



Central Square Congregational
Church,
United Church of Christ
Steeple Sounds

December 2019

*We are a Christian community of people who are
reaching out to our neighbors,
at home and abroad, sharing our faith and our
resources.*

From the Desk of Rev. Beth

Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, Pastor

December 1st marks the first Sunday in the season of Advent – the four-week period of time leading up to Christmas. Some call it “The Season of Expectant Waiting”.

Expectant waiting. While the central question of Advent is about hopeful, expectant waiting, we need to stop and ask ourselves, what are we waiting for?

There are so many things we expectantly wait for during Advent.

- We wait for the semester to end so we can enjoy a time of rest and relaxation after loads of hard work.
- We wait for the family time and get-togethers, to see those we love and maybe haven’t gotten to see in a long time.
- We wait to make and eat our favorite dishes; food that at first bite holds deep memory.
- We wait to see the look on a loved one’s face when they open that perfect present we picked out for them.
- We wait to open our own presents, to see what new toys and gadgets we’ll get to play with.
- We wait for our favorite Christmas carol to play on the radio, or for our favorite Christmas special or Christmas movie to air on TV.
- We wait to see our kids or grandkids perform in their Christmas programs and pageants, singing the songs we sang as kids, re-enacting the story that has been done and re-done, year after year.

But what we really wait for, expectantly, is the birth of a tiny, helpless baby, “asleep on the hay” and what that baby represents.

In the gospels, we are introduced to a cast of characters also in a period of waiting. Elizabeth and Zachariah, Mary and Joseph are all waiting for babies.

We wait too. Have you ever gotten out your nativity set and imagined putting yourself in it? Where would you stand? Would you be next to the angel? Next to Mary looking into the manger with pure love and awe? Maybe you’re next to the donkey, thanking it for its hard work.

As we wait this Advent season, I wonder, with all depth and seriousness: “Where are you in the story?” “What are you waiting for?” and furthermore, “What does it represent to you?” I’ve lived through many Advents in my life, and I’m not sure I know concretely what I’m waiting for this year. Do you? I’d love to hear what you think.

In Christ’s Love,
Rev. Beth

csccpastor@hotmail.com, 508-697-6016



Central Square Congregational Church, UCC, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts is an open and affirming church. No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

Fellowship

Women's Guild & Fellowship

December Meeting

A tradition is a long, established custom or belief that has been passed on from generation to generation. Our church has several customs and traditions in which we participate each year during Advent. We begin Advent with an Advent Workshop — a time for children, youth, and adults to create ornaments for the home and to decorate the church to wait for the birth of the baby Jesus. The children and adults participate in a Christmas pageant retelling the story of the birth of Jesus. The Women's Guild and Fellowship has established its own tradition or custom of having a Christmas worship service. On Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30pm the Women's Guild and Fellowship will begin their meeting with a worship service in the Sanctuary led by Rev. Beth. A meeting and refreshments will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. All the women of the church are invited to attend the service, meeting, and refreshments.

Co-Presidents: Beth Basler bethbasler@rcn.com • Terry Reynolds terryr0647@hotmail.com.



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers that make our after-worship time welcoming and delicious. If you are able to help one of our dedicated committees with this ministry on one of the dates below, contact Mike at mm.bundock@comcast.net, or Gail at wershing@ptd.net or contact the church office.

Dec. 1*—First Sunday.....Board of Christian Outreach
& Board of Stewardship
*Note that fellowship hour today is in the Fireplace Room
Dec. 8—Second Sunday.....CSCC Officers &
Women's Guild & Fellowship
Dec. 15—Third Sunday.....Growth Committee
& History & Memorials Committee
Dec. 22—Fourth Sunday.....Board of Trustees
& Board of Christian Education
Dec. 29—Fifth Sunday.....Board of Deacons
& Music Committee



Please note:

No church breakfast on **December 1**, as we make our Fellowship Hall available for Christmas on the Common later that day.

Your breakfast crew will be back on **December 15th** 9:00-9:45 with Baked French Toast on the menu!

Our breakfasts are — **Pay what you CAN!**

If you can't pay...eat for FREE!

If you are doing ok...pay the going rate

\$5-\$15 family limit

If you are blessed...leave some extra!

Most months from September - June, our breakfast service is offered the first and third Sundays of the month. Please join us — everyone is welcome!



Joy to the World!

Old-fashioned Christmas Caroling! Sunday, December 1

...between noon and 2 p.m., join in to sing your favorite carols of the season. Bring your voice, your uke, a costume for the season. Stay as long as you like for this pop-up choir. We have free hot chocolate with marshmallows to add. This is our church welcome to the community's Christmas on the Common in Fellowship Hall. We will gather and sing in the church entryway. —Sponsored by the Growth Committee.

HISTORICAL CHURCH RESTORATION COMMITTEE



On November 3, the congregation approved the funding to hire Gale Engineering Company to assess our building and prepare the necessary documentation for our primary grant application.

For the last two weeks a crew of engineers have been seen at our church high in a lift near the top of the steeple, studying and evaluating the condition of the entire exterior of the church building. Samples of wood and metal were taken to be analyzed. We are experiencing this feeling of excitement that great things are really going to be happening to our church building.

In December, we submit our grant application to the Bridgewater Community Preservation Committee. All of us on the HCRC have positive feelings that we will be approved.

We also have hired a grant writer, Joe O'Neill from Hingham. Joe is a graduate of UMass Amherst and has received a Certificate in Grant Writing from BSU. In addition to writing our CPC grant application, Joe will also be applying for many other grants he feels we may qualify for.

We would also like to keep you updated with our renovation news every 3rd Sunday of the month when the History & Memorials Committee members co-host coffee hour. It will be an informal time to ask any one of us on the committee questions you might have. Please feel free to seek us out and ask anything.

—Barbara I. Morey, Terry Reynolds, Carol Chaffee, Dave Sheibley, Gloria Weinrebe, Rachel Lawson, and Jim Driscoll (consultant)

Reaching out! The info and message at right was delivered to 2,450 Bridgewater addresses in late November. Welcome your friends and neighbors to all our Christmastide happenings!

Put your Spiritual Health **FIRST** This Christmas

*GET IN THE SPIRIT

POTLUCK/WORKSHOP for all, bring the family
to open the Advent Season

Make an Advent Wreath and other crafts

SATURDAY, Nov. 30, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

*Sing in a Pop-Up Choir!

Christmas caroling — Just show up!

Sunday, Dec. 1, noon to 2 p.m.

*Sunday Stories

In the nursery** Dec. 8, 9 a.m.

*Read a Book

"Those Who Wait: Finding God in
Disappointment, Doubt and Delay"

And talk about it with others

SATURDAY, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.

*Community Breakfast

Kick-start your Sunday —All are welcome

Sunday, Dec. 15 at 9 a.m. Pay what you can!

*Bible Study

Read and share — Every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

*One Room Schoolhouse

For THE KIDS — stories of our faith during this
special season. Sundays during the Worship hour.

*Advent Worship**

Sundays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 at 10 a.m.

Coffee, goodies, fellowship after Worship

*Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 at 5 p.m. And 10 p.m.

**Nursery care every Sunday, 9 a.m. to Noon



Christian
Education

&

Youth Ministry

Calling all Youth Grades 8-12: Cookie Fundraising Event!

Saturday,
Dec. 14,
6-10:30pm



Needed: Bakers
and Decorators
(Donations for
supplies also
accepted)

All youth grades 8-12 are invited to join Beth Basler for an evening of cookie baking and decorating! Cookies will be sold to the congregation the next morning to raise money for the youth mission trip.

- **Pizza and salad** will be provided for dinner.
- All participants are asked to bake **4 dozen cookies** to bring for decorating (some of the recipes will only require you to prep the dough for rolling/baking).
- Beth will provide the list of cookies and recipes. If you can't bake, please consider donating money for supplies (packaging materials and chocolate).
- If you have a festive cookie recipe that you would like to bake, send Beth the recipe so she knows what's coming (BethBasler@rcn.com).
- Please, **no peanuts or pistachios** of any kind. We have one participant with a nut allergy.

Cookies, candies, and chocolate bark will be sold Sunday, Dec. 15, so everyone participating (and any other willing volunteers) will need to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30am to set up a table and finish packaging. It's a **breakfast Sunday**, so bring your appetite!

**PLEASE LET BETH BASLER KNOW IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN BAKING, DONATING, OR
ATTENDING.**

*Watch the "CSCC Youth" Facebook page for additional
information and updates.*



Destination: Rutland, Vermont
Dates: June 28-July 3, 2020

Mandatory Mission Trip Meeting December 1, 11:30am

All youth currently in grades 8-12 interested in participating in the mission trip in June 2020 should meet in the upstairs meeting room on Sunday, 12/1.

Youth only needed; parents not required.

Chocolate!

There are still Hilliard's chocolate bars available for sale to benefit the mission trip — crunch, dark, and peanut butter flavors. **Great stocking stuffers!** All proceeds go toward the trip expenses. Buy them for yourself, or take some to sell at work or amongst friends.



Sunday, December 22

We're excited to be trying an all-congregation "improv" pageant this year. Our children will naturally be a highlight of sharing this experience as a community, but we hope that God's children of all ages will join us as we have fun sharing the story of the birth of our Christ on Sunday December 22nd.

What should you do to prepare? Just show up! We will have story tellers to read the story and props to illustrate the many wonderful aspects of the Christmas story so everyone can be a part of the telling!



**Christian
Education**

& Youth Ministry



Junior Youth Group

Sunday, Dec. 15

Who: All students in grades 4, 5, 6, or 7

When: 11:30-1:00

Where: the upstairs meeting room at church

Every month we'll gather for food, drinks, games, and maybe a craft. Join us for some lively conversation, even if you've never been before. Feel free to bring a friend!

See you on the 15th! **Lunch will be provided.**

Jess Stearns • jessicastearns1231@gmail.com



Senior Youth Group

Sunday, Dec. 22

Who: All students in grades 8-12

When: 11:30-1:00

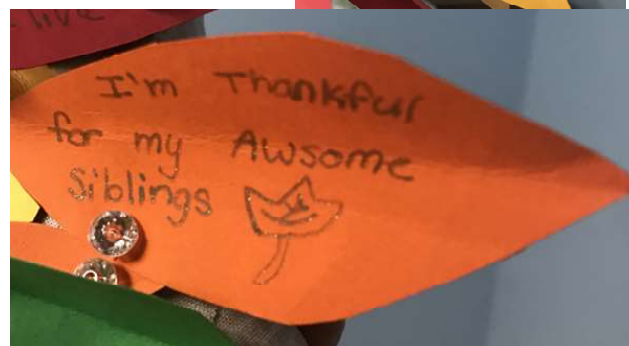
Where: the downstairs youth room

Newcomers welcome!

Last month was a blast! We had some great laughs and made fabric pumpkins. They were all uniquely creative, but there was not wrong way to do it.

Every month we'll gather for some conversation and inspiration. Feel free to bring a friend or two! **Lunch will be provided.**

Jess Stearns • jessicastearns1231@gmail.com



A Thankful Wreath, courtesy of our kids!



Sunday Stories with Rev. Beth: Christmas Edition

Sunday, Dec. 8, 9am in the nursery

Special Christmas theme! Hear a story, sing songs, and play! All infants and toddlers (and their parents/guardians) welcome.

Mom & Baby Playgroup

Saturday, Dec. 14, 9-10am in the nursery

Bring your baby or toddler and hang with other moms! No agenda or program, just a fabulous play room for the kids and time to be with other moms.



**Christian
Education**

& Youth Ministry

Note to Self

- ☞ Nursery is open every Sunday 9am-12pm
- ☞ Bible Study, Tuesdays, 7pm
- ☞ Mission Trip Meeting, 12/1, 11:30am
- ☞ Ask A Pastor Anything/Faith Uncorked, 12/5, 7pm
- ☞ Sunday Stories w/Rev. Beth: Christmas Edition, Nursery, 12/8, 9am
- ☞ Mom & Baby playgroup, Nursery, 12/14, 9-10am
- ☞ Advent Book Study, 12/14, 10am
- ☞ Cookie Fundraising Event, 12/14. 6-10:30pm
- ☞ Junior Youth Group (grades 4-7), 12/15, 11:30am-1pm
- ☞ Senior Youth Group (grades 8-12), 12/22, 11:30am-1pm

Weekly Evening Bible Study Tuesdays, 7pm

Join Rev. Beth in the Fireplace Room each Tuesday at 7pm to read the lectionary scripture together, discuss what sticks out, how it relates to our lives, and how it relates to the Spiritual Enrichment topic of the month, and to pray.

Guest leader Dec. 17, Jess Stearns. "Chocolate cookies and scripture... what could be better!"

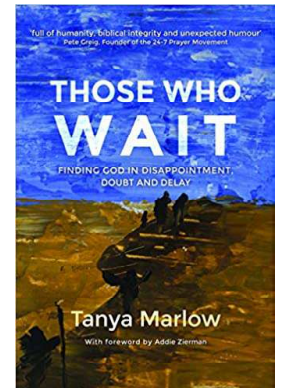
***** Scheduling note: there will be no bible study on December 24 or December 31. *****

Advent Book Study

Join Rev. Beth in the reading of *Those Who Wait: Finding God in Disappointment, Doubt and Delay* by Tanya Marlow. Copies are available from Smile.Amazon.com (be sure to order through "smile" amazon so the church benefits!).

The book invites us to enter into the stories of four Bible heroes who waited impatiently: Sarah, Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary. Through gripping storytelling and prayerful reflection, we'll immerse ourselves in their lives this Advent. These stories will help us find empathy and perspective for our disappointment and doubt. Above all, through this study we'll find God in the "Expectant Waiting" of the Advent season. Whether you read the book all the way through or just skim a chapter or two, we'll gather Saturday, December 14 at 10am in the Fireplace Room. We'll meet to discuss our engagement of the book and its spiritual value on our lives. (Snacks will be provided.).

Questions? Contact Rev. Beth at 508-697-6016 or csccpastor@hotmail.com



ASK A PASTOR ANYTHING

FAITH UNCORKED WITH
REV. BETH AND PASTOR ALICIA

GREYHOUND TAVERN
39 Broad Street, Bridgewater
Thursday, Dec. 5, 7pm



**December's Inspirational Theme is:
EXPECTATION**

**Special December Worship
Opportunities**

Dec. 15 — Music Sunday
 Dec. 22 — Pageant Sunday
 Dec. 24 — 5pm Family Worship Service
 Dec. 24 — 10pm Candlelight Worship Service
 Dec. 29 — Hymn Sing Sunday



**Central Square Services are Available
Live Streaming and On Demand!**

Booth Video Productions and BTV Access Corporation team up most weeks to bring you live stream productions of our service. The link to watch the service live, as well as an electronic copy of our bulletin so that you can follow along, is available each week that we are broadcasting on our website homepage, www.cscucc.org.

Central Square Congregational services are available on the go! You can watch weekly sermons live on YouTube courtesy of Paul Holmes and Booth Video (search Central Square Congregational Church) or on Replay on BTV Channel 9, here in Bridgewater. You can also watch replays and download copies, courtesy of the BTV Video on Demand Page, available at btvaccess.com. Services air on Channel 9, weekly on Sunday at 8pm (previous week), Mondays at 1pm, Tuesdays at 10am, and Fridays at 3pm. BTV also airs coverage of church events, when covered by volunteer producers.



Come Sing with Us!

Rehearsals for the senior choir are at 8am on Sundays in preparation for that day's 10am service. All levels of experience are welcome.

The children's choir rehearses at 9:15am on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, and at 9:30 on the third Sunday of the month; performance is on the fourth Sunday of the month at the 10am service. All children are welcome!

Come Play with Us!

Do you play an instrument, and would you occasionally like to be included in the Sunday worship service? Contact our Minister of Music Julia Scott Carey at juliascottcarey@gmail.com or contact the church office. We love guest musicians!

IMPORTANT: SUNDAY, DEC. 1

Just a quick reminder that Christmas on the Common is Sunday, Dec. 1. The roads on both sides of the common will be closed starting at 10am, so please don't park there for service (you may not be able to anyway). Church Street will likely not be accessible to the common, either, starting around then, although it will be open at the Union Street end. Please consider leaving the curb area on Church Street between the common and the library driveway available to people that need to park close to the door for health and mobility reasons. (Some of these folks often park out in front of the church along the common.) All others should try to park farther down the street or in the library parking lot.

In addition:

- Coffee hour will be in the fireplace room, as Christmas on the Common vendors will be setting up in our Fellowship Hall.

- Due to Christmas on the Common using our Fellowship Hall, **there will be no church breakfast on Dec. 1.**



WHAT'S YOUR PASSION?

Volunteer opportunities and service

Why wait for nominations?

What do you like to do? What brings you joy? You could get involved in CSCC today in a way that you're passionate about. Currently we have more than a dozen board and committee openings, but you don't need to join a committee to be a part of everything going on here at CSCC. You know that company that says, "What's in your wallet?" at the end of every commercial? So... "What's your passion?"

If you aren't sure where you might fit in best, contact Ellen in the church office, or Rev. Beth, and they'll likely have some suggestions. Do it for the church, but more importantly, do it for yourself.



Minister's Discretionary Fund & Deacons' Fund

At Central Square Church we provide cash and gift card grants to community folks in dire need through the Minister's Discretionary Fund and the Deacons Fund. We provide funds for prescriptions, rent, transportation, short-term housing, diapers and baby stuff, school supplies, etc. Almost all of our gifts are to people outside of the church, especially folks living on the edge economically or experiencing homelessness, unemployment, or underemployment. Any donation would be a wonderful gift! Simply put your check or cash in one of the small envelopes in the pews and place it in the Sunday collection plate, or drop it off at (or mail it to) the office. Just be sure it's clearly marked which fund you want your donation to go to.

Thanks in advance for your prayers and generosity.

From Our Board of Christian Outreach

At this time of year, we focus on reaching out to those in need as the holidays and cold weather quickly approach us. Cold weather has set in early this Fall.

Food Pantry Donations

Although large amounts of food will be coming in from local food drives at this time of year, please consider a food donation to our pantry. Think about what special foods you like around the holidays and buy an extra for the food pantry. Donate something exceptional that local food drives will not necessarily gather in. And thank you for your continued generosity.



Warmth, in Cold Places

The Warmth in Cold Places clothing donation will take place in early January, date to be determined. Please continue to bring in winter clothing items for our distribution at the Our Daily Bread soup kitchen in Taunton. Socks, hats, gloves, hooded sweatshirts, and hand/toe warmers are much appreciated. Toiletry items will continue to be collected and go to the L Street mission in Brockton. All items can be deposited in the big boxes just inside the Church St. door of the church.



Christmas Eve Meal for Mainspring

It's not too early to think about Christmas Eve and Day. With Christmas Eve falling on the fourth Tuesday of the month this year, CSCC is responsible for the meal at Mainspring House in Brockton. Speak to Rob Basler for details on how you can help serve the homeless population on this most special night of the year. Rob can be reached at rbasler7@gmail.com.

Thank You

A huge thank you to all of you. Through the portion of your pledge money that goes to the Board of Christian Outreach, we have made recent monetary donations to the Minister's Discretionary Fund and Operation Santa.



OUR GREETING CARD FUNDRAISER CONTINUES!
If you would like to purchase any of these boxes, contact the church office. Only while supplies of each type last.

Handcrafted Greeting Cards

Cards for a Cause Fundraisers

Handmade cards for all occasions with coordinating envelopes in a keepsake box. Birthdays, Holidays, Celebrations, Thank Yous & More!

Amazing
Value!
\$30
per Box



Cards for All Occasions (Box 1) - Charming organizer box includes dividers and 30 beautifully embellished cards with envelopes designed for all types of occasions.



Cards for All Occasions (Box 2) - Beautiful organizer box includes dividers and 30 beautifully embellished cards with envelopes designed for all types of occasions.



The Holiday Card Collection Box - Festive box includes 50 individually designed cards for various holidays in a keepsake box with white envelopes.



Thanks & Blanks Box - Adorable fold out organizer box full of uniquely handcrafted greeting cards with colored envelopes. Includes Blank cards and Thank You cards.



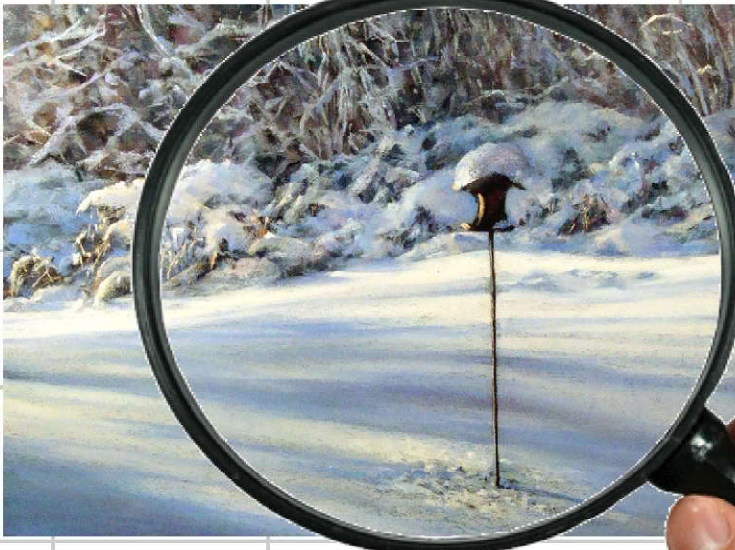
The Kids Birthday Box - Keepsake box can be colored with pencils or markers and includes 30 handcrafted birthday cards designed for kids.

**What a great
gift idea!**



BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI CHAMBER CHOIR

"Beautiful December"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 CONCERT
8	9					14
15	16					21
22	23					26
29	30	31				

Saturday December 7 2019 7:00 pm
Central Square Congregational Church
Bridgewater, MA

Charles Dillingham, Director
Derelyn Kahler, accompanist

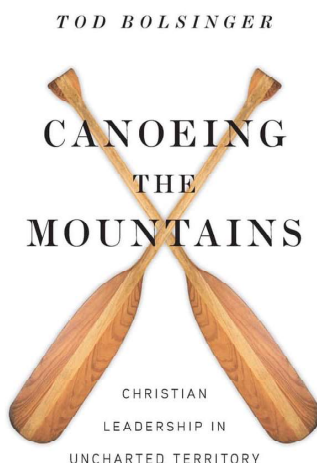
Tickets at the door | \$10 general | \$5 Seniors/Students | Children under 10 free
 Handicapped Accessible | for info 781-888-4490 | alumnichamberchoirBSU@gmail.com
<https://alumni.bridgew.edu/get-involved/alumni-chamber-choir> | www.facebook.com/BSUACC
 The BSU Alumni Chamber Choir is a nonprofit organization



Community Book Study

Our Community Book Study for this year is the book "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger. Be on the lookout for upcoming discussion groups about this book. You can find it on Amazon or at the Bridgewater Public Library. According to Rev. Beth, "I'm only a few pages in and it's REALLY GOOD!"

If you decide to buy it from Amazon, don't forget to use the "smile.amazon.com" link so that CSCC benefits from the purchase!



Hear ye, hear ye! Cookies, Candies, and Chocolate Bark for Sale! Sunday, Dec. 15

Bring your wallet and your sweet tooth to church on Dec. 15, as the youth will be selling homemade and home decorated cookies and candy, as a fundraiser for the June 2020 Youth Mission Trip. YUM!

Items will be on sale during breakfast and following worship (while supply lasts).



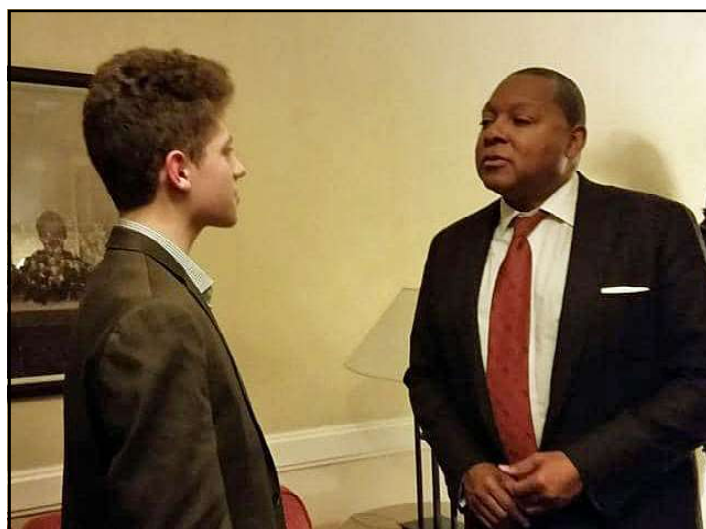
Poinsettias!

History and Memorials will have Poinsettias available, during the Christmas season, for purchase in memory of loved ones. During coffee hour on December 1st, 8th, and December 15th you will have the opportunity to order poinsettias from members of History and Memorials. Look for either Rachel Lawson, Barbara Morey, or Terry Reynolds. The flowers will be placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services and you may take them home following the service. A list of people who are being honored will be published in the bulletin.

Barbara Morey, Rachel Lawson, Terry Reynolds

OFFICE CLOSED DEC. 25-26-27

Please make a note that the church office will be closed December 25-27 for the Christmas holiday.



Our own Cameron Shave had the honor of jamming on trumpet with Wynton Marsalis on piano, playing some blues backstage after The Wynton Marsalis Quintet's performance at Symphony Hall in November.



Christmas on the Common... and in our Church!

CSCC is proud to lend our Fellowship Hall to the Bridgewater Business Association for the annual Christmas on the Common. Mark your calendar! It's the ideal way to cap off your Thanksgiving weekend, and officially launch the Christmas season!

There will be vendors of all kinds, food, pony rides (not in our Fellowship Hall however), and, of course, Santa. Vendors will be inside CSCC as well as the Masonic Hall, and out around the Common. Both sides of the Common will be closed to cars, so wander from vendor to vendor at your leisure! Lots of fun for kids and adults. See you there!

End of Year Giving

If you find that you need to do some catching up with your pledge giving, or you are able to give a bit more this holiday season, note that the Treasurers need to receive all gifts no later than 11am on Sunday, December 29 in order for it to be counted toward your 2019 giving.

Payments are accepted by check, cash, or paypal payment through the website.

Inspirational Themes

This year our congregational life will be centered around monthly themes. These themes will be the topics for our Christian Education during Children's Spiritual Enrichment, youth group meetings, Sunday Stories with Rev. Beth in the Nursery, and in our weekly Sunday Worship at 10am. They will also (along with the lectionary texts) be a focal point in our weekly Bible Study which is each Tuesday at 7pm in the Fireplace Room.

Upcoming Monthly Themes are:

December - Expectation

January - Light

February - Loving Our Neighbors



Vitality Team

From time to time, it is important for a church to examine its vitality and consider new ways to meet the needs of the congregation and the church. To that end, we have established a Vitality Team.

Purpose of our campaign: Discovery. To listen to God and our congregation. To get input from the entire congregation as to where we would like to see our church grow, what is important to us, and how we would like to see our church in 5 years, 10 years, etc. How is God speaking to us?

What brings you Joy at our church?

All are welcome at our next meeting, **Thursday, December 5 at 7 pm.** If you are unable to attend, but have thoughts to share, please connect with Rob Basler, Kathleen Mosher, Gail Wershing, and/or Anne Malmquist.



It's Getting To Be That Time of Year: A Reminder of Our Policy on Delay or Cancellation of Worship Services Due to Acts of Nature

The Chair of the Board of Deacons (BOD) in conjunction with the Senior Pastor will discuss the need and reason for cancellation of worship service. Upon the decision to cancel worship service the following procedures shall be put into effect:

1. The Pastor will notify the Music Director no later than 6am the Sunday morning of the service in question. The Music Director will in turn notify the choir.
2. The Pastor will notify the Sexton and other staff, including the Congregational Administrator.
3. The Congregational Administrator will update the office answering machine with the cancellation announcement, notify the appropriate television media, send a general church email, and update the website and Facebook page.
4. The chair of the BOD will notify the Moderator and Vice Moderator and the other members of the BOD.

The main factors used to decide a cancellation of worship are:

1. Excessive amounts of snow
2. Parking availability (or parking ban)
3. Damage to the church
4. State of Emergency
5. Power Outage

**Next Cabinet Meeting:
Wednesday, Dec. 18
7:00pm**

amazon.com

Remember to 'Smile' while Christmas Shopping!

Remember that when you shop on Amazon, type "smile.Amazon.com" into your browser rather than just "Amazon.com", and designate Central Square Congregational Church as the charity to benefit from your purchases. It costs you nothing extra, but the church gets a percentage of most of your purchases. And tell your friends, too! Contact the church office at office@cscucc.com or 508-697-6016 with questions or to help you get set up.



Treasurer's Report
 October 31, 2019
 Fiscal Year July 2019 - June 2020
 33% thru Fiscal Year

	YTD	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
Regular Pledges	41,105	138,000	30%
Unpledged Offerings	876	10,000	9%
Plate Offering	712	3,000	24%
Youth Minister / Church School Funding	1,666		
Total • Pledges / Offerings	44,359	151,000	29%
Special Collections			
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	42		
Total • Special Collections	42		
Fundraisers/Events Revenue			
Golf Tournament	690	7,200	10%
Breakfasts	34		
Church Fair	0	7,000	0%
Misc Fundraisers	1,170		
Total • Fundraisers/Events Revenue	1,894	14,200	13%
Facility Usage Income			
Non Profit Bldg Use	1,130	3,600	31%
Private Bldg Use	270	1,700	16%
Total • Facility Usage Income	1,400	5,300	26%
Miscellaneous Income	108		
Total Income	47,802	170,500	28%
Expenses			
Total • Senior Minister Expenses	33,712	93,856	36%
Total • Support Staff Expenses	24,239	70,062	35%
Total • Office Expenses	4,416	8,300	53%
Total • Church Building Costs	8,380	29,800	28%
Operating Committees			
Christian Education	190	1,500	13%
Church Growth	219	3,000	7%
Deacons	314	1,500	21%
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	150	600	25%
Stewardship	0	350	0%
Outreach	1,831	4,339	42%
Total • Operating Committees	2,704	11,289	24%
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	0	2,700	0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	196		
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	200	0%
Total Expenses	73,646	216,207	34%
Net income (loss)	(25,844)	(45,707)	57%
Transfer from Investments	18,000	24,000	
	(7,844)	(21,707)	

Treasurer's Report
 October 31, 2019
 Fiscal Year July 2019 - June 2020
 33% thru Fiscal Year

Cash balances		
Operating account		9,289
Money Market		
Restricted	28,093	
Unrestricted	670	
		<u>28,763</u>
Fair account		16
Minister's Discretionary account		97
Outreach account		
Includes paid pledge set-aside	3,777	
Food Pantry	11,672	
		<u>15,449</u>
Capital Campaign account		<u>10,581</u>
Total cash balances		<u><u>64,195</u></u>
Endowments investment fund		
Protected principal	135,513	
Unrestricted funds	91,148	
Income YTD FY 2020	15,167	
Total value 10/31/2019		<u>241,828</u>
Parsonage investment fund		
Principal parsonage sale	151,677	
Profit (Loss)	11,674	
Total value 10/31/2019		<u>163,351</u>
Total investments		<u><u>405,179</u></u>

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes
November 20, 2019

*** DRAFT – TO BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT CABINET MEETING ***

Meeting called to order at 7:04

Cabinet members in attendance: Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Diane Sheibley, Vice Moderator; Kathleen Mosher, Clerk; Dave Sheibley, Treasurer; Gordon Brailsford, Board of Trustees; Jessica Stearns, Board of Christian Education; Terry Reynolds, Women's Guild & Fellowship, History & Memorials, and Historical Building Renovations Committee; Barbara Morey, History & Memorials and Historical Building Renovations Committee; Diane Glass & Lynn Pietras, Board of Deacons; Ellen Crawford, Music Committee; Gail Wershing & Mike Bundock, Growth Committee; Bill O'Neil & Rob Basler, Board of Christian Outreach; Brad Barnsley, Board of Stewardship; Gail Wright, guest.

Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. Rev. Beth Stotts motioned to accept the minutes as written. Gail Wershing seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report- Rev. Beth Stotts

Rev. Beth spent the last week at a Writer's Institute. It was a fabulous experience. There are three books that are recommended reading: *Scattering Seeds*, *Canoeing the Mountains*, and *Those Who Wait*, which is our Advent book study. We are hosting the upcoming Thanksgiving service on Tuesday. "Faith Uncorked" with Pastor Alicia has been a lot of fun. Deacons have been working on updating the active members list. This Sunday will be Thanksgiving Sunday and Confirmation Sunday for Brynlee Compton and Emily Scott. The theme for sermons in December will be the journey and stops of the angel Gabriel. December 15th is Music Sunday, December 22nd is Pageant Sunday, and December 24 (5pm Family Worship/ 10pm Contemplative Worship) is Christmas Eve Services.

Treasurer's Report- David Sheibley

We are a little behind on projected giving. \$18,000 has been transferred from investments this fiscal year but we made \$15,000 on investments. Just a \$3,000 loss. The church fair brought in about \$7,000. We are on the same track as last month.

Rev. Beth Stotts asked if the information from the new conference would change anything regarding dues. David explained that their new system is based on a percentage of our giving income. We will need to figure out how to let members know what that percentage will be, as there won't be a set amount for dues. Right now we aren't changing anything.

Board of Trustees- Gordon Brailsford

Gordon also read this statement on behalf of the Trustees:

"To properly authorize the Historical Church Building Committee to execute contracts and applications on behalf of the church, specifically in regards to the restoration, repair, and renovation of our church home, the Trustees would like the cabinet minutes to reflect that we, the Trustees and the wider church membership are working in harmony with the HCBC and duly give the committee the authority to submit and sign applications in pursuit of grant monies. The Trustees further authorize HCBC to approve invoices from Gale Engineering Co. for related work in making church easement for the grant with costs not to exceed \$62,000."

Gordon pointed out that the \$62,000 that was approved by the congregation for the hiring of the architectural firm, once taken out of the funds from the sale of the parsonage, will effectively cut that amount of money in half.

History and Memorials/Women's Guild- Terri Reynolds

Poinsettia sales will begin next month. The Women's Guild will be having their Christmas Service with Rev. Beth Stotts on December 4th at 6:30. The theme will be Angels Among Us. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

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There was a discussion on who would be signing the grant application. Gordon Brailsford read a statement from Trustees. It states that authorization was given to the Historical Church Restoration Committee to execute contracts and applications on behalf of the church, so someone from that committee can sign the grant application.

Growth Committee- Gail Wershing

Carolers are needed for December 1st from anytime between noon and two. Jessica Stearns mentioned that some Sunday School students were interested. The Christmas mailers are going out soon and will be arriving before Christmas. 2450 were mailed.

Board of Christian Education- Jess Stearns

November's theme was "giving thanks". The kids made a thankful wreath and burlap banner that will be hung for this Sunday's Thanksgiving service. The kids worked on thank you notes and care packages for the troops. December is going to be a busy time. November 30th is the Advent Wreath Workshop and potluck dinner. The pageant on December 22nd will be improv style and will have room for participation for all ages. Rev. Beth Stotts noted that we have 51 kids attending the church, although not at the same time. Over half are in senior high. We need to be prepared for when they move on.

Board of Trustees- Gordon Brailsford

The boiler room light is very slow to work and will be getting replaced soon. Ellen Atherton was able to arrange for Dooley to be our new trash company at a 40% discount, as Republic announced they will no longer service Bridgewater. The architect is done looking at the needed church repairs, and we will be getting the official report soon. The louvers were replaced with painted plywood.

Board of Christian Outreach- Bill O'Neil

The food pantry has 92 turkeys and 82 people have signed up for one with one day to go. Outreach will need help on Monday putting the Thanksgiving baskets together. The all-community day of mission will be from 11-3 this Sunday. We will be creating Blessing Bags for the homeless, and organizing the recent food donations for the food pantry.

Vitality Team- Rob Basler

Rob explained that the focus of the Vitality Team is now on helping people look into what type of service will bring them joy and discovering a deeper connection with God through volunteering. We will be continuing with these discussions and how to facilitate communication on these issues with the church. We are looking for common threads that will connect people to church involvement in a more meaningful way. December 5th is the next meeting.

Celebrations:

- Ellen Atherton was celebrated for her speedy and money-saving solution to our trash pickup. She is now "Trash Queen" which is a very high honor!
- The Historical Church Restoration Committee was praised for all the hard work they have done so far and their continued success as they proceed. The application is going in on December 11th. Rev. Beth Stotts offered to pray over it.

New Business

- The Board of Deacons have been working on updating the membership list. There are some members that will be receiving a letter to move them to inactive/non-voting status. The letters will be sent out and if no response is received, they will be moved to non-voting status.
- Noting that 16 members will be receiving letters regarding their membership status, a motion was made by Diane Glass from the Board of Deacons to move those members to non-voting status unless they request otherwise in response to the letters. Mike Bundock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Daily Lectionary Scripture References

December 2019 (Year A)

Sun., Dec. 1*First Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 2:1-5
 Psalm 122
 Romans 13:11-14
 Matthew 24:36-44

Mon., Dec. 2

Psalm 124
 Genesis 8:1-19
 Romans 6:1-11

Tues., Dec. 3

Psalm 124
 Genesis 9:1-17
 Hebrews 11:32-40

Wed., Dec. 4

Psalm 124
 Isaiah 54:1-10
 Matthew 24:23-35

Thurs., Dec. 5

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Isaiah 4:2-6
 Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

Fri., Dec. 6

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Isaiah 30:19-26
 Acts 13:16-25

Sat., Dec. 7

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Isaiah 40:1-11
 John 1:19-28

Sun., Dec. 8*Second Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Romans 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12

Mon., Dec. 9

Psalm 21
 Isaiah 24:1-16a
 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Tues., Dec. 10

Psalm 21
 Isaiah 41:14-20
 Romans 15:14-21

Wed., Dec. 11

Psalm 21
 Genesis 15:1-18
 Matthew 12:33-37

Thurs., Dec. 12

Psalm 146:5-10
 Ruth 1:6-18
 2 Peter 3:1-10

Fri., Dec. 13

Psalm 146:5-10
 Ruth 4:13-17
 2 Peter 3:11-18

Sat., Dec. 14

Psalm 146:5-10
 1 Samuel 2:1-8
 Luke 3:1-18

Sun., Dec. 15*Third Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 35:1-10
 Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11

Mon., Dec. 16

Psalm 42
 Isaiah 29:17-24
 Acts 5:12-16

Tues., Dec. 17

Psalm 42
 Ezekiel 47:1-12
 Jude 17-25

Wed., Dec. 18

Psalm 42
 Zechariah 8:1-17
 Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34

Thurs., Dec. 19

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 2 Samuel 7:1-17
 Galatians 3:23-29

Fri., Dec. 20

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 2 Samuel 7:18-22
 Galatians 4:1-7

Sat., Dec. 21

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 2 Samuel 7:23-29
 John 3:31-36

Sun., Dec. 22*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 Romans 1:1-7
 Matthew 1:18-25

Mon., Dec. 23

Luke 1:46b-55
 2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29
 Galatians 3:6-14

Tues., Dec. 24*Christmas Eve*

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Wed., Dec. 25*Christmas Day*

Isaiah 52:7-10
 Psalm 98
 Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]
 John 1:1-14

Thurs., Dec. 26

Psalm 148
 Wisdom 4:7-15
 Acts 7:59—8:8

Fri., Dec. 27

Psalm 148
 Proverbs 8:22-31
 1 John 5:1-12

Sat., Dec. 28

Psalm 148
 Isaiah 49:13-23
 Matthew 18:1-14

Sun., Dec. 29*First Sunday after Christmas*

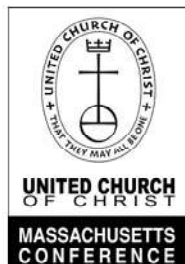
Isaiah 63:7-9
 Psalm 148
 Hebrews 2:10-18
 Matthew 2:13-23

Mon., Dec. 30

Psalm 20
 Isaiah 26:1-9
 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Mon., Dec. 31*New Year's Eve*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
 Psalm 8
 Revelation 21:1-6a
 Matthew 25:31-46



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December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8am Choir Rehearsal 9-12 Nursery Open 10am Worship 11:30 Mission Trip Mtg 12-4 Christmas on the Common 10:15 Kids Spiritual 7:30pm AA	2 6-8pm Food Pantry Open 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm HCBC 7pm NA	3 7pm Bible Study	4 9am Staff Mtg 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm WG&F 7:45pm BSU Choir	5 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Faith Uncorked 7pm Vitality Team Mtg	6	7 9-1 BSU Spiritual Retreat 7pm BSU Alumni Choir Concert
8 8am Choir Rehearsal 9-1 Spiritual Retreat 4 Students, BSU 9-12 Nursery Open 9-10 Sunday Stories 9:15 Jr. Choir Reh. 10 Worship 10:15 Kids Spiritual 7:30pm AA	9 7pm HCBC 7pm NA	10 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Bible Study	11 4pm Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30 Essential Oils Class 6:30 Growth	12 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon 7:30 Christian Outreach	13	14 9am Playgroup 10am Advent Book Study 6pm Christmas Cookie Bake
15 8am Choir Rehearsal 9-12 Nursery Open 9-9:45 Breakfast 9:15 Jr. Choir Reh. 10 Worship 10:15am Kids Spiritual 11:30-1 Jr. Youth Grp 7:30 AA	16 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm HCBC 7pm NA	17 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Bible Study	18 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Cabinet	19 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	20	21
22 9-12 Nursery Open 9:15 Jr. Choir Reh. 10 Worship 11:30-1 Sr. Youth Grp 7:30 AA	23 7pm HCBC 7pm NA	24 5pm Worship 10pm Worship	25 Merry Christmas! (office closed)	26 Office Closed 10-1 Food Pantry open 7pm Al-Anon	27 Office Closed	28
29 9-12 Nursery Open 10 Worship 10:15 Kids Spiritual 7:30 AA	30 7pm HCBC 7pm NA	31				

Central Square Congregational Church

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Church Administration

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Steeple Sounds submissions deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Shopping!

Remember that when you shop on Amazon, use "smile.Amazon.com" rather than just "Amazon.com", and designate Central Square Congregational Church as the charity to benefit from your purchases. It costs you nothing extra! Contact the church office with questions.

Calling all news & events!

Have something that should be mentioned or highlighted in the January Steeple Sounds? Send it along to the church office by **DECEMBER 15**. Please be sure that there is a point of contact listed that we can print.

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
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