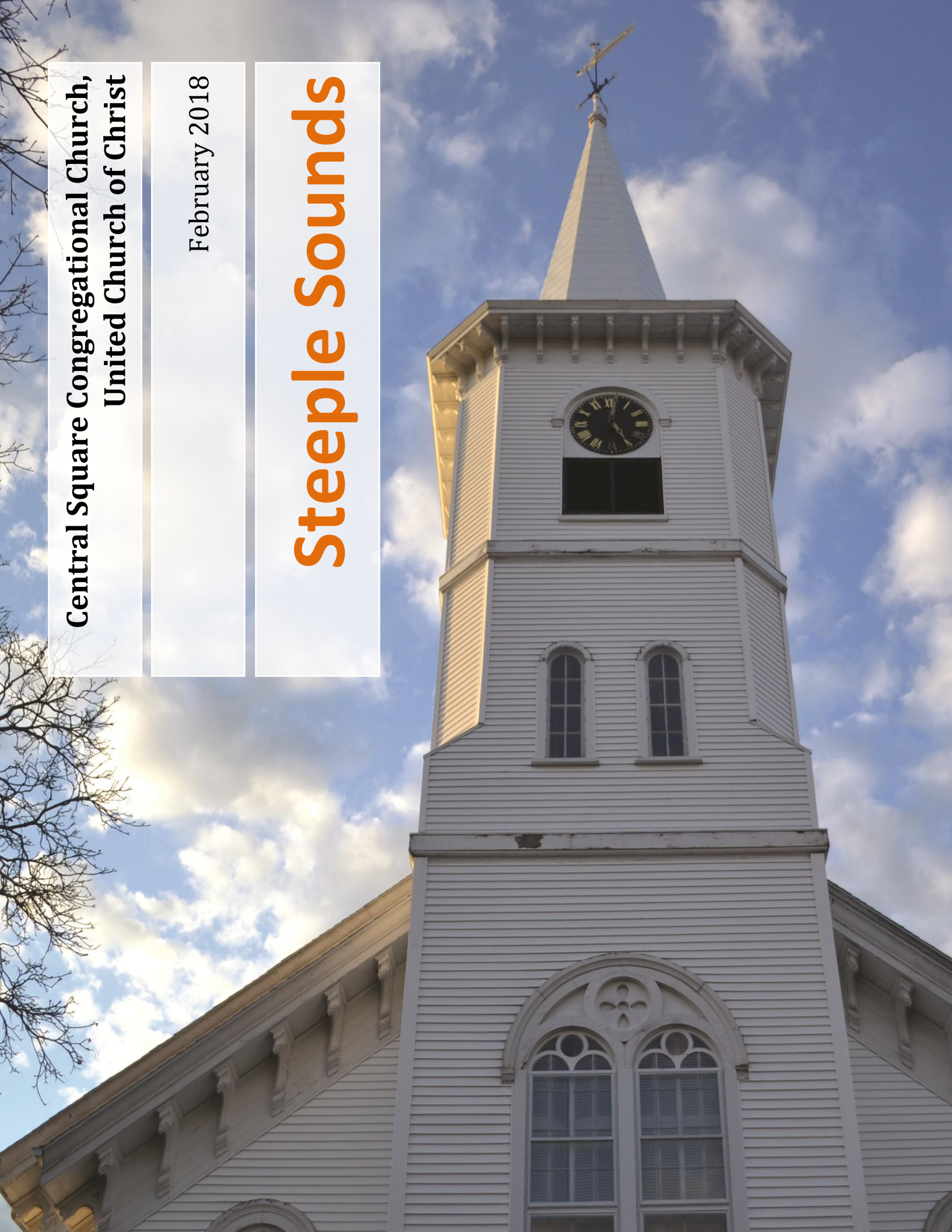


**Central Square Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**

February 2018

Steeple Sounds



From The Desk of Rev. Beth



I recently read this article (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/fr-richard-rohr/lent-is-about-transformation_b_1282070.html) by Fr. Richard Rohr and it really got me thinking about the desire for transformation as we approach the season of Lent.

Lent is traditionally a time in the church year where we start to think about “making changes.” Traditionally, Lent has been a time of fasting, penance, sacrifice. There are folks for whom giving something up is very meaningful and find a deepening of their faith through that practice each year. If that’s you, I say GO FOR IT. Other folks approach

Lent by “making changes” by adding something in. Perhaps they commit to a new prayer practice or find an outlet for community service. Again, this seems like a lovely practice for Lent. If adding something in helps you grow and deepens your connection to the Holy, I say GO FOR IT.

For those wanting to try something new this year, or those “just not feeling it” as Lent approaches – I have another possibility for you. How about a year where your Lenten practice is to Just Be? In his article, Fr. Rohr says that, too often, Lenten practices are about making changes, not about **being changed**. This whole practice of following Jesus is about transformation – about allowing our very form to be altered on a foundational level – not just about making surface-level changes. Sometimes, of course, the practice of living in new ways leads to foundational shifts. I think that’s what we are often seeking when we give something up or add something in for Lent. When that works, it’s a powerful, powerful thing. Sometimes, though, what we need (perhaps especially in a world that is always changing) is less movement and more stillness, fewer changes and more steadiness. Sometimes we don’t need to radically alter ourselves. Sometimes we simply need to be present and allow. This is not a passive waiting. This is an active, intentional way of grounding ourselves in each moment and inviting an awareness of God’s presence in our lives. This be-ing requires careful self-discipline and awareness. In his book *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer*, Fr. Rohr says, “Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am. Be still and know. Be still. Be.”

Be.

It’s a radical invitation in a world where we are told we need to be constantly in motion. It’s a radical invitation to rest in God’s presence and learn to simply be present. To honor the holiness of each passing moment. To stop striving, working, moving. To just BE.

This Lent, you might decide to Just Be during conversations with your loved ones at the dinner table. Or maybe you want to Just Be when that negative voice starts to play in your head. Perhaps you want to Just Be in nature, or in worship, or at the gym. I think it can be done anywhere, really. It’s about a quality of awareness we bring to each moment as holy – nothing more, nothing less. However you observe this season that we call Lent, know that I will be praying for you as you seek wholeness and growth on this journey towards Easter. GO FOR IT!

In Christ,
Rev. Beth

The season of Lent begins with a special worship service on Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 PM. In this service, we reflect on our lives, on our journey of faith, and on our call as Christians to be a transformed and transforming people. We take the palm leaves from last Palm Sunday (April 9, 2017), when we celebrated Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and we burn them. In burning the palm leaves from last year, we remember the circle of life and death, the journey of Jesus. Then, at the Ash Wednesday service, we make the mark of the cross on our foreheads with the ashes as a visual reminder to ourselves and to others that we came from dust, and to dust we will return. It's really all about mortality and utilizing our each and every moment, each and every breath to live in a way that celebrates "the journey" from dust and back to dust.



Please join us for Worship
Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2017
7:00 PM

From the Board of Deacons

Lent is a time for reflection and repentance. But doing so is not always easy. Here are some resources that can spark thought and creative reflection.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/arts-and-faith-for-lent>

Enter into a visual prayer experience this Lent with *Arts & Faith: Lent*. Each week we'll provide a video commentary about a work of art inspired by the Sunday Scriptures. Use these videos to take a new look at this season of spiritual renewal through the lens of sacred art.

http://www.reyes-chow.com/tag/40wordprayer/?inf_contact_key=9cb2f7124b1e92342526f02db146a7e4b032e6186eab862882a48c10d034cce0

Subscribe to the blog, or purchase the book of 40 Word Prayers. Or better yet, write your own...

http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

Sign up for the UCC Daily Devotional.

<https://www.upperroom.org/>

Great resource for devotional ideas and prayers.

May this Lenten season be one of inspiration and rejuvenation.

The Deacons

From the Board of Stewardship

It's that time of year again when your Stewardship team will be kicking off the 2018 Stewardship Campaign!

During Breakfast on **Sunday February 4th**, we will be presenting the second part of our historical presentation about our church and denomination. Please join us to enjoy a great breakfast and hear some interesting facts about Central Square Congregational Church!

We are also planning to reach out to the members and non-members of our Congregation to speak briefly about Stewardship, and pass out this year's pledge forms. It is our hope that each of you will start discerning about your pledge for 2018 to support the life and mission of this wonderful church.

Thank you from your Stewardship team!

News from Outreach

The season of Lent is upon us! While talking with Rev. Beth at The Better Bean, I was reminded of the days when I was in the CSCC Youth Group. One of our regular missions, aside from bowling at the Academy Lanes in Bridgewater Center, was traveling to Lakeville Hospital to visit the kids that were residents there. Nowadays, I have to do all I can do to remember someone's name that I just met a few minutes ago. To this day, I still remember Jerry and how much we looked forward to spending time together playing games or just talking. Jerry couldn't walk, so he was either in his wheelchair or bed. Each of us in the Youth Group had a resident that we would spend time with at the hospital. Here it is, 45-50 years and I still remember Jerry!

So why am I reminiscing? Lots of people make New Year's resolutions such as losing weight or getting more exercise. For Lent, people make "sacrifices" and give up something like chocolate or desserts altogether. For me, it might be giving up coffee. Others might give up TV or their cell phone.

In the spirit of Outreach, though, rather than giving up your cell phone, use it more and call someone you haven't spoken to in a while. If you know someone who is homebound, in assisted living, or in the hospital, give them a call or visit them. If you didn't give up coffee, maybe you could take someone out for breakfast or even just a cup of coffee. Make time for others – drive them to an appointment or shovel someone out after a storm.

At church there are so many groups that you can get involved with that do for others, too. No matter what you like to do, there is a group at the church that you could get involved with. People will be appreciative, and it will stay with you for a long time.

God is Still Speaking,
David Hanson
Outreach Committee



News from Growth

Growth Committee has developed a Welcome message which is attached to this edition of Steeple Sounds. Until we find the funds to have it printed large and framed to hang in our church building, we thought you might like to have it to print and share individually. (Of course, donations to make the wall hanging possible are always welcome.) We hope you like it and can share it wherever you think appropriate. A way to "evangelize" as in the theme of the recent worship service. Should we? Can we? Will we? These questions are about our church participating in the annual Bridgewater Fourth of July Parade. It takes a at least a partial village to make this happen and Growth is a mere 3-4 people so we need advice and willing participants. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 8, at 7 p.m. Please come-- or let Sara Terpeny know of your interest and ability to be in the parade, help with a float, etc. before our meeting.

YOU are Welcome!

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, queer, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor.

We extend a special welcome to wailing babies, excited toddlers, talkative children, shy kids, and moody teens.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself, whether you can't help but dance when you hear music or just had your hip replaced and need to sit.

We welcome you here if you 'are just browsing', have just woken up, or just got out of prison. We don't care if you've been a Christian your whole life, haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago, or have been afraid to step inside.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 who haven't grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.

We **welcome** mommy-bloggers, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.
We **welcome** those who are in recovery or still addicted.

We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps, or don't like "organized religion". (We're not too into that either.)

We offer a **welcome** to those who work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because your mom/dad/grandparent/etc. made you come.
We **welcome** those who have ink, are pierced, both or neither.

We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids, or got lost on the Common and stumbled in here by mistake.

We **welcome** pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and **YOU!**

Women's Guild & Fellowship

Come Join Us!



The Women's Guild & Fellowship will meet on **February 7** at **6:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. After our business meeting and time of refreshments and fellowship, we will hold our Annual Guild Auction. This event has become one of the highlights of WG&F. Members and guests bring in gifts to re-gift, items they have had, but never used, and one of a kind items. With our auctioneers Sandra Alley, Janet Colford, Phoebe Hogg, and Bev Mitchell, you can plan on having a lot of laughs! All proceeds go to the missions of the Guild. So join us on February 7th, and have a lot of fun!

Co-Presidents

Gail Wright 508-697-7159

Lynn Pietras 508-824-0855

From the Minister of Music

Our choir has had a wonderful Christmas and Epiphany season. Since returning from our brief New Year's vacation, some highlights have been a "Behold That Star" arrangement harmonized by Harry Burleigh, as well as "Blessings" by Natalie Sleeth and "The Candlemas Carol" by Alfred Blackwell.

In the last month, we have showcased many of our talented and passionate solo musicians, from Cameron Shave and Peter Glass on trumpet, to Robin Kruse on cello, to Lynne Bates on handbells, to Bethany Guillbault's vocal solos. Next week we will hear our Children's Choir sing a rousing Swahili song, with Cameron Shave playing the djembe. We are so fortunate to have so many musicians in our church!

Soon we will be in the season of Lent. Our music will be a bit more somber and meditative, but still just as wonderful. Stay tuned for some more musical news in the spring, such as another Score Club!

News from Christian Education

During January, we have been immersed into the Heifer program, reminding me of the importance of helping others. It's one of my favorite times in our church year, as I love how helping others makes me feel. But also because it is one of those huge life lessons I always stress to my boys: we help others because that's what God wants! Sometimes I wonder if it is hard for them to grasp. They are both kind, caring young boys but they are fortunate, never having to go without food and shelter like too many in our community. Sometimes I worry that they don't "get it", until recently.

This winter, Rich and I learned of a child in our community who's family was struggling. A family member recently began care with hospice at home. The other adults in the home don't work. No Christmas would be celebrated. The family was struggling putting food on the table each day and so mom said she would try to get the child a toy sometime after the holidays, inevitably after the family member passed away. It was heartbreaking to hear especially when thinking of the typical Christmas my boys experience. I always stress that Christmas is about the presence and not presents, but I also think every child should be able to open up something and have a little joy.

So, Rich and I decided that our family would help. With Lego sets and grocery gift cards purchased, we passed them on to the family, hoping our small effort would help to make a difficult time in need a little less painful. Now we didn't do this for recognition nor is it why I share this with you. Rather, it's because the lesson we taught our boys from this experience was far more valuable than any monetary value shared. Nic and Aiden both saw the small pile of toys on our table and immediately hoped that they all were for them. After a moment of disappointment, they were surprised to hear that they were for a child in our town. We didn't disclose who the child or family was, only that it was someone we knew in need who would have nothing at Christmas. They looked at us puzzled, as if unable to comprehend. And it was at that moment that I felt like they got it. They understood that when we talk about helping others, it doesn't have to be someone in another country, state or even town. It could be someone in our neighborhood.

So as the season of Heifer comes to an end at Central Square, I hope the importance of helping others means as much to you and your family as it does to ours.

In faith,

Krissy Cannizzo
Sunday School Superintendent



Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

Annual Meeting

SUNDAY, February 11, 2018

TO ALL MEMBERS:

Please be advised that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018. 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.

Important Upcoming Dates:

* **February 4th:** Scout Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM! Open to all scouts, past and present. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, Cub Scouts, etc. The scouts work with Rev. Beth to lead the entire service. Several scouts will be presented with special awards they have been working toward, and all scouts who are present will receive a Scout Sunday patch for their uniforms! Participants of the God & Me Program will also receive their completion certificates.

* **February 11:** CSCC Annual Meeting – plan on staying after service for lunch and to celebrate the accomplishments of our wonderful church community!

* **February 14:** Ash Wednesday Worship service at 7:00 PM.

* **February 21:** Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, Feb 21, at 7pm. As always, all CSCC members are welcome to attend.

Thank you to our February Sunday Acolytes!

Feb. 4: Aiden & Nic Cannizzo

Feb. 11: Daniel Turner & Jae Stotts

Feb. 18: To Be Determined

Feb. 25: Franco Ciaramitaro & Jae Stotts

Thank you to our February Worship Deacons!

Feb. 4: Anne Malmquist

Feb. 11: Deb Sorgman

Feb. 18: To Be Determined

Feb. 25: To Be Determined

Thank you to our February Sunday Service Greeters!

Feb. 4: Gail Wright & Lynn Pietras

Feb. 11: Nancy Winter & Janet Brust

Feb. 18: Mike Bundock

Feb. 25: Sherley Phillips & Rachel Lawson

Greeters are still needed for the following March dates. If saying "Good morning" is in your skillset, we need you! Total commitment: 15 minutes. If this sounds like you, please contact Diane Sheibley at dianesheibley@gmail.com to sign up for one of these dates: March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25

Daily Lectionary Scripture References February 2018 (Year B)

Thurs., Feb. 1

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Proverbs 12:10-21
Galatians 5:2-15

Fri., Feb. 2

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Job 36:1-23
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Sat., Feb. 3

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Isaiah 46:1-13
Matthew 12:9-14

Sun., Feb. 4

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Mon., Feb. 5

Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37
Acts 14:1-7

Tues., Feb. 6

Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 8:1-6
Acts 15:36-41

Wed., Feb. 7

Psalm 102:12-28
Job 6:1-13
Mark 3:7-12

Thurs., Feb. 8

Psalm 50:1-6
1 Kings 11:26-40
2 Corinthians 2:12-17

Fri., Feb. 9

Psalm 50:1-6
1 Kings 14:1-18
1 Timothy 1:12-20

Sat., Feb. 10

Psalm 50:1-6
1 Kings 16:1-7
Luke 19:41-44

Sun., Feb. 11

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany; Transfiguration
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Mon., Feb. 12

Psalm 110:1-4
Exodus 19:7-25
Hebrews 2:1-4

Tues., Feb. 13

Psalm 110:1-4
Job 19:23-27
1 Timothy 3:14-16

Wed., Feb. 14

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. 15

Psalm 25:1-10
Daniel 9:1-14
1 John 1:3-10

Fri., Feb. 16

Psalm 25:1-10
Daniel 9:15-25a
2 Timothy 4:1-5

Sat., Feb. 17

Psalm 25:1-10
Psalm 32
Matthew 9:2-13

Sun., Feb. 18

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Mon., Feb. 19

Psalm 77
Job 4:1-21
Ephesians 2:1-10

Tues., Feb. 20

Psalm 77
Job 5:8-27
1 Peter 3:8-18a

Wed., Feb. 21

Psalm 77
Proverbs 30:1-9
Matthew 4:1-11

Thurs., Feb. 22

Psalm 22:23-31
Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18
Romans 3:21-31

Fri., Feb. 23

Psalm 22:23-31
Genesis 16:1-6
Romans 4:1-12

Sat., Feb. 24

Psalm 22:23-31
Genesis 16:7-15
Mark 8:27-30

Sun., Feb. 25

Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

Mon., Feb. 26

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Genesis 21:1-7
Hebrews 1:8-12

Tues., Feb. 27

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Genesis 22:1-19
Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

Wed., Feb. 28

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Jeremiah 30:12-22
John 12:36-43



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February Calendar

28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship 7:30pm AA-FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm NA-FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Girl Scouts - FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Girl Scouts - L 6pm Girl Scouts - LL 7pm Trustees-FR 7:30pm BSU Choir - S1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry - LI 7pm Al-Anon - FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Glow Dance - I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30pm CE Ed. Event -
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Breakfast - FH 9am Confirmation Cla 10am Communion 10am Worship 3 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Food Pantry - LL 6:15pm Girl Scouts - M 7pm NA-FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Stewardship - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Girl Scouts - LL 6:30pm WG&F - FH 7pm CE - FR 7:30pm BSU Choir - S1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry - LI 7pm Growth - FR 7pm Al-Anon - FH 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Red Hat Tea - FI 3pm Pack 35 - FH/ST
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship 11:30am Annual Mtg - 7:30pm AA-FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm NA-FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Girl Scouts - FH 7pm Deacons - FR 7:30pm Outreach - MR 	Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Girl Scouts - L 6pm Girl Scouts - LL 2 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry - LI 7pm Al-Anon - FH 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Lenten Study - FF
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Breakfast - FH 10am Worship 7:30pm AA-FH 	Office Closed Presidents' Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm NA-FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Cake Class - FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Cabinet-MR 7:30pm BSU Choir - S1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry - LI 7pm Al-Anon - FH 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Lenten Study - FF
25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship 7:30pm AA-FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15pm Girl Scouts - M 7pm NA-FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Girl Scouts - FH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Girl Scouts - L 6pm Girl Scouts - LL 7pm Trustees-FR 7:30pm BSU Choir - S1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry - LI 7pm Growth - FR 7pm Al-Anon - FH 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Lenten Study - FF 1pm Scouts Pinewood



Central Square CC now takes PayPal!

CSCC is now able to accept **online donations!** (Both general donations and donations for the Bridgewater Food Pantry). At the top of our website homepage (www.cscucc.org), there are two buttons, one for each category of donation. Feel free to let your friends, neighbors, and social media networks know that they have the ability to support our work and the work of the food pantry.

Church Administration

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

Congregational Administrator: Ellen Atherton – office@cscucc.com

Director of Youth Ministry: Larissa DeMarco

csccyouthminister@gmail.com

Sexton: Rich Sullivan

Minister of Music: Julia Scott Carey

Superintendent of Sunday School:

Krissy Cannizzo maximus202@comcast.net

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*

