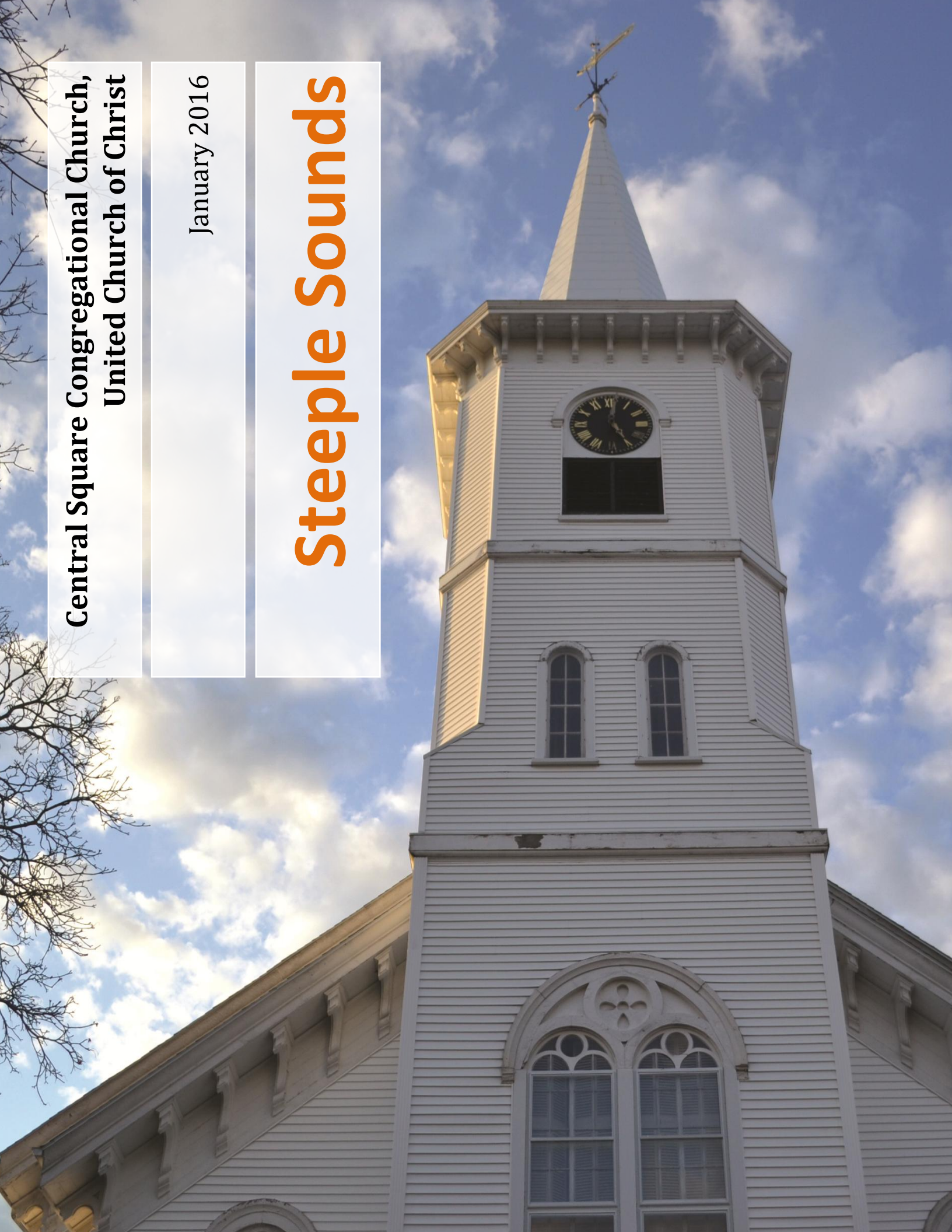


**Central Square Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**

January 2016

Steeple Sounds



From The Desk of Rev. Beth



Out with the old, in with the new. That tends to be a pretty popular sentiment around this time of year. New Year's Eve is upon us, and as is the custom for many people, it will be a time for new beginnings, new dreams, new goals, and of course, New Year's resolutions. Personally, I don't always make New Year's resolutions. Some years I do, some years I don't. There are other people I know, however, who are more consistent. I have one friend who is so religious about her new year's resolutions, that every year, she types up a document-- usually several pages long--with a list of resolutions that includes short term goals, long term goals, and an action plan with a clearly laid out time line for how she intends to accomplish and keep her resolutions.

On the other end of the spectrum, I have some friends who are completely opposed to the idea of New Year's resolutions, seeing them as nothing more than frivolous promises that are meant to be broken. These are the people who scoff at the rest of us and our good intentions to eat healthier, read more non-fiction, or finally buckle down and start learning that second language. "Can't teach an old dog new tricks," these folks might say. "What you see is what you get." Most of us, I suspect, fall somewhere between these two extremes. Maybe we like the *idea* of New Year's resolutions. Maybe we have good intentions. But maybe we also don't take them too seriously because we know from experience that our resolve doesn't always last terribly long into the new year.

The truth is, New Year's resolutions can sometimes be frivolous, and they are not usually anything we should lose sleep over. Still, this year, I would like to make an argument in favor of New Year's resolutions. Not necessarily the kind that have to do with losing weight or going to the gym more often-- though those are certainly worthy goals. Rather, I'm talking about the kinds of resolutions we make with the aim of transformation-- with the aim of becoming better people-- kinder, more courageous, more educated, or more compassionate. Resolutions to become more spiritually minded and more devoted to prayer or meditation practices. Resolutions to be less selfish and more giving of our time, our resources, and our hearts. This New Years, let's seek out transformation-based resolutions.

So go ahead and make those resolutions, and know that God is there in the midst of it all. God is there in the midst of who we were, who we are, and who we will become. Old and new. Alpha and Omega. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

In Christ,

Rev. Beth

From the Board of Trustees

The Trustees held their final meeting for 2015 on December 30th. This was a productive and busy year - some of the highlights included:

- Snowmageddon '15
- Removal of bushes and beautification of church lawn
- Hiring new sexton
- New electrical outlets in the kitchen and replacement of fixtures throughout the church
- Fire panel repair and installation of new detectors
- Changes to the fiscal calendar
- And many, many hours spent doing maintenance from plumbing to painting and electrical to landscaping.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy 2016.

Respectfully,
Tom Struzik, chair

From the Board of Stewardship



John 8:47 New International Version (NIV): “Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

The entire community who attends Central Square Congregational Church are so blessed. Here we are offered God’s word in so many ways. We hear it, we speak it, and we live it. I believe that we all benefit because our community is rich in the word of God.

I wonder how many people do not yet belong to God. How many of these same people are family members, neighbors, and friends? Would these people benefit from hearing the words of God at our church? God rejoices when someone who was lost comes back to him. Be a good steward of his blessing. Look at the people who are in your life. Invite them all to share in what we have.

God Bless you,

CSCC Stewardship Committee

From the Board of Outreach

Outreach has had a very busy November and December. Through your generosity plus an Outreach match for the first \$400, we were able to present Teen Challenge with \$1033 to continue their wonderful ministry with drug addicts and alcoholics.

With the help of Outreach, the Women's Guild and other volunteers, the Food Pantry was able to put together Thanksgiving dinner baskets with a turkey and all the fixins for 76 needy families in our communities.

Keeping in mind how much we are blessed and how many others are in need of our help, we would like to remind you that this is still the season to keep giving until it feels good!

Our Warmth in Cold places program is ramping up again to donate warm clothing for the homeless and less fortunate in our communities... Anything you can think of from stocking caps to warm socks, and everything in between. Jackets, sweaters, parkas, sweatshirts, pants, long underwear, etc. We will be making a distribution about mid-January and mid-February. Gently used and also new items are appreciated for men, women and children. There are boxes for your donations inside the Church Street entrance and the narthex (front entryway to church).

On 12/20/15, we had a Christmas Fund collection to benefit retired clergy and lay church employees. Pension supplements, help with medical premiums, unexpected emergency costs. If you missed the service, you may still donate via a dedicated donation in the weekly collection plate, or by giving your donation directly to the office with "Christmas Fund" in the memo line. It is never too late to help!

For something new and different this year, we are also partnering with Penelope's Place, a battered women's shelter in Brockton, to provide the women with staple kitchen and bedroom items that will help them to set out on their own and to supplement the items Penelope's Place already has. A list of items needed is included after this message, and on a box in the narthex.

Your past, present, and future generosity is greatly appreciated. May God bless you all.

Your Outreach Committee,

Carla Jackson

Bill O'Neil

Jack Melcher

Dave Hanson

Kim Wallace



PENELOPE'S PLACE

Health Imperatives

Dear Carla,

Thank you for all you already do to bring peace, comfort and joy to children and families struggling with the devastating impacts of poverty and violence. Domestic violence affects one of every three households in Massachusetts, including those with children. Together we can help children and their families find happiness, health and opportunity this holiday season and all year long.

This year we are doing a household item drive for Penelope's Place, to provide new kitchenware and household items that residents in the shelter are in particular need of. We will also gladly accept monetary donations as well so that we may purchase needed items for the shelter. These items will be for use in the shelter as well as for creating Welcome Home Baskets to give to residents upon their departure from the shelter.

Needed Items include:

- Blender
- Roasting pan
- Frying pans-- bake ware
- Cookie Sheets
- Cereal bowls
- Food Storage containers w/ lids
- Silverware
- Drinking cups/coffee mugs
- Sippy cups
- Plates
- Measuring cups/spoons
- Spatulas
- Pot holders/dish towels
- Dish Strainer
- Mixing bowls
- Bath mats/rugs
- Towels
- Twin sheets
- Pillows
- Blankets

Thank you for helping us meet our mission to improve the health and well-being of low-income or vulnerable families and individuals in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



Layla D'Emilia
Vice President

Women's Guild & Fellowship

Come Join Us!



Please come join the Women's Guild and Fellowship on January 6th in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 PM!

We are having Kathy Lockhard as our speaker, and her topic is "What is Genealogy and Where Do You Start?" It should be a fun and informative evening!

All women are welcome!

From Mission Youth

This is the last chance for youth currently in grades 8 - 12 to sign up for the 2016 Mission Trip to Mingo County, West Virginia for a week of service June 25 - July 2!

There are 14 youths and 3 adults planning to attend. All youth (and their parents/guardians) must submit a \$100 deposit and signed covenant to secure a spot on the trip. Don't be left out!

If you would like to attend, or have already signed up but have not yet submitted your deposit or covenant, contact Marlene Beaudrault Jacobs at 508-378-8326. Unsecured spots can no longer be saved.

Save the date - The 2016 Mission Dinner and Auction will be held on Saturday March 12. The wonderful support we receive from the congregation makes this huge event possible. Plan to invite your family and friends!

Upcoming Important Dates!

ANNUAL REPORTS:

All boards and committees, please remember that your annual reports are due in to the office **NO LATER THAN January 15**. This is a crucial task for the communication within our church as well as for the documenting for posterity our service and commitment to our community. Please have your reports in on time. (Feel free to submit them early if you'd like.) Let Ellen in the office know if you need a copy of last year's for reference. Email them to office@cscucc.com or leave them in the Congregational Administrator's mailbox.

ANNUAL MEETING:

Please mark your calendar for SUNDAY, **FEBRUARY 14**, which is the date for the CSCC ANNUAL MEETING! Please celebrate with us on the great work of our Lord that CSCC accomplishes over the course of a year! Immediately following coffee hour – lunch will be served.

From CE



Heifer

It was the time of Passover and the disciples were wondering how they would feed the 5000 who came to hear Jesus speak. Jesus took the 5 barley loaves and 2 fish given them by a lad. Jesus was able to feed everyone and fill baskets with the left overs. This is just one of the themes covered by the Heifer curriculum **Feeding 5000** the children will learn about this year. The children will receive a Heifer bank, calendar and a letter explaining what Heifer Project is. During the month of January they will learn about Heifer, select an animal to sponsor and with your help send the animal to a needy family somewhere in the world. As a culminating event each Sunday school class will have an opportunity to raise the rest of the money needed to purchase their sponsored animal at the Living Gift Market. This will take place Sunday, January 31st in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will come and support the children in this wonderful event.

Traveling Cows

The children are not the only ones that are going to have fun with Heifer Project this year. One of our famous wooden cows Faith, Hope or Charity may mysteriously appear on your lawn. For a fee of \$10.00 you may have the cow removed from your lawn and delivered to your friend of choice. If a cow happens to wander into your yard repeatedly just give us a call and we will remove the cow for free. When a cow appears on your lawn you will find a zipper pouch with instructions on the back of your cow. Just place your donation in the pouch and call the cow courier listed on the calendar for that date and your visitor will be removed. Don't let the cow linger too long on your lawn as the purpose is to raise as much money as possible to purchase a cow for Heifer Project. A cow costs \$500.00. We should be able to raise this amount easily. Good luck.

Cow Couriers

We are still in need of cow couriers. Your responsibilities are easy. You will be given an address to deliver one of the cows. You will be asked to do this for just a few days. **We need more cow couriers to make this work.** Please call Terry Reynolds at 508-697-4666 if you would like to join the fun. Thank you in advance.

January Calendar

Sunday, January 3rd – Multigenerational Sunday, no Sunday school
Sunday, January 10th – Heifer kick-off – Sunday school - music
Sunday, January 17th – Collect Heifer banks – Sunday school
Sunday, January 24th – Continue collecting Heifer banks – Sunday school - music
Sunday, January 31st – Living Gift Market for Heifer, follows church – Fellowship Hall

Respectfully Submitted by
 Laurence Brown
 Church Fair Treasurer

**2015
 CHURCH FAIR TREASURER'S REPORT
 COMPLETE AS OF 1/4/2016**

TABLE	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUN & LATE	Expenses	TOTAL
BAKERY	285.50	390.50	0.00		676.00
CANDY	209.00	223.50	76.00		508.50
GIFTS	167.00	211.00	193.80		571.80
CHRISTMAS	498.50	486.00	519.91		1504.41
ATTIC TREAS	140.00	206.00	0.00		346.00
JEWELRY	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
KIDS ROOM	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
COFFEE &	537.00	22.00	0.00		559.00
LUNCHEON	0.00	658.00	391.25		1049.25
DINNER	148.00	10.00	1535.00		1693.00
BASKETS	0.00	0.00	756.00		756.00
FARM	134.15	126.25	33.76		294.16
50/50	0.00	0.00	230.00		230.00

MISC UNCATEGORIZED EXPENSES> (713.80)

TOTALS> 2119.15 2333.25 3735.72

7474.32 < FAIR NET \$

DATE		CREDIT	DEBIT	
01/01/2015	Starting balance from 2014			75.00
11/16/2015	cash deposit	8393.12		
11/18/2015	# 273 Linda Sharland misc expenses		(713.80)	
12/13/2015	# 275 CSCC		(6935.32)	
12/16/2015	# 276 Darlene Brown seed \$ refund		(744.00)	
jnl	direct deposit to cscC late basket proceeds	220.00	(220.00)	
jnl	direct deposit to cscC late crafters proceeds	48.00	(48.00)	
jnl	direct deposit to cscC late crafters proceeds	208.00	(208.00)	
jnl	direct deposit to cscC late crafters proceeds	63.00	(63.00)	

75.00

Daily Lectionary Scripture References January 2016 (Year C)

Fri., Jan. 1
New Year's Day
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Sat., Jan. 2
Psalm 147:12-20
Proverbs 1:1-7
James 3:13-18

Sun., Jan. 3
Second Sunday after Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12
Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom 10:15-21
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Mon., Jan. 4
Psalm 72
Isaiah 6:1-5
Acts 7:44-53

Tues., Jan. 5
Psalm 72
Jeremiah 31:7-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Wed., Jan. 6
Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Thurs., Jan. 7
Psalm 29
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Fri., Jan. 8
Psalm 29
Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Sat., Jan. 9
Psalm 29
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Sun., Jan. 10
The Baptism of Christ
First Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Mon., Jan. 11
Psalm 106:1-12
Judges 4:1-16
Ephesians 6:10-17

Tues., Jan. 12
Psalm 106:1-12
Numbers 27:1-11
Luke 11:33-36

Wed., Jan. 13
Psalm 106:1-12
1 Kings 1:1-30
Acts 6:8-15

Thurs., Jan. 14
Psalm 36:5-10
Jeremiah 3:1-5
Acts 8:18-24

Fri., Jan. 15
Psalm 36:5-10
Jeremiah 3:19-25
1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Sat., Jan. 16
Psalm 36:5-10
Jeremiah 4:1-4
Luke 11:14-23

Sun., Jan. 17
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Mon., Jan. 18
Psalm 145
Isaiah 54:1-8
Romans 12:9-21

Tues., Jan. 19
Psalm 145
Song of Solomon 4:1-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-17

Wed., Jan. 20
Psalm 145
Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1
Luke 5:33-39

Thurs., Jan. 21
Psalm 19
Isaiah 61:1-7
Romans 7:1-6

Fri., Jan. 22
Psalm 19
Nehemiah 2:1-10
Romans 12:1-8

Sat., Jan. 23
Psalm 19
Nehemiah 5:1-13
Luke 2:39-52

Sun., Jan. 24
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Mon., Jan. 25
Psalm 119:89-96
Jeremiah 36:1-10
1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Tues., Jan. 26
Psalm 119:89-96
Jeremiah 36:11-26
2 Corinthians 7:2-12

Wed., Jan. 27
Psalm 119:89-96
Jeremiah 36:27-32
Luke 4:38-44

Thurs., Jan. 28
Psalm 71:1-6
2 Chronicles 34:1-7
Acts 10:44-48

Fri., Jan. 29
Psalm 71:1-6
2 Chronicles 35:20-27
Acts 19:1-10

Sat., Jan. 30
Psalm 71:1-6
2 Chronicles 36:11-21
John 1:43-51

Sun., Jan. 31
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30



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January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	28 7p NA-FH	29 7p CE - MR 7p Trustees-FR	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
3 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Communion 10 Worship 2p Bear Den - MR 7:30p AA-FH	4 6p Food Pantry - LL 7p NA-FH	5 8:30 Play Groups - MR 6:15p Brownies - FH 7:30p Stewardship - MR	6 6p Girl Scouts - LL 6:30p WG&F - FH	7 9 Staff Mtg - FR 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	8 7p Al-Anon- MR	9
10 10 Worship 11:30 Growth - FR 2p Webelos 2 - FH 7:30p AA-FH	11 6:30p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	12 8:30 Play Groups - MR 7p Outreach - FR	13 7p Deacons - FR	14 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH 7:30p Pack Com Mtg - MR	15 7p Al-Anon- MR	16
17 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Worship 11:30 CE Event - LL 7:30p AA-FH	18 Martin Luther King Day 7p NA-FH	19 8:30 Play Groups - MR 6:15p Brownies - FH	20 6p Girl Scouts - LL 7p Cabinet-MR	21 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	22 7p Pack 35 - FH 7p Al-Anon- MR	23
24 10 Worship 2p Bear Den - MR 7:30p AA-FH	25 6:30p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	26 8:30 Play Groups - MR	27 7p CE - MR 7p Trustees-FR	28 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	29 WG&F Retreat - Offsite 7p Al-Anon- MR	30
31 10 Worship 11:30 Living Gift Mkt - FH 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	4 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	5 7p Al-Anon- MR	6 10 Communion Workshop

*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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