

Calendar — FALL 2016

Children, Youth & Families @ UCW

*It is going to be a great year for Children, Youth and Families at the Union Church in Waban! The following is a calendar with important dates coming up this fall to help in your planning. Dates specific to our Middle and High-School Youth Ministry are marked in **Blue**. Please be sure to find details about these events, Sunday School, and more — including information about new initiatives with our Youth Ministry Teams — in our Kids and Families, and Youth Ministry packets (sent to families, and also available in the Crocker Chapel or online at www.ucw.org).*



September

Sept 11

(Sun)

Gathering Sunday!

10am—*WELCOME BACK* for the first day of fall worship and Sunday School!

Sept 13

(Tues)

Start-of-Year Teacher Gathering and Training

6-7:30pm at the Union Church

Members of UCW Teacher Teams (and anyone interested in teaching or working with our kids and youth) are encouraged to attend this important evening of fellowship, planning, and training. Please contact Amy Clark Feldman (amy@ucw.org) to RSVP or with questions.

Sept 18

(Sun)

Blessing of the Backpacks

Kids are invited to bring their backpacks to worship where we will bless them, and pray for our kids and the school year ahead.

MISSION SUNDAY & KIDS, YOUTH AND FAMILIES FAIR

Following Worship — with Dodgeball and Cupcakes!

Kids are invited to kick-off the new year with a dodgeball game and cupcake decorating (with additional crafts and childcare for kids who would prefer a quieter option), while all are invited to join the Mission, and Christian Education and Youth Ministry Teams downstairs to chat, learn about plans for the year, and register for events and Sunday School. We hope to see you there!

Sept 23

(Fri)

YOUTH: Fall Kickoff Party! For Middle and High-School Youth

**See the [Youth Ministry Overview and Calendar for Details](#)*

6-8pm at the Union Church — Invite a friend!

RSVP by Tuesday, September 20

Middle and High School Youth are invited for a cookout and an awesome evening of games, music, fun and an orientation to the year's program.

Sept 25

(Sun)

The Concert Across America to End Gun Violence

5pm in the Sanctuary — With Special Activities for Kids in the Vestry

Union Church is one of the churches/venues participating in this nationwide event. Come for a beautiful evening of music and poetry, as we seek to respond with love, prayer and song to acts of fear and hate. Youth are encouraged to attend; special offerings for younger kids

October



Oct 1 & 2

(Sat-Sun)

Youth Camping Overnight

**See the Youth Ministry Overview and Calendar for Details*

6-9th graders head to NH for a great weekend of tents, hiking, adventures and fall colors.

Oct 2

World Communion Sunday & Luncheon

We celebrate World Communion Sunday with a special joint worship service and Sunday School with the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church. Plan to stay after the service for lunch with our friends from the TPC!

Oct 16

(Sun)

Fall Clean-up — Helping our Neighbors following worship

All ages are encouraged to gather after the worship service to help rake leaves and complete other service projects for members and friends of the church who could use a helping hand.

Oct 29

(Sat)

Youth Get-Together & Preparation for Common Cathedral

**See the Youth Ministry Overview and Calendar for Details*

TIME TBD. Youth will come together to prepare sandwiches and other food for the congregation at Common Cathedral. We'll also spend time preparing ourselves for the experience of serving and worshiping with our neighbors who live on/near Boston Common.

Oct 30

(Sun)

Common Cathedral

1pm — Departing UCW following worship for Boston Common

All ages are encouraged to come to Boston Common to worship with and help serve lunch to the Common Cathedral congregation — including homeless men and women of downtown Boston. This is a great opportunity for children and families to serve in a meaningful way.

November

Nov 11-12

(Fri-Sat)

Youth Overnight at Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA

**See the Youth Ministry Overview and Calendar for Details*

Always a favorite! This will be a weekend of unforgettable learning and service, as we experience and help with Heifer's programs and distribution of animals to those in need around the world. The hope is the overnight will be new and relevant, including for those who have attended a Heifer overnight in the past. The youth will also share their experience with the wider congregation by helping to lead Sunday worship.

Nov 12-13

(Sat-Sun)

HEIFER FOR ALL AGES— STAY TUNED

Please plan to join us on Sunday, as our youth and kids help lead us in worship, and share their experience at the Heifer Farm. Plans are still in the works, but please also save the date for a possible service opportunity for all ages over this weekend!



November (cont.)

- Nov 18**
(Fri)
Community Dinner Preparations
Youth — Evening of Baking and Fellowship (6-8pm)
**See the Youth Ministry Overview and Calendar for Details*
All-Ages — Baking, decoration-making and more (6-8pm)
All ages are invited to help with preparations for Union Church's Community Thanksgiving Dinner. There will be ways for everyone to contribute!
- Nov 19**
(Sat)
Community Dinner
Dinner is served at 2pm, with opportunities to help between 10am- 5pm.
This wonderful event invites members of the Waban community and beyond to a warm Thanksgiving meal and even warmer hospitality. All ages (including YOUTH!) are invited to come serve and extend a warm welcome to our guests.
- Nov 20**
Thanksgiving Sunday and Distribution of 4th Grade Bibles
With grateful hearts we celebrate together.
- Nov 27**
First Sunday in Advent — Hanging of the Greens!
During this intergenerational worship service we decorate the sanctuary for the season of Advent. All ages love this interactive service!
Mitten Tree Collection begins Nov. 27 through Dec. 18.
Intergenerational Advent Activity following worship — details TBD

December

- Dec 6**
Second Sunday in Advent — A Communion Sunday
Kids will gather during worship to prepare next week's Christmas Pageant
Intergenerational Advent Activity following worship — details TBD
- Dec 11**
Third Sunday in Advent — CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!
*Kids will lead us in a telling of the Christmas story. Please note that there will be a final rehearsal for participants on **Saturday, Dec. 10th at 9am.***
Stay Tuned: Possible Caroling at Waban Health and Rehab Center following the service
- Dec 14**
(Weds)
Blue Christmas Service
*This beautiful and prayerful service makes space for the range of emotions and experiences that can accompany the Christmas season. **Childcare Provided.***
- Dec TBD**
Youth Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange
**See the Youth Ministry Overview and Calendar for Details*
*Expect a jolly good time with friends, wacky gifts and yummy food. **Date: Dec 15th or 16th.***
- Dec 18**
Fourth Sunday in Advent & Mitten Tree Collection
TBD: Youth Mitten Tree Distribution and Hot Cocoa with Friends at Waban Health
Final Collection, sorting and distribution of Mitten Tree gifts to Waban Health and elsewhere.
- Dec 24**
(Sat)
CHRISTMAS EVE
Join us for this joyful intergenerational worship service. Merry Christmas!

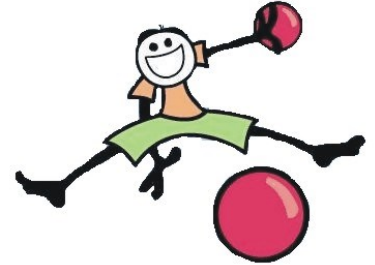


Children & Families — Additional Opportunities

Fellowship and Mission

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP — NEW DODGEBALLS & MORE

Sunday after worship has become a great time for our kids to build friendships, hang out and have fun! For the most part, the kids do an awesome job organizing this time for themselves — but we'll be sure adult supervision keeps things safe, and are happy to announce that we've gotten some new dodgeballs, games and supplies for their Sunday morning fun and fellowship.



FOCUS ON MISSION FOR ALL AGES — That means Kids and Families!

Loving, caring for and serving our neighbors is foundational to our faith and life as a church community — and a great way to live out our faith with our kids and youth! We learn and grow by doing and serving together, which is why the Mission, CE and Youth teams have been working together to make sure there are opportunities each month for members of ALL-AGES to serve and participate in meaningful ways. See the [Youth Ministry Overview and Calendar](#) for projects specifically geared for middle and high school youth. Also be sure to check out these mission opportunities and more for all ages in our 2016 Fall Calendar.

SEPTEMBER: Concert Across America (while youth and adults join the concert, children are invited to their own peace-building activities)

OCTOBER: Common Cathedral with the homeless in Boston; Fall Clean-up with neighbors in need

NOVEMBER: Possible Service Day at Heifer Farm; Community Thanksgiving Dinner Prep and Service

DECEMBER: Mitten Tree collection and distribution for those in need

SUNDAY KIDS SERVE: In addition, Teacher Teams have been working to plan opportunities for small groups of children to engage in Sunday morning service projects around the church and beyond, as well as to contribute to our Sunday worship. If you would like to help with this fun, hands-on, initiative please contact Amy at amy@ucw.org.

Parents

Fall Listening Sessions — 3 DATES TBD

Parents and care-givers of children and youth are invited to gather for a time of fellowship and conversation. Two of these gatherings will meet in members' homes, and one at the church following worship. All will include childcare, and we would love for all families to attend at least one of the three. The hope is that as we gather and listen to one another we can begin to lay the groundwork for offerings to support parents and families throughout the year. For more information, or if you are able to host an evening event, please contact Amy Clark Feldman at amy@ucw.org.

Teachers

Start-of-Year Gathering/Training — Tues, Sept 13th 6-7:30pm

Bagels and Bible Stories — Some Sundays, time TBD

We hope to see all teachers team members at our start-of-the year gathering on Sept. 13! This will be a fun and important night of fellowship, planning, orientation and training for the fall. Beginning in October, Amy Clark Feldman will also host regular Sunday drop-in times for teachers to check in, explore the stories of the Bible coming up, and take time to think about their meaning for our own lives, spirits, and teaching.

Christian Education and Formation at UCW – 2016-2017

Fall Theme – God's Promise, Our Promises

We are excited this fall to explore some of the most beloved stories of our faith — stories of the Old Testament that tell us about God's Promises to God's people, and the peoples' responses to those promises. They are stories that tell us about God's Love for us; and that help us ask important questions about how we are meant to respond to and share that inclusive, boundary-breaking Love in our own lives and communities. In worship and in our Sunday School classes we will explore the same stories together as a church.

Sunday School

Following the Children's Message in worship, children and youth are invited to gather and continue their worship, fellowship and learning in our Sunday School classes.

Registration

In order to help us plan and know your children better, we ask all families to register for Sunday School. Please find a registration form, as well as information about the suggested registration fee, in this packet or online at www.ucw.org.

Communion Sundays and Special Sundays

On the first Sunday of each month, and some special Sundays, our 1st through 5th graders will come together in the Vestry for a special joint Children's Worship. Children are then invited to rejoin their families in the Sanctuary for Communion. Youth (6th and beyond) are encouraged to stay in the Sanctuary and share in worship.

Sprouts (infant through preschool) – Sprouts Room (Downstairs across from the Reception Room)

Lead Teacher: Lisa Barry, Nursery Associate (contact: Amy@ucw.org)

In our professionally-staffed nursery and preschool room, our littlest members share a loving and safe space where they experience church through nurture, stories, songs, art and play.

Rainbows (younger elementary) – Littlehale Room (Down the main floor hallway near the church offices)

Lead Teacher: Amy Clark Feldman (amy@ucw.org)

Exciting plans are in the works for this classroom, as we grow in our relationships with God and one another through sharing, Biblical storytelling, music, art, and hands-on learning and service projects.

Stars (older elementary) – Vestry (The big gym-like room downstairs)

Lead Teacher: Cindy Spertner (cspertner@yahoo.com)

Our 4th and 5th graders will also be focused on building relationships with God and one another, exploring the Bible through creative storytelling, prayer, art, conversation, service opportunities and more.

Youth (middle and high school) – Choir Room (Upstairs)

Lead Teacher: Jaap Van Reijendam (contact via Amy at amy@ucw.org)

Our youth connect with one another, discuss the stories and themes of our faith, and explore how the Bible and faith may be relevant and lived out in their lives today. This year, we also hope our youth will play a meaningful role in Sunday morning worship and service, and are working on new ways to nurture and encourage their involvement.