



## UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

### Music at the United Parish

Welcome to a new year at the United Parish in Brookline! 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. Singing in choir fosters a love of music, develops musical ability, and cultivates teamwork, confidence, and self-esteem through leadership and performance in worship. It's also a fantastic way for our children to deepen their relationship with God, their church, and each other!

Here are some of the highlights of our program year:

- ❖ **Sunday, September 7 at 9am: Children's Choir Open Sing!** All children in grades 1- 8 who are interested in being in choir are welcome to join Minister of Music Susan DeSelms in the choir room for an introductory session and welcome back celebration!
- ❖ **Fall worship performance dates:** the children's choir is tentatively scheduled to sing **September 28, October 26, November 23 (parents and children), and December 21**. If the kids are enthusiastic, I'd like to do a 20-25 minute *MUSICAL* with children and teens on December 21 during worship.
- ❖ **Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols 7:30pm.** Members of the children's choir take a special role on this holiest of nights, and help lead the congregation as soloists in singing the carols. It's a wonderful opportunity for them to really learn the traditional carols and be a part of something that gives greater meaning to the Christmas season. They aren't required to sing solos, but are lovingly encouraged and given ample opportunities to prepare.
- ❖ **March Outreach Concert:** Building on the success of our concert at Sophia Snow last Spring, our kids will sing at one of the local assisted living facilities on Sunday afternoon, **March 1st or 15th**.
- ❖ **April-May:** I will be on sabbatical starting in April. Megan Henderson will lead the music program while I'm gone, and has a special love working with children and teens. You all will be in GREAT hands! I am hoping you'll be able to have your end of year celebration in my absence on Memorial Day Weekend, Sunday May 24 or May 25. Parents can sign up to host. This is a potluck, or order pizza kind of event, with time to socialize and play sports together.
- ❖ **Music for Teens:** As some of our children grow into teens, I'd like to offer some opportunities for them to make music with their peers. Teens are invited to join me before the first parent-teen dinner on **Sunday September 28 at 5:45pm** for some casual music making together! Stay tuned for more details!



I hope to see LOTS of kids in choir this year!

Musically yours,

Susan DeSelms

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