



## The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist

210 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 02446  
617-277-6860 unitedparishbrookline.org

Rooted in the past.  
Reaching into  
our future.

April 28, 2021

Dear United Parish,

*Let your light so shine before humankind, that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven.*  
Matthew 5:16

Let us all take a deep breath. It has been a year for intentional breathing, for prayer, for kindness, for steadying and re-steadying ourselves. A year for remembering what faith is about and why and how it binds us together in this beloved community.

Reflecting on the last 14 months, I can only smile with deep gratitude in considering the goodness, kindness, resilience, ingenuity, adaptability, mutual care and common sense of our congregation. While the global pandemic and political division have raged and we have witnessed repeatedly the blatant institutionalized racism of our society, the United Parish in Brookline has remained a steady, faithful corner of God's kin-dom here on Earth.

We took financial hits. We changed the way we carry out worship and ministry. We have Zoomed and Zoomed and Zoomed some more. We protested. We supported justice and relief groups. We upped our technical game and broadened our programming in music and Church school. We culled together a COVID financial relief fund. We helped one another. We creatively reshaped our budget. Through it all, the basic decency and bedrock faithfulness of our community has remained steadfast and led us in important new directions.

Thanks be to God! And thanks be to the power of God working through all of us.

As we look to the year ahead (specifically our program and fiscal year July 2021-June 2022), our Reopening Team is actively considering how to reopen safely and sanely, with an eye toward more in-person gatherings in September.

In the year ahead, our increased online presence will need to continue, retaining our Multimedia Producer and investing in equipment to livestream artfully and faithfully into the next decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our Stretching into Justice Ministry Team and staff are urging us to join the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, which would help us have more of an impact in our justice work. (See more information [here](#).) And we will expand our work in local issues of food insecurity and affordable housing right in our neighborhood.

God is still working with us and we are still paying attention.

Our pledges of time and money are essential to sustaining this work. I ask you to take *at least 15 minutes* to review the thoughtfully prepared materials about this year's Stewardship campaign. Making your pledge online helps us tremendously.

Kent French  
Senior Pastor

Amy Norton  
Associate Pastor

Susan DeSelms  
Minister of Music



## The United Parish in Brookline

*American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist*

210 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 02446

617-277-6860 [unitedparishbrookline.org](http://unitedparishbrookline.org)

**Rooted in the past.  
Reaching into  
our future.**

With this letter you will find:

- Instructions on how to pledge and give electronically
- A brochure that gives a snapshot of our congregation's life together through the lens of three essential prayers: Help, Thanks, and Wow!, with photos from the past year
- Helpful information about deciding how to pledge

The pledging **deadline is Thursday, May 20**. We will celebrate our pledge results together in online worship on **Consecration Sunday, May 23**. We will confirm our budget and plans in our all-parish meeting on **Sunday, June 13**.

As always, thank you for adding your soul's light to the beacon that is United Parish. You inspire me.

In faith and gratitude,  
Kent

Special thanks to our 2021 Stewardship and Budget Ministry Team:

Kate Ewen (Convener), Dot Gorenflo, Doug Johnson (Treasurer), Mark Jones, Barbara Lynch, and Casey O'Brien.

Kent French  
Senior Pastor

Amy Norton  
Associate Pastor

Susan DeSelms  
Minister of Music