

UP Children's and Youth Music 2017-2018



Let everything that has breath praise God!

Dear Families,

Welcome to a new year at the United Parish in Brookline! If you aren't already involved in our music ministries, we hope you'll consider joining us this year! We 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 also 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 feel free to call or email Susan DeSelms (susan@upbrookline.org, 617-277-6860, ext. 113) if you have any questions. **And** if you haven't opted in yet for our four-day music camp for children and youth being held here on August 28-31 from 9:00-3:00pm, it's not too late to join in the fun! Email our camp director, Trey Pratt at trey@upbrookline.org. We've had a great response so far, but have plenty room for more!

Here are just a few of the exciting things we have planned for this year:

- ❖ **Music Consecration Sunday, September 24:** all our choirs will sing and ring in church for the first time. Choir members, directors, and accompanists will receive a blessing from our clergy and congregation. We will all sing together an African piece called “Umbuntu” celebrating the importance of community.

- ❖ **Saturday, November 18** our children and youth will take part in the ***Choristers Guild Boston Choir and Arts Festival***, to be held at St. Andrew’s Episcopal in Wellesley this year. *Jane Money*, founder and director of *Boston City Singers*, will be the guest choral director. She is known world-wide for her extraordinary work with children and teens. In addition to choir, there will be sessions in drumming, handbells, dance, art, and drama.

- ❖ **Annual Winter Music and Drama Retreat January 26-28:** All children and youth are welcome to join us - even if they haven’t been in choir before. The children will be working on a musical for the spring, and the youth be rehearsing repertoire for their Spring season. In addition to all this music making, we’ll be playing all kinds of sports in the fantastic rec center, sledding if weather permits, socializing, and just having a great time together.

- ❖ **Youth Choir BAND!** Our teen choir is loaded with multi-talented kids and we are planning to make good use of their many skills by forming a band at the winter retreat, with multiple singers, a drummer, bass player, guitarist, trumpeter, 2 cellists, a violinist, and whomever else turns up to join us!

About Our Choirs for Children and Youth

Preschool-Kindergarten: “The Cherubs” 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!

Grades 1-6: “The Carolers” meet at 9am on the second floor in room 204. The Carolers sing during worship 7-8 times a year, participate in a choir festival, go on retreat, and have LOADS of fun singing together! Vital, weekly rehearsals prepare the children for confident singing in worship, assist in their discovery of the hymnal, and build on the musicianship training they receive in school. And, most importantly, friends are made along the way!

Grades 7-12, “UP Youth Choir” - will meet in the Parlor on the first floor. The youth sing during worship 7-8 times a year, and sing a wide variety of repertoire, from modern gospel, to light classical. They will participate in the choir festival this year, go on retreat in the winter, and sing their way through the rest of the school year! The youth continue to develop musicianship and vocal technique during their weekly rehearsals, and infuse their musical offerings with a spirit of excellence, creativity, friendship, and fun!

Grades 7-adults, “UP RINGERS” will meet at 9am in the Choir Room on the first floor. This is a handbell choir for the novice and experienced ringer! Bob will teach newcomers everything they need to know. It is important to remember that consistent attendance is especially important in this choir.

We sincerely hope to see you all in choir this year!

Yours in song,

Susan DeSelms

Minister of Music, The United Parish in Brookline

susan@upbrookline.org

617-277-6860, ext. 113