



# ANNUAL REPORT

## CALENDAR YEAR: 2021

Meeting Date:  
Sunday,  
February 13, 2022

Upper Photo: Annual Christmas Pageant on 12/12/2021

Lower Photo: Church Picnic on the front lawn on 9/5/2021

**Central Square Congregational,  
United Church of Christ**

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## From the Pastor

The past few years all these studies have been coming out sharing data showing fewer and fewer people are attending church or claiming the title of “Christian”. More and more people are saying they’re “spiritual but not religious”. People are reading these stats and saying that “the church is dying”.

It’s hard not to get bummed out hearing that. But as I reflect on 2021 in the church, I’m actually finding a whole lot of life. We’ve had to learn to adjust or change how we do just about everything. From snack pack communion to virtual worship, from turkey dinner take out to book studies over zoom, I’ve seen a really resilient church community.

Here’s what makes me believe, in earnest, that there is a place for the church in the world... When Covid hit, PEOPLE CALLED THE CHURCH FOR HELP! Not just that, people called the church TO help. It has been beautiful to see the holy symmetry of those who are in need matched with those who have something to give.

The church may not look the same as it did 2 years ago, 10 years ago, 100 years ago, but the work and ministry we do together is important and in some cases, saves lives and souls. The church isn’t just our worship or attendance at church events and we know that. Our mission statement says it clearly, “we reach out... sharing our faith and our resources”.

Church, I am so proud of you. I am proud of how you have been living your faith. I am proud of how you have shared yourselves with each other in new and creative ways. I am proud that we don’t look the same as we did last year, that we have changed and grown.

Our annual report outlines the major events and highlights of the year along with the more administrative aspects of congregational life like statistics and financials. What the annual report statistics don’t show are the nuances. All those little changes we had to make during the various phases of the pandemic. For instance, we had four infant baptisms in 2021 and they were so different! One was held in a back yard and we recorded it to include in worship. One was pre-recorded in an empty sanctuary. One was live-streamed during worship but with no other in-person attendees other than staff, and the fourth was held during worship when we were briefly back to in-person worship. Weddings, funerals, and other pastoral duties have all had to take on that same kind of fluidity with planning. Pastoral care, for instance, has been everything from picnics to videochat, to walks and text

messages. It's awesome to see how the challenges of pandemic living have given us new opportunities to connect and be the Good News for each other.

While 2022 is starting off a bit rough with COVID numbers increasing again, I'm hopeful and confident that our beautiful community of faith will continue to live into our call to love as Jesus loved, however that looks.

In Christ, Rev. Beth Stotts

## From the Moderator

CHURCH: n. The body of people who make the God of Jesus visible in the world  
v. To make the God of Jesus visible in the world

As one often does when writing an annual report, I looked at the annual report I wrote last year, thinking I would modify a few words and submit. Last year at this time, we were still in relative isolation, still adjusting to how we would proceed with our mission to share our faith at home and abroad. We were grieving the "the way we'd always done it." We were hesitant to look to the future because we couldn't yet see what the future would look like.

Last spring and summer, we began to reconnect; small gatherings on the church lawn, meetings in Music Alley, gradually and cautiously reopening the building so we could worship and fellowship together. Our continued hybrid services have allowed those far away or not yet ready to gather in person to participate in our community, as it becomes "the way we always do it."

Several years ago, on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, many church historians (Rev. Beth included) noted that, historically, every 500 years there is a shift in the way the Church operates. With all of the events in the world, it certainly seems that the Church and our church is going to have to continue to shift and that how we are churching now is only the beginning of a new Church era.



I continue to be awed by the ministries of our congregation, and how they are shifting into this "new normal." Our music ministry continues to make the God of Jesus visible in the world. Julia's talent, and the talent it attracts, is holy. The outreach of our online presence and the gifts Paul shares with us, is holy. The

Bridgewater Food Pantry and the work they do to feed bodies and souls, is holy. The Women's Guild and their fellowship, is holy. We make the God of Jesus visible in the world in countless ways, some of which we may not even be aware.

As we adjust to pandemic life, we can once again look forward with hope. My report of last year very much reflected the uncertainty of the future. Now, when I think about churching, I am thinking about what we have learned, where we are and how we move forward. I am excited about renewed interest in stewardship and examining our church's policies and by-laws. I am delighted about the new look of past traditions such as the Christmas pageant and the Heifer Project program.

This year we celebrated the 200th anniversary of our congregation. It was a beautiful way to reflect on and honor the past as we move toward the future. We started to imagine what our church might look like in the next 200 years; and it is exciting!

With grace and God's love, Anne Malmquist

### From the Board of Trustees

During this second year of Covid-19 pandemic your Board of Trustees has met primarily via email and phone calls, with a few in-person meeting when possible.

For the Trustees, 2021 was again a year of doing lots of little things to keep your church home up and running. We heartily thank our Sexton, Rich Sullivan, for his continued work repainting surfaces around the building, work he has found more easily done during times when our building was utilized less than normal.

My special thanks to Gordon Brailsford who has arranged to have shingles replaced on our church roof, this year having shingles replaced twice now following extremely violent windstorms. Gordon and Rich Sullivan have spent hours with our heating vendor working out issues in the church heating system this fall. Gordon has also continued to be trustee's liaison to the Church Restoration committee pursuing and obtaining community CPC funds, this has been a long process with many a meeting. Thanks also to John Sharland who continues to assist handling the AED and building temperature sensing devices and other issues as they arise. Retirement is a busy time for these gents who handle some many weekday things someone employed full-time would find difficult. Our sanctuary ceiling has a hole, and other issues to be fixed, this has proved difficult to get a firm price but a price is being pursued!

Many thanks, to Paul Holmes for his video evangelism efforts. Without his hard work many of us would not be seeing that familiar sanctuary, Reverend Beth, or Julia on a regular basis.

The Trustees as a group do have prayerful concerns regarding our on-going budget, many thanks to our treasurer for his work paying our bills, depositing church income and communicating with our board whenever there are concerns.

The one bright spot through the pandemic has been the community contributions to the Bridgewater Food Bank resident in our building, and the hard work by those volunteers who make this work surely a valuable asset for those in need during these times. They could use more space as the need is great.

For the Board, Ed Buckland, Trustee Chair

### From the Board of Deacons

It's always so interesting to look back over a year and see where we are compared to where we thought we'd be. Some things are so constant and familiar I hope they never change, some things are new and exciting changes that we've planned, and things are mysteries we're still searching to find the blessings.

Familiar blessings: Again, thank you so much to Rev, Beth, Paul Holmes, Julia Scott Carey, guest musicians & artists, and liturgical readers for continuing to use your gifts to make our worship services inclusive and meaningful.

To our Care Team & Rev. Beth, we cannot thank you enough for the care and support you give to members of our congregation and community.

To members of our congregation and community, thank you for showing up! Worshipping together, in person or remotely; supporting each other and our staff; and speaking up when you need something.

New Blessings in 2021: During 2020, our mindset was - what a nice opportunity to examine our worship service, sacraments, and traditions looking for ways to update them by keeping the meaning, but make whatever changes were needed during a pandemic. And we did it! A few examples from 2021: we are using prepackaged communion elements in the sanctuary or bring-your-own at home, and we're still celebrating communion; only parents are holding the babies and we're still baptizing children; the offering is being collected as people leave the

sanctuary instead of passing the plates, and now we also have more electronic giving options; children and families gathered outside to pre-record the Christmas Pageant, and we all experienced the pageant together during worship; our confirmation class was completed over Zoom, and we welcomed a new member who also became a Deacon.

### 2022's Blessings?

What an unexpected mystery 2021 turned out to be. As I reread my Deacon report from 2020 it was obvious that I expected 2021 to be a new normal. Instead, this has been a year of practicing flexibility. We are in the mist of finding a new way to be the church and I pray that in 2022, we find a new normal in being a church family who is not defined by our building, but defined by how well we continually show up, each with our own gifts, to serve God and each other.

Faithfully, Deb Sorgman & Jae Stotts

### From the Congregational Administrator

2021 was another year like no other due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic! Ellen Atherton, the former Congregational Administrator resigned in late February 2021 and I started in mid-March of 2021. I spent just three (3) days with Ellen to review the main duties and responsibilities of the position. Although I took copious notes during my three days of training, I spent the first few months learning the Servant Keeper and Constant Contact software with a great deal of assistance from Diane Sheibley and Rev. Beth.

Fortunately, there were no in-person worship services at that time and Rev. Beth took a 6-week sabbatical/vacation during July and August. This gave me several months to review tasks and put together a written notebook of the major duties and responsibilities of the Congregational Administrator's position for future reference. When decisions were made by the Church Trustees to resume in-person worship services and access for previous renters/users on July 11, 2021, I contacted all previous renters and users to ascertain who would be interested in returning to the Church for meetings and events. I put together a new Renters/Users Notebook by day with contact information for each group. I created a Renters and User's Distribution List in Outlook so that it is now easier to contact the entire group when necessary. Rev. Jim Conley stepped in during Rev. Beth's absence and officiated at Sunday worship services until she returned on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, I have performed the following major tasks during the last 9 months:

- cleaned and re-organized the Church Office and bookcases
- entered metal file box of phone numbers into Outlook
- edited and updated a plethora of forms (e.g. Building Use Form, Rental Rules, COVID Guidelines, etc.)
- Attended an on-line Introduction to Servant Keeper Database training course
- Attended monthly Cabinet meetings in person and by ZOOM
- Created Excel Spreadsheets detailing lists of Children and Youth members and their birthdates/school grades
- Edited and received approval from Trustees for a revised Paid Time Off and Compensatory Time Policy

Membership as of December 31, 2021 140

Total new members 1

#### LOSS OF MEMBERS

Death	2
Transferred out	0
Resigned/withdrew	0
Removed by Deacons	0
Removed via Membership Audit	0

#### OTHER STATISTICS

Baptisms	3
Confirmations	1
Weddings	2
Funerals	2
Deaths of members	1

Respectfully submitted by Deborah A. Lancaster, Congregational Administrator

## Endowment Report

January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

Opening balance on 01/01/2021	\$240,672.94
Closing balance on 12/31/2021	\$241,854.86
Withdrawals	\$30,129.12
Change in investments	\$31,311.054 (+13.0%)
Net gain after withdrawals	\$1,181.92 (0.5%)

The protected funds balance is \$135,512.92. Funds available for withdrawal are \$106,341.94.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Melcher

## Women's Guild and Fellowship

The year 2021 proved to be another challenging year due to the COVID virus. Once again, the members proved to be resilient, innovative and committed to the mission of the Guild.

From January to March of 2021, we met via ZOOM. The calendar year began with a slide presentation of the “Flight of the Butterflies” from Mexico to New England. Barbara Morey had us fascinated with her slides and stories of her trip to the area in Mexico to see the butterflies. In February, instead of our usual auction, we had a social night where questions posed initiated some lively discussions and learning more about each other. In March, Janet Colford led the group in a Literary Night and members were asked to either write a poem, or talk about one of their favorite books. A spirited time and again an opportunity to learn more about each other which was so enjoyable. April brought warmer weather and we met outside at Connie Chandler’s home. Bonnie Sloan had the group “Take A Line For A Walk” during which she challenged us to find our inner artist. We ended the meeting by filming the attendees singing Happy Birthday to send to Janet Colford to celebrate her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. On May 1, we held a yard sale in Bette de Koning’s yard in place of our usual spring rummage sale. May usually finds us going to a local restaurant for our annual banquet. In 2021, we had a picnic in Phoebe Hogg’s backyard with lunch provided by Mary B’s Teas and it was a delightful way to end our meeting year.

Beginning our new meeting year in October, we decided not to have our usual pot luck, but were finally able to meet in the church building wearing masks. We had a much-needed social time. We said our final goodbyes to a dear friend, Marie Garvey, and put on a collation in her memory. Also in October, we held our first combination yard sale/rummage sale at the church. It was a very successful day in so many ways. In November, we learned a great deal from Rev. Beth about “Defining Your Legacy: End of Life Planning.” In December, Rev. Beth led us in our special Christmas program in the sanctuary, including communion.

Throughout the year, in spite of the many challenges, we were able to meet our charitable commitments and added some new giving opportunities. Our donations included: Central Square Congregational Church, L Street Mission, Salvation Army, Operation Santa, Teen Challenge, Penelope’s Place, Homes for Our Troops, Hospice, Bridgewater sober houses, CSCC Youth Mission Fund, gifts to our troops, annual staff gifts, Pastor’s discretionary fund and many other donations as needs are brought to our attention.

Our thanks to the hard working, dedicated members who keep the Guild going, allowing us to give back to our community.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Alley and Bette de Koning, Co-Presidents of the Women’s Guild and Fellowship

### Board of Christian Outreach & Bridgewater Food Pantry

2021 was a tough year. Throughout the COVID pandemic, we were only able to provide monetary donations, not only our “5 for 5” collections, but also to Father Bill’s/Mainspring House, the CSCC-UCC Minister’s Discretionary Fund, Church World Service Disaster Relief Funds, and Operation Santa.

We continued with Warmth in Cold Places at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Taunton. Again, due to COVID, we did not receive many donations of clothing. However, we were able to purchase more items than we normally have to buy to supplement the donations. We distributed the clothing just before Christmas.

The Bridgewater Food Pantry continued to operate in spite of the COVID pandemic. However, there were restrictions placed as to who could come downstairs to shop. We started the year by having people fill out a prepared order form which we put together downstairs and delivered to their car. Later in the year, we were able to let patrons come downstairs one at a time that were fully

vaccinated and masked. We had our annual Thanksgiving meal consisting of a turkey and all the fixings distribution, and thanks to Bridgewater Fitness, we were able to duplicate this same effort for Christmas. The Food Pantry was overwhelmed with both food and monetary donations from local businesses, banks, foundations, the Bridgewater school system and local residents. We also purchased \$12,250 worth of gift cards to local supermarkets which we distributed to our clients before they left the Church building. In addition, we received \$10,000 in donated gift cards from the Greater Boston Food Bank.

We have also begun a delivery program where shut-in seniors or those patrons without transportation, can order from a shopping list at the Senior Center or by speaking with a volunteer who takes their order over the phone letting the patrons know what is available in any given week.

Thanks, in particular, to Cumberland Farms, Aldi in Raynham, Roche Bros., Stop & Shop and to Hanson Farm for their food and vegetable donations throughout the year. In addition, we have received generous food donations from the local Methodist church from their recurring food drives, the local Badgers football team as well as several Girl Scout and Brownie troops.

God bless you all, 2022 has got to be better than 2021 – right?

A special thanks to Steve and Connie Chandler as well as Pat Conn and John Shalginewicz who volunteer numerous hours to the Food Pantry each week.

As part of Mission Outreach, it was suggested at a Cabinet Meeting to continue a long-time favorite fundraiser, the Heifer Project, by passing around the cows named Faith, Hope, and Charity. The COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted our usual routine for the children and youth of the Sunday School to hold a Living Gift Market. The money raised would be given to Heifer Project. Passing the cows was a perfect suggestion as the cows were secretly placed on the lawns of friends and families of the church. Money was left in the cow pocket on the back. There was no physical contact with people, only wooden cows. For a donation and request, the wooden cows were then moved to a new home. Cow couriers accomplished this job. This year, two experienced couriers, Judy Pino and Mike Bundock, along with new recruits Rev. Beth Stotts, Heather Ciaramitaro, and Gloria Weinrebe, accomplished this task during the month of March. Working together with the



coordinator, Terry Reynolds, the team was able to raise \$750.00 through the generosity of the families and friends of CSCC-UCC.

Respectfully submitted, Bill O'Neil

## History and Memorials Committee

During 2021, the Central Square Congregational Church celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On Friday evening, October 15, 2021, an Ice Cream Social was held and a historical overview of the church and the areas surrounding the church was presented in a slide show by David Moore in Fellowship Hall.

On Saturday evening, October 16, 2021, a banquet was held at T. J. Smith's Victorian House in East Bridgewater in spite of the COVID pandemic. We were fortunate to have 48 church members attend the banquet and join in the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

The main event of this evening was the opening of the time capsule which had not been opened since 1971, 50 years ago. For some unknown reason, it was overlooked at 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary because it was not known if a time capsule existed! The contents of the box were removed and placed on a table for everyone to view.

Before resealing the box, we added items that we thought were important events of the last two decades. We selected a photo of the twin towers in New York City as well as a photo of the 9-11 memorial. In addition, we placed a COVID vaccine card and face mask in the time capsule as well as an Open and Affirming pamphlet and information about the Heifer International project.

## Historical Church Building Committee

In 2021, we were awarded \$200,000 in grant funds from the Town of Bridgewater through the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to be used for Phase 1 of the Restoration Project. This phase involves the steeple only. The project is divided into three (3) phases which involves the entire exterior envelope of the Church. Each phase will be reviewed by the CPC as to how much funding will be granted in restoring the church. Central Square Congregational Church is located in the Historic District of the Town of Bridgewater. There will be a deed restriction placed on the church which is a requirement in awarding town funds to restore a historic building in Bridgewater.

This deed restriction is being acted upon presently and will take approximately eight (8) months to process. Once the deed restriction is filed in the Plymouth County Register of Deeds office, Phase 1 of our project can begin.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara I. Morey for the HCBC

## Church Fair Committee

### EVENTS

**Saturday, November 6, 2021: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Turkey Dinner Takeout: Sunday, November 14, 2021**

**Christmas on the Common event: December 5, 2021**

The 2021 fair was still impacted by the pandemic, but not quite as much as the prior year. The changes due to the pandemic were:

- we only had the fair one day (Saturday, Nov. 6)
- we did not hold “pie night”
- we did not include any food events where people would eat on site (lunch, turkey supper)
- we held attic treasures and the harvest table outside

The 2021 fair included: a baked goods table, including a special section for whole pies (in lieu of having ‘pie night’); a candy table; raffle baskets; take-out soups for lunch; church crafters; jewelry table; attic treasures; and the harvest table.

In lieu of a sit-down turkey supper, we had a turkey dinner takeout event, where people could pre-order turkey dinners-for-two. It was catered by Boston Tavern Middleboro and was held on the weekend following the fair (11/14).

Volunteers made cookies, pies, and candy for the fair; made craft items; donated or procured gift baskets; worked selling raffle tickets and food. There was a volunteer or two who coordinated each of the special tables or categories of food service. We had 7 Bridgewater-Raynham High School students working various shifts (most all day) for community service.

The turkey dinner takeout price was \$35 per dinner-for-two. We had 68 takeout meals purchased. An anonymous angel stepped up and paid the Boston Tavern bill, so the church was able to keep every dollar it took in from those who ordered.

Thank you to all who helped as none of this would be possible without the many volunteers who donate their time, talent, and financial support. **The Saturday fair plus the turkey takeout brought in \$6,998.** Crafters and the jewelry table also sold items during the Bridgewater Business Association’s Christmas on the

Common, held December 5. The BBA did not utilize the fellowship hall for vendors as they have in recent years, so our folks could use the entire space. The crafters took in, on this day alone, an additional \$859, and the jewelry table took in \$425, **bringing the total brought in by the “fair” to \$8,282.** It was budgeted at \$7,000.

The 2021 Fair Team: Denise Molinari, Carla Jackson, Diane Sheibley, David Hanson, Co-Chairs

### Christmas Cookies for the Brockton Homeless

Thanks to all the cookie bakers who dropped off cookies on Sunday, December 19th, we made over 100 cookie packets to be distributed to the homeless by the MainSpring House in Brockton. Shoutout to Denise Molinari, Diane Sheibley, and Rebecca Sheibley for their service in assembling all the packets as well as to Judy Pino for delivering the cookies to MainSpring, and to ALL the many cookie bakers!

### Treasurer’s Report

Fiscal year 2021 continued to be affected by the pandemic that struck near the end of the previous fiscal year. Plate offerings were zero due to church services remaining online-only for the entire year. Pledges dropped by about 10% but unpledged giving rose, helping make up some of the difference. The Golf Tournament had to be cancelled for a second year but the Church Fair and other, additional fundraisers did very well; total fundraising came in almost on budget. On the expense side, some operating costs declined with reduced use of the building. The shortfall in income was matched by the reduction in expenses, resulting in the church’s operating loss almost matching the budgeted amount. The fiscal year ended on June 30, 2021 with a net loss of \$43,838 vs a budgeted loss of \$43,984. \$43,829 was transferred from our investments to help cover expenses.

Financial reports for the second half of calendar year 2021 (first half of fiscal year 2022) are available on the church website.

Financial documents included:

Operating Budget vs Actual FY2021  
Cash Balances as of June 30, 2021  
Pass Through Fund Report FY 2021

Respectfully submitted, David Sheibley, Church Treasurer

**Central Square Congregational Church UCC**  
**Operating Budget vs. Actual Report**  
**July 2020 through June 2021**

	Actual	Budget	% Budget
<b>Income</b>			
4000* · Pledges / Offerings			
4010 · Regular Pledges	123,031	138,000	89%
4015 · Unpledged Offerings	11,992	4,500	266%
4030 · Plate Offering	0	1,000	0%
Total 4000* · Pledges / Offerings	<u>135,023</u>	<u>143,500</u>	<u>94%</u>
4200* · Special Collections			
4235 · MACUCC Fellowship Dues	420		
Total 4200* · Special Collections	<u>420</u>		
4300* · Fundraisers/Events Revenue			
4312 · 4312 Golf Tournament	0	7,200	0%
4315 · 4315 Breakfasts			
4320 · Church Fair	6,037	7,000	86%
4360 · Concert/Special Event proceeds			
4370 · Misc Fundraisers	8,079		
Total 4300* · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	<u>14,115</u>	<u>14,200</u>	<u>99%</u>
4400* · Facility Usage Income			
4410 · Non Profit Bldg Use	760	1,800	42%
4430 · Private Bldg Use	50	850	6%
Total 4400* · Facility Usage Income	<u>810</u>	<u>2,650</u>	<u>31%</u>
4600* · Miscellaneous Income			
4601 · Bank Interest	68		
4603 · Amazon Smile	269		
4604 · Food Pantry Overhead Support	525		
4607 · Misc Donations	891		
Total 4600* · Miscellaneous Income	<u>1,752</u>		
4700* · Reimbursed Expenses	1,378		
Total Income	<u>153,499</u>	<u>160,350</u>	<u>96%</u>

**Central Square Congregational Church UCC**  
**Operating Budget vs. Actual Report**  
**July 2020 through June 2021**

Expense	Actual	Budget	% Budget
6000* · Senior Minister Expenses			
6005 · Payroll	36,955	35,586	104%
6010 · FICA Stipend	5,107	5,170	99%
6020 · Pension Fund	9,462	9,462	100%
6048 · Housing Allowance	33,231	32,000	104%
6050 · Professional Expenses	891	2,000	45%
6065 · Health & Dental Ins	22,750	21,797	104%
6075 · Life & Disability Ins	1,014	1,014	100%
Total 6000* · Senior Minister Expenses	<u>109,410</u>	<u>107,029</u>	<u>102%</u>
6200* · Support Staff Expenses			
6215 · Pulpit Supply	300	250	120%
6218 · Sabbatical Budget (see 1103.30)	990	1,080	92%
6220 · Office Coordinator	16,421	16,550	99%
6222 · Nursery Coordinator	96	0	0%
6225 · Director of Youth Ministry	682	0	0%
6245 · Minister of Music	16,526	15,914	104%
6250 · Sexton/Custodian	6,158	9,000	68%
6255 · Sup. Staff Holiday	127	0	0%
6256 · Sup. Staff Sick/Personal Days	0	0	0%
6257 · Sup. Staff Vacation	796	0	0%
6260 · Sup. Staff FICA	3,122	3,172	98%
6270 · Workers' Comp Ins	1,110	1,200	92%
6275 · Support Staff Supplies	0	100	0%
Total 6200* · Support Staff Expenses	<u>46,327</u>	<u>47,266</u>	<u>98%</u>
6400* · Office Expenses			
6410 · Bank Service Charges			
6415 · PayPal Fees	332		
6417 · Credit/Charge Card Fees	39		
6410 · Bank Service Charges	<u>871</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>290%</u>
Total 6410 · Bank Service Charges	<u>1,243</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>414%</u>
6440 · Internet & Computer Related Exp	3,697	2,100	176%
6490 · Office Supplies	560	400	140%
6510 · Payroll & Treasurer Supplies	691	950	73%
6515 · Training	104	0	0%
6520 · Postage & eDelivery	802	900	89%
6525 · Printing & Reproduction	2,187	2,150	102%
6555 · Telephone	2,208	1,500	147%
Total 6400* · Office Expenses	<u>11,492</u>	<u>8,300</u>	<u>138%</u>

**Central Square Congregational Church UCC**  
**Operating Budget vs. Actual Report**  
**July 2020 through June 2021**

	Actual	Budget	% Budget
<b>6600* · Church Building Costs</b>			
6615 · Building Supplies	319	2,000	16%
6620 · Fire Alarm Monitoring Service	552	600	92%
6640 · Property & Liability Insurance	9,036	9,300	97%
6650 · Repairs & Maintenance	3,002	5,000	60%
6670 · Utilities			
6672 · Gas & Electric	4,304	5,500	78%
6673 · Fuel Oil	3,580	6,500	55%
6674 · Water & Sewer	263	900	29%
Total 6670 · Utilities	<u>8,147</u>	<u>12,900</u>	<u>63%</u>
Total 6600* · Church Building Costs	<u>21,056</u>	<u>29,800</u>	<u>71%</u>
<b>6850* · Operating Committees</b>			
6860 · Christian Education	624	750	83%
6865 · Church Growth	672	1,000	67%
6875 · Deacons - Budget	149	1,000	15%
6910 · Music (Materials/Substitutes)	825	600	138%
6950 · Stewardship	0	350	0%
7155 · Outreach Committee Reserve	2,868	4,339	66%
7155 · Video Evangelism	1,000	1,000	100%
Total 6850* · Operating Committees	<u>6,138</u>	<u>9,039</u>	<u>68%</u>
<b>7050 · Misc Expenses</b>			
7150 · MACUCC Fellowship Dues	2,700	2,700	100%
7154 · Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	215	200	107%
Total Expense	<u>197,337</u>	<u>204,334</u>	<u>97%</u>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>			
Transfer from Investments	(43,838)	(43,984)	100%
Adjusted Net Income (Loss)	<u>43,829</u>	<u>43,984</u>	
	<u>(9)</u>		

Central Square Congregational Church UCC  
Pass Through Fund Report  
July 2020 through June 2021

7410 · Direct Pass Thru Income	
7415 · Designated Outreach & Missions	
7440 · Blanket Fund CWS	643
7445 · Heifer Project HPI	1,655
Total 7415 · Designated Outreach & Missions	2,298
Total 7410 · Direct Pass Thru Income	<u>2,298</u>

8400 · Direct Pass Thru Expense	
8410 · Designated Outreach/Missions	
8430 · Christmas Fund MA	643
8440 · Heifer Project HPI	1,655
Total 8410 · Designated Outreach/Missions	2,298
Total 8400 · Direct Pass Thru Expense	<u>2,298</u>

Central Square Congregational Church UCC  
 Bank Account Cash Balances  
 As of June 30, 2021

1100.00 · Cash	
1103 · BCU 95 Money Market	
1103.01 · Youth Group MM	1,772.30
1103.02 · Memorials MM	6,983.45
1103.03 · Music (Anderson)	3,486.88
1103.12 · Altar & Flowers MM	140.88
1103.13 · Memorials (Wood)	1,495.46
1103.15 · Deacons Fund	1,617.02
1103.16 · Women's Retreat MM	468.00
1103.19 · Mission Youth MM	3,728.07
1103.30 · Sr Pastor Sabbatical Reserve	5,365.19
1103.36 · Flowers	422.00
1103.46 · Memorials Woods Grant	5,000.00
1103 · BCU 95 Money Market - Other	746.21
Total 1103 · BCU 95 Money Market	<hr/> 31,225.46
1104 · BCU 91 Operating Account	8,385.67
1105 · BCU Fair Account	16.00
1106 · BCU 90 Ministers Discretionary Acct	375.84
1107 · BCU 00 Svgs for Outreach	
1107.01 · Food Pantry Outreach	36,148.76
1107.02 · General Outreach	2,768.34
1107 · BCU 00 Svgs for Outreach - Other	522.89
Total 1107 · BCU 00 Svgs for Outreach	<hr/> 39,439.99
1109 · BCU 92 Cap Imp/Mortgage Acct	15,918.71
1110 · PayPal	189.32
Total 1100.00 · Cash	<hr/> <hr/> 95,550.99

Vanguard Investments	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2021
1500 · Endowments investment fund	228,716	241,515
1510 · Parsonage investment fund	102,557	93,072
Total investments	<hr/> 331,273	<hr/> 334,587

## Sexton's Report

Due to COVID 19 restrictions that limited in-person Sunday service and overall use of the Church building during the first 6 months of the year, there was less of a requirement for daily cleaning and maintenance during that time.

However, I was able to identify a couple of projects to enhance the appearance of the sanctuary. Over a period of 4 months, I restored the condition of all the pews in the sanctuary. I cleaned and scrubbed each of the rows of pews. Sanded the wood trim on the arms and seatbacks of each pew. Also removed the wooden holders for the Communions cups and the wooden holders for the hymnals and bibles. I sanded those also and applied new stain and polyurethane to those wooded surfaces. I applied two coats of paint to the each of the pews from the iron feet to the front and back of each pew.

As the church began to lift the COVID restrictions later in the year the daily cleaning efforts increased and it was back to business as usual.

I also collaborated closely with the Trustees to identify an issue with ceiling in the sanctuary. That is an ongoing problem and there are efforts to engage a contractor to address this issue.

In early December, I decided to start another restoration project in the sanctuary. I am repairing and painting the walls from the windowsill area down to the floor on each of the four walls. I estimate this will take another month to complete.

As always, I continue to support and assist internal and external groups in setting up the fellowship hall and other meeting rooms with table and chairs when needed. I work closely with the Congregational Administrator to address building issues and other general request as needed.

Respectfully, Rich Sullivan, Sexton

## Report from the Minister of Music

We have had a wonderful year in our church's music program. In spite of the challenges we have faced (and continue to face) due to the pandemic, this has been a time of deep musical and spiritual fulfillment. Even as we have been kept physically apart for the majority of this year, our musical offerings have continued to reach people through the wonders of technology and the work of our amazing videographer, Paul Holmes.

I am exceptionally grateful to all of the incredible guest artists who have shared their gifts with our community. While I cannot name every guest artist individually in this annual report, since we have been blessed with such an abundance of musical offerings, I will list a few of the special services that were highlights of this past year. All of these performances, as well as all of our other worship services, remain available to watch on our church's YouTube channel:

- On Good Friday, soprano Brianna J. Robinson presented a deeply moving recital entitled "When My Heart Is Almost Breaking," featuring the music and poetry of Maria Thompson Corley, as well as other spirituals and art songs exploring themes of mortality and resilience.
- For Pentecost, we presented the world premiere of a seven-movement cantata by composer Christopher M. Wicks, entitled "A Crown of Sonnets for Pentecost," performed by singers Sarah Bowe, Leslie Jacobsen Kaye, and James Liu.
- For Trinity Sunday, we were visited by the professional vocal octet "Festina," co-founded and co-directed by Shannon Rose McAuliffe and Daniel Gostin, for a beautiful program which included Jonathan Dove's "Ring Out, Wild Bells" and Charles Villiers Stanford's "St. Patrick's Breastplate."
- In the fall, we were joined by Ian Pomerantz, bass-baritone, for a special interfaith worship service, featuring the world premiere of three songs by composer Jeremiah Klarman, written in memorial of the 40th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic. Ian also performed Three Sephardic Songs by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco.
- For Veterans Day, mezzo-soprano Sarah Heltzel and horn player Anne Howarth performed the song cycle "Reminiscence" by composer Daniel Baldwin, which tells of a journey of faith in the midst of atrocities, and was inspired by the composer's grandfather, a decorated World War II veteran (we also performed music by Aaron Copland and William Grant Still).
- For Christmas, we commissioned and premiered a one-act opera entitled "The Lady of the Inn," composed by Mari Kotskyy to a libretto by Katherine Garrison Chapin, performed by mezzo-sopranos Christina English and Stephanie Kacoyanis.
- We ushered in the new year with a special service entitled "The Year of Jubilee," which honored the legacies of those who fought for freedom in the United States, on the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Our guest artists for the occasion were soprano Brianna J. Robinson, baritone James Dargan, and speaker Keidrick Roy. The program included two compositions by James T. Dargan (one of

which was commissioned by our church for the event), a piece I arranged called "Freedom Reigns" featuring the words and songs of lots of heroes of the abolitionist movement, two different settings of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's poem "Songs for the People" by composers Rosephanye Powell and Mason Bynes, and Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait."

- We have also enjoyed regular performances over the course of this year from some of the talented people within our own church community — teenage trumpet player Cameron Shave, young vocalists Cristianna Ciaramitaro and Hannah McElman, and pianist and vocalist Bob Richards.

We have also used our facilities to collaborate with other musical organizations. Here are the wonderful joint projects we have presented from our church this year:

- In the spring, soprano Rose Hegele and I presented a recital of music by female composers for the organization "Illuminate Women's Music," which was streamed live in the United Kingdom (this program included the world premiere of two piano pieces commissioned by me, by Mari Kotskyy and Sungji Hong).

- In June, the Boston-based art song organization Calliope's Call filmed a concert series called "I, Too, Sing America" in our church, with singers MaKayla M. McDonald, Charles Williamson, and Dana Whiteside, featuring works by Black composers and poets. In conjunction with the filming of this project, our church also commissioned a violin and piano piece written in honor of Juneteenth by composer Del'Shawn Taylor, entitled "And God Wept."

- On July 4th, Church on the Hill in Boston and our church co-presented a performance by baritone James Dargan, featuring William Grant Still's "Plain-Chant for America" (a setting of a poem by Katherine Garrison Chapin) and Jerrell R. Gray's "The Soul of America" (a setting of the final words of Rep. John R. Lewis).

- In the fall, the Boston Purcell Society streamed a concert entitled "From Prussia with Love" from our church, performed by Shirley Hunt on the historical violoncello and Sylvia Berry on the fortepiano.

Thank you so much to everyone who has shared their musical gifts with our church!! We are so very blessed to have so much talent in our community.

Submitted by: Julia Scott Carey, Minister of Music

## Video Evangelism Report

To Our Friends at Central Square Congregational Church

Annual Report - BTV Access Corp.

Dear Friends,

I send you Greetings and Congratulations as we celebrate another successful year for CSCC-UCC, and a growing partnership with BTV. Paul Holmes and I were excited to be a part of so many projects this year, including Hybrid/Remote Services, Holiday Programming, Virtual Concerts, and the ever popular, “Don’t Freak Out, It’s Christmas” Pageant!

BTV has received positive feedback for all of our religious programming, and our viewers especially enjoy the access to such wonderful musical talent that has been provided to us, courtesy of Julia Scott-Carey.

Paul and I are grateful for the opportunity to bring the Good News to Bridgewater residents who are home-bound or otherwise unable to attend services in person. We look forward to additional projects, partnership, and fellowship.

We wish you all the best for your annual celebration and look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely, Jeff Fowler, Station Manager - BTV Access Corp



## Board of Stewardship Report

The word home can mean many things. It may be the place you live, the face of a loved one, a memory of something from long ago, a line from your favorite poem or a show you love to binge watch. It can be a mix of all these things.

I think one of the most important roles of Stewardship is making sure our congregation has a safe and welcoming physical location to gather. Technically, we don’t actually need a place like this. The pandemic has shown us that we can still be linked via email, social media and zoom. Our hearts and prayers can be united even if we can’t be. However, and I am sure I am not the only one, I love having a

physical place to spiritually nest. I love that I am surrounded by all of you when I am here. I love the feeling of being rooted to a truth bigger than us. I love the stained-glass windows that speak of others who have come before. I love seeing the babies that will hold our church in their hands when they are grown.

We need to work together to make sure we have a place to keep the food pantry, scout meetings, choir practices and all the other forms of showing by doing that we participate in. It isn't just about a building. It also isn't about an end to the work at hand. I see Stewardship as a living and breathing entity. One that is just as vital as watching our congregation grow and change and evolve. We need to ensure that our church remains a vital and real force for today and into the future.

Many of us have the memory of our favorite home. The place that formed us and where we felt safest. Some of us still have that place physically. Our building is our place of spiritual safety. Sometimes the walls may seem too confining, and we need to step away. Some of us may need to find a new home. Sometimes we find we need to come back. Some of us have never felt the need to leave. Stewardship ensures that no matter how you're grappling with your spiritual relationship to a physical place, our building will always be here. Home.

Submitted by Kathleen Mosher, Chairperson

## Board of Christian Education Report

### Advent Sunday School

Children of all ages were invited to attend Sunday School where they explored the advent season. The Advent themes included: "Hope" on 11/28/21, "Peace" on 12/5/21, "Joy" on 12/12/21, and "Love" on 12/19/2021.

Submitted by Denise Molinari

### Christmas Pageant

We were able, with the support of a number of children and their families as well as the wonderful BTV team, Hanson Farm and Pastor Beth, to create a great pre-recorded Christmas Pageant this year. "Don't Freak Out" offered a fun and engaging twist on the Christmas story."

Submitted by Brianna O'Connell





In the spring/summer of 2021, I applied for a grant through The Bee Conservancy to make our church a "Bee Sanctuary". In doing this I created a fellowship program where individuals of all ages applied to serve as "Bee Love Fellows". We ended up having 9 Bee Love Fellows (ages toddler to adult) who worked on the following projects:



- Planted and Maintained a Bee Garden Under the Church Sign
- Cared for the Trees on Church property
- Created a Bee Bath and Placed it Under the Large Tree in Front of the Church
- Built three Bee Condos for Native Mason Bees
- Engaged in Research and shared research with other Bee Love Fellows
- Shared Bee Conservancy information with the whole Bridgewater Community

I am so thankful that we were all able to make a positive contribution in stewarding God's creation by creating a safe space for pollinators.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Beth Stotts

## Annual Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2021 via ZOOM



Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

Bridgewater, MA

Annual Meeting

February 14, 2021

Via Zoom teleconferencing, due to the pandemic

Moderator Anne Malmquist called the meeting to order at 11:22 a.m. Copies of the annual report were distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting.

33 members were in attendance, which meets quorum (25).

Rev. Beth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Anne invited representatives from each board, committee, organization, and project to report on their year's accomplishments. Copies of the full reports can be found in the Annual Report.

In addition to the written reports provided:

- Ellen Crawford on behalf of the Music Committee lifted up Julia and all of the musical artists she brought to our streaming services.
- Barbara Morey on behalf of the Historical Church Building Committee added to the printed report that the Town of Bridgewater Community Preservation Committee has awarded the church a \$200,000 grant for phase 1 of the renovation project, beginning with the steeple.
- Rev. Beth praised the congregation for their flexibility as the pandemic set in, in being able to think differently and dive into new things. She also noted how thankful she is for our ability to continue worship electronically, for the ministries that found ways to continue living our mission statement, and for our ability to keep caring for one another.
- Mike Bundock noted that the Growth Committee didn't submit a report as it was a very difficult year – so many of the events they participate in were cancelled. However, Rev. Beth reminded us in thanks that the Growth Committee coordinated folks to submit video greetings, they helped coordinate care circles, and were active in other ways that kept people connected.
- Thanks were given for the care rings that Carol Chaffee and Gail Wershing coordinated. They were a great way to keep in touch with people.
- Gordon Brailsford offered a shout-out to Rich Sullivan for painting all the pews and doing all the maintenance jobs he's been able to do while the building was empty.

Attention was drawn to the testimonials that are part of this year's annual report. They reflect how our community felt about living through a pandemic and how we can still stay connected despite not being able to be physically together.

Carol Chaffee suggested that the changes and additions to the annual report discussed here could be added to the report as an addendum so that the report itself could be approved. Kay Wheeler made the motion to accept the annual report with the knowledge that an addendum would be added with additional reports. Mike Bundock seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Sorgman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from last year's annual meeting, and Jamison Shave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rev. Beth closed the meeting in prayer at 12:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Diane Sheibley, Church Clerk