



Central Square Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
Steeple Sounds
February 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

In our Weekly Bible Study this week we had a talk about the difference between the 10 Commandments and Jesus' Commandments. The 10 Commandments were given to Moses and were/are followed by those in the Jewish faith. You know them. They're the one's that say "Thou shall not...". Jesus' Commandments, even though there are only two, are much more difficult. *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37-39)

So who is your neighbor? Do you know the people who live around you? Do you know the people who ride on the same train as you in your commute? Sometimes people feel guilty about Christ's command to love our neighbor because some of us don't even know our neighbors. Furthermore, sometimes we know our neighbors, but maybe it's hard to love them. I was thinking that perhaps regardless of the situation surrounding our relationships with our neighbors, here are some things we can do to "love" them, just as Jesus would ask us to:

1. PRAY

Pray specifically for your neighbors by name. Pray that they would know Christ by knowing you, and pray for the opportunity to develop relationships with them. Don't know their names? Read #2...

2. LEARN

Learn about your neighbors. You might have to have that embarrassing conversation when you say, "I'm so sorry. I should know your name since we've been neighbors for 20 years, but I don't recall it. Could you tell me your name again?" Keep a list of your neighbors' names, addresses, their dogs' names, what you talk about, when you met, any tidbit of trivia you can follow up on later. Sometimes being a follower of Christ makes us uncomfortable.

3. GIVE

A little gift is an instant ice breaker. It doesn't have to be expensive or elaborate— maybe some brownies or a plate of cookies, a children's drawing (involving your children is a beautiful way to teach them to love their neighbor!), or even a handwritten note saying "Thinking of you".

4. SERVE

Intentionally serve outside your typical circles to meet more people. Volunteer at the food pantry, work with children at Horizons in Brockton, become trained to be a hospice visitor, groom animals at an animal rescue, share a meal at a soup kitchen, visit a nursing home, or pick up litter in your neighborhood park.

5. CALL

One in four of the homes on your street is occupied by one person living alone. Call one of your single neighbors using one of these conversation starters—

"I haven't seen you for a while and wondered how you're doing."

"I really enjoy talking to you. What have you been up to?"

"I'm going to the store, what can I pick up for you?"

"Are you ready for the [upcoming storm, holiday, etc.]?"

Continued on Page 16...



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.



**Next Cabinet Meeting:
Wednesday, Feb. 19
7:00pm**



Super Bowl Sunday Appetizer Sale! Sunday, February 2

Did you pre-order one of the youth's appetizers for the big game (or movie night)? They will be available to pick up during fellowship hour after service on Sunday, February 2. If you didn't pre-order, there will be a limited number of "extras" available for sale, but they'll go quickly!

All money raised goes to benefit the youth mission trip to Vermont in June. Thank you for your support, and happy eating!

Save The Date

Mission Dinner Is Coming! Saturday, March 21

The annual dinner to benefit the youth mission trip in June is in the active planning stages. Join us as the youth and adults magically transform the Fellowship Hall into a themed restaurant! The event is reservation-only, and open to the public. Spread the word! Invite your friends! Reservations will be taken during coffee/fellowship hour as well as through the office, beginning in late February.



Early Announcement

Are you putting away Christmas clothes now? Maybe your children will have long outgrown the holiday dress or the matching holiday pajamas by next year. Maybe your friends have seen you enough in that same "ugly" Christmas sweater.

I'm looking to have a special table in the Attic Treasures room of the church fair for Christmas clothes (adults and children) next Fall....please let me know if you have any items and I'll keep them in my garage until November! Thanks.

Bev Mitchell, 508-697-2949

ASK A PASTOR ANYTHING

FAITH UNCORKED WITH
REV. BETH AND PASTOR ALICIA

GREYHOUND TAVERN
39 Broad Street, Bridgewater
Thursday, Feb. 13, 7pm



Historical Church Restoration Committee

On 12/11/19 members of the HCRC appeared before the Community Preservation Committee at the Bridgewater Town Hall and submitted our completed CPA grant application. Because there are so many members on this committee, they asked if we could also submit our notebook application electronically, which they did.

The review process could take up to two months, which means we're hoping to have an answer to our request by this month, February 2020.

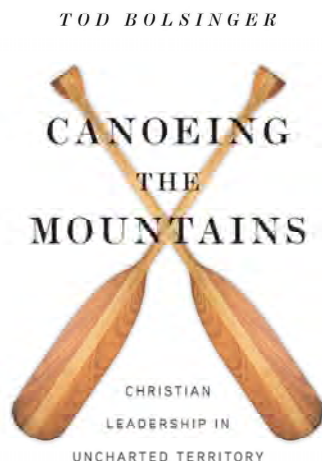
Repairs are scheduled to begin in the spring. Most, or all, of the work should be completed by our 200th anniversary celebration in the Fall of 2021.

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

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!



Lenten Book Study: "No Mud, No Lotus: The Art of Transforming Suffering"

By Thich Nhat Nanh

Lent, which begins this year on February 26, is a time of spiritual transformation, of releasing negative thoughts and feelings.

Thich Nhat Hanh acknowledges that because suffering can feel so bad, we try to run away from it or cover it up by consuming. We find something to eat or turn on the television. But unless we're able to face our suffering, we can't be present and available to life, and happiness will continue to elude us.

Join Rev. Beth in reading "No Mud, No Lotus," and discover Hanh's practices and inspiration transforming suffering into finding true joy.



Last Chance! If you haven't completed a questionnaire for the Vitality Committee, please do! All input welcome and needed. Let your church know how it's doing, and how it can better serve you. The survey is available online at www.cscucc.org (to complete online or to print and complete by hand), or by contacting the office.

OFFICE CLOSED FEB. 17

Please make a note that the church office will be closed Monday, February 17 for President's Day.

REV. BETH OUT OF THE OFFICE

Please note that Rev. Beth will be out of the office Feb. 14-16.



TO ALL MEMBERS: Please be advised that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020. Following worship, complimentary lunch will be served, and the Annual Meeting will follow immediately afterward.

The purpose of the meeting, according to the our Constitution, Article X, Church Meetings, Section 2: The Annual Meeting of the Church shall be held on the second Sunday of February for the purpose of receiving/hearing reports of all Officers, Boards, Committees and Organizations and to transact any other business that may legally come before it.

This is a celebration! Please come and let us celebrate together the people and ministry of Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ!

No other business matters will be voted on, unless presented in writing to the Moderator prior to the meeting. That business will be added to the agenda ONLY after an affirmative vote by 2/3 of the attending-voting members.

Pastor's Hours

Rev. Beth is available by appointment Tuesday-Thursday. Fridays and Saturdays are her study/writing days. Monday is her day off. Contact the office at office@cscucc.com or 508-697-6016 to make an appointment to see her. She'd love to chat with you!



Thank You!

This is the time to say a huge thank you to all of you for your recent monetary and material donations to the programs of the Board of Christian Outreach!

Through your portion of pledges that are allocated to Outreach, we made a donation to Operation Santa. Our Christmas Eve collection for the Christmas Fund to needy retired and working clergy raised \$724. Thank you all so much for your generosity.

We had many wonderful warm clothing items to take to Taunton for our Warmth in Cold Places clothing drive on January 21st. Thank you for donations of hats, gloves, ponchos, coats, sweatshirts, jeans, blankets, and boots.

The food pantry is running smoothly with cash donations from local citizens, and food donations from all of you and BSU students. We are blessed to have so many giving hearts and hands.



Mission Dinner Seeks Raffle Items!

The youth are just about to embark on their project of gathering donations of raffle and auction items for the Mission Dinner fundraiser. If you have a new item, a gift basket, or a gift card you would like to donate, please contact Diane Sheibley at dianesheibley@gmail.com.

If you would like to help out the dinner budget (allowing more of the funds raised to go to the mission trip), your Roche Bros. or Market Basket gift cards would be most appreciated, or cash donations can also be made. Direct all donations to the office, attention 'mission dinner'.

Fellowship



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.

Feb. 2—First Sunday.....Board of Christian Outreach
& Board of Stewardship
Feb. 9—Second Sunday.....CSCC Officers &
Women's Guild & Fellowship
Feb. 16—Third Sunday.....Growth Committee
& History & Memorials Committee
Feb. 23—Fourth Sunday.....Board of Trustees
& Board of Christian Education



February Breakfast Dates

February 2
February 16
9:00-9:45am

Most months from September - May, 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!

The Talking Information Center

A wonderful program entitled The Talking Information Center or TIC Network was presented at the January Women's Guild & Fellowship meeting. It is a radio station that broadcasts for people who are visually impaired. Two hundred volunteers read the daily newspaper, short stories, books, poetry, and more to an audience of people throughout Massachusetts who would not otherwise have access to news and information or the joy of hearing a book read to them. How can a person access the TIC Network? They can listen on the TIC website (www.ticnetwork.org), call and inquire about a receiver, or listen by phone. They can call for availability on their local channel or download a free app available for both Apple and Android. Another source is Alexa or Google. Just say, "Alexa (or Hey Google) play radio station Talking Information Center" on your Amazon Echo, Echo Dot, or Google Home devices. The reason this information is being shared with you, is because you may know someone who is visually impaired and could take advantage of this wonderful program. Any questions please see Beth Basler or Terry Reynolds.

Guild Auction: February 5

All women of the church are invited to attend the February meeting of the Women's Guild & Fellowship on Wednesday, February 5. We will be having an auction to raise funds towards our favorite causes. Sandy Alley, Janet Colford, Phoebe Hogg, & Bev Mitchell will be our auctioneers. Members of the Guild are asked to bring one or more items to be auctioned. For an uproarious evening led by these funny women, come to the auction. You never know what to expect.

Co-Presidents: Beth Basler and Terry Reynolds



Calling all March news & events!

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

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC • February 2020

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



Christian
Education

& Youth Ministry



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.



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.

Note
to Self

- ☞ Nursery is open every Sunday 9am-12pm
- ☞ Bible Study, Tuesdays, 7pm
- ☞ Super Bowl Appetizer Sale, 2/2
- ☞ Mission Dinner/Trip Mandatory Meeting, 2/2
- ☞ Mom & Baby Playgroup, Nursery, 2/8, 9-10am
- ☞ Sunday Stories w/Rev. Beth, Nursery, 2/9, 9am
- ☞ Ask A Pastor Anything/Faith Uncorked, 2/13, 7pm
- ☞ Youth Group (grades 6-12), 2/16, 11:30am-1pm
- ☞ Sleepover! (grades 2-8), 2/22



Destination: Rutland, Vermont

Dates: June 28-July 3, 2020

Mandatory Meeting Sunday, February 2, 11:30am

Any youth going on the mission trip (and at least one parent each) should plan on attending the meeting on Sunday, February 2 at 11:30(ish), following the Superbowl Appetizer sale at coffee hour.

1. MISSION DINNER: All youth going on the trip are required to work at the mission dinner, this year on **March 21**. We will go over all the details at the meeting—make all the final decisions, talk about schedule, be briefed on the auction/raffle and your responsibilities regarding it, and more. **All church youth (grades 8-12) are invited to participate in the dinner, whether they are going on the trip or not.**

2. TRIP PAPERWORK: Also, Youth Works has switched to a paperless system this year. We will go over the details of the online system where your paperwork will need to be filled out. Or you can get started on it by going to the church website (www.cscucc.org), and clicking on “Ministries”. Then just scroll down to the mission trip part. There’s a link there to the Youthworks paperwork system. **ALL ONLINE FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY 17.**

Questions? Contact Jess Stearns at jessicastearns1231@gmail.com.



Christian
Education

& Youth Ministry



Mom & Baby Playgroup

Saturday, Feb. 8, 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 Stories with Rev. Beth

Sunday, Feb. 9, 9am in the nursery

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

At the January "Sunday Stories with Rev. Beth", she sang with them a special song, with lyrics she had composed, to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star". We thought we'd share the song with you to enjoy with your little ones.

Nursery Song

Sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"
Lyrics by Rev. Beth Stotts

Gather round and sing with me
Of a love eternally
God with us, in us, we pray
Making friends while we play
Gather round and sing with me
Of a love eternally

Reading books and singing songs
Play with friends all morning long
Church is where we come to say
God loves us each night and day
Reading books and singing songs
Play with friends all morning long



Attention Youth Grades 6-12!

Next youth group (grades 6-12) will be held on **Sunday, February 16. Please mark your calendars** to 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.

All youth are welcome, and feel free to bring a friend!

Jess Stearns • jessicastearns1231@gmail.com



Remember to 'like' the CSCC Youth Facebook page for youth news, announcements, and alerts. Just search for "CSCC Youth" in the FB search bar.



Sleepover Fun!

Saturday, February 22

All kids in the CE/Sunday School program in grades 2-8 are invited to join Rev. Beth for a sleepover at the church on Feb.22. Marci Langevin and Deb Sorgman are co-leading the programs, and it promises to be a fun adventure.

Contact Rev. Beth for more details or to reserve your child's spot at csccpastor@hotmail.com or 508-697-6016.



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:

February - Loving Our Neighbors

March - Questioning

April-Journeying

February's Inspirational Theme is: LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS



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



Look What's Coming Up!

February 2 — Scout Sunday

February 16 — Teen Challenge in Worship

February 23 — Pajamas, Prayer, & Poetry

February 26 — Ash Wednesday Service

*Pajamas, Prayer,
& Poetry*

On **Sunday, February 23** worship service is Pajamas, Prayer, and Poetry! Come to worship in your most comfy clothes (no need for Sunday best!), and feel welcome to bring a prayer or bit of poetry that is meaningful to you to share with the congregation.



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.



February 26, 7pm

Please join us on Wednesday, February 26 as we begin our Lenten journey. Our Ash Wednesday worship service includes the imposition of ashes, musical meditations from the choir, and a homily.



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!



Why is Wearing Your Nametag Helpful?

- Few people know everybody in the church.
- Your nametag is welcoming to a visitor.
- Nametags invite conversation.
- Knowing names makes fellowship more personal.
- Nametags save embarrassment.

If it's in your car, on your desk or dresser, or in the rack by the front door at church, there is someone on Sunday morning who might not know your name.

Please make an effort to wear your fresh new tag with large clear print so those of us who can't remember your name for a long minute won't have that embarrassment, and newcomers can get to know you. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report
January 15, 2020
Fiscal Year July 2019 - June 2020
54% thru Fiscal Year

	YTD	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
Regular Pledges	71,814	138,000	52%
Unpledged Offerings	1,626	10,000	16%
Plate Offering	1,138	3,000	38%
Youth Minister / Church School Funding	1,666		
Total · Pledges / Offerings	76,244	151,000	50%
Special Collections			
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	82		
Total · Special Collections	82		
Fundraisers/Events Revenue			
Golf Tournament	690	7,200	10%
Breakfasts	309		
Church Fair	7,407	7,000	106%
Misc Fundraisers	1,032		
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	9,437	14,200	66%
Facility Usage Income			
Non Profit Bldg Use	1,685	3,600	47%
Private Bldg Use	360	1,700	21%
Total · Facility Usage Income	2,045	5,300	39%
Miscellaneous Income	754		
Total Income	88,562	170,500	52%
Expenses			
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	55,307	93,856	59%
Total · Support Staff Expenses	38,853	70,062	55%
Total · Office Expenses	5,933	8,300	71%
Total · Church Building Costs	15,150	29,800	51%
Operating Committees			
Christian Education	731	1,500	49%
Church Growth	1,376	3,000	46%
Deacons	648	1,500	43%
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	372	600	62%
Stewardship		350	0%
Outreach	2,812	4,339	65%
Total · Operating Committees	5,940	11,289	53%
MACUCC Fellowship Dues		2,700	0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	196		
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues		200	0%
Total Expenses	121,379	216,207	56%
Net income (loss)	(32,817)	(45,707)	72%
Transfer from Investments	24,000	24,000	
	(8,817)	(21,707)	

Treasurer's Report
January 15, 2020
Fiscal Year July 2019 - June 2020
54% thru Fiscal Year

Cash balances		
Operating account	7,724	
Money Market		
Restricted	28,476	
Unrestricted	682	
	<u>29,158</u>	
Fair account	16	
Minister's Discretionary account	1,273	
Outreach account		
Includes paid pledge set-aside	4,165	
Food Pantry	13,577	
	<u>17,742</u>	
Capital Campaign account	9,061	
Total cash balances	<u>64,974</u>	
Endowments investment fund		
Protected principal	135,513	
Unrestricted funds	85,148	
Income YTD FY 2020	24,775	
Total value 10/31/2019	<u>245,436</u>	
Parsonage investment fund		
Principal parsonage sale	89,677	
Profit (Loss)	16,576	
Total value 10/31/2019	<u>106,253</u>	
Total investments	<u>351,689</u>	
Anniversary Committee expenses	65,832	

\$62,000 withdrawn for
building restoration project

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
Nursery Coordinator: Maria Kean, mmkean14@gmail.com
Treasurer: David Sheibley, treasurer@cscucc.com
Office telephone: (508) 697-6016
Facebook pages: facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma (main page),
 facebook.com/groups/801550253194149 (youth page)
Steeple Sounds submissions deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

January 15, 2020

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

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm

Cabinet members in attendance: Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Diane Sheibley, Vice Moderator; Dave Sheibley, Treasurer; Gordon Brailsford/Ed Buckland, Board of Trustees; Diane Glass, Board of Deacons; Bill O’Neil, Board of Christian Outreach; Rob Basler, Board of Stewardship; Terry Reynolds, Women’s Guild and Fellowship; Barbara Morey, History & Memorials Committee; Gail Wershing/Mike Bundock, Growth Committee; Ellen Crawford, Music Committee.

Also present: Jessica Stearns, Director of Christian Education

Anne Malmquist opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed as there was not a quorum present at the December meeting. Gail Wershing motioned to accept the minutes. Diane Glass seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. Dave Sheibley motioned to accept the minutes. Terry Reynolds seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

As a followup to the item in the December minutes, Mike Bundock noted that he thinks there is a place in East Bridgewater that will take the old computers at no charge. Dave Sheibley also offered to throw them away in the dumpster at his work.

Mike also asked if the cancelled January opportunity fair would be rescheduled. Yes, it’s possible, but not at this time.

Pastor’s Report – Rev. Beth Stotts circulated her report. She noted that it was a busy but good December. She was pleased with how the Christmas eve services went, and reported that they were well-attended. She is working with the three confirmands. Lots of great upcoming worship (see her report).

Treasurer’s Report – Dave circulated his report. He noted that the deficit continues to grow, but not unexpectedly. We are a little behind on pledges and offerings. We are 54% through the fiscal year. We budgeted for \$24000 of transfers from the endowments, and we’ve already had to do all of that. We budgeted for a \$46,000 deficit, but didn’t really say where the rest of the cash would come from after the \$24,000 had been transferred. Fortunately, the investments are doing well, and so most of the \$24,000 has come from income rather than principal. Dave also noted on his treasurer’s report that about \$65,800 has been spent so far on the historical church renovations project.

Board, Committee, and Other News

- The Deacons mailed out letters today to the members determined to be inactive (8 letters were sent).
- The deadline for Steeple Sounds was today, but Diane noted submissions for the February issue would be accepted through this weekend.
- Anne reminded everyone that annual reports were due to the office today. If you haven’t submitted yours yet, please do so ASAP.
- Stewardship: Rob noted that they will be focusing not on the deficit but what we do to impact lives. They would like to see more marketing of what goes on at CSCC, based on the Vitality Committee questionnaire responses. Rob requested that all the boards and committees, within the next 30 days, give some thought to how their board/committee impacts lives and how that’s important to our church, i.e. “How does the Board of Deacons impact lives? How does the Board of Christian Education impact lives?” If their annual reports note that information, he can get it from there. But if not, if they could address that specific statement with Rob, it would be helpful. And then Stewardship wants to approach church members about how they want to support the specific things we do, as noted in the info given about impacting lives.
- Vitality Committee: Gail Wershing commented that she hopes everyone is thinking about answers to the questions on their questionnaire. It is available on the website for both online responses and to print and fill out by hand, as well as in the January Steeple Sounds. Rob encouraged all to be candid with their comments both positive and negative. He also noted that some have commented that “you’re not asking the right questions,” and encouraged people to say whatever they want to say, whether or not it is in answer to a specific question.
- It was requested of the committee to keep reinforcing where people can access the questionnaire (website, Steeple Sounds, Sunday bulletin)
- Historic Church Building Committee: Barbara Morey noted that a week from tonight is the next meeting of the CPC, and she will be going. She was told when the grant application was submitted, they would likely not hear anything in January, but February was likely. She feels confident that we will get approved for at least part of the money requested. She also reported that Gale Engineering will be coming tomorrow to do some minor things to prepare for future work. She

continued...

continued...

was reminded that we've spent all the money the congregation has approved, so if their work involves more billing, we need to tell them they can't do it. There should be no more billable work until further notice. If what they're doing is included in what they've already billed us, that's fine.

- Rev. Beth reported that the office received a phone call from a boiler inspector and they said they need to come and see the boiler. Gordon will make sure he's at the church when they come.

- Christian Ed: Heifer living gift market will be held after worship on Jan. 26. The youth will be conducting a superbowl appetizer sale on Feb. 2, preorders need to be in by Jan. 29. Mission dinner is scheduled for March 21.

- Jess from CE made a motion requesting permission for the mission dinner to conduct a 50/50 raffle and a pick-a-prize raffle at their event on 3/21. Diane Sheibley seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Ed Buckland asked if there was an occupancy limit sign anywhere for the sanctuary, and/or if anyone knew the legal occupancy limit. 250? Ed will ask Ellen in the office if she knows about it. Fire department question? Architect question?

- Rev. Beth reminded everyone about proper communication. If you have an issue with someone, you should talk directly with that person, not talk about that person or the issue with others.

- Christian Outreach:

- Rob reported that the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dinners that CSCC prepared and served were very well received at Mainspring House, and very much appreciated. The highlight were the homemade Christmas cookies that the congregation came together to make and package up for them. "We have to do that every year!" Rob noted. He praised CSCC for really coming through with funding support for the meals as well. Others noted that the cookie making really became a family event. Shout out to Denise Molinari for suggesting and organizing the Christmas cookie project.

- The Warmth in Cold Places distribution is scheduled for January 21

- Trustees: Gordon clarified that coffee hour on the 27th was beverages only due to the Heifer living gift market. He also reported that the side window has been replaced, and the 2 lights in the Fellowship Hall have finally been replaced. A reminder was given to PLEASE not put grease down the sink; Rob mentioned that he'll mention it to the Soupman, who uses our kitchen. The lights in the furnace room are being replaced, and the dishwasher's been fixed. The grant writer who has been working with the HCBC has been put on hold for additional projects for the moment. There is a new lease on the copier as the old one had run out. The new lease is \$40 less per month. Gordon gave a big "atta boy" to Ed Buckland, but you have to read the annual report to know why.

- Music Committee: Julia Carey will be giving a concert on January 25 in Boston. The link for tickets is on the church website and the Facebook page. Use the promo code 'julia' and get 25% off the ticket price.

- Women's Guild & Fellowship will have a table at the Heifer living gift market.

- Rev. Beth circulated a signup list of dates for which readers are needed during worship. Anyone is welcome to contact her if they are willing to read!

New Business

- Nominating Committee: Anne reported that the consensus from last month's Cabinet meeting was that we're going to wait until after the Vitality Committee has reviewed and analyzed the results from their questionnaires before making a decision on proceeding with NomComm.

- Mike Bundock suggested that we need to be in better touch with the bylaws. His concern is that the membership portion, and the process to become a member, is vague. He feels that we used to vote in new members and that we don't do that anymore. He noted that part of the Growth Committee description includes integrated new members into the work of the church. He feels the boards and committees should be in closer touch with the descriptions in the bylaws. He suggested that as we try to get people involved, meeting with new members and inviting them to visit board and committee meetings might get people more involved, and stay with the church.

- Anne suggested that when we talk about revising the bylaws, we should also talk about "membership" – it seems to be an evolving term in today's world, and what does it even mean these days?

- Rob suggested that we look into getting big monitors in our sanctuary, like many other churches now have. They're more reasonably priced than they used to be, and can have a decorative nature when not being used. Would help with songs and words and when there's a special event to be highlighted with a presentation. Rob's talked with Paul about it. Not projectors, monitors. Maybe there is a grant available to help us with the cost? Rob will ask Paul about getting a price quote. Gail suggested that if we do get them, we should make sure there's a plan for what will go on the monitors.

Diane Glass motioned to adjourn the meeting. Anne seconded.

February 19 is the next Cabinet meeting.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References - February 2020 (Year A)

Sat., Feb. 1

Psalms 15
Micah 3:1-4
John 13:31-35

Sun., Feb. 2

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Mon., Feb. 3

Psalms 37:1-17
Ruth 1:1-18
Philemon 1-25

Tues., Feb. 4

Psalms 37:1-17
Ruth 2:1-16
James 5:1-6

Wed., Feb. 5

Psalms 37:1-17
Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22
Luke 6:17-26

Thurs., Feb. 6

Psalms 112:1-9 [10]
Deuteronomy 4:1-14
1 John 5:1-5

Fri., Feb. 7

Psalms 112:1-9 [10]
Isaiah 29:1-12
James 3:13-18

Sat., Feb. 8

Psalms 112:1-9 [10]
Isaiah 29:13-16
Mark 7:1-8

Sun., Feb. 9

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Mon., Feb. 10

Psalms 119:105-112
2 Kings 22:3-20
Romans 11:2-10

Tues., Feb. 11

Psalms 119:105-112
2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25
2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Wed., Feb. 12

Psalms 119:105-112
Proverbs 6:6-23
John 8:12-30

Thurs., Feb. 13

Psalms 119:1-8
Genesis 26:1-5
James 1:12-16

Fri., Feb. 14

Psalms 119:1-8
Leviticus 26:34-46
1 John 2:7-17

Sat., Feb. 15

Psalms 119:1-8
Deuteronomy 30:1-9a
Matthew 15:1-9

Sun., Feb. 16

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Mon., Feb. 17

Psalms 119:9-16
Exodus 20:1-21
James 1:2-8

Tues., Feb. 18

Psalms 119:9-16
Deuteronomy 23:21-24:4, 10-15
James 2:1-13

Wed., Feb. 19

Psalms 119:9-16
Proverbs 2:1-15
Matthew 19:1-12

Thurs., Feb. 20

Psalms 2
Exodus 6:2-9
Hebrews 8:1-7

Fri., Feb. 21

Psalms 2
Exodus 19:9b-25
Hebrews 11:23-28

Sat., Feb. 22

Psalms 2
1 Kings 21:20-29
Mark 9:9-13

Sun., Feb. 23

Transfiguration of the Lord
Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Mon., Feb. 24

Psalms 78:17-20, 52-55
Exodus 33:7-23
Acts 7:30-34

Tues., Feb. 25

Psalms 78:17-20, 52-55
1 Kings 19:9-18
Romans 11:1-6

Wed., Feb. 26

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thurs., Feb. 27

Psalms 51
Jonah 3:1-10
Romans 1:1-7

Fri., Feb. 28

Psalms 51
Jonah 4:1-11
Romans 1:8-17

Sat., Feb. 29

Psalms 51
Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 18:1-7

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am-12n Nursery Open 9am Breakfast 10am Worship-Scout Sunday 11am Superbowl App Sale 11:30 Mission Trip/Dinner Mtg 7:30pm AA	3 6-8pm Food Pantry Open 7pm NA	4 6pm Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Bible Study	5 10am Staff Meeting 6:30pm WG&F 7:30pm BSU Choir	6 10am-1pm Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	7	8 9am Mom & Baby Playgroup
9 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am-12n Nursery Open 9am Sunday Stories w/Rev. Beth 9:30am Jr. Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 11:30 Annual Meeting 7:30pm AA	10 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm NA	11 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Bible Study	12 6pm Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Essential Oils Class 6:30pm Growth Committee 7:30pm BSU Choir	13 10am-1pm Food Pantry Open 7pm Faith Uncorked (Greyhound) 7pm AI-Anon 7pm Board of Christian Outreach	14	15
16 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am-12n Nursery Open 9am Breakfast 9:30am Jr. Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Youth Group 7:30pm AA	17 * OFFICE CLOSED * 7pm NA	18	19 7pm Cabinet Meeting 7:30pm BSU Choir	20 10am-1pm Food Pantry Open 6pm BBA Meeting 7pm AI-Anon	21	22 5pm Sleepover
23 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am-12n Nursery Open 9:30am Jr. Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship (Pajamas, Prayer, and Poetry) 10:15am Sunday School 7:30pm AA	24 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm NA	25 7pm Bible Study	26 * ASH WEDNESDAY * 6:15 Confirmation Class 7pm Worship 8pm Trustees	27 10am-1pm Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	28	29

Central Square Congregational Church

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Ask your elderly or shut-in neighbors specific questions during extremely cold weather:

"Is your heat working?"

"Are you warm enough?"

"Do you have enough food to get through the next few days?"

6. HELP

Do a neighbor a favor. Carry your neighbor's trash cans back to her house, help carry in groceries, rake leaves, or shovel snow. Scrape the frost off the windshield or help with a home improvement project. Or simply listen...listen long and hear your neighbor's heart.

7. EAT

I mean seriously, this is what we do best here at CSCC. Invite a neighbor to join your table at the Mission Dinner (March 21st) or for breakfast on a breakfast Sunday (1st & 3rd Sunday of every month, through May). Sharing a meal with someone is one of the most spiritually intimate acts we can do and Jesus models it for us so beautifully.

You don't have to do all of these to "love your neighbor", but challenge yourself to pick one and make it a point to actively engage in neighborly love. If you're having a hard time loving your neighbor right now, give me a call or make an appointment to come talk to me. I'm always here for you.

Yours In Christ,

Rev. Beth

csccpastor@hotmail.com, 508-697-6016

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FIRST CLASS MAIL