



Central Square Congregational, United Church of Christ

ANNUAL REPORT
CALENDAR YEAR: 2020

Meeting Date: February 14, 2021

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From the Pastor

A new year is upon us. For most of us, we're saying good riddance to 2020. It was filled with pandemic, death, canceled trips and vacations, and the inability to see those we love and hold dear. But even as we begin a new year in the life of the church, as we look with hope to vaccinations allowing life to resume, I urge us to pause and look back before looking forward. And even though it is difficult, can we look back at 2020 with gratitude?

I am so very grateful for you Church.

I am grateful for each and every person who learned to Zoom.

I am grateful for all the meetings and ministry you managed to do.

I am grateful for Virtual Sunday School lessons.

I am grateful for drive thru communion.

I am grateful for the dozens of professional musicians who shared their gifts with us this year.

I am grateful for the ritual of baptism which took on deeper meaning.

I am grateful for everyone who's managed to make videos of themselves for worship.

I am grateful for each and every phone call you all have made and for our Care Circle ministry.

I am grateful for the huge support of the food pantry by our whole community.

I am grateful for each and every card you sent one of your brothers or sisters in Christ.

I am grateful for all of you who learned to appreciate church on Facebook and YouTube.

I am grateful for the connections felt during the Christmas Carol Singalong.

I am so very very grateful. For these things, and so much more.

Friends, our 2020 story is an outrageous one. But it needs to be told. It needs to not be immediately forgotten. Because there were so many beautiful things. Meetings where folks can participate who might not have come physically to church. Worship leadership from people who would not normally come to the front of the sanctuary. Images used in new and creative ways. And the music. The music...

While 2020 didn't go down as any of us would have chosen or predicted, I give thanks for it as we look to the new church year. 2021 awaits us CSCC and God is breaking in to our lives in every moment. Let's look to these moments, past and future, with gratitude!

-Rev. Beth

From the Moderator

CHURCH: n. The body of people who make the God of Jesus visible in the world
v. To make the God of Jesus visible in the world

Wow. This past year, more than any other, did we have to feel these definitions of Church. We, the body of people who make the God of Jesus visible in the world, had to figure out how we were going to make the God of Jesus visible in the world. We had to make the agonizing decision (though it was sort of made for us) that we could not gather in our church space. We could not break bread together, we could not sing or pray or worship together. We miss handshakes and hugs and breakfast. We miss our CHURCH.

And yet, some marvelous churching has been happening. Thanks to our video evangelism, we have people worshiping with us from all over the world. We have been blessed with some incredible music, even some world premieres. We have reimaged some traditions; from rummage sales on the lawn, to take-out turkey suppers, to drive-by communion. We hummed on the Green on Christmas Eve and we enjoyed an adorable and inspiring zoom Epiphany pageant. And, a lot of what we have been doing to make the God of Jesus visible in the world, has been largely invisible to each other. We have made more phone calls, sent more cards and prayed more fiercely. Much of our churching has been done on a personal, private level rather than a grand, public one.

The history we are living through has made the need for churching, making the God of Jesus visible in the world, more important than ever before. From political turmoil, to a devastating pandemic, to a racial reckoning, the need for church is greater than ever. Church, in all its forms, has had to reimagine its role in the world.

I am humbled and honored to be your moderator. We struggled this past year to make our way and to find new ways to stay connected to the work of the church as well as to each other. We have learned so much and we will continue to learn and adapt. Eventually, we will be able to hug and sing and pray and eat and handshake and worship

together. In the meantime, we will continue to try new ways of connecting, new ways to worship, new forms of fellowship. We will continue to love each other by wearing our masks, keeping our distance and praying for each other as hard as we can.

With grace and God's love,
Anne Malmquist

We isolate now
So that when we gather again
No one is missing

Board of Trustees

During this surreal year of pandemic your Board of Trustees has met primarily via email and phone calls. In September 2020 Mark Sorgman volunteered to join us, and the Cabinet approved his addition to the Trustees board.

For the Trustees, 2020 was again a year of doing lots of little things to keep the place up and running. We heartily thank our Sexton, Rich Sullivan, for the fine repainting of sanctuary pews and ancient church doors, work he has found more easily done during this exceptional time when our congregation cannot be in the building.

My special thanks to Gordon Brailsford who has been spearheading repairs to our church roof, having shingles replaced twice now following extremely violent winds. Gordon has also been our liaison to the Church Restoration committee pursuing and obtaining community CPC funds, this has been a long process with many a meeting. I'd also commend John Sharland who continues to assist handling the AED and building temperature sensing devices and other issues as they arise. Retirement is a busy time for these gents who handle some many weekday things someone employed full-time would find difficult.

Many thanks, to Paul Holmes for his video evangelism efforts. Without his hard work many of us would not be seeing that familiar sanctuary, Reverend Beth, or Julia on a regular basis.

The Trustees as a group do have prayerful concerns regarding our on-going budget, many thanks to our treasurer for his work paying our bills, depositing church income and communicating with our board whenever there are concerns.

For the Board, Ed Buckland, member

Board of Deacons

Jubilee

Last January our leaders were encouraging us to take a year of jubilee: to set aside the way we expect things to be done and listen to God and our hearts within our ministries. As a congregation we were trying to figure out what that would look like when this pandemic essentially forced it upon us. During this time the Deacons have been honored to do a lot of reflection with Rev. Beth. We've been examining our sacraments and traditions; questioning how do we keep the true meaning while having to update them? How do we baptize babies without touching them? How do we share the body of Christ when we're apart? How do we adapt the traditions we love in the Advent, Christmas, and Lenten seasons? We are so blessed that Rev Beth has lead us through an entire liturgical year where we've been able to celebrate all our sacraments and the essence of all our traditions in new and creative ways. This year has been a great opportunity for spiritual growth.

For Such a Time as this

We are so fortunate that we already had our Care Team and Online Worship in place before this pandemic.

We've been taping and streaming our worship service for so long that it was almost seamless for us to move our worship service to streaming only. Many thanks to Paul, Rev. Beth, Julia and everyone who has prerecorded a piece of worship for helping us not lose a beat moving to synchronous online worship! It's wonderful to see that we have widened the reach of our ministry both within and outside our geographic area.

Many thanks to our Care Team! This has been such a difficult time for so many of us. We are so blessed to have a caring community of people who look after each other by sending cards, visiting virtually, delivering meals, and just checking in on each other.

Sing Praise to God

It'll be awhile yet before we're singing together, but we are planning for it! We are looking at all aspects of our worship service so we will be able to adapt to in-person worship safely.

Blessings,

Deb Sorgman

On behalf of the Board of Deacons (Deb Sorgman, Lynn Pietras, Jae Stotts)

Congregational Administrator

2020 was a year unlike any other. As we explored the way that we “church”, this pandemic took over and forced us to re-think things in a way we never could have imagined. Luckily, thanks to Paul Holmes, we already had Worship live-streaming implemented and running. This pandemic has really forced us to think outside of the box in the church office – how can we still have meaningful connection when we need to stay home? How can we bring CSCC and the spirit of church to your homes? How can we stay connected while we are physically apart? This year in the office, I worked hard to revamp things – from our website, to our weekly email blasts, to assisting with fundraiser coordination, to collating packets and mailings so that our friends and members could still have Advent at home, and more. And we’re constantly still trying to evolve and keep up with these ever-changing times.

Membership as of December 31, 2020	141
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Total new members	0
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LOSS OF MEMBERS

Death	0
Transferred out	2
Resigned/withdrew	2
Removed by Deacons	0
Removed via Membership Audit	20*

Other statistics

Baptisms	6
Dedication	1
Weddings	1
Funerals	4
Deaths of members	0

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Atherton, Congregational Administrator

* 1. Added following meeting due to clerical recheck

Endowment Report

JANUARY 1, 2020 THRU DECEMBER 31, 2020

Opening balance on 01/01/2020	\$251,436.36
Closing balance on 12/31/2020	\$240,672.94
Withdrawals	\$37,700
Change in investments	\$26,936.58 (+10.7%)
Net gain after withdrawals	-\$10,763.40 (-4.2%)

The protected funds balance is \$134,762.92. Funds available for withdrawal are \$105,910.00

Respectfully submitted by Jack Melcher

Women's Guild and Fellowship

The year 2020 was a year like no other that any of us has ever experienced. We, however, being the very resilient Women's Guild, carried on the best we could under the circumstances.

In January our guest speaker was from "Turning Print into Sound". In February we held our annual auction earning \$151.50. March arrived and everything suddenly changed. We were no longer allowed into the church for anything. We were not into Zoom at that time. In April we were not able to hold our annual Rummage Sale. We could not have our banquet to celebrate the end of our year in May. We did some brainstorming in June and Bev Mitchell thought a big yard sale would be a good fundraiser.

On July 27 we held a huge yard sale in Bette deKoning's yard (must have been the hottest day of the summer) with net earnings of \$879.00. We had lots of guild members and their families and friends participating. Because of the success of the July yard sale it was decided to hold another one once again in Bette's yard. This was held on a very chilly day on October 18. It was very worth while as our earnings were \$1089.61!

We also had a donation of many Disney and Hallmark collectibles from a friend that Debbie Golob sold on Ebay and raised close to \$500.00. We have provided toiletries and towels for the men and womens shelters in Bridgewater (along with homemade goodies provided by Beth Basler and Donna Albro). Our November meeting was held via Zoom

and featured Chris Ventura with her essential oils. Women's Guild members have suffered many illnesses and losses this past year. We appreciate being informed when someone is ill or has passed away so that we can send cards to them and/or their families. We all enjoyed very much our Annual Christmas service with Rev. Beth officiating via Zoom. We look forward to 2021 and hope everyone stays healthy and happy and hopefully we will be able to meet in the church in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette deKoning and Sandy Alley, co-presidents of Women's Guild and Fellowship

Board of Christian Outreach

First of all, we pray that everyone stays healthy by observing all the necessary COVID protocols. Because of the pandemic, we were a bit limited in what we could do. We primarily were only able to make monetary contributions to various worthy causes - Health Imperatives (Penelope's Place), Bridgewater & Operation Santa, Father Bill's & Mainspring House, Paul Holmes video ministry, Minister's discretionary fund, UCC Christmas Fund for retired clergy, CWS Hurricane Relief, and Church World Services. We were unable to welcome Teen Challenge since the pandemic hit, but were able to supplement the congregation's offering. Warmth in Cold Places also happened the week of Christmas. We did not receive the usual generous donations from our members, but were still able to purchase several hundred dollars' worth of warm clothing, which we delivered to St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Taunton, although we were not allowed to stay and help with the distribution.

The Food Pantry continued to operate, but with restrictions on building entry. We saw a reduction on the number of people we serve, especially the first Monday night of each month. We had our usual Thanksgiving meal distribution, and thanks to Bridgewater Fitness, we were able to duplicate that for Christmas. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the Bridgewater community, we have become overwhelmed with food donations. We have also received monetary donations from local residents, businesses, and banks. We will be using some of our available funds to purchase grocery gift cards to further the help we provide for our clients.

God bless you all... 2021 has gotta be better than 2020... Right??

Bill O'Neil for the Board of Christian Outreach

History and Memorials

We experienced the passing of five* dear friends of the congregation this year: Keith Bundock*, Jim Hamel, Marie Garvey, Norman Brust, Marie Nelson.

The Memorials Committee received monetary gifts in each of their memories.

Poinsettias were purchased during the Christmas season and were placed on the altar and the stairs leading up to the altar for decoration during the Christmas Eve virtual service. A list of the loved ones who were remembered will be printed in the January 2021 Steeple Sounds.

The historical event to remember is the year our church, and all churches, closed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Snow events rarely closed our doors in the past, maybe for a single Sunday when roads were too dangerous to drive on, or were impassable. 2020 was a year not one of us has ever experienced. The pandemic was first recognized in our country in the month of February. Central Square Church closed its doors in the month of April. They remained closed through December 31st, and will into the new year. All church services were provided virtually. All committees met by Zoom through the internet.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara I. Morey for History and Memorials

* 1. Added following meeting due to realization of exclusion

Historical Church Building Committee

The Historical Church Restoration Committee met virtually by Zoom meetings three times during the 2020 year. Some HCRC committee members met monthly with the Community Preservation Committee at their schedule meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Some committee members attended two town council meetings and two Bridgewater Historical Commission meetings. We retained the services of attorney Kevin M. Plante, ESQ. from Boston to draw up a letter in support of our community preservation grant application stating that we did not violate the Massachusetts Anti-Aid Amendment. This letter was presented to the CPC, the town attorney Rawlins, and then to the town council for acceptance. We paid the fee of \$5000 for this service. Our application was accepted by the town. We continued to use the services of our grant writer, Joe O'Neill, to apply for as many grants as we qualified for. We paid Joe \$45.00 per hours and had to raise the money ourselves to pay his

wages. We have not been awarded any additional grants. We composed a letter asking local businesses and large corporations to help us raise additional monies for our project. No assistance as been offered to us. Gale associates submitted two invoices to CSCC in the amount of \$29,363.08 for additional work they performed in the studies needed to be completed before the work on the church could begin. A special meeting of the congregation was called in order to obtain a vote to pay these invoices. The vote was passed and Gale Associates was paid. We submitted an application for a certificate of appropriateness to the Bridgewater Historical Commission and it was approved with the stipulation that we submit samples of paint, wood, and any other materials for approval before they go on to the church building. The church sits in the historical district of Bridgewater and therefore, all reconstruction and refurbishing of buildings within the district must meet approval by the Bridgewater Historic Commission. A preservation restriction agreement (deed restriction) on the church building must be obtained before any grant money can be released from the town treasury to the church. We have obtained the services of Brian Pfeiffer, a history preservationist, to draw up the papers. The town of Bridgewater is requiring this deed restriction, and therefore, has agreed to pay the cost to Brian Pfeiffer of approximately \$6500. This is a time lengthy process and may take up to 8 months to complete the filing and approval of the documents. I estimate that the work on the steeple (phase 1) will begin in the fall months of 2021. Phase 2 which involves the roof, gutters, and chimneys, will be in 2022. Phase 3 which involves the exterior siding, doors, and windows will begin in 2023.

In the Fall of 2020, CSCC was awarded a grant in the amount of \$200,000 to begin work on phase 1 of the church renovation project, beginning with the steeple. Additional applications for further funds will be made for the additional two phases of the project.*

Respectfully submitted, Barbara I. Morey for the HCBC

* 1. Added following meeting due to realization of exclusion

Church Fair Committee

The “fair” this year was, of course, impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which precluded any indoor events in the Fall of 2020. So we took it outdoors!

On the last weekend of October, we held a yard sale (in lieu of our usual “Attic Treasures” room) on the front lawn of the church. It was a huge success! And although it

was snowing most of the day before, we just shoveled out a place for the tables and the sidewalk for walking, and marched forward! The sun came out in the morning, and attendance was wonderful. The event raised \$675.

On the following weekend, we held several outdoor events on the church grounds. The weather was highly cooperative, sunny and in the 60s.

- Pie sale – we sold around 50 donated pies at \$20 each, of all flavors! And we could have sold more if we had them!
- Crafters' sale – raised over \$1300
- Hanson Farm Harvest Table – raised \$300
- Virtual Pie Night – since we couldn't have our indoor pie night social, we invited all who bought pies as well as everyone in the greater church community to participate in a pie night social hour via Zoom. Only a handful of people took advantage of the event, but it was a fun hour of connection (spanning multiple states) and pie-eating.

Finally, in lieu of our annual turkey supper, we held a drive-up Turkey Dinner Takeout on Thursday, Nov. 12, catered by Boston Tavern in Middleboro. \$35 for dinner for two. It was awesome! We sold 76 dinners! And because of an angel's generosity, the cost of the dinners was also donated, so the event took in over \$2,600!

Thanks for ALL of the many volunteers (and supporters) that helped to make these events successful!

The 2020 Fair Team (Denise Molinari, Carla Jackson, and Diane Sheibley)

Treasurers Report

Central Square Congregational Church UCC Operating Budget vs. Actual Report July 2019 through June 2020

	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Income			
4000* · Pledges / Offerings			
4010 · Regular Pledges	137,657	138,000	100%
4015 · Unpledged Offerings	4,737	10,000	47%
4030 · Plate Offering	1,863	3,000	62%
4045 · Youth Minister Funding	1,666		
Total 4000* · Pledges / Offerings	145,924	151,000	97%
4200* · Special Collections			
4235 · MACUCC Fellowship Dues	172		
Total 4200* · Special Collections	172		
4300* · Fundraisers/Events Revenue			
4312 · 4312 Golf Tournament	(10)	7,200	0%
4315 · 4315 Breakfasts	154		
4320 · Church Fair	7,407	7,000	106%
4360 · Concert/Special Event proceeds	1,100		
4370 · Misc Fundraisers	252		
Total 4300* · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	8,903	14,200	63%
4400* · Facility Usage Income			
4410 · Non Profit Bldg Use	2,695	3,600	75%
4430 · Private Bldg Use	360	1,700	21%
Total 4400* · Facility Usage Income	3,055	5,300	58%
4600* · Miscellaneous Income			
4601 · Bank Interest	114		
4603 · Amazon Smile	129		
4607 · Misc Donations	2,178		
Total 4600* · Miscellaneous Income	2,420		
Total Income	160,473	170,500	94%

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
Operating Budget vs. Actual Report
July 2019 through June 2020

Expense	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% Budget</u>
6000* · Senior Minister Expenses			
6005 · Payroll	35,434	35,338	100%
6010 · FICA Stipend	3,461	4,932	70%
6020 · Pension Fund	9,225	9,063	102%
6048 · Housing Allowance	32,000	32,248	99%
6050 · Professional Expenses	1,336	2,000	67%
6065 · Health & Dental Ins	21,433	9,400	228%
6075 · Life & Disability Ins	988	875	113%
Total 6000* · Senior Minister Expenses	<u>103,878</u>	<u>93,856</u>	<u>111%</u>
6200* · Support Staff Expenses			
6215 · Pulpit Supply	250	250	100%
6218 · Sabbatical Budget (see 1103.30)	1,080	1,080	100%
6220 · Office Coordinator	15,921	16,550	96%
6222 · Nursery Coordinator	2,384	2,000	
6225 · Director of Youth Ministry	15,000	15,000	100%
6245 · Minister of Music	15,878	15,914	100%
6250 · Sexton/Custodian	10,403	12,730	82%
6255 · Sup. Staff Holiday	717		
6256 · Sup. Staff Sick/Personal Days	127		
6257 · Sup. Staff Vacation	500		
6260 · Sup. Staff FICA	4,638	3,451	134%
6270 · Workers' Comp Ins	584	2,987	20%
6275 · Support Staff Supplies	0	100	0%
Total 6200* · Support Staff Expenses	<u>67,482</u>	<u>70,062</u>	<u>96%</u>
6400* · Office Expenses			
6410 · Bank Service Charges			
6415 · PayPal Fees	109		
6417 · Credit/Charge Card Fees	43		
6410 · Bank Service Charges	<u>411</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>137%</u>
Total 6410 · Bank Service Charges	<u>563</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>188%</u>
6440 · Internet & Computer Related Exp	2,637	2,100	126%
6490 · Office Supplies	719	400	180%
6510 · Payroll & Treasurer Supplies	939	950	99%
6520 · Postage & eDelivery	503	900	56%
6525 · Printing & Reproduction	3,269	2,150	152%
6555 · Telephone	<u>1,827</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>122%</u>
Total 6400* · Office Expenses	<u>10,457</u>	<u>8,300</u>	<u>126%</u>

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
Operating Budget vs. Actual Report
July 2019 through June 2020

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% Budget</u>
6600* · Church Building Costs			
6615 · Building Supplies	833	2,000	42%
6620 · Fire Alarm Monitoring Service	552	600	92%
6640 · Property & Liability Insurance	7,286	9,300	78%
6650 · Repairs & Maintenance	7,855	5,000	157%
6670 · Utilities			
6672 · Gas & Electric	5,819	5,500	106%
6673 · Fuel Oil	5,311	6,500	82%
6674 · Water & Sewer	837	900	93%
Total 6670 · Utilities	<u>11,968</u>	<u>12,900</u>	<u>93%</u>
Total 6600* · Church Building Costs	<u>28,494</u>	<u>29,800</u>	<u>96%</u>
6850* · Operating Committees			
6860 · Christian Education	1,310	1,500	87%
6865 · Church Growth	1,922	3,000	64%
6875 · Deacons - Budget	1,463	1,500	98%
6910 · Music (Materials/Substitutes)	922	600	154%
6950 · Stewardship	0	350	0%
7155 · Outreach Committee Reserve	4,288	4,338	99%
Total 6850* · Operating Committees	<u>9,904</u>	<u>11,288</u>	<u>88%</u>
7050 · Misc Expenses			
7150 · MACUCC Fellowship Dues	2,800	2,700	104%
7154 · Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	200	200	100%
Total Expense	<u>223,215</u>	<u>216,206</u>	<u>103%</u>
Net Income (Loss)	(62,742)	(45,706)	137%
Paycheck Protection Program Grant	26,387		
Transfer from Investments	32,000		
Adjusted Net Income (Loss)	<u>(4,355)</u>		

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
Pass Through Fund Report
July 2019 through June 2020

7410 · Direct Pass Thru Income	
7415 · Designated Outreach & Missions	
4165 · Mainspring House	950
4166 · L Street Mission	700
4175 · Teen Challenge	191
7430 · Neighbors In Need MA	267
7435 · Christmas Fund MA	724
7445 · Heifer Project HPI	1,197
7450 · Disaster Relief Fund MA	145
Total 7415 · Designated Outreach & Missions	<u>4,174</u>
Total 7410 · Direct Pass Thru Income	<u><u>4,174</u></u>

8400 · Direct Pass Thru Expense	
8410 · Designated Outreach/Missions	
8425 · Neighbors in Need MA	267
8430 · Christmas Fund MA	724
8440 · Heifer Project HPI	1,197
8441 · Teen Challenge	191
8445 · Disaster Relief Fund MA	145
8460 · Mainspring House	950
8461 · L Street Mission	700
Total 8410 · Designated Outreach/Missions	<u>4,174</u>
Total 8400 · Direct Pass Thru Expense	<u><u>4,174</u></u>

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
Bank Account Cash Balances
As of June 30, 2020

1100.00 · Cash	
1103 · BCU 95 Money Market	
1103.01 · Youth Group MM	1,772.30
1103.02 · Memorials MM	4,883.45
1103.03 · Music (Anderson)	3,486.88
1103.12 · Altar & Flowers MM	304.21
1103.13 · Memorials (Wood)	1,495.46
1103.15 · Deacons Fund	1,617.02
1103.16 · Women's Retreat MM	468.00
1103.19 · Mission Youth MM	3,728.07
1103.30 · Sr Pastor Sabbatical Reserve	6,815.01
1103.36 · Flowers	422.00
1103.46 · Memorials Woods Grant	5,000.00
1103 · BCU 95 Money Market - Other	715.49
Total 1103 · BCU 95 Money Market	<u>30,707.89</u>
1104 · BCU 91 Operating Account	11,383.09
1105 · BCU Fair Account	16.00
1106 · BCU 90 Ministers Discretionary Acct	615.84
1107 · BCU 00 Svgs for Outreach	
1107.01 · Food Pantry Outreach	34,225.87
1107.02 · General Outreach	3,589.65
1107 · BCU 00 Svgs for Outreach - Other	486.09
Total 1107 · BCU 00 Svgs for Outreach	<u>38,301.61</u>
1109 · BCU 92 Cap Imp/Mortgage Acct	8,286.21
Total 1100.00 · Cash	<u><u>89,310.64</u></u>

Vanguard Investments	<u>June 30, 2019</u>	<u>June 30, 2020</u>
1500 · Endowments investment fund	252,730	228,716
1510 · Parsonage investment fund	158,856	102,556
Total investments	<u>411,586</u>	<u>331,272</u>

Christmas Cookies for the Brockton Homeless

Thanks to all the cookie bakers who dropped off cookies on December 20, we had over 800 cookies donated. We made almost 200 cookie packets to be distributed to the homeless by the L Street Ministry in Brockton, with the help of Rob Basler. Shoutout to Denise Molinari, Diane Sheibley, and Rebecca Sheibley for their service in assembling all the packets, and to ALL the many cookie bakers!

Testimonials

Hadley's baptism: Reverend Beth went above and beyond for this. She was kind enough to come to our house and perform the baptism in our backyard due to COVID. I was so happy that she recorded it too so that we could share it with the entire congregation. This truly sparked joy as I was able to baptize my child during such a terrible time!

The fall fair with the pies was great! I was able to snag an apple peach pie and it was DELICIOUS!

This year was especially tough with not being able to get together. I feel that Julia, Rev. Beth, and Paul went above and beyond to be able to make Church enjoyable via the live stream. The music brings so much joy to the service along with Reverend Beth's smiling face!

- Joanna Becker

I know 2020 was a very challenging year. It had so many emotions. I felt isolated, scared, sadness, worry and uncertainty. I wondered how we would all get through all the chaos and this pandemic. The church had to close its doors but we still were a church doing what we do best, reaching out to the church family and the community. I wanted to highlight some of the events Brad & I participated in that helped us feel involved and being part of the solution. It was wonderful that we could have our Sunday morning worship service online each week. I so enjoyed Rev Beth's story time. It made me pause for a few minutes and relax. A big shout out to Jack, Bill & the people that help out at the Food Pantry. They kept going even during this pandemic. Brad helped out a few times and said they had all the protocol in place to keep everyone safe. I was a shopper at one of the Women's Guild Yard Sales and a worker at the other. We came together in friendship and just had our famous rummage sales happen. It was a lot of work for the ladies but they participated joyfully. The Women's Guild had a picnic lunch outside at Connie Chandler's home. It was in October for our welcome back to Guild. It was safe, we wore masks and we socially distant ourselves. It was so nice to see all the ladies together and planning their outreach work. Brad & I were asked to help with the Attic Treasures Yard Sale at the church. It was a lot of fun even standing in the snow that fell the day before. The mood was joyful and all working as a team for a good cause. The Church Fair Committee had to think outside the box to come up with ways to have a Church Fair. They sure did and it was very successful! We had it outside on a nice

November day. We had a Harvest Table, Craft Table & our famous Pie Sale Table. I participated in calling recruiting pies and the selling of the pies. So many people came through offering to make a pie. It was fun talking to them as I called to ask. I feel everyone was looking for a way to help out and do something. It was a lot of team work and it was so nice to see the community stop by for a pie and to shop. Brad & I participated in the Turkey Supper Fundraiser from Boston Tavern in Middleboro. The food was so delicious. You just drove to the library and our church leaders were there to hand you your dinner. This was a great event! We have enjoyed the different music events organized by Julia Carey. In December we had the Carol Sing Fundraiser. It was so nice to sit back & relax and sing some songs. Rev Beth led a book study on Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes. It was a great read and very interesting on how each gospel spoke to all of us. Rev Beth had packets to take home for Advent that you could just stop by the church outside and pick up. It was a lot of fun doing the different activities. I really enjoyed making my own Advent Wreath at home. Christmas Eve we had a beautiful service and it was nice to light a candle and sing Silent Night even though it was at home. I am very grateful to be able to make a meal, a scone or bring an item to someone when called upon. I really enjoy this. It is wonderful we have the Care Team available to fill the need of some of our members. Even sending cards to people may brighten their day. I know it was a very different year and I so miss being in the church with our family. I look forward to when we can open the doors and be together in the church! I am happy we can continue to have our Sunday morning worship services online to watch. A big shout out to Paul Holmes for all his hard work with the online programs!! I want to thank Rev Beth and all our church leaders & staff for giving so much of their time & talents. You are appreciated. It was a difficult year to say the least but we came together and did what we could to feel part of a church family & community. We truly are blessed in our church community.

- Mary Barnsley

Larry and I want to thank everybody for the loving care so many people showed us during my recent treatments and surgery. The cards, prayers, food, flowers and good wishes we received supported our minds and bodies during this rough time. Words cannot express the gratitude we have for our amazing church family.

- Darlene and Larry Brown

I am on the board of Christian Education. It has been challenging for us to keep Sunday school alive with the world Covid-chaos. We met virtually to brainstorm remote options to keep our kids and youth involved. We decided to do a virtual play/skit for Epiphany. Speaking on behalf of the group, we couldn't have done it without Paul Holmes. A big thank you to him and to the folks who joined in on the fun: Brianna, Liam, Margaret, Abigail and Rebecca, for volunteering in this as characters. I wasn't seen much due to being the puppeteer of some of Dr. Rev. Eugene Langevin's (Logan's Papa) amazing hand drawn and painted puppets. Additionally we thank Ann Malmquist & Rev. Beth Stotts for suggestions and support. A thank you to my son Logan for being involved behind the scenes and making suggestions. Through virtual and email contact the Board can continue to brainstorm options for encouraging our youth and children to stay actively involved. It's so important for us to be able to continue teaching about Bible stories and how they relate to their lives.

Logan shared with me his take on what was great about our church in 2020: "We could stay home for church and we could do things we normally wouldn't be able to do like, Virtual backgrounds!" My favorite part of CSCC in the year 2020 was picking up our own advent wreaths to do along with the service. It inspired my 7 year old to be actively involved. Each week not only did he get to light a candle but he got to color the coloring image which reinforced his understanding of which candle gets lit each week. Seeing how he looked forward to this each week felt like a successful alternative to Sunday school. Online services and sermon messages were strong and really good to hear. Virtual Cabinet meetings were much easier for me to attend. The turkey dinner from Boston Tavern was delicious.

What 3 things did CSCC do greatly in 2020?

1. Turkey dinner - although its not the same as the home cooked dinners made by and in the church. It felt so good to be able to support local business and our church.
2. Advent wreath and color pages were by far my favorite!
3. Music & Videography - exquisite! We are so blessed to have Julia and Paul.

- Marci Langevin

What can we say about 2020 that hasn't already been said. It has been a roller coaster of events and feelings. Experiencing 2020 came with challenges and uncertainties, especially with having small children at home. But one constant, one familiar place for myself and my 5 year old was church. It was Rev Beth, her calming, hopeful voice and Sunday worship. We are thankful for Central Square Church and their ability to adapt and still have us all feel connected, even while at home. Virtual worship has been a blessing. It has been a new, welcomed experience. We appreciate the lengths Rev Beth and other church counsel and members have gone above and beyond to keep us all healthy but still "together." Although we cannot wait until the day we can physically smile and sing with our fellow parishioners, in person, we enjoy the ability to virtually enjoy Sunday worship.

When I asked Bobby (age 5) what his feelings were about 2020 Sunday worship: "My favorite is that I can eat breakfast and dance in my pajamas during church!"

- Lisa Mackay

So, admittedly, writing's not my "thing". But, I have developed a love for CSCC, this little quaint church a few doors down from the apartment building. I'm not even sure how it happened...I must admit that I don't regularly attend in-person services. Honestly, I think it's Rev Beth. She just oozes faith and kindness, and I want to tap into both of those wonderful qualities. CSCC feels like "home" to me....maybe partly because my daughter and I go to the food pantry there once a month, maybe because my daughter used to attend Girl Scouts there, and maybe because of Rev Beth, and the wonderful group of folks who make up the congregation. Probably all of these, and more. I was happy to meet Beverly Mitchell this holiday season, through the church. I was honored to be a recipient of a scholarship in her late husband's memory. This meant more than I can convey in just a simple letter, and helped me give my daughter a good Christmas. I am so incredibly grateful for that. My daughter and I took part in the Boston Tavern fundraiser turkey dinner, and not only was it delicious, but I was also happy to be able to "give back" a little to the church that has given so much. We also had ourselves a great little photo shoot in the very well done "photo op" set up during the holidays. We really enjoyed seeing all the pictures of people (and pets!) The church has done a great job keeping connected to the community during these crazy pandemic times. We are so lucky to have the CSCC in our town!

- Kelly McMorrow

The 2020 church experience for me was unique. It started off typical, attending regularly and working with kids as the Sunday school teacher. Learning as I go in terms of what works and what doesn't work with the congregation, I was just starting to get into the swing of things. I enjoyed getting to know the kids and creating relationships with the adults. Then the pandemic hit and things shifted completely. I began to teach and reach the children solely online. Church changed from weekly in person to watching virtually. I began to watch service on Facebook live which felt as close to being in church as possible as you could see who else was logged in and say hi to each other. Once I began a part time job that had me on the road 5 hours every day, I started to tune into church via YouTube. I loved this experience! It was a very unconventional way to "attend" church but it worked for me, my schedule and my life. This is how I still choose to attend worship as my life doesn't always allow for live viewing. In regards to COVID-19, I'm not ready to attend in person worship at this time. I so look forward to the day when I can be back in the sanctuary among fellow worshipers but I'm not ready at this time. I've appreciated the online availability of church.

- Jessica Stearns

I'm thrilled to be known at CSCUCC as your first internet member. I have so enjoyed the services every Sunday by BTV on You Tube. Although I have been able to visit and be a part of church services in the past, I have met in person many friends that share my dedication for caring for others.

During this COVID- 19 crisis, I have not been able to come to Bridgewater. Yet I watch on Facebook, email, and other means to see what all is happening at the church. So I was excited when the Circles of Care Ring Program was announced. Kuddos and thanks to Carol Chaffee and Gail Wershing for their hard work to make this happen!! I so enjoyed visiting with the women on my list. I hope they will keep this going as it keeps the connection that we so sorely need during this time.

- Kay E Wheeler (Sylva, NC)



Addendum to Annual Report Calendar Year 2020

This Addendum shall be effective as of February 14, 2021. The original Annual Report is attached and made part of this document.

- Meeting Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
Bridgewater, MA
Annual Meeting
February 9, 2020

Moderator Anne Malmquist called the meeting to order after a soup lunch. Copies of the annual report were distributed.

45 members were in attendance, which meets quorum.

Last year's minutes were reviewed and approved.

Anne invited representatives from each board, committee, organization, and project to report on their year's accomplishments. Copies of the full reports can be found in the Annual Report.

Approval of the annual report was moved and seconded. The report was unanimously accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.

- Loss of Membership content edited on page 7 in Congregational Administrators report. See asterisk and footnote for changes and more information.
- Name added to History and Memorials report on page 9. See asterisk and footnote for changes and more information.
- Information added to Historical Church Building Committee Report due to exclusion of grant approval amount information. See asterisk and footnote for changes and more information.

- Growth Report Addition

Like most of our congregate family, the Growth Committee was caught in the turmoil wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic that sent all of us to our homes for the majority of the year. No public events that we normally participate in. Coffee hour service and front door greeters were provided in January, February and up until the big shutdown in March.

Our little cohort began to think differently. It took a while but by September we had videos of volunteer virtual greeters for the online streaming of worship services. We helped form Care Call Circles to keep the congregation members in touch with one another. While the Circles sometimes didn't follow the pattern set out, a lot of caring about members occurred. We look forward to some new normal in 2021.

Gail Wershing and Mike Bundock