

STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2022:

An invitation to a faith-filled commitment

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We are often told to avoid subjects like religion, money, and politics at the dinner table with family and friends, but here at church, we lean into hard conversations about religion and politics. Money, on the other hand, can be hard to talk about, yet our work as a church depends upon generous financial commitments. This pledge campaign season, we are striving to break the ice, and talk money.

This is the time of year when we are all invited to make a faith-filled commitment to United Parish in Brookline. Your commitment will help us meet the goal of at least \$500,000 for our ministries and \$60,000 for our mission funds.

You can do so by filling out the attached commitment form. We will consecrate all of our commitments together in worship on May 15. Why faith-filled? Because this is an opportunity for us as people of faith to center the Spirit of God in our financial spreadsheets, planning, and decisions.

The early Church believed that because we are one body in faith, we do not claim private ownership of any possession. We are called to hold everything in common. Now, that is hard! If we were to take these words to heart, we may all sell our homes and move into the church and cook our meals in that newly, beautifully cleaned downstairs kitchen!

We are not asking everyone to sell all of their possessions, but we are taking a moment to recognize that when we donate to United Parish, unlike other nonprofit organizations, we are sharing our money in community, for common use. We discern, together, how God is calling us to use our shared financial resources. When we give, we deepen our trust in God and one another.

Over the next three weeks, we invite you to prayerfully consider your financial and service commitment to United Parish. As you do so, please take some time to review our brochure to learn more about how each of our gifts is needed to support our church's ministries and mission funds. It is our deepest prayer, that whatever your commitment is, it is a joyful one.

With hearts full of gratitude,

Barbara Lynch (Convener), Doug Johnson (Treasurer), Madeline Gardner, Carolyn Swain, Dot Gorenflo, Mark Jones, and Jaz Buchanan (The Stewardship & Budget Ministry Team)



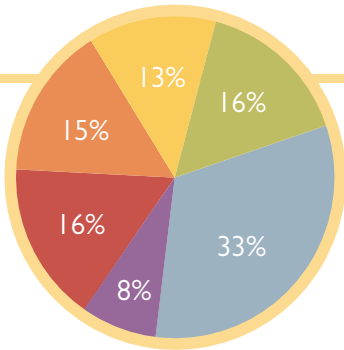
UNITED PARISH
IN BROOKLINE



UNITED PARISH
IN BROOKLINE

MAKING A FAITH-FILLED COMMITMENT

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. Acts 4:32



How the funds are used

On our own, we are one person, with one person's time and one person's money. When we give to United Parish, our gifts of time and money are multiplied.

■ Stewarding - \$154,851

■ Deepening - \$144,501

■ Stretching - \$122,358

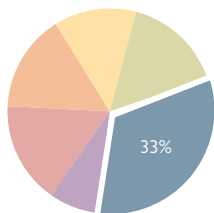
■ Gathering - \$154,593

■ Exalting - \$319,124

■ Missions Giving - \$81,557

Questions to consider

- ☐ How does my faith align with the ministries of United Parish?
- ☐ How do I want to invest in the future ministries and aspirations of United Parish?
- ☐ How am I called to give as a Christian? Have I considered the practice of tithing, or giving 10% of my income?
- ☐ Does my financial commitment to United Parish align with my values and vision?



EXALTING in worship

Spreading the word of God through praise and worship, and associated staff

What we are doing

- Livestreamed Sunday worship • Midweek Advent/Lent worship on Zoom
- Choirs for all ages • Negro Spiritual Royalties Project
- Collaborations with Temple Shir Tikva

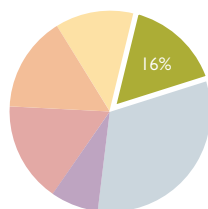
What we aspire to do with your help

Continue livestreaming worship next year



GATHERING in community

Opportunities and events that build meaningful connections, and associated staff

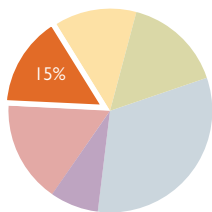


What we are doing

- New First Friday series to connect in person and online • 20s/30s and Growing Grandparents groups • Hearts and Hands visits, meals, cards, and calls
- Reclaiming and revitalizing kitchen as a resource for United Parish

What we aspire to do with your help

Regular coffee hours, Dinners for 8, Fall Fellowship Weekend and other in-person gatherings



DEEPENING in faith

Nurturing spiritual development for all ages, and associated staff

What we are doing

- Outdoor Church School • Trusted Sunday morning Nursery care
- Safe space for youth to talk and relate to others • Adult Drop-In Bible Study
- Advent/Lenten book studies • Prayer partners

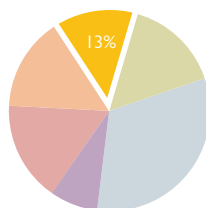
What we aspire to do with your help

Expand our reach and flexibility, to bring more families into our programming



STRETCHING into justice

Activities and partnerships to support local and global equity, and associated staff



What we are doing

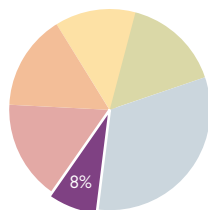
- Operating Thrifty Threads • Advocating via GBIO for affordable housing, reentry after incarceration, and mental health issues • Participation in the Walk for Hunger • Welcoming Brookline Food Pantry to our building

What we aspire to do with your help

Build lay advocacy leadership to further more justice initiatives

MISSIONS GIVING

Support for causes and organizations focused on humanitarian needs, and associated staff

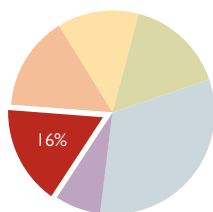


What we are doing

- Christmas Missions Marketplace • Ukraine Humanitarian Relief
- Matching funds for the Walk for Hunger and for the Negro Spiritual Royalties Project
- Support that responds to ongoing and emergent needs
- Support for Methodist, Baptist, and UCC missions

What we aspire to do with your help

Sustain missions giving as a vibrant part of our total United Parish ministries



STEWARDING our resources

Care of the church building and property, and associated staff

What we are doing

- Developing multiple paths for individual giving • Addressing the structural, functional, and aesthetic needs of our church building and grounds • Setting goals for improvements to our internal spaces • Aligning the use and care of the building with the missions of the church • Creating a Financial Planning Team to develop plans and recommendations for sustaining our ministries

What we aspire to do with your help

Grow individual giving and building funding and manage it faithfully