

**Baked goods thankfully left over from church breakfast. Homemade pumpkin pies. Fruit and cheese platters. Homemade cookies. A hot cup of coffee. What's your favorite part of Sunday coffee hour?**



While the food ministry of Central Square Congregational Church is well-represented at coffee hour, the real blessing is that of fellowship. Making and nurturing connections to each other. Building community just by being there, and by welcoming newcomers and those that just need someone to say, "Hi! How's it going? Nice to see you." Taking what we just heard in service, and *living* it.

And yet, there's a touch of the reality that goes along with that friendly time. Logistics. Yes, sorry, but it does take a bit of work to "produce the event": start the coffee pot; provide milk, cream, and juice; put out the coffee cups and juice cups; set up the tables; make or arrange for treats; keep things replenished; and – perhaps the "ugliest" of all – the cleanup... clear the serving tables, wash dishes, wrap up the extra food, dry and put away dishes, put away tables.

While our board and committee members, our Women's Guild & Fellowship members, our breakfast crew, and other individual church members have in the past been able to help provide this time of community, it has become increasingly challenging to add to these people's church workload and require them to be our hosts. Schedules fill up, the ability to come early and stay an hour or two after service becomes difficult, children need to be tended to, physical challenges make it a burden. And so we find ourselves at a crossroads, and the possibility of not being able to provide coffee hour every week.

One solution could be to hire someone to handle this weekly project for us. At first thought, a welcome plan. But as we all know, there is no extra money in the budget (quite the opposite, actually) for this luxury. So while some individuals have been willing and able to generously donate their time, we still find ourselves at a loss for some Sundays.

**We need your advice.**

We have tried the following methods of soliciting folks to host coffee hour (see all of the above tasks), with declining success: asking individual church members via Steeple Sounds, blast emails, and Sunday announcements to pick a Sunday and sign-up; and requiring all board and committee members to pick a Sunday or two. So we ask you, first,  
**How important is coffee hour to you?**

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**PLEASE CONTINUE ON OTHER SIDE...**

**Would you be willing to be put on a team of volunteers to help with one or more parts of CSCC coffee hour occasionally (if so, please list your name)?**

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**Would you be willing to ask a few friends or family members to join you on a team of volunteers to help with one or more parts of CSCC coffee hour occasionally (if so, please list your name)?**

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**Do you have any creative ideas or past experiences with other clubs or churches that might be useful in helping us overcome our coffee hour challenges? (Remember, many of our church members already wear several hats in their service to CSCC, so we're looking for ideas "outside the box".)**

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Please email your response to the office at [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com), drop this form in the offering plate, or put this form in the "Congregational Administrator" mailbox near the Church St. door.  
***Thank you!***