

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



November 2015

November Church Calendar

Regular Weekly Events:

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

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

Thursdays (except for November 26) - Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 1

Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m.

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

Second Hour: Presentation from Worship and Music Committee, 11:30 a.m.

Friday, November 6

Taizé Worship, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 8

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

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

Chili-making, 11:30 a.m.

Second Hour: Presentation from the Fellowship Committee, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 12

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

Saturday, November 14

Memorial Service for Carol Browning, 2:00 p.m.

Stewardship Sunday, November 15

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

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

Second Hour: Presentation from the Personnel and Pastoral Relations Committee

Youth Sunday, November 22

Worship with Collection for St. Martin de Porres, 10:00 a.m.

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

Second Hour: Pohl: "Introduction: Four Practices that Sustain Community" – pp. 1-16

Thursday, November 26

Church Office Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27

Church Office Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 29

1st Sunday of Advent
Worship, 10:00 a.m.

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

Second Hour: Advent 1—Joy [Pohl: "Embracing Gratitude as a Way of Life" – pp. 17-60]

From the Interim Minister
Douglas R. Sharp

Non-Random Thoughts

Whenever a congregation enters into its annual stewardship campaign, invariably I think of Paul's exhortation to the church in Corinth about giving. He was encouraging all the churches with which he was associated to take up a collection to provide relief to the poor and suffering Christians in Jerusalem. Concerned that this collection be as substantive as possible, Paul offered this instruction: "each Sunday each of you must put aside part of what you have earned. If you do this, you won't have to take up a collection when I come" (1 Cor 16:2).

I'm not sure if this amounted to a pledge program, but it is interesting to note that apparently Paul had greater insight into the human condition than we usually think. He is basically telling the church members to designate a portion of their discretionary income each week as their contribution to the relief collection. By giving an amount regularly over time, the sum of one's giving, and thus the church's collection as a whole, would be considerably larger than if it was a one-time offering.

We know that the early church included persons from all socioeconomic strata of the society. But given the fact that seventy percent of the population were peasants living essentially in subsistence conditions, it is not likely that even this strategy to give a little of one's income each week generated a considerable amount. By the time Paul had gathered up all the churches' collections for the Christians in Jerusalem, he surely had an amount of cash that would give anyone pause at the prospect of having to transport it across land and sea to its intended recipients.

What I find to be most noteworthy about this account, however, is that it is tangible evidence of the interest on the part of some in the church to provide relief for others. We should not suppose that Paul was asking the various churches to give to the Jerusalem church *instead of* providing relief for the poor and suffering in their own congregations or their own cities. There is no evidence in the texts to suggest such a strategy. Rather, Paul most certainly was asking for funds to bring assistance to Jerusalem because their need was assessed to be dire enough that without aid their lives would be appreciably more difficult and significantly diminished.

But scholars have noted an even more interesting and compelling reason for this collection. Most of the people who were new to the Christian movement in the churches founded by Paul were Gentiles; Jews were a relatively small percentage of the earliest believers in those churches. On the other hand, the believers in the church in Jerusalem were predominantly Jewish, and the earliest history of the church as reflected in the New Testament shows that there were considerable tensions and conflicts between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. This should not surprise us for the simple reason that,

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conversation and transformation notwithstanding, both groups brought basic orientations and outlooks with them into their new faith. Into this ethnoreligious muddle stepped Paul with his idea that endeavoring to secure the welfare of others perceived to be strange and dissimilar would not only confirm the inclusiveness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, but also demonstrate the interdependence of all as beneficiaries of the Divine Love and Grace.

What is the take-away from this account of the Jerusalem collection, especially for the congregants of Hyde Park Union Church during this stewardship season? I find it very hard to discount or ignore the fundamental contention, in Paul's view, that one's relationship to God and to others as a believer is inextricably tied to how one makes it possible for others to thrive. Gentile Christians demonstrated compassion and a willingness to bring relief to Jewish Christians; they crossed borders and dismantled boundaries in order to show love and solidarity. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, they sought to "be the change that you wish to see in the world."

It is for this reason that I have been offering two life-giving questions for our consideration and meditation as members and friends of HPUC: *What do I bring to this community that enables you to flourish?* and *What can I do so that your need and desire for spiritual community can be fulfilled?*

We are in the liminal period of in-between, a time of unsettledness and uncertainty. The natural, perhaps even *default*, position in such circumstances is hesitation and reluctance to renew and enhance one's commitment to this spiritual community. But no matter how tenuous our circumstances or halfhearted our resolve, there is no better time than the present to "be the change that you wish to see," no more suitable occasion than now to put a portion of the financial resources God has provided us into the service of rendering it possible for others to flourish and be transformed. As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think."

HPUC Fall Second Hour Series



- 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

From the Moderator

Dear friends,

Our stewardship campaign for 2015-16 has started. Pledge cards are inserted into the bulletin and by now everyone should have received their pledge statements for 2014-2015. We have heard excellent testimonies from speakers about what HPUC means to them as a refuge church and also how as a civic church we support missions. As a church we continue to provide comprehensive resources and services to support the congregation and the community. As a church we continue to build community relations with other organizations and allow our building to be shared by a number of different organizations. Much of what we do cannot be done without the support of the congregation by volunteering and by financial support. So please support HPUC and its continuing missions with your pledges.

Thank you,

Christine D. Bailey

With Deepest Gratitude

Rev. Erma Y. Croom, Director of Gilead Ministry

In the 8th chapter of the book of Jeremiah, the prophet raises a critical question. Referring to the healing ointment that was produced in the region of Gilead, Jeremiah asks, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" I feel blessed and grateful to give an affirmative response to Jeremiah's question by applying it to a different context in a different time and place. Yes! There is a balm in the Ministry of Gilead at Jackson Park Hospital. There is a soothing balm of healing and hope.

Jackson Park Hospital is a place where many of those who struggle daily with issues related to their health and well-being, also experience feelings of helplessness and

hopelessness as a result of societal factors such as poverty, unemployment, homelessness and mental illness.

If someone were to ask me: What is Gilead Ministry?, I could say that Gilead is a ministry of pastoral care within the context of Jackson Park Hospital. However, more than being simply a ministry of pastoral care, Gilead Ministry is an extension of the ministry of Hyde Park Union Church. And it is under the auspices of Hyde Park Union Church that Gilead Ministry continues to be sustained, strengthened, and supported.

Because of the ongoing support of Hyde Park Union Church and the Gilead Auxiliary, Gilead ministry can provide to Jackson Park Hospital the services of chaplains who make regular rounds and patient visits. Gilead chaplains offer 24-7 on call service, responding to emergency pages at any hour of the day or night. We also facilitate Spirituality Groups on Behavioral Medicine units, support the orientation of new medical students and provide on-going support to hospital staff. With the members of Hyde Park Union Church and Gilead Auxiliary, we offer service projects, such as: clothing drives, Layettes for new mothers, the infant mourning project and magazines for waiting areas. We also provide seasonal or special services such as the September 11 memorial service, Martin Luther King Remembrance service, Christmas caroling, and other special services.

With the exception of part-time staff Chaplain, Rev. Celeste Groff, and myself, Gilead Ministry is primarily staffed by seminary students, looking to explore and test their sense of call to chaplaincy ministry. Therefore, Gilead ministry is also a training program for ministers in that we partner with theological institutions, the University of Chicago Divinity School, and Urban CPE to provide a dynamic and rich Spiritual Care Department for the hospital. It is our goal to meet the learning needs of our interns while meeting the pastoral needs of the hospital community.

I am deeply grateful that Gilead Ministry serving in collaboration with Hyde Park Union Church continues to be God's healing balm of compassion and generosity, a healing ministry that transforms lives and inspires hope within patients, families, staff at Jackson Park Hospital. Therefore, I am deeply honored to be a part of this great work. Thank you.

One Team, One Goal

Jade Maze, Music Director

Hello, Hyde Park Union Church community! Well, we've been having exhilarating adventures with all our musical guests from the summer up to the very present. We will still have our guests throughout the year, but I believe I have stumbled onto a dynamic keyboard accompanying team that will work beautifully and give us the musical flexibility this diverse congregation deserves. Chris Mahieu will continue on with us playing piano and organ approximately every five weeks, which will allow us to flex into jazz, contemporary, classical and whatever else we can throw at him. Alyssa Conde, who is primarily a classically trained pianist will come play every 6- 8 weeks building up her standard church repertoire and sharing her classical gifts with us. And I believe we have found our organist in the person of Kathy Hebert who will take up the bulk of the schedule.



Kathy Hebert recently moved here from South Carolina. She has two degrees in Church Music and Organ performance from Columbia College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has accompanied extensively in churches and universities. I believe we will be in good hands.

And music is not Kathy's only passion. She is the President and Co-Founder of the Alliance for the Advancement of Cellular Therapies (AACT) and works to build strategic alliances and to implement collaborative projects for the mission of advancing regenerative medicine and increasing access for patients to cellular therapies. She is also extremely concerned about animal welfare. And best of all, she seems to be an awful lot of fun!

So we will move forward in this format and see how that works for the music we minister. I'm looking forward to the Advent and Christmas season!


 Experience the Sacred
 through Song and Silence in the Spirit of
Taizé
Friday, November 6th, 7pm
In Remembrance...


Hyde Park Union Church 5600 S Woodlawn | hpuc.org 
 Join us every first Friday of the month for Taizé

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

S A C R E D J A Z Z

Jam Session
5-7pm
2nd Thursdays
ALL AGES 9-90
 June 11th
 July 9th
 August 13th
 September 10th
 October 8th
 November 12th

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 sacred 

Next Session:
November 12