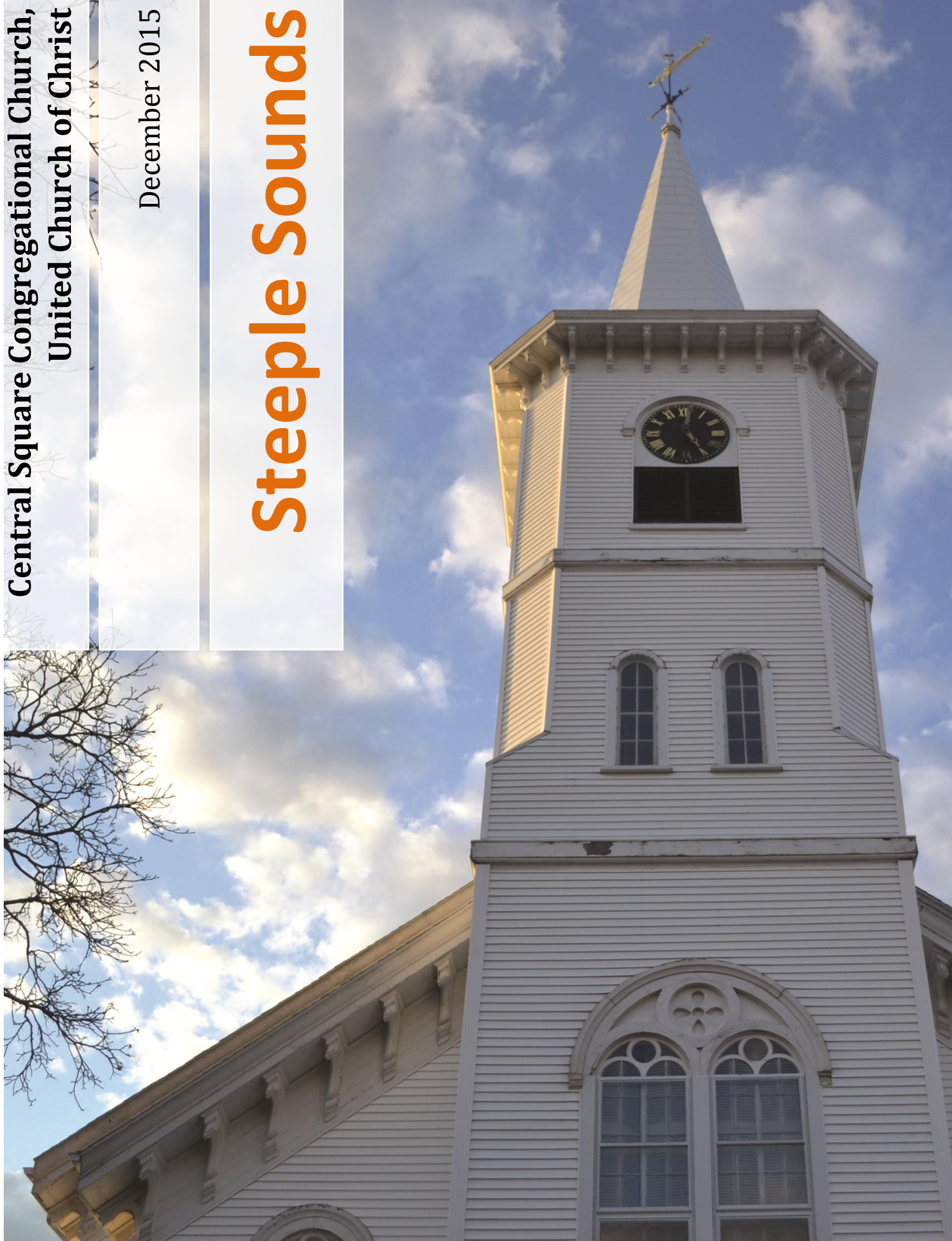


**Central Square Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ**

December 2015

# Steeple Sounds



## *From The Desk of Rev. Beth*



*In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;  
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.  
In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
God's service is the golden cord close binding humankind.  
In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;  
for men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.*

**-*"In Christ There Is No East or West"*  
New Century Hymnal, #394/#395**

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The lyrics to one of our most beloved hymns come from deep spiritual truths found throughout Paul's epistles. In his letters to the people of Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, he urges people to see past the separations that humans make in order to see the unity that living a life in Christ brings.

This season, we are reminded of the story of our faith. The story of God being birthed into the world. The Birth of Christ is love made manifest. It is sacrificial love. It is a love bigger than male or female. It is a love encompassing polarities. The love of Christ holds it all.

In a meeting recently at church we discussed the Syrian refugee crisis. In our talking one person asked if our stance makes too big of a political statement. Shouldn't the church shy away from politics or taking sides? The decisions we make should be made out of our faith, not out of our political party, affiliation, or agenda. We are Christians before anything else. We are not Republicans or Democrats. We're not conservatives or liberals. We are not even Americans, not first. We are Christians. We are those who submit our very lives to the Gospel law of Love. And as a Christian people, we seek to live out our faith through Christ, through the Love which binds us. We are those who kneel before Christ the King. And our first question to ourselves must always be, "How would our King have us respond?"

The Advent season is a time where we rest in hope, peace, joy and love as Christ's light is again, year after year, made manifest in the world. May we always remember that we are one in Christ. That only through him do the separations we create fade away. This Christmas my prayer for us all is to love ourselves enough to love everyone else as Christ does. May this always be true.

In Christ,

*Rev. Beth*

## *From the Board of Trustees*

### Trustees Remain Busy with Stewardship of the Buildings

Here is a list of some of the things that the Trustees have accomplished this year in stewardship of the church building and the parsonage. Most of this work was done by the Trustees in volunteer time and labor, but some required the assistance (and associated costs) of outside help from contractors and tradesmen:

- A new electric water heater in the boiler room
- A water leak in the older boiler was repaired using sodium silicate stop leak. This boiler is going to need to be replaced in the not too distant future. It is 25 years old.
- Two new electric outlets in the kitchen to support our breakfast outreach and other outreach activities wherein the kitchen is used to support
- Using a handful of leftover floor tiles from the last kitchen renovation, all damaged floor tiles in the kitchen were replaced.
- A new fire alarm panel and additional smoke detectors in the basement, where there were none. The old panel died.
- Overgrown and ugly hedges removed from the front sidewalks, and the sidewalks repaired and coated with a special one part epoxy paint of the color named “Fresh Concrete”
- Front lawn on the College Town Siding side was rehabilitated by rototilling and new seed
- New dehumidifier installed in the Lounge Area in the basement that has an internal condensate pump piped to outside the building. The one that was their had died.
- Water damaged (because 110 inches of snow fell on the roofs last winter) suspended ceiling tiles in the upstairs classrooms and the office area were replaced
- That ugly, stained, never used anymore divider curtain in Fellowship Hall was removed and paneling erected to cover the bare wall area left behind
- The grease trap on the deep sinks in the kitchen was cleaned. A job dirtier than the dirtiest job ever shown on the TV show – Dirty Jobs
- Side exit door (not the Church St. entrance door, but the other one) was draftier than a Chicago alley in February and has been buttoned up nicely

Meanwhile, at the parsonage:

- The most significant leaks from the steam radiators were repaired with one needing the assistance of a plumber. He also replaced the main shut off valve on the steam radiator in one of the bedrooms. It was stuck in the open position
- Cracks in the mortar of the foundation stones were filled with crack repair mortar
- A project is currently underway to find and repair the roof leak over the downstairs half bath ceiling and to remove the entire horse hair plaster on wood lath bathroom ceiling, which is sagging from exposure to water over the last many years, and replace it with a nice fresh dry wall ceiling

These projects, all necessary to preserve our wonderful church and parsonage buildings, have depleted the maintenance budget. If you would like to make a special Christmas Gift to the General Fund, with a designation that it be put towards the maintenance budget, that would be fantastic.

I would be remiss if we didn't single out two people who are not on the Board of Trustees, but who helped us tremendously with time and talent (and a huge tractor!!) throughout the year – Dave Hanson and Bill Hall.

With deep respect for our two precious buildings,  
John Sharland, Board of Trustees



## *From the Board of Stewardship*



**1 Samuel 17:50      New International Version (NIV)**

**<sup>50</sup> So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.**

And so seemingly against all odds David defeated the giant named Goliath. And now thousands of years later we appear to be facing another Goliath. Today's Goliath is named "Addiction". And with the new more powerful opioids that are available, today's Goliath seems to be getting much larger and deadlier. And in the same way Goliath taunted David, so it seems addiction is taunting us all. We have all been touched by addiction. Addiction is claiming innocent lives and destroying families.

Central Square Congregational Church has decided to be like David and take a stand against chemical addiction. On the evening of December 8 at 7:00 PM we are holding a forum at our church that will be open to the public. This forum will focus on addiction and what we can do to fight it. We have secured several expert speakers on the subject of addiction, and how it affects our lives and our community. This forum will have a greater impact if you are there. Tell everyone that you know to attend.

God will help us defeat this giant, but we must do our part. First we must care. Then we must be bold and take a stand. And we must have faith that God is with us in this battle. With God guiding our footsteps we cannot fail.

See you all on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

God Bless You.

Rob Basler

## **The Board of Christian Outreach would like to share with you an article by Rich Stearns, President of World Vision U.S.**

One of the most striking things about Jesus' birth—in poverty and amidst suffering—are the parallels between his world and the world today where so many are still suffering. This year I've been reflecting on Jesus as a refugee.

For the first time since World War II, the number of people forced to flee their homes has exceeded 50 million. In the Middle East, the situation is especially acute, with 12 million people displaced by conflict in Iraq and Syria, and 3.3 million refugees from Syria. Half of these people are children, the most vulnerable. They are often scarred for life because of the violence they have experienced and the trauma of being uprooted from their homes.

Of course, Jesus was a refugee as well. Jesus' story as a child refugee can give us a unique sense of compassion for those who, like our Savior, have fled from home for safety.

After Jesus' birth, Herod was jealous because the Magi warned him of a potential new king. Although the baby Jesus posed no threat to Herod, he still murdered all the children under two years old in and around Bethlehem. The Gospel of Matthew tells the story:

*When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:*

*“A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more.” (Matthew 2:16-18)*

It seems that not much is changed. This year, followers of Jesus in Iraq were brutally reminded of Jesus' experience as a refugee. Outside the Middle East, fighting in South Sudan and the Central African Republic created new refugee communities in those countries. Many now worry about famine, as they haven't been able to tend their flocks or plant their fields.

“Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head,” Jesus said in Matthew 8:20. However much suffering is in our world today, Jesus has also experienced it. He fled and suffered from injustice. He saw the brutality of violent rulers.

But that's not a new story. In fact, it's the story of the whole of Scripture. We are all refugees. The Old Testament people of God were refugees in Egypt; they became refugees again in Babylon. Jesus' flight to Egypt as a child followed that of Jacob and his family in the Old Testament.

We can all enter into this story of being refugees. Spiritually, we are exiled from God, and it is Jesus, the Prince of Peace and the child refugee, who provides us a way back home.

As followers of Christ, we know how the story ends. We are equipped to offer assistance—whether that's spiritually leading lost people to Jesus or physically caring for the needs of people in desperate situations.

The longing of each of us and of every refugee is to finally come home. May this Christmas bring you closer to home, wherever that may be.

## *Women's Guild & Fellowship*

Come Join Us!



Please come and join us on December 2 for our Christmas Communion Service at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary!

Worship will be led by Rev. Beth Walden and Christmas carols will be sung accompanied by Marie Nelson. All in all it is a lovely service and we would love to have you in attendance - and bring a friend!

Our business meeting will follow at 7:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Phoebe and Sandy

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## *From Mission Youth*

More than twenty youth, leaders and parents participated in the annual leaf raking event on November 7th to raise funds for the 2016 Mission Trip. The spirited group raked seven yards and raised over \$1100. Thank you to all our supporters!

Thirteen Mission Youth and three leaders will be traveling to Mingo County, West Virginia for a week of service on June 25, 2016. Students currently in grades 8-12 are eligible to participate. The youth commit to a year of projects to raise funds and build teamwork as they prepare for their trip. If you know a student who may be interested in joining in, please contact Marlene Beaudrault Jacobs ([embjacobs@comcast.net](mailto:embjacobs@comcast.net)). Additional spaces are still available.

Mark your calendar for March 12, 2016 for the annual Mission Dinner and Auction. It's a delicious way to support the youth as they work to cover their travel and construction supply expenses for this "work harder" service trip.

How far that little candle throws his beams!  
So shines a good deed in a weary world. ~William Shakespeare

~submitted by Marlene Beaudrault Jacobs

## *From CE*



This is a wonderful time of the year when the story of the birth of the baby Jesus is remembered and celebrated. During the Sunday school classes the teachers will help the children become familiar with the story and the importance of remembering the birth each year. As a culminating event the Christmas Pageant “Would you Like to Hold the Baby?” will be presented. The children and youth have already begun selecting their roles. This pageant is an all church event and there are many roles for adults, too!

As we continue searching for people for the various roles, we hope to see many of you in the cast. The Pageant takes place on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> during the church service.

A dress rehearsal will take place Saturday morning December 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All people having roles will need to attend. If you are not part of the cast we hope you will come and enjoy the Christmas pageant.

### **CALENDAR FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday school
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday school
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Pageant
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Multigenerational Sunday

## *Growth Committee*

Here's what's Happening in Growth!

\*Growth is looking for volunteers to sign up to be **Greeters** at the service on Sunday mornings. Bring a smile and let any visitors know where to go! A sign up sheet is on the growth bulletin-board located in the Fellowship Hall.

\*In December the Deacons are hosting coffee hour.

\***December 6th is Christmas on the Common.** We are looking for people who may wish to carol with The Bridgewater Alumni Chorus. Please see Carol Chaffee if interested in caroling. If you don't want to carol we would love your help handing out candy canes. See a Growth Committee member if interested.

\***December 8th Town Forum: The Addiction Crisis.** Please let friends, neighbors and anyone else you can think of know about this important meeting. We will have a panel available to discuss substance abuse issues and what we can do as a town to combat the problem. Slated to appear are Rich Barnes, Recovering Alcoholic and Addict, Mark Chapman, Funeral Director, Christopher Delmonte, Bridgewater Chief of Police, Derek Swenson, Superintendent Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District, Rich Cannizzo, Pharmacist and Amanda Sandoval, High Point Case Worker. Meet us in the sanctuary from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be a question and answer period included.

\***December 22nd is the Living Nativity!** All are welcome to be a part of this special event. We would love for you to be part of the scene, help with costumes, help serve cocoa, greet viewers, or just come and enjoy yourself. See a growth member for details. Luminaries will be for sale at the Living Nativity. Some of the proceeds will go to supporting a Bridgewater Little League team in the Spring!

\*Save the date! **Bring a Friend** and **Blessing of the Bears** is January 24<sup>th</sup>!

\***Dine with Nine** groups will be coming out in January. If you haven't signed up yet and would like to, please see a Growth Committee member.

\*If you like to bake, the Growth Committee would love your assistance making quick breads to share with our visitors! See Sheri Turner or sign up on the Growth bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



## *From the Music Minister*

Our amazing, talented Choir is diligently working on our Christmas Music. There will be wonderful, inspirational music of the Advent and Christmas Season! All the music is already in rehearsal beginning on the first Sunday in Advent all the way through to the Epiphany Season.

Submitted by Lin Schuller, Music Minister

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**The Fair Committee would like to express its deepest appreciation for all those that took the time to donate of their talents and treasures to make the CSCC Fair so amazing last weekend.** Turkey cookers, apple crisp bakers, candy makers, cookie bakers, crafters, table coordinators, food servers, cash donors, kitchen helpers, floor moppers, dish washers, poster hangers, Facebook posters, pie eaters, menu planners, table and chair movers, food shoppers.... we couldn't do it without each and every one of you. We are blessed to have such a giving church family.

Diane Sheibley

**Also a big thank you to all the fair bakers!** The bake table made \$676.00 and the pie night made \$559.00. We sold 63 cookie cans, a new record. You helped make the fair a wonderful success. Thank you again!

Darlene Brown

# Community Forum: **“The Addiction Crisis”**

December 8, 2015  
at 7:00 PM

Hosted By  
**Central Square Congregational Church**  
within the Sanctuary

71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324  
(508) 697-6016

This forum is open to EVERYONE in the community and we encourage you to attend this important event. The forum agenda will include discussions about:

- Community Awareness
- Signs Of Addiction
- Resources Available to Individuals and Families with Addictions
- What Can We All Do To Fight This Problem
- Question and Answer time

## **Guest Speakers:**

Rich Barnes - Recovering Alcoholic and Addict

Mark Chapman - Funeral Director, Prophett, Chapman, Cole, & Gleason Funeral Home

Christopher Delmonte - Chief of Bridgewater Police

Derek Swenson - Superintendent of Bridgewater-Raynham School District

Rich Cannizzo - Pharmacist for Walgreens

Amanda Sandoval - Case Worker at Highpoint

Did you know that in Bridgewater in 2014 there were 246 admissions to Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Abuse Services programs? Did you know that 50% of those admissions were for heroin use? In Raynham there were 129 and 51% were for heroin use?

(source: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/substance-abuse/care-principles/state-and-city-town-admissions-fy14.pdf> ).

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References December 2015 (Year C)

**Tues., Dec. 1**  
Psalm 90  
2 Samuel 7:18-29  
Revelation 22:12-16

**Wed., Dec. 2**  
Psalm 90  
Isaiah 1:24-31  
Luke 11:29-32

**Thurs., Dec. 3**  
Luke 1:68-79  
Malachi 3:5-12  
Philippians 1:12-18a

**Fri., Dec. 4**  
Luke 1:68-79  
Malachi 3:13-18  
Philippians 1:18b-26

**Sat., Dec. 5**  
Luke 1:68-79  
Malachi 4:1-6  
Luke 9:1-6

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

**Mon., Dec. 7**  
Psalm 126  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Romans 8:22-25

**Tues., Dec. 8**  
Psalm 126  
Isaiah 19:18-25  
2 Peter 1:2-15

**Wed., Dec. 9**  
Psalm 126  
Isaiah 35:3-7  
Luke 7:18-30

**Thurs., Dec. 10**  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Amos 6:1-8  
2 Corinthians 8:1-15

**Fri., Dec. 11**  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Amos 8:4-12  
2 Corinthians 9:1-15

**Sat., Dec. 12**  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Amos 9:8-15  
Luke 1:57-66

**Sun., Dec. 13**  
*Third Sunday in Advent*  
Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

**Mon., Dec. 14**  
Isaiah 11:1-9  
Numbers 16:1-19  
Hebrews 13:7-17

**Tues., Dec. 15**  
Isaiah 11:1-9  
Numbers 16:20-35  
Acts 28:23-31

**Wed., Dec. 16**  
Isaiah 11:1-9  
Micah 4:8-13  
Luke 7:31-35

**Thurs., Dec. 17**  
Psalm 80:1-7  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Hebrews 10:10-18

**Fri., Dec. 18**  
Psalm 80:1-7  
Isaiah 42:10-18  
Hebrews 10:32-39

**Sat., Dec. 19**  
Psalm 80:1-7  
Isaiah 66:7-11  
Luke 13:31-35

**Sun., Dec. 20**  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

**Mon., Dec. 21**  
Psalm 113  
Genesis 25:19-28  
Colossians 1:15-20

**Tues., Dec. 22**  
Psalm 113  
Genesis 30:1-24  
Romans 8:18-30  
Hebrews 10:32-39

**Wed., Dec. 23**  
Psalm 63  
Isaiah 42:14-21  
Luke 1:5-25

**Thurs., Dec. 24**  
*Christmas Eve*  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

**Fri., Dec. 25**  
*Christmas*  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]  
John 1:1-14

**Sat., Dec. 26**  
Psalm 148  
2 Chronicles 24:17-24  
Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60

**Sun., Dec. 27**  
*First Sunday After Christmas*  
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52

**Mon., Dec. 28**  
Psalm 148  
Isaiah 54:1-13  
Revelation 21:1-7

**Tues., Dec. 29**  
Psalm 147:12-20  
1 Chronicles 28:1-10  
1 Corinthians 3:10-17

**Wed., Dec. 30**  
Psalm 147:12-20  
2 Chronicles 1:7-13  
Mark 13:32-37

**Thurs., Dec. 31**  
*New Year's Eve*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46



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# December Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10 Worship 7p AA-FH	30 6:30p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH 7p Trustees-FR	Dec 1 8:30 Play Groups - MR 6:15p Brownies - FH 7p CE - MR	2 6p Girl Scouts - LL 6:30p WG&F - ST 8p BSU Choir - ST	3 9 Staff Mtg - FR 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	4 7p Al-Anon- MR	5
6 Christmas on the Comm 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Communion 10 Worship 7p AA-FH	7 6p Food Pantry - LL 6:30p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	8 8:30 Play Groups - MR 6p Opiate Forum - ST 7p Outreach - FR	9 6p Girl Scout Event - FH 6:30p BSU Choir - ST 7p Deacons - FR	10 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH 7:30p Pack Com Mtg - MR	11 7p Al-Anon- MR	12 7p BSU Concert - ST
13 10 Worship 11:30 Growth - FR 2p Webelos 2 - FH 7p AA-FH	14 7p NA-FH	15 6:15p Brownies - FH	16 6p Girl Scouts - LL 7p Cabinet-MR	17 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	18 7 Pack 35 - FH 7p Al-Anon- MR	19
20 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Worship 7p AA-FH	21 6:30p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	22 5p Living Nativity - Commo 7p CE - MR 7p Trustees-FR	23	24 Christmas Eve 10 Food Pantry - LL 5p Worship - ST 7p Al-Anon - FH 10p Worship - ST	25 Christmas Day 7p Al-Anon- MR	26 Day After Christmas Day
27 10 Worship 7p AA-FH	28 7p NA-FH	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	Jan 1 New Year's Day 7p Al-Anon- MR	2

\*This calendar is subject to change at any time. For the most up to date calendar at all times, please visit [cscucc.org](http://cscucc.org).

Church Administration

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**Congregational Administrator:** Ellen Atherton – [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com)

**Sexton:** Rich Sullivan

**Minister of Music** - Lin Schuller

**Accompanist** - Julia Scott Carey

**Treasurer:** Larry Brown [treasurer@cscucc.com](mailto:treasurer@cscucc.com)

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