

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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## October 2016

### October Church Calendar

#### Regular Weekly Events:

**Wednesdays** - Bible Study in the parlor, 1:00 p.m.

**Thursdays** - Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.  
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#### **Saturday, October 1**

All Church Potluck with Meeting with Senior Minister Candidate, 5:00 p.m.

#### **Sunday, October 2**

Worship with Communion, Candidate for Senior Minister preaching, 10:00 a.m.

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

#### **Friday, October 7**

Taizé Worship, 7:00 p.m.

#### **Sunday, October 9**

Worship, 10:00 p.m.

Chili-making, 11:30 a.m.

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

Second Hour, 11:30 a.m.

#### **Thursday, October 13**

Sacred Jazz Institute Jam Session, 5 p.m.

#### **Sunday, October 16**

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

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

Second Hour, 11:30 a.m.

Board Meeting, 12:00 p.m.

#### **Sunday, October 23**

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

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

Board Meeting, 12:00 p.m.

#### **Sunday, October 30**

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

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

Second Hour, 11:30 a.m.

From the Interim Minister  
**Rev. Liz Jones**

### *Things That Go Bump...*

I don't watch scary movies or read horror novels. I'm not one who enjoys being scared on purpose. Early in our dating life, however, Heidi (now my wife, despite this event) convinced me to go with her and some friends to a haunted house. I proceeded through the winding corridors with one hand cemented to her arm and the other covering my face, peeking through my fingers every once in awhile. I knew there was no turning back; the only way out of this nightmare was through it. We stood in the gravel parking afterward catching our breath in the chilly autumn air, all of us a little jumpy.

October is a time when thoughts and décor take a turn to the spooky. It is also a time when many become more introspective, as temperatures drop and leaves begin to fall. After Summer's whirlwind of travel and play, we settle in for longer nights. Our imaginations begin to work overtime, as shadows play across the walls of our brains.

What are you afraid of? Times of transition often bring out our fears. New opportunities and new directions can be exhilarating, but they can also be frightening. What will we need to change in order to move forward in the direction God is calling? What if we don't like those changes? As in my haunted house experience, the only way out of the fears is through.

During the month of October, we will be talking about fear during our worship services. How do we, as people of faith, face the culture of fear that so often seems to dominate political discourse? Where do we find solace for our own fears for ourselves, our families, our church community? Are our fears trying to teach us something? Beginning October 9 and continuing the rest of the month, we will sit with these questions and a few others. In addition, we will begin a Second Hour series on fear for those Sundays, exploring tools for coping with our fears, talking about scary things with our friends and loved ones, and giving expression to the comfort we find in our faith and in each other.

I hope you are able to join us. If you have stories about fear that you would like to talk about with me, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I'd love to hear them.

Grace and Peace,  
Liz

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**Gilead Ministry Celebrates Pastoral Care Week**  
**Rev. Erma Croom, Director of the Gilead Ministry**



**October 16-22, 2016**

On Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, I was one of the recipients selected to receive an “All Lives Matter” award at the Matthew House Annual Awards Gala. Matthew House is a supportive service center for the homeless. They provide housing, food, clothing, and case management for homeless men and women. It was an honor to be in the presence of so many wonderful people who go about their work every day in such extraordinary ways without seeking recognition, people who simply do what they do with the hope of being of service to others. I was recognized for chaplaincy service in community and was nominated by a former intern who served with me at Jackson Park Hospital. It was an honor to accept the “All Lives Matter” award on behalf of Gilead Ministry and all of the patients, family members, staff, and students I have the privilege of serving. The month of October is also an important month for those serving in the chaplaincy profession.

October has been designated the month when all chaplains and pastoral care providers are recognized for their services during Pastoral Care Week. This year pastoral care week is being observed from October 16<sup>th</sup> through October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Pastoral Care Week is, more specifically, an opportunity for organizations and institutions to recognize the spiritual caregivers in their midst and the ministry which care givers provide. As part of the Jackson Park Hospital health care team, Gilead Ministry’s spiritual caregivers provide twenty-four hour chaplaincy service to the hospital. We deliver care that values the whole person, the integration of body and spirit. We are blessed to have the opportunity to serve the patients, family members and staff at Jackson Park Hospital.

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**Start Me Up!**  
**Jade Maze, Music Director**

The first Sunday in October finds everyone in the music ministry back in place. It will be wonderful to hear the children’s voices again singing the introit. And you will see a few unfamiliar faces in the choir loft as we work on finding our new tenor section leader. I’m please to tell you that we have a new volunteer singer for our first Friday Taizé services in the person of Sam Cocjin. She recently moved here after graduating from Tufts University in Boston and was very excited to learn of our Taizé services. It will be wonderful to have a new voice join us!

Our past vocal intern is off to a great start at Loyola University in New Orleans. She and 5 of her classmates even made time to raise \$6000 dollars for the pediatric cancer unit of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Way to go, Snow!



It was great hosting the Hyde Park Jazz festival in our house again. Bobby Lewis played a very tasteful set. And it was a family affair for bassist Lorin Cohen (he grew up in Chicago) and his group. They had the house grooving, and I was introduced to bebop steel pan playing for the first time —a very beautiful sound!

And we topped off the weekend with a spirit filled Sacred Jazz Service with John Brumbach and Erwin Helfer. Our fall season is off to a very invigorating start!



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## *The 10 Smartest Things You Can Do to Improve Communication at Church*

1. **Know the purpose for every communication.** If you are writing anything, write this sentence first: the purpose of this \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_. You will automatically communicate better. If you are calling someone, know your purpose before you dial the number. When you're facilitating a meeting, clearly state the purpose up front, and come back to it again and again.
2. **Define yourself.** Say as clearly as you can what you think, want, believe, or hope for. The effort of getting clear for yourself will improve your communication.
3. **Don't worry about convincing people, just say it.** Let go of how people will respond to your ideas. Don't try to talk people into anything. It never works in the long term, and your ideas get lost in the process.
4. **Focus on people who are motivated.** Don't chase after people who don't want to listen. No matter how valuable your message, they can't hear you. Whether they are church members or your own teenagers, the principle is the same. Look for those who are motivated, whose eyes light up. They are ready for your message - so share it with them.
5. **Communicate with the listener/reader in mind.** Even as you are defining yourself, think about those who will receive the message. What motivates them? What language do they use? Help them hear your message.
6. **Avoid insider jargon.** Assume people don't know Christian shorthand, Bible stories, or church acronyms. It's better to over-explain than under-explain. One of the best ways to make newcomers feel like outsiders is to talk in cryptic language.
7. **Listen as much as you talk.** In any meeting or conversation, monitor how much you are talking. Stop and listen from time to time. Don't be a pastor who monologues.
8. **When you listen, listen fully.** Spend your listening time seeking to understand the other. Don't be too distracted by formulating an answer. If you need to answer, it's all right to say, "I need to think about this." Then come back to them with a clear purpose and response.
9. **Over-communicate when anxiety is high** (and at all other times, too). Don't assume one communication is enough. Communicate multiple times and in multiple ways. At times of transition or stress in the congregation, anxiety will make it even harder for people to hear. Double your efforts to get the message out. Never take it personally if someone doesn't get the message.
10. **Remember to keep it brief.** We remember sound bites, not entire speeches. Leave people wanting more. Now more than ever, people need a short, clear message.

**Question for reflection:** *which one of these can you commit to attempting this week?*



Friday, October 7  
7:00 p.m.



**Join us on Saturday, October 1 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Social Hall for an all-church potluck and an opportunity to meet the candidate for Senior Minister.

**Then join us the next day, Sunday, October 2 at 10:00 a.m.** for worship wherein the candidate will deliver the sermon.

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