



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist | United Church of Christ | United Methodist

May 2023

Dear United Parish:

I continue to marvel at the vibrancy, creativity, and faithful heart of our community. After three years of a global pandemic, plenty of divisiveness in our culture, and a \$12M assessment of our building's capital needs, our community is thriving and continuing to grow. As we've taken time this winter and spring to reflect on our purpose, it's clear that we continue to be a community of love, welcome, soulfulness, music-making, compassion, and justice. People are returning in person, and new people are checking us out, staying and becoming members. There is new growth on old vines.

All I can say is: Thanks be to God! and Thanks be to YOU!

Now in the spring season of Eastertide, we collectively recommit ourselves to our community's mission going forward. This packet is a collection for you and your household to reflect prayerfully on what United Parish means to you and how God is directing you to give of your time and money in the year ahead. Your pledges of time, talent, and money are essential for all of us to plan forward into the future.

In this packet you will find:

- an overview of our ministry areas (reverse side)
- an explanation of our Stewardship theme of "Our Money Story," which we're exploring in worship
- a pledging chart to help you discern the amount that's right for you for the year ahead
- your financial giving and/or pledge statement from fiscal year 2023 (July 2022-June 2023), if applicable
- pledging forms for both finances and time and talent (*please fill out both*) – to be turned in, filled out online, and/or brought to worship on **Sunday, May 21** for Consecration Sunday.

We are a community that nourishes souls, looks forward, acts as a change agent in the world, and promotes healing and justice. Your support is essential to this work and witness about the power of Christ's kind of love in the world. Thank you for taking part.

In faith and continuing gratitude,

Kent

Kent French, *Senior Pastor*

on behalf of our Stewardship and Budget Ministry Team:

Madeline Gardner, Doug Johnson (Treasurer), Mark Jones, Barbara Lynch, Amy Norton,
Carolyn Swain and Erin Venkatesh

Support Your United Parish Ministries



We put our faith into action and bring it alive through the work of our Ministries.

EXALTING in Worship

Spreading the work of God through praise and worship.

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



DEEPENING in Faith

Nurturing spiritual development for all ages.

- Church School
- Youth service trips
- Trusted Sunday morning Nursery care
- Safe space for youth to talk and relate to others
- Adult Drop-In Bible Study
- Advent/Lenten book studies
- Morning Meditation
- Prayer Partners

GATHERING in Community

Building fellowship and meaningful connections.

- 20s/30s and Growing Grandparents groups
- After-worship Coffee Hour
- Hearts and Hands visits, meals, cards, and calls
- Strawberry Festival
- Dinners for 8
- Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Fall Fellowship Weekend
- Prayer Chain



Your financial contribution supports the development and growth of these essential programs — programs that make United Parish the vibrant center of our spiritual life.

STRETCHING into Justice

Supporting local and global equity.

- GBIO (Affordable Housing, Re-entry, Mental Health)
- Thrifty Threads
- Walk for Hunger
- Brookline Food Pantry
- Thanksgiving Community Dinner
- Missions Giving, including Christmas Missions Market; Ukraine Humanitarian Relief; Matching Funds for Walk for Hunger and Negro Spiritual Royalties Project; Supporting Methodist, Baptist, and UCC missions; Responding to ongoing and emergent needs.