



The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist
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Dear Church School Families,

August 2025

I hope your summers have been filled with wonder, rest, and ripe tomatoes! As we prepare to take the plunge into the back-to-school season, **we are looking forward to kicking off the Sunday School year with your children on Sunday, September 7th!** We will gather at 9:45am on the front lawn of United Parish (or upstairs in Room 204 if it rains) to greet one another, meet our teachers, sing, pray, and complete any missing registrations. Children and teachers will then head up to their classrooms, and parents are invited to join their children in Pre-K through 5th Grade for this special first class.

It is vital that you complete our registration form, and for your convenience, we have included this QR code to link you directly to the form. For the safety of your children as well as for ease of communication, please register each child individually.



We hope that Church School this year will be a place of learning, love and a refuge where your child knows they can be affirmed for exactly who they are, no strings attached. We have recruited a wonderful and devoted group of teachers, and while we know that as parents and guardians you are the primary nurturers of your children's faith, we believe our job as clergy and educators is to support your children's faith formation through our church school programming.

Consistency helps build fulfilling relationships, and so we hope that you and your family will make a covenant this year to earnestly engage in our children and youth programs. No matter what your rhythm of participation is, however, your family is *always* welcome here. Whatever your level of comfort or familiarity with religion or the Bible may be, know that United Parish as a whole will always be here to serve as a loving, spirit-filled "co-parent," and that it is an honor to be part of the village that helps raise your children. We hope you'll join our Parents of Young Children and Parents of Teens small groups, mingle at our Parent/Teen Dinner Nights, and more!

In this letter, we are sharing some snippets from our Sunday morning curricula as well as save-the-date information for special events.

- Our curricula for the **Pre-K/Kindergarten, Elementary, and Middle School classes** continue our journey with the **Narrative Lectionary**, a 4-year cycle that explores the Hebrew Bible in the fall, focuses on Jesus' life and ministry in the winter and spring, and finishes off the program year with lessons from the early church. The curriculum, from Truth and Light Publishing, also guides our regular worship services, making it easy for the whole family to continue throughout the week the conversation that was sparked on Sunday.
- Our **Middle School class** will be taught by a robust team of teaching pairs, who will each lead a multi-week unit of the curriculum. We hope that this will help create a deep bench of safe, loving adults in your teens' lives, and provide a consistent presence during each unit.
- In **Advent**, we will spend time again with a worship and church school series from **Sanctified Art**, weaving opportunities for intergenerational art into the magic and wonder of the season. This Advent's theme is: "What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope This Advent".
- We will have special **intergenerational events** after worship on October 26th and November 23, the afternoon of Saturday December 6th, and before worship on January 18 and May 3rd. All families are also invited to join us at the **Fall Fellowship Retreat, October 10-12**, at camp Aldersgate in Rhode Island.

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At the end of the registration form, you will have the opportunity to download the following materials, which we hope will help your family plan for the year ahead:

- A Church School Calendar, including monthly Special Events, which you might want to print and hang on your refrigerator or keep in a handy spot.
- An Optional Photography Opt-Out form for anyone wishing to make sure pictures of anyone in their family do not get used in United Parish publications or publicity materials.
- Information about our health policy and when to keep your child home from church school.
- An introduction letter to our Narrative Lectionary Curriculum.

Finally and foundationally, we the members of the Children and Youth Deepening team are with you in prayer. As the Associate pastor, I am available Sunday-Thursday with a listening ear and a praying heart to talk about your hopes and worries, or (as we say in church school) your roses and thorns. You may reach me via my work cell (617) 297-8111 or email amy@upbrookline.org. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you and your children this year.

Peace,

Amy Norton
Associate Pastor

Deanna Baker, Alicia Hsu, Chelsea Hathaway
Children and Youth Deepening team