



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

May 11, 2025

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I am so grateful to be part of United Parish in Brookline with you. I marvel continuously at our congregation's capacity for joy, soulfulness, resilience, kindness, and hope. I rejoice in the ways that we truly fulfill Christ's mission to love one another and love our neighbors as ourselves. **Your presence and participation in our common life is essential to our collective strength and spirit.**

Being part of our faith community is now more important than it has ever been in our recent history, certainly in my lifetime. The daily news and governmental pronouncements keep stoking our fears and uncertainties and disorientating us. It is crucial to maintain our joyful, vibrant community as a clear port in the storm: remembering our deepest values to "love justice, do mercy and walk humbly with our God" [Micah 6:8]. **Nourishing and fortifying our souls, continually learning how to be our best selves, generously serving our neighbors, and teaching our children in this tradition are some of the most important practices we can do right now.**

I am thrilled to see how United Parish has increasingly become a change agent for the world around us, a true community hub in the town of Brookline. We have our own work with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, Thrifty Threads shop, Thanksgiving Meal, Negro Spirituals Royalties Project, Walk for Hunger, NAMI Mental Health Walk, and Missions Giving Team. In addition, United Parish now regularly hosts over 35 organizations doing amazing on-the-ground and mission-aligned work, with about 1,000 people coming through our doors every week.

The impact of all these programs and collaboration is that we are meaningfully addressing food and clothing insecurity and affordable housing, providing a home for vibrant arts and cultural expression, supporting youth development, and creating a sanctuary for people to find peace in their lives and recover from addiction and trauma. Our building users consistently comment on the inclusive good vibes that resonate in our hallways all week long. Our UPLIFT Team (United Parish Leading into Future Transformation) is diligently discerning the opportunities that lie before us, both missional and financial. Throughout my nearly twelve years here, I have often asked the provocative question, **"If our building burned to the ground, would any of our neighbors care?" The answer is a resounding YES!**

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This Eastertide, the Stewardship Ministry Team invites each member of the congregation to consider how they will contribute to United Parish in the coming year, and to make pledges of time, talent, and financial resources. A pledge is a promise that enables us to plan responsibly. It is not a binding commitment. Our church leadership uses the information we receive from pledges to shape our budget and programming for our fiscal year, July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. The more information we have about how the congregation anticipates participating, the better stewards we can be of the gifts we have been given.

I warmly encourage you to make a pledge to United Parish. Please share your plans by Consecration Sunday, June 8. **Your pledge means that you say “YES!” to our missional work and will actively participate in carrying it into the future to make a positive difference in the world around us.**

I invite us all to say “YES!”

In faith and gratitude,

Kent French
Senior Pastor

Stewardship Ministry Team

Lauren Doty
Sarah Fitzpatrick, *Parish Administrator*
Kent French, *Senior Pastor*
Madeline Gardner

Mark Jones
Karl Klaussen
Amy Norton-Benfield, *Associate Pastor*
Paul Quackenbush

Emily Reed, *Convener*
Tyler Smith, *Treasurer*
Donna Treece

