Our vocal intern, Snow, came to assist me and was given the opportunity to be the Wishing Waterfall! It was an excellent performance—a wonderful time was had by all.

If you have any interest in volunteering/ participating in the music ministry, please contact me. We could use your voice, instrument, helping hand at events.

jade@hpuc.org, 773-610-2996



Youth jam with Alexis Lombre on piano, Leah back stage w/ her partner in crime, Elijah, Nervous back stage birds, Snow as the Wishing Watherfall, on stage with Opera for the Young cast



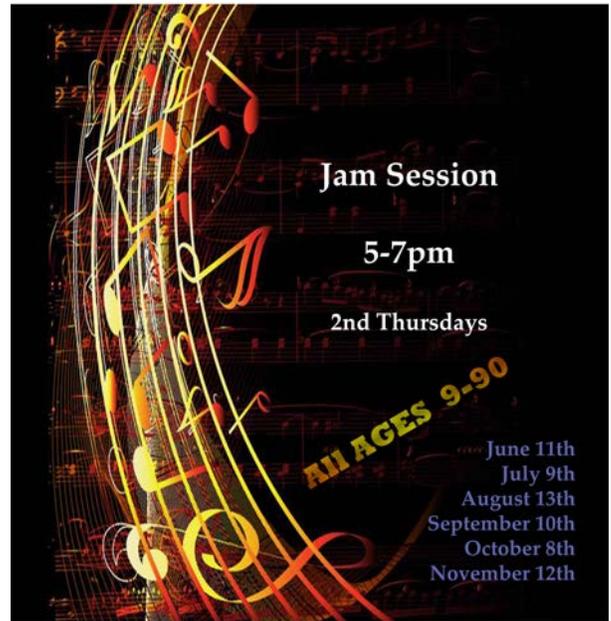
Sacred Jazz Service, 9-27 with Chuck Webb



Join us for Taizé Worship on
the first Friday of the
month at 7:00 p.m.

Next Service: September 4

S A C R E D J A Z Z



Next Session:
September 10

Hyde Park Union Church
5600 S. Woodlawn Ave.
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