



## The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist  
210 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 02446  
617-277-6860 office@upbrookline.org  
unitedparishbrookline.org

August 17, 2018

Dear Church School Families,

My first year at United Parish has been an exciting and very enjoyable period of learning as much as I can about this church and its community as we moved through a full year together, and getting to know as many of you as possible- to that end, I'm always happy to receive emails or phone calls, or to meet over coffee in Coolidge Corner! We have a great year ahead of us with some exciting changes to the music and church school curriculum!

Our church school curriculum for all Elementary School students will continue to be the Deep Blue curriculum, described as a weekly adventure through the Bible. This curriculum incorporates activities for multiple learning styles so that each student can find a way to connect to the text. Our Rite 13 curriculum will stay the same, as a rites of passage program for our bar and bat mitzvah aged youth, and our big Rite 13 dinner and special Sunday worship will happen this spring (dates TBD). We will be continuing with the Journey to Adulthood curriculum for our J2A and YAC students.

We are also excited to announce the introduction of 'Epiphany Term,' a unit running from January 6th through February 10th, that our Children & Youth Deepening Ministry Team has built around preparing musically, thematically, artistically, and spiritually/theologically for our big youth performance on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Susan DeSelms and I will be happy to answer any questions you have about Epiphany Term and how it will be structured/implemented.

One other change from last year will be that the Children/Youth Retreat (January 25-27), formerly the Children's Music retreat, is now a joint retreat for all children & youth who participate in church school and/or choir. This retreat will be dedicated to building the Epiphany Term performance together, and children will have a chance to work on musical, spoken, visual, behind-the-scenes, and thematic aspects of the performance.

In this packet, we have also enclosed some materials we hope will help you and your child(ren) ease into the church year:

- A letter from Susan DeSelms, our Minister of Music, regarding choir opportunities for children and youth.
- A Registration and Field Trip Permission Form for each child or youth in your household. It is imperative for reasons of safety as well as communication that you fill out a new registration form for each child or youth. (Please note: children and youth may proceed to Church School class AFTER these forms are completed and submitted.)
- An Optional Opt-Out form for anyone wishing to make sure pictures of anyone in their family do not get used in United Parish publications or publicity materials.

- A Music Ministry and Church School Calendar that you might want to hang on your refrigerator or keep in a handy spot.
- An Acolyte flyer for all children entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade and higher.
- Information on what will happen Sunday, September 9, our first day of children and youth programming for this school year.

I look forward to all that this upcoming school year has in store for us all, as we deepen our faith and our community together.

Peace,

Amy Norton  
Associate Pastor

Kent French  
Senior Pastor

Amy Norton  
Associate Pastor

Susan DeSelms  
Minister of Music

Schedule for First Day, September 9th:

9:00-9:45

Carolers, Youth & Bell Choirs registration and orientation. All students interested in joining these groups must attend the orientation in the church parlor.

9:45-10:45

All children, parents, and teachers will meet in the Sanctuary to begin the Church School year with singing, prayer and a brief orientation. Children whose Church School Registration Forms and Field Trip Permission Slips have been completed and turned in will be dismissed to their classes. We will ask any child whose Registration and Field Trip Permission Form still needs to be completed to remain in the sanctuary while parents complete the registration forms.

11:00-12:00

Worship service in the sanctuary and blessing of the backpacks

12:00

All church potluck cookout!

Kent French  
Senior Pastor

Amy Norton  
Associate Pastor

Susan DeSelms  
Minister of Music