



# CALENDAR — FALL 2017

GROWING TOGETHER FOR GOOD

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES AT UNION CHURCH

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## SEPTEMBER

**Sept 10**  
(Sun)

### **Gathering Sunday: Intergenerational Worship and Hymn Sing!**

**10am**—*WELCOME BACK* for the first day of fall worship. On this day, all ages will worship together as we share our favorite hymns and lift our voices as one. **We'll also commission our new Ministerial Intern, and welcome our new Associate Music Minister!**



### **MISSION SUNDAY & KIDS, YOUTH AND FAMILIES FAIR**

#### **Following Worship — with Games and Cupcakes!**

*Kids are invited to kick-off the new year with games and cupcake decorating, 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.*

**Sept 17**  
(Sun)

### **Commissioning of *Exploring Our Faith (Confirmation)* Youth and Mentors 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. We will also commission our 9th & 10th graders, and their mentors, as they embark on a year exploring their faith, and considering confirmation or baptism.*

**Sept 22**  
(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!**

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

## OCTOBER

**Oct 1**  
(Sun)

### **World Communion Sunday**

*We celebrate World Communion Sunday, remembering our connectedness with communities of faith around the world, with a special joint worship service and Sunday School with the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church*

## OCTOBER (CONT.)



- Oct 1**  
(6-8pm) **First Exploring Our Faith Gathering for 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Graders & Parents**  
*Exploring Our Faith students will gather on the first Sunday of every month to share a meal and discuss topics of our faith and lives. For this first gathering, parents are also invited to attend and will gather for an orientation and time to connect.*
- Oct 14**  
(Sat) **YOUTH: Hiking and Fall Fun Day**  
*\*See the Youth Ministry Overview and Calendar for Details*  
*Youth head into the great outdoors for a great day of hiking, adventures and fall colors.*
- Oct 20-22**  
(Fri-Sun) **All-Church Retreat at Rolling Ridge Retreat Center**  
*We hope all will attend this weekend retreat as we celebrate and nourish the rootedness that we have with each other and with our God that enables us to thrive in the midst of the challenges of our time and to also bring forth goodness into the world. It is a time to have fun; to enjoy each other and to grow. We will have special programming for children and youth, as well as for parents and guardians (see below). Registration forms and additional information are included in this packet, and available online and at the church. Registration is due Sept 17.*  
**PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** *We hope during the retreat to discuss more regular gatherings and events to connect and provide resources for parents and guardians (e.g. faith in the home; technology and social media; or other topics of interest), and are grateful for your participation and ideas!*
- Date TBD**  
(Sun) **Suicide Prevention Training with Newton Cares**  
*Please stay tuned for the date for this important training that will hope will be held the UCW following worship on a Sunday in October or early November. Participants will learn how to recognize the warning signs of suicide, offer hope, and get help.*

## NOVEMBER

- Nov 5**  
(Sun) **All-Saints Intergenerational Worship Service and Music**  
*On this 'Daylight Savings' Sunday, we'll share an intergenerational service together as we remember and celebrate the saints among us with stories and song.*
- Nov 5**  
(Sun) **YOUTH: Helping Hands Fall Clean-up and Donuts**  
*Following worship, youth will gather in assigned teams to lend a hand to a member of our community who could use help with fall clean-up and getting ready for winter. It will be a great, rewarding time to work together, and to get to know some of our neighbors! There will be donuts and hot cider!*
- Nov 17**  
(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!*

# NOVEMBER (CONT.)

**Nov 18**

(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 19**

## **Thanksgiving Sunday and Distribution of 4th Grade Bibles**

*With grateful hearts we celebrate together. On this day, we will also begin preparing and assigning roles for our annual Christmas Pageant (see December!)*



# DECEMBER

**Dec 3**

(Sun)

## **First Sunday in Advent — Hanging of the Greens!**

### **Intergenerational Advent Wreath-Making**

*During this intergenerational worship service we decorate the sanctuary for the season of Advent. All ages love this interactive service! Following worship, families are invited to gather for an all-church time of Advent Wreath-Making. We'll have frames, candles, ribbons and greens — you bring your creativity and desire to share in this beautiful practice in your home alongside other Union Church families.*

**Mitten Tree Collection begins Nov. 27 through Dec. 17.**

**Dec 10**

(Sat—9-11am)

## **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal**

*We gather to prepare for tomorrow's Christmas Pageant*

**Dec 11**

(Sun)

## **Second Sunday in Advent — CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!**

*Kids will lead us in a telling of the Christmas story and worship!*

**Dec 15**

(Fri)

## **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.*

**Dec 17**

(Sun)

## **Third Sunday in Advent, Mitten Tree Collection & Caroling**

### **Youth Mitten Tree Distribution and Caroling at Waban Health**

*Final Collection, sorting and distribution of Mitten Tree gifts to Waban Health and elsewhere.*

**Dec 24**

(Sun)

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

### **Morning Worship and Evening Celebration**

*With Christmas Eve on a Sunday this year, we are invited to worship together twice on this special day. Our morning service will be a quieter time for us to reflect on the fullness the season, with a Christmas gathering for the kids in the Vestry. The evening service will be our special and beloved intergenerational service of lessons, carols and bells.*

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION AT UCW — 2017-2018

## GROWING TOGETHER FOR GOOD

Our all-church theme for Sunday worship this fall is "Growing Together for Good," and our time with our children and youth on Sunday mornings will reflect this theme. Each Sunday, children, youth and adults will take up the same value of our faith (e.g. forgiveness, service, humility, generosity), learn of its roots in our Bible stories and tradition and explore, in age-appropriate ways, what it is to practice these values and to live them out in the world.

**Sunday School:** Most Sundays, following the Children's Message in worship, children and youth are invited to gather and continue their worship, fellowship and learning in their Sunday gatherings.

### REGISTRATION

**In order to help us plan and know your children and youth better, we ask all families to complete a registration form. Please find the form, with a suggested registration fee, in this packet or online at [www.ucw.org](http://www.ucw.org).**

### CAN YOU SHARE A FEW SUNDAY MORNINGS WITH OUR CHILDREN THIS YEAR?

From holding one of our infants, to helping little hands make a craft, reading a Bible story, or listening to our youth share about their weeks, there are so many ways to nurture, and share our faith and care with our children and youth. Can you volunteer a few Sundays a year with our kids? Please contact Pastor Amy at [amy@ucw.org](mailto:amy@ucw.org). Thank you!

### COMMUNION SUNDAYS AND SPECIAL SUNDAYS — ONE ROOMS AND INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP

*We love and value worshipping together as a community of faith of all ages! On the first Sunday of every month, we will be trying new ways of engaging and including our children and youth in worship, including intergenerational worship services in September, November and December.*

### SPROUTS (INFANT THROUGH PRESCHOOL) — SPROUTS ROOM (DOWNSTAIRS ACROSS FROM THE RECEPTION ROOM)

**Lead Teacher: Lisa Barry, Nursery Associate (contact: [amy@ucw.org](mailto: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 (K-3RD GRADERS) — LITTLEHALE ROOM (DOWN THE MAIN FLOOR HALLWAY NEAR THE CHURCH OFFICES)

*Children and helpers grow in our relationships with God and one another through sharing, Biblical storytelling, music, art, and hands-on learning and service projects (stay tuned for Mini-Missions in the spring!).*

### STARS (4TH—5TH GRADERS) — CHOIR ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

*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.*

### MIDDLE-SCHOOL YOUTH — STAGE (DOWNSTAIRS BETWEEN THE RECEPTION ROOM AND THE VESTRY)

*Our middle-school youth connect with one another, discuss the stories and themes of our faith, and explore how the Bible, faith, and their relationships in and through the church may be relevant and nurtured in their lives today.*

### HIGH-SCHOOL YOUTH AND *EXPLORING OUR FAITH* — ONCE-A-MONTH PLANNING GROUP IN MEETING ROOM (NEAR OFFICES)

*Youth in 9th and 10th grade are invited to participate in our Exploring Our Faith program (please see the youth packet or contact Pastor Amy for more information) as they explore and grow in their faith and relationship with God; and consider confirmation or baptism. They will meet regularly throughout the year, including once a month on Sunday*

