



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist | United Church of Christ | United Methodist

## Sharing our Blessings, Serving with our Gifts

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have  
received to serve others, as faithful stewards  
of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

May 2016

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

Each Sunday a member of our congregation stands up in worship and tells how our community has shaped her or his life. We hear about how they came to United Parish, what they've given and received here. I look forward to these moments, because they tell so much about our community. They open up the pages on individual lives and tell us about who is here and why. They testify to the power of a faith community to impact us.

In this brochure, you will read just a sampling of these testimonials. I invite you to take them in, to hear from one another about how this faith community helps its members and the world around us. I invite you to think about how it has helped you, or how you would like it to help you. Take some time to linger over the photographs, our areas of ministries, the way we are the body of Christ.

And then, I invite you to think about what you give and receive here, why you value our community and how God is nudging you to take part. What do you want to pledge of yourself for the year ahead? Your presence and your gifts are a vital contribution to all that we do and all that we are.

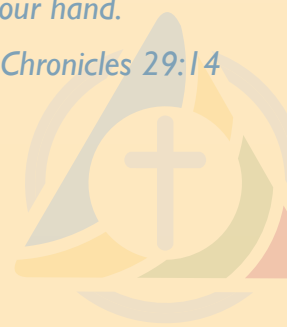
In faith and gratitude,

Kent



*But who am I, and who  
are my people, that we  
should be able to give  
as generously as this?  
Everything comes from  
you, and we have given  
you only what comes  
from your hand.*

*1 Chronicles 29:14*





Despite our different faith backgrounds, we always agreed it was important that the church we attended be able to **center us** for the week. If we could come together in worship and take something away from the sermon then that was the **right place** for us, regardless of denomination...

Leitza Molloy

Whether cheerios were rolling under soccer cleats, or SAT practice tests snuck inside the church bulletin, or whether I simply worship by myself -though never alone--**I have always found God and God has found me-** here in this **United Parish** pew.

Alicia Hsu



## EXALTING in worship

Our congregation's life centers around Sunday worship and all the members of our community are ministers in that effort. Guided by our pastoral staff, we use our gifts to worship God creatively, for ourselves, for each other, and for our visitors.



## DEEPENING in Christian faith

Guided by the Adult and Children and Youth Deepening Ministries, our members lead one another in Bible studies, church school, discussion and prayer groups, pilgrimages and retreats. Together we use our gifts to deepen our faith, increase our knowledge, and strengthen our spirits.

What I appreciate most about United Parish is that there is a place for each of us here. We are an **emergent, diverse** and **mighty congregation** that draws upon a variety of traditions and beliefs, meaning we have a great deal to offer one another.

Henry McCorkle

### The leadership

at United Parish has **helped me** be able to **participate** in Bible studies by creating childcare options, and I am **forever grateful** for it.

Amy Cho

Yes, we have **challenging discussions** at times, but we also have a lot of **fun...** Teaching church school is something I look forward to every week.

Deanna Baker

I have seen how this community can work: anxiety met with **comfort**, sorrow met with **love**, tragedy met with **generosity**, outrage met with action, uncertainty met with **faith** and all who speak or sing met with **kind attention**.

Peter Rempelakis

My Mother's death was a pivotal moment for me and so I joined the UP congregation who had **shrouded me with care and protection**.

I have spent my entire adult life here. I have grown up here.

Denise Patmon

I know I don't only speak for myself when I say that United Parish has been a **grounding, constant comfort** to us as we pursue our studies--coffee hour certainly never ceases to fill us with **nourishment, energy**, and the **joy of fellowship**.

Trey Pratt

## GATHERING in community

Welcoming new people to our community and maintaining fellowship among the people who continue to come to our church keeps us close and informs us of each other's needs. We extend our invitation for others to become a part of our community by sharing the vibrant and passionate life of our church to the outside world.



## STRETCHING into justice

Through the stretching ministries our members make up a vibrant and compassionate network of caregivers and concerned citizens who provide services to our members in need, such as cards, gift bags, prayer shawls, transportation, and meals, and work on issues, such as social justice, the environment, homelessness, hunger, and international and domestic relief.



This church has blessed me with so many opportunities to grow and use my **heart** and **hands** and **energy for God's work**.

Betty Lindsay

The most meaningful part of my new life here has been all the **STRETCHING** I find myself being forced to do.

Cathy Quackenbush

As a **gay couple** we have been happy to be part of United Parish's continuing Stretching into Justice ministry; and while this week has been a great local celebration of pride with parades, memorials, gatherings and parties let us not forget that the **work for justice** continues in places around the world and even in this country, where the scourge of discrimination still holds forth.

Ricardo Austrich



# OPERATIONS MINISTRY

Our building and grounds allow us to gather in all our ministries and bring in significant revenue. Our office is the center for those ministries and the face of the church for people who enter throughout the week. Our staff embodies those ministries as they guide, encourage, initiate, collaborate and work among us to help us grow in faith and service together.



There aren't that many places in our lives where a **community** of people **work together** to put into **action** what they believe to be right. This is a special community, and it takes a lot of **resources** to keep it running.

Ben McGraw

## United Parish Staff

Kent French	Senior Pastor
Alisa Joyce	Associate Pastor
Susan DeSelms	Minister of Music
Marla Walters	Communications and Office Administrator
Casey Hickson	Facilities Manager
Cydney Van Dyke	Seminarian
Armen Khachatourian	Business & Accounting Administrator
Katie Hodgkins	Lead Nursery Worker

## 2016 Stewardship and Budget Ministry Team

Lexi Boudreaux	Exalting & Discerning and Engagement
Kate Ewen	Children and Youth Deepening & Discerning and Engagement
Kent French	Exalting, Building and Grounds, Staff
Betty Lindsay	Church Council & Thrifty Threads
Mike McConnell	Adult Deepening
Henry McCorkle	Young Adults
Dot Gorenflo	Stretching into Justice
Leitza Molloy	Church School Teachers
David Rockwell	Treasurer
Tyler Smith	Young Adults & Operations
Kate Common	Graphic design

...it was time to put my **trust in the Lord**.

That meant trusting Him with my finances as well. I wanted the membership in this church to mark a closer relationship with God – a place to worship, pray and deepen my faith.

This would be my **church home**. My **church family**. So when I became a member of this church I **committed** myself to pledging financial resources as well.

Donna Treece

I give to UP because I know that God wants us to **support** his work in the world.

And I give to this church because it has **given so much to me**.

Cynthia Vreeland

We **pledge to UP** because we **value the practice of tithing**, because we believe that together the people of this church are **showing God's love to the world**, and because we know that making a commitment for the year allows our leadership to plan effectively

Emily Reed

