



*In February, CSCC proudly celebrated Scout Sunday.*

# Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ **Steeple Sounds**

March 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.*

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## From the Desk of Rev. Beth

*Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, Pastor*

Each week I welcome everyone to worship with these words, *"Whether you are old or young, rich or poor, gay or straight, regardless of your political persuasion, country of origin, or ethnic identity, whether your faith is strong and deep or you're at the end of your rope, you're welcome here."*

I want to take a minute to break that down. There is no doubt that we are a welcoming congregation. We proudly welcome people from all walks of life, all abilities, and identities. But what I want you to really think about is your faith. Is your faith strong and deep? Or are you at the end of your rope? Somewhere in the middle? Let's talk about it!

We humans struggle to be vulnerable, to open ourselves up and show our true selves to others. Whether we're worried about what others will think about us or we just don't want to admit to ourselves who we are, this impedes us from truly entering into some life-changing and perhaps even faith-deepening activities. Sometimes, in order to be a welcoming community, we have to remember that we have to welcome the whole of ourselves too, not just welcome others. Self-acceptance and self-love are important aspects of welcoming.

Each Tuesday night I lead a Bible Study where a faithful few dare to be vulnerable with each other and with me. Studying scripture together is a very intimate act. It requires those in attendance to crack themselves and their lives open and share with others. Bible study isn't a place where you can come and observe. No. Bible study requires active participation. What Bible study does not require is perfection.

I want to say that again. Bible study does not require perfection. Bible study only requires that you show up with your authentic self, your curiosity, and your questions. (March's Congregational Life theme is "Questioning"! ) You don't have to be a biblical scholar to read and study the Bible. You don't even have to have your own Bible to come to Bible study. (We have plenty!) And honestly, there are no right answers when it comes to faith questions, so that should be a relief for many.

If you've been scared to attend Bible Study, a book study, or Score Club, if you've been intimidated by any of the activities or programs we offer here at CSCC, I hope you'll just give something a try. Your life speaks to your faith and that's really all you'll need to attend any of our programs, studies, or events. We're a judgement-free zone here at CSCC.

Tyra Banks (supermodel and host of America's Next Top Model) once said "Perfect is boring. Human is beautiful." So bring your beautiful human self, wherever you are in your faith, and let's learn and grow and question. We're all on this journey together.

Love,

Rev. Beth

csccpastor@hotmail.com, 508-697-6016

*(Bible Study is every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Fireplace Room)*



*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.*



### Rev. Beth's Sabbatical

In parish ministry, for a three-month period every seven years, pastors step away from the persistent obligations of daily parish life to engage in a period of renewal and reflection, for drinking again from God's life-giving waters. In talking with Rev. Beth back in 2019, the Deacons discerned that it would be best for the congregation if she took one month of sabbatical every year for three consecutive years. In the summer of 2019 (the end of her seventh year), she took one month of sabbatical to study yoga and meditation, and to visit her family in California. While she was away, we welcomed the retired Rev. Jim Conley (a friend and colleague of Rev. Beth) into our community. He served as our sabbatical pastor for the month of July. This summer, we will be doing the same thing. While Rev. Beth is away for her second month of sabbatical, Rev. Jim will be serving our community again. We are very excited for Rev. Beth to have this period of renewal and for Rev. Jim to join us.



### 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.

**Next Cabinet Meeting:  
Wednesday, March 18  
7:00pm**



### Church Vitality

Thank you all so much for taking the time to fill out the recent Vitality Committee survey questions! God is speaking through each of us, and we want to hear what is being said. As a place where God speaks to all of us, it is vital that Central Square Church has a clear picture on what gives us joy, both collectively and individually. Your responses have been amazing and extremely helpful. The world is always changing and evolving, and each of us are changing and evolving with it. As a church, we want to make sure that we are keeping up with this evolution.

However, the listening and communication process does not end here. Central Square Congregational Church welcomes your continued input. With this in mind, we want to make time available for anyone who would enjoy discussing:

1) The most common interests and passions that were uncovered by the recent survey (not in order of preference):  
Mission • Food • Music • Sermons/Pastor • Children/Youth • Our sanctuary • New members • Stewardship • Community/Fellowship

2) Regarding Central Square Congregational Church:

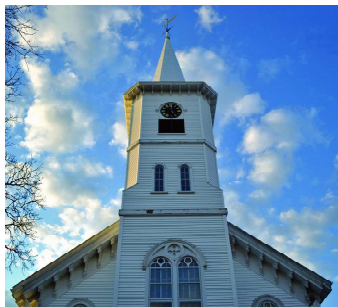
What is most important to you? What are you most joyful about here at CSCC? How do you think the things that are most important, and gives you the most joy, should be supported? How would you picture CSCC in 5 years, or even 10 years, if anything were possible?

As a continuation from February discussions, on Sunday, March 1, we will be available for small group and individual discussion one hour before worship and for the hour following worship for any discussion you'd like to have with us.

One of the things we learned from our survey is how important communication and discussion is for our congregation. It is our prayer that we do this very well.

God Bless You,

CSCC Vitality Committee: Gail Wershing, Rob Basler, Anne Malmquist, Kathleen Mosher, Connie Chandler, Krissy Cannizzo, Denise Molinari



## Checking In with the Historical Church Restoration Committee (HCBC)!

We, the church, excitedly wait for a response from the town Community Preservation Committee (CPC) about our application for CPA funds to restore and repair the exterior of our beloved church home. The CPC will meet before the end of February so by the time you read this, we might already know the answer.

The HCBC has taken a break from meeting weekly since just before Christmas, but we continue to seek funding from public and private grants outside the CPA.

We expect to hit the ground running once we hear from the CPC. Our work is transparent and anyone is welcome to ask questions, or offer comments and opinions for all to consider.

Respectfully, Carol Chaffee

*HCBC Committee: Barbara Morey, Rachel Lawson,  
David Sheibley, Carol Chaffee, Gloria Weinrebe,  
Terry Reynolds*



## Getting to know you...

Where do you sit when you come to our delicious Sunday breakfasts? Who do you talk to during Coffee Hour? Let's move into Spring by seeking out someone you don't know, or don't know well. We are all Super Welcomers once we are past the front door. Extend yourself to anyone you don't know.

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

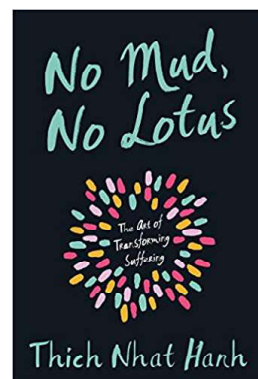
By Thich Nhat Nanh

Lent, which began 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. It's a 124-page, manageable read!


**PLEASE JOIN REV. BETH FOR A DISCUSSION OF THIS BOOK ON SATURDAY, MARCH 28, AT 10AM.**





# ASK A PASTOR ANYTHING

FAITH UNCORKED WITH  
REV. BETH AND PASTOR ALICIA



**GREYHOUND TAVERN**  
**39 Broad Street, Bridgewater**  
**Thursday, March 12, 7pm**





### Community Concert: April 19!

Your Growth Committee continues its efforts of fulfilling the main mission of reaching out to people and inviting them to enrich or start their relationship with God at CSCC.

To that end, we are happy to announce our second annual community concert. We have reserved Music Alley from 2-4 pm, Sunday, April 19th. Our artist this year is Buddy Fanjoy (for music samples, find him on YouTube and Spotify). He is a prominent north shore Christian singer and songwriter, and we are certain he will bring our community a wonderful musical experience.

We are also very thankful this year for a generous grant from the Bridgewater Cultural Council which will minimize expenses incurred by CSCC.

**Also, check out Soulfest 2020.** This is a 2-3 day family-oriented Christian experience at Gunstock, NH. Visit [www.thesoulfest.com](http://www.thesoulfest.com) for full info.

*In Christ, your Growth Committee,*

*Co-chairs Mike Bundock, Gail Wershing; Valued members Pat Lindsey, Tracey Doherty*

### Calling all April news & events!

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



### SAVE THE DATE! FRIDAY, JULY 17 Olde Scotland Links Bridgewater

This is an important fundraiser for CSCC. It's never too early to starting thinking of ways we can each contribute to making this our most successful tournament yet!



### Mission Dinner Seeks Raffle Items and Food Gift Cards (by March 15)

The youth are currently embarking 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](mailto:dianesheibley@gmail.com) or 508-207-2524 (call/text).

**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'.

**DEADLINE FOR ITEMS AND GIFT CARDS IS MARCH 15**

### 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](mailto:office@cscucc.com) or 508-697-6016 to make an appointment to see her. She'd love to chat with you!





# THE SUGAR SHACK

Join us for a fine dining experience as we transform  
our Fellowship Hall into The Sugar Shack on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020  
Seating begins at 6PM Reservations are required.

## A Savory Start \$20 (Serves 4)

*Tourtiere Meat Pies with Au Jus*  
*Smokey Maple, Cabot Cheddar Fondue*  
*Steamed Broccoli, Carrots, Crisp Apples & Crusty Sourdough*

## Maple Infused Entrees \$24

*Maple Butter Roast Chicken<sup>GF</sup>*  
*w/Mashed Potatoes<sup>GF</sup>*  
*Pork Tenderloin with Maple Mustard<sup>GF</sup>*  
*w/Maple Mashed Sweet Potatoes with Brown Butter<sup>GF</sup>*  
*Roast Beef with Maple Merlot<sup>GF</sup>*  
*w/Mashed Potatoes<sup>GF</sup>*

## All Entrées Include

*Harvest Farro Salad with Maple Vinaigrette,*  
*Green Beans with Shallot<sup>GF</sup>, Parker House Rolls*

## A Sweet Finish \$5

*Apple Pie with a Slice of Vermont Cheddar*  
*Pumpkin Mousse Trifle with Maple Whipped Cream*  
*Maple Sugar Espresso Flan<sup>GF</sup>*

## Drinks \$2

*Coffee, Tea, Cranberry Spritzer, Diet Coke*  
*Drink Refills are Free*

Entrée choices **MUST** be made with reservation. For Reservations or additional information  
Email Jessica Stearns at [jessicastearns1231@gmail.com](mailto:jessicastearns1231@gmail.com) or Call the Church office at 508-697-6016  
Central Square Congregational Church, UCC, 71 Central Square, Bridgewater MA 02324

*All Proceeds to benefit the 2020 Youth Service Mission Trip to Rutland Vermont. Your Full Service Wait Staff and Floor Managers will be members of this year's Mission Youth Team, supported by returning and future members of prior mission trips.*

*Thank You for supporting the "GREAT MISSION" work the CSCC Youth have been doing since the 1st Mission Supper on a snowy evening January 19, 2002 at Café Central Square. Enjoy!*  
*Chef Basler and The Mission 2020 Team*



The 2020 Confirmation Class is collecting pads, pantyliners, tampons, and travel sized wipes to create period packs for area homeless women. "50% of God's creation has periods," said one confirmand. "We should help them out." If you would like to help, drop donations off at the church office Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm, or Sunday mornings from 8am-12noon.



Thank you, congregation, for your January clothing contributions to Warmth in Cold Places. We distributed the items on a very cold day and the recipients were extremely grateful. The Board of Christian Outreach is looking into a way that we may perhaps help with clothing needs throughout the year as some recipients reenter the work force.

Teen Challenge presented during our worship service on February 16th. Several young men eloquently told their stories of battling addictions, and their continued dedication to recovery with the ever-present help of God in their lives. Outreach has matched the congregation's donations and approximately \$380 is being given to Teen Challenge. Thank you for your generosity.

## Help Wanted: BSU Alumni Chamber Choir

The Bridgewater State University Alumni Chamber Choir is looking for a few good people to act as hosts for our spring concert, which will be held on April 26, 2020, at 4pm. We will need assistance with the following:

- setting up our reception area in fellowship hall
- preparing food and beverage to be put out for the reception
- acting as servers and serving drinks and tending to the plates of food
- cleaning up afterwards

Arrival would be at 3pm and cleanup would end at 6:30. All the food and beverages are purchased by the choir. No cost will be relayed to the volunteer hosts. Cleanup is light work as choir members help to clean up the whole church.

Our concerts are generally one hour in length. Complimentary tickets will be offered to the volunteers.

If you are interested in talking with me for more details, please send me an email.

Truly,

Carol Chaffee, BSUACC Treasurer, [galchaffee@gmail.com](mailto:galchaffee@gmail.com)



## Finding Your Passion: Two Special Projects

#1: The bylaws of Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ are in need of revision and review, as they no longer reflect the way we church. This team will analyze the current operations of the church and revise the bylaws to reflect the way we do business. Please contact Anne Malmquist, Moderator, for more information or to express interest in this project.

#2: The Lilly Foundation offers grants of up to one million dollars to thriving churches to complete special projects to further their ministries and missions. We would like to apply for this grant to redesign the kitchen space and the lower level of the building, to further our food-related missions and ministries. This team will need to complete and submit an interest form by April 15, 2020 and then, if needed, a full grant proposal by June 1, 2020. Please contact Anne Malmquist, Moderator, for more information or to express interest in this project.

Anne Malmquist, [amalmquist@comcast.net](mailto:amalmquist@comcast.net)  
or contact the church office



Food Pantry

## 2020 Food Pantry Lenten Calendar

The Board of Christian Outreach asks your help in making this a mindful Lenten season by participating in their "2020 Food Pantry Lenten Calendar". Place a bag on a table or on the counter in your home; each day in March, place the designated item into the bag; then each Sunday, bring in your bag of donations and place it in the grocery cart near the church's side door for the Bridgewater Food Pantry. Lent is often the season of giving something up; let's also make it the season of giving.

### March

1 Canned chili	2 Peanut Butter	3 Stuffing Mix	4 Jelly/Jam	5 Mac & Cheese	6 Canned Fruit	7 Chef Boyardee
8 Canned Tuna	9 Dessert Mix	10 Applesauce	11 Toothbrushes	12 Instant Mashed Potatoes	13 Mayonnaise	14 Crackers
15 Rice	16 Oatmeal	17 Bar Soap	18 Pasta Sauce	19 Jell-o/Pudding	20 Relish	21 Deodorant
22 Toothpaste	23 Ketchup	24 Cooking Oil	25 Juice Boxes	26 Rice-a-roni	27 Canned Vegetable	28 Muffin Mix
29 Baked Beans	30 Coffee/tea	31 Mustard				

*Don't have a specific item? Substitutes gladly accepted!*

## 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!



Greeting card sets available: "Cards for All Occasions", "Holiday Card Collection Box", "Thanks and Blanks", "Kids Birthday Box". Each box is \$30 for 30 cards.



Contact the church office at  
[office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com) or  
 508-697-6016. Each box sold  
 earns money for the church!





Christian  
Education

& Youth Ministry



## God's Gift of Animals

The children waited with anticipation as the service ended. One last look at the tables before the congregation arrived. Various kinds of appetizers, finger foods, and imaginative desserts created by the children and their families decorated the tables. All kinds of crafts with themes related to the animals such as bee buzzers and clay fish squeezed in amongst all the food. The smell of popcorn, baked goods, and bacon drifted around the Fellowship Hall and the sounds of clucking chickens added to the excitement.

The children only had 2 weeks to prepare for this event, The Living Gift Market. The children, youth, and parents with the guidance of Jessica Stearns, Director of Christian Education, created a plan and it was executed. Now, all was ready as they waited for the church community to arrive.

*continued on next page*

## Heifer Living Gift Market 2020



Central Square Congregational Church, UCC • March 2020

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





**Christian  
Education**

**& Youth Ministry**

*"God's Gift of Animals"*

*continued from previous page*

As the congregation entered the hall they began drifting around the tables. The children smiled as food and crafts disappeared from their tables and their baskets rapidly filled up with the money that would purchase the animals of their choice.

The Living Gift Market yielded \$766.46. Not quite enough to purchase all the animals the children sponsored. Over the next few weeks though more donations arrived, and the children continued to return banks. Finally, the children gathered **\$1184.77**, enough money for each team to purchase the animals they sponsored! Here is the result of their efforts: Team 1 is sending **a trio of rabbits**. Team 3 raised more than enough to send **a flock of chickens and a beehive**. They are sharing the extra money with team 2 helping them achieve their goal to send a **pig**. Team 4 is sending **a donkey**, while Team 5 is sending **fish**. And Team 6, which is the Women's Guild, is sending a **heifer**.

Families in need around the world will be trained in how to feed and care for the animals they receive and how these animals will benefit them. A pig is perfect for the small-scale farmer in the Philippines, while chickens and rabbits which reproduce rapidly help desperately poor families generating much needed income. A Vietnamese family could receive a cow which will improve the health and income of the family. A healthy beehive can double the fruit and vegetable yields in Guatemala. Families can quickly increase their daily nutrition and income with the lean, healthy protein of fish. Donkeys can plow a large field yielding a greater crop. The next step is to give the first offspring to another family within the village. Passing on the gift will improve the quality of life for others.

A big thank you should be given to the parents working directly with the children helping to plan many of the projects and food for the event. Thank you to Jess Stearns and Terry Reynolds, who worked together to plan and organize the Living Gift Market. Jess helped the children to create objects for sale and work with the youth to help brainstorm ideas for their table. A special thanks to all the people who supported the children at the Living Gift Market and the weeks following the Market. All of you helped to make the Living Gift Market a successful event. Thank you.



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

**Mandatory Meeting**  
**Sunday, March 1, 11:30am**

The next mission dinner meeting will be held Sunday March 1 at 11:30 in the basement. This meeting is mandatory as it's our last meeting before the fundraiser. Are you working on your raffle prizes? I hope so! Please remember those are due no later than **MARCH 15**.

Also, **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](http://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**.

**MISSION DINNER:**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 21**  
**The Sugar Shack**

Friday setup: 6-9pm

Call time for youth on Saturday: 4pm  
(some asked for noon)

Uniform: "Sugar Shack" t-shirt, black pants



**Questions? Contact Jess Stearns at**  
**[jessicastearns1231@gmail.com](mailto:jessicastearns1231@gmail.com)**



**Christian  
Education**

**& Youth Ministry**



### **Mom & Baby Playgroup**

**Saturday, March 14, 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.

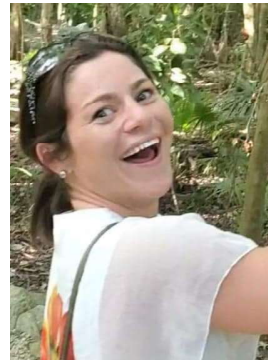
### **Sunday Stories with Rev. Beth**

**Sunday, March 8, 9am in the nursery**

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

*Note  
to Self*

- ☞ Nursery is open every Sunday 9am-12pm
- ☞ Bible Study, Tuesdays, 7pm
- ☞ Mission Dinner Mandatory Meeting, 3/1, 11:30
- ☞ Confirmation Class, 3/1, 11:30-1
- ☞ Sunday Stories w/Rev. Beth, Nursery, 3/8, 9am
- ☞ Mom & Baby Playgroup, Nursery, 3/14, 9-10am
- ☞ Ask A Pastor Anything/Faith Uncorked, 3/12, 7pm
- ☞ Mission Dinner, 3/21, 6pm
- ☞ Youth Group (grades 6-12), 3/22, 11:30am-1pm



### **Our Nursery Coordinator**

Hello, my name is Maria Kean and I'm the new nursery room coordinator. I have always had a passion for caring for and playing with kids, and have been in the child care field for 17 years. During the day, I work with kids with autism as a behavior analyst. When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with

my dog, family, and friends.

### **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! March 22**

Next youth group (grades 6-12) will be held on **Sunday, March 22. 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](mailto:jessicastearns1231@gmail.com)



The next confirmation class meets on Sunday, March 1, 11:30am-1pm. Mark your calendars! Confirmation Sunday is May 31.

# 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 the church office.

Mar. 1—First Sunday.....Board of Christian Outreach  
& Board of Stewardship  
Mar. 8—Second Sunday.....CSCC Officers &  
Women's Guild & Fellowship  
Mar. 15—Third Sunday.....Growth Committee  
& History & Memorials Committee  
Mar. 22—Fourth Sunday.....Board of Trustees  
& Board of Christian Education  
Mar. 29—Fifth Sunday.....Board of Deacons  
& Music Committee

## Women's Guild & Fellowship

### March Program

The next Women's Guild & Fellowship meeting is on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Following the business meeting and refreshments the program will be presented. One of our own Guild members, Barbara Morey, travels a great deal and has participated in many wonderful travel excursions around the world. While on these trips she photographs many beautiful sites and learns about the

landforms, the history of the area, and hears many fascinating stories. In the past she has been on safari in Africa, experienced scuba diving in the Great Barrier Reef, and traveled the Holy Land to name a few trips. Recently Barbara traveled to Ethiopia. While there she visited 5 cave churches (representing 5 ethnic tribal groups). You are invited to enjoy the trip to Ethiopia with Barbara and hear the stories of the cave churches. The meeting begins at 6:30 and the program at 7:30. All women of the church and friends of members are welcome to join us.

### Heifer

This was the first year that the Women's Guild & Fellowship participated in the Living Gift Market. After a very brief discussion a unanimous decision was made to sponsor a cow. In order to reach our goal of \$500 we sold beef sliders, purple cow drinks, cow cookies, and offered the opportunity to have your picture taken with Bessie the cow. We were able to raise \$191 at the Living Gift Market and with other generous donations from Guild members we reached our goal of \$500. The Guild members would like to thank everyone who supported us at the Living Gift Market and thank you Guild members for reaching our goal.

### Animal Protection Center

Each month Material Aides has a special project in which Guild members have an opportunity to give donations. In the month of March, the project will be to give to the Animal Protection Center in Brockton. The shelter is asking for non-clumping clay cat litter, wet and dry cat and dog food, pet toys for cats and dogs, timothy hay for small animals and clean sheets and towels. Anyone within the church and guild members may give to this worthy cause for our small creature friends.

*Co-Presidents: Beth Basler  
and Terry Reynolds*



### March Breakfast Dates

March 1 • March 15      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!*





**March's Inspirational Theme is:  
QUESTIONING**

**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:**

March - Questioning  
April - Journeying  
May - Growing and Changing



**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](http://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](http://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.



**Lenten Season Events**

**March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

Sunday Morning Lenten Worship, 10am

**March 28**

Lenten Book Study Discussion  
"No Mud, No Lotus" by Thich Nhat Hanh, 10am

**Holy Week Info**

**April 5**

Palm Sunday Worship with Communion, 10am

**April 9**

Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion, 7pm

**April 10**

Good Friday Music and Meditation  
with Julia Scott Carey, 3pm

**April 12**

Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship, 6:30am (Hanson Farm)  
Easter Sunday Worship, 10am



**Upcoming Worship/Sermon topics:**

March 1 - Forgiveness  
March 8 - Protection  
March 15 - Testing God  
March 22 - Psalm 23  
March 29 - Dry Bones

# EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

APRIL 12, 2020

6:30 AM

600 PLEASANT STREET,  
BRIDGEWATER, MA 02324

HANSON FARM

*A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE  
RECEIVED, BLESSED AND GIVEN IN  
SUPPORT OF THE TEEN CHALLENGE  
PROGRAM AND MINISTRY IN  
OUR WIDER COMMUNITY.*

Treasurer's Report  
February 18, 2020  
Fiscal Year July 2019 - June 2020  
64% thru Fiscal Year

	YTD	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
Regular Pledges	82,544	138,000	60%
Unpledged Offerings	2,446	10,000	24%
Plate Offering	1,677	3,000	56%
Youth Minister / Church School Funding	1,666		
Total · Pledges / Offerings	88,333	151,000	58%
Special Collections			
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	154		
Total · Special Collections	154		
Fundraisers/Events Revenue			
Golf Tournament	690	7,200	10%
Breakfasts	422		
Church Fair	7,407	7,000	106%
Misc Fundraisers	1,322		
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	9,840	14,200	69%
Facility Usage Income			
Non Profit Bldg Use	2,265	3,600	63%
Private Bldg Use	360	1,700	21%
Total · Facility Usage Income	2,625	5,300	50%
Miscellaneous Income	960		
Total Income	101,912	170,500	60%
Expenses			
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	67,088	93,856	71%
Total · Support Staff Expenses	44,653	70,062	64%
Total · Office Expenses	6,921	8,300	83%
Total · Church Building Costs	19,405	29,800	65%
Operating Committees			
Christian Education	824	1,500	55%
Church Growth	1,411	3,000	47%
Deacons	708	1,500	47%
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	522	600	87%
Stewardship		350	0%
Outreach	3,499	4,339	81%
Total · Operating Committees	6,965	11,289	62%
MACUCC Fellowship Dues		2,700	0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	196		
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues		200	0%
Total Expenses	145,228	216,207	67%
Net income (loss)	(43,316)	(45,707)	95%
Transfer from Investments	32,000	24,000	
	<u>(11,316)</u>	<u>(21,707)</u>	



Treasurer's Report  
February 18, 2020  
Fiscal Year July 2019 - June 2020  
64% thru Fiscal Year

Cash balances

Operating account	9,483	
Money Market		
Restricted	28,476	
Unrestricted	778	
	<u>29,254</u>	
Fair account	16	
Minister's Discretionary account	773	
Outreach account		
Includes paid pledge set-aside	4,463	
Food Pantry	13,577	
	<u>18,040</u>	
Capital Campaign account	9,126	
Total cash balances	<u>66,692</u>	

Endowments investment fund

Protected principal	135,513	
Unrestricted funds	81,540	
Income YTD FY 2020	34,384	
Total value 12/31/2019	<u>251,436</u>	244,045 (withdrew \$8,000)
Parsonage investment fund		
Principal parsonage sale	101,677	
Profit (Loss)	16,576	
Total value 12/31/2019	<u>118,253</u>	<u>109,367</u> (withdrew \$12,000)
Total investments	<u>369,689</u>	<u>353,412</u> Balance 2/18/20

Anniversary Committee expenses	66,203
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## CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

February 19, 2020

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

Meeting called to order at 7:01

Rev. Beth opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Cabinet members in attendance:** Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Diane Sheibley, Vice Moderator; Dave Sheibley, Treasurer; Kathleen Mosher, Clerk; Ed Buckland, Board of Trustees; Diane Glass, Board of Deacons; Bill O’Neil, Board of Christian Outreach; Rob Basler/Brad Barnsley, Board of Stewardship; Terry Reynolds, Women’s Guild and Fellowship; Gail Wershing/Mike Bundock, Growth Committee; Marci Langevin, Board of Christian Education

Also present: Jessica Stearns, Director of Christian Education

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Gail Wershing motioned to accept the minutes. Bill O’Neil seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Pastor’s Report – Rev. Beth Stotts**

Rev. Beth met with the Deacons and Lent and Holy week events have been planned. The Lenten book study will be “No Mud, No Lotus” by Thich Nhat Hanh. This Saturday night will be the church sleepover. Pajamas can be worn to church on Sunday for Pajamas, Prayers and Poetry. There will be pancake breakfast at 10 for Fat Tuesday on Feb. 25. There will also be a photo booth and a king cake. Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7pm on Feb. 26. March 1st is the first Sunday of Lent. Rev. Beth is on call for Jury Duty the next two weeks. Pastor Jim Conley will be covering Rev. Beth’s sabbatical this summer.

Rev. Beth asked Brad Barnsley if he would organize another Archery get-together for Lent. Brad will be looking into organizing one for a Sunday after church.

### **Treasurer’s Report- David Sheibley**

We are continuing along as expected. We moved another \$8000 from the endowments. The investments are doing well. We have \$9500 in the operating account.

### **Board of Christian Education- Marcy Langevin/Jess Stearns**

The children will be participating in preparing the ashes for Ash Wednesday this Sunday after church. Lots of brainstorming is going on to figure out ways to get more kids involved in Sunday school. Terry Reynolds suggested having some youth group events just for the older kids. There is also work being done to keep Sunday School going through the summer.

Terry Reynolds added that all the goals were met by the Heifer teams at the Living Gift Market, and their animals will be purchased and donated: pig, cow, beehive, rabbits, chickens, fish, and a donkey.

### **Growth Committee- Mike Bundock/Gail Wershing**

A spring concert will be held on April 19th at Music Alley from 2-4pm. A grant was received from the town which will pay for the musical artist. Welcoming kits will be available for new people who join us for services. We have a banner in the works for Legion Field for this year’s Little League baseball season. It will be a tree made of hands and will state “We Bat for Everyone” with the church name included. One of the pieces of feedback received from the Vitality Team’s questions was about the church seeming a bit cliquy. We need to remember to sit with other people at breakfast or ask newer folks to join us. Coffee hour is going well and will continue as set up. Don’t be afraid to take a simpler approach to coffee hour.

*continued...*

*continued...*

**Golf Tournament-** Terry Reynolds

Brett Wright, Hillary (Wright) Doherty, and Gail Wright are working on getting the Golf Tournament organized. It will be on Friday July 17th.

**Historical Church Building Committee-** Terry Reynolds

The next meeting with the town is next Wednesday. More information will be available after that.

**Women's Guild & Fellowship-** Terry Reynolds

Barbara Morey will be giving a presentation on the caves of Ethiopia on March 4th.

**Vitality Team-** Rob Basler

There has been great feedback from the questions posed over the last few weeks. The next step will be a few question and answer sessions held before and after church on Feb. 23 and March 1. This will allow people to give more feedback or suggestions. Once those sessions are completed there will be a report of the information and feedback given. This will help all the groups/committees/teams see areas they can improve on in various ways.

**Board of Christian Outreach-** Bill O'Neil

Teen challenge presented last Sunday. Rob and Devon Basler did an amazing job. It was a great Sunday. Dave Hanson found a new box freezer for the food pantry. We have a new partnership with Stop & Shop. Seven boxes of various meats were picked up this week from them. Mainspring meal is next Tuesday.

**Board of Trustees-** Ed Buckland

The BSU Choir asked what the sanctuary occupancy is. The Fire Department came and inspected the church. All of our emergency lights failed. We are working on bringing them up to code. We will be inquiring of the architect what the capacity of the sanctuary is.

**New Business:**

\* Anne Malmquist: The Vitality Team has been figuring out what is going on in the church and why with the questions that have been asked. One of the things that is clear is that we need to update our church bylaws to reflect how the church is actually operating. We need to have a committee of people who will look them over so they can be updated. Mark Sorgman and John Sharland are interested. It was suggested that we get some younger people and some females on that committee as well. Some brainstorming was done to think of people who could be asked to join.

\* Anne reported that there is a grant offered by Eli Lilly to help thriving churches fund work they do, in order to be able to do it better. It can be up to \$1,000,000. There are 50 grants available. We would like to apply for it based on the work we do with the food pantry, breakfasts, mission dinner, and other food events. It would be great if we could update the kitchen and food pantry area to allow us to serve even more people. The Soupman uses our kitchen to prepare his food as well. Bill O'Neil stated that our church is never mentioned in any press about him. We need to make sure we are mentioned as it is great advertising for all the good works the church is doing. Once the letter of interest is sent to Lilly, we can contact them and find out if we are in the running before we start the actual grant application. The letter of intent is due April 15.

Rev. Beth noted that the 3 male confirmands want to get period packs together for The Soupman to hand out as well. It is such a wonderful and needed service.

The next cabinet meeting will be on March 18th at 7 pm.

Rev. Beth gave a shout out to Diane Sheibley for all the work she does with the Bridgewater Business Association on behalf of the church.





# Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References -March 2020 (Year A)

### Sun., Mar. 1

*First Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

### Mon., Mar. 2

Psalms 32

1 Kings 19:1-8

Hebrews 2:10-18

### Tues., Mar. 3

Psalms 32

Genesis 4:1-16

Hebrews 4:14—5:10

### Wed., Mar. 4

Psalms 32

Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28

Matthew 18:10-14

### Thurs., Mar. 5

Psalms 121

Isaiah 51:1-3

2 Timothy 1:3-7

### Fri., Mar. 6

Psalms 121

Micah 7:18-20

Romans 3:21-31

### Sat., Mar. 7

Psalms 121

Isaiah 51:4-8

Luke 7:1-10

### Sun., Mar. 8

*Second Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

### Mon., Mar. 9

Psalms 128

Numbers 21:4-9

Hebrews 3:1-6

### Tues., Mar. 10

Psalms 128

Isaiah 65:17-25

Romans 4:6-13

### Wed., Mar. 11

Psalms 128

Ezekiel 36:22-32

John 7:53—8:11

### Thurs., Mar. 12

Psalms 95

Exodus 16:1-8

Colossians 1:15-23

### Fri., Mar. 13

Psalms 95

Exodus 16:9-21

Ephesians 2:11-22

### Sat., Mar. 14

Psalms 95

Exodus 16:27-35

John 4:1-6

### Sun., Mar. 15

*Third Sunday in Lent*

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

### Mon., Mar. 16

Psalms 81

Genesis 24:1-27

2 John 1-13

### Tues., Mar. 17

Psalms 81

Genesis 29:1-14

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

### Wed., Mar. 18

Psalms 81

Jeremiah 2:4-13

John 7:14-31, 37-39

### Thurs., Mar. 19

Psalms 23

1 Samuel 15:10-21

Ephesians 4:25-32

### Fri., Mar. 20

Psalms 23

1 Samuel 15:22-31

Ephesians 5:1-9

### Sat., Mar. 21

Psalms 23

1 Samuel 15:32-34

John 1:1-9

### Sun., Mar. 22

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

### Mon., Mar. 23

Psalms 146

Isaiah 59:9-19

Acts 9:1-20

### Tues., Mar. 24

Psalms 146

Isaiah 42:14-21

Colossians 1:9-14

### Wed., Mar. 25

Psalms 146

Isaiah 60:17-22

Matthew 9:27-34

### Thurs., Mar. 26

Psalms 130

Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8—3:3

Revelation 10:1-11

### Fri., Mar. 27

Psalms 130

Ezekiel 33:10-16

Revelation 11:15-19

### Sat., Mar. 28

Psalms 130

Ezekiel 36:8-15

Luke 24:44-53

### Sun., Mar. 29

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

### Mon., Mar. 30

Psalms 143

1 Kings 17:17-24

Acts 20:7-12

### Tues., Mar. 31

Psalms 143

2 Kings 4:18-37

Ephesians 2:1-10

# March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Nursery Opens 9am Breakfast 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:30 Mission Dinner Meeting 11:30 Confirmation Class 7:30pm AA	<b>2</b> 6-8pm Food Pantry Open 7pm NA	<b>3</b> 7pm Bible study 7pm Vitality Team	<b>4</b> 10am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Guild & Fellowship 7:30pm BSU Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 10am-1pm Food Pantry open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Christian Outreach	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Nursery Opens 9am Sunday Stories w/Rev. Beth 9:30am Jr. Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 7:30pm AA	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm NA	<b>10</b> 6pm Girl Scouts (MR) 6pm Girl Scouts (LL) 7pm Bible Study	<b>11</b> 4pm Girl Scouts (MR) 6pm Girl Scouts (LL) 6:30pm Growth Comm 7:30pm BSU Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 10am-1pm Food Pantry open 7pm Faith Uncorked (Greyhound Tavern) 7pm Al-Anon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9am Mom & Baby Playgroup
<b>15</b> 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Nursery Opens 9am Breakfast 9:30am Jr. Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 7:30pm AA	<b>16</b> 7pm NA	<b>17</b> 7pm Bible Study	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Essential Oils Class 7pm Cabinet 7:30pm BSU Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 10am-1pm Food Pantry open 7pm Al-Anon	<b>20</b> 6-9pm Mission Dinner Setup	<b>21</b> 6pm Mission Dinner
<b>22</b> 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Nursery Opens 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Youth Group 7:30pm AA	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm NA	<b>24</b> 6pm Girl Scouts (MR) 6pm Girl Scouts (LL) 7pm Bible Study	<b>25</b> 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Trustees 7:30pm BSU Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 10am-1pm Food Pantry open 7pm Al-Anon	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10am Lenten Book Study
<b>29</b> 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Nursery Opens 9:30am Jr. Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 7:30pm AA	<b>30</b> 7pm NA	<b>31</b> 7pm Bible Study				

Central Square Congregational Church  
71 Central Square • Bridgewater, MA 02324  
[www.cscucc.org](http://www.cscucc.org)



**Church Administration**

**Pastor:** Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com)  
**Congregational Administrator:** Ellen Atherton, [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com)  
**Sexton:** Rich Sullivan  
**Minister of Music:** Julia Scott Carey, [juliascottcarey@gmail.com](mailto:juliascottcarey@gmail.com)  
**Director of Christian Education:** Jess Stearns, [jessicastearns1231@gmail.com](mailto:jessicastearns1231@gmail.com)  
**Nursery Coordinator:** Maria Kean, [mmkean14@gmail.com](mailto:mmkean14@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** David Sheibley, [treasurer@cscucc.com](mailto:treasurer@cscucc.com)  
**Office telephone:** (508) 697-6016  
**Facebook pages:** [facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma](https://facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma) (main page),  
[facebook.com/groups/801550253194149](https://facebook.com/groups/801550253194149) (youth page)  
*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" 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.

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC  
71 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

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