



Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, Pastor

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United Church of Christ

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Greetings from Stewardship!

On Sunday February 18th, Stewardship spoke about pledging and why we make a special effort to get pledges. In researching for the mini talks that Rich Sullivan conducted recently, he found that pledging to our church is not a new concept but rather the product of an evolution of various practices over the years to provide financial support for this congregation and others like it. During the course of his research into the history of our church, he came across some documents that alluded to the financial problems that the forefathers of this church encountered and how they managed to face those challenges. It's amazing to see how over 200+ years so many things have changed yet the challenges of financial support for the church has remained constant.

Pledging is a key element in the administration of the church. As the new fiscal year approaches the church leadership team depends heavily on the return of your pledge forms to construct the annual budget for the new year. That budget defines what we as a church can or cannot do to fulfill our mission goals for the year and maintain and manage the physical church.

Stewardship presented a brief chart that had a few samples of our recent Average Weekly Expenses, Average Weekly Income and the Year-to-Date budget shortfall. These numbers are published in the church bulletin when it can be accommodated. It was brought up the fact that the church's budget is at a deficit but "doing okay". But that should not be good enough. Just as your household tries not to operate at a deficit, our church should not either. But the Board of Stewardship has an idea to help bridge the gaps.

On Sunday (Feb 24th) Stewardship talked about the pledge forms and how we were not just talking to people who were pledgers but to the whole congregation. We understand that pledging is a personal commitment and there are those who don't pledge but are great supporters of the church. The committee has mailed you these forms along with EFT and Time & Talent forms. The forms were briefly reviewed and if there were any questions that they would be answered by anyone on the committee.

Then picking up on the previous Sunday's message, the committee spoke to the deficit and the idea to help with closing the gap. We decided the theme for our campaign would be the PAY IT FORWARD idea. We then asked the congregation 2 questions...

- 1) How many of you purchase coffee, tea or a drink each week??
- 2) If you were in the store and saw a friend or acquaintance, would you ever offer to pay for their purchase?

The stewardship committee would like you to "**buy a cup of coffee for the church**". Last year we had approximately 50 pledgers to the church. If each one bought the church a cup a coffee a week, at about \$2 a cup that would generate an additional \$5,000 to the church's annual budget!! Now extend that idea out to a few cups of coffee a week and we can radically increase our annual budget by a lot more!! This is easy and simple!!! We can do this!!!

We have an awesome church and it does wonderful things for people and the community. But just imagine what we could do if we had a POSITIVE balance on our budget!!

March 4th is Stewardship Sunday.

We ask that each of you prayerfully discern over your financial pledge for the next fiscal year and then complete the pledge form (and EFT if applicable). If you presently do not formally pledge but contribute weekly through the offering plate it would be helpful if you could note on the pledge form that you will continue to support the church in that manner. Please return the forms on **March 4th**, and we greatly appreciate your support.

In God's grace and with his counsel
The Board of Stewardship
(Brad Barnsley, Jim Basler, Rich Sullivan)



Envelope # _____

(For office use)



What is your Vision for our Church? *Our 2018-19 CSCC Pledge*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I/we pledge the following contribution for Central Square Congregational Church's 2018-19 fiscal year :

\$ _____ per week 2x per month per month

----- OR -----

I/we authorize an increase of our current contribution by:

\$ _____ per week 2x per month per month

→ Please make this ongoing contribution effective: Immediately or July 1, 2018 (Please circle one)

or other date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

=====

EFT:

I would like to Authorize Automatic Electronic Funds Transfer from my bank Yes _____ No _____

**** If Yes Then Please Fill Out Attached Authorization Form. ****

I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church related institution in my will.

Tear here -----

For Your Records CSCC 2018-2019 Pledge Date: _____

Pledge Amount: \$ _____ per week 2x per month per month

-Or-

I'm increasing my contribution by \$ _____ per week 2x per month per month

Contribution effective: Immediately or July 1, 2018 (Please circle one)

Or other date: _____

United Church of Christ UCC300830

Authorization Agreement for Automatic Withdrawal of Funds

Envelope # _____ (leave blank if not applicable)

Name on Bank Account _____ (print)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Please debit my contribution(s) from (check one)

Checking Account (If new-attach voided check)

Routing Number: _____

Savings Account (If new - attach savings deposit slip)

(Routing # is located at bottom of check between the symbols I: I:)

Account Number: _____

I would like to make the following contribution(s):

Regular pledge: \$ _____

* I authorize an increase of my contribution from \$ _____ to \$ _____

Contribution Frequency (please check one):

Weekly - Debited on Mondays

Semimonthly - Debited on the 5th and the 20th

Monthly - Debited on the 5th or the 20th (please circle one)

Please make my ongoing contribution effective _____ (Date of 1st contribution).

I authorize Central Square Congregational Church, UCC and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries from my account. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization. I understand there will be a \$5.00 fee automatically charge to my account for any insufficient fund (NSF) transactions. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

*Return form to office along with your pledge card.
EFT REQUESTED BUT NOT REQUIRED*

Stewardship Time/Talent Pledge

Name: _____ Phone# _____

Email: _____

I can offer my talents to (please check as many as apply!):

- Participate in parish care
 - Visit someone in need
 - Give someone a ride
 - Send someone a card
- Help with youth
 - Help out in a Sunday school class
 - Go on a mission trip with youth
 - Participate in youth outings
 - Work in the nursery during service on occasion
- Help with small projects around the church
 - I have experience in electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry
 - I can help with cleanout projects
 - Other _____
- Help with a food-related event or task
 - Help cook a group meal
 - Deliver a meal
 - Help clean up after a meal
 - Help with breakfast Sunday
 - Bake an item for coffee hour when needed
- Participate in the music ministry
 - Sing in the choir
 - Perform during a worship service
 - Join the Holy Ukes ukulele group (no experience necessary!)
- Help with an outreach ministry
 - Food pantry
 - Food donation sorting
 - Warmth in cold places
 - Brockton homeless ministry
 - Help man a table at an offsite event promoting the church
 - Other _____
- Help with worship service
 - Be a greeter occasionally
 - Be an usher occasionally
 - Help lead worship
 - Help with a sermon
 - Help with a moment for all ages
 - Read scripture
 - Help with Advent planning
 - Help with Lenten planning
- Help with a fundraiser
 - Help with the annual fair (Oct/Nov)
 - Help with the rummage sale (Oct & Apr)
 - Help with the golf tournament (Jun/Jul)
 - Other _____
- Help with Advent Workshop
- Not sure. Just want to be involved
- I have additional ideas:

Submit this form on Stewardship Sunday, put it in the collection plate any time, drop it off at the office, or email your selections to office@cscucc.com... any time, all year long!