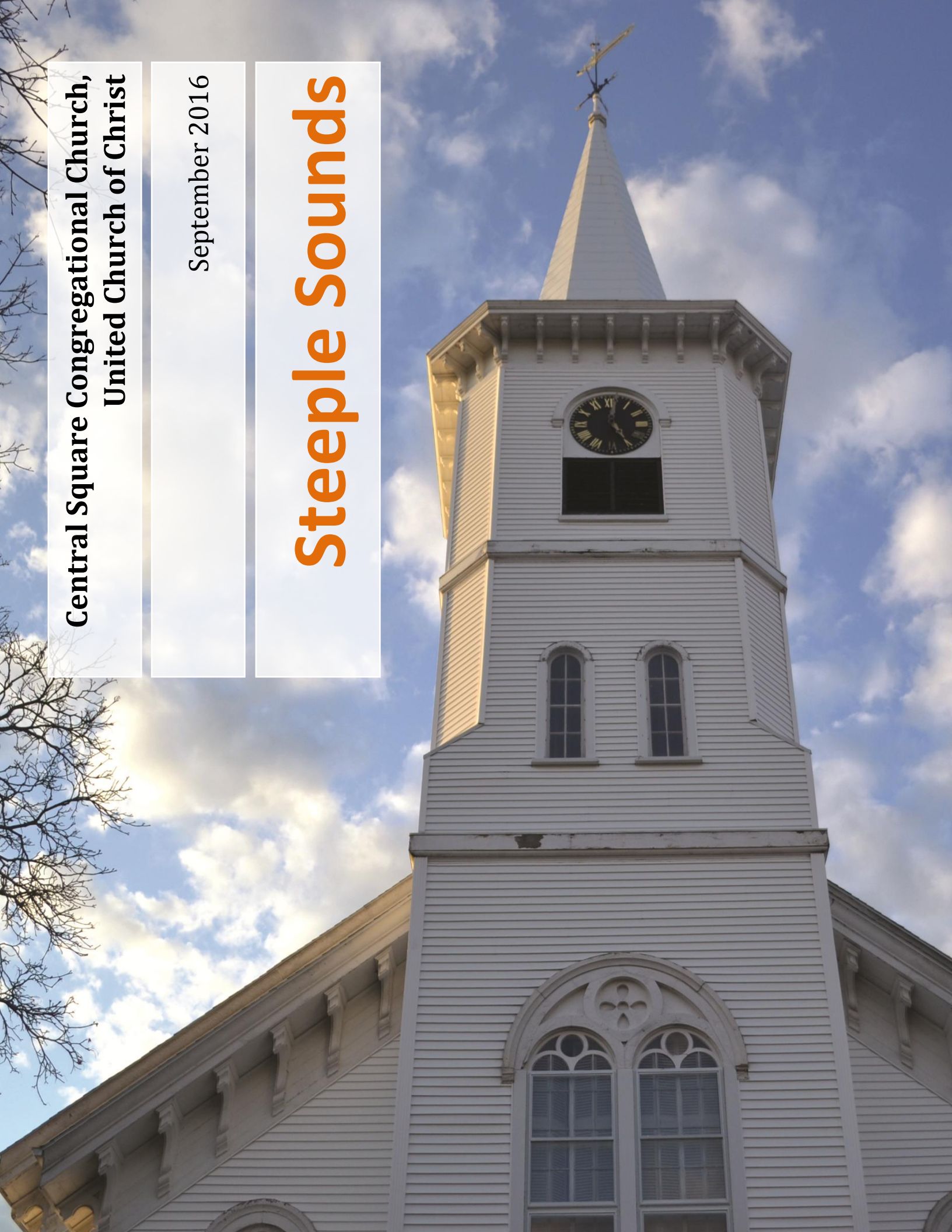


**Central Square Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**

September 2016

Steeple Sounds



From The Desk of Rev. Beth



You have been told, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

In the face of tragedy, loss, or grief, we're often told to simply "light a candle and say a prayer." A meeting you expect to be confrontational? Light a candle and say a prayer. A family mourning the unexpected death of a child? Light a candle and say a prayer. Natural disaster? Light a candle and say a prayer. Mass shooting? Light a candle and say a prayer. Yet another mass shooting? Light another candle and say another prayer. The devastating loss of police officers who never make it home at the end of a shift? Light a candle and say a prayer. The 2016 presidential election cycle? Light a candle and say a lot of prayers.

Friends, we're running out of candles, and I'm struggling to find the voice or words for prayer.

But I won't abandon this age old response to tragedy. Instead, we must light the candles within ourselves. We must shine the light of Christ so brightly in our own lives, and in our own world that the shadows of evil can find no place to reside. And we must use things other than our voices to pray: we must use our hands to reach out to one another, our eyes to pay witness to injustice, our feet to march for change. We must pray with our whole lives. Because you see, prayer changes things. Beginning with us. Within us.

There has been a saying floating around on social media lately attributed to the Talmudic writings: Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

More and more I am convinced this is the work of the church we are called to do: to light candles and say prayers. To light candles of love in ourselves, in one another. To pray without ceasing. To pray until we know the change ourselves and to pray until that change manifests in the world. You see, in lighting candles, and saying prayers we do the work of building God's Peaceful Kingdom, here on earth.

May you know this peace now and always,

Rev. Beth

From The Board of Deacons

Back To School For The Christian

An Excerpt by Julia Bettencourt

"Study to show thyself approved unto God..." 2 Timothy 2:15

Recently I was reading through some back to school tips. It struck me that we as Christians could take some of those tips and get ourselves geared up to serving the Lord. We need to get back to the school of life for Christ.

Christian Back To School Tips:

1. Get Enough Sleep. (Rest in the Lord)

As parents we all know the benefits of getting our children to bed early on a school night. They need that added rest in order to get up early in the morning. A good night's sleep will work wonders on your attitude the next day and it will help your whole disposition. Resting in the Lord will also make you fit and ready for the day. It will recharge you.

"Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him..." Psalm 37:7

2. Get a Healthy Breakfast. (Have Prayer and Bible Study)

The experts all agree that giving a child breakfast before school helps in knowledge retention, test scores, and overall learning. As Christians we need to get a healthy breakfast of Bible study and prayer. Having some type of personal devotions will fuel you for the day.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. Psalm 5:3

3. Follow The Rules. (Use the Bible as Your Guide)

School couldn't be productive if it weren't for the rules. We can all remember some of the basics. No fighting. No talking during class. No chewing gum. As Christians we have the best rule book of all. It covers all of the basics. We need to use it as a guide on a daily basis. All of those do's and don't in God's Word are there to help us live productive lives.

But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. Luke 11:28

4. Develop Good Work and Study Habits. (Develop Good Bible Study Habits)

Children that develop good study habits are the ones who sail through school without major problems. We as Christians need to develop good study habits when it comes to God's Word. Knowing the Word is what is going to make or break us. We've got to know the Word of God in order to live it.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

5. Try Your Best. (Do Your Best for Christ)

Teaching our children to do their best will bring results and they can be proud of themselves. It's rewarding to do your best. As Christians we need to strive to do our best in whatever we do. After all we are doing it to honor God.

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23,24

6. Get Along With Your Classmates. (Fellowship With Other Christians)

When children are taught to get along together at school it causes such a good atmosphere for learning. When we as Christians get along with each other and fellowship with one another, it causes more productive lives, which helps further the cause of Christ.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

7. Get To Know Your Teacher. (Know Christ More)

One of the first things a student needs to learn is what is expected of him from his teacher. How does that teacher deal with homework? With classroom policies? With grades? We need to know what Christ expects of us. Getting to know God will help us serve Him better.

“And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.” 1 Chronicles 28:9

Conclusion:

I hope I can remember to follow these tips. I want to be a prepared and productive student of the Lord.

So, are you ready for the school of life?

From Christian Education

CE is having our annual Kickoff on Sunday, September 11th!

We will also be at the Opportunity Fairs in September/October and will be looking for volunteers to be guest teachers during Sunday School. *(Please see later in the newsletter for more information regarding the Opportunity Fair)* We are seeking input in enhancing our Youth and Adult Education experience. Please stop by and tell us what interests you!

- Lisa Masiello



Central Square Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324

September 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians of Young Children,

At Central Square Congregational Church, UCC we welcome all people to worship. Children especially need to know that they are welcome to participate in all aspects of congregational life. They have been learning about the songs and prayers and stories of our faith, and through worship, their spiritual lives develop and grow.

Listening to one person speak for a ten-minute sermon without interruptions is not something children do often in today's world. That does not mean they cannot do it. The truth is that most people tune in and out from sermons. They often listen until they hear something that sends them off on a "important to them" rabbit track, then return when they have run that course or when something breaks through their thoughts calling them back to the sermon. Children do the same thing. The trick is not to expect them to hear the whole sermon or to insist to them that they should listen to the whole thing. Instead we can teach them how to tune in and out and to think about what the preacher says. Here are some strategies:

Your attitude is critical. Repeatedly let your child know that worship and the sermon are important to you and that you are excited that he/she is sharing it with you. Whenever possible talk more about the content of the sermon than about worship behavior and focus on what a child did hear rather than what was missed.

Point out that your job as sermon listeners and worship participants is to think in God's presence, i.e. sermon listening is active rather than passive.

To encourage thinking in God's presence with the preacher, look for "Take-Aways" and "Windows."

A **Take-Away** is something the preacher said or some aspect of worship that you think is important and want to remember. It may be a new idea or an idea that speaks to you right now. It may even be a joke or funny story.

A **Window** is something the preacher says that makes you think about something important that is going on in your life and that you need to think about with God. It is an opportunity to crawl out an imaginary window, think what you need to think, then crawl back in when you are done.

Have a written conversation about the sermon with your child during the sermon. Write notes or draw pictures about what you hear and think in the margins of the bulletin or in a worship journal you bring to worship every week.

Talk about the worship service in the car on the way home. Share some of your “take-aways” and “windows.” Ask your children about theirs. When this happens every week, over time children learn to be ready with at least one contribution to the conversation.

Children are an important part of this congregation. Your child is welcome, especially at this big step toward fuller participation in worship. Please let us know if there is a way we can help make it a richer, fuller step.

Blessings,
Rev. Beth & the Deacons

From the Board of Trustees



The Board of Trustees is short one member! Any volunteers?

It's a great opportunity to be deeply involved in the general oversight of the financial and physical plant affairs of the church. Please see Gordon Brailsford if you are interested or have any leads.

From the Board of Outreach



There is a urgent need for specific items for the Food Pantry! It would be wonderful if we all could get one or two items and either bring them to church or drop them off at the church during business hours. The following is the list for much needed items (**although any and all donations are welcome**):

- Mayonnaise, ketchup, & mustard
- Boxes of cereal
- Cans of meat and pasta (like Franco American or Chef Boyardee spaghetti and meatballs)
- Cans of cream of mushroom, cream of chicken and broth (all used to make quick dinners)
- Rice or rice pilaf
- Cans of baked beans
- Dish soap
- Adult only toothbrushes
- Tissues
- Toilet paper & paper towels

Women's Guild & Fellowship

Come Join Us!



An Open Invitation to Women of CSCC-UCC!

The Women's Guild and Fellowship of CSCC will hold its first meeting of the 2016/2017 year on Wednesday, October 5th at 6:30PM in our Fellowship Hall!

We begin each year with a pot luck supper that is open to all women of the church. All members are asked to please bring an appetizer, a salad, a main meal, or a dessert.

If you have not been before, please come, enjoy the meal, and see what we are all about! The food is fabulous, the fellowship is welcoming, and we have a lot of fun while doing God's work of serving others in need in our church and our community.

At the first meeting, Secret Pals will be revealed, and we will have sign-ups for those interested in participating in the program this year.

We will also be finalizing plans for the upcoming fall Rummage Sale, one of our two major fundraisers. So mark your calendars and join us on October 5th! See below for more information.

Co-Presidents Lynn Pietras (508-824-0855) & Gail Wright (508-697-7159)



Fall Rummage Sale Time!

DATE: The date is **Saturday, October 22** for the Fall Rummage Sale and Lunch sponsored by the WG&F of CSCC, with hours between 9:00 AM and 1:30 PM. This semi-annual event is our primary fund-raiser, allowing us to support the church, charitable organizations, and members of the community, both local and beyond.

CHANGES: Please note the following changes for the Fall event.

1. We will no longer designate a space for furniture, nor will we accept large pieces such as couches, dining tables, overstuffed chairs. PLEASE ADHERE TO THIS—we have neither the manpower nor the space to accommodate such pieces. In the Spring, some large furniture was left on the side porch, which we unfortunately were unable to sell, or even give away. We then had to get someone to haul them away to the transfer station. Fortunately, the attendant waived the fee because of our non-profit status. Point being, while we appreciate your donations, not all work well for us. We SHALL accept small pieces, such as footstools and small end tables, and will place them throughout the sales areas.
2. We do expect to bring back the 50/50 Raffle in the Fall.

HELP: As always, we need lots of volunteers to help with set-up, sales, and clean-up. We look not only to members of the Guild, but to the congregation at-large for fellowship, as we will be sorting and arranging on Thursday, Oct. 20 and Fri, Oct 21

Between 9AM and 3PM. Please contact Marie Nelson (508-947-6920) or Bette deKoning (508-697-6912) if you would like to help out anytime on Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

BOOK REMINDER: We can only accept paperback books. Please, no textbooks, encyclopedias, how-to manuals, etc. This policy was initiated for the Spring sale and found to be quite successful. Thank you for your cooperation.

Gently used, clean clothing is the best seller; shoes, purses, jewelry, linens household items, and glassware are also popular.

We will again have our very popular soup and sandwich luncheon.

Items may be left at the church during regular office hours beginning Monday, Oct 17. The church will also be open from 9-3 and 5-7 on Thursday, Oct. 20 and from 9-3 on Friday, Oct. 21. Adjustments may be made to those times, so be sure to watch for updates on September and October bulletins and emails.

Thanks so much for your support in the past as we look forward to another successful sale.

Bette, Lori, and Marie—Co- Chairs for Team Rummage



THE FAIR IS COMING! THE FAIR IS COMING!

Whether you're going to bake up a storm for the cookie walk and dessert table, knit some baby booties and throw blankets, or just look forward to some holiday shopping and a delicious turkey supper, **SAVE THE DATE** for the Central Square annual Fair!

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AND 12!

If you are interested in volunteering with baking, turkey serving, pie night, publicity, or just about any other capacity, contact one of "My Fair Ladies": Denise Molinari (denmol@comcast.net, 508-279-6322), Carla Jackson (fourjacs@comcast.net, 508-279-3375), Deb Rucker (motherucker@gmail.com, 508-279-0772), or Diane Sheibley (diane@sheibley.net, 508-697-7262).

ALSO, if you know any BR high school students who want community service hours by working at the fair, have them contact one of My Fair Ladies as well! Hours are flexible.



OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING!!

On **Sunday, September 25** and **Sunday, October 2**, look for the various boards, committees, and groups to have information available on what they do and how you might participate. It's the **OPPORTUNITY FAIR!** Held both Sundays immediately following service in the fellowship hall. You needn't be a board or committee member to make a difference – your time and your talent is a blessing no matter what your role.

NOTE to board/committees/groups: Please have a display ready at both of these times to show off all the cool stuff you do, and how you do it. Inspire volunteers to serve alongside of you in your mission! Give them the opportunity to show off their God-given talents in His service.

Attention Board & Committee Chairs!

Here we are again – September! Although Cabinet has taken the summer off from having regular meetings, please plan on attending the first Cabinet meeting of the new year on **WEDNESDAY, SEPT 21**, at 7pm.

It is crucial that all boards and committees be represented, and meetings are open to anyone and everyone that wants to know more about what is going on at CSCC. See you there!

–Diane Sheibley, CSCC Moderator

Daily Lectionary Scripture References September 2016 (Year C)

Thurs., Sept. 1
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jeremiah 15:10-21
Philippians 2:25-30

Fri., Sept. 2
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jeremiah 16:14-17:4
Colossians 4:7-17

Sat., Sept. 3
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jeremiah 17:14-27
Matthew 10:34-42

Sun., Sept. 4
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Mon., Sept. 5
Psalm 2
Jeremiah 18:12-23
1 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Tues., Sept. 6
Psalm 2
Jeremiah 19:1-15
1 Timothy 4:6-16

Wed., Sept. 7
Psalm 2
Jeremiah 20:1-18
Luke 18:18-30

Thurs., Sept. 8
Psalm 14
Jeremiah 13:20-27
1 Timothy 1:1-11

Fri., Sept. 9
Psalm 14
Jeremiah 4:1-10
2 Peter 2:1-10a

Sat., Sept. 10
Psalm 14
Jeremiah 4:13-21, 29-31
John 10:11-21

Sun., Sept. 11
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Mon., Sept. 12
Psalm 94
Jeremiah 5:1-17
1 Timothy 1:18-20

Tues., Sept. 13
Psalm 94
Jeremiah 5:18-31
2 Peter 3:8-13

Wed., Sept. 14
Psalm 94
Jeremiah 14:1-10, 17-22
Luke 22:31-33, 54-62

Thurs., Sept. 15
Psalm 79:1-9
Jeremiah 12:14-13:11
Romans 3:1-8

Fri., Sept. 16
Psalm 79:1-9
Jeremiah 8:1-13
Romans 8:31-39

Sat., Sept. 17
Psalm 79:1-9
Jeremiah 8:14-17; 9:2-11
Mark 12:41-44

Sun., Sept. 18
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Mon., Sept. 19
Psalm 106:40-48
Jeremiah 9:12-26
Acts 4:1-12

Tues., Sept. 20
Psalm 106:40-48
Jeremiah 10:1-16
1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Wed., Sept. 21
Psalm 106:40-48
Jeremiah 10:17-25
Luke 20:45-21:4

Thurs., Sept. 22
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Jeremiah 23:9-22
2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Fri., Sept. 23
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Jeremiah 23:23-32
Ephesians 2:1-10

Sat., Sept. 24
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Jeremiah 24:1-10
Luke 9:43b-48

Sun., Sept. 25
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Mon., Sept. 26
Psalm 119:49-56
Jeremiah 32:16-35
Revelation 3:14-22

Tues., Sept. 27
Psalm 119:49-56
Jeremiah 32:36-44
James 5:1-6

Wed., Sept. 28
Psalm 119:49-56
Jeremiah 33:1-13
Matthew 19:16-22

Thurs., Sept. 29
Lamentations 3:19-26
Jeremiah 52:1-11
Revelation 2:8-11

Fri., Sept. 30
Lamentations 3:19-26
Jeremiah 52:12-30
Revelation 2:12-29



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September Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	29 7p NA-FH	30	31 7p Trustees - FR	Sep 1 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	2	3
4 10 Communion 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	5 Office Closed Labor Day 7p NA-FH	6 8:30 Play Groups - MR 7:30p Stewardship - MR	7 7p Teachers Mtg - FR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	8 9 Staff Mtg - FR 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	9	10
11 10 Worship 11:30 Growth - FR 7:30p AA-FH	12 7p Outreach - FR 7p NA-FH	13 8:30 Play Groups - MR	14 7p Deacons - FR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	15 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	16 6:30p Pack 35 - FH	17
18 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	19 7p NA-FH	20 8:30 Play Groups - MR	21 6p Girl Scouts - LL 7p Cabinet-MR	22 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	23	24 Autumnfest
25 10 Worship 11:30 Opportunity Fair - FH 7:30p AA-FH	26 7p NA-FH	27 8:30 Play Groups - MR	28 6p Girl Scouts - LL 7p CE - MR 7p Trustees-FR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	29 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	30	Oct 1 11 Funeral - ST

*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

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Minister of Music - Lin Schuller

Accompanist - Julia Scott Carey

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