



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist | United Church of Christ | United Methodist

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

I Corinthians 3:5-9

Dear Co-Workers in God's Service,

When people ask me how things are going at United Parish these days, I say “they’re really simmering.” Like when you make a pot of soup, simmering is that sweet process when all the flavors start coming together.

Theologically, I think this simmering is the fiery work of the Holy Spirit, working, living and breathing through the lives of our members and our collective body. Consider just some of the things that have been happening over the course of our current fiscal year (starting July 1, 2017):

- A late-summer children's music and arts camp
- The welcoming rainbow chairs on our front lawn
- New lawn signage that tells more about who we are inside of the church
- Renewed and sustained operation of Thrifty Threads by volunteers
- Monthly food cards for those in need
- Record attendance at our fall fellowship retreat
- A beautifully coordinated community Thanksgiving meal, with more than enough volunteers
- A member-generated Advent devotional booklet
- A Christmastime Missions Giving alternative gift fair
- Lenten dinner church, prayer partners, study groups and devotional fasting to support the Brookline Food Pantry
- Our musical and worship collaboration with Temple Shir Tikva
- 24 new members, most of them young adults, joining on Palm Sunday
- Our advocacy for criminal justice reform paying off in sweeping new legislation
- Our Growing Grandparents and 20/30s Vision Group holding an intergenerational conversation on faithful finances
- Our upcoming Children and Youth cabaret

You and I are all a part of this. As Paul wrote to the church at Corinth a long time ago, we are “co-workers in God's service” (1 Corinthians 3:9). Some of us plant seeds, some of us water them, some of us add fertilizer, but God gives the growth. Each gift that we offer — whether of time, talent or our finances — makes a difference in helping the benevolent, holy, vibrant work of God become a living reality in our midst.

So as you look over this brochure, I invite you to think about why you are a part of this community, how it blesses you, what you love about it, how you experience God here. And then, I invite each of us to make a prayerful commitment to support this beautiful work going forward, and make pledges of service and finances. It is good and holy work. And with God's help, each of us makes it possible.

In faith and gratitude,
Kent



Co-workers in God's Service



Gathering



I have been involved in helping to organize the United Parish Fall Fellowship Weekend for almost 20 years. Each one of these Columbus Day weekend trips to a convenient out-of-town location has had its own set of stories to tell, laughs to recount, games to play, hikes to take, and meals to share. But for me, this ultimate United Parish intergenerational gathering has given me the great joy of having the chance to get to know so many United Parish folks in new, important ways. It is a chance to talk informally with one another about our busy lives and our hopes for our own spiritual journey. The connections made at the Fall Fellowship Weekend have provided me with friendships and relationships that now comprise my United Parish family.

Gwen Pritchard Lindquist



Usually I spend Easter in Connecticut with my family, but this Easter I was lucky enough to have them with me in Boston to celebrate. The service was an intimate spectacle, the sanctuary filled to the brim with neighbors whose diverse backgrounds had led them to this common space to pray together, to sing together, to experience the Easter story anew. My family marveled at the message of inclusion woven into the traditional retelling, and all of us greatly appreciated the beauty of the musical performances delivered with joy, from choirs and congregation alike. It was an Easter service unlike any we had experienced before.

Tyler Smith

Exalting

Stretching

Using our feet to express our beliefs, United Parish teens and adults attended March for Our Lives to take a stand against gun violence. Participating in the Stretching into Justice activities at United Parish has not just raised my social consciousness, but has given me courage to take action. Even a small action puts an exclamation point on our Christian thoughts!

Beverly Bowman

Jesus' exhortation to minister to the least among us took on real meaning at the United Parish when we tackled mass incarceration. Four years later – educating ourselves, joining rallies, donating to Jobs NOT Jails, showing up for hearings, and contacting our state legislators – the newly enacted criminal justice law will make a real difference to everyone in Massachusetts. It has been a deeply meaningful experience to join together to bring the Gospels to life.

John Bowman



During the 2018 Lenten season, our congregation focused on “Getting Real with God.” In our small group study, we shared the many ways we pray, learned and practiced the St. Ignatius daily examen, listened to the Easter Story as told by Mark, and experienced the labyrinth walk and liturgical dance. Forty-two people from our congregation participated in our Prayer Partners offering! Pairs connected weekly in a covenant to pray together and for one another during the Lenten season. On Thursday evenings, the parlor at United Parish was beautifully prepared with candlelit tables where many gathered for a simple meal and listened to heartfelt stories of confession. I was grateful for the time and space to participate in all of these offerings. Our family took on the daily examen practice during our dinnertime at home and it has provided us with a way to connect more deeply each day. I appreciate the many ways that United Parish helps me to grow spiritually, deepen in my faith, and connect with my family and church community.

Lisa Weil



Deepening

Stewarding Our Resources

I pass by United Parish regularly and when I do I am so uplifted by the different inspiring messages on your front lawn. They give me a sense of hope and make me feel that we live in a community of inclusion. I LOVE the Adirondack chairs! To me, they say that everyone is welcome—not just into the church but to simply sit and take a rest from what can sometimes be a difficult world.

Yvette Yelardy, Brookline Resident



United Parish Staff

Kent French	Senior Pastor
Amy Norton	Acting Associate Pastor/Christian Education Coordinator
Susan DeSelms	Minister of Music
Sarah Fitzpatrick	Communications and Office Administrator
Anna Burnham	Seminarian
Alanna Bailey	Sexton
Armen Khachatourian	Business and Accounting Administrator
Renee Badenoch	Lead Nursery Worker
Don Firth	Accounting Consultant

2018 Stewardship and Budget Ministry Team

Alessia Contu	Member At-large
Kate Ewen	Children and Youth Deepening
Dot Gorenflo	Stretching into Justice, Growing Grandparents
Doug Johnson	Treasurer, Growing Grandparents
Barbara Lynch	Chancel Choir, Hearts and Hands, Growing Grandparents
Henry McCorkle	20/30s Vision, Communications
Paul Quackenbush	Stretching into Justice, Growing Grandparents
Paul Rodine	Church Council, Chancel Choir
Katherine South	20/30s Vision, Hearts and Hands

Katie Lee	Brochure Design
Lietza Molloy	Stewardship thank you notes
Christina Wynveen	Logo Design