



# Steeple Sounds

The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC  
March 2023

*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*

Lent is traditionally a time in the church year where we start to think about “making changes.” Traditionally, Lent has been a time of fasting, penance, sacrifice. There are folks for whom giving something up is very meaningful and find a deepening of their faith through that practice each year. If that’s you, I say GO FOR IT.

Other folks approach Lent by “making changes” by adding something in. Perhaps they commit to a new prayer practice or find an outlet for community service. Again, this seems like a lovely practice for Lent. If adding something in helps you grow and deepens your connection to the Holy, I say GO FOR IT.

For those wanting to try something new this year, or those “just not feeling it” as Lent approaches – I have another possibility for you. How about a year where your Lenten practice is to *Just Be*? Father Richard Rohr says that all too often, Lenten practices are about making changes, not about being changed. This whole practice of following Jesus is about transformation – about allowing our very form to be altered on a foundational level – not just about making surface-level changes. Sometimes, of course, the practice of living in new ways leads to foundational shifts. I think that’s what we are often seeking when we give something up or add something in for Lent. When that works, it’s a powerful, powerful thing.

Sometimes, though, what we need (perhaps especially in a world that is always changing) is less movement and more stillness, fewer changes and more steadiness. Sometimes we don’t need to radically alter ourselves. Sometimes we simply need to be present and BE. This is not a passive waiting. This is an active, intentional way of grounding ourselves in each moment and inviting an awareness of God’s presence in our lives. This be-ing requires careful self-discipline and awareness. In his book *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer*, Fr. Rohr says, “Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am. Be still and know. Be still. Be.”

Be.

It’s a radical invitation in a world where we are told we need to be constantly in motion. It’s a radical invitation when our whole lives are built around the never-ending cycle of producing and consuming. It’s a radical invitation to rest in God’s presence and learn to simply be present. To honor the holiness of each passing moment. To be inspired by something as beautiful as our own breath. To stop striving, working, moving. To just BE.

You might decide to *Just Be* during conversations with your loved ones at the dinner table. Or maybe you want to *Just Be* when that negative voice starts to play in your head. Perhaps you want to *Just Be* in nature, or in worship, or at the gym. I think it can be done anywhere, really. It’s about a quality of awareness we bring to each moment as holy – nothing more, nothing less. However you observe this season that we call Lent, know that I will be praying for you as you seek wholeness and growth on this journey towards Easter. GO FOR IT!

*In Christ,  
Rev. Beth*

*Be*

*Be still  
and know  
that I am  
God*  
-PSALM 46:10

*Be still*

*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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## 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](http://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, March 15, 7pm

Monthly meetings of the church leadership are currently being held in the Fellowship Hall. All church members are also welcome to attend.

## Venmo!

All types of donations to CSCC are welcome via Venmo. Aim your phone camera below, or use the Venmo app to send your donation to @cscucc-ucc



**Tuesday thru Friday, 9am - 1pm  
and by appointment**  
**Please note that the office will be closed  
on Friday, March 10.**



One of the most influential ministries of the church is serving as an usher for worship. The usher is the friendly face greeting new folks, introducing them to our worship bulletin & hymnal, and helping them find their place in the beloved community. For the 15 minutes before worship, you have the most important job in the building.

***Would you consider signing up to do it for just one upcoming Sunday?***

Training is available! Families welcome! Contact the church office, or click on the link at [cscucc.org/time-talent](http://cscucc.org/time-talent).



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, except holidays. 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, 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](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com)

### Deacons

Deb Sorgman

– [debsorgman@gmail.com](mailto:debsorgman@gmail.com)

Jae Stotts – [jaestotts@gmail.com](mailto:jaestotts@gmail.com)

### CSCC Care Team

Carol Chaffee

Bev Mitchell

Phoebe Hogg

Rev. Beth Stotts



## Coins for Kids Church : March 5

Don't forget to bring your spare change for the Coins for Kids Church

collection on the first Sunday of each month! This helps to pay for Kids Church supplies and teaching materials.



**Join us for breakfast on  
Sunday, March 5 and Sunday, March 19**

## CSCC Junior Choir 2022-23!

**Rehearsals at 9:15am:  
Mar. 5 - Mar. 12 - Mar. 19**

**Performance at 10am:  
March 19**



## Tulips, Lilies, and Daffodils

The History and Memorials Committee will once again offer the opportunity to purchase your favorite Spring flowers in memory of a loved one. The committee will decorate the church altar for Easter with the flowers. You may decide whether you would like the flower(s) donated to someone unable to attend church, or you would like to take the flower(s) home with you on Easter morning following the service. The cost of the flowers is \$10 each. The names of your loved ones will be published in the Easter bulletin.

You may contact the church office to order your flowers, or see one of the members of the H&M Committee after church on March 12, 19, or 26.



Women's Guild and Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, March 1, at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Our program for the evening will be a slide presentation by Rob and Beth Basler. They will share their experiences and pictures of the Maine Coast, Acadia National Park, and their weekend sail aboard The Mercantile Schooner through Penobscott Bay. Their slide shows are always informational and beautiful! Please join us and bring friends! We will also have a meeting and refreshments.

*Jane O'Connell, Co-President*



## Christian Outreach at CSCC

February was definitely a giving month, as well it should be. Your Outreach dollars went to the Heifer Fund and also to CWS Blanket Fund. Along with \$200.00 from Outreach and your donations to Blanket Sunday, \$676 is being sent to CWS Blanket Fund to wrap those in need with love. Although we may never meet those we help, they will feel our caring and compassion through the warmth of a blanket. Thank you for your continued generosity.

March will bring the One Great Hour of Sharing special collection on March 19, during worship. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.



## Church Lawn Care

After many years of faithfully mowing the church lawn every single Friday, Bruce Maclay has decided to hang up his lawn mower. Thank you so much, Bruce, for your quiet dedication to this faithful service.

Might there be someone else who feels called to step into his shoes, and mow the church lawn on a weekly basis? Perhaps a youth who would like community service hours? Please contact Gordon Brailsford or Ed Buckland, or the church office, if you would consider helping out in this way.

## Deacon Ministry

### Congratulations Savannah Wells!

Congratulations to Savannah Wells, commissioned on February 12 as a Junior Deacon.

## Central Closet Thrift Shop

at Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

**Clothing - Housewares - Accessories**  
**Baby items - Jewelry - Books**

Hours: Wed & Sat, 10-1  
71 Central Square, Bridgewater  
[www.cscucc.org/thrift-shop](http://www.cscucc.org/thrift-shop)



# \$1

# SALE

on all children clothes and jeans

And watch for our March bag sale!



Central Closet Thrift Shop at CSCC  
71 Central Square, Bridgewater  
[www.cscucc.org/thrift-shop](http://www.cscucc.org/thrift-shop)  
Open Wed/Sat, 10-1

# 50% OFF.

# SALE

ON ALL WINTER COATS AND SWEATERS, BEGINNING FEB. 15

Central Closet Thrift Shop at Central Square Church  
Bridgewater Open Wed & Sat, 10-1

## Regarding donations, please note:

Donations are accepted ONLY during shop hours (Wed & Sat, 10-1). Please do NOT leave them at the church door, at the shop door, or elsewhere inside the church building. • Donations are limited to a maximum of 20 items per person per day. • No ripped, torn, or stained clothing or linens accepted. \* Thank you!

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC • March 2023

508-697-6016 • [OFFICE@CSCCUCC.COM](mailto:OFFICE@CSCCUCC.COM) • [www.cscucc.org](http://www.cscucc.org) • [www.facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma](https://www.facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma)



Krissy Cannizzo is pleased to report that the total to date raised by the children and youth for Heifer International comes to **\$1,304.36**, with a couple of more donations expected. All the children were able to meet their goals of what they want to purchase, which includes: chickens, bees, tree seedlings, fish, rabbits, pigs, a llama, and sending a girl to school.

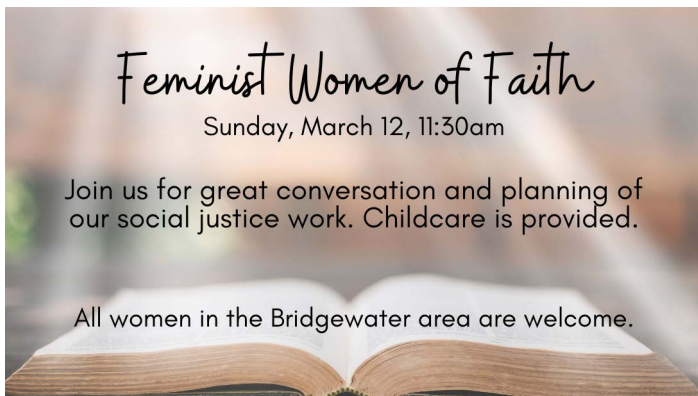


All ages are invited to this Youth Group-hosted archery event at Reedy's Archery in Middleboro. The cost is \$20 per person, and no prepayment nor reservation is necessary.

Pizza will be provided. The event will last about 2 - 2.5 hours. Parents are welcome to drop off their youth, or stay and participate. Please plan on meeting at Reedy's (not at the church) at noon. The address is 121 Wood St, Middleboro.

Youth -- feel free to bring a friend!

For more information, contact the church office or Rev. Beth at [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com), 508-697-6016, or [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com).



## Kitchen and Closet Cleanout Saturday March 11 from 9-3

Our storage areas and closets are overflowing. If your group, committee, or event has items stored away somewhere in the church, this will be the perfect day to get rid of things that are no longer in use, throw out things that no longer work, and take inventory of your items. We are hoping to free up some much needed room as well.

Or perhaps you just have an hour or two that you can help sort and organize. In either case, we hope to see you there!

## Pronoun Project

We have had an excellent response so far. Please get your forms in with how you want your name to appear on your new nametag and your preferred pronouns. Thank you!

And if you have questions, or want to hear more info about the Pronoun Project, join us on March 5th following worship.

## Pronoun Project

Why are we putting our pronouns on our nametags?

Why is it important that I participate?

All of your questions about the Pronoun Project will be the basis of this discussion. We look forward to having you participate.



**Sunday, March 5th  
11:30am**

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC  
Bridgewater, MA [www.cscucc.org](http://www.cscucc.org)  
CSCC is an open and affirming church. All are welcome.

# Congregational Meeting



## CSCC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 19 11:15am

One item of business will be conducted on this day:

The Moderator proposes that we accept the work of the Constitution Committee and adopt their proposed new Constitution as our governing document, to be effective July 1, 2023. This document would replace the existing Constitution and Bylaws of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC.

No other business matters will be voted on, unless presented in writing to the Moderator prior to the meeting. That business will be added to the agenda ONLY after an affirmative vote by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the attending-voting members.

All church members are requested to attend. Voting will take place in person and online.

SAVE THE DATE

## AN EVENING WITH JULIA SCOTT CAREY



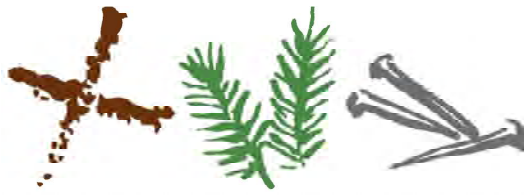
A piano concert featuring a variety of her favorite classics, showtunes, and movie themes.

Enjoy the extraordinary talents of Julia while listening to music you know and love.

**Friday, March 24 7pm**

The evening consists of Julia's performance in the church sanctuary, with a reception following. You are welcome to bring your favorite wine while you enjoy some light hors d'oeuvres.

\$30 per person in advance (\$20 student/senior). All tickets include a commemorative wine glass!



# Lent

## CSCC Lenten Schedule of Events

**Saturday, March 4** : Youth Lenten Archery (12-2pm)  
Reedy's Archery in Middleboro

**Sunday, March 5** : Second Sunday of Lent w/Communion (10am)

**Sunday, March 12** : Third Sunday of Lent (10am)

**Sunday, March 19** : Fourth Sunday of Lent (10am)

**Saturday, March 25** : Lenten Book Study (9:30am)  
"Wholehearted Faith" by Rachel Held Evans

**Sunday, March 26** : Fifth Sunday of Lent (10am)

## Holy Week Schedule of Events

**Sunday, April 2** : Palm Sunday  
Worship w/Communion (10am)  
Youth Talent Show & Lunch (11:30am)

**Thursday, April 6** : Maundy Thursday Worship (7pm)

**Friday, April 7** : Good Friday Worship (3pm)

**Saturday, April 8** : End of Life Planning w/Rev. Beth (10am)

**Sunday, April 9** : Easter Sunday  
Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30am at Hanson Farm  
Easter Worship at CSCC (10am)

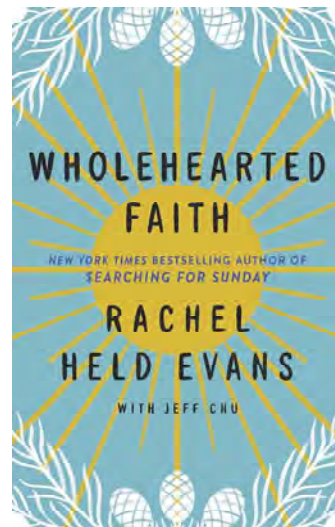


## Palm Sunday and Kids Church

Eric Stotts, Connie Chandler, and Terry Reynolds will be the Kids Church teachers during the season of Lent. Our goal is to have the children, with the guidance of the teachers, plan and participate in the Palm Sunday service on April 2. Beginning on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> the teachers began presenting the stories of the last week of Jesus' life.

After hearing the stories, the children will have the opportunity to decide how they will be presented in church. With the help of the teachers, the children will next plan in what way they will participate or help with worship on Palm Sunday. This will take a great deal of planning and preparation from both teachers and students. **It is essential that during the weeks of February 26<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup> that the children attend Kids Church each Sunday.** If, for any reason, you have difficulty transporting your child to church, please let us know by contacting me or the church office. We may be able to assist you. We look forward for the opportunity to work with your child planning this event.

*Terry Reynolds*



## Lenten Book Study: "Wholehearted Faith" by Rachel Held Evans

This book is for the doubter and the dreamer, the seeker and the sojourner, those who long for a sense of spiritual wholeness as well as those who have been hurt by the Church but can't seem to let go of the story of Jesus. Through theological reflection and personal recollection, Rachel wrestles with God's grace and love, looks unsparingly at what the Church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging.

Read it at your own pace, and join Rev. Beth for a discussion on Saturday, March 25 at 9:30am in the Fireplace Room. All are welcome.



## Daily Lectionary Scripture References – March 2023 (Year A)

### Wed., Mar. 1

Psalm 32  
Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28  
Matthew 18:10-14

### Thurs., Mar. 2

Psalm 121  
Isaiah 51:1-3  
2 Timothy 1:3-7

### Fri., Mar. 3

Psalm 121  
Micah 7:18-20  
Romans 3:21-31

### Sat., Mar. 4

Psalm 121  
Isaiah 51:4-8  
Luke 7:1-10

### Sun., Mar. 5

*Second Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17 *or*  
Matthew 17:1-9

### Mon., Mar. 6

Psalm 128  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Hebrews 3:1-6

### Tues., Mar. 7

Psalm 128  
Isaiah 65:17-25  
Romans 4:6-13

### Wed., Mar. 8

Psalm 128  
Ezekiel 36:22-32  
John 7:53–8:11

### Thurs., Mar. 9

Psalm 95  
Exodus 16:1-8  
Colossians 1:15-23

### Fri., Mar. 10

Psalm 95  
Exodus 16:9-21  
Ephesians 2:11-22

### Sat., Mar. 11

Psalm 95  
Exodus 16:27-35  
John 4:1-6

### Sun., Mar. 12

*Third Sunday in Lent*  
Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

### Mon., Mar. 13

Psalm 81  
Genesis 24:1-27  
2 John 1-13

### Tues., Mar. 14

Psalm 81  
Genesis 29:1-14  
1 Corinthians 10:1-4

### Wed., Mar. 15

Psalm 81  
Jeremiah 2:4-13  
John 7:14-31, 37-39

### Thurs., Mar. 16

Psalm 23  
1 Samuel 15:10-21  
Ephesians 4:25-32

### Fri., Mar. 17

Psalm 23  
1 Samuel 15:22-31  
Ephesians 5:1-9

### Sat., Mar. 18

Psalm 23  
1 Samuel 15:32-34  
John 1:1-9

### Sun., Mar. 19

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

### Mon., Mar. 20

Psalm 146  
Isaiah 59:9-19  
Acts 9:1-20

### Tues., Mar. 21

Psalm 146  
Isaiah 42:14-21  
Colossians 1:9-14

### Wed., Mar. 22

Psalm 146  
Isaiah 60:17-22  
Matthew 9:27-34

### Thurs., Mar. 23

Psalm 130  
Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8–3:3  
Revelation 10:1-11

### Fri., Mar. 24

Psalm 130  
Ezekiel 33:10-16  
Revelation 11:15-19

### Sat., Mar. 25

Psalm 130  
Ezekiel 36:8-15  
Luke 24:44-53

### Sun., Mar. 26

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

### Mon., Mar. 27

Psalm 143  
1 Kings 17:17-24  
Acts 20:7-12

### Tues., Mar. 28

Psalm 143  
2 Kings 4:18-37  
Ephesians 2:1-10

### Wed., Mar. 29

Psalm 143  
Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41  
Matthew 22:23-33

### Thurs., Mar. 30

Psalm 31:9-16  
1 Samuel 16:11-13  
Philippians 1:1-11

### Fri., Mar. 31

Psalm 31:9-16  
Job 13:13-19  
Philippians 1:21-30

# MARCH 2023

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| Unless otherwise noted,<br>worship services are both<br>online and in-person   |  |   | <b>1</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-1 Thrift Shop open<br>6pm Girl Scout #69063<br>6:30pm Women's Guild<br>& Fellowship<br>7:30pm BSU Alumni<br>Choir                              | <b>2</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>5pm Girl Scouts<br>#64997 & #62521<br>7pm Al-Anon                         | <b>3</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>2:30pm Girl Scouts<br>#66212                            | <b>4</b><br>10-1 Thrift Shop open<br>12-2 Youth Archery Trip                        |
| <b>5</b><br><i>Second Sunday of Lent</i><br>9am Breakfast<br>9:15 Jr Choir Rehearsal<br>10am Communion Worship,<br>Coins for Kids Church,<br>Kids Church<br>11:30am Pronoun Project Q&A<br>7:30pm AA Meeting                                   | <b>6</b><br>4:30pm Daisies #64998<br>6-7:30pm Food Pantry<br>Open<br>6:30pm Women's AA | <b>7</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>7pm Women's NA                            | <b>8</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-1 Thrift Shop open<br>7pm Trustees mtg<br>7:30pm BSU Alumni<br>Choir   | <b>9</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>5:30 Girl Scouts<br>#70833<br>7pm Al-Anon                                 | <b>10</b><br>CHURCH OFFICE<br>CLOSED  | <b>11</b><br>9-3 Kitchen & closet<br>cleanout<br>10-1 Thrift Shop open              |
| <b>12</b><br><i>Daylight Savings</i><br><i>Third Sunday of Lent,</i><br><i>Scout Sunday</i><br>9:15 Jr Choir Rehearsal<br>10am Worship, Kids<br>Church<br>11:30 Feminist Women Mtg<br>5pm Girl Scouts #82722<br>7:30pm AA Meeting              | <b>13</b><br>5pm Daisies #77308<br>6:30pm Women's AA                                   | <b>14</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>7pm Christian Outreach<br>7pm Women's NA | <b>15</b><br><i>Steeple Sounds</i><br><i>articles due</i><br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-1 Thrift Shop open<br>6pm Girl Scouts #69063<br>7pm Cabinet Mtg<br>7:30pm BSU Alumni<br>Choir | <b>16</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>10am CSCC Staff Mtg<br>5pm Girl Scouts<br>#64997 & #62521<br>7pm Al-Anon | <b>17</b><br>9-1 Church office open   | <b>18</b><br>10-1 Thrift Shop open  |
| <b>19</b><br><i>Fourth Sunday of Lent,</i><br><i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i><br>9am Breakfast<br>9:15am Jr. Choir Rehearsal<br>10am Worship, Kids Church,<br>Jr. Choir Performance<br>11:15am Congregational<br>Meeting<br>7:30pm AA Meeting | <b>20</b><br>4:30pm Daisies #64998<br>6:30pm Women's AA                                | <b>21</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>7pm Women's NA                           | <b>22</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-1 Thrift Shop open<br>7:30pm BSU Alumni<br>Choir  | <b>23</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>5:30 Girl Scouts #70833<br>7pm Al-Anon                                   | <b>24</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>2:30PM Girl Scouts<br>#66212<br>7pm Concert with Julia | <b>25</b><br>9:30am Lenten book<br>study with Rev.<br>Beth<br>10-1 Thrift Shop open |
| <b>26</b><br><i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i><br>10am Worship, Kids Church<br>5pm Girl Scouts #82722<br>7:30pm AA Meeting   | <b>27</b><br>5pm Daisies #77308<br>6:30pm Women's AA                                   | <b>28</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>7pm Women's NA                           | <b>29</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-1 Thrift Shop open<br>6pm Girl Scouts<br>#69063<br>7:30pm BSU Alumni<br>Choir   | <b>30</b><br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>5pm Girl Scouts<br>#64997 & #62521<br>7pm Al-Anon                        | <b>31</b><br>9-1 Church office open   |   |

## CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes February 15, 2023 at 7pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Denise Molinari, Vice Moderator.

Cabinet members in attendance: Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; Denise Molinari, Vice Moderator; David Sheibley, Treasurer; Diane Sheibley, Clerk; Ed Buckland and Gordon Brailsford, Board of Trustees; Bill O'Neil, Board of Christian Outreach; Kathleen Mosher, Board of Stewardship; Terry Reynolds, Board of Christian Education and History & Memorials Committee; Ellen Crawford, Music Committee; Jane O'Connell, Women's Guild & Fellowship

Additional attendees: Krissy Cannizzo

Rev. Beth opened the meeting with a devotion and a prayer.

Diane Sheibley took attendance and verified that a quorum was present.

### January Minutes

The meeting minutes from the January meeting were presented and reviewed. Dave Sheibley motioned to accept the minutes as written; Rev. Beth seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Pastor's Report** – Rev. Beth Stotts (also see printed report) Everything for Lent is being prepared, we're just waiting on confirmation from David Hanson for the sunrise service at the farm. Rev. Beth will be making bookmarks with all of the Lenten dates on them, and they will be distributed in the Sunday bulletins. "Rest & Care" are the themes of Lent this year. The Blessing of the Stuffedies will kick it off on Feb. 26. Rev. Beth thanked everyone that helped her develop and finalize the new membership packet. She is excited to distribute it to several people who have expressed interest in membership. She noted she has spent a lot of time helping get the youth group(s) up and running. There will be three groups: 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders; high schoolers; and an LGBT youth group for the whole community. Scout Sunday will be March 12. Preparations have begun for the 3/24 Julia concert. Glassware has been ordered, thanks to Black Hat Brew Works for suggesting their supplier who gave us a really good rate. There continue to be a lot of pastoral calls.

**Treasurer's Report** – David Sheibley (also see printed report) Dave reported that last month was an OK one for income, and expenses have been pretty consistent, so we're running

a bit ahead. The stock market went up last month, so that helps. A question was asked about the two separate lines on the report, both marked "Paypal" account. Dave said this was an error and he will fix it. It should only appear once. Gordon read a list of how our budget deficit has increased each year in recent years, and noted we can't support that trend forever.

**Bridgewater Food Pantry at CSCC** – Jack Melcher's printed report and Bill O'Neil reporting at meeting

Bill noted that the Amazon warehouse on Elm St contacted the food pantry and subsequently brought over 4 large boxes of surplus items they had – cereal, cat food, etc. They said they would contact us periodically when they have more to donate. Jack's report noted that 88 households were served in January, and a total of 807 bags were distributed.

**Historical Church Building Committee** – Terry Reynolds & Gordon Brailsford

Terry noted that there haven't been any changes regarding the town. Gordon noted that he has a new draft of the grant agreement for review, and the first item is taking off all of the siding of the church. It was the committee's understanding that they were not going to require that, as it's a big expense. The process remains that both the grant agreement and the deed restriction need to be finalized and approved. The approval process is: we have to agree on all the terms; then our lawyers have to review and approve them; then the congregation has to approve them. Gordon still has concerns about what we're being asked to commit to as a tradeoff for accepting the town's grant money.

**Pronoun Project** – Kathleen Mosher

Kathleen noted that on March 5, Marci Langevin will be hosting a Q&A discussion regarding the Pronoun Project, following worship. She also noted that we got a lot of forms back from people in worship, picking their pronouns, and she feels like it's going very well.

**Concert with Julia Fundraiser** – Rev. Beth

Rev. Beth made a motion that we allow the concert event on March 24 to hold a raffle. Terry seconded the motion. It was noted that it would be for gift baskets. Motion was approved.

Rev. Beth noted that the concert will be on Friday, March 24, and showed a picture of the commemorative wine

*continued...*

## CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

*continued...*

glasses that she ordered for the event. The ticket price will include a wine glass. It was asked why we sometimes drop the “Congregational” from our name, and it was answered that sometimes the whole name with “Congregational” doesn’t fit and it has to be abbreviated.

**Board of Trustees** – Ed Buckland and Gordon Brailsford  
Gordon noted that he is getting prices on fixing various things, and windows are getting repaired this week. He also noted that they helped fix the lights on the lower level for the food pantry.

**Board of Stewardship** – Kathleen Mosher  
Kathleen noted that they will be doing a pledge drive soon. They also have more ideas for fundraising, and welcome any ideas anyone else has.

**Board of Christian Education** – Krissy Cannizzo and Terry Reynolds  
Krissy announced that the total amount raised for Heifer is \$1304.36, and that all the groups made their goals of what they wanted to sponsor. The kids and the volunteers had a Heifer Helper celebration last Sunday. Jane noted that there were leftover items from the living gift market that they tried to sell during thrift store hours.

Terry noted that the Kids Church teachers for Lent would be Eric Stotts, Connie Chandler, and Terry. The Palm Sunday worship service will be done completely by the kids.

**Board of Christian Outreach** – Bill O’Neil  
Bill noted that the Board of Outreach on behalf of CSCC donated money to the Heifer project and Blanket Sunday, and will be making a donation to earthquake relief for Turkey and Syria.

**Music Committee** – Ellen Crawford  
Rev. Beth requested that we play the chimes in church again soon.

**History and Memorials Committee** – Terry Reynolds  
The committee will once again be selling Easter flowers in memory of loved ones, which will decorate the altar. Orders will be taken on the last three Sundays of March.

**Women’s Guild & Fellowship** – Jane O’Connell  
The next meeting is on March 1, and Rob and Beth Basler will be presenting a slide show and telling stories of their experiences on the Maine coast.

**Central Closet Thrift Shop** – Jane O’Connell  
Jane noted that they are getting too many donations, and people aren’t following the rules – there are holes in clothing, and stains. They also leave bags outside the side door, and at the door of the thrift shop. They might have to consider limiting donations.

**Other Business**  
• Beth thanked everyone and wanted to celebrate the love and support that has been extended to Jae  
• Kathleen announced that there will be a kitchen and closet cleanout on March 11, 9-3, to go through all the stuff that’s stored away, and combine like items, supplies everyone can use.

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

Treasurer's Report  
January 31, 2023  
Fiscal Year July 2022 - June 2023

|                                    | YTD<br>Actual | YTD<br>Budget | Difference | Annual<br>Budget |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                      |               |               |            |                  |
| Regular Pledges                    | 77,921        | 79,521        | (1,600)    | 135,000          |
| Unpledged Offerings                | 7,794         | 5,890         | 1,903      | 10,000           |
| Plate Offering                     | 472           | 1,473         | (1,000)    | 2,500            |
| Church School                      | 116           | 0             | 116        | 0                |
| Total - Pledges / Offerings        | 86,302        | 86,884        | (581)      | 147,500          |
| Special Collections                |               |               |            |                  |
| MACUCC Fellowship Dues             | 60            | 1,178         | (1,118)    | 2,000            |
| Total - Special Collections        | 60            | 1,178         | (1,118)    | 2,000            |
| Fundraisers/Events Revenue         |               |               |            |                  |
| Golf Tournament                    | 0             | 0             | 0          | 0                |
| Breakfasts                         | 530           | 0             | 530        | 0                |
| Church Fair                        | 9,416         | 4,418         | 4,998      | 7,500            |
| Central Closet Thrift Shop         | 1,087         | 0             | 1,087      | 0                |
| Misc Fundraisers                   | 910           | 2,945         | (2,035)    | 5,000            |
| Total - Fundraisers/Events Revenue | 11,943        | 7,363         | 4,580      | 12,500           |
| Facility Usage Income              |               |               |            |                  |
| Non Profit Bldg Use                | 2,071         | 1,767         | 304        | 3,000            |
| Private Bldg Use                   | 0             | 295           | (295)      | 500              |
| Food Pantry support                | 200           | 0             | 200        | 0                |
| Total - Facility Usage Income      | 2,271         | 2,062         | 209        | 3,500            |
| Miscellaneous Income               | 156           | 589           | (433)      | 1,000            |
| Total Income                       | 100,732       | 98,075        | 2,657      | 166,500          |
| <b>Expenses</b>                    |               |               |            |                  |
| Total - Senior Minister Expenses   | 64,370        | 64,883        | 513        | 110,150          |
| Total - Support Staff Expenses     | 25,686        | 29,428        | 3,743      | 49,960           |
| Total - Office Expenses            | 6,111         | 5,242         | (868)      | 8,900            |
| Total - Church Building Costs      | 17,920        | 18,781        | 861        | 31,884           |
| Operating Committees               |               |               |            |                  |
| Christian Education                | 864           | 442           | (423)      | 750              |
| Church Growth                      | 435           | 589           | 154        | 1,000            |
| Deacons                            | 826           | 589           | (237)      | 1,000            |
| Music (Materials/Substitutes)      | 245           | 353           | 108        | 600              |
| Stewardship                        | 0             | 206           | 206        | 350              |
| Outreach                           | 1,139         | 1,193         | 54         | 2,025            |
| Total - Operating Committees       | 3,509         | 3,372         | (136)      | 5,725            |
| MACUCC Fellowship Dues             | 0             | 1,590         | 1,590      | 2,700            |
| Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues       | 0             | 118           | 118        | 200              |
| Miscellaneous Expenses             | 27            | 0             | (27)       | 0                |
| Total Expenses                     | 117,622       | 123,415       | 5,793      | 209,519          |
| Net income (loss)                  | (16,890)      | (25,340)      | 8,450      | (43,019)         |
| Transfer from Investments          | 20,000        | 25,340        | 5,340      | 43,019           |
|                                    | 3,110         | 0             |            | 0                |

Treasurer's Report  
January 31, 2023  
Fiscal Year July 2022 - June 2023

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Cash balances                    |               |
| Operating account                | 8,680         |
| Money Market                     | 25,244        |
| Minister's Discretionary account | 1,468         |
| Outreach account                 | 694           |
| Capital Campaign account         | 1,714         |
| PayPal account                   | 323           |
| Total cash balances              | <u>38,123</u> |

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Endowments investment fund    |                |
| Protected principal           | 135,513        |
| Unrestricted funds, beginning | 38,739         |
| Deposits (withdrawals)        | 0              |
| Gain (loss) for month         | <u>9,987</u>   |
| Unrestricted funds, ending    | <u>48,726</u>  |
| Total value 1/31/2022         | 184,239        |
| Parsonage investment fund     |                |
| Beginning balance             | 68,853         |
| Deposits (withdrawals)        | (10,000)       |
| Gain (loss) for month         | <u>3,868</u>   |
| Total value 1/31/2022         | <u>62,721</u>  |
| Total investments 1/31/2022   | <u>246,960</u> |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Food Pantry account balance December 31, 2022 | 25,257         |
| Donations                                     | 1,787          |
| Expenses                                      | <u>(3,956)</u> |
| Food Pantry account balance January 31, 2023  | <u>23,088</u>  |

| Giving Comparison |            |            |            |            |            |           |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
|                   | 2021 Month | 2022 Month | 2023 Month | 2021 YTD   | 2022 YTD   | 2023 YTD  |
| Jan.              | 13,532.33  | 10,029.82  | 10,307.95  | 13,532.33  | 10,029.82  | 10,307.95 |
| Feb.              | 11,754.66  | 6,562.91   |            | 25,286.99  | 16,592.73  |           |
| March             | 11,538.00  | 13,355.24  |            | 36,824.99  | 29,947.97  |           |
| April             | 13,129.33  | 11,808.31  |            | 49,954.32  | 41,756.28  |           |
| May               | 11,279.57  | 14,476.24  |            | 61,233.89  | 56,232.52  |           |
| June              | 13,469.24  | 11,304.13  |            | 74,703.13  | 67,536.65  |           |
| July              | 13,048.91  | 16,505.70  |            | 87,752.04  | 84,042.35  |           |
| Aug.              | 10,053.72  | 9,586.37   |            | 97,805.76  | 93,628.72  |           |
| Sept.             | 10,624.57  | 9,379.22   |            | 108,430.33 | 103,007.94 |           |
| Oct.              | 15,581.54  | 15,615.55  |            | 124,011.87 | 118,623.49 |           |
| Nov.              | 12,400.72  | 9,164.75   |            | 136,412.59 | 127,788.24 |           |
| Dec.              | 10,377.35  | 15,622.72  |            | 146,789.94 | 143,410.96 |           |



1821-2021

# Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

71 Central Square

Bridgewater, MA 02324 • [www.cscucc.org](http://www.cscucc.org)



## Church Administration

**Pastor:** Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com)

**Office Manager:** Jennifer Foronjy, [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com)

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**Minister of Music:** Julia Scott Carey, [juliascottcarey@gmail.com](mailto:juliascottcarey@gmail.com)

**Director of Video Evangelism:** Paul Holmes

**Treasurer:** David Sheibley, [treasurer@cscucc.com](mailto:treasurer@cscucc.com)

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**Facebook pages:** [facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma](https://facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma) (main page),  
[facebook.com/groups/801550253194149](https://facebook.com/groups/801550253194149) (youth page)

**Instagram:** [@centralsquarechurch](https://instagram.com/centralsquarechurch)

*Steeple Sounds submissions deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.*

## Amazon Shopping!

Shopping on Amazon and feeling generous? Check out the CSCC Wish List, and drop an item in your cart for us! Visit [www.cscucc.org/giving](http://www.cscucc.org/giving) for the link to our Amazon wish list.

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