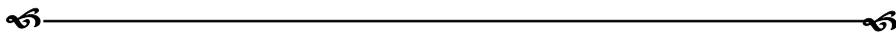


Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



December 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

An Advent Message from Rev. Beth

9How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

11Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

This year has just flown by. Wasn't it just summer last week? And now we're preparing for Christmas?! This passage from the Apostle Paul to the people of Thessalonica reminds us that we live in the pull between the past and the future, the now and the not yet. The coming of the Advent Season, the season of expectant waiting, and the beginning of a new church year provides us an opportunity to reflect on how we live our lives. Like the Thessalonians, we wait and we grow weary of waiting. Paul understands this tension and reminds the disciples in Thessalonica, and us today, that we don't wait alone and that while we wait there is God's work to be done! Paul prays that love will increase among the people, for God is most fully revealed to the world through our love. This love that transforms and builds up, this love that forgives and shows mercy.

My prayer for us all is to find a way to remember what this season is all about and join together in our waiting. I pray that we will seek out ways to pass on the message of *Hope* – for there are so many of our neighbors who need to be lifted-up. I pray that our hearts will be filled with *Peace*, as we live into this season of Christmas. I pray that we live our lives with *Joy* – as we go about our day-to-day activities, one joyful moment at a time. I pray that we will feel the *Love* of God in our hearts being constantly reminded that the love of God culminated on that first Christmas morning, overcoming the darkness that lingers all around us.

I pray that you will feel God's hope, peace, joy and love this season! Letting every Christmas light, decoration, and ornament remind you of the light and love of God which was transmitted to all the world – at the dawn of the early light, on that first Christmas morning.

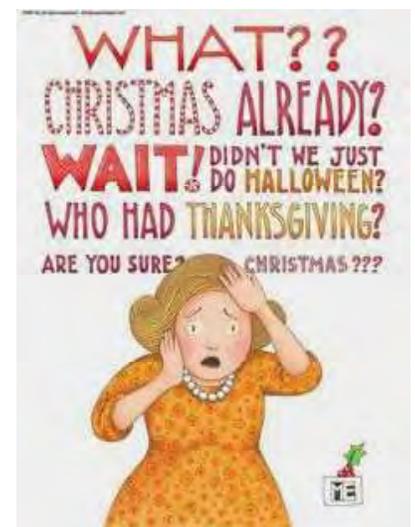
Have a Blessed season & a very Merry Christmas!

In Christ's love,

Rev. Beth Stotts



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.



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. Contact the church office for more info.

IMPORTANT: If you are at all interested, please contact the office by **DECEMBER 15**, so that we can determine if we have enough students to register for the trip.

Remote Worship on Facebook and YouTube

Sunday worship will continue to be livestreamed from the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.

Use the link on the homepage of www.cscucc.org to access Sunday worship, or visit our Facebook page. Past worship services are also available in both places.

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 15, 7pm

Monthly meetings of the church leadership are currently being held in the Fellowship Hall. All church members are also welcome to attend. Mask and social distancing protocols are observed.



Monday - Friday, 10am - 2pm
*Please note the office will be closed
December 24-31*



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.



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

Senior Deacon
 Deb Sorgman
 – debsorgman@gmail.com

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



Foundation – an excerpt from Rick Warren’s Purpose Driven Life

If a building has no support and foundation, it collapses. In the same way, you need support from other people and a foundation to keep you strong in your walk with God. You find that loving support when you join your brothers and sisters in Christ’s church.

Not only is the church God’s family, it is called the body of Christ. When you become part of the family of God, you also become a member of Christ’s body. We are all connected and dependent upon each other.

The church is a body, not a business; a family, not an institution. God said, “I formed you to be part of my family.”

Whenever you feel discouraged, remember that you are not alone. God has a family to support you and encourage you. Reach out to your brothers and sisters for support.

The more you grow spiritually, the more you’re going to love and treasure the church, because Jesus died for the church. Nothing is more valuable to God than his church. He paid the highest price for it; Jesus loves the church so much that the Bible compares it to a beloved bride.

“As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you”. Isaiah 62:5

December 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

End of Year Giving

If you find that you need to do some catching up with your pledge giving, or you are able to give a bit more this holiday season, note that the Treasurers need to receive all gifts no later than 11am on Sunday, December 26 in order for it to be counted toward your 2021 giving.

Payments are accepted by check, cash, EFT through your bank, or online payment through the church website, www.cscucc.org.

Save The Date

**Bridgewater State Alumni and Community Choir Winter Concert
 December 18th at 7 PM**

Horace Mann Auditorium in Boyden Hall
 at Bridgewater State University

For more info,

please email Carol Chaffee - galchaffee@gmail.com



Winter Clothing Drive

The CSCC Board of Christian Outreach will once again be accepting donations of new and used winter clothing through December 9th, for their annual Warmth in Cold Places project.

Items needed include the following clothing items: winter jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, socks, hats, scarves, and gloves. Donations can be dropped off in the big box just inside the Church St. door. Clothing will be distributed to homeless.

Holiday Gift Boxes for Overseas Troops

The Women’s Guild, in conjunction with St. Basil’s Chapel, is collecting items to send to our troops serving overseas. The following list is of the items most requested by the troops. They can be dropped off in the designated box at the church during office hours, or on Sunday morning. The items will be packaged for mailing following the church service on Sunday, December 5.



ITEMS REQUESTED BY TROOPS : (N.B. small sizes, please; they don’t have a lot of space and the boxes are not very large). No aerosol cans.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| flavor packets for water | gum |
| men’s deodorant | cocoa packets |
| toothpaste and brushes | beef jerky |
| black ball-point pens | Slim Jims |
| (NOT GEL) | health bars |
| Chapstick | wash cloths |
| coffee (ground) | pillow cases |
| sugar | decks of cards |
| women’s hygiene products | nuts |
| baby wipes | sunflower seeds |
| laundry pods and dryer | Q-tips |
| sheets | word find and crossword |
| socks | books |
| | AA and AAA batteries |

Sandy Alley and Bette de Koning
Co-Presidents



Just a reminder of our December 1st Annual Christmas Service with Rev. Beth in the Sanctuary, at 6:30 p m. This is always a meaningful worship service and helps get everyone into the true spirit of Christmas. And, of course, it is open to all women of the church.

Also, please remember to bring a new twin comforter set for material aids. We are also collecting new/gently worn sweat pants, sweat shirts, and sneakers for John Scott to give to the homeless patients at Brockton Hospital upon their discharge.

Thank you all for all you do!

Bette and Sandy, Co-Presidents



Inclement Weather Policy

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

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

The main factors used to decide a cancellation are:

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

To ensure you receive timely notification of weather issues, be sure you are on our email list as well as our cell phone text message notification list. Contact the office with questions.

Town Generosity to the Bridgewater Food Pantry hosted at Central Square Congregational Church, UCC



Bridgewater continues to come thru for the less fortunate among us! Last month, the Bridgewater Food Pantry received over 200 boxes/bags of goods donated by the families of the Mitchell and Williams schools. Off-duty firefighters volunteered to pick up the food and bring it to the church. The food you see in this picture also includes donations from Bridgewater Square Chiropractic, Bridgewater Credit Union employees and customers, Crispi's Italian Cuisine, High Point residents, and Girl Scout Troop 67005 — over 300 boxes/bags total. Also add to that 100 bags of food donations from the Bridgewater Preserve Neighborhood Association, and numerous bags from the Bridgewater Citizens Club. A sorting party was held on November 20 to process it all, sort out the items by type, and then Redbox them. This is a huge task, so many thanks to all the volunteers who came to help. God bless the residents of Bridgewater. And big thanks to Pantry director Jack Melcher and his team for coordinating the organizing and disbursement of it all!



Success!

Thank you to the many people who helped make our 2021 fair successful. With everyone's help, we succeeded in meeting our budget goal of \$7,000!

Thanks to all who helped organize, set up, clean up, bake pies, make crafts, donate used items, make raffle baskets, cook soup, buy turkey dinner takeouts (catered by Boston Tavern in Middleboro), and all who shared and promoted the event by word of mouth and on Facebook.

And a VERY special and heartfelt thank you to the anonymous angel who sponsored the entire bill from Boston Tavern for the turkey dinner takeout, allowing the church to keep the entire amount for each dinner. We are truly blessed!

— *The Fair Committee: Denise Molinari, Carla Jackson, Diane Sheibley, and David Hanson*



Remember to 'Smile' while Christmas Shopping!

Remember that when you shop on Amazon, type "smile.Amazon.com" into your browser rather than just "Amazon.com". If you designate Central Square Congregational Church as your charity, then CSCC benefits from all your purchases. It costs you nothing extra! And tell your friends, too, no matter where they live! Contact the church office at office@cscucc.com or 508-697-6016 with questions or to help you get set up.



The Bridgewater Business Association is proud to announce that Christmas on the Common will be held on **Sunday, December 5, 12noon - 4pm.**

Please take note of a few logistics:

- The streets along the common will have limited to no access between the hours of 10am and 4:30pm. (Be aware for worship that morning.)
- There will be no indoor tables this year, so there won't be vendors in our Fellowship Hall, but shop our crafters and jewelry table inside the Hall, and visit Rev. Beth on the front lawn for special Advent activities!
- CSCC will be open all afternoon for guests to use our bathrooms as needed.

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC • 200 Years! 1821-2021 • December 2021

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



Are You Making Your Christmas Gift List?

- Kids—check
- Grandkids—check
- Spouse—check
- Best friends—check
- Neighbors—check
- **Church—**

Christmas is a special time when we honor each other with our special gifts so appropriate to the season of Christ's love. How about adding Central Square Congregational Church to your gift list?

Here are some of the things your gift can do:

-  \$20 - Heats the building for a day
-  \$25 - Supplies water to the building for a week
-  \$25 - Covers one week's cleaning and maintenance supplies
-  \$35 - Buys hosting of church web site for a month
-  \$45 - Pays for the fire alarm monitoring for one month
-  \$100 - Supplies electricity to the building for one week
-  \$110 - Pays for one piano tuning
-  \$150 - Pays for the internet service for one month (allowing streaming of services!)
-  \$150 - Pays one month of telephone charges
-  \$400 - Buys one tank of heating oil

What would you like to give from this Wish List?

Christmas gift checks can be mailed to Treasurer, Central Square Congregational Church, 71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324 or put in the Sunday collection plate. Or, hit the donate button on the website: CSCCUCC.ORG.



Advent Readings

Advent began on November 28

- DAY 1** - John 1:1-5
- DAY 2** - Jeremiah 33:14-16
- DAY 3** - Luke 1:5-10
- DAY 4** - Luke 1:11-17
- DAY 5** - Luke 1:18-25
- DAY 6** - Luke 1:26-38
- DAY 7** - Matthew 1:18-21
- DAY 8** - Matthew 1:22-25
- DAY 9** - Isaiah 7:14
- DAY 10** - Luke 1:39-45
- DAY 11** - Luke 1:46-56
- DAY 12** - Luke 1:68-79
- DAY 13** - Luke 2:1-5
- DAY 14** - Luke 2:6-7
- DAY 15** - Luke 2:8-12
- DAY 16** - Luke 2:13-14
- DAY 17** - Luke 2:15-18
- DAY 18** - Luke 2:19-20
- DAY 19** - Matthew 2:1-2
- DAY 20** - Matthew 2:3-6
- DAY 21** - Matthew 2:7-8
- DAY 22** - Matthew 2:9-12
- DAY 23** - Galatians 4:4-7
- DAY 24** - Isaiah 9:6-7
- DAY 25** - John 1:14

CHRISTMAS AT CSCC!

See page 10 for "At Home Advent", a packet of Advent ritual materials

"DON'T FREAK OUT" A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SUNDAY, DEC. 12

On the third Sunday of Advent, we will present this year's pageant, written by Rev. Katherine Willis Pershey and filmed on location at Hanson Farm. It will be aired during service for both in-person and streaming congregations to enjoy. The castlist features:

God - Cristi Ciaramitaro
 Angel 1 - Savannah Wells
 Angel 2 - Liam O'Connell
 Mary - Anna Sikora
 Joseph - Logan Gaudette
 Angels - Marci Langevin, Ellie Mackay, Lisa Mackay
 Shepherds - Rev. Beth Stotts, Jamie Wells
 Cow - Bobby Mackay
 Sheep - Tristan Wells
 Wise People - Josephine Stotts, Eric Stotts,
 Brianna O'Connell

Be sure to tell your family and friends to join us or tune in!

WORLD PREMIERE OF "THE LADY OF THE INN" SUNDAY, DEC. 19

During our December 19th worship service, the fourth Sunday of Advent, we will be presenting the world premiere of "The Lady of the Inn," a Christmas opera in one act. The opera will be performed by mezzo-sopranos Stephanie Kacyoyanis and Christina English, members of the Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble Lorelei. The music was written especially for our church and for Lorelei, by award-winning composer and pianist Mari Kotsky. The libretto was written by Katherine Garrison Chapin, a twentieth-century American poet who was best known for her collaborations with composer William Grant Still. Lorelei gives special emphasis to promoting the work of women's voices.

In addition to being written and performed by an all-female creative team, this opera tells the Christmas story from a woman's perspective, something which is unusual in dramatic accounts of Jesus' birth. The characters in the story consist of the wealthy "lady of the inn" and her maid, who leads the lady of the inn to see the error of her ways after she turns Mary away from the inn on the night of Jesus' birth.

A sincere thank you to Minister of Music Julia Scott Carey for bringing this amazing opportunity to Central Square Church. It is truly a Christmas gift for us.

ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children of all ages are invited to attend Sunday School where they will explore the advent season with Denise Molinari! Join her on these dates with these Advent themes...

- Nov. 28th - "Hope"
- Dec. 5th - "Peace" - Children start in class and join their families in worship for communion.
- Dec. 12th - "Joy" - Pageant Sunday (children will stay in the sanctuary)
- Dec. 19th - "Love"

We will meet in Fellowship Hall to allow for social distancing. Masks required.

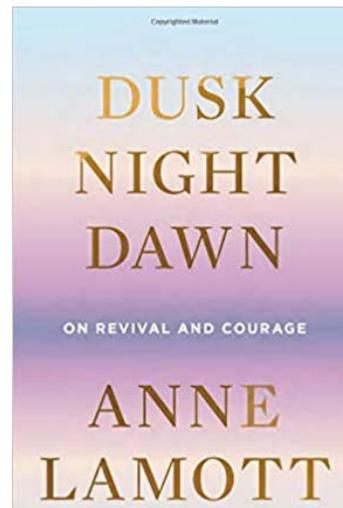
CHRISTMAS ON THE COMMON SUNDAY, DEC. 5, 12-4

Come do some shopping at CSCC's homemade crafts and gifts tables, as well as our jewelry table!

Bring the kids to join Rev. Beth on the front lawn of the church, where she'll have an Advent craft.

Also check out all of the food, vendors, pictures with Santa, pony rides, music, and so much more on the common. Sponsored by the Bridgewater Business Association.

Rain or shine!

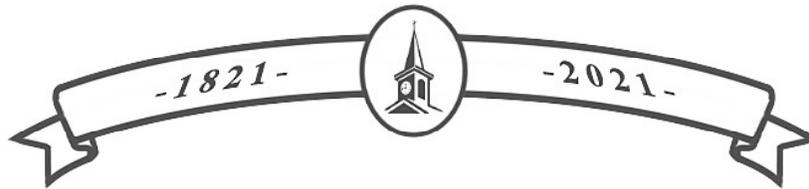


ADVENT BOOK STUDY SATURDAY, DEC. 11, 9AM

In *Dusk, Night, Dawn*, Anne Lamott explores the tough questions that many of us grapple with.

We begin, Lamott says, by accepting our flaws and embracing our humanity. Drawing from her own experiences, Lamott shows us the intimate and human ways we can adopt to move through life's dark places and toward the light of hope that still burns ahead for all of us.

Read Lamott's book on your own, then join Rev. Beth for an exploratory discussion on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 9am.



My favorite memory of Christmastime at CSCC is ...

Seeing the candles in the windows

Rev. Beth's first Christmas Eve sermon

Christmas eve service

The children's presentation of the birth of Christ

The Christmas Pageant.... and.... candlelight Christmas Eve worship

The Christmas eve candlelight service

Singing "Silent Night" by candlelight at the end of the late service

Being dressed up as an angel (from one of our adult members)

My grandmother coming to our house with gifts in her laundry basket and then singing Christmas carols in the car when we took her home.

The whole congregation participating in the pageant

The pageant and the Advent workshop

Singing the Hallelujah chorus

Christmas eve candlelight service

When my two sons Brandon & Matthew were baptized on Christmas Eve back in the 90s

**Worship Services at 10am Eastern time
In person and streaming on YouTube and Facebook**

December 5 - 2nd Sunday of Advent - "Peace"

December 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - "Joy"

including the Christmas Pageant

December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent - "Love"

including the world premiere of "The Lady of the Inn", a Christmas opera in one act

December 24 - 5pm - Story and song service with Rev. Beth

December 24 - 10pm - Traditional Candlelight Service

December 26 - Christmas Hymn Sing Sunday



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
FRIDAY, DEC. 24, 5PM AND 10PM**

5pm - "Story and Song with Rev. Beth" - Rev. Beth will share a couple of her favorite Christmas story books, and she'll lead us (with her trusty ukulele) in some Christmas music to sing along to, and we'll light candles/glowsticks. Then we'll process out the front door of the church singing "Silent Night".

10pm - Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Rev. Beth and Minister of Music Julia Scott Carey

THE HOLIDAY PHOTO BOOTH IS BACK!

Do you usually take a Christmas photo? We're bringing back last year's popular Christmas-themed Photo Booth in front of the church for all of Advent.

Get your fancy Christmas clothes on! Gather the family! Pop by at your convenience. And if you are so inclined, share the picture with us (just email it to office@cscucc.com, or post it on Facebook and tag the church)!

Homemade Christmas Cookies Needed!

We are once again providing personal bags of homemade holiday cookies to those less fortunate. If you are able, please cook a dozen or two of your favorite cookies and bring them to the church on Dec. 19. Because all the cookies will be mixed up and packaged in groups of 3-4, please avoid the use of nuts. Also please no cookies that are too sticky or creamy on top. Cookies will be delivered to Father Bill's and/or MainSpring House that week.

Dropoff date: Sunday, Dec. 19, 3-3:30pm
Or bring them to worship that morning

Poinsettias for the Altar

\$10 each Due date for ordering: Dec. 19

Poinsettias will once again be sold to decorate the altar and honor loved ones.

Visit www.cscucc.org/christmas for more info or to order, or speak to a member of the History & Memorials Committee after Sunday service on Dec. 5, 12, or 19.

At Home Advent



When I was a child, I loved our family preparations for Christmas. These included a family Advent ritual at our kitchen table for the four Sundays before December 25th. Held in the evening at dinnertime, the candles glowing in our dark dining room reflected all the mysteries of the impending Holy Day. When I was old enough to be able to light one of the candles (under CLOSE supervision), I felt so grown up!

A Christian Event Passed through Generations

Since having my own children, observing Advent at home is equally important and special to me. Maybe even moreso. This “At Home Advent” is a very simple adaptation, which I encourage you to further change to tailor it to your beliefs and to your family’s needs.

Advent Ceremony Materials

As a child, we used a circular foam board to hold our candles. While there are “official” wire Advent candle holders, I urge you to be creative. Personally, I don’t think God gets hung up over candle colors or sizes or just how our candles are arranged or placed. Use what you have. If you do need to buy supplies, the Dollar Tree has great options.

Supplies

- **5 candles** – In our tradition, we use 3 purple, 1 pink, and 1 white candle. If you don’t have traditional width tapers, birthday candles or scented pillars or electric blinking fake candles are just as good!
- **5 candleholders** - Again, if you do not own an “Advent candle holder,” whatever you do have for each candle works. If you do not have anything, I have been there and done that, too. You can choose an empty baby food jar or a short drinking glass and put the candle in it. Then, crumple up enough aluminum foil around the candle to hold it upright and perfectly steady.
- **Aluminum foil** - I highly recommend this for steadying candles and also to protect your ceremonial surface from drips of molten candle wax. Tear off a sheet to spread beneath your candle set-up.

continued...

At Home Advent, *continued*

- **Print-outs** of the ceremony - The one below will work.
- **Matches** or a lighter UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION.
- **Bible** with Old and New Testament - You must have the Old Testament for all the predictions from back in the day before Christ was born.
- **General decorations** – maybe you'd like to place flowers around the candles, maybe your nativity set, maybe you'd like to use greenery from your yard or branches from an evergreen tree. Decorate the space in a way that is meaningful for your family.

Adapting The Advent Ceremonies

Count backwards from Christmas Eve (December 24th) to identify 4 Sundays coming before it. Now you have your starting Sunday.

Again, I go with the *spirit* of the observance over strict rules and regulations. If child visitation schedules or family social demands make a Sunday observance stressful, do a ceremony on a Saturday or a Monday night.

Below you will find very simple and short scripts for each of the nights of Advent.

They are written with reading roles assigned to Father, Mother, or Child. If your family has two Mothers or two Fathers or a Single Parent you can adapt. The purpose is to spread the reading among all family members, giving the adults the longer passages. You, as the adult, assign the readers and the candle lighters for your family group.

First Sunday Of Advent

(November 28, 2021)

(Start with unlit candles.)

Father: Christmas is the happiest day of the year. It is Jesus's birthday. The story begins long ago when the people of the world needed someone to show them how to be kind.

Child: Jesus would teach us how to be good at loving one another.

Father: In a little country called Palestine, two men named Isaiah and Micah learned that God would be sending Jesus to the world. Let us read **Isaiah 9:6-7**.

[Another family member reads the Bible passage.]

Father: God said that when the promised one came he would be like a light in the world. Let us read **Isaiah 9:2**.

[Another family member reads the Bible passage.]

Mother: Let _____ (child) light our first Advent candle. It will help us remember God's promise.

(All are silent as child lights a purple candle.)

Mother: Micah told the people where this would come true. Let us read **Micah 5:2**.

(Mother reads it.)

Optional song: Let us sing about this place. Everyone sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Father: Now in the light of our first Advent candle, let us thank God for sending Jesus. Prayer: Thank you, God, for teachers of long ago who told us about your plan to send Jesus. Thanks for all the good things He did. And, thank you for all the days between now and Christmas when we will be doing good things and planning to make others happy. Amen.

continued...

At Home Advent, *continued*

Extinguish candles.

Second Sunday Of Advent

(December 5, 2021)

(Start with unlit candles.)

Mother: Last week we lit the first of our Advent candles to remember God's promise to send a special baby to help the world. We remember that the baby would be born in Bethlehem. This baby Jesus would need a good home with loving parents. So, God picked Joseph and Mary to be his dad and mom. One day God let Mary know about His(Her) wonderful plan. Let us read **Luke 1:26-31**.

[Another family member reads the Bible passage.]

Father: Now it is time to light 2 purple candles. _____ (child) may light the first one that reminds us of God's promise. _____ (another child) may light our second candle. It will help us remember the good home of Mary and Joseph.

(All are silent as candles are lit.)

Child: Mary was so happy that God chose her to be the mother of baby Jesus that she sang a song of thanks. We can read it in **Luke 1:46-55**. [Another family member reads the Bible passage.]

Mother: Perhaps Mary said she would get the baby clothes ready and sing sweet songs to baby Jesus.

Child: Maybe Joseph said, "I will teach Jesus to be a good carpenter and a good person."

Optional Song: "*Joy to the World*."

Father: Now while the 2 candles burn brightly, let us thank God for the great joy that came to the world when Jesus was born.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for choosing Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of Jesus. Thanks for all the good things He did. And, thank you for all the happy times we have in our family. Amen.

Extinguish candles.

Third Sunday Of Advent

(December 12, 2021)

(Start with unlit candles.)

Father: Last week we lit the first two of our Advent candles to remember God's promise that He(She) would send a special baby to help the world. We remember that the baby would be born in Bethlehem. This baby Jesus would need a good home with loving parents. So, God picked Joseph and Mary to be his dad and mom.

Mother: While Mary and Joseph waited for Jesus to be born in their house in the town of Nazareth, the King made a law. He said everyone had to take a trip to write their name in a people-counting book. He said that Joseph and Mary had to travel to a town called Bethlehem to obey the law. Let us read **Luke 2:1-7**.

[Another family member reads the Bible passage.]

Father: Now it is time to light 3 candles. _____ (child) may light the first one (purple) that reminds us of God's promise.

_____ (another child) may light our second (purple) candle. It will help us remember the good home of Mary and Joseph.

Let _____ (child) light the third (pink) candle to remind us of the hope and joy and love Jesus brought into the world that night.

continued...

At Home Advent, *continued*

(All are silent as candles are lit.)

Optional song: “*Away in a Manger.*”

Child: While Jesus was sleeping in his manger bed, something very exciting happened outside of town.

Read Luke 2:8-20

[Another family member reads the Bible passage.]

Mother: This was the first Christmas night. The baby’s first visitors were sheep-watching farmers called shepherds. They were not rich people. They loved God and were glad that they learned about Jesus.

Father: Now while the 3 candles burn brightly, let us thank God for making His promise come true and letting the shepherds see the light in the sky and hear the angels sing.

Prayer (do whatever your faith requires for a prayer): Thanks, God, for finding a place for Jesus to be born and for the regular people who helped celebrate His birth. Please help us bring peace to the world the way Jesus planned. Amen.

Extinguish candles.

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

(December 19, 2021)

(Start with unlit candles.)

Mother: Every week as we looked at our Advent candles, they reminded us that Christmas is coming and that Christmas should be like candle light: bright with hope and kindness and love. The story of Christmas continues with astronomers - scientists who study stars - seeing a strange star in the sky. The Bible calls them wise men. They went to the land’s king and asked about a new king.

Let us read **Matthew 2:1-6**.

[Another family member reads the Bible passage.]

Father: No wonder King Herod was worried. He liked being the king. He did not want the country to have anyone as king but him. Let us read **Matthew 2:7-12**.

[Another family member reads the Bible passage.]

Father: Now it is time to light 4 candles. _____ (child) may light the first (purple) one that reminds us of God’s promise.

_____ (another child) may light our second (purple) candle. It will help us remember the good home of Mary and Joseph.

_____ (child) may light the third (pink) candle to remind us of the hope and joy and love Jesus brought into the world that night.

Let _____ (child) light our fourth (purple) candle to remind us of the visit of the wise ones bringing presents to baby Jesus.

(All are silent as candles are lit.)

Optional song: “**We Three Kings.**”

Father: Now while the 4 candles burn brightly, let us thank God for making His(Her) promise come true and picking Mary and Joseph to love and raise Jesus. And, thanks to God for letting the shepherds and the wise men see the light in the sky and visit Jesus.

continued...

At Home Advent, *continued*

Prayer: Thank you, God, for the busy and exciting days between now and Christmas. Please help us stop sometimes to look at our Advent candles and remember why we have Christmas. Amen.

Extinguish candles.

Christmas Eve

(December 24, 2021)

(Start with unlit candles.)

Father: It is Christmas Eve. Advent, the four weeks of getting ready for Christmas, is over. It is Christmas Eve tonight all over the world because once upon a time about two thousand years ago, Jesus was born

Mother: Every week as we looked at our Advent candles, we thought about a part of the Christmas story from the Bible. Now on Christmas Eve let us put all the parts together.

Father: We will remember the story as we light the first 4 candles.

_____ (child) may light the first (purple) one that reminds us of God's promise for a Prince of Peace to come to earth.

_____ (another child) may light our second (purple) candle. It will help us remember the good home of Mary and Joseph for baby Jesus.

_____ (child) may light the third (pink) candle to remind us of the hope and joy and love Jesus brought into the world that night.

_____ (child) may light the fourth (purple) candle to remind us of the visit of the wise men bringing presents to baby Jesus.

(All are silent as candles are lit.)

Mother: Our fifth candle is tall and new. It tells us that the Christmas story goes on and on year after year. _____ (child) may light the fifth (white) candle to be our family's birthday candle for baby Jesus.

Optional song: "*Silent Night.*"

Prayer (do whatever your faith requires for a prayer): Thank you, God, for the best Christmas gift to each of us: Jesus. Amen.

Extinguish candles.

A Note from Rev. Beth:

If you have questions or want help figuring out how to make this ritual work for you and/or your family, please reach out! You can contact me in the church office at 508-697-6016 or by email at csccpastor@hotmail.com.

Merry Christmas!!!!

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...

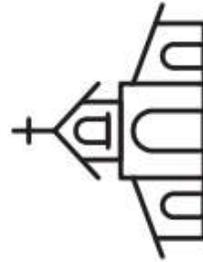
My favorite song from today was:

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...





Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – December 2021 (Year C)

Wed., Dec. 1

Psalm 90
Isaiah 1:24-31
Luke 11:29-32

Thurs., Dec. 2

Luke 1:68-79
Malachi 3:5-12
Philippians 1:12-18a

Fri., Dec. 3

Luke 1:68-79
Malachi 3:13-18
Philippians 1:18b-26

Sat., Dec. 4

Luke 1:68-79
Malachi 4:1-6
Luke 9:1-6

Sun., Dec. 5

Second Sunday of Advent
Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Mon., Dec. 6

Psalm 126
Isaiah 40:1-11
Romans 8:22-25

Tues., Dec. 7

Psalm 126
Isaiah 19:18-25
2 Peter 1:2-15

Wed., Dec. 8

Psalm 126
Isaiah 35:3-7
Luke 7:18-30

Thurs., Dec. 9

Isaiah 12:2-6
Amos 6:1-8
2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Fri., Dec. 10

Isaiah 12:2-6
Amos 8:4-12
2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Sat., Dec. 11

Isaiah 12:2-6
Amos 9:8-15
Luke 1:57-66

Sun., Dec. 12

Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Mon. Dec. 13

Isaiah 11:1-9
Numbers 16:1-19
Hebrews 13:7-17

Tues., Dec. 14

Isaiah 11:1-9
Numbers 16:20-35
Acts 28:23-31

Wed., Dec. 15

Isaiah 11:1-9
Micah 4:8-13
Luke 7:31-35

Thurs., Dec. 16

Psalm 80:1-7
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 10:10-18

Fri., Dec. 17

Psalm 80:1-7
Isaiah 42:10-18
Hebrews 10:32-39

Sat., Dec. 18

Psalm 80:1-7
Isaiah 66:7-11
Luke 13:31-35

Sun., Dec. 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Mon., Dec. 20

Psalm 113
Genesis 25:19-28
Colossians 1:15-20

Tues., Dec. 21

Psalm 113
Genesis 30:1-24
Romans 8:18-30

Wed., Dec. 22

Psalm 113
Isaiah 42:14-21
Luke 1:5-25

Thurs., Dec. 23

Luke 1:46b-55
Micah 4:6-8
2 Peter 1:16-21

Fri., Dec. 24

Christmas Eve
Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2: [1-7] 8-20

Sat., Dec. 25

Christmas Day
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Sun., Dec. 26

First Sunday after Christmas
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Mon., Dec. 27

Psalm 148
Proverbs 8:32-36
John 21:19b-24

Tues., Dec. 28

Psalm 148
Isaiah 54:1-13
Revelation 21:1-7

Wed., Dec. 29

Psalm 147:12-20
1 Chronicles 28:1-10
1 Corinthians 3:10-17

Thurs., Dec. 30

Psalm 147:12-20
2 Chronicles 1:7-13
Mark 13:32-37

Fri., Dec. 31

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

		DECEMBER 2021					
		TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
SUNDAY	MONDAY			1 5pm Girl Scouts (Daisies #64997, Juniors #62521) 6:30pm Women's Guild	2 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	3	4 11am Girl Scouts #67005
5 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10am Communion Worship (in person and online) & Sunday School 12-4 Christmas on Common 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 6:45pm AA Meeting	6 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open 6:30pm Women's AA	7 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7pm Outreach Meeting 7pm Women's NA	8 7pm Trustees	9 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	10 2pm Girl Scouts #66212 5pm Girl Scouts Holiday Craft Event	11 9am Advent Book Study	
12 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10am Worship & Christmas Pageant (in person and online) 6:45pm AA Meeting	13 6:30pm Women's AA	14 7pm Women's NA	15 5pm Girl Scouts (Daisies #64997, Juniors #62521) 7pm Cabinet	16 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	17	18	
19 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT Poinsettia orders due! 10am Worship (in person & online) & Sunday School 3pm Cookie Dropoff 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 6:45pm AA Meeting	20 6:30pm Women's AA	21 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7pm Women's NA	22	23 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	24 OFFICE CLOSED 5pm Christmas Eve Song and Story Service 10pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	
26 10am Hymn Sing Sunday (in person and online) 6:45pm AA Meeting	27 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Women's AA	28 OFFICE CLOSED 7pm Women's NA	29 OFFICE CLOSED 5pm Girl Scouts (Daisies #64997, Juniors #62521)	30 OFFICE CLOSED 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	31 OFFICE CLOSED		

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes November 17, 2021 at 7pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Anne Malmquist, Moderator.

Cabinet members in attendance: Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Denise Molinari, Vice Moderator; Dave Sheibley, Treasurer; Diane Sheibley, Clerk; Gordon Brailsford & Ed Buckland, Board of Trustees; Bill O’Neil, Board of Christian Outreach; Terry Reynolds, History & Memorials Committee and Women’s Guild & Fellowship; Ellen Crawford, Music Committee

Also present: Deborah Lancaster, Congregational Administrator

Rev. Beth opened the meeting with a devotional.

Diane Sheibley did the roll call and verified that a quorum was present.

October Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. Terry Reynolds motioned to accept the minutes. Dave Sheibley seconded. The minutes were approved without any changes.

Pastor’s Report [also see written report] – Rev. Beth Stotts
Rev. Beth has been working with other local churches to create and coordinate the ecumenical Thanksgiving service, to be prerecorded and played next week. Time will be determined later. She spoke at the November Women’s Guild meeting, and will lead Christmas worship at the December meeting. She attended some training recently. She reported that she hosted a great Halloween story time on the church lawn and three families attended – none of whom have been to the church before! There have been many requests for Sunday school, and Denise Molinari has offered to conduct it during Advent. The Christmas pageant is already in process as well. It will be pre-recorded, and filmed at Hanson Farm. It will be played during the Dec. 12 worship service.

This Sunday is Thanksgiving and Confirmation Sunday. Christmas eve services will be at 5pm (Stories and Songs with Rev. Beth) and 10pm (traditional candlelight service). Sunday 12/26 will be “hymn sing Sunday”. Julia is presenting a one-act Christmas opera she had commissioned for our church, at the service on 12/19.

Rev. Beth made a motion to appoint Kathleen Mosher to the Board of Stewardship. Ellen Crawford seconded. It was asked if there was anyone else on Stewardship at this time. No, there is not. The motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report [also see written report] – David Sheibley
Dave reported that we are about the same as we have been; revenues are a little ahead of budget, and expenses are a little below budget. The fair brought in its budgeted amount of \$7,000. \$3,000 has come in for the Minister’s Emergency Fund; in addition Rev. Beth reported that she received a check for the fund in the amount of \$500.

Congregational Administrator’s Report [also see written report] – Deborah Lancaster

Deborah reported that she has been very busy – a lot of food donations for the pantry that she helps acceptance of, and people stopping by with Warmth in Cold Places donations. She put donations boxes around to collect items for the soldiers’ boxes as well. There is a new brownie troop meeting at the church, and what she thought was a book club on Monday nights is actually a women’s AA group. The Bridgewater Alumni Chorus notified us that we will not be hosting their winter concert, but rather it will be held at BSU.

Food Pantry Report [also see written report] – submitted by Jack Melcher

The Pantry has been working hard to gather all the food they need for their annual Thanksgiving basket distribution. Baskets will be distributed on 11/23. Many food donations have come in, and there will be a food sorting event on Saturday 11/20. Volunteers are welcome. Thanks to Hanson Farm and Prisco’s for lending refrigeration for all the turkeys we have for the baskets.

Board of Christian Outreach – Bill O’Neil

The Board of Outreach has donated to the minister’s emergency fund, operation Santa, the Christmas Fund, and Father Bill’s. They are working on the Warmth in Cold Places collection of warm clothes and blankets, and will participate in the distribution of items on December 10th.

Historic Church Building Committee – Terry Reynolds

Terry reported that the town’s Community Preservation Committee met on 11/4 and agreed to pay Brian Pfeiffer for the work he did before resigning as our restoration consultant. Virginia Adams is the person continuing Brian’s work, and as soon as Brian receives the payment, we can forward his work to Virginia.

Gordon Brailsford, speaking as a Trustee, noted:

continued...

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

continued...

* he has not seen an official document showing the \$200,000 grant award from the town

* he has not seen the grant agreement either

* at the joint Trustees/HCBC meeting, it was decided: we would continue in getting a deed restriction draft; we need a list of the restoration items needed for the steeple; bids will be solicited for the work to see how much it will cost

* he estimates that the total repairs to the steeple could come to \$500,000

* we'll have the deed restriction drafted but won't give it to the town unless we either can get a viable bid for \$200k OR the town grants us more money

* we will send the list of requirements to a number of architects for bid; we may not end up going with Gale Associates. It was noted that it needs to be a company that does restorations.

It was asked if we can fix the roof instead of the steeple with the town money. No, the funds from the town are specifically earmarked for the steeple.

Christmas on the Common – Sunday, December 5, 12-4

The BBA (hosts of the event) will not be using the fellowship hall this year for vendors, as they have in prior years. They aren't hosting any indoor tables. We will be selling church crafts and jewelry. A member of the church asked if she could rent a table and sell her own stuff in the fellowship hall. Discussion ensued. The majority opinion was no. We don't want to intrude on the BBA's event, and they sell tables to vendors; we haven't made it available to anyone else, and it wouldn't be fair to allow just one person to buy a table; and it might take away from our own craft and jewelry sales. We might consider it for next year, and make it available to church members, but not this year. We might also think about holding our own vendor event in the spring.

Diane reviewed the logistics of 12/5: the road on our side of the common will be closed from about 10:30am until about 5pm. There won't be any parking available on our side of the common that day. Church Street may also have significantly more people parked there than usual, so people should keep that in mind when coming for Sunday morning worship.

Church Fair – Diane Sheibley & Denise Molinari

The fair met its budget goal of \$7,000! An anonymous angel stepped up once again and paid for the entire Boston Tavern catering bill for the turkey dinner takeout, which helped

tremendously. They were also happy that they were able to have part of the fair outside on the front lawn, and have the crafters in the Fellowship Hall with the other tables.

Board of Trustees – Gordon Brailsford & Ed Buckland

The Trustees are looking at the lights out front. Deborah also noted that the lighting down the handicap ramp at the Church St entrance is really dark the farther down the ramp one goes.

Women's Guild & Fellowship – Terry Reynolds

The WG is collecting items for boxes for the troops. Deborah put donation boxes with attached lists around the church. They are also collecting sneakers and sweaters (used or new) for John Scott to bring to Brockton Hospital for people being discharged who might need them. The WG also donated to the minister's emergency fund.

History & Memorials Committee – Terry Reynolds

The H&M Committee will once again be selling Christmas poinsettias. They will be displayed on the altar for Christmas eve services, then purchasers can either take them home or leave them there to be delivered to shut-ins and nursing home folks. Ordering will be available in person after worship during December, as well as online.

Sunday School

Denise Molinari has offered to conduct Advent Sunday school. It will be held in the fellowship hall for safe distancing. Rev. Beth has given Denise the curriculum.

Advent Packets

Rev. Beth created this year's Advent packet, as there will be no Advent Workshop this year. It is a guide and script for doing the Advent rituals at home.

Christmas Cookie Project

Denise Molinari reported that we will once again be conducting the Christmas cookie project for the homeless. Donations of homemade cookies will be requested to be delivered to the church on Sunday, December 19, and they will be packaged up in individual packages and delivered to Father Bill's/MainSpring house that week.

Reverend Beth closed the meeting in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	41,409	46,504	(5,095)	138,000
Unpledged Offerings	7,674	1,516	6,158	4,500
Plate Offering	226	337	(111)	1,000
Total · Pledges / Offerings	49,309	48,358	951	143,500
Special Collections				
MACUCC Fellowship Dues				
Total · Special Collections	0			
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Golf Tournament	0	2,426	(2,426)	7,200
Breakfasts	0			
Church Fair		2,359	(2,359)	7,000
Misc Fundraisers	104			5,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	104	6,470	(6,366)	19,200
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	1,023	607	416	1,800
Private Bldg Use		286	(286)	850
Total · Facility Usage Income	1,023	893	130	2,650
Miscellaneous Income	85			
Total Income	50,521	55,721	(5,200)	165,350
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	34,509	37,129	2,620	110,180
Total · Support Staff Expenses	14,220	16,265	2,045	48,266
Total · Office Expenses	3,777	2,797	(980)	8,300
Total · Church Building Costs	7,631	10,042	2,412	29,800
Operating Committees				
Christian Education		253	253	750
Church Growth	158	337	179	1,000
Deacons	163	337	174	1,000
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	72	202	130	600
Stewardship		118	118	350
Outreach	1,276	1,462	186	4,339
Total · Operating Committees	1,669	2,709	1,040	8,039
MACUCC Fellowship Dues		910	910	2,700
Miscellaneous Expenses				
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues		67	67	200
Total Expenses	61,806	69,920	8,114	207,485
Net income (loss)	(11,285)	(14,199)	2,914	(42,135)
Transfer from Investments	10,000	14,199	4,199	42,135
	(1,285)	0		0

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

Cash balances	
Operating account	8,670
Money Market	
Restricted	28,455
Unrestricted	756
	<u>29,212</u>
Fair account	0
Minister's Discretionary account	794
PayPal account	(19)
Outreach account	
Includes paid pledge set-aside	2,710
Food Pantry	34,335
	<u>37,045</u>
Capital Campaign account	16,209
Total cash balances	<u><u>91,910</u></u>

Endowments investment fund	
Protected principal	118,384
Unrestricted funds	120,475
	<u>238,858</u>
Total value 10/31/2021	238,858
Income (Loss) YTD FY 2022	7,344
Parsonage investment fund	
Principal parsonage sale	60,314
Income (Loss) on investment	34,900
	<u>95,214</u>
Total investments 10/31/2021	<u><u>334,072</u></u>

Food Pantry Balance October 1, 2021	35,265
Donations	630
Expenses	<u>(1,560)</u>
Food Pantry Balance October 31, 2021	<u><u>34,335</u></u>



1821-2021

Central Square
Congregational Church, UCC
71 Central Square

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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

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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”. And if you designate Central Square Congregational Church as your charity, CSCC will benefit from your purchases every time you shop. It costs you nothing extra! Contact the church office with questions.

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
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