



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

April 2019

Dear Co-Workers in God's Service,



When new people come to our Exploring Membership classes, they often say that what drew them inside the door were our messages out front: our rainbow Adirondack chairs, "Putting the progressive back in Christianity," "Be the Church," "Black Lives Matter," and vivid photographs of the life inside.

We have our thoughtful Communications Team to thank for all of this good work in letting people know about the life and faithful values that go on inside our imposing building.

The real good news is when new people come in the doors, they find a truly welcoming community. One that is warm, alive, engaging and leading with a lot of grace. One that has as much sweetness and exuberance as our children who give out the welcome flowers in worship.

The Holy Spirit is truly alive in our midst. We are fully intergenerational; music pours out of every doorway and window; people are exploring their faith in thoughtful and intentional ways; we even have six newborns joining us this Spring. We are following the ministry of Jesus in spiritually-deepening, justice-seeking, compassion-enlivening ways.

This is big, important stuff. I am convinced that more and more people need this kind of community. They often don't even know it exists right under their noses.

My prayer is that in the coming years, United Parish may become more of a resource to the community right around us, that we will get to know our neighbors better, that people will readily recognize us as a spiritual center where they may find solace, invigoration, encouragement and the tools to help them live their lives.

You are an essential part of this process, keeping us internally strong while also opening our doors ever wider, ever more graciously, with a genuine welcome. As you look through this brochure, please reflect on what this community means to you and how you see it helping others.

Thank you for your support through pledging your time, your talent and your treasure. Please make your pledge on or by Consecration Sunday, May 19. This helps with our overall planning and coordination. Together, each one of us makes a difference in creating a spiritual oasis right here in Coolidge Corner.

In faith,
Kent



Stretching

I work on the Walk for Hunger because the need for healthy food is something everyone can relate to, because the event is organized as a celebration of community, because sharing is a central Christian value, and because it helps me get to know people of all ages at church.

Beverly Bowman



I'm involved with Adult Deepening programs because newcomers and long-timers at United Parish need creative and stimulating opportunities to engage with other adults on theological, spiritual and social justice topics, and how we can activate our faith in the world. I've deepened my faith and my friendships in the process, and seen others do the same!

Deb Hall



Deepening

Gathering



I first got involved in the 20/30s group as a way to meet people in Boston, and many of them quickly became my best friends and faith role models. In volunteering, studying, and laughing with them, I constantly see God at work in and through this amazing group of people.

Sally Stoyell



A recent visitor to our Lenten dinner church said “I come to dinner here on Thursday, and it feeds me for the rest of the week.” I love thinking of the Exalting ministries I participate in at United Parish as a form of spiritual nourishment.

Holly VandeWall

Exalting

Stewarding Our Resources

Our congregation is great. Providing a warm, attractive, safe, well-managed gathering place for congregants and staff is what the Building and Grounds Committee works hard to provide. I feel good when we deliver.

David Flanagan



United Parish Staff

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Kent French

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Sarah Fitzpatrick

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Amy Norton

Sexton
Jade Fulford

Minister of Music
Susan DeSelms

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