



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

Music Ministries for Children and Youth 2018-2019

Welcome to a new year at the United Parish in Brookline! If you aren't already involved in our music ministries, I hope you'll consider joining us this year! I believe that music is one of God's most amazing gifts to us, and that within each one of us is a uniquely beautiful instrument waiting to be cultivated and nurtured. All choirs at the United Parish are open to everyone, regardless of training or ability, and each one of our choir leaders is guided by love and respect for the individual. Participating in our music ensembles is a fantastic way for our children and youth to deepen their relationship with God, their church, and each other as they actively become stewards of worship.

You may register for choir by checking the appropriate boxes on your church school registration form included in this packet. If you haven't opted in yet for our MUSIC and ARTS CAMP August 27-31, it's not too late to join in the fun! We have been invited to join *Boston Children's Chorus'* final week of summer music and arts camp, in their wonderful, air conditioned, South Boston location. I've been working with BCC all summer, and am thrilled that they are willing to open their camp up to us at no extra cost. Besides having air conditioning, they have incredible resources that will give our kids a fantastic musical, social and FUN camp experience. Check out BCC's website if you want to know more. www.bostonchildrenschorus.org/our-programs/bcc-summer It's important that you still register on UP's website if you'd like your child to attend as we are receiving a group discount.

Please go ahead and mark your calendar for these special events:

- ❖ **Blessing of all worship musicians: Sunday, September 30:** all our choirs, directors and accompanists will participate in worship, and receive a blessing from our clergy and congregation.
- ❖ **Amahl and the Night Visitors, Friday December 7 and Sunday December 9:** Carolers and Youth are invited to join the chorus of shepherds in United Parish's first ever staged production of this touching operetta retelling the story of the Magi from the point of view of a young disabled boy named Amahl (to be played by our own Amalia Rodine!) who lives in poverty with his widowed mother (Helen Hassinger) near Bethlehem.
- ❖ **Epiphany Term, January 6-February 10** Choir and Church School leaders are working together to create a collaborative project for our children and youth (grades 1-12) that explores some of the many ways that *inequality* presents itself in modern culture, how it affects us all, and what we can all do to make positive change. Epiphany Term will culminate on February 10 at 11am

worship with an original presentation featuring spoken reflections, music, art, scripture readings, and more.

- ❖ **Winter Church School and Music Retreat January 25-27:** Grades 1-12 at Grotonwood Conference and Retreat Center. The retreat will give us time to create and rehearse our presentation on inequality, and ALSO be silly and have LOTS of fun. Parents are welcome to come along and hang out with other parents.
- ❖ **Saturday, March 30:** our children and youth will again take part in the *Choristers Guild Boston Choir and Arts Festival*, Trinitarian Congregational Church, Norton, MA. A teen choir rehearsal will be held on Friday, March 29 in Norton.

United Parish Choirs for Children and Youth

The Cherubs (Preschool-Kindergarten) meet at 9:45 with Vena Priestly and Deb Wald upstairs in the preschool classroom.

Vena and Deb engage our littlest ones in music through a short time of play at the beginning of church school, using rhythm games and simple choruses to teach them to sing, pray and praise God with their voices and hearts!

The Carolers (Grades 1-6) meet at 9am in the Choir Room. The Carolers rehearse every week with Susan DeSelms (UP Minister of Music) and David Rockwell (Carolers' co-teacher, and piano accompanist) and participate in worship 7-8 times a year! Vital, weekly rehearsals prepare the children for confident, expressive singing in worship, assist in their discovery of the hymnal, and build on the musicianship training they receive in school. This year, the Carolers will incorporate drumming into our rehearsals and worship offerings, something I think the children will really enjoy. I have been really honing my skills this summer with the *Boston Children's Chorus*, and I am so excited to start using them!

UP Youth Choir (grades 7-12) will meet in the Parlor on the first floor. We are continuing this year with a team of leaders for the youth choir. Tim McGowan, Kristen Murdaugh, and Merle Perkins will take on slightly different roles with the teens, to give them a solid musical and choral experience, help them develop their vocal chops, and cultivate in them a freedom of artistic and spiritual expression. The teens sing during worship at least 7-8 times a year, and sing in a wide variety of styles, and infuse their musical offerings with a spirit of excellence, creativity, friendship, and fun!

I hope to see you all in choir this year!

Musically yours,

Susan DeSelms
Minister of Music, The United Parish in Brookline
susan@upbrookline.org
617-277-6860, ext. 113

