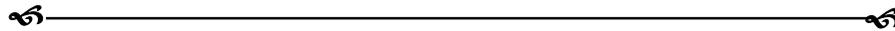


Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



September 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 in Christ,

I spent a lot of time barefoot this summer. Being barefoot isn't really something I really think about all that much. I have a nice little collection of shoes, and I tend to be on the move a lot, so shoes are kind of a requirement. But this summer was different.

I resolved to take on a daily yoga practice this summer which, for several reasons, requires bare feet as well. With my toes spread out on the mat and the balls of my feet keeping me balanced, I'd look down at my feet and notice all the muscles and tendons at work. I also spent a lot of time barefoot at the beach. Sand and rocks and pebbles scraping up the bottoms of my feet, new calluses forming daily. Our feet do so much for us. Remember, the world is always moving and our feet are always making micro-adjustments to keep us upright.

Some of my best memories of childhood include bare feet. Walking through neighborhood backyards, or running on the dock to cannonball into the lake. A friend and I even started a club in 4th grade where we were trying to teach ourselves how to write with our feet. Of course, being barefoot isn't always the safest way to move through the world. One of my more brutal injuries as a kid came from a gardening tool piercing its way through my left foot (still have the scar). But I think there is something important about feeling the ground beneath your feet – at least every once in a while.

I know many of you have explored the ways that spiritual practices help you to find physical grounding in our otherwise spinning-out-of-control lives. If this is a new concept to you, I invite you to plant your feet firmly on the ground and imagine roots growing out of your soles and into the earth below. Remember the story of Moses meeting God in the burning bush? How he removed his sandals and felt the sand of sacred ground between his toes?

The Psalmist tells us that those who delight in the Law of God are *"like trees planted by streams of water"* (Psalm 1:3). There are many ways to interpret this verse but lately I've been thinking about the rough, weathered soles of our feet. I've also been thinking about the rough, weathered souls of the world.

Grounding ourselves in the Law of God – remembering that the law is love – through study, prayer, worship, song, and especially service, makes us as trees planted by water – close to sustenance with strong roots deep into the soil and tall branches reaching toward the sun. Grounding ourselves in the Love of God connects us to a creation so much bigger than ourselves and gives us strength in whatever comes.

Yours In Christ,

Rev. Beth



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.



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 is now available every week!

(Masks are required regardless of your vaccination status, and other COVID protocols are in place for your safety and the safety of our community.)

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.



Attention Students in Grades 8-12 for the 2021-22 School Year

Mark June 26-July 1 on your calendars, and ask your friends to join us, too. Plans are being explored for our next mission trip! Stay tuned!



Special note for the upcoming Sunday, September 5th worship

Due to the holiday weekend, there will be no formal worship service on September 5. Instead, we will meet on the front lawn of the Church to have a picnic at 10:00 a.m.! So bring your own breakfast, or an early lunch, and join us for some fun and fellowship!! All are welcome to join us.



Fall office hours resume after Labor Day: Monday - Friday, 10am - 2pm

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, September 15, 7pm



Food Pantry

The Bridgewater Food Pantry, hosted and supported by CSCC, is open Thursdays, 10am-1pm, and the first Mondays of the month, 6-7:30pm. COVID protocols are in place and adhered to for the safety of all. All Bridgewater residents who are in need of food are welcome.

If you are a Bridgewater resident unable to come to the food pantry, but are in need of food, please contact the church office by email or phone (below) and arrangements will be made for you.

Please note that the food pantry will be closed on Monday, September 6 for the Labor Day holiday.



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

CSCC Deacons
Deb Sorgman
– debsorgman@gmail.com

CSCC Care Team
Carol Chaffee John Scott
Phoebe Hogg Rev. Beth Stotts
Bev Mitchell



Hello, everyone!

I have missed you all so much, and it's been so great seeing some of you in-person over the course of this summer. You have all been on my mind over the course of this long time apart.

We are going to have a gradual return to full choir, due partly to concerns over Covid and partly to the need to rebuild our choral program after such a long time. **Beginning the Sunday after Labor Day** (Sept. 12), our choir members are invited to join us as Music Leaders, by helping to lead and encourage the congregation in the singing of the hymns. I will email them the hymns in advance beginning that Sunday. We will not be having pre-worship rehearsals at that time, though. By October or so, we will begin having brief pre-worship rehearsals with anyone interested in singing in the choir, and singing at least one unison or two-part musical offering each week. By Advent, we will be returning to 8am Sunday rehearsals and SATB anthems (although this may still not happen every week, since we will be having more guest soloists this Fall).

Additionally, if any choir members would like to volunteer to perform a solo this Fall, please let me know!

Thank you all so much! I truly value everything all of you have contributed to our church. Also, I would love to find more people to join our choral program, so if any of the choir members have friends who might like to try joining us, or if any of you reading this are interested in trying out being in the choir, please let me know.

In terms of Covid safety, until further notice, we will be singing in masks (however, if anyone is performing a solo, you are not required to wear a mask during your performance). And all participants in our choral program must be vaccinated.

Thanks!!

Julia

Julia Scott Carey, Minister of Music



Mask Reminder

Remember that masks are required at all times inside the church building, regardless of your vaccination status or reason for being there.



Commemorative Coffee Mugs!

200th Anniversary commemorative coffee mugs will be available for purchase this Fall. A stylish mug with the church's photo and writing in black will be a keepsake for this momentous occasion! They will be sold at church events and after worship on Sundays. *(*Artwork on mug as pictured here may not be final image.)*



Our 200th Year *Faith, Hope, and Charity*

Familiar virtues? Yes. Cows? Also yes.

The definitions of the three virtues were clarified by the philosopher Thomas Aquinas in the medieval period, where Aquinas defined faith, hope, and charity as theological virtues that defined mankind's ideal relationship to God.

While our church's relation to these virtues goes back 200 years, our relation in the form of cows does not date that long ago. It was the 1950s when the Rev. Mayhew brought the Heifer International project to our Bridgewater congregation. Phoebe Hogg recently recalled that time, when a hog for the local fundraising project boarded at the Hogg farm.

The Heifer program ran here for a number of years with children participating before falling to the wayside. In the mid to late 1990s, Terry Reynolds and then associate minister Sheri Anderson came up with the idea of a wooden cow that would travel around the congregation's home lawns, inviting contributions and increased participation by adults.

The first cow, Faith, was "born" with the carpentry skills of Rob Basler. Faith traveled alone for a while but soon was joined by Hope and Charity. To this day, nearly 30 years since Faith arrived, the three are moved from house to house, raising funds to feed the needs internationally, for about a month. The three cows this past winter managed to travel safely in the pandemic. However, one year all three were buried for a while due to a horrendous snowstorm.

In addition to raising funds with our wooden cows, the Sunday school program at all age levels at CSCC has typically spent the month of January learning about Heifer International, and their mission worldwide to "end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities." Whereas

their mission started with providing animals to these communities, now the animals, fish, and fowl are raised in the country where they are needed. The focus is on raising funds to send to those countries to make the purchases. The month of study by our Sunday schoolers then culminates in our Living Gift Market where each age group has decided

what animal(s) they want to sponsor, and has created appropriately-themed food and crafts to sell to the congregation at large in a "market" setting.

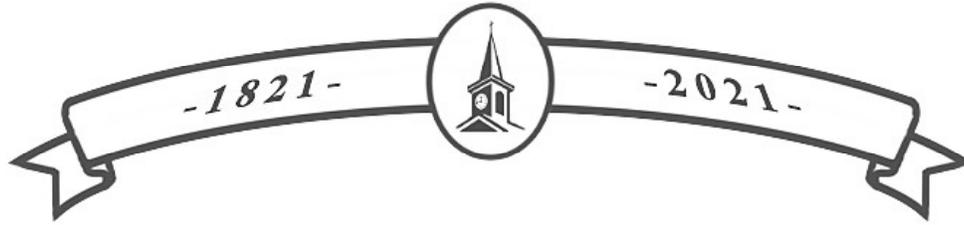
Terry recalled a few highlights over the years with the annual Heifer International Sunday celebrated by our children and adults. She remembers Brad Barnsley and Rob Basler dressing as Noah, striding the aisle to the front of the church. Other fun memories include Kevin, Max, and Brynlee Compton each taking turns dressing as a llama to provide rides (for a donation) to the little children. Bryn

Jacobs offered a worm dance on the floor. The fish costume is popular and has been worn by the likes of Lukas Hanson and Ben Sheibley. Some families bring pets, providing opportunities to feed the pet rabbit, the chicken, and so on, for a small donation.

Bonus fun: a chicken brought by David Hanson once laid an egg during the festivities. David also has brought other animals from his farm, including a calf. And, Terry recalled, the Rev. Novotny raised goats at the parsonage on Union Street for donation to the Heifer Project.

continued...





"Faith, Hope, and Charity" continued...



Over this recent 30 years, popular food sales at our annual Living Gift Market are keyed to the animal or other foodstuff: pigs in blankets, honey butter, deviled eggs, various creatively-named sweets and fun stuff with chocolate (which will remain nameless here).

Look for more fun with Faith, Hope, and Charity after the new

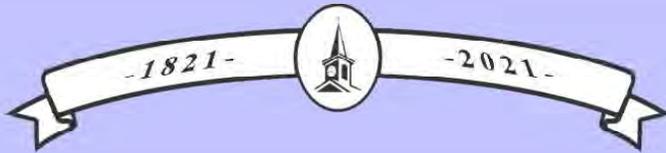
year! Thank you, Terry, for the memories and for carrying this on.

Heifer International started as Heifers for Relief in 1944. Its founder, an Ohio farmer named Dan West, was a Church of the Brethren relief worker during the Spanish Civil War. Working with Quakers and Mennonites, West directed a program where hungry children were given rations of milk. In 1938, West was ladling out milk to hungry refugee children

and wrote later that he thought, "These children don't need a cup [of milk], they need a cow."

The charity was incorporated in 1944 and sent its first shipment of 17 heifers to Puerto Rico. Several local farmers who knew the founder West donated the animals. The first cows were named, "Faith," "Hope," and "Charity," and recipient families had to promise that they would donate the first female calf to another poor family. Heifer International would eventually broaden its scope to distribute fish, chickens, pigs, goats, sheep, cattle, oxen, water buffaloes, bees, llamas, alpacas, camels, frogs, and rabbits.





You are cordially invited to attend the Central Square Congregational Church, UCC 200th Anniversary Banquet

Saturday, October 16, 2021 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

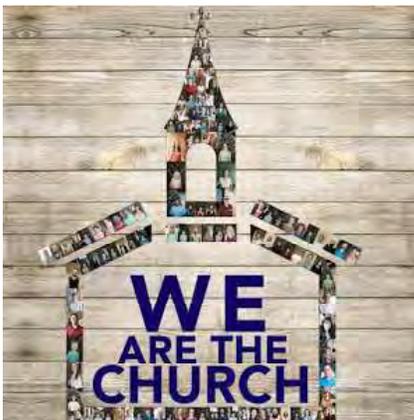
T.J. Smith's Victorian House 13 Cross Street, East Bridgewater

5:00-6:00 : Cocktail and social hour Hors d'oeuvres · Cash bar

6:00-9:00 : Dinner Victorian House Salad, Choice of Entree, Coffee Bar, Choice of Strawberry Shortcake or Chocolate Tuxedo Cake

Following dinner, the CSCC time capsule will be opened. It has been sealed for 50 years. We will then be adding to it, and resealing it.

Dress: "Sunday best" or time period attire — a time period as far back as you can find!



Special Anniversary Worship Service Sunday, October 17

We invite you to attend a special anniversary celebration worship service on Sunday, Oct 17 at 10am.

200th Anniversary Banquet Reservation Form

YES! I/we will be attending the banquet on Oct. 16.

Reservations are due by October 1.

Name: _____

Number in your party: _____

Indicate your entree(s):

Chicken Pot Pie — Rich and creamy with chunks of chicken and vegetables in a flaky crust, served over mashed potatoes and a sweet cranberry sauce. \$36

Quantity: _____

The Meeting House Prime Rib — A generous cut of delicious, tender beef ribeye, cooked to perfection, served with rich beef gravy, potato, and vegetable. \$48

Quantity: _____

Baked Haddock — Captain's cut, topped with lightly seasoned crumbs and lemon citrus butter. Served with potato and vegetable. \$42

Quantity: _____

Gluten free/vegetarian meals available upon request.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: CSCC

Reservation forms with payment may be submitted via mail to:

Barbara Morey 1845 Plymouth Street Bridgewater, MA 02324

Or placed in the Sunday collection plate or submitted to the church office in an envelope marked "Anniversary Banquet".

Reservations are due by October 1.



We have invited local historian Dave Moore to present a slide show in the Fellowship Hall during an Ice Cream Social, in honor of our anniversary. Dave will be featuring old photos of the church and the buildings around the Common from the early Bridgewater days. The date has not been finalized, but it will fall on either Thursday, October 14th or Friday, October 15th at 7pm.

Today in Worship

today's date _____

Write or draw your responses during the service,
then tell someone about it later!

Today's Bible lesson is from: _____
(book) (chapter: verses)

This is about (or made me think about)...

Something I heard
or learned
about God today is...

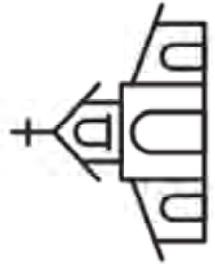
My favorite song from today was:

because...



Words or ideas that
I didn't understand are...

During the service I wondered about...



One thing I'll remember
from today's service is...



To find this Lectionary online, visit www.macucc.org/Lectionary



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References –September 2021 (Year B)

Wed., Sept. 1

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 8:5-7
Mark 7:9-23

Thurs., Sept. 2

Psalm 125
Proverbs 1:1-19
Romans 2:1-11

Fri., Sept. 3

Psalm 125
Proverbs 4:10-27
Romans 2:12-16

Sat., Sept. 4

Psalm 125
Proverbs 8:1-31
Matthew 15:21-31

Sun., Sept. 5

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Mon., Sept. 6

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 8:32—9:6
Hebrews 11:29—12:2

Tues., Sept. 7

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 11:1-31
Hebrews 12:3-13

Wed., Sept. 8

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 14:1-9
Matthew 17:14-21

Thurs., Sept. 9

Psalm 19
Proverbs 15:1-17
Hebrews 11:17-22

Fri., Sept. 10

Psalm 19
Proverbs 19:24-29
James 2:17-26

Sat., Sept. 11

Psalm 19
Proverbs 21:1-17
Matthew 21:23-32

Sun., Sept. 12

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19 *or* Wisdom 7:26—8:1
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Mon. Sept. 13

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 22:1-21
Romans 3:9-20

Tues., Sept. 14

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 25:1-28
Colossians 3:1-11

Wed., Sept. 15

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 29:1-27
John 7:25-36

Thurs., Sept. 16

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Fri., Sept. 17

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:18-33
Romans 11:25-32

Sat., Sept. 18

Psalm 1
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
Matthew 23:29-39

Sun., Sept. 19

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Mon., Sept. 20

Psalm 128
Proverbs 27:1-27
James 4:8-17

Tues., Sept. 21

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 4:9-16
James 5:1-6

Wed., Sept. 22

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
John 8:21-38

Thurs., Sept. 23

Psalm 124
Esther 1:1-21
Acts 4:13-31

Fri., Sept. 24

Psalm 124
Esther 2:1-23
Acts 12:20-25

Sat., Sept. 25

Psalm 124
Esther 3:1-15
Matthew 5:13-20

Sun., Sept. 26

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Mon., Sept. 27

Psalm 140
Esther 4:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-9

Tues., Sept. 28

Psalm 140
Esther 5:1-14
1 John 2:18-25

Wed., Sept. 29

Psalm 140
Esther 8:1-17
Matthew 18:6-9

Thurs., Sept. 30

Psalm 26
Job 2:11—3:26
Galatians 3:23-29

SEPTEMBER 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	3 Church Office Closed (last day of "summer hours")	4
5 10am Breakfast Picnic in lieu of formal worship 6:45pm AA Meeting	6 Church Office Closed (Labor Day) Note: Food Pantry Closed	7 7pm Board of Christian Outreach Meeting 7pm Women's NA	8 7pm Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	9 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	10	11
12 10am Worship (in person and online) 5pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm AA Meeting	13 6:30pm Church Fair Crafters	14 7pm Women's NA	15 7pm Cabinet 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	16 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	17	18 12noon: Graveside service for Marie Garvey, St. Thomas Cemetery
19 10am Worship (in person and online) 6:45pm AA Meeting	20 6:30pm Church Fair Crafters	21 7pm Women's NA	22 5pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	23 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	24	25 Autumnfest (BSU) 3pm Wedding
26 10am Worship (in person and online) 5pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm AA Meeting	27	28 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Women's NA	29 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	30 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon		

Treasurer's Report
July 31, 2021
Fiscal Year July 2021 - June 2022

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	12,910	11,721	1,189	138,000
Unpledged Offerings	139	382	(243)	4,500
Plate Offering	0	85	(85)	1,000
Total · Pledges / Offerings	<u>13,049</u>	<u>12,188</u>	861	143,500
Special Collections				
MACUCC Fellowship Dues				
Total · Special Collections	<u>0</u>			
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Golf Tournament	0	612	(612)	7,200
Breakfasts	0			
Church Fair		595	(595)	7,000
Misc Fundraisers	155			5,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	<u>155</u>	<u>1,631</u>	(1,476)	19,200
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	40	153	(113)	1,800
Private Bldg Use		72	(72)	850
Total · Facility Usage Income	<u>40</u>	<u>225</u>	(185)	2,650
Miscellaneous Income	6			
Total Income	<u>13,250</u>	<u>14,043</u>	(794)	165,350
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	8,430	9,358	928	110,180
Total · Support Staff Expenses	3,323	4,099	777	48,266
Total · Office Expenses	668	705	37	8,300
Total · Church Building Costs	2,295	2,531	236	29,800
Operating Committees				
Christian Education		64	64	750
Church Growth	35	85	50	1,000
Deacons	65	85	20	1,000
Music (Materials/Substitutes)		51	51	600
Stewardship	0	30	30	350
Outreach	406	369	(37)	4,339
Total · Operating Committees	<u>506</u>	<u>683</u>	177	8,039
MACUCC Fellowship Dues		229	229	2,700
Miscellaneous Expenses				
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues		17	17	200
Total Expenses	<u>15,222</u>	<u>17,622</u>	2,400	207,485
Net income (loss)	(1,972)	(3,579)	1,607	(42,135)
Transfer from Investments	0	3,579	3,579	42,135
	<u>(1,972)</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>

Treasurer's Report
 July 31, 2021
 Fiscal Year July 2021 - June 2022

Cash balances	
Operating account	9,436
Money Market	
Restricted	29,459
Unrestricted	749
	<hr/>
	30,208
Fair account	16
Minister's Discretionary account	376
PayPal account	39
Outreach account	
Includes paid pledge set-aside	3,620
Food Pantry	35,830
	<hr/>
	39,450
Capital Campaign account	15,909
Total cash balances	<hr/> <hr/>
	95,434

Endowments investment fund	
Protected principal	118,384
Unrestricted funds	124,744
Income (Loss) YTD FY 2022	803
Total value 7/31/2021	<hr/>
	243,932
Parsonage investment fund	
Principal parsonage sale	60,314
Income (Loss) on investment	33,561
Total value 7/31/2021	<hr/>
	93,875
Total investments 7/31/2021	<hr/> <hr/>
	337,807

Food Pantry Balance July 1, 2021	36,149
Donations	520
Expenses	(839)
Food Pantry Balance July 31	<hr/> <hr/>
	35,830

Anniversary Committee/Building Restoration expenses FY 2022	0
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Central Square
Congregational Church, UCC
71 Central Square

Bridgewater, MA 02324 • www.cscucc.org



Church Administration

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

Congregational Administrator: Deborah Lancaster, office@cscucc.com

Sexton: Rich Sullivan

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

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](https://smile.amazon.com)” rather than just “[Amazon.com](https://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

FIRST CLASS MAIL