

Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Steeple Sounds

January 2022

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*

As most of you know, Christmas is twelve days long, and Epiphany in Western churches always begins January 6. Epiphany is the “season of light” and the Bible stories we encounter during this season focus upon the visitation of Jesus by the magi, Jesus’ childhood, and his early ministry.

John’s Gospel begins with a narrative about the coming of Jesus: “In the beginning was the Word.... In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome the light.... The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.”

We should remember that in Genesis, God’s first words were yehi ‘or: “Let there be light!” So, with light piercing darkness at the beginning of the world, so also does Christ’s entrance, and the early stories of Jesus resemble the dawning of the new day, the beginning of a new beginning.

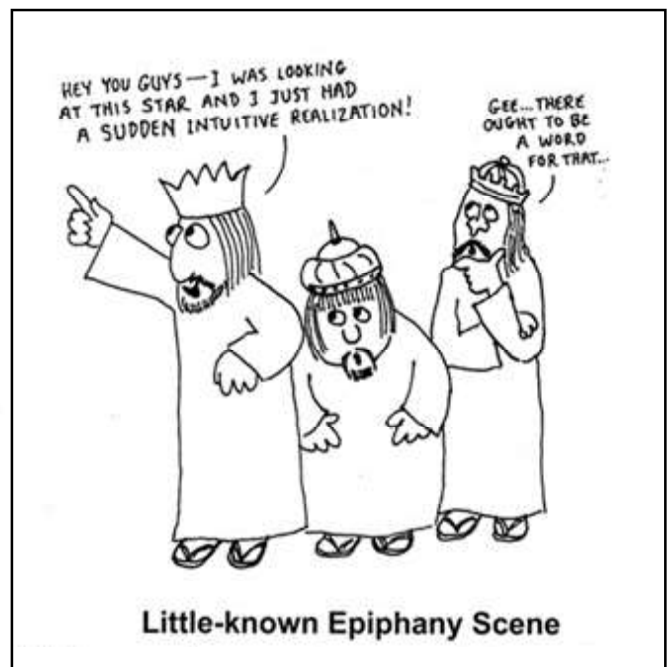
It sometimes sounds cliché to talk about “new beginnings” because there is always newness: birth and death are all around us. But the new year always offers us an opportunity to start over, or to find elements of our lives that need a fresh start. It’s good news that we can have a new beginning at any age, and it’s good news that we need many new beginnings, and many opportunities for new beginnings over the course of a lifetime.

In the middle of winter, with Christmas behind us, we are past the winter solstice and the longest night. Epiphany, as the season of light, is a time where we are enticed by the lure of light. And we sure do need some light right about now, don’t we? For many, these past few years have been dark; a veil of sadness and loss sweeping over us. And our faith does ask us to sit in these seasons for a time, without rushing to the next thing. Maybe we should spend this Epiphany, the season of Light, in reflection. Let it be a time of hopefulness, a time of honest reflection, and of deep reflection on this space between birth and death, between Christmas and Lent, between Old Life and New Life, a time to see ourselves and our world more clearly in shadow and light.

Peace to you, Beloved!

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.



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**In-person worship is
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.



Monday - Friday, 10am - 2pm

**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.

**Please note that the church office will
be closed on MONDAY, JANUARY 17 in
observance of Martin Luther King day.**

**Next Cabinet meeting is
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 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.



Central Square Church is now on Instagram! Follow us at
[@centralsquarechurch](https://www.instagram.com/centralsquarechurch)



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
Jae Stotts — jaestotts@gmail.com

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



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.



Attention all Boards, Committees, and Select Officers and Project Managers: Annual Reports Due Jan. 15

Please remember that your annual report is due to the church office no later than January 15. Share your accomplishments and what you worked on in 2021! If you need a copy of a prior year's to use as a guide, contact Deborah in the church office.



Thank you!

Thanks to all the cookie bakers who dropped off cookies on December 19 – we were able to make more than 100 cookie packets to be distributed at MainSpring House. Shoutout to Denise Molinari, Diane Sheibley, and Rebecca Sheibley for their service in assembling all the packets, and to Judy Pino for delivering the final products!



Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year! Praying for relief and healing from the effects of the COVID virus.

The January 5, 2022 meeting of the Women's Guild will be held in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30pm. (Masks required except when having refreshments.)

Member Beth Basler will provide the program with a presentation of travels through several of our national parks, including Yellowstone, Tetons, Acadia, and a schooner trip off the coast of Maine. All are invited to join us as we travel together through some of our national treasures.

We thank all who donated so generously to the troop packages. We packed up 14 boxes of items that will be sent to the following for distribution:

- 1st SG Brandon Casey, Army in Iraq, home state Texas
- 1st LT Mike J. Trapani, Army in Iraq, home state Massachusetts
- CSM John S. Ugarte, Army in Syria, home state Colorado
- Major Marc T. DeRedita, Army in Iraq, home state Colorado

Guild members also donated more than a dozen comforters and pillows for the women at Journey House, towels for the men's sober house, CDs and throws for hospice at the Bridgewater Nursing Home, warm socks and jackets for L Street mission, and sweatpants and sweatshirts for homeless individuals being discharged from Signature HealthCare Hospital.

The Guild also donates annually to: Central Square Congregational Church, Salvation Army, Operation Santa, Teen Challenge, Health Imperatives (Penelope's Shelter for Women), L Street mission, Homes for our Troops, CSCC Youth Mission Trip, and Mitchell's Monsters. We also make as needed donations to families, individuals, and/or organizations.

We are looking forward to a new year, with new beginnings and renewed hope for our future service and fellowship.

*Sandy Alley and Bette de Koning,
Co-Presidents*

The Women's Guild & Fellowship had a wonderful presentation by Rev. Beth along with a Christmas service, at their December meeting.



December was an active month for the outreach team. As our attention turns to those in need and the cold weather comes in, we held our annual Warmth in Cold Places clothing drive. New and gently used clothing including but not limited to hats, gloves, socks, sweaters, sweatshirts, and long underwear were distributed to those in need in Taunton and Brockton. The recipients were very appreciative of our efforts.

Your financial support, channeled through Outreach, went to the UCC Christmas Fund which services clergy in need, Operation Santa in Bridgewater, and Father Bill's and MainSpring in Brockton.

Thank you for your financial contributions and donations of material items. We ask and you deliver. Your continued generosity is Christ's love in action.

*Rev. Beth, Paul, and Julia
wish to thank everyone for the
very generous Christmas gifts.
We are humbled and
thankful. God bless you all!*





Have you ever experienced a chance moment, a chance reading, a chance greeting, only to experience another like happenstance within a short period of time? Do you wonder if the hand of God has played a role?

As you all know I enjoy a good read with a real book in hand, just in case I fall asleep and the sound of the book crashing to the floor wakes me up.

Currently I have four books I am in the midst of, not usual but it happens. One is a historical novel, which is purely a leisure read and it has no correlation to the other three, at least NOT YET!

The second book is about the early signs of Autism. Again, no connection as of yet.

The third and the one I have been reading for the longest time (it is hard dividing up your reading time among four books) is the Community Book Read for Fall 2021, *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*. It is a book of conversations between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams putting the pen to paper.

The fourth book is *The Conscious Parent: Transforming Ourselves, Empowering Our Children* by Shefali Tsabary, PhD. Now this book I just opened yesterday, Saturday, to conclude my early morning read after finishing a chapter in *The Book of Joy*. My daughter Jill, who is an exemplary first grade teacher in California (bragging rights) sent me a copy of the book after she read it last spring. I finally picked it up on Saturday, thinking I better have something to say about it when Jill and family visit during the holidays. But I wasn't too keen on reading a text book. I still have not gotten past

the first pages, but the preface to the book was written by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. And so, I wanted to share with you an excerpt from *The Book of Joy* that captures how I have been feeling as of late, testing positive for COVID, being isolated and cold symptom sick. As of this writing, I am well.

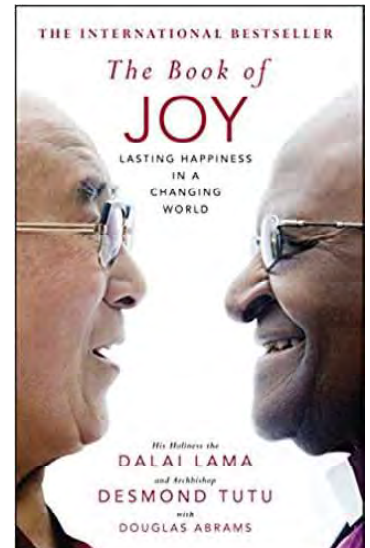
Setting — the Archbishop and the Dalai Lama are about to share communion!! "This is the first time we get to pray together," the Dalai Lama said. "One Buddhist, one Christian, brothers. I mentioned to you that since 1975 I have been making pilgrimages to different religious traditions. Sometimes it takes a major disaster for followers of all different faiths to come together and see that we are the same, human brothers and sisters. I consider what we are doing today to be part of the same kind of pilgrimage. When I look at this statue of Jesus Christ, I am really moved. I think this teacher has brought immense inspiration to millions of people."

Abrams goes on to write "like so many religious traditions, it [Holy Communion] defines who is part of the group and who is not. This is one of the greatest challenges that humanity faces: removing the barriers between who we see as 'us' and who we see as 'other'".

Our church, Central Square Congregational, and our conference, the United Church of Christ, is vehemently working to break down those barriers.

Bidding you Godspeed and New Year Blessings!

Carol Chaffee



Mask Requirement in CSCC Building

Please remember, everyone who is in the church 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.



We are so excited! Heifer is once again coming to Central Square Congregational Church. As January approaches each year, children, youth, and adults all look forward to participating in Heifer Project — it is a fun and lively experience planning and creating items to sell at the Living Gift Market, and learning about the impact their efforts can have. The money will be used to purchase animals to send to families around the world. Families are first trained in the care and feeding of their animal, and then these animals provide food and products to sell to help families become self-sufficient.

For 2022, in some ways Heifer will look a little different. We want everyone to be able to participate. As usual we will offer Sunday School classes so boys and girls can plan

and work with their classmates on choosing an animal for purchase and fundraising for it.

This year, we will also offer Sunday School in your own home. Families may choose an animal or animals they wish to sponsor. They will participate in all the activities that children have available at church, but they will be able to do it at home. They will have lessons available online; banks and packets will be given to them for each week.

There are five Sundays in January. We begin the four lessons for this project on January 2nd, and the lessons end on January 23rd. **The Living Gift Market will take place on January 30th** after church in Fellowship Hall. We are working together to plan our 2022 Heifer project, and how the Living Gift Market will look.

We will send a letter or e-mail to parents after Christmas and all the children and youth in the church will receive a postcard inviting them to participate. We hope to make this year fun and exciting! See you all in January.

Your Heifer Leaders,

Krissy Cannizzo and Terry Reynolds

For the past several months, I have been requesting money to build up our Emergency Fund. I want to give a huge **THANK YOU** to all of the generous people, groups, and organizations who have donated to help those who face struggles.

Today I also want to share a word to people who are seeking financial help for themselves or friends as the weather turns and we enter the coldest, harshest months. Many churches, ours included, will provide assistance in one or more ways, and many have various stipulations about how those funds are used, so I want to be clear about how CSCC can help you. If you are in need, I hope you will reach out! Even if the church isn't able to help you, we are always available to assist in seeking out resources. In general, here is how the CSCC Emergency Fund is used:

- At the pastor's discretion, or at the request of a partner agency or congregation, we may be able to help pay a utility bill or a month's rent directly to the company or landlord. There are also times when various churches or community groups will pool money together to cover a month's rent.
- We also have available emergency grocery cards, gas cards, and small coffee/breakfast cards. In the event of an emergency, we may even be able to cover an overnight in a hotel.
- The church also provides a list of resources, including town, county, state, and federal agencies, that provide long-

term support in various ways. If we do this, it's because we know that the system is available, and though it may be tedious, it does eventually work. Trust us: we want you or your friend to succeed.

- Sadly, we cannot give beyond our financial resources, however much we would love to end all financial hardship everywhere. If our financial resources are spent or fully allocated, we will do our best to connect you with other places.

- One other note... unfortunately the church cannot be counted on to assist in long-term financial support. The church can only offer financial support on an emergency basis.



While I wish we could do more, we're working in flawed systems to do the most we possibly can with pooled resources so that as many people can be helped as possible. I also want to assure you that your situation and circumstances are kept in strict confidence. I will not only help you to the extent that I or the church is able, I will also pray with you and counsel you if you wish. Because above all else, you need to know that you aren't alone. Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 12:26 *"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."* We are together in this. You are not alone. In Christ,

Rev. Beth



**Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias to decorate the altar
at our Christmas Eve services.**

Given by:

Rachel Lawson
Rachel Lawson
Rachel Lawson
Dave and Diane Sheibley
Dave and Diane Sheibley
Beth Sheibley & Michelle Brokmeier
Michelle Brokmeier & Beth Sheibley
Bruce Maclay
The Stotts Family
Steve & Connie Chandler
Steve & Connie Chandler
Troy Hubbell
Ellen Crawford
Gloria Weinrebe
Anne Chaffee
Gail Wright
Krissy Cannizzo
Krissy Cannizzo
Denise Molinari
Bill & Terry Reynolds

In Loving Memory of/In Honor of:

Brad Lawson, John Lopez
Greta Holmberg & Janice Lawson
John Lopes
Susan Wershing
John & Amber Sheibley, Tom Sheibley
Grandparents of Rebecca and Ben Sheibley – Ed and Beverly Healy
The parents of Michele Brokmeier - William F. & Joan A. Brokmeier
Mom & Dad
Jon Lybarger & Julie Lybarger
Joseph & Mabel Filipek
Chester & Mary Chandler
Kelli & Molly
Loved Ones
The Weinrebe & Taylor Families
David Chaffee
Scott Wright
Ryan Mitchell
Grama Peggy
Lawson & Molinari Family Members
Loved Ones



Breaking Out of the Box: Called to Prophetic Action
Sponsored by the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ

Join us online for a time of worship, reflection, and facilitated conversation as we honor the life and teachings of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our holiday program will be led by Rev. Dr. Diane Schmitz.

Dr. Schmitz, ordained in the UCC, is one of the SNEUCC Theologians in Residence for 2022. Her primary focus is working with predominantly white communities to increase the awareness, knowledge, and skills needed to be effective partners in the dismantling racism efforts led by communities of color. She will engage us in dialogue, so that as individuals and congregations, we build skills for addressing racism.

As we take time to observe this national holiday, let us rededicate ourselves to the work of building up the beloved community.

WHEN
Monday, January 17, 2022 at 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM eastern time

Go to this link for more information and to register for the Zoom link:
<https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/15426906>

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)...

During the service I wondered about...

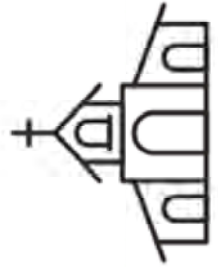
Something I heard
or learned
about God today is...

My favorite song from today was:

because...



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



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 – January 2022 (Year C)

Sat., Jan. 1

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

Sun., Jan. 2

Second Sunday after Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach
24:1-12
Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom
10:15-21
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Mon., Jan. 3

Psalm 72
Job 42:10-17
Luke 8:16-21

Tues., Jan. 4

Psalm 72
Isaiah 6:1-5
Acts 7:44-53

Wed., Jan. 5

Psalm 72
Jeremiah 31:7-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Thurs., Jan. 6

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

Fri., Jan. 7

Psalm 29
Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Sat., Jan. 8

Psalm 29
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Sun., Jan. 9

The Baptism of Christ
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Mon., Jan. 10

Psalm 106:1-12
Judges 4:1-16
Ephesians 6:10-17

Tues., Jan. 11

Psalm 106:1-12
Judges 5:12-21
1 John 5:13-21

Wed., Jan. 12

Psalm 106:1-12
Numbers 27:1-11
Luke 11:33-36

Thurs., Jan. 13

Psalm 36:5-10
Jeremiah 3:1-5
Acts 8:18-24

Fri., Jan. 14

Psalm 36:5-10
Jeremiah 3:19-25
1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Sat., Jan. 15

Psalm 36:5-10
Jeremiah 4:1-4
Luke 11:14-23

Sun., Jan. 16

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Mon., Jan. 17

Psalm 145
Isaiah 54:1-8
Romans 12:9-21

Tues., Jan. 18

Psalm 145
Song of Solomon 4:1-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-17

Wed., Jan. 19

Psalm 145
Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1
Luke 5:33-39

Thurs., Jan. 20

Psalm 19
Isaiah 61:1-7
Romans 7:1-6

Fri., Jan. 21

Psalm 19
Nehemiah 2:1-10
Romans 12:1-8

Sat., Jan. 22

Psalm 19
Nehemiah 5:1-13
Luke 2:39-52

Sun., Jan. 23

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Mon., Jan. 24

Psalm 119:89-96
Jeremiah 36:1-10
1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Tues., Jan. 25

Psalm 119:89-96
Jeremiah 36:11-26
2 Corinthians 7:2-12

Wed., Jan. 26

Psalm 119:89-96
Jeremiah 36:27-32
Luke 4:38-44

Thurs., Jan. 27

Psalm 71:1-6
2 Chronicles 34:1-7
Acts 10:44-48

Fri., Jan. 28

Psalm 71:1-6
2 Chronicles 35:20-27
Acts 19:1-10

Sat., Jan. 29

Psalm 71:1-6
2 Chronicles 36:11-21
John 1:43-51

Sun., Jan. 30

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Mon., Jan. 31

Psalm 56
1 Kings 17:8-16
1 Corinthians 2:6-16

JANUARY 2022

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10am Worship (in person and online) 6:45pm AA Meeting | 3 5:30pm Girl Scout Cadets #66204 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open 6:30pm Women's AA | 4 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7pm Women's NA | 5 6:30pm Women's Guild and Fellowship | 6 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon | 7 2pm Girl Scouts #66212 | 8 12pm Girl Scouts #64997 2pm Brownies #67005 |
| 9 Epiphany 10am Communion Worship (in person and online) 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 6:45pm AA Meeting | 10 5:30pm Girl Scout Cadets #66204 6:30pm Women's AA | 11 7pm Outreach Meeting 7pm Women's NA | 12 5pm Girl Scouts (Daisies #64997, Juniors #62521) 7pm Trustees | 13 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon | 14 | 15 |
| 16 10am Worship (in person and online) 6:45pm AA Meeting | 17 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Day 6:30pm Women's AA | 18 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7pm Women's NA | 19 7pm Cabinet 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir | 20 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon | 21 | 22 |
| 23 10am Worship (in person and online) 5pm Girl Scout #82722 6:45pm AA Meeting | 24 5:30pm Girl Scout Cadets #66204 6:30pm Women's AA | 25 7pm Women's NA | 26 5pm Girl Scouts (Daisies #64997, Juniors #62521) 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir | 27 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon | 28 5pm Girl Scouts #64997 | 29 |
| 30 10am Worship (in person and online) 11am Heifer Living Gift Market 6:45pm AA Meeting | 31 6:30pm Women's AA | | | | | |

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes December 15 6, 2021 at 7pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, Board of Trustees; Bill O'Neil, Board of Christian Outreach; Margaret Wielhouwer, Board of Christian Education; Terry Reynolds, History & Memorials Committee and Women's Guild & Fellowship.

Also present: Deborah Lancaster, Congregational Administrator

Rev. Beth opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

November Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Dave Sheibley motioned to accept the minutes. Bill O'Neil seconded. The minutes were approved without any changes.

Pastor's Report [also see written report] – Rev. Beth Stotts
Rev. Beth worked this last month on the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, confirmation Sunday, the advent book study, the Christmas pageant, and Advent activities and services, among other things. She led a grief service at the Bridgewater Senior Center today. In pastoral care, the numbers have gone down, but the intensity has gone up. This Sunday there will be a cantata presented by Julia, a one-act Christmas opera written specially for our church. Christmas Eve there will be a 5pm song and story service, and a 10pm candlelight service. Dec. 26 will be a hymn sing service. January 2 is a music Sunday.

Per the Board of Deacons: please pray for emerging pastoral leaders. Also, thank you for all the volunteers that came out to get the sanctuary ready for the Christmas season.

Treasurer's Report [also see written report] – Dave Sheibley
Collections are a bit ahead of budget, and there have been some special gifts from people. While we will still need some transfers in from investments, we're still doing OK. He gave a shout out to Christmas on the Common, held on Dec. 5, when the church crafters brought in \$859, and the jewelry

table brought in \$425. Including these figures, the fair ended up bringing in over \$8,000 (they were budgeted for \$7,000).

Congregational Administrator – Deborah Lancaster
Deborah apologized that her written report didn't go out with the other pre-meeting materials. She reported that she has started to put visitors into Constant Contact, our email marketing app. She noted that there are 249 emails in CC, and many do not open the emails. She and Rev. Beth will be looking at cleaning it up after the first of the year. In Servant Keeper (our church member/visitor database), there are 744 family records, including 430 members/regular attendees/visitors. There are some very old subsets and lists in there as well that they will be looking to clean up.

There is a new brownie troop meeting at the church, on Friday afternoons. Please remember that the church office will be closed 12/24-12/31.

Food Pantry – Bill O'Neil [see also Jack Melcher's written report]

Bill noted that the pantry has been inundated with food donations. On 11/20, they had more than 30 volunteers show up to help sort food, and ended up with 166 boxes of food items. On 11/23, the pantry distributed turkeys and all the fixings to 58 Bridgewater families in need. The pantry received \$9570 in the month of November from local businesses and individuals.

The pantry bought \$6000 worth of gift cards to distribute to the needy as well as with the Thanksgiving baskets. There has been a little uptick in the number of people coming in. They are looking at buying some shelving for the downstairs area to help with food storage. If anyone would like to help continue to sort food, the best time is Thursdays, 10-1 (during the pantry's "open" hours).

Historical Church Building Committee – Anne Malmquist per Barbara Morey

The check has been approved to pay Brian Pfeiffer his final payment, but the check has not been sent yet.

Gordon noted that an article in the Wall Street Journal highlighted the declining attendance at churches. Two contractors have quoted steeple work. He also noted that we do not have a copy of the award letter yet from the town, nor answers to questions we've submitted to them. Regarding the \$10,000 grant we received, Gordon has a quote to replace the louvers on the steeple for \$10,000, but

continued...

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

continued...

doesn't have it in writing yet, nor any info on the louvers themselves. There is a \$2000 quote for the windows.

Gordon also noted the crack in the sanctuary (and there are others). The ceiling in the sanctuary needs the plaster replaced, and he's waiting for a quote for that. One side of the sanctuary entrance has been blocked off for fear the ceiling will drop plaster and pieces of ceiling and harm someone walking under. It is taped off, but still usable in an emergency.

Board of Trustees – Gordon Brailsford

The Trustees are asking that the bylaws be rewritten and/or revised, as we're not living by our bylaws. Anne noted that that process had started just before the pandemic shutdown, and she plans on taking it up again after the first of the year. Gordon also noted that they need more Trustees – 3 is not enough to get the work of the church done.

Women's Guild and Fellowship – Terry Reynolds

Terry reported that they sent quilts, comforters, and sheets to the transitional and sober houses in town. They had a very nice Christmas service this month, which Rev. Beth led and also presented a discussion on death planning. The Guild also packed up around 20 boxes for the soldiers.

New Business

- Rev. Beth made a motion that Jae Stotts, now that he is a confirmed full member of the church, be officially appointed to the Board of Deacons (not just a junior Deacon). Diane Sheibley seconded the motion. The appointment was approved unanimously.

- **Cookie Project:** Denise Molinari noted that we will once again be distributing individual cookie and candy packages to the homeless. Cookies can be dropped off this Sunday between 3 and 3:30, or can be brought to Sunday morning service. The cookies are going to MainSpring House.

- **Heifer:** Terry Reynolds announced that the Sunday school youth would be engaging in education and fundraising for Heifer International, during the month of January. Terry and Krissy Cannizzo will be coordinating. A postcard will be going out to all families of children and youth. There will be in person Sunday school, but also video lessons each Sunday for those at home. There will be packets of materials as well. The Living Gift Market will look a little different, but will still take place on the last Sunday of January. The theme this

year is FAITH. Rev. Beth noted that she and Deborah have worked on a list of children and youth, and Deborah will share it with Terry. Rev. Beth suggested Terry talk to Paul as well regarding any video needs, as he likely will be very willing to help.

- **Poinsettias:** last day to order them to decorate the Christmas altar is this Sunday, 12/19.

- **Anniversary mugs:** almost sold out of our second printing. Office has a few left.

- **Annual Reports:** remember that annual reports are due by **January 15**.

- The deadline for submitting items for the January Steeple Sounds newsletter is extended until Monday.

Rev. Beth closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Treasurer's Report
November 30, 2021
Fiscal Year July 2021 - June 2022

| | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Difference | Annual Budget |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Regular Pledges | 53,649 | 57,847 | (4,197) | 138,000 |
| Unpledged Offerings | 7,749 | 1,886 | 5,863 | 4,500 |
| Plate Offering | 311 | 419 | (108) | 1,000 |
| Total · Pledges / Offerings | 61,709 | 60,152 | 1,557 | 143,500 |
| Special Collections | | | | |
| MACUCC Fellowship Dues | | | | |
| Total · Special Collections | 0 | | | |
| Fundraisers/Events Revenue | | | | |
| Golf Tournament | 0 | 3,018 | (3,018) | 7,200 |
| Breakfasts | 0 | | | |
| Church Fair | 6,922 | 2,934 | 3,988 | 7,000 |
| Misc Fundraisers | (226) | | | 5,000 |
| Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue | 6,696 | 8,048 | (1,352) | 19,200 |
| Facility Usage Income | | | | |
| Non Profit Bldg Use | 1,143 | 755 | 388 | 1,800 |
| Private Bldg Use | | 356 | (356) | 850 |
| Total · Facility Usage Income | 1,143 | 1,111 | 32 | 2,650 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 173 | | | |
| Total Income | 69,721 | 69,311 | 410 | 165,350 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Total · Senior Minister Expenses | 43,242 | 46,185 | 2,943 | 110,180 |
| Total · Support Staff Expenses | 17,923 | 20,232 | 2,309 | 48,266 |
| Total · Office Expenses | 4,539 | 3,479 | (1,060) | 8,300 |
| Total · Church Building Costs | 18,530 | 12,492 | (6,038) | 29,800 |
| Operating Committees | | | | |
| Christian Education | 0 | 314 | 314 | 750 |
| Church Growth | 193 | 419 | 226 | 1,000 |
| Deacons | 509 | 419 | (90) | 1,000 |
| Music (Materials/Substitutes) | 72 | 252 | 180 | 600 |
| Stewardship | 0 | 147 | 147 | 350 |
| Outreach | 1,661 | 1,819 | 158 | 4,339 |
| Total · Operating Committees | 2,435 | 3,370 | 935 | 8,039 |
| MACUCC Fellowship Dues | | 1,132 | 1,132 | 2,700 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | | | | |
| Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues | | 84 | 84 | 200 |
| Total Expenses | 86,668 | 86,973 | 305 | 207,485 |
| Net income (loss) | (16,947) | (17,662) | 715 | (42,135) |
| Transfer from Investments | 10,000 | 17,662 | 7,662 | 42,135 |
| | (6,947) | 0 | | 0 |

Treasurer's Report
November 30, 2021
Fiscal Year July 2021 - June 2022

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash balances | |
| Operating account | 9,929 |
| Money Market | |
| Restricted | 29,135 |
| Unrestricted | 759 |
| | <u>29,894</u> |
| Fair account | 0 |
| Minister's Discretionary account | 3,598 |
| PayPal account | (19) |
| Outreach account | |
| Includes paid pledge set-aside | 2,112 |
| Food Pantry | 40,571 |
| | <u>42,684</u> |
| Capital Campaign account | 16,284 |
| Total cash balances | <u><u>102,369</u></u> |

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Endowments investment fund | |
| Protected principal | 118,384 |
| Unrestricted funds | 116,700 |
| | <u>235,083</u> |
| Total value 11/30/2021 | 235,083 |
| Income (Loss) YTD FY 2022 | 3,569 |
| Parsonage investment fund | |
| Principal parsonage sale | 60,314 |
| Income (Loss) on investment | 33,328 |
| | <u>93,642</u> |
| Total value 11/30/2021 | 93,642 |
| Total investments 11/30/2021 | <u><u>328,725</u></u> |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Food Pantry Balance November 1, 2021 | 34,335 |
| Donations | 8,271 |
| Expenses | (2,035) |
| Food Pantry Balance November 30, 2021 | <u><u>40,571</u></u> |

| | |
|---|---|
| Anniversary Committee/Building Restoration expenses FY 2022 | 0 |
|---|---|



1821-2021

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”, 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