



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist | United Church of Christ | United Methodist

Rooted in the past.



With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:6-8

April 2020

Dear Beloved Siblings,

Grace and peace to you in this disorienting, disturbing and momentous time! This current season of global pandemic and social distancing has only increased my love and appreciation for our beloved community. The sense of connection, the yearning for collective spiritual comfort, strength, and sustenance has never felt more real to me as a pastor. I am grateful beyond measure for the good humor, ingenuity, deep faithfulness, ongoing encouragement, and unmitigated kindness of our staff and members.

While the church building is closed, I can assure you that our staff has been working as hard and faithfully as ever — even more so. In addition to learning new technologies and re-configuring worship for online access, we are working steadily with leadership about how to keep us all connected virtually and to respond financially to those in need.

With the loss of \$8,000 a month in building usage fees from outside groups, we have, like everyone else, entered a new financial reality. On the recommendation of our Stewardship & Budget Ministry Team and with the overwhelming approval of our Council and Ministry Team conveners, we applied for relief funds from the Paycheck Protection Program, so that we may retain our current staff and continue to pay our part-time, hourly workers. Church employees are not eligible for unemployment insurance, so our leadership wanted to avoid releasing anyone. We give thanks upon just learning that we have been approved for the loan.

Our own financial gifts to United Parish have never been more important. I am keenly aware that some of us may need to reduce our financial contribution right now. Some of us may be able to give more. Both are faithful responses. I know that regardless of where our economy heads, we will, like the early Christians, remain “together and hold everything in common” (Acts 2:44) as a beloved patch of God’s kingdom here on Earth. As always, I invite you to pray about what is the best, most faithful way for you to continue to participate in our common life. I am happy to talk about it with you individually, if you like.

Gathering electronically also gives us new opportunities to pledge electronically, which saves us paper, staff and volunteer time. If possible, please make both your service and financial pledges online by Consecration Sunday, May 17. If you need help, just give us a call. Until then, I express my unending gratitude to be in this together with you. I thank God continually for our United Parish community.

**In faith,
Kent**

Reaching into our future.



Celebrating 50 years of The United Parish.



210 Harvard Street | Brookline, MA 02446 | upbrookline.org

Stretching

into Justice

As a new member of United Parish's Stretching Team, I am excited to be part of a group of church members and friends who care deeply about the neighborhood and the world around us, and how our church can be part of solutions to the injustices and disparities. From the Thanksgiving dinner to hunger to incarceration reform to expanding affordable housing opportunities, our Stretching Team is working on how we can make a difference, and it's very rewarding to be part of it.

David Rockwell



Gathering

in Community

Gathering has taken on new forms for all of us in recent weeks but the impact of support and connection have become more meaningful than ever. Ironically, in this time of separation, my connection to my United Parish family has become even more precious and the joy, peacefulness, and re-centering to my faith that it offers have been a balm to my soul. This reiterates the critical role this church and all of you play in my life and spiritual growth. "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing" - whether that be in church, around a campfire, at a table, over a mug of coffee, or on a Zoom call. God has blessed us all with the gift of this community, and we give so that we might continue to be fed.

Stefan Reed





Deepening

in Christian Faith and Spirituality

Being able to serve United Parish this past year by putting to work some of my truest gifts and strengths on the Adult Deepening and Discernment and Engagement teams has been an honor and a privilege. The service I have been blessed to be a part of has really connected me to myself and to the congregation, in fulfilling and powerful ways I couldn't ever have imagined. I am so happy that I said "Yes" when asked to help out!

Adam Sutton



Exalting

in Worship

No matter what my frame of mind is when I enter Sunday service, I leave feeling better and more ready for the week ahead. The sermons are always relevant, without prejudice, and positive. They make me feel like I am a part of something bigger than myself and put my own problems in perspective. The music is beautiful. The Cherubs and carolers are delightful. The multi-talented youth are an inspiration. And the Chancel Choir is like a rock—solidly producing beautiful renditions of old and new hymns from many cultures. I am grateful to the United Parish staff, and the members of the congregation who give their time and talent, for providing me with this weekly gift, which feeds my soul.

Kate Ewen





Stewarding Our Resources

Having grown up at this church, I am certainly proud of our identity as a welcoming people, in a welcoming space, who share a welcoming faith. The work of the Building and Grounds team is guided by a careful consideration of how the use and care of our building and grounds can align, support, and advance this, and the many missions of the church. While we are just one small facet of the collective community here at United Parish, I am very proud of the important work that we do in the spirit of being a welcoming, safe, and meaningful presence in our world.

Bethany Lynch

Working with the 50th Anniversary History Committee has given me a new appreciation of the richness of the United Parish's history and of the dedication of the people who made it happen. Going forward into the next 50 years, we must challenge ourselves to broaden our God-centered ministries and keep them vital and relevant to the world in which we live.

Pat Howkinson

2020 Stewardship Team

Kate Ewen	Barbara Lynch
Kent French	Kelsey Mabe
Dot Gorenflo	Casey O'Brien
Doug Johnson	Paul Quackenbush
Nate Victor	Jaz Buchanan



United Parish Staff

Senior Pastor
Kent French

Associate Pastor
Amy Norton

Minister of Music
Susan DeSelms

Seminarian
Jaz Buchanan

Assistant Music Director
Josaphat Contreras

Parish Administrator
Sarah Fitzpatrick

Building Usage Coordinator
Helen Hassinger

Accounting Administrator
Donald Firth

Nursery Supervisor
Jenna Bergquist