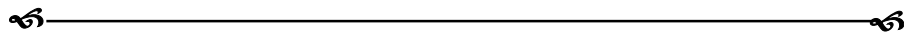


Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



August 2021

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



Take Me to the River

by Vicki Kemper | published on Jul 25, 2021

Jesus called over a child and said, "I'm telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you're not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in." – Matthew 18:2-3 (MSG)

I love sweep rowing. I rise to the challenge of moving in sync with my crew, and I rejoice in the beauty of sunrise on a river that feeds bald eagles and great blue herons. Rowing gives me joy, community, fitness, and a sense of accomplishment.

But before the advent of coronavirus vaccines, eight rowers to a boat was not Covid-safe. To row through the pandemic, we had to go back to square one and start over like children. We became a club of solitary rowers in long, skinny boats.

On my first day of sculling, I flipped the boat even before leaving the dock. On the second day I ran aground on a sandbar. On the fourth day I flipped the boat in the middle of the river. On the fifth day I considered giving up.

Writer-activist Valarie Kaur says, "Discomfort is the beginning of transformation." Jesus says starting over is the beginning of the childlike humility that opens our hearts to God.

On my sixth day of sculling humiliation, I began to feel more at ease in the boat. Eventually, I grew to love sculling.

Whenever the painful realities of racism and other injustices discomfort, discourage, and tempt me to quit the struggle, I remember my early sculling days. Whether we're learning something new or trying to transform something old and ongoing, the only way out is through.

Prayer

Take me to the river, rock me to square one, until I am fit to dwell in your heart.

About the Author

Vicki Kemper is the Pastor of First Congregational, UCC, of Amherst, Massachusetts.

Reprinted from The Daily Devotional, a spiritually deep and refreshing well, to which thousands of readers are drawn each day. The overall vision and voice of the Daily Devotional is tended by the Stillspeaking Writers' Group and supported by the staff of The Pilgrim Press. www.ucc.org/daily-devotional



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.



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In-person worship is now available every week!

(Masks are required, and other COVID protocols are in place for your safety and the safety of our community.)

Remote Worship on Facebook and YouTube

- Use the link on the homepage of www.cscucc.org to access Sunday worship. Click on the COVID-19 update link to access the YouTube link for past services.
- Sunday Worship will continue to be livestreamed from the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.



A quick reminder that Central Square Sunday service can be viewed on BTV Channel 9 on Sundays at 8pm, Mondays at 1pm, Tuesdays at 10am, and Fridays at 3pm. Generally the programming is updated mid-week. Also, if you miss a service or other special programming and would like to watch On Demand or download a copy, you can check out youtube.com/c/Booth-video/videos or btvaccess.viebit.com

Our Online Ministry Continues to be Strong

Paul Holmes, our Minister of Video Evangelism, reported at Cabinet recently that our online viewership continues to be strong, whether live on YouTube or Facebook, or playback on BTV. There have been Sunday worship services with over 100 views (remembering a "view" could be more than one person), and a lot of great interaction with inspirational Facebook posts, videos, and announcements.



Summer church office hours are Monday - Thursday, 10am - 2pm

Best to call ahead of coming just to double check that we weren't called away.



Food Pantry

The Bridgewater Food Pantry, hosted and supported by CSCC, is open Thursdays, 10am-1pm, and the first Mondays of the month, 6-7:30pm. COVID protocols are in place and adhered to for the safety of all. All Bridgewater residents who are in need of food are welcome. *(Please note that the pantry will not be open Monday, Sept. 6 due to the Labor Day holiday.)*

If you are a Bridgewater resident unable to come to the food pantry, but are in need of food, please contact the church office by email or phone (below) and arrangements will be made for you.



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Do you need a meal, a call, spiritual care, or even just a prayer or a chat? Contact the Pastor, a Deacon, the church office, or a member of our Care Team.

To contact Rev. Beth (after August 7), contact the church office at 508-697-6016 or office@cscucc.com.

CSCC Deacons

Deb Sorgman

— debsorgman@gmail.com

CSCC Care Team

Carol Chaffee John Scott

Phoebe Hogg Rev. Beth Stotts

Bev Mitchell



Book Study!

While Rev. Beth was away on Sabbatical, she read the book “Reclaiming Rest” by Kate Rademacher. If you are in need of pause, rest, or a sense of sabbath, she strongly encourages you read this book with her. Sabbath keeping is something we need to be talking more about!

Please join Rev. Beth on Saturday, August 21, 9:30am-12noon at the church for a book discussion and virtual meet and greet with the author! (Open to the public!)



Childcare Help Wanted!

From Jess Stearns: we are looking for a weekday helper, at our house in Lakeville, or possibly at your home if that works better for you. Ideally, two days a week (there's flexibility on which days), 9-12, but if only one day works with your schedule, we can make that happen too. Our boys are silly and kind — someone who wants to play pretend, build with blocks, read books, or make music would be a great fit! One is toilet trained and one is in diapers, so you have to be comfortable with changing a diaper. No housework, please just engage and enjoy the kids for a few hours. Start date: ASAP.

For more information, contact Jess at 774-454-5202 or jessicastearns1231@gmail.com.

**Next Cabinet meeting is
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 7pm**

**Rev. Beth is back from sabbatical
Sunday, August 8!**



Thank You for your Continued Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings

We are so very grateful for all those who have been able to continue their giving during the past year, and those that were able to give more. We know it has been a trying time for many financially as well as emotionally. With crucial annual fundraisers having had to be cancelled or downsized, such as our golf tournament, it has stressed our church finances even more than usual.

Donations and offerings can be made in any of the following ways:

- Checks can be mailed to the church (71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324)
- Bill-pay through your bank can be set up for one-time or recurring payments
- Payments can be made via the Paypal link at the top of our website home page (no Paypal account necessary) (www.cscucc.org, the "For CSCC" donate button)

If you have any questions, you can email the Treasurer directly and confidentially at treasurer@cscucc.com.

Thank you for your caring and generosity.



Kick-off Sunday is September 12!

What does that mean this year? We're not exactly sure, but stay tuned, and mark your calendar. Were hoping it will truly be a day to celebrate!



Donating to CSCC can be... free! with your help!

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.

Perfect for:

- back to school shopping
- Christmas shopping
- purchases for work
- all your purchases!



Are you on our email list?

If not, you could be missing out!

We send a weekly email highlighting upcoming events and the current prayer list; we send periodic emails when there's important news or upcoming church business that you need to know about; and more. If you aren't currently receiving these emails, do one of the following:

- Visit www.cscucc.org, and scroll almost to the bottom of the home page. Look for "sign up for updates", and fill in your email address.
- Contact the church office by phone or email, and ask Deborah to put you on the email list.

And remember, you need not be a CSCC member to be on our email list and stay in touch with what's going on! All are welcome.



Did You Know?

- 1955: Reverend Mayhew began the Heifer Project.
- 1955: The Guild bought 5 dozen chairs as a gift to the church.
- 1959: It was voted not to purchase Fitch House at 96 Main St. and to put the rear addition on to the church for classroom space.
- August 31, 1960: The old steeple came down because of deterioration. It was 100 years old.
- May 18, 1962: The new steeple went up. Cost was \$27,000, including the clocks. Donations of money came from 18 different states to help with the steeple replacement cost.
- 1966: A purchase of 250 red hymnals and two special organist books was made at \$469.37. Hymnals were \$4.50 each.
- 1978: In the month of December, a new roof was put on the church sanctuary.
- 1980: The spire on the steeple was painted white for the first time. It had to weather for 18 years.
- "Steeple Chimes" was the name of the church newsletter before it was called "The Carrier" and "Steeple Sounds".
- 1980+ renovation project: vinyl siding (\$40,000), outside painting (\$18,000), repair clocks (\$8-10,000), restore windows (\$20,000), total renovation cost approved was \$125,000.
- 1987: We acquired a carillon (the set of bells in the steeple tower), a gift from the East Bridgewater Unitarian Church building.

Many thanks to Barbara Morey for all of these fun facts, compiled originally for our 175th anniversary celebration.

Save the Date to Celebrate!

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
cordially invites you to the
200th Anniversary Banquet
Saturday, October 16, 2021
T.J. Smith's Victorian House
13 Cross Street, East Bridgewater, 5:00p.m.

Invitations will be printed and mailed out in September. More details to follow.

To find this Lectionary online, visit www.macucc.org/Lectionary



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References –August 2021 (Year B)

Sun., Aug. 1

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12 Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

Mon., Aug. 2

Psalm 50:16-23
2 Samuel 12:15-25
Ephesians 4:17-24

Tues., Aug. 3

Psalm 50:16-23
2 Samuel 13:1-19
1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Wed., Aug. 4

Psalm 50:16-23
2 Samuel 13:20-36
Mark 8:1-10

Thurs., Aug. 5

Psalm 130
2 Samuel 13:37–14:24
Romans 15:1-6

Fri., Aug. 6

Psalm 130
2 Samuel 14:25-33
Galatians 6:1-10

Sat., Aug. 7

Psalm 130
2 Samuel 15:1-13
Matthew 7:7-11

Sun., Aug. 8

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25–5:2 John 6:35, 41-51

Mon., Aug. 9

Psalm 57
2 Samuel 15:13-31
Ephesians 5:1-14

Tues., Aug. 10

Psalm 57
2 Samuel 18:19-33
2 Peter 3:14-18

Wed., Aug. 11

Psalm 57
2 Samuel 19:1-18 John 6:35-40

Thurs., Aug. 12

Psalm 111
1 Kings 1:1-30
Acts 6:8-15

Fri., Aug. 13

Psalm 111
1 Kings 1:28-48
Romans 16:17-20

Sat., Aug. 14

Psalm 111
1 Kings 2:1-11
John 4:1-26

Sun., Aug. 15

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 2:10-12;
3:3-14 Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58

Mon., Aug. 16

Psalm 101
1 Kings 3:16-28
Acts 6:1-7

Tues., Aug. 17

Psalm 101
1 Kings 7:1-12
Acts 7:9-16

Wed., Aug. 18

Psalm 101
1 Kings 8:1-21
Mark 8:14-21

Thurs., Aug. 19

Psalm 84
1 Kings 4:20-28
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Fri., Aug. 20

Psalm 84
1 Kings 4:29-34
Romans 13:11-14

Sat., Aug. 21

Psalm 84
1 Kings 5:1-12
Luke 11:5-13

Sun., Aug. 22

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10-11]
22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Mon., Aug. 23

Psalm 11
1 Kings 5:13-18 Ephesians 5:21–6:9

Tues., Aug. 24

Psalm 11
1 Kings 6:1-14
Ephesians 6:21-24

Wed., Aug. 25

Psalm 11
1 Kings 6:15-38
John 15:16-25

Thurs., Aug. 26

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
Song of Solomon 1:1-17
James 1:1-8

Fri., Aug. 27

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
Song of Solomon 2:1-7
James 1:9-16

Sat., Aug. 28

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
Hosea 3:1-5
John 18:28-32

Sun., Aug. 29

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1 8, 14 15, 21 23

Mon., Aug. 30

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 3:6-11
1 Timothy 4:6-16

Tues., Aug. 31

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 5:2–6:3
1 Peter 2:19-25

AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am Worship (in person & online) 7:30pm AA Meeting	2 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open 6:30-8:30pm Church Fair Crafters	3 7pm Women's NA	4	5 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	7
8 10am Communion Worship (in person & online) (Rev. Beth back!) 7:30pm AA Meeting	9	10 7pm Women's NA	11	12 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	13 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	14
15 10am Worship (in person & online) 7:30pm AA Meeting	16 6:30-8:30pm Church Fair Crafters	17 7pm Women's NA	18	19 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	20 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	21 9:30AM-12 Book study, "Reclaiming Rest"
22 10am Worship (in person & online) 7:30pm AA Meeting	23	24 7pm Women's NA	25	26 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28 11am-6pm NA-Sisters in Unity Speaker Jam
29 10am Worship (in person & online) 7:30pm AA Meeting	30 6:30-8:30pm Church Fair Crafters	31 7pm Women's NA				

Treasurer's Report
June 30, 2021
Fiscal Year July 2020 - June 2021

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income			
Regular Pledges	123,031	138,000	(14,969)
Unpledged Offerings	11,992	4,500	7,492
Plate Offering	0	1,000	(1,000)
Total · Pledges / Offerings	135,023	143,500	(8,477)
Special Collections			
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	420		
Total · Special Collections	420		
Fundraisers/Events Revenue			
Golf Tournament	0	7,200	(7,200)
Breakfasts	0		
Church Fair	6,037	7,000	(963)
Misc Fundraisers	8,079		
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	14,115	14,200	(85)
Facility Usage Income			
Non Profit Bldg Use	760	1,800	(1,040)
Private Bldg Use	50	850	(800)
Total · Facility Usage Income	810	2,650	(1,840)
Miscellaneous Income	3,130		
Total Income	153,499	160,350	(6,851)
Expenses			
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	109,410	107,029	(2,381)
Total · Support Staff Expenses	46,327	48,266	1,939
Total · Office Expenses	11,416	8,300	(3,116)
Total · Church Building Costs	21,701	29,800	8,099
Operating Committees			
Christian Education	624	750	126
Church Growth	672	1,000	328
Deacons	149	1,000	851
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	825	600	(225)
Stewardship	0	350	350
Outreach	3,868	4,339	471
Total · Operating Committees	6,138	8,039	1,901
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	2,700	2,700	0
Miscellaneous Expenses			
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	215	200	(15)
Total Expenses	197,907	204,334	6,427
Net income (loss)	(44,408)	(43,984)	(424)
Music expenses reimbursed by Johnson Fund	17,129	17,131	2
Transfer from Investments	26,700	26,853	153
	(579)	0	

Treasurer's Report
June 30, 2021
Fiscal Year July 2020 - June 2021

Cash balances		
Operating account		7,544
Money Market		
Restricted	30,569	
Unrestricted	746	
		<u>31,315</u>
Fair account		16
Minister's Discretionary account		376
PayPal account		0
Outreach account		
Includes paid pledge set-aside	3,291	
Food Pantry	36,149	
		<u>39,440</u>
Capital Campaign account		<u>15,829</u>
Total cash balances		<u><u>94,520</u></u>

Endowments investment fund		
Protected principal	118,384	
Unrestricted funds	66,503	
Income (Loss) YTD FY 2021	56,628	
Total value 6/30/2021		<u>241,515</u>
Parsonage investment fund		
Principal parsonage sale	60,314	
Income (Loss) on investment	32,758	
Total value 6/30/2021		<u>93,072</u>
Total investments 6/30/2021		<u><u>334,587</u></u>

Food Pantry Balance June 1	36,373
Donations	70
Expenses	<u>(294)</u>
Food Pantry Balance June 30	<u><u>36,149</u></u>

Anniversary Committee/Building Restoration expenses FY 2021	36,376
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1821-2021

Central Square
Congregational Church, UCC
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324 • www.cscucc.org



Church Administration

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, csccpastor@hotmail.com
Congregational Administrator: Deborah Lancaster, office@cscucc.com
Sexton: Rich Sullivan
Minister of Music: Julia Scott Carey, juliascottcarey@gmail.com
Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes
Treasurer: David Sheibley, treasurer@cscucc.com
Office telephone: (508) 697-6016
Facebook pages: facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma (main page),
facebook.com/groups/801550253194149 (youth page)
Steeple Sounds submissions deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Amazon Shopping!

Remember that when you shop on Amazon, use “[smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)” rather than just “[Amazon.com](https://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.

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

FIRST CLASS MAIL