

Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



January 2021

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

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

I know I'm not alone in the desire to say goodbye to 2020. Not only has this been a difficult year for many of us personally, it brought many challenges for us as a faith community. Our committees and ministry teams had to meet on Zoom, our leadership prepared "at home" faith kits for spiritual enrichment at home, and after much discussion about reopening the building for meetings, we quickly saw an increase in COVID-19 cases. We can't help but feel disappointed as we long for the "normal" fellowship and spiritual connection we find at CSCC. Being apart for so long has been painful. And even in the midst of our grief, we have so much to be thankful for.

We are thankful for the faithfulness and dedication of church leaders that has helped our ministry thrive even in the most difficult of circumstances. We are thankful for the financial generosity of so many that has kept us afloat. We are thankful that our ever-improving technology ministry has reached out to many who have enjoyed our online worship services and musical experiences/concerts. What a blessing it is, that even in the pandemic, we have so many new visitors interested in being a part of all that we're doing. This is something to celebrate, even as we acknowledge what a strange and hard year it has been.

In the coming weeks, especially as the weather turns colder and the virus likely worsens, it is imperative that we find ways to engage in the ministry of CSCC, connect with God, and grow in relationship with one another, even with all the physical barriers that separate us. Even though our ministry looks different right now, it is still very active and the Holy Spirit is on the move in our church. Here are some ways we encourage you to engage:

Tune in to our Livestream worship every Sunday at 10 a.m. on the church YouTube or Facebook. If you have internet access but don't know how to find the weekly services, call the church office and we will help you. If you don't have internet access, call the church office so we can find another way for you to access worship, whether it is a recording or printed service.

Engage in Communion. I will be at the church on Sunday, Jan.3 from 11am-12noon serving Drive-by communion. If you would like it delivered to you at home, please contact the church office.

Practice generosity. Generosity for you might look like a financial gift to help our ministries of the church. It might mean making a gift toward the Ministers Discretionary Fund or purchasing warm clothing for donation to the homeless. Generosity also means participating in one of our upcoming ministries:

Make a personal connection to another member by joining a Care Circle. Call or email the church office to sign up.

Record music, a scripture reading or a children's story for an upcoming Livestream service. Call or email the church office to sign up.

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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.



In-person worship closure extended until February 15, 2021*

** The building is available to the Bridgewater Food Pantry, 12-step support groups, and small group gatherings under strict guidelines and protocols, by reservation only.*

Dear Friends of CSCC,

With an eye on the increasing number of COVID cases in Massachusetts, and with Bridgewater having recently been moved to a “red” designation (meaning we have greater than 10 average cases per 100,000 and greater than 5% positivity rate), Central Square Congregational Church UCC has made a decision regarding its current benchmark date for a decision to resume in-person worship.

The Moderator and Pastor of CSCC, together with the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, and the Building Re-Opening Task Force, and under the current guidance of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as an abundance of caution, have postponed once again the likelihood of holding in-person worship to at least **FEBRUARY 15, 2021**. While we will be reassessing along the way, as we have been doing these last nine months, we do not foresee at this time that it will be practical to expect an earlier date.

Thank you to all that have been “thinking outside the box” of ways our community can continue to stay connected and support each other and the community at large. We are truly blessed to have each other, and treasure the thought of gathering together safely once more.

Until then, we will continue to broadcast Sunday services on Facebook and YouTube, and rebroadcast them on BTv. We will also continue to stay connected as a community through the Steeple Sounds newsletter, the CSCC website, and Facebook, and connect with each other through phone calls, texts, emails, Zoom, and cards...and maybe even the occasional drive-by communion hosted by Reverend Beth.

Be well and be safe, and keep the church and each other in your prayers.

Remote Worship on Facebook and YouTube

- Use the link on the homepage of www.cscucc.org to access Sunday worship. Click on the COVID-19 update link to access the YouTube link for past services.
- Sunday Worship will continue to be livestreamed from the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. Only the Pastor, the Minister of Music, and the Director of Video Evangelism will be in the building.



Food Pantry

The Bridgewater Food Pantry, hosted by CSCC, will remain open its usual days and times (Thursdays, 10am-1pm, first Mondays of the month, 6-7:30pm), although with slightly different format to respect COVID precautions.

Women's Guild & Fellowship

A reminder from Women's Guild and Fellowship—all women of the church and beyond are welcome to join us, via Zoom, on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m., Barbara Morey will be presenting a program on butterflies. We hope you will join us for this uplifting and colorful program.

Bette deKoning and Sandy Alley
Co-presidents of WG&F



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Do you need a meal, a call, a mask, spiritual care, or even just a prayer or a chat? Contact the Pastor, a Deacon, the church office, or a member of our Care Team.

To contact Rev. Beth, call the church office at 508-697-6016* or email her at csccpastor@hotmail.com

* the church phone is being answered remotely during the building shutdown

CSCC Deacons

Deb Sorgman

– debsorgman@gmail.com

Lynn Pietras – lsypie@aol.com

CSCC Care Team

CentralSquareCareTeam@gmail.com

Carol Chaffee Bev Mitchell

Phoebe Hogg John Scott

Rev. Beth Stotts

Please note that the office will be closed on Monday, January 18 in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday.



A quick reminder that Central Square Sunday service can be viewed on BTV Channel 9 on Sundays at 8pm, Mondays at 1pm, Tuesdays at 10am, and Fridays at 3pm. Generally the programming is updated mid-week. Also, if you miss a service or other special programming and would like to watch On Demand or download a copy, you can check out youtube.com/c/Booth-video/videos or btvaccess.viebit.com

Our Online Ministry Continues to be Strong

Paul Holmes, our Minister of Video Evangelism, reported at Cabinet last month that our online viewership continues to be strong, whether live on YouTube or Facebook, or playback on BTV. There have been Sunday worship services with over 100 views, and a lot of great interaction with inspirational Facebook posts, videos, and announcements. The singalong, too, attracted a great audience!

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 20, 7pm via Zoom.

Contact the office for the login info if you are interested in attending. All are welcome!



Mask Requirement in CSCC Building

In accordance with Massachusetts mandates, upon the recommendation of the Building Reopening Task Force, and affirmed by Cabinet as CSCC building rules, everyone who is in the building must wear a mask, covering both their nose and mouth, at all times with only the following two exceptions:

1. A staff member who is working alone in their own enclosed space.
2. A worship leader in the sanctuary who is socially distanced from anyone else.

If you are ever inside the building for any reason and for any amount of time, until further notice, you are required to comply with this rule or risk losing access to the building for you and/or your group.



Thank you!

Thanks to all the cookie bakers who dropped off cookies on December 20 – we had over 800 cookies! We made almost 200 cookie packets to be distributed to the homeless by the L Street Ministry in Brockton, with the help of Rob Basler. Shoutout to Denise Molinari, Diane Sheibley, and Rebecca Sheibley for their service in assembling all the packets!

**Thank you to all who
donated for poinsettias
for the Central Square Church
altar for Christmas.**



Donated by

Ellen Crawford
Elaine Henriksen

Troy Hubbell
Rachel L Lawson
Pamela Maloney
Steve, Meg, Drew,
and Nate McDermott
Lynn and Jack Pietras
Terry and Bill Reynolds
The Shave Family
The Sheibley Family
Gail Wershing
Scott and Gail Wright

Dedication

In memory of my parents

In memory of my father and mother, Herman and Florence Sanderson. Both were devoted church goers, and were instrumental in guiding my faith.

With love to Kelli and Molly

In memory of Bradford M Lawson, Greta Holmberg, Janice Lawson, Juan and Raquel Lopez

In memory of Bill and Ann Inglis, Frank and Judy Maloney

In memory of Papa and Noni, Tom and Lorraine McDermott

In memory of Frederick and Alice Yeaton

In memory of loved ones

In memory of Robert & Nancy Shave, Rev. Gene & Minnie Langevin

In memory of Susan Wershing, Tom Sheibley, John and Amber Sheibley

In memory of Frank Wershing

In memory of our parents, Fred & Alice Yeaton and Warren & Evelyn Wright

Christian Outreach

Last month, members of the Board of Christian Outreach provided financial and material donations to those in need. First, money has been transferred from the outreach account to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This will enable Rev. Beth to help those in our community who are facing hardship and need some assistance with paying bills. Your outreach dollars have allowed donations to Bridgewater's Operation Santa, Health Imperatives in Brockton, and the UCC Christmas Fund which goes to retired and needy clergy.

Next, our material project in December involved the clothing collection and distribution to Our Daily Bread in Taunton. We delivered hats, gloves, socks, sweatshirts, and pants to St. Thomas Episcopal Church, where the clothing was given to those in need.

Thank you for your continued generosity both with your monetary and material donations. Stay tuned for our next project!





As we gladly say good-bye to 2020, I would like to share with you a recipe from the Women's Guild and Fellowship Cookbook circa 1997.

Recipe for Happy Years Ahead

Take each year and divide it into twelve fine full-grown months.

Cut these months into 30 or 31 equal days, one will be 28.

This batch will have to be made up fresh each year.

Into each day put:

12 parts of faith,

11 of patience,

10 of courage,

9 of work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest),

8 of hope,

7 of fidelity,

6 of liberality,

5 of kindness,

4 rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad...don't do it),

3 of prayer,

2 of meditation,

And one God only.

Put in a pinch of fun, a sprinkle of play, and a heaping cup of good humor.

Pour into the whole Love and mix with vim.

Cook thoroughly, garnish with a smile or two, and a sprig of joy.

Serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness, and a happy life IS A CERTAINTY.

~A Wise Old Sage

*Mike Foote – contributing Guild member

Just like decorating for Christmas with treasured ornaments or knick knacks that remind us of those in our lives, past or present, so does a cherished cookbook invite a stroll down memory lane with church friends and family. May this recipe fill you up to the brim with a year ahead full of promise. Your church family loves you and cares very deeply for you.

Be well and Godspeed!

Carol Chaffee

Care Team



Central Square Congregational Church UCC
Christmas Carol Singalong & Fundraiser

Over \$1,200 raised!

Thank you to all who donated and tuned in to the Christmas Carol Singalong, hosted by Julia and Rev. Beth, and made possible by videographer Paul Holmes. Together, over \$1,200 was raised for CCCC!

Keep The Ideas Coming!

Bottle and can drive ... outdoor fair events including a pie sale and drive-by takeout turkey supper ... Christmas carol singalong ...

Keep the creative fundraising ideas coming! If you have ideas, contact Ellen in the church office. And please be assured that just because you suggest it, doesn't mean we will assume you'll organize it. But also remember that without help, we won't be able to run our fundraisers. So even if it's a little or a lot of time or energy that you have, volunteers are welcome. But so are great ideas!



Stay tuned! Another great meal from
Boston Tavern Middleboro is coming!



Annual Reports: A New Twist

This is the time of year when we remind boards and committees that their annual reports are due by January 15. But since 2020 was a year like none other in our lifetimes, so the annual reports will be.

The CSCC annual report celebrates all the great work we did over the last year, and the great ways we were able to do God's work in community. So for 2020, **we want to hear from you. Each of you. All of you.**

- If you were part of organizing or working at a church event during 2020, tell us a little about it, and what your favorite part was. If you can give a brief rundown of its accomplishments, all the better. Want to collaborate with or give a shoutout to the other folks who worked on it with you? Go for it.

- Did you benefit from an event or project of CSCC, or attend one, during 2020 (either in person or virtually)? Tell us about it. What sparked joy for you in that moment?

- Did you witness a person or a group going above and beyond for CSCC? We want to know. Tell us a story.

- **What were three things that CSCC did awesomely in 2020?**

We'll use as much of the submitted material as we can.

Send your comments, anecdotes, and celebration stories to the office at office@cscucc.com (or drop it in the mail to CSCC, Attn: annual report, 71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324). **ALL SUBMISSIONS DUE BY JANUARY 15.**

PS — if you have something official that you normally submit — like a treasurer's report, membership stats, etc — we need those, too, by January 15.

Please note: Rev. Beth will only be doing silent ministry January 5-7 due to a dental procedure on Jan. 4. God be with you (and your dentist), Rev. Beth!



Continued from Page 1...

Pick up a prayer shawl and deliver it to someone you know who is in need of comfort. Shawls are available through the church office. Call or email the church office to make arrangements for pickup.

Pray. Pray for all the church leaders at CSCC who are navigating the challenges of ministry in the midst of a pandemic. Pray that God would continue to strengthen our church and guide us in the direction that God would have us go. Pray that each of our members would feel loved and cherished during these uncertain times.

May you know the unceasing love of God in the days ahead. We pray that you will accept this invitation to engage, connect, and grow this season. May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy.

With the Greatest of Hope,

Rev. Beth



CSCC is 200!

Help us celebrate!

Do you have ideas? Are you a creative thinker? Maybe you're just a great phone caller or rabble rouser. We could use your help!

Whether you have a lot of time or just a little, contact Moderator Anne Malmquist or the church office and let us know you want to help with the celebration!



Throughout this anniversary year, Steeple Sounds would like to share historical tidbits, personal stories, and fun facts about our history or about our congregations of the past. Do you have any or know of any? Please send them to the church office, and we'll try to include them in an upcoming issue. We'd love to hear from you!

Submitted by the Historical Church Building Committee —

Excerpted from "Bridgewater, Massachusetts : A Town in Transition : Fire Service Bridgewater, Massachusetts 1844-1910" by Dr. Benjamin A. Spence, 2010

It was generally agreed at [the annual meeting held October 20, 1885] that there was "no system" for sounding the [fire] alarm. When a fire occurred on the "outskirts" of the town's center, word had to be sent into the School Street station and "some one found to ring the bell..." Consequently, "much valuable time" was lost, and, in some cases, many members of the company had not known about a fire until the steamer had already left the station. There were, however, some differences expressed over the expense of creating an alarm system, especially as it related to building of a separate bell tower next to the School Street station. Stating the views of the Bridgewater Improvement Society, Dr. Lowe supported the purchase of a bell and the building of a tower to accommodate it. Advocating economy, Zebulon Pratt, a native of nearby Middleboro who had moved to Bridgewater in 1873 and had built a "well-crafted Italianate" house, which passersby can still appreciate, on the corner of South Street and what is now Maple Avenue, thought that the bells of the Central Congregational Church on Central Square "would be sufficient" for an alarm system. Somewhat modifying his comments at the recent meeting of the Improvement Society, Dr. Sawyer supported the placing of the alarm apparatus in the church tower with the understanding that the fire bell would have a distinct sound so as to not be confused with the church ones. With a consensus reached on the less expensive approach, a motion was passed to create a committee of three, consisting, of Dr. Sawyer, D.C. Ford, and Alexander Dove, all of whom had "taken a great interest" in perfecting an alarm system, to report back to the District with a workable alarm plan that could be installed for about one hundred dollars.

Within a month, the committee, working within the allotted funds and receiving no personal compensation, was well along in its efforts to devise a "simple" but workable fire alarm for the Fire District. On November 21, The Bridgewater Independent, reporting that the "stretching of the wires" between the church and the engine house had begun, succinctly wrote: "The system is entirely of home invention and construction. It consists...of a clockwork set in the tower of the Central Square church, by which the alarm is struck on the bell. This is set off by simply turning a crank in the engine house, which, by the action of a magnet, releases a clutch which holds the clockwork, the hammer of which rapidly strikes the bell for ten to twenty minutes." Adding to the effectiveness of the system was the placing of gongs in houses of the fire engineers, the voluntary firemen, and King's stable and the house of its driver, all of which could be "rung by the one turn of the crank at the engine house." In March of 1886, as the new alarm was close to being perfected, the Independent presented its readers with a more sophisticated description of how the apparatus worked, including references to electricity, the use of which was about to make its debut in Bridgewater. On May 7, 1887, this newspaper optimistically reported that the "fire alarm is now in excellent working condition," adding that it was "a peculiar one," with probably "none other like it in the state." Until 1896, this alarm system, devised by three civic-minded citizens at the cost of one-hundred dollars, would be used to alert this small community of around 4,000 inhabitants to the outbreak of fires, small and large.



Daily Lectionary Scripture References -January 2021 (Year B)

Fri. Jan. 1

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

Sat., Jan. 2

Psalm 148
Proverbs 1:1-7
James 3:13-18

Sun., Jan. 3

Second Sunday after Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12
Psalm 98 or Wisdom 10:15-21
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Mon., Jan. 4

Psalm 110
Proverbs 3:1-12
James 4:11-17

Tues., Jan. 5

Psalm 110
Proverbs 22:1-9
Luke 6:27-31

Wed., Jan. 6

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

Thurs., Jan. 7

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 3:1-21
Acts 9:10-19a

Fri., Jan. 8

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 16:1-13
1 Timothy 4:11-16

Sat., Jan. 9

Psalm 29
1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12
Luke 5:1-11

Sun., Jan. 10

Baptism of the Lord
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Mon., Jan. 11

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Genesis 17:1-13
Romans 4:1-12

Tues., Jan. 12

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Exodus 30:22-38
Acts 22:2-16

Wed., Jan. 13

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Isaiah 41:14-20
John 1:29-34

Thurs., Jan. 14

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Judges 2:6-15
2 Corinthians 10:1-11

Fri. Jan. 15

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Judges 2:16-23
Acts 13:16-25

Sat., Jan. 16

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Samuel 2:21-25
Matthew 25:1-13

Sun., Jan. 17

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Mon., Jan. 18

Psalm 86
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1

Tues., Jan. 19

Psalm 86
1 Samuel 15:10-31
Acts 5:1-11

Wed., Jan. 20

Psalm 86
Genesis 16:1-14
Luke 18:15-17

Thurs., Jan. 21

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 19:1-15
Revelation 18:11-20

Fri., Jan. 22

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 20:7-13
2 Peter 3:1-7

Sat., Jan. 23

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 20:14-18
Luke 10:13-16

Sun., Jan. 24

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Mon., Jan. 25

Psalm 46
Genesis 12:1-9
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Tues., Jan. 26

Psalm 46
Genesis 45:25—46:7
Acts 5:33-42

Wed., Jan. 27

Psalm 46
Proverbs 8:1-21
Mark 3:13-19a

Thurs., Jan. 28

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 3:23-29
Romans 9:6-18

Fri., Jan. 29

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 12:28-32
Revelation 2:12-17

Sat., Jan. 30

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 13:1-5
Matthew 8:28—9:1

Sun. Jan. 31

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

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JANUARY 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 10am Worship (online) 11-12 Drive-by Communion	4 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open	5	6 6:30pm Women's Guild (zoom)	7 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	8	9
10 10am Worship (online)	11	12	13	14 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	15 Annual Report Anecdotes due	16
17 10am Worship (online)	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19	20 7pm Cabinet (zoom)	21 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	22	23
24 10am Worship (online)	25	26	27	28 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	29	30
31 10am Worship (online)						

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes **December 16, 2020 at 7pm via Zoom teleconferencing**

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:04.

Voting Cabinet members in attendance: Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Denise Molinari, Vice Moderator; Dave Sheibley, Treasurer; Larry Brown, Asst. Treasurer; Diane Sheibley, Clerk; Ed Buckland, Board of Trustees; Marci Langevin, Board of Christian Education; Bill O'Neil, Board of Christian Outreach; Barbara Morey, History & Memorials Committee; Gail Wershing, Growth Committee; Ellen Crawford, Music Committee; Terry Reynolds, Women's Guild & Fellowship

Also present: Gordon Brailsford (Trustees); Ellen Atherton, Congregational Administrator; Sandy Alley (Women's Guild); Mike Bundock (Growth); Carol Chaffee; Paul Holmes, Minister of Video Evangelism; Rich Sullivan, Sexton

Rev. Beth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Diane Sheibley did the roll call.

November Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Dave Sheibley motioned to accept the minutes. Rev. Beth seconded. The minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report – Rev. Beth Stotts [also see printed report that was distributed]

Rev. Beth thanked the Women's Guild for inviting her to be a part of their Christmas service. She has also been busy with the Advent book study, the bible study meetings, and the "drive-by" communion event. She gave a shout-out to Sandy Alley for putting her in touch with the senior center to work with them on a grief vigil. She noted that we have had members of our greater community impacted by the COVID pandemic, including members of Minister of Music Julia's family, several of whom have tested positive. Rev. Beth is working with Julia remotely to plan the Christmas service, which will likely have Julia's music recorded offsite.

On Christmas eve, there will be a streaming CSCC service at 6pm, then at 7pm, a candlelight gathering on the common, together with the Bridgewater United Methodist Church.

Rev. Beth also noted that there is still a problem with having people in the church building not wearing masks. Ellen has had to lock the office door so that they do not enter. There have been many attempts to make sure people are aware of the rule including signs throughout the building. The people currently using the building are the office staff (Ellen and Rev. Beth), book study and bible study attendees,

the Thursday night Al-anon group, and very occasionally for pastoral care. All of these groups appear to fully comply with the COVID protocols, including mask-wearing. The food pantry staff also uses the building.

Ed Buckland, as Trustee, said that he spoke to Jack and Bill of the food pantry. Anne directed the issue to Bill at the meeting, but Bill did not want to discuss it and referred her to speak to Jack. Mike Bundock spoke up later in the meeting and noted that it's a state guideline and the food pantry people needed to comply and wear masks.

Treasurer's Report – Dave Sheibley [also see printed report that was distributed]

Dave reported that we are still running about \$14,000 below budget in income, and about \$6,000 below in expenses. He stressed the importance of people continuing to keep up with their pledge amounts, as well as come up with creative fundraisers. The singalong fundraiser raised \$800-1000. The stock market is doing well, so the investments are doing OK.

Office Manager's Report – Ellen Atherton [also see printed report that was distributed]

Ellen reviewed what she has been working on. Among other things, she has been putting much effort into keeping our online presence current, as well as working on other creative ways to bring money in and draw people into our ministries and activities.

Historical Church Building Committee Update – Barbara Morey

Barbara reported that she met with the Bridgewater Historical Committee, and had submitted an application for a certificate of appropriateness (paints, materials would be appropriate to the building). We got the certificate, now we need to submit samples of paint, wood, etc for approval each step of the project. There is a meeting set for tomorrow night (12/17) of the CPC. She will be asking that they pay the cost of the deed restriction, and believes they will. She has been told the deed restriction takes 3-8 months to complete, and that it can be removed if we repay the money that the town grants to us. To Barbara's understanding, the deed restriction says we can't sell the building. Gordon said he will be at the meeting with Barbara (via zoom), and we also need to make sure that there's nothing in the deed restriction that goes against anything in our constitution.

continued

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

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Building Closure Extension – Anne Malmquist

The current date of “at least January 1” for the full building closure has been revised. The people who have been making this decision have met and decided that it is being extended to at least February 15. It’s being announced here at Cabinet, then it will be emailed and announced on social media tomorrow, and in the January steeple sounds. Clarification was made that this is with regards to in-person worship. Other building use that is currently in effect will remain in effect. And while the date of Feb. 15 is the currently goal, reassessment is an ongoing task.

Mike Bundock moved to affirm the action, although a vote is not necessary. Marci Langevin seconded, and the affirmation passed by majority vote.

From the Board of Christian Education – Marci Langevin

Marci reported that CE was really hoping to have some sort of virtual pageant, but it hasn’t worked out. Perhaps there can be something along those lines for an upcoming holiday, like Easter. Rev. Beth described a ‘door knocking’ project she heard about, that could be done virtually, to tell the story of Christmas, of Mary and Joseph going from door to door. Maybe there could be something done for Epiphany? It was suggested that there could be a packet with a craft and activity put on Facebook and the website to connect the kids to the project and each other, and maybe even have a zoom call with them all to share their work.

If we did the door project, Logan (Marci’s son) suggested people make their own wooden doors, and video themselves knocking on the doors, or have a robot answer the door. The videos could then be put together to make one big video. Rev. Beth said she would work with CE to explore creating something for Epiphany. Paul noted that the video idea was doable but would be a bit of work, so he’d need at least a week to put it together.

From the Board of Christian Outreach – Bill O’Neil

Bill reported that the modified Warmth in Cold Places project was in process, and that they would be dropping off the purchased and donated clothing at the Taunton church on Friday. They spent a total of about \$1000 on clothing, a combination of Outreach funds and private donations. The clothing will be distributed before Christmas.

From the Board of Trustees – Ed Buckland

Ed reported that the Trustees gave permission to Tracey Doherty to do whatever snow removal was appropriate for tomorrow’s snowstorm, and they’ll discuss in detail afterward for going forward with it for the rest of the winter.

Other Business

* Rich Sullivan noted that there has been discussion about cost savings at the church, and he determined that the refrigerator in the kitchen could be turned off for the foreseeable future. He noted that he didn’t think there was anything in it that couldn’t be thrown out, but if anyone wanted anything from it to let him know in the next week. Also, he said someone left 3 bags of returnable cans & bottles that we could cash in. Diane said she would stop by and pick them up and redeem them.

* Rev. Beth noted that she is having a dental procedure on January 4, so she won’t be able to talk for a few days.

* Paul Holmes gave a report on online ministry viewership. Live viewings on Facebook and Youtube, and playback views on BTV, are strong. Some Sundays are getting over 100 views, and the photobooth promotional video on Facebook got almost 200 views. The Christmas carol singalong also got very strong viewership. On a related matter, Rev. Beth said she performed a wedding last Sunday in Fall River, of two people who watch our streaming services. And although they’ve never been in our church building, they feel a part of our congregation. Anne noted that all of the ways we’ve developed our video ministry should continue even after the pandemic because it’s a great ministry for so many people.

* Denise reminded people that she and Diane would be bagging cookies this Sunday for the Brockton homeless Christmas cookie project. Cookies should be dropped off between 3 and 3:30 on a table outside the side door.

* Marci complimented Rev. Beth on the Advent packet that was distributed. She said it was a wonderful idea that families could do together and at home to honor the season.

* Terry made a last call for poinsettias to be ordered. They will be ordered Friday.

Rev. Beth closed the meeting with a poem. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm. The next meeting is January 20.

Treasurer's Report
November 30, 2020
Fiscal Year July 2020 - June 2021
Based on FY 2019-2020 Budget

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	42,949	57,468	(14,520)	138,000
Unpledged Offerings	2,062	1,874	188	4,500
Plate Offering	624	416	208	1,000
Total • Pledges / Offerings	45,634	59,759	(14,125)	143,500
Special Collections				
MACUCC Fellowship Dues				
Total • Special Collections	0			
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Golf Tournament		2,998	(2,998)	7,200
Breakfasts		0		
Church Fair	6,022	2,915	3,107	7,000
Misc Fundraisers	279			
Total • Fundraisers/Events Revenue	6,301	5,913	388	14,200
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	300	750	(450)	1,800
Private Bldg Use	50	354	(304)	850
Total • Facility Usage Income	350	1,104	(754)	2,650
Miscellaneous Income	342			
Total Income	52,628	66,776	(14,148)	160,350
Expenses				
Total • Senior Minister Expenses	44,579	44,571	(8)	107,029
Total • Support Staff Expenses	20,019	20,100	81	48,266
Total • Office Expenses	4,949	3,456	(1,493)	8,300
Total • Church Building Costs	7,634	12,410	4,776	29,800
Operating Committees				
Christian Education	165	312	148	750
Church Growth	193	416	223	1,000
Deacons				1,000
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	110	250	140	600
Stewardship				350
Outreach	1,350	146	(1,205)	4,339
Total • Operating Committees	1,818	3,348	1,530	8,039
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	0	1,124	1,124	2,700
Miscellaneous Expenses				
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues		83	83	200
Total Expenses	78,999	85,093	6,094	204,334
Net income (loss)	(26,371)	(18,317)	(8,055)	(43,984)
Music expenses reimbursed by Pierce Fund	0	7,134	7,134	17,131
Transfer from Investments	23,700	11,183	(12,517)	26,853
	(2,671)	0	(13,438)	0

Treasurer's Report
November 30, 2020
Fiscal Year July 2020 - June 2021
42% thru Fiscal Year

Cash balances		
Operating account		5,208
Money Market		
Restricted	28,088	
Unrestricted	729	
		<u>28,816</u>
Fair account		16
Minister's Discretionary account		216
PayPal account		2,224
Outreach account		
Includes paid pledge set-aside	3,166	
Food Pantry	32,688	
		<u>35,854</u>
Capital Campaign account		<u>12,921</u>
Total cash balances		<u><u>85,255</u></u>

Endowments investment fund		
Protected principal	135,513	
Unrestricted funds	78,611	
Income YTD FY 2020	22,218	
Total value 11/30/2020		<u>236,342</u>
Parsonage investment fund		
Principal parsonage sale	60,314	
Profit (Loss)	24,986	
Total value 11/30/2020		<u>85,300</u>
Total investments 11/30/2020		<u><u>321,642</u></u>

Anniversary Committee expenses	3,500
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Central Square
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Church Administration

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Sexton: Rich Sullivan

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Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes

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.

Amazon 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
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