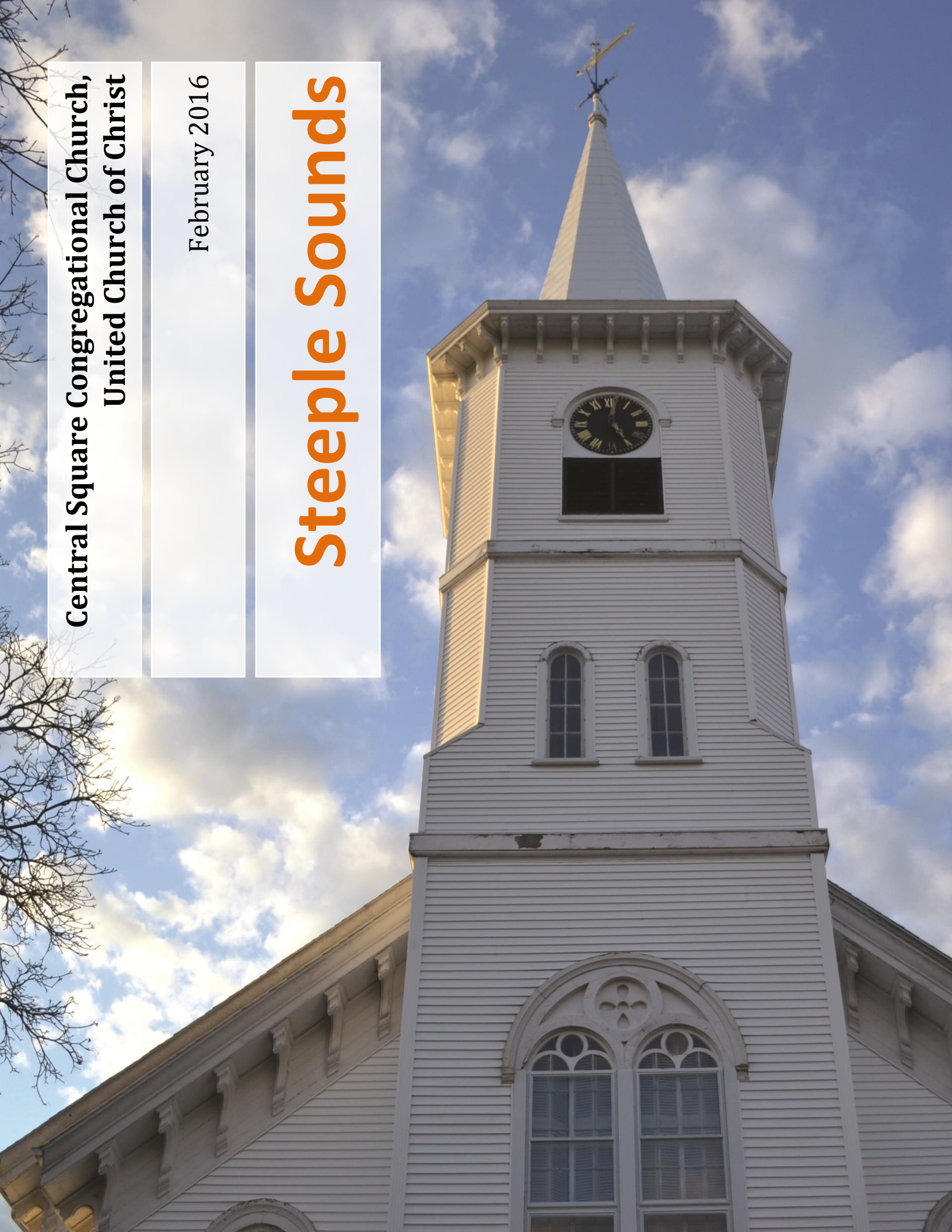


**Central Square Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**

February 2016

Steeple Sounds



From The Desk of Rev. Beth



Lately, I've been doing a lot of yoga. There's this one move where you stretch your legs in front of you, and then reach past your toes while keeping your back as straight as possible. Of all the poses in yoga, I find this one difficult. I'm a fairly flexible person, but no matter how much yoga I do, this pose continues to be a challenge. I'm hoping that, over time, my reach will lengthen as I continue to work on my flexibility.

It occurs to me that Lent is quite a lot like that pose of reaching past my toes. The word Lent actually comes from the word "lengthen." It's the time of the year when the days are getting longer (glory! rejoice!). Plants that appear to be dead are quietly preparing, beneath sleepy exteriors, to lengthen their roots and spring to life again soon after Easter.

Lent *is* about lengthening. It's about stretching ourselves, too. It's a time to lengthen our own roots more deeply into our faith. Traditionally, it's been a time of giving things up – not to punish ourselves, but to allow time and space for new ideas, commitments, ways of being to grow.

This year during Lent, we'll be moving into a sermon series about the people and personalities that challenge us. Together, we'll be exploring the ways God might want us to lengthen our understanding of interpersonal relationships. Some people from our congregation will be invited to give testimonies during worship on their own experiences in challenging relationships.

There are many other ways for you to stretch and lengthen your faith a bit this Lenten season....whether that's signing up to help with the meal for Mainspring House for the first time, committing to a regular bible study practice, or simply making a commitment to being in worship each Sunday.

May the God of new growth be with us all as we seek to stretch and lengthen our connections to the Holy this Lenten season.

Your Sister In Christ,

Rev. Beth

From the Board of Trustees

First impressions are important, and can make or break a deal, a job interview or a possible new relationship.

We often talk about the first impression that a “seeker” gets or doesn’t get the first time they walk in the door on a Sunday morning. Overall, I think we are pretty good with that. We’ve got Brad Barnsley as our “SuperWelcomer in Perpetuity” in the Narthex most Sundays, offering an extravagant welcome. And if someone enters the building “a little early” on the first or third Sundays, they get the smell of a “free” full English breakfast, albeit we do ask for free will donations.

Another first impression when we enter a building is the housekeeping. A mess is a mess no matter the house! Anyone entering our church at the Church Street door is often greeted with a bit of a mess. While some of it is necessary (e.g. the shopping cart for Food Pantry donation drop offs), and some of it is temporary a couple of times a year (e.g. Rummage Sale drop offs the two or three days before a sale), we can do better. Most problematic are the dozens of cookware and food service items that are left behind and never claimed. These build up on the shelf above the coat rack. Everything from plastic storage containers (TupperWare being the generic name) to glass pie plates and casserole dishes to the occasional slow cooker that has apparently served it’s last supper.

While not part of a visitor’s first impression, the room under the south sanctuary staircase is very problematic. Warmth in Cold Places storage is there for a month or so each January-February, and there is long term storage of round tables and a wheelchair. Everything else needs to find a home that is more appropriate, be it the Salvation Army store or the Bridgewater Transfer Station.

The Trustees recently gave everyone 3 weeks to claim stuff or move/dispose of stuff. The January 25th deadline has passed. Everything noted above will be removed from the building in early February by the Building and Grounds team of the Trustees. Items will go either to the Salvation Army store or to the Transfer Station, at the discretion of the team.

And one last reason for good housekeeping – bad housekeeping is a fire hazard. It’s called “excess combustible loading” in the business of fire prevention and fire protection. We owe good housekeeping to our fire insurance company.

For the Trustees,

John Sharland, Member

From the Board of Outreach



CWS Blankets **Comfort in times of crisis.**

Help people around the world recover from disasters and get a fresh start.

Someone like Karen, a senior citizen in Michigan whose home was flooded in 2014. Or Nerline, a mother of four in Haiti, who lived in a tent for several years after the 2010 earthquake destroyed her house.

When you partner with us, through the CWS Blankets program, you are helping our neighbors in need recover from disaster, giving them hope and the tools they need for lasting change.

You are providing necessities and cleanup supplies to Karen and others impacted by stateside disasters, working with the community to rebuild their lives. You are coming alongside Nerline and others in Haiti, to construct a new home and accompany them on the long road to recovery.

You also make it possible to be prepared for whatever may come in the future so we are ready to act. Join us.



To learn more, visit cwsblankets.org.

News from Growth

Growth has a new initiative for February! We are trying to raise money to sponsor a little league team! We feel this is a great way to support our community and our youth. We will be selling paper baseballs at coffee hour beginning February 7th! Help us hit a home run with your donation.

Two baskets of stuffed bears were blessed as well as paper and plastic bears to meet the needs of everyone. The paper bears will be made into cards that can accompany a bear or be given by themselves as they too have been blessed. The plastic bears, I call them pocket bears are small and can also be given to those who need comfort. If you had bears to donate please bring them in and mark them for Growth, if we need more through the year we can always bless them at another time.

The committee is also working towards another Town Forum on February 23rd at 7:00 to continue the topic of Opioid addiction and how to find support and help that is needed.

On February 1st we shall give out the Dine with Nine Groups. Please if you would like to participate there is still time. See a Growth member at coffee hour or contact me at choyt33@verizon.net.

Finally we continue to look for greeters to meet our friends, family, and guests with a warm smile and words of welcome before worship. It is an important part of our mission to make everyone feel welcomed and a part of our community. Please consider signing up on our board.

Growth wants your help in making our wonderful church more of a presence in our community. We are planning to support a Little League Baseball team and we need to raise funds to do that. Please consider purchasing a paper baseball at Coffee Hour during the month of February. We will display your support on our Growth Bulletin Board with your name (or any name of your choosing). Speak with Sheri Turner, Sara Terpeny, Christine Hoyt or Ashley Hoyt for more details.

Upcoming Important Dates!

CALLING ALL SOUP MAKERS

We're looking for soup donations for the annual meeting on Sunday, February 14, immediately following coffee hour. If you would be willing to bring a crockpot of your favorite soup, please contact Diane Sheibley at diane@sheibley.net or 508-207-2524. Sandwiches and salad will also be served. Thank you!

NEXT CABINET MEETING:

Wednesday, February 17. All are welcome!

The Nominating Committee is seeking out members of our congregation that feel that they want to take a more active role in the life of our boards and committees. There are some amazing things being done by our small group leadership, and it can have a profound effect on you when you help to make people's lives better. Our boards are: Outreach, Trustees, Stewardship, Christian Education, and Deacons; our Standing Committees are: Growth, History & Memorials, and Music. Contact Diane Sheibley at diane@sheibley.net or 508-207-2524 for more information.

Women's Guild & Fellowship

Come Join Us!



Attention all ladies of CSCC.....the WGand F will be having our own Gina Savignano as our guest speaker on February 3. Her topic will be "Oils of the Bible". Many have seen her presentation and say it is fabulous! Hope you can come and join us for the program that will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our business meeting is from 6:30 - 7:30. (originally Gina was to be the speaker in April but we had to switch with Kathy Lockhard due to a scheduling conflict)
Phoebe Hogg and Sandy Alley

RUMMAGE SALE

START COUNTING THE DAYS UNTIL THE WG&F "SPRING FLING" !!
(AKA, RUMMAGE SALE)

Organized by the Women's Guild and Fellowship of Central Square Cong'l Church, our Spring Fling Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, April 23 from 9:00-1:30.

With goods being received at the church beginning on Monday, the 18th of April, you can anticipate many of the highlights you have previously enjoyed.

There will be notable 2016 "upgrades" in our project, including the following, as we are constantly striving to make this event even more "user friendly."

BOOK TABLE

A BIG CHANGE is taking place in the book table.

We will **NO LONGER** be able to accept the following:

- encyclopedias, text books or technical volumes
- hard cover books
- magazines/periodicals
- audio/video tapes or VHS movies
- outdated calendars, calculators, etc.

These items simply do not sell and we are left with disposing of them. They not only take up precious space, but are a hardship physically and possibly affects our profits if we have to pay for removal/disposal.

We **WILL** be accepting:

- Paperback books
- Children's books
- Puzzles
- CDs

From Mission Youth

Want to know more about the 2016 Mission Trip?

Our Mission Youth will depart on June 25th for Mingo County, West Virginia where they will spend a week serving the community of Williamson through labor-intensive construction projects. Located southwest of Charleston and sharing a border with Kentucky, the county has a rich coal mining history. It would be hard to find a family who hasn't had a member work in the mines. Coal mining is inseparable from daily life. Williamson is centered on a high-traffic coal transporting railroad stop. The economics of this remote location have been a challenge for the small mountain population but the people are hard-working and proud. This will be their 9th year welcoming YouthWorks program participants to their community.

Though the youth will spend their days working, in the evenings they'll enjoy the local swimming pool and community center, visit the neighboring community of Delbarton for bluegrass music and line dancing at the Opry House, attend worship at a local church and celebrate the week's end at a community cookout. It will be a full week of work, worship and fun.

Please support our trip by attending the Mission Dinner and Auction on Saturday March 12th. All proceeds help us cover our trip expenses. Mission Youth will be taking dinner reservations after worship services this month. Don't miss this wonderful event!

Thank you for your support,
Marlene Beaudrault Jacobs
2016 Mission Trip Coordinator

From CE



- The Sunday school has been using the Heifer curriculum "Feeding 5,000" throughout the month of January. In these lessons the students have learned more about Heifer, the people they serve and the animals they provide. If you'd like to learn more about Heifer ask a student or stop by the CE bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Heifer will conclude with our annual Living Gift Market on January 31, 2016.
- In February the children will begin their journey through Lent with studying the final days of Jesus' life. Their lessons will culminate with their presentation of the story on Palm Sunday.
- CE will also be looking for input from the congregation on possible adult learning topics. We would like to offer opportunities for adults to learn as well as the children but, we're struggling with what would be of interest. We will be handing out a survey for your input in the near future. If there's something you'd like to learn more about please share your thoughts with us.

- Denise Molinari

Congregational Meeting



**Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
Annual Meeting * SUNDAY, February 14, 2016**

TO ALL MEMBERS:

Please be advised that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 14, 2016. Following worship, lunch will be served for a free will offering, and the Annual Meeting will follow immediately afterward.

The purpose of the meeting, according to our **Constitution, Article X, Church Meetings, Section 2: The Annual Meeting of the Church shall be held on the second Sunday of February for the purpose of receiving/hearing reports of all Officers, Boards, Committees and Organizations and to transact any other business that may legally come before it.**

This is a celebration! Please come and let us celebrate together the people and ministry of Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ! And because it's Valentine's Day, the theme of the day is "We love our church!"

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 2/3 of the attending-voting members.

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Dr. Kevin Parry
District 4
President

Aisha Leonbe
District 1
Vice President

Timothy Fitzgibbons
District 2

Sandra Wright
District 3



Memorial Building, 25 South Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Peter Colasbotto
District 5

William Wood
District 6

John Merris
District 7

Dennis Gallagher
At Large

Vacant Seat
At Large

The Town of Bridgewater presents the proclamation in support of the
Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect

WHEREAS, Bridgewater, established in 1656, is a town with a diverse population of 27,000 people that has enjoyed a strong tradition of civil rights in which hate speech is not tolerated.

WHEREAS, The citizens of Bridgewater, have long upheld a tradition of respect which guarantees civil rights for all.

WHEREAS, Incidents of hate-speech and verbal assaults directed at individuals because their appearance or clothing choice which reflects particular cultures is in direct opposition with the traditions and values of this Town.

WHEREAS, The Town of Bridgewater respects the rights of all persons in our town to:

- live without fear of verbal or physical assaults and;
- exercise freedom of cultural expression through choices of attire, religious practice, and speech.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; That the Town of Bridgewater Massachusetts is declared a community of civility; where intolerant speech and behavior are unacceptable, thus ensuring that our town remains a respectful place to live, work, attend school, visit and conduct business.

A True Copy Attest:

Town Council:

TOWN CLERK

Daily Lectionary Scripture References February 2016 (Year C)

Mon., Feb. 1
Psalm 56
1 Kings 17:8-16
1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Tues., Feb. 2
Psalm 56
2 Kings 5:1-14
1 Corinthians 14:13-25

Wed., Feb. 3
Psalm 56
Jeremiah 1:11-19
Luke 19:41-44

Thurs., Feb. 4
Psalm 99
Deuteronomy 9:1-5
Acts 3:11-16

Fri., Feb. 5
Psalm 99
Deuteronomy 9:6-14
Acts 10:1-8

Sat., Feb. 6
Psalm 99
Deuteronomy 9:15-24
Luke 10:21-24

Sun., Feb. 7
*Last Sunday after
Epiphany/Transfiguration*
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]

Mon., Feb. 8
Psalm 35:11-28
Exodus 35:1-29
Acts 10:9-23a

Tues., Feb. 9
Psalm 35:11-28
Ezekiel 1:1-2:1
Acts 10:23b-33

Wed., Feb. 10
Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thurs., Feb. 11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Exodus 5:10-23
Acts 7:30-34

Fri., Feb. 12
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Exodus 6:1-13
Acts 7:35-42

Sat., Feb. 13
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
John 12:27-36

Sun., Feb. 14
First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Mon., Feb. 15
Psalm 17
1 Chronicles 21:1-17
1 John 2:1-6

Tues., Feb. 16
Psalm 17
Zechariah 3:1-10
2 Peter 2:4-21

Wed., Feb. 17
Psalm 17
Job 1:1-22
Luke 21:34-22:6

Thurs., Feb. 18
Psalm 27
Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18
Philippians 3:2-12

Fri., Feb. 19
Psalm 27
Genesis 14:17-24
Philippians 3:17-20

Sat., Feb. 20
Psalm 27
Psalm 118:26-29
Matthew 23:37-39

Sun., Feb. 21
Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36

Mon., Feb. 22
Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
Exodus 33:1-6
Romans 4:1-12

Tues., Feb. 23
Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
Numbers 14:10b-24
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Wed., Feb. 24
Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
2 Chronicles 20:1-22
Luke 13:22-31

Thurs., Feb. 25
Psalm 63:1-8
Daniel 3:19-30
Revelation 2:8-11

Fri., Feb. 26
Psalm 63:1-8
Daniel 12:1-4
Revelation 3:1-6

Sat., Feb. 27
Psalm 63:1-8
Isaiah 5:1-7
Luke 6:43-45

Sun., Feb. 28
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Mon., Feb. 29
Psalm 39
Jeremiah 11:1-17
Romans 2:1-11



February Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10 Worship 11:30 Living Gift Mkt - FH 2:30p Wolf Den - LL 7:30p AA-FH	Feb 1 6p Food Pantry - LL 7p NA-FH	2 8:30 Play Groups - MR 6:15p Brownies - FH 7:30p Stewardship - MR	3 6p Girl Scouts - LL 6:30p WG&F - FH 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	4 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	5 7p Al-Anon- MR	6 10 Communion Workshop
7 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Communion 10 Worship 2p Bear Den - MR 7:30p AA-FH	8 6:30p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	9 8:30 Play Groups - MR 7p Outreach - FR	10 7p Ash Wed Worship - ST	11 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH 7p Teachers Mtg - FR 7:30p Pack Com Mtg - MR	12 7p Al-Anon- MR	13 CE Overnight 10 Lenten Study - FR
14 CE Overnight Valentine's Day 10 Worship 11:30 Annual Meeting - FH 11:30 Growth - FR 7:30p AA-FH	15 Presidents' Day 7p NA-FH	16 8:30 Play Groups - MR	17 7p Cabinet-MR 7p Deacons - FR???? 7p Girl Scouts - LL 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	18 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	19 7p Al-Anon- MR	20 10 Lenten Study - FR
21 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	22 6:30p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	23 8:30 Play Groups - MR 6:15p Brownies - FH	24 7p CE - MR 7p Trustees-FR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	25 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	26 7p Al-Anon- MR	27 10 Lenten Study - FR
28 10 Worship 2p Bear Den - MR 7:30p AA-FH	29 7p NA-FH	Mar 1 8:30 Play Groups - MR 7:30p Stewardship - MR	2 6p Girl Scouts - LL 6:30p WG&F - FH 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	3 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	4 7p Al-Anon- MR	5 10 Lenten Study - FR 2p Pack 35 Magic Show - F

*This calendar is subject to change at any time. For the most up to date calendar at all times, please visit cscucc.org.

Church Administration

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Walden – csccpastor@hotmail.com

Congregational Administrator: Ellen Atherton – office@cscucc.com

Sexton: Rich Sullivan

Minister of Music - Lin Schuller

Accompanist - Julia Scott Carey

Treasurer: Larry Brown treasurer@cscucc.com

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