



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

Music Ministries for Children and Youth 2019-2020

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 directors 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.

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

- ❖ **Blessing of all worship musicians: Sunday, September 29th:** all our choirs, directors and accompanists will participate in worship, and receive a blessing from our clergy and congregation.
- ❖ **Epiphany Term, January 5 -February 9** Choir and Church School leaders are working together once again to create a collaborative project for our children and youth (grades 1-12) which we will continue into this year's theme "The Beatitudes", and will culminate with an original presentation featuring spoken reflections, music, art, scripture readings, and more during a special worship service on February 9th at 11am.
- ❖ **Winter Church School and Music Retreat January 25:** Our Church School retreat will be a day-long retreat held at United Parish this year, on Saturday January 25th. This retreat will be dedicated to diving further into the lessons of the Beatitudes, and children will have a chance to work on music, spoken parts, visual acts, behind-the-scenes, and thematic aspects of the 2/9 worship service.
- ❖ **Children and Youth Choir Cabaret, May 17:** Our children and youth will once again take part in constructing their very own thematic musical presentation to be presented during our regular church service filled with a variety of acts, musical and non musical, and so much more!

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, and I am so excited to start using them!

UP Youth Choir (grades 7-12) will meet at 9am in the Parlor on the first floor. The Youth Choir will rehearse every week with our returning Assistant Music Director Josaphat Contreras, and Youth leader Merle Perkins who will take on slightly different role 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,

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