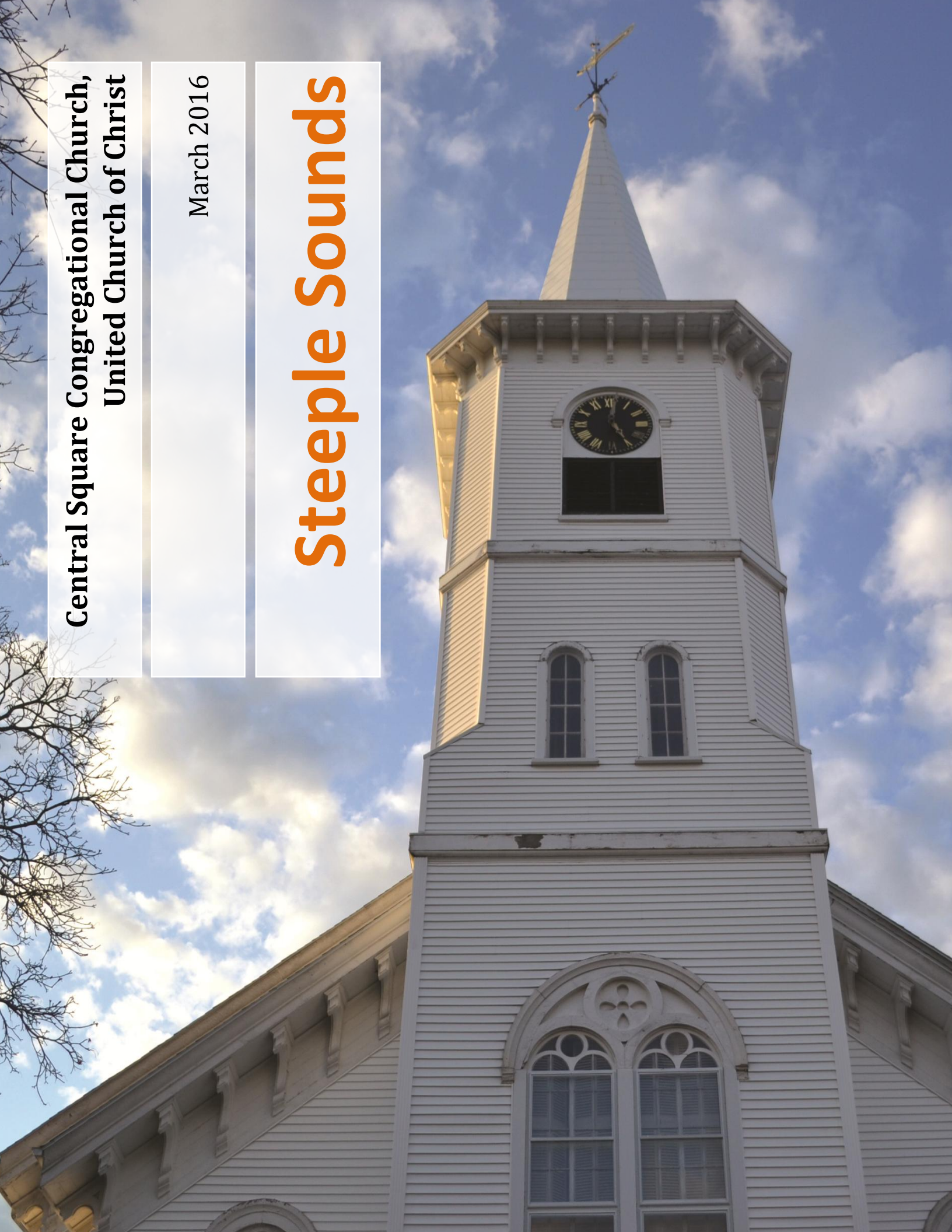


**Central Square Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**

March 2016

Steeple Sounds



From The Desk of Rev. Beth



Making Space for Holy Week

I'd like to invite you to get out your calendar – paper, smartphone, book, your brain, whatever you've got. Take a look at the week of March. 20-27. Perhaps you've got a bunch of things scheduled – you're busy with this and that. Or maybe the week is completely open – you've got your daily routines that you'll settle into once it arrives, but nothing formally on the schedule.

Now, if it's not already marked, I encourage you to mark it: HOLY WEEK. This one week is actually the high point of the Christian year. I know, I know, Easter doesn't get as big of a buzz out there in the real world as Christmas, but in terms of the Christian tradition, Easter is most certainly the highest holy day of them all.

I know that many of us did not grow up in settings that celebrated Holy Week. Perhaps you grew up in a church that didn't do much. Many didn't grow up in a church at all and are still trying to figure out what this whole Christian liturgical year is! And, of course, some of us DID grow up marking Holy Week...and we might have positive or negative association with those memories.

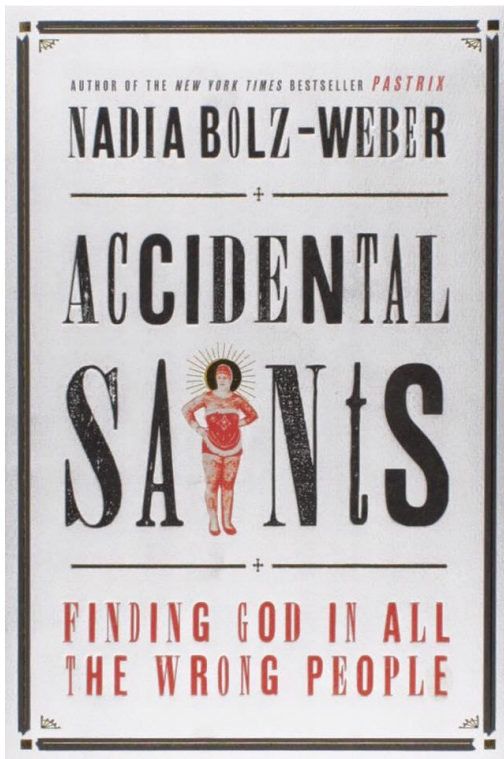
Here is what I have discovered over the years: Easter is a force. It is this amazing, mystical, celebration of renewal and new life that has the power (if I allow it) to resurrect my spirit in mighty and magnificent ways. But it seems to require preparation. If I'm just ho-humming about and then show up in church on March 27th and am taken by surprise ("Oh! It's Easter! Aren't the lilies pretty?") it's just not the same as actively and intentionally preparing myself for this event.

And so I invite you to look at Holy Week. Consider planning at least one thing you will do that week to walk with Jesus. Will you be there on Palm Sunday to enter Jerusalem with our Sunday School Children as they present to us "Images of Holy Week"? Will you join us on Maundy Thursday as we remember the last meal he shared with his friends? Or maybe it's something else entirely. Whatever it is (and, gosh, I hope it's actually even more than these things) schedule it now. Write it down or make a personal commitment.

Easter comes only once a year. And in order to allow our souls to fully sing, dance, play, rejoice on Easter morning, we first must journey through that holiest of weeks together. I, for one, am thankful to have your company on the journey. Peace be with you as we continue through this Lenten season of reflection and realignment.

In Christ,

Rev. Beth



Need a book to read for the Lenten Season? Try "Accidental Saints" by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Rev. Beth is preaching from this book the whole season of Lent and will be holding a book discussion about it on March 19 at 10am. The church still has a few copies of the book available for \$20. Call the church office at 508.697.6016 to reserve a copy.

From the Board of Stewardship



Psalm 45:7 New International Version (NIV): "You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

Do you know some people who could benefit from receiving the "oil of joy"? If so we hope you will invite them to our church. Jesus changes lives right here at CSCC. We have all been blessed by the love of Jesus. As stewards of CSCC it is our responsibility to share that blessing with everyone we know. Help Jesus change a life for the better. Invite someone you know to his house.

God Bless You!!

CSCC Stewardship Committee

News from Growth

Growth News

We are fundraising to support a local little league team. We feel this would be a great way to show support for our community and our youth.

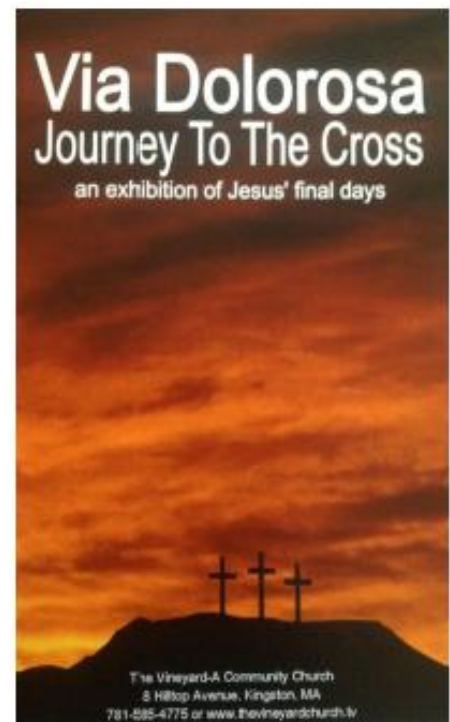
Ways you can support:

- Be the church fundraiser - order t-shirts, bags, mugs and bumper stickers and a donation will go to the little league fund.
- Hit a home run - make a donation and put your name on a baseball to be displayed in the fellowship hall.
- Bling it up for baseball - buy beads to put on you lanyard or buy a custom lanyard for your name tags. All proceeds will go to the baseball fund.

Bible study field trip

Join us for a unique experience. Journey through Jesus' last days through art and scripture. There will be two trips one evening on **Monday, March 21st** we will meet at the church at 6:00 and **Friday morning, March 25th**, we will meeting at the church at 9:30. We will carpool & convoy to Kingston and then reflect on the experience at a local restaurant. Please see a member of Growth at coffee hour or email Christine at choyt33@verizon.net so I have a count for the

restaurant reservation.



We are in need of Greeters to greet before church to make everyone feel welcome. Please consider signing up for a Sunday.

Growth Little League Be The Church Fundraiser



Prices Are Rounded Up
Includes Shipping And \$5
Donation

To order contact :
Christine Hoyt
Email
choyt33@verizon.net

- T-shirts - S,M,L,XL,2XL,3XL - \$25
- Mugs \$15
- Bag \$28
- Apron \$25
- Bumper stickers \$5

Dine with 9 Groups are Here!

Group 1:

Elaine Henriksen, Norm and Janet Brust, Diane and Dave Sheibley
Gail and Frank Wershing

Group 2:

Eric and Kathy Gibson, Rev. Beth, Ian and Joss Cochrane, Ellen Crawford

Please see Sheri Turner with any questions.

Women's Guild & Fellowship

Come Join Us!



Please join us on March 2, 2016 to learn all about the Bridgewater Lions Club. Our speaker for the evening is Diane Sears.

Our business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and Diane's program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Sandy and Phoebe

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.

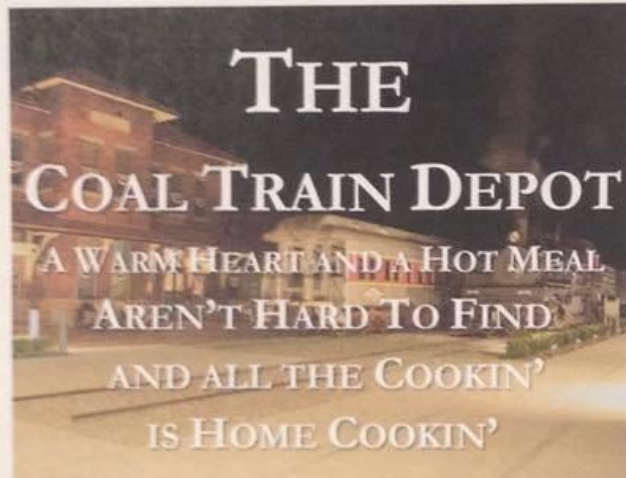
These items simply do not sell and we are left with disposing of them. They not only take up precious space, but are a hardship physically and possibly affects our profits if we have to pay for removal/disposal.

We **WILL** be accepting:

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

From Mission Youth

The annual Mission Dinner and Auction will be held on Saturday, March 12 at 6:00pm to raise funds for the 2016 Mission Youth trip to Mingo County, West Virginia. This event promises to be a tasty way to spend the evening with your church family and friends while supporting a great cause. Come enjoy dinner, soak up the atmosphere at the Coal Train Depot and bid on wonderful auction items. Space is limited – contact Marlene Beaudraut Jacobs at 508-378-8326 for reservations by March 6.



APPETIZER PLATE \$15

Buffalo Mountain Spiced Peanuts, Bourbon Chicken Lettuce Wraps & Pepperoni Bread with Ranch Dipping Sauce

ENTREES \$18

The Real McCoy Roast Beef with Onion Sauce *Gluten Free
Devil Trail Smoke House Ham *Gluten Free
Coal Train Chicken with Peaches & Honey *Gluten Free

*All Entrees Served with
House Salad, Mountain Mama's Applesauce
Cornbread, Two Color Mashed Potatoes & Succotash*

SWEET ENDINGS \$5

Waffle Brownie Topped with Raspberry Sherbet
Hummingbird Cake
Rice Pudding with Raisins *Gluten Free

DRINKS \$2

Coffee, Tea, Bottled Water, Ginger Ale, Cranberry Lemonade

THANK YOU

Thank You, for supporting the "GREAT MISSION" work the CSCC Youth have been doing for the past 14 years, without you this would not be possible!
Enjoy! Chef Basler

Mission Trip Dinner Decor Wish List:

The Coal Train Diner

These pictures are meant to inspire not dictate. I am looking for tins, rustic decor, train decor, and rustic southern country.

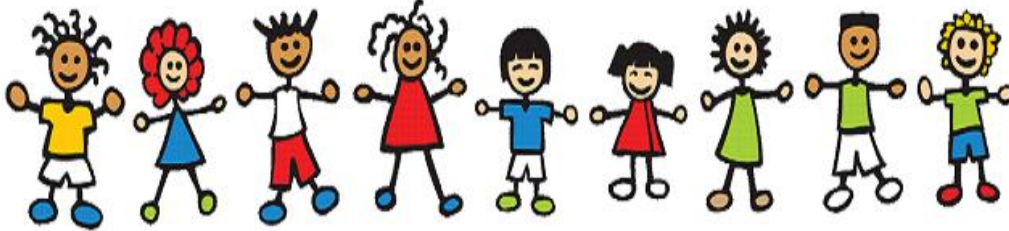
I would like to have:

- a large area rug
- Lamps, floor lamps, lanterns and fireplace or stove
- Cowboy boots
- Photos or paintings of trees and mountains
- Enamel plates, cups, pails
- Think wood, tin, and coal
- Wooded plaques
- Quilts
- I need a model train for foyer.
- Conductor and engineer hat
- Old tools and shovels
- Rocking chairs



See Christine Hoyt if you can help with any of these items!

From CE



Heifer

The banks have all been returned and the cows have all wandered home. An exciting Living Gift Market celebrated the end of Heifer Project. Llama rides were available and you could purchase a violin concert for a reasonable price. Sheep and bee cupcakes were among the treats offered along with Swedish fish and fish eggs. The chick and duck cookies were very tasty. We had a visit of live chickens from Hanson's Farm. Over \$1000 was taken in that day. We still will accept any donations and any banks for Heifer that have not been returned. Here is a report regarding how each class performed. Pre – K and Kindergarten sponsored bees & chicks for \$50.00. They raised \$93.48. Grades 1, 2, & 3 raised money for a flock of Hope and bees for \$90.00. They raised \$158.32. Grades 4 & 5 had a goal of \$120.00 to sponsor sheep and chicks. They were able to raise \$158.60. The 6, 7, & 8th grade students' goal for a llama, irrigation pump, and goat was \$420.00. They raised \$397.24 a very lofty amount. The teens sponsored fish and their goal was \$100.00. They collected \$169.21. The traveling cows returned to church with \$500.00 just reaching their goal. The congregation contributed \$422.14. The total money raised for Heifer Project was \$1893.36. The children decided to share the money earned beyond their goal with any class that needed money to achieve their goal. A task well done by all. We thank the congregation and the parents for supporting us in this project.

March Calendar

The children and youth have begun preparation for the Palm Sunday service. They will once again present **The Images of Holy Week**. Eight Bible readings are read to the children while they record each event in their booklet with pictures, words or symbols. On the third Sunday they select the scene they would like to present to the congregation. They decide on costumes and props and how the scene will be depicted. They rehearse in class and finally a dress rehearsal including all 8 scenes occurs to plan the presentation to the church. Attendance by all cast members is important for learning the story, understanding the events, and finally the presentation of each scene. Here is the calendar for Images of Holy Week.

Calendar

Sunday, February 21	Hearing the first 4 stories
Sunday, February 28	Hearing the second 4 stories
Sunday, March 6	Choosing and planning the scene
Sunday, March 13	Classroom dress rehearsal
Saturday, March 19	Rehearsing all scenes in the sanctuary
Sunday, March 20	Presenting The Images of Holy Week to the Congregation (Palm Sunday)
Sunday, March 28	Easter Sunday – Multigenerational Sunday

Nominating Committee Time!

The 2016 Nominating Committee is formed and about to start its annual work! I'm extremely grateful to those that have accepted the role of committee member, and the service these folks have committed to. They will do you proud!

I have two requests of all the other members of the church. First, if a member of the Nominating Committee approaches you about serving on a board or committee, I ask that you take the time to consider it. We understand most of our lives are wildly busy these days. And we understand that so many of you already serve and support the work of the church in so many ways. And I, personally, am grateful to you for that.

I said it last year, but I'll say it again. The "blessing and the curse" of how much our church has to offer is that that requires time, talent, and energy. We need people to step up and say "I can help!" It might even require some of you to step a bit out of your comfort zone. Or it may just ask you to offer up the talent and expertise that God (and experience) have blessed you with, and to pay it forward.

Whichever one of these applies to you, I simply ask that you thoughtfully and prayerfully consider any request a member of the nominating committee may make of you. And in making that decision, if you feel that it's just not a commitment you can make at this time, but are willing to participate in the work of a specific committee on, perhaps, just a project or two, please let the nominating committee know that. Maybe you just want to work on a golf tournament fundraiser, but not officially be on a committee? Maybe you feel called to help with the food pantry, or the breakfasts, or the mission dinner, or the fair... just let us know. More hands to help are always welcome.

On the other hand, before someone approaches you, if you feel called to do work in a specific area, or you have talents or interest in an area we might not be aware of, please reach out to one of the committee members to express your interest, ask questions, and explore whether there might be a good match for you with a board or committee. We're all in this together, and the only way we continue to flourish is by the commitment and can-do attitude of individuals like you and me.

I am pleased to announce that this year's Nominating Committee is comprised of: Denise Molinari, Deb Sorgman, Carla Jackson, Rich Sullivan, John Sharland, and Nancy Winter.

Remember that our work requires all of us to pitch in in small ways and in big; from experienced "old-timers" and those new to the table; of the young and the not-as-young-as-we-used-to-be. Everyone is welcome to play a part in the work that we do here at Central Square Congregational Church. And to paraphrase a familiar saying, no matter who you are, or what talents and skills you have to offer, there's a place for you here at Central Square.

Thanks for all that each of you do, and for who you are.

Diane Sheibley
Moderator

Daily Lectionary Scripture References March 2016 (Year C)

Tues., Mar. 1

Psalm 39
Ezekiel 17:1-10
Romans 2:12-16

Wed., Mar. 2

Psalm 39
Numbers 13:17-27
Luke 13:18-21

Thurs., Mar. 3

Psalm 32
Joshua 4:1-13
2 Corinthians 4:16—5:5

Fri., Mar. 4

Psalm 32
Joshua 4:14-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-15

Sat., Mar. 5

Psalm 32
Exodus 32:7-14
Luke 15:1-10

Sun., Mar. 6

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Mon., Mar. 7

Psalm 53
Leviticus 23:26-41
Revelation 19:1-8

Tues., Mar. 8

Psalm 53
Leviticus 25:1-19
Revelation 19:9-10

Wed., Mar. 9

Psalm 53
2 Kings 4:1-7
Luke 9:10-17

Thurs., Mar. 10

Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:1-7
Philippians 2:19-24

Fri., Mar. 11

Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:8-15
Philippians 2:25—3:1

Sat., Mar. 12

Psalm 126
Exodus 12:21-27
John 11:45-57

Sun., Mar. 13

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Mon., Mar. 14

Psalm 20
Exodus 40:1-15
Hebrews 10:19-25

Tues., Mar. 15

Psalm 20
Judges 9:7-15
1 John 2:18-28

Wed., Mar. 16

Psalm 20
Habakkuk 3:2-15
Luke 18:31-34

Thurs., Mar. 17

Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 53:10-12
Hebrews 2:1-9

Fri., Mar. 18

Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 54:9-10
Hebrews 2:10-18

Sat., Mar. 19

Psalm 31:9-16
Leviticus 23:1-8
Luke 22:1-13

Sun., Mar. 20

Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm/Passion Sunday
Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Mon., Mar. 21

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tues., Mar. 22

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wed., Mar. 23

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Thurs., Mar. 24

Mundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians
11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Mar. 25

Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews
4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42

Sat., Mar. 26

Holy Saturday
Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9,
19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Sun., Mar. 27

Easter
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-
43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Mon., Mar. 28

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Joshua 10:16-27
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Tues., Mar. 29

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a
Revelation 12:1-12

Wed., Mar. 30

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
2 Samuel 6:1-15
Luke 24:1-12

Thurs., Mar 31

Psalm 150
1 Samuel 17:1-23
Acts 5:12-16



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March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10 Worship 2p Bear Den - MR 2:30p Wolf Den - LL 7:30p AA-FH	29 7p NA-FH	Mar 1 8:30 Play Groups - MR 7p Addiction Forum - ST 7:30p Stewardship - MR	2 6p Girl Scouts - LL 6:30p WG&F - FH 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	3 9 Staff Mtg - FR 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	4 7p Al-Anon- MR	5 2p Pack 35 Magic Show - F
6 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Communion 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	7 6p Food Pantry - LL 6:30p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	8 6:15p Brownies - FH 7p Outreach - FR	9 7p Deacons - FR	10 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH 7:30p Pack Com Mtg - FR	11 9 Mission Dinner Prep - Kit 7p Al-Anon- MR	12 6p Mission Dinner - FH
13 Daylight Saving Time star 10 Worship 11:30 Growth - FR 2p Bear Den - MR 7:30p AA-FH	14 7p NA-FH	15 8:30 Play Groups - MR	16 6p Girl Scouts - LL 7p Cabinet-MR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	17 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	18 7p Al-Anon- MR	19 10 Lenten Book Study - FR
20 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	21 6:30p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	22 8:30 Play Groups - MR 6:15p Brownies - FH	23 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	24 Maundy Thursday 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH 7p Worship - ST	25 Good Friday 7p Al-Anon- MR	26
27 Easter Sunday 6 Sunrise Svc - Hanson Fa 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	28 7p NA-FH	29 8:30 Play Groups - MR	30 7p CE - MR 7p Trustees-FR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	31 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	Apr 1 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.

Church Administration

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

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Sexton: Rich Sullivan

Minister of Music - Lin Schuller

Accompanist - Julia Scott Carey

Treasurer: Larry Brown treasurer@cscucc.com

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