



Central Square Congregational
Church,
United Church of Christ
Steeple Sounds

January 2020

*We are a Christian community of people who are
reaching out to our neighbors,
at home and abroad, sharing our faith and our
resources.*

From the Desk of Rev. Beth
Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, Pastor

I got a text message from a college-aged youth last week. It said: *"Thank you for everything at the church, Rev. Beth. I never realized how much church prepared me for college."*

I replied, *"OOOOOooooooo! Tell me more! :)"*

"I interviewed for a job on campus and told them about leading worship and how talking at church made me more comfortable in front of people. Then I realized that just about everything at church has prepared me better for life."

"OMG!!!!!!!!!! That is so awesome! You've warmed my heart," I replied. *"This is just beautiful. I'm thrilled that the church has been such an important part of your life! Did you get the job????!!!!!"*

"I'll let you know. Thanks again!"

"Good luck! You're in my prayers. Keep me posted."

You guys. Seriously. When looking back on 2019, this text exchange was without a doubt one of the highlights of my year. You know that New Year's song "Auld Lang Syne"? Do you know what that means?

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?

CHORUS:

*For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne.*

The Scottish phrase "auld lang syne" literally translates to "old long since," and basically means, "days gone by." The original, five-verse version of the poem essentially gets people singing, "let's drink to days gone by"—a toast for the new year. Sometimes we forget that even people who aren't in our midst anymore are still impacted by us. Or that "days gone by" should be remembered and honored.

If we do nothing else in this new year, let's take a cue from a college student, think of the "days gone by," and reach out to someone who changed or impacted our lives and thank them. As we ring in a new year, drink a toast to them and to the days gone by with gratitude!

"I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds, I meditate on the works of your hands." -Psalm 143:5

Yours In Christ,

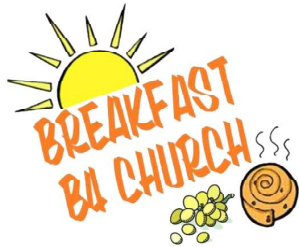
Rev. Beth

csccpastor@hotmail.com, 508-697-6016



Central Square Congregational Church, UCC, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts is an open and affirming church. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Fellowship



January Breakfast Dates

January 5
January 19
9:00-9:45am

Most months from September - June, our breakfast service is offered the first and third Sundays of the month. Please join us — everyone is welcome!

*Our breakfasts are — **Pay what you CAN!***

If times are tough...eat for FREE!

***If you are doing ok...pay the going rate**
\$5 per person (\$15 family limit)*

If you are feeling blessed...leave some extra!



Gigantic THANK YOU to all who joined our "Pop-Up Choir" to sing Christmas Carols in the church entryway during the Christmas on the Common event in our church hall. We ran out of hot chocolate after serving nearly 100 cups in about an hour but we never ran out of voices and attentive listeners in the crowd. —*Growth Committee: Mike Bundock, Tracey Doherty, Pat Lindsey, Gail Wershing.*



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers that make our after-worship time welcoming and delicious. If you are able to help one of our dedicated committees with this ministry on one of the dates below, contact Mike at mm.bundock@comcast.net, or Gail at wershing@ptd.net or contact the church office.

Jan. 5—First Sunday.....Board of Christian Outreach
& Board of Stewardship
Jan. 12—Second Sunday.....CSCC Officers &
Women's Guild & Fellowship
Jan. 19—Third Sunday.....Growth Committee
& History & Memorials Committee
Jan. 26*—Fourth Sunday.....Board of Trustees
& Board of Christian Education
* Heifer Living Gift Market Sunday, only beverages needed



In past years, CSCC has offered the opportunity for women to attend a one-night, offsite women's retreat, for reflection and fellowship. A break from usual day to day rituals gave way to the sharing of food and drink, and getting to know each other, or know each other better, as well as some bible study, inspirational themes, and a craft or two.

A question to the women of the CSCC church community... are you interested in exploring the possibility for a women's retreat in 2020? In the past, it has often been held during the winter, on a Friday evening through Saturday afternoon. If you are interested, is this a good time, or is there a time you would more prefer? Might you prefer just a day's retreat, with no overnight commitment? What are your other thoughts about format, or content, or the concept at all?

Please send your thoughts to Meg McDermott at megemcdermott15@gmail.com, or share them with the church office and Ellen will be sure to get them to Meg.

Women's Guild & Fellowship

TIC Network

Each month The Women's Guild & Fellowship presents a program to its members and guests. Sometimes the program is spiritual such as our Christmas and Lenten worship services. Other times we have the opportunity to participate such as our Laughing Yoga program or Guild auction.

In January, it is an informational meeting. We will learn about the program called TIC Network or the Talking Information Center Network. It is a program that turns print into sound. Anna Dunbar, Executive Director, will explain how the program turns print into sound and tell us about the various programs delivered to the blind and visually impaired listeners in Massachusetts and across the country. Come and learn about this wonderful program offered to over 30,000 listeners.

All women in the church and friends are invited to attend. The date of the meeting is Wednesday, January 8th. The business meeting begins at 6:30pm, followed by refreshments and the program will begin at approximately 7:30pm. Contact us or the church office if you have any questions.

Co-Presidents: Beth Basler bethbasler@rcn.com and Terry Reynolds, terryr0647@hotmail.com

Father Bill's Wish List

Every month the Women's Guild members and guests have the opportunity to donate items for a worthy cause. This month we would like to help Father Bill and MainSpring House support the friends and neighbors who need us the most. Urgently needed items are:

Toiletries and bath items – Razors & shaving cream, toothbrushes & toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorant, feminine care products, Q-tips, nail clippers, shower curtains

Clothing & accessories – undergarments, thermals, socks, flip-flops & shower shoes, sweatshirts & sweatpants, adult backpacks

Linens – bedding sets (child & adults), towels, blankets

Kitchen & household supplies – dishes, pots & pans, flatware, cooking utensils, dish soap, disinfecting wipes, cleaning supplies

Baby products – diapers, wipes, pull-ups, onesies, underwear

Gift cards – Walmart, Target, grocery, gas, commuter rail/Charlie cards and bus passes



Super Bowl Sunday Appetizer Sale! Sunday, February 2


Calling all Super Bowl viewers and foodies in our congregation — place your order for your Super Bowl Sunday appetizers! On Saturday, February 1, the youth will prepare preordered appetizers for you for the big game, for pickup/sale during Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 2.

Not interested in the big game? No problem! These appetizers pair great with any TV show! All money raised goes toward the youth mission trip in June. Help us reach our goal while enjoying some comfort food. Order forms will be circling during the month of January, so keep an eye out on our Facebook page, our website, and in the weekly bulletin (or contact the office). Any questions or special requests can be sent to Jess at jessicasteans1231@gmail.com.



ASK A PASTOR ANYTHING

FAITH UNCORKED WITH
REV. BETH AND PASTOR ALICIA



GREYHOUND TAVERN
39 Broad Street, Bridgewater
Thursday, Jan. 9, 7pm



**Christian
Education**

& Youth Ministry



Calling All Youth! Time to Do Some Cooking!

As you probably saw on the previous page, we will be selling pre-made appetizers on Sunday, February 1, perfect for watching the Super Bowl, or just a fun Sunday evening watching TV.

This is a fundraiser for the mission trip, and it was a big success last year. Please help out on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 if you are able. Contact Jess at jessicasteans1231@gmail.com or the church office if you're available to help on Saturday and/or Sunday.



Thank you!

The advent workshop was a wonderful kick off to the season of Christmas. To all of those who lent a hand, organized, set up, cleaned up, or bought goodies, thank you! Special thanks to Lisa Masiello,

as well as the members of the **Board of Christian Education** who provided all of the fun treats.

We would also like to give a big thanks to **Dave Hanson** from Hanson Farms for the generous donation of all the holly, pine, evergreen, and berries! The workshop wouldn't have been possible without you and we sincerely appreciate your generosity.

We would also like to take a minute and send a big thank you to **Carol Howe** who donated the wreaths. They were absolutely perfect and everyone thanks you for your help with the event!



**Destination: Rutland, Vermont
Dates: June 28-July 3, 2020**

Chocolate!

There are still Hilliard's chocolate bars available for sale to benefit the mission trip — crunch, dark, and peanut butter flavors. All proceeds go toward the trip expenses. Buy them for yourself, or take some to sell at work or amongst friends.



Cookie Success!

Our second annual mission trip cookie fundraiser was a fun filled success! Thank you to all who participated in baking and being present. We raised \$551! This includes donations from Donna Albro (in memory of Carol Basler) & Ann Wood towards our event/mission. Icing on the cookie! We did have some leftover cookies which were frozen and later served on Christmas at Mainspring House in Brockton. Special thank you to Beth Basler for her hard work and expertise, and to all the adult and youth volunteers.

Weekly Evening Bible Study Tuesdays, 7pm

Join Rev. Beth in the Fireplace Room each Tuesday at 7pm to read the lectionary scripture together, discuss what sticks out, how it relates to our lives, and how it relates to the Spiritual Enrichment topic of the month, and to pray.



**Christian
Education**

& Youth Ministry



Sunday Stories with Rev. Beth

Sunday, Jan. 12, 9am in the nursery

Hear a story, sing songs, and play! All infants and toddlers (and their parents/guardians) welcome.

Mom & Baby Playgroup

Saturday, Jan. 11, 9-10:30am in the nursery

Bring your baby or toddler and hang with other moms! No agenda or program, just a fabulous play room for the kids and time to be with other moms.

Sunday Nursery Hours

Our staffed nursery is open every Sunday morning from 9am to 12noon. All babies and toddlers welcome! All our caretakers are CORI checked.



Attention Youth Grades 6-12!

Youth group (grades 6-12) will be held on the third Sunday of January due to the Living Gift Market for Heifer on the fourth Sunday. **Please mark your calendars for January 19** as we hang out, tell funny stories, make a craft, and share our faith in the upstairs meeting room from 11:30-1. Questions and pizza topping requests can be sent to Jess or the church office.

Jess Stearns • jessicastearns1231@gmail.com

Note to Self

- ☞ Nursery is open every Sunday 9am-12pm
- ☞ Bible Study, Tuesdays, 7pm
- ☞ Ask A Pastor Anything/Faith Uncorked, 1/9, 7pm
- ☞ Mom & Baby playgroup, Nursery, 1/11, 9-10am
- ☞ Sunday Stories w/Rev. Beth, Nursery, 1/12, 9am
- ☞ Youth Group (grades 6-12), 1/19, 11:30am-1pm
- ☞ Living Gift Market during coffee hour, 1/26
- ☞ Sneak peek: Super Bowl Appetizer Sale, 2/2
(place your orders during January!)



We open the new year with our annual Heifer project! Heifer is a special way to help families by gifting chicken, geese, goats, fish, cows, and various other animals that help communities grow and thrive. Please consider sponsoring an animal at The Living Gift Market on Sunday January 26 at 11am in Fellowship Hall. Price point vary depending on the animal but all donations are welcome to help a great cause. Look for more specific information on our Facebook page and in the weekly bulletin throughout the month of January.

Questions, or want to donate? Contact Jess at jessicastearns1231@gmail.com.



**WHAT'S
YOUR
PASSION?**

**Volunteer opportunities
and service**



WARMTH IN COLD PLACES DISTRIBUTION: JAN. 21

The Board of Christian Outreach is ramping up the Warmth in Cold Places campaign to provide items of clothing to keep those less fortunate than ourselves warm in the winter. We need anything you can think of to keep people warm - socks, hand and foot warmers, socks, gloves, coats, thermal underwear, sweatshirts, hats, and anything else. We will distribute these items on January 21.

ENDING HUNGER ENRICHING LIVES

The mission of "Community Food Packaging" is to feed the underserved in communities who suffer from food insecurity, with a focus on those who hunger in Plymouth County, the South Shore, and beyond.

Depending on how far out the donors and volunteers come from, the meals that are packaged on the Friday and Saturday before Thanksgiving will go that far and wide. 8 of our top 16 counties are within an hour of Abington. This year, those 8 counties packaged over half of our meals (or more than the other 59 counties in New England combined)!

In September, Mary and Brad Barnsley, Ginny Young, and I participated in the food packaging event at Bridgewater State University. It was fun besides being an opportunity to help hungry people, even those who visit the food bank housed in our own church. Have you seen the boxes of food that occasionally appear in the back hall or in the Fellowship Hall? Those are from Outreach Inc., which is a result of the BSU and Abington food packaging events! If you would like the opportunity to help out with the next area food packaging event, please give your name to me or let the church office know.

Also follow the organization on Facebook at www.facebook.com/communityfoodpackaging, and search for "Community Food Packaging" on YouTube for some videos of their work. Also visit OutreachProgram.org for information.

—Diane Glass, dglass260@gmail.com

Sharing



The "Soupman", who uses the CSCC kitchen almost every weekend to prepare his soup and bagged lunches, was featured recently on The Today Show! Go to today.com and search for 'soupman', or visit cscucc.com/events and click on the link within the January Steeple Sounds web page to watch the segment.

Thank you to all from CSCC who helped collect, prepare, and serve dinners at MainSpring House on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The folks in attendance not only got a good, hot meal, but were also treated to homemade Christmas cookies provided by our congregation as well as the youth from their cookie-making event earlier in December.



Thanks especially to the Basler family for making these happen, donating their family time, and putting together a dedicated team of helpers.



Your views are wanted by the Vitality Team

From time to time, it is important for a church to examine its vitality and consider new ways to meet the needs of the congregation and the church. To that end, our Vitality Team **would greatly appreciate** it if each person who receives this form would take a moment to answer the questions below during the month of January. **Your answers are so important to us.**

Purpose of this campaign: Discovery. To listen to God and our congregation. To get input from our entire congregational community — full and part-time — as to where we would like to see our church grow, what is important to us, and what are our passions. How is God speaking to us?

Please answer by 1) filling out this form and emailing it to office@cscucc.com; or 2) printing this page and dropping it in the collection plate or 3) mailing to the church; or 4) answering the questions in church in writing during January worship services; or 5) visiting the link on www.cscucc.org and filling it out online (anonymously if you wish it to be).

All answers are confidential to the degree that you request below.

Connect with any member of the team if you have your own questions or thoughts to share about this effort: Rob Basler, Krissy Cannizzo, Connie Chandler, Anne Malmquist, Denise Molinari, Kathleen Mosher, Terry Reynolds, Gail Wershing.

Q1: What gives you joy at Central Square Congregational Church? _____

Q2: Why do you choose to come to Central Square Congregational Church? _____

Q3: What are 3 things we do well at Central Square Congregational Church? _____

Q4: What are 3 things we could improve at Central Square Congregational Church? _____

Q5: How is God speaking at Central Square Congregational Church? _____

Q6: How does Central Square Congregational Church impact lives? _____

Check all you need to:

☐ Keep my replies confidential.

☐ You may contact me for more discussion at (email or phone): _____

☐ Name: _____

☐ I am a Member

☐ I attend frequently

☐ I attend sometimes

☐ I no longer attend this church Because: _____

OUR GREETING CARD FUNDRAISER CONTINUES!
If you would like to purchase any of these boxes, contact the church office. Only while supplies of each type last. Only \$1 per card!

Handcrafted Greeting Cards

Cards for a Cause Fundraisers

Handmade cards for all occasions with coordinating envelopes in a keepsake box. Birthdays, Holidays, Celebrations, Thank Yous & More!

Amazing
Value!
\$30
Per Box



Cards for All Occasions (Box 1) - Charming organizer box includes dividers and 30 beautifully embellished cards with envelopes designed for all types of occasions.



Cards for All Occasions (Box 2) - Beautiful organizer box includes dividers and 30 beautifully embellished cards with envelopes designed for all types of occasions.



The Holiday Card Collection Box - Festive box includes 50 individually designed cards for various holidays in a keepsake box with white envelopes.



Thanks & Blanks Box - Adorable fold out organizer box full of uniquely handcrafted greeting cards with colored envelopes. Includes Blank cards and Thank You cards.



The Kids Birthday Box - Keepsake box can be colored with pencils or markers and includes 30 handcrafted birthday cards designed for kids.

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC • January 2020

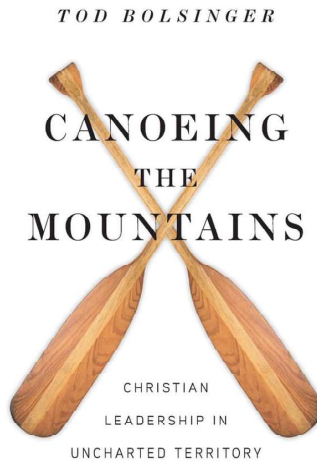
CHURCH OFFICE: 508-697-6016 • OFFICE@CSCCUCC.COM • www.cscucc.org • www.facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma



Community Book Study

Our Community Book Study for this year is the book "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger. Be on the lookout for upcoming discussion groups about this book. You can find it on Amazon or at the Bridgewater Public Library. According to Rev. Beth, "I'm only a few pages in and it's REALLY GOOD!"

If you decide to buy it from Amazon, don't forget to use the "smile.amazon.com" link so that CSCC benefits from the purchase!



BBA Donates Food

A big thank you to the BBA for several food donations. First, they donated extra hot dogs, buns, and chips from Christmas on the Common, which we were able to pass along to several sober houses in town. (BIG thank you to Jack Melcher for making that happen!)

Next, the BBA generously donated some extra food from their catered holiday party to CSCC, allowing us to create about a dozen individual meals to deliver to some of our congregants as well as freeze for future needs.

Thank you so much, Bridgewater Business Association, for your thoughtful and generous giving!

**Next Cabinet Meeting:
Wednesday, Jan. 15
7:00pm**

An Update from your Historical Church Building Committee

As many of you know, our committee sees a lot of each other, usually on Monday evenings. But we took a break for the last part of December because....

Wait for it, Wait for it.....

We submitted our grant application to the Community Preservation Committee on Wednesday, December 11. Barbara Morey, Terry Reynolds, and Rachel Lawson attended their meeting and turned in our application for grant money to restore and repair the exterior of our church home. Questions were asked and questions were answered. At the end of the day, there is much to be hopeful about but it might be February before we hear anything back from the Community Preservation Committee. In the meantime, our grant writer, Joe, is researching and applying for other grants that will also help fund some of our project.

We look to 2020 with lots of optimism for a successful project to begin in the spring.

Truly, Patiently and Prayerfully,
Your HCBC

Barbara Morey, Rachel Lawson, David Sheibley, Carol Chaffee, Gloria Weinrebe, Terry Reynolds

Inspirational Themes

This year our congregational life will be centered around monthly themes. These themes will be the topics for our Christian Education during Children's Spiritual Enrichment, youth group meetings, Sunday Stories with Rev. Beth in the Nursery, and in our weekly Sunday Worship at 10am. They will also (along with the lectionary texts) be a focal point in our weekly Bible Study which is each Tuesday at 7pm in the Fireplace Room.

Upcoming Monthly Themes are:

January - Light
February - Loving Our Neighbors
March - Questioning

OFFICE CLOSED JAN. 1, JAN. 20

Please make a note that the church office will be closed Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's, and Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King Day.



A Reminder of Our Policy on Delay or Cancellation of Worship Services Due to Acts of Nature

The Chair of the Board of Deacons (BOD) in conjunction with the Senior Pastor will discuss the need and reason for cancellation of worship service. Upon the decision to cancel worship service the following procedures shall be put into effect:

1. The Pastor will notify the Music Director no later than 6am the Sunday morning of the service in question. The Music Director will in turn notify the choir.
2. The Pastor will notify the Sexton and other staff, including the Congregational Administrator.
3. The Congregational Administrator will update the office answering machine with the cancellation announcement, notify the appropriate television media, send a general church email, and update the website and Facebook page.
4. The chair of the BOD will notify the Moderator and Vice Moderator and the other members of the BOD.

The main factors used to decide a cancellation of worship are:

1. Excessive amounts of snow
2. Parking availability (or parking ban)
3. Damage to the church
4. State of Emergency
5. Power Outage



Attention all Boards, Committees, and Select Officers and Project Managers: Annual Reports Due Jan. 15

Please remember that your annual report is due to the church office no later than January 15. Share your accomplishments and what you worked on in 2019! If you need a copy of last year's to use as a guide, contact Ellen in the church office.



The Board of Christian Outreach, with the help of volunteers, is proud to report that we compiled and distributed 92 turkey dinners, with all the fixins, for Thanksgiving.

We continue to be very fortunate to have the Bridgewater schools, as well as Bridgewater State students, conduct food drives to help to sustain the Bridgewater Food Pantry through the winter, housed here at CSCC. Also, special thanks to our off-duty Bridgewater fire fighters for delivering the schools' food donations.

May God bless you, and thank you for your generosity.



**January's Inspirational Theme is:
LIGHT**



When coming to church on Sunday mornings, please do not park along the curb on Church Street between the common and the Verizon parking lot, unless you have mobility issues and need to be close to the church door. We have several among us who fall into that category and struggle if there isn't a parking space close to the entrance.

There is plenty of parking available in the library parking lot, and on church street beyond the library driveway.

Thanks for your help!



Central Square Services are Available Live Streaming and On Demand!

Booth Video Productions and BTV Access Corporation team up most weeks to bring you live stream productions of our service. The link to watch the service live, as well as an electronic copy of our bulletin so that you can follow along, is available each week that we are broadcasting on our website homepage, www.cscucc.org.

Central Square Congregational services are available on the go! You can watch weekly sermons live on YouTube courtesy of Paul Holmes and Booth Video (search Central Square Congregational Church) or on Replay on BTV Channel 9, here in Bridgewater. You can also watch replays and download copies, courtesy of the BTV Video on Demand Page, available at btvaccess.com. Services air on Channel 9, weekly on Sunday at 8pm (previous week), Mondays at 1pm, Tuesdays at 10am, and Fridays at 3pm. BTV also airs coverage of church events, when covered by volunteer producers.



Come Sing with Us!

Rehearsals for the senior choir are at 8am on Sundays in preparation for that day's 10am service. All levels of experience are welcome.

The children's choir rehearses at 9:15am on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, and at 9:30 on the third Sunday of the month; performance is on the fourth Sunday of the month at the 10am service. All children are welcome!

Come Play with Us!

Do you play an instrument, and would you occasionally like to be included in the Sunday worship service? Contact our Minister of Music Julia Scott Carey at juliascottcarey@gmail.com or contact the church office. We love guest musicians!



Did you know Youth and Families can be Ushers, Greeters, and Acolytes, Too?

These small commitment/big impact roles are available throughout the year, and youth and families are welcome to volunteer as well. Whether for one Sunday, or once a month, ushers, greeters, and acolytes are needed to create a helpful and welcoming experience for all who come through our doors. Contact the church office, or speak to someone in one of those roles on Sunday for more information about how you can participate.

Acolytes have traditionally been 3rd-6th graders, but anybody is welcome to take on this important job of leading off worship by lighting the altar candles. Be the one who brings the light of Christ into our presence at the beginning of Sunday service!

For more information, contact Ellen at office@cscucc.com or 508-697-6016.

Treasurer's Report
November 30, 2019
Fiscal Year July 2019 - June 2020
42% thru Fiscal Year

	YTD	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
Regular Pledges	53,341	138,000	39%
Unpledged Offerings	1,151	10,000	12%
Plate Offering	904	3,000	30%
Youth Minister / Church School Funding	1,666		
Total · Pledges / Offerings	57,062	151,000	38%
Special Collections			
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	42		
Total · Special Collections	42		
Fundraisers/Events Revenue			
Golf Tournament	690	7,200	10%
Breakfasts	167		
Church Fair	7,251	7,000	104%
Misc Fundraisers	1,032		
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	9,140	14,200	64%
Facility Usage Income			
Non Profit Bldg Use	1,230	3,600	34%
Private Bldg Use	270	1,700	16%
Total · Facility Usage Income	1,500	5,300	28%
Miscellaneous Income	345		
Total Income	68,088	170,500	40%
Expenses			
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	41,457	93,856	44%
Total · Support Staff Expenses	29,546	70,062	42%
Total · Office Expenses	5,094	8,300	61%
Total · Church Building Costs	11,063	29,800	37%
Operating Committees			
Christian Education	349	1,500	23%
Church Growth	1,265	3,000	42%
Deacons	486	1,500	32%
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	372	600	62%
Stewardship		350	0%
Outreach	2,416	4,339	56%
Total · Operating Committees	4,888	11,289	43%
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	0	2,700	0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	196		
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	200	0%
Total Expenses	92,243	216,207	43%
Net income (loss)	(24,156)	(45,707)	53%
Transfer from Investments	18,000	24,000	
	(6,156)	(21,707)	

Treasurer's Report
November 30, 2019
Fiscal Year July 2019 - June 2020
42% thru Fiscal Year

Cash balances		
Operating account		7,408
Money Market		
Restricted	28,183	
Unrestricted	676	
		<u>28,859</u>
Fair account		16
Minister's Discretionary account		997
Outreach account		
Includes paid pledge set-aside	3,765	
Food Pantry	11,672	
		<u>15,437</u>
Capital Campaign account		8,971
Total cash balances		<u><u>61,688</u></u>
Endowments investment fund		
Protected principal	135,513	
Unrestricted funds	91,148	
Income YTD FY 2020	15,167	
Total value 10/31/2019		<u>241,828</u>
Parsonage investment fund		
Principal parsonage sale	151,677	
Profit (Loss)	11,674	
Total value 10/31/2019		<u>163,351</u>
Total investments		<u><u>405,179</u></u>

**CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes
December 18, 2019**

***** DRAFT – TO BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT CABINET MEETING *****

Meeting called to order at 7:02

Rev. Beth led an opening Christmas devotional.

Cabinet members in attendance: Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Gordon Brailsford, Board of Trustees; Jessica Stearns, Director of Christian Education; Diane Glass, Board of Deacons; Bill O’Neil, Board of Christian Outreach; Brad Barnsley & Rob Basler, Board of Stewardship; Terry Reynolds, Women’s Guild and Fellowship.

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed but not voted on because there was not a quorum.

Pastor’s Report – Rev. Beth Stotts circulated her report. Discussion was raised about handicap accessible parking. A request was made for the street parking on Church Street (between the Verizon lot and the common) to be kept available on Sunday mornings to those with accessibility issues. Rob Basler said he’d let the breakfast crew know. Rev. Beth said she’d ask Ellen to send out an all church email asking folks to park in the library lot, on the common, or farther on down Church Street.

Treasurer’s Report – circulated and reviewed.

Historical Church Building Committee – Terry Reynolds noted that they presented our grant application to the town’s Historical Preservation Committee. They won’t hear back from the town until January at the earliest.

Vitality Committee – Rob Basler shared updates from their minutes. The team met and put together questions that they would like to ask the congregation in the month of January. Each week two questions will be posed to the congregation so that people can begin talking about their ideas for church vitality.

Board of Stewardship – Rob Basler shared that Stewardship will be partnering with the Vitality Committee to move forward with the answers from the vitality questionnaire. Rob Basler also reported that CSCCUCC is sponsoring both the Christmas Eve and the Christmas Day meals at Mainspring House.

Board of Trustees – Gordon Brailsford reported that the window was repaired. Trash pickup is a mess right now but Ellen is figuring it out. Trustees authorized Rich to get a new vacuum cleaner. The computer for the bells up behind the old choir loft needs to be kept clear! Gordon is going to see about creating a sign or something to keep people from putting storage around the computer. We have been having a foul smell between the downstairs bathrooms and the kitchen. Trustees hope that cleaning the grease trap will solve the problem. Gordon crawled under the church building and does not believe that it is sewage because the pipes run toward the common, not out toward Church St. Trustees are going to put LED lights in the boiler room and two new lights near the far corner of the Fellowship Hall (by that little room under the stairs). The Congregation approved \$62,000 for HCBC. Trustees report that they are over. \$40,860 was the first invoice, the second invoice was \$17,500, retainer for the engineer was \$7,700. Terry Reynolds said that the retainer will go toward the full amount. Trustees intend to put together a separate account for the restoration. Gordon also reported that the Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer are getting rid of the old computers in the Treasurer’s Office. They will be disposed of appropriately.

Board of Christian Outreach – January 21 will be the distribution date for Warmth in Cold Places. The food in Fellowship Hall will stay there for a few weeks. Handwarmers/footwarmers/etc. needed.

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Moderator Anne Malmquist –

- Opportunity Fair in January is being cancelled. January's focus should be on the vitality study and the Heifer program.
- Annual reports are due January 15.
- Diane is stepping down from planning the golf tournament. What do we want to do now? Terry Reynolds would like to put in a vote for returning to Scotland Links instead of the Back Nine Club. She said Brett Wright would be willing to help organize and that he and his buddies would prefer Scotland Links. Those in attendance asked Gordon (who works at Scotland Links) to look into securing a Friday or Monday date in June of 2020.
- CSCC is now a member of the Southern New England Conference since the Massachusetts Conference joined together with Connecticut and Rhode Island Conferences. Because of this, we need to update our constitution and bylaws to reflect this. Should we also use this as an opportunity to review our current bylaws and the board and committee structure? Bill O'Neil said that we shouldn't have term limits or term requirements. Open discussion about the history of why term limits were needed was brought up. One thought is if there is honest discussion about vitality and leadership, then there wouldn't be a need for term limits. "It's Holy Spirit vs. the bylaws." Rob Basler added, "If someone is called to a certain ministry, why would we limit that?"
- There was a non-voting consensus that we are putting the Nominating Committee on hold until the Vitality Team reports in early March. At that point we'll review bylaws and discern moving forward with Nominating Committee from there.

Board of Christian Education – Jess Stearns noted the gift-wrapping fundraiser is this Saturday, 12/21, to benefit the youth mission trip. Volunteers are needed to help wrap. Sunday is the pageant. Rob, Brad, and Bill are erecting the stable on the chancel steps. Jess is taking vacation December 25-January 6.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

**Next Cabinet Meeting:
Wednesday, Jan. 15
7:00pm**

Daily Lectionary Scripture References January 2020 (Year A)

Wed., Jan. 1

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Thurs., Jan. 2

Psalm 20
Genesis 12:1-7
Hebrews 11:1-12

Fri., Jan. 3

Psalm 72
Genesis 28:10-22
Hebrews 11:13-22

Sat., Jan. 4

Psalm 72
Exodus 3:1-5
Hebrews 11:23-31

Sun., Jan. 5

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12
Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom 10:15-21
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Mon., Jan. 6

Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Tues., Jan. 7

Psalm 72
1 Kings 10:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-21

Wed., Jan. 8

Psalm 72
1 Kings 10:14-25
Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

Thurs., Jan. 9

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 3:1-9
Acts 9:1-9

Fri., Jan. 10

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 3:10—4:1a
Acts 9:10-19a

Sat., Jan. 11

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 7:3-17
Acts 9:19b-31

Sun., Jan. 12

The Baptism of Christ
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Mon., Jan. 13

Psalm 89:5-37
Genesis 35:1-15
Acts 10:44-48

Tues., Jan. 14

Psalm 89:5-37
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Acts 8:4-13

Wed., Jan. 15

Psalm 89:5-37
Isaiah 51:1-16
Matthew 12:15-21

Thurs., Jan. 16

Psalm 40:1-11
Isaiah 22:15-25
Galatians 1:6-12

Fri., Jan. 17

Psalm 40:1-11
Genesis 27:30-38
Acts 1:1-5

Sat., Jan. 18

Psalm 40:1-11
1 Kings 19:19-21
Luke 5:1-11

Sun., Jan. 19

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Mon., Jan. 20

Psalm 40:6-17
Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28
Acts 8:26-40

Tues., Jan. 21

Psalm 40:6-17
Isaiah 53:1-12
Hebrews 10:1-4

Wed., Jan. 22

Psalm 40:6-17
Isaiah 48:12-21
Matthew 9:14-17

Thurs., Jan. 23

Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 1:1-20
Galatians 1:11-24

Fri., Jan. 24

Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
Galatians 2:1-10

Sat., Jan. 25

Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 15:34—16:13
Luke 5:27-32

Sun., Jan. 26

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Mon., Jan. 27

Psalm 27:7-14
Judges 6:11-24
Ephesians 5:6-14

Tues., Jan. 28

Psalm 27:7-14
Judges 7:12-22
Philippians 2:12-18

Wed., Jan. 29

Psalm 27:7-14
Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26
Luke 1:67-79

Thurs., Jan. 30

Psalm 15
Deuteronomy 16:18-20
1 Peter 3:8-12

Fri., Jan. 31

Psalm 15
Deuteronomy 24:17—25:4
1 Timothy 5:17-24



**UNITED CHURCH
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January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Vitality Team Mtg	3	4
5 8a Choir Rehearsal 9am Nursery Opens 9am Breakfast 10am Worship 7:30pm AA	6 6pm Food Pantry open 7pm HCBC 7pm NA	7 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Bible Study	8 4pm Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30 Growth Comm 6:30 Women's Guild & Fellowship	9 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon 7:30pm Christian Outreach	10	11 9am Playgroup
12 8a Choir Rehearsal 9am Nursery Opens 9am Sunday Stories 9:30 Jr. Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 7:30pm AA	13 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm HCBC 7pm NA	14 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Bible Study	15 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Essential Oils Class 7pm Cabinet 7:30pm BSU Choir	16 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	17	18
19 8a Choir Rehearsal 9am Nursery Opens 9am Breakfast 9:30 Jr. Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 Youth Group 7:30pm AA	20 OFFICE CLOSED 7pm NA	21 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Bible Study	22 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm BSU Choir	23 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	24	25
26 8a Choir Rehearsal 9am Nursery Opens 9:30 Jr. Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11am Living Gift Market 7:30pm AA	27 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm HCBC 7pm NA	28 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Bible Study	29 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Trustees 7:30pm BSU Choir	30 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	31	

Central Square Congregational Church

71 Central Square • Bridgewater, MA 02324

www.cscucc.org



Church Administration

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, csccpastor@hotmail.com

Congregational Administrator: Ellen Atherton, office@cscucc.com

Sexton: Rich Sullivan

Minister of Music: Julia Scott Carey, juliascottcarey@gmail.com

Director of Christian Education: Jess Stearns, jessicastearns1231@gmail.com

Treasurer: David Sheibley, treasurer@cscucc.com

Office telephone: (508) 697-6016

Facebook page: facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma

Steeple Sounds submissions deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Shopping!

Remember that when you shop on Amazon, use “[smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)” rather than just “Amazon.com”, and designate Central Square Congregational Church as the charity to benefit from your purchases. It costs you nothing extra! Contact the church office with questions.

Calling all February news & events!

Have something that should be mentioned or highlighted in the February Steeple Sounds? Send it along to the church office by **JANUARY 15**. Please be sure that there is a point of contact listed that we can print.

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71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

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