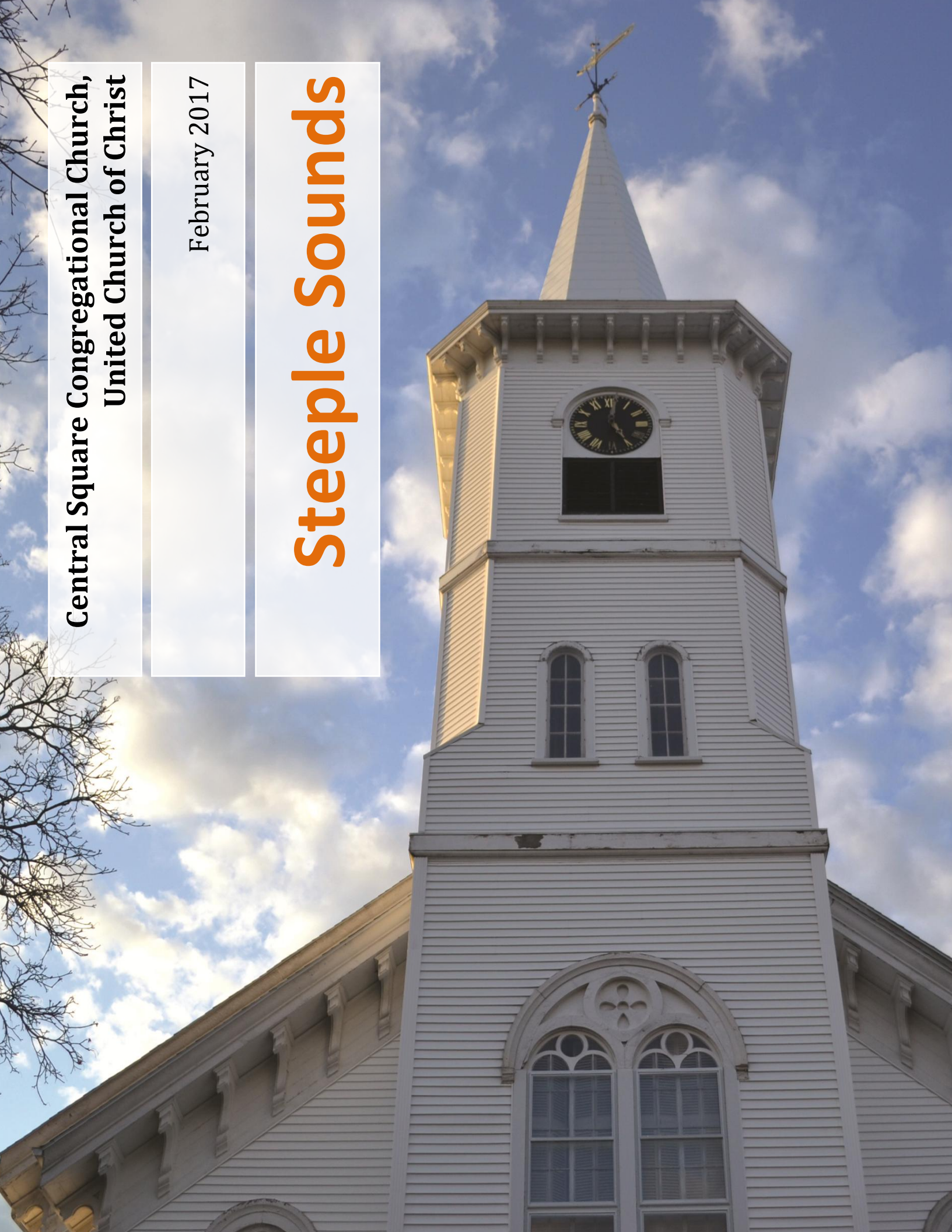


**Central Square Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**

February 2017

Steeple Sounds



From The Desk of Rev. Beth



Dear Friends in Christ,

When I was little, one of my very favorite games was Mouse Trap. I loved the part of the game when you get to turn the crank and set the chain reaction in motion. It's always fun to watch the complicated process that leads to that trap falling, hopefully on my opponents' mice.

There's something else I love about the game though: I love how you get to set up the board as you play. Don't get me wrong, I liked Don't Break the Ice and Ker Plunk. The problem with those was that we had to set them up before we could play them.

I think my favorite part though was the way that you have to work together to play Mouse Trap. At least until the contraption is built, everybody is working on the same project: getting all of the pieces in place so that the chain reaction will work properly. Once it's built, all bets are off, but during the building, everybody's working toward the same goal.

Sometimes I think we approach our new ideas like we're playing Don't Break the Ice. We decide what we want to do, and then we spend a whole lot of time setting ourselves up to be able to do it. Then we can get easily frustrated when our plan doesn't work as well as we'd hoped: the ice blocks aren't in quite right and the whole game falls apart with the first hammer, or maybe we lose enthusiasm and energy before we even finish setting up.

What would it look like to approach our dreams and goals like Mouse Trap instead? What if we decided where we want to go and then we start on that path, working together and making adjustments as we make our journey? We can start the game before the entire board is set up. We can start on our dreams before we're really sure where they are going to take us.

As we work together to serve God, as we walk together following Jesus, it's important for us to have a dream and it's important for us to have a plan. It's also crucial for us to start doing, sometimes even before every step of the journey is clear. It's crucial for us to act on the call we feel from God.

So let's dream together. Let's plan together. And let's keep working together, God's people shining God's light in the world. I think it will be fun.

In Christ's Peace,
Rev. Beth

(PS. Writing this makes me want to have a game night. What do you think? Friday, Feb.24? 6pm? Potluck and bring your favorite board game? Join me!)

From the Board of Trustees

Along with being one of your Trustees, I am also one of our three delegates to the Pilgrim Association. As such, I attend Ecclesiastical Councils, for the purpose of hearing candidates for ordainment or Privilege of Call, and voting on such.

I recently attended an evening council in a “downtown” UCC church that was built in 1927 in Gothic Revival style. The sanctuary was dark, despite the overhead hanging lights, some of which were burned out. I could hardly see the program, even with my new lens in my left eye and my six year old lens in my right eye, both inserted after cataract removal.

All the windows were stained glass, which let no outside light in. The woodwork all around the church was brown and worn. The outside, for what I could see at night, was being attacked through the decades by carbonic acid every time it rains. It was for me, a depressing place. Why? Because our church is so simple and bright and the sanctuary lets outside light in through plain glass windows, except for two up front. Our four chandeliers provide fully adequate light in the evening. The outside is “alive” with white paint.

Our most current study on how to keep the place bright and simple is to re-lamp the fluorescent fixtures in Fellowship Hall and in the kitchen. We are tired of replacing ballasts as they burn out in the current fixtures. There are seven burned out ballasts right now in Fellowship Hall. We may get a grant from MassSave to help with this replacement, but it will only be about 30% of the cost. If you would like to help fund this project, please speak with a Trustee – Gordon Brailsford, Chair, John Sharland, Vice Chair, Greg Rucker, Secretary, Barbara Morey or Tom Struzik. Such an action would be most illuminating!

John Sharland

“Try Sitting With Someone You Don’t Know!” – Growth

Women's Guild & Fellowship Come Join Us!



The February meeting of the Women's Guild & Fellowship will be held on **Wednesday, February 1** at 6:30 PM. After our regular business meeting and refreshments, we will proceed with our very popular and fun-filled "annual" auction. All members bring in two or three items, and our very talented auctioneers; Bev, Sandra, Janet, and Phoebe, keep those bids rising with all money going into our Guild Angel account. These moneys are used to help those in need in our church community. The auction offers up an evening filled with great fun and fellowship, all while raising money for a very worthy cause. Come join in the fun!

Our March meeting coincides with Ash Wednesday this year, so WG&F will have their business meeting at 6:30 PM, and then attend the Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary. Following the service, the members of the Guild will serve refreshments to all who have attended the service. Please join us in this time of fellowship.

Our drive for the **Animal Protection and Adoption Center** continues on with a drop-off date near Valentine's Day. A box and wish list can be found in the front entryway for all who would like to donate.

And just a reminder that our **Annual Spring Rummage Sale & Soups On Luncheon** will be held on **April 1st**! It's a great way to jump start your spring cleaning and help fund the Guild charities! It is also a great way to get involved. If you would like to volunteer and share some of your time and talents, contact us today!

Co-Presidents

Lynn Pietras 508-824-0855

Gail Wright 508-697-7159



Coming this spring -- the 2017 edition of the Spring Fling **Rummage Sale**! This year it will be held early, on **Saturday, April 1** and this is no joke!

Start cleaning out those closets, attics, drawers, etc. and bring those gently used items to the church, starting **Monday, March 27**.

More details will follow in the March edition of the Steeple Sounds. So in the meantime, save the date and save those no longer used treasures!

On the **Women's Retreat** January 27-28, Luke 24 was discussed, along with pondering our journeys, and all the "road signs" that we encounter along the way.

One of the breakout groups contributed the following acrostic out of those discussions:

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Peace be with you
Everyone is on a journey
Always be open to the signs
Curves and detours are part of the
Explore every path journey
Be patient, be yourself, be adventurous
Every turn can bring opportunity
We walk with God
Imagine the possibilities
Together we are strong
Helping each other when the bridge
is icy
Yield to God's Love
Open your heart
Uniting in Peace

From the Board of Outreach



For the CSCC Outreach committee, the month of January is Warmth in Cold Places. The committee has been collecting winter coats (about 100) and clothing for the last few months. On Tuesday, January 17th at 9:30 AM, with all of the donations and \$800.00 worth of hats, socks, sweaters and gloves purchased by members of the Outreach Committee from the budget, we headed to St. Thomas Evangelical Church in Taunton. It took 3 SUVs to haul everything. Other items included a lot of sweaters, shoes, boots, and children's winter clothing, including warm jumpsuits.

At the church in Taunton, they run a soup kitchen called Our Daily Bread. They serve meals to the homeless and needing. While they were serving breakfast on Tuesday, we set up tables and coat racks and filled them with all of the clothing. People could choose when they came in for a meal. As the tables emptied, we filled them again. By 1:00 PM 95% of the items were given out.

The church is also a member of the Greater Boston Food Bank and takes food donations. Food items were being given out at the same time. The items that were left, along with some that we couldn't fit into the SUVs, will be donated to the Brockton homeless.

God is still speaking,

The Outreach Committee

From Christian Education



The Living Gift Market

The energy level was high as the children began entering the Fellowship Hall. Tables were set up, paper animals were hung from the ceiling, and the children began building the Living Gift Market. One table was making signs and setting up games, while another was creating things to sell. A third was filling their table with interesting food. You could feel the excitement in the room in anticipation of what was to come. By the time the congregation arrived after church, the children were ready. The pizza (always a popular item) flew off the fish table and a very tall fish may have paid you a visit. Did you have an opportunity to take a llama or sheep ride around Fellowship Hall or sample the 'fish and chips'? There was a basketball game to challenge you, baklava, llama poop, llama mucus for the tasting and bracelets for the making. Did you purchase a "Hey Chickie..." card with a different message in each? Looks like a new line of cards that may appear again next year! As the last of the patrons left the Hall, all that was left on the tables were the crumbs. The children were happily wiped out as another successful Living Gift Market wrapped up. The children, Youth and teachers thank you for your patronage and HUGE support! The children will continue to save money in their banks. The cows are still circling the Bridgewater's for one more week. Donations for the Heifer Project are still being accepted. A final accounting of the Living Gift Market, the journey of Faith, Hope, and Charity, and the animals the children successfully sponsored will appear in the next Steeple Sounds.

Sunday School in February

The teachers will continue the lessons of the Old Testament during the month of February. On February 5th you will find the children in church as Scout Sunday will be celebrated during the service. Sunday School will continue on February 12th with the story "Solomon Builds the Temple", followed by "Naaman is Healed" on February 19th and "Daniel and the Lions" on February 26th. Please take note that there will be Sunday school on the Sundays during February vacation.

Congregational Meeting



Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
Annual Meeting * SUNDAY, February 12, 2017

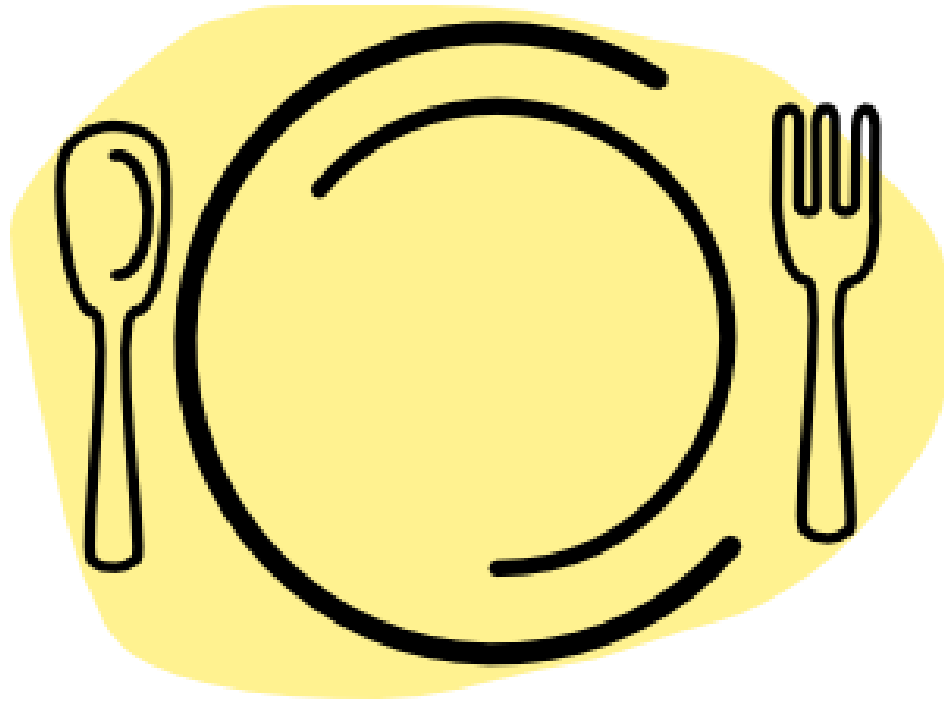
TO ALL MEMBERS:

Please be advised that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2017. 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 the 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!

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.



SOUP AND SUCH NEEDED!

Hi everybody! Our annual meeting is coming up on Sunday, February 12, and we're doing a potluck lunch, of sorts, like we did last year. At that time, we put out the word for crockpots of soups to be volunteered, and I must say, it was AWESOME. We're doing lunch along the same lines this year, so, if you're willing, please sign up for one of the following. If you can't, no worries, we hope you'll come and enjoy lunch and the celebration of who we are and what we're proud to have accomplished.

- ☐ I will bring a crock pot of SOUP to church next Sunday (2/12) for the annual meeting.
- ☐ I will bring a package or two of COLD CUTS to church next Sunday (2/12) for the annual meeting.
- ☐ I will bring a package or two of CHEESE to church next Sunday (2/12) for the annual meeting.
- ☐ I will bring a loaf of BREAD to church next Sunday (2/12) for the annual meeting.
- ☐ I will bring a package or two of SALAD GREENS or BABY SPINACH to church next Sunday (2/12) for the annual meeting.

Send a note to Diane Sheibley (diane@sheibley.net or call or text 508-207-2524) if you're willing to do one of the above. See you there!

(For those of you who are unfamiliar, we have a congregational meeting after a bit of coffee after service on the second Sunday of February each year, to hear from all of our board and committees about the great work they've been doing over the last year. All are welcome!)

Daily Lectionary Scripture References
February 2017 (Year A)
Second option- Transfiguration (2/23-2/28)

Wed., Feb. 1
 Psalm 37:1-17
 Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22
 Luke 6:17-26
 Matthew 25:31-46

Thurs., Feb. 2
 Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
 Deuteronomy 4:1-14
 1 John 5:1-5

Fri., Feb. 3
 Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
 Isaiah 29:1-12
 James 3:13-18

Sat., Feb. 4
 Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
 Isaiah 29:13-16
 Mark 7:1-8

Sun., Feb. 5
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
 Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
 Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
 Matthew 5:13-20

Mon., Feb. 6
 Psalm 119:105-112
 2 Kings 22:3-20
 Romans 11:2-10

Tues., Feb. 7
 Psalm 119:105-112
 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25
 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Wed., Feb. 8
 Psalm 119:105-112
 Proverbs 6:6-23
 John 8:12-30

Thurs., Feb. 9
 Psalm 119:1-8
 Genesis 26:1-5
 James 1:12-16

Fri., Feb. 10
 Psalm 119:1-8
 Leviticus 26:34-46
 1 John 2:7-17

Sat., Feb. 11
 Psalm 119:1-8
 Deuteronomy 30:1-9a
 Matthew 15:1-9

Sun., Feb. 12
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
 Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or
 Sirach 15:15-20
 Psalm 119:1-8
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37

Mon., Feb. 13
 Psalm 119:9-16
 Exodus 20:1-21
 James 1:2-8

Tues., Feb. 14
 Psalm 119:9-16
 Deuteronomy 23:21-24:4, 10-15
 James 2:1-13

Wed., Feb. 15
 Psalm 119:9-16
 Proverbs 2:1-15
 Matthew 19:1-12

Thurs., Feb. 16
 Psalm 119:33-40
 Exodus 22:21-27
 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

Fri., Feb. 17
 Psalm 119:33-40
 Leviticus 6:1-7
 Galatians 5:2-6

Sat., Feb. 18
 Psalm 119:33-40
 Leviticus 24:10-23
 Matthew 7:1-12

Sun., Feb. 19
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
 Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
 Psalm 119:33-40
 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
 Matthew 5:38-48

Mon., Feb. 20
 Psalm 119:57-64
 Proverbs 25:11-22
 Romans 12:9-21

Tues., Feb. 21
 Psalm 119:57-64
 Genesis 31:1-3, 17-50
 Hebrews 12:14-16

Wed., Feb. 22
 Psalm 119:57-64
 Proverbs 3:27-35
 Luke 18:18-30

Thurs., Feb. 23
 Psalm 2
 Exodus 6:2-9
 Hebrews 8:1-7

Fri., Feb. 24
 Psalm 2
 Exodus 19:9b-25
 Hebrews 11:23-28

Sat., Feb. 25
 Psalm 2
 1 Kings 21:20-29
 Mark 9:9-13

Sun., Feb. 26
Transfiguration of the Lord
 Exodus 24:12-18
 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9

Mon., Feb. 27
 Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55
 Exodus 33:7-23
 Acts 7:30-34

Tues., Feb. 28
 Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55
 1 Kings 19:9-18
 Romans 11:1-6



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February Calendar

29 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	30 7p NA-FH	31 8:30 Play Groups - MR 4p Brownies - LL	Feb 1 6p Girl Scouts - LL 6:30p WG&F - FH 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	2 10 Food Pantry - LL 10 Murphy Funeral - ST 7p Al-Anon - FH	3	4
5 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Communion 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	6 6p Food Pantry - LL 6p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	7 8:30 Play Groups - MR 7:30p Stewardship - MR	8 6p Girl Scouts - LL 7p CE - FR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	9 10 Food Pantry - LL 10 Staff Mtg - FR 7p Al-Anon - FH	10 5p Webelos - MR 6:30p Pack 35 - FH	11
12 10 Worship 11:30 Annual Mtg - FH 11:30 Growth - FR 4p Tiger Den - LL 7:30p AA-FH	13 7p NA-FH	14 Valentine's Day 8:30 Play Groups - MR 4p Brownies - LL 6:15p Girl Scouts - FH 7p Deacons - MR 7p Outreach - MR	15 6p Girl Scouts - LL 7p Cabinet-MR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	16 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH 7p Teachers Mtg - FR	17 6p Webelos - MR	18
19 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Worship 11:30 M-Uke-Sicians - FR 7:30p AA-FH	20 Office Closed Presidents' Day 7p NA-FH	21 8:30 Play Groups - MR	22 6p Girl Scouts - LL 7p Trustees-FR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	23 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	24	25
26 10 Worship 1p Bridgewater Girl Scouts 7:30p AA-FH	27 6p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	28 8:30 Play Groups - MR 4p Brownies - LL 6:15p Girl Scouts - FH	Mar 1 Ash Wednesday 6p Girl Scouts - LL 6:30p WG&F - FH 7p Worship - ST	2 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	3 6p Webelos - MR	4 9 Study - FR 2p Pack 35 - FH

*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 Stotts – csccpastor@hotmail.com

Congregational Administrator: Ellen Atherton – office@cscucc.com

Sexton: Rich Sullivan

Interim Music Director: Julia Scott Carey

Treasurer: Larry Brown treasurer@cscucc.com

Office telephone: (508) 697-6016

Website: www.cscucc.org

*Central Square Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324*

