

# Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

## Steeple Sounds

April 2022

*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*

*Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:  
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.  
—Isaiah 43:14a,19*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Once again Spring is upon us — the days are lengthening and the earliest flowers are blooming — and the promise of new life quickens my pulse and catches my breath. And I thank God for this new life!

I find myself peering intently at the ground as I pass: there! a new crocus! there! the daffodils are sprouting, and the tulips! Each new development brings a smile to my face and warmth to my heart. The new bulbs just planted last fall are, some of them, popping up; but some have been dug up by rascally squirrels and put to another purpose. Some of the old bulbs will again sprout a single bloom, as they have in past years. Best of all are the old bulbs that have split and split again, so that where one crocus used to grow, half a dozen now open their faces to the warming sun, a swath of purple against the rich brown of the ground.



As we near the end of Lent, we, too, wait to see which of our practices and disciplines will bear fruit. Sometimes our new spiritual practices blossom and thrive; sometimes they are not meant to take root in us. Many of our old ways of being in the world are still healthy and vibrant; others no longer offer growth.

May we use what remains of this Lenten season to look closely at our lives, to discern what is healthy and thriving and what gives us joy, that we may continue to nurture those things in ourselves and in our community. May we also have the discernment to recognize those things which no longer offer health or joy, and to move on from them. After all, our God does not cling to the old shadows of past ages, but rather is always doing a new thing, bringing healing and light and love and life where there was sickness and darkness and death.

Please join us for our Holy Week worship services, as together we walk with Jesus through his last days in Jerusalem. Our Palm Sunday service is at 10am on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> and will be followed by the Sunday School's Living Gift Market on the church lawn. The Maundy Thursday communion service is at 7pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the Good Friday Musical Meditation is at 3pm on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Our Easter Sunday celebration begins at sunrise (6:30am) at Hanson Farm on the 17<sup>th</sup> and continues here in the church sanctuary with our 10am worship service.

I pray that you will continue to support this community with your presence, your prayers, your talents, and your gifts.

Blessings to you all this Easter,

*Rev. Beth*



*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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**We're back in-person worship  
every week!**  
We look forward to seeing you!



### **Remote Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

Sunday Worship will continue to be livestreamed from the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.

Use the link on the homepage of [www.cscucc.org](http://www.cscucc.org) to access Sunday worship, or visit our Facebook page. Past worship services are also available in both places.

**Monday - Friday, 10am - 2pm**

**Please note that the office will be closed  
on Monday, 4/18 for the Patriots Day  
holiday.**



Back in 2019 BC (before Covid), we had assembled a group to look at, revise and revamp the Constitution and Bylaws of Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. Our needs are even more different now, and we have reassembled the group to deeply examine our governance structure with the goal of redesigning and streamlining our polity.

If you have questions or suggestions or would like to join the group, please contact me, Anne Malmquist, Gordon Brailsford, John Sharland, or Gail Wershing (or call the office at 508-697-6016).

With God's Grace,

*Anne Malmquist*

CSCC Moderator, [amalmquist@comcast.net](mailto:amalmquist@comcast.net)

### **ATTENTION Boards and Committees**

If you have budget requests for the 2022-23 budget year, please submit them to the Trustees no later than **APRIL 15** (or send it to the church office and Deborah will put it in the hands of the Trustees).



**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.

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,** call the church office at 508-697-6016 or email her at [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com)

### Deacons

Deb Sorgman  
– [debsorgman@gmail.com](mailto:debsorgman@gmail.com)  
Jae Stotts – [jaestotts@gmail.com](mailto:jaestotts@gmail.com)

### CSCC Care Team

Carol Chaffee John Scott  
Phoebe Hogg Rev. Beth Stotts  
Bev Mitchell



## Fundraising Ideas Needed!

Our Treasurer reported at last month's Cabinet meeting that revenues are down so far this year (see page 15), and, as you know, our annual budget is already a deficit one. If you have an idea for a fundraising project that you'd be willing to participate in, please contact our Moderator, Anne Malmquist ([amalmquist@comcast.net](mailto:amalmquist@comcast.net)) or contact the church office. You won't have to go it alone! We'll find other volunteers to help out. With Spring here, and the church building open, what would you like to see us do to help our church budget?

## Easter Flowers

Hello everyone!

With Easter approaching, once again the History and Memorials Committee will take orders for Easter flowers in memory of loved ones. The flowers will be placed on the altar and the names of your loved ones you wish to honor will be published in the bulletin and Steeple Sounds. The flowers are \$10.00 each and we will be offering Easter lilies, tulips, and daffodils. Look for Rachel Lawson, Barbara Morey, or Terry Reynolds downstairs in the Narthex after Sunday services taking orders. You will find us there on Sundays March 27, April 3, and April 10. You may also contact the church office with your order by April 10.

*Barbara Morey, Rachel Lawson and Terry Reynolds*

## We need your help.

Periodically, we are called upon to help members of the community that are in dire financial need.

Please consider a donation to our Emergency Aid Fund.

Online payments can be made on our website via the "donate" button (select the Fund as you complete your transaction). Or checks can be made out to CSCC, 71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324 (write "emergency fund" in the memo).

Thank you. And God bless you.

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC  
Bridgewater, MA



**The CSCC Minister's Emergency Fund is in need once again.**

**Thank you in advance for how ever you are able to help.**

Donations can be mailed to the church or made on our website using the donation button at the top, and earmarking it for the Emergency Fund.



## Women's Guild & Fellowship

Spring is bursting forth and the Women's Guild is bursting with activity! Our April meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, April 6 beginning at 6:30pm. Beth Basler will present a slide show of several of our national parks, so come join us for an evening of traveling.

Also in April — our annual spring rummage sale! This event will be held on Saturday, April 9 from 9am to 2pm (bag sale from 1 to 2).

Donations can be brought to the church beginning Monday, April 4 between 10am and 2pm. Please bring your donations into the Fellowship Hall. We are looking for gently used, clean items including: spring/summer clothing, household items, paperback (only) books, toys/games, shoes and handbags, linens, home decor, and small furniture items. **Please do not donate any electronics, no VHS tapes, no magazines or other periodicals, or broken items.**

We will be having "Soups to Go," hot dogs, and a baked goods table.

We need help with sorting during the mornings starting Wednesday, April 6. We also need help on Saturday morning starting at 7 am for setting up tables outside; and for cleanup beginning at 2pm on Saturday. If you can help, please call Sandy at 508-697-2716, or Bette at 508-479-9279. Thank you so much!

Save May 4 for our annual banquet at the Fireside.

*Sandy Alley and Bette de Koning*



### We pray for peace in Ukraine.

(This sculpture, created by a local artist, is on display for a limited time in front of CSCC.)



Bridgewater State University  
Alumni Chamber Choir  
cordially invites you to their

**Spring Concert**  
**Saturday, April 30**  
**7:00 pm**

at  
Central Square Congregational Church, UCC  
Bridgewater, MA



### SUNDAY, APRIL 3!



**Save the Date!**  
Women's Guild  
& Fellowship

**Spring Rummage Sale!**

**Saturday, April 9**  
**9am - 2pm**  
**(Bag sale 1-2pm)**

**Soups to go, hot dogs,  
and baked goods!**



**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE  
MONTH, 6PM**

**Communion &  
Crafts**

### Greeters and Liturgists wanted!

Help create a welcoming church community. Contact Rev. Beth for more details. (Hint: It's really easy! No longterm commitment!)



### My Recent Best Read

If you are Mitch Albom fan ("Tuesdays with Morrie"), don't miss "the stranger in the lifeboat".

A worthwhile novel, to read with ease, during Lent, finding God and answers to our prayers where we least expect.

I can share my copy as long as I get it back to share with my daughter, Jill, when she visits this summer. Just ask.

The Lenten Pretzel is a reminder of Lenten prayer since the 5<sup>th</sup> century, the crossed "arms" of the pretzel are a universal reminder of Christians at prayer:

- 1 package of dry yeast
- 1 ½ C warm water
- 1 T sugar
- 1 t salt
- 4 – 5 C flour
- 1 beaten egg
- coarse (kosher) salt for sprinkling on pretzel

Combine yeast, warm water, salt and sugar. Add flour gradually, forming a fairly stiff dough. Continue kneading for 10 minutes. Divide dough into pieces – then roll each piece like a rope. Shape the rope like a pretzel. Place pretzels on a lightly greased baking sheet. Brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 425 degrees for 12 – 14 minutes. Enjoy and be at prayer.

Truly,

*Carol Chaffee*

Just like arms  
folded,  
My **pretzel** will  
stay.  
A snack that  
reminds me,  
To **PRAY** everyday.



### The Living Gift Market is Coming! Sunday, April 10, 11am

Take a ride on a llama, eat some chicken legs or bacon, play pin the tail on the donkey. You never know what you will do or see at the Living Gift Market, the culminating event for Heifer Project. Each year is different and dependent on the imagination of the children. We invite you to come and participate in the Living Gift Market, the children's fund raiser.

You will have the opportunity to eat the food and purchase the crafts made by the children and their families. The money donated by you will be used to purchase animals. These animals will help needy families around the world buy food and clothing, and provide shelter. Save this date on your calendar, Sunday, **April 10 at 11:00 a.m.**, which also happens to be Palm Sunday. Come to the Living Gift Market! It will either happen on the front lawn of the church or in Fellowship Hall (depending on the weather).

**This message is for the boys and girls in the church:** Krissy Cannizzo and Terry Reynolds invite you to join them the two Sundays before the Living Gift Market, **March 27 and April 3**. The Sunday school classes will happen during church time, but downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

We need your help in planning the living gift market, make some crafts to sell, and share ideas. The only thing we ask is you bring your imagination.

- You may have already brainstormed with your families some food you would like to make at home to sell at the Market.

- You may have made some of the activities we sent you in the Sunday school kits. If you still have these activities you can display them on your table at the Market.

- We have some craft ideas we can make during the Sunday School classes.

Parents, if you would like to help during these classes please come and join us. If your child has never been to Sunday School he/she may feel more comfortable with your presence. The culminating activity is the Living Gift Market and will occur on Sunday, April 10. We cannot wait to see all our young friends come together in community once again!

*Krissy Cannizzo and Terry Reynolds.*



The food pantry opened on March 3, 2013. Last month we celebrated 9 years of successful operation, growth, and service to Bridgewater residents in need. When the pantry first opened, it was quite small, offering mostly non-perishable items with a few dairy and frozen meat options along with some fresh produce from Hanson farm in the summertime. Over time, we have been able to expand the pantry significantly.

We became an agency partner with the Greater Boston Food Bank in late 2014, allowing us to procure a wide variety of food items, including meats, fish, dairy, bakery, fresh produce, dry goods, paper goods, and personal hygiene items. We subsequently established enabling agreements with Stop & Shop and Aldi's where we get donated dry and frozen products. We also established an enabling agreement with Cumberland Farms where we get sandwiches and salads on a weekly basis. Most recently, we arranged with Lepage's Bakery in West Bridgewater who donates bread and bread products on a weekly basis.

We have expanded our cold storage capacity to include 2 side-by-side refrigerator/freezers, one upright refrigerator, 2 upright freezers and 1 chest freezer. We added storage shelving in the pantry as well as in the storage closet.

We have worked to get community recognition of our available services through various methods, including contact with the school system, senior center, town clerk and manager, as well as advertising on the church web site, the town web site, Buzz Around Bridgewater, Senior Center

monthly newsletter, and weekly postings on multiple Bridgewater Facebook pages.

The success of the food pantry is attributable to the wonderful collaboration between the businesses and residents of Bridgewater who donate 100% of the food and money needed to stock the pantry; members of CSCC including the congregation, church administrator, and Sexton; the Food Pantry staff; and the clients who are served because of the efforts of all those mentioned.

On a personal note, I am honored and humbled to have been a part of this effort since its beginning. I am also extremely proud of my team — Pat, Bill, and John — for their hard work and dedication to keeping the pantry running smoothly week in and week out.

Following are some statistics about the overall success of the pantry over these 9 years:

Number of clients served:

6,621 household visits  
8,562 Adult visits  
4,029 Children visits  
2,110 Senior visits  
27,407 bags distributed

Other Statistics

364,250 estimated pounds of food distributed  
\$804,376 estimated retail value of food distributed  
\$124,438 donations received. 313 unique donations ranging from \$2 to \$5,000  
\$101,825 expenditures  
\$20,275 in gift cards distributed  
\$121 average retail value received per household visit.

This number is an average over 9 years, however the value today is much higher and probably closer to \$200 per visit. Respectfully submitted,

*Jack Melcher*

## Our Sanctuary Ceiling is Looking Great!



Big shoutout to Gordon Brailsford and the Board of Trustees for getting the ceiling in the sanctuary repaired and repainted, AND for getting insurance to pay for it! Thank you, all!





## The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the Central Square Congregational Church Steeple

Our restoration has begun! I'm pleased to report that because of our grant award from Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), we were able to begin some much needed work on the steeple.

It was completed in mid-March by our steeple jack man Chris Burgess, of The Burgess Company, based in Orleans. (Chris worked on our steeple back in 1999 when he refurbished the weathervane and installed 4 new clocks in the base of the tower.) The front louvres on the steeple were totally damaged and had been removed. The opening was boarded up to prevent the birds from entering the tower and to keep out the weather elements. It was an eyesore for all passers-by coming through the Bridgewater common.

With the generosity of the DAR, we were able to replace the louvres on all four sides of the steeple! We wish to express our true appreciation to DAR for their generosity to Central Square Congregational Church.

This is just the beginning of restoring the steeple. We are still waiting for the Town of Bridgewater CPC grant money to be released to us as soon as the deed restriction is in place. My estimate is this Fall (2022). Working with a historical preservationist to obtain the deed restriction is a multi-step process and time consuming, but we continue to push all of the parties that play a role so that our project can keep moving forward.

Thank you,

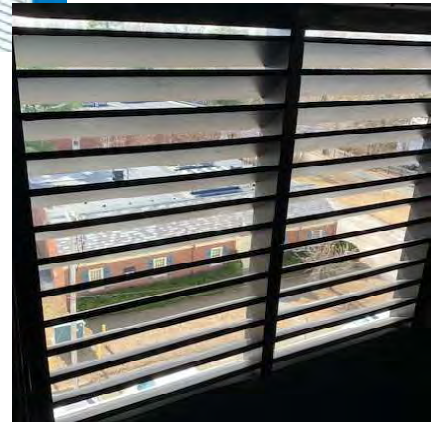
*Barbara I. Morey*

Historical Church Building Committee Chairperson

### BEFORE



### AFTER



*Thanks to Gordon Brailsford and Dave Sheibley for the pictures, and to Gordon for being onsite for all the work to take place!*

### Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, April 20, 7pm

Monthly meetings of the church leadership are currently being held in the Fellowship Hall. All church members are also welcome to attend.



## CSCCUCC Lenten Journey

### Theme: RETURNING

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Saturday, April 2  | Lenten Book Study, "No Cure For Being Human" by Kate Bowler (9am)                                   |
| Sunday, April 3    | Fifth Sunday of Lent Worship with Communion (10am)<br>Communion, Community & Spiritual Growth (6pm) |
| Sunday, April 10   | Palm Sunday Worship (10am)  |
| Thursday, April 14 | Maundy Thursday Worship (7pm)   |
| Friday, April 15   | Good Friday Music and Meditation (3pm)  |
| Saturday, April 16 | Holy Saturday End of Life Planning (10am)   |
| Sunday, April 17   | Easter Sunday Worship (6:30am at Hanson Farm, 10am CSCC Sanctuary)                                  |

### Maundy Thursday, April 14 Worship, 7pm

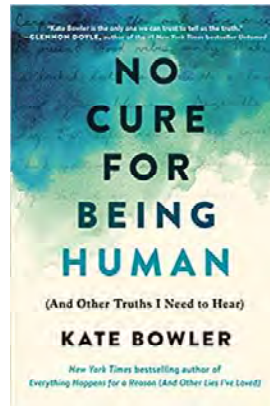
The Maundy Thursday worship service commemorates the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples prior to his death. During this service we offer ritual foot-washing (optional!) and communion.

### Good Friday, April 15 Music and Meditation, 3pm

Our Good Friday worship is a meditation service through music and scripture in which we travel with Jesus to the cross until he takes his last breaths on Earth. This service is led by our Minister of Music, Julia Scott Carey.

### Holy Saturday, April 16 End of Life Planning with Rev. Beth

Do you have everything in order should you die tomorrow? Over coffee and donuts, Rev. Beth will go over preparing Advance Directives, explore death and dying options (do you want a Death Doula? do you have a DNR completed?), review funeral options and services, explain writing an obituary, and outline steps for planning your funeral. We live our lives so uniquely - why should our funerals be any different?



### Lenten Book Study Saturday, April 12, 9am at Restoration Coffee

With dry wit and unflinching honesty, Kate Bowler grapples with her cancer diagnosis, her ambition, and her faith as she tries to come to terms with her limitations in a culture that says anything is possible. She finds that we need one another if we're going to tell the truth: Life is beautiful and terrible, full of hope and despair and everything in between—and there's no cure for being human.

Join Rev. Beth at 9am on Saturday, April 2 at Restoration Coffee (23 Central Square, Bridgewater) for a discussion of "No Cure For Being Human".





# Today in Worship

today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Write or draw your responses during the service,  
then tell someone about it later!

Today's Bible lesson is from: \_\_\_\_\_  
(book) (chapter/verses)

This is about (or made me think about)...

During the service I wondered about...

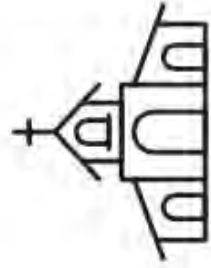
Something I heard  
or learned  
about God today is...

My favorite song from today was:

because...



Words or ideas that  
I didn't understand are...



One thing I'll remember  
from today's service is...





# Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References – April 2022 (Year C)

### **Fri., Apr. 1**

Psalms 126  
Isaiah 43:8-15  
Philippians 2:25-3:1

### **Sat., Apr. 2**

Psalms 126  
Exodus 12:21-27  
John 11:45-57

### **Sun., Apr. 3**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalms 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

### **Mon., Apr. 4**

Psalms 20  
Exodus 40:1-15  
Hebrews 10:19-25

### **Tues., Apr. 5**

Psalms 20  
Judges 9:7-15  
1 John 2:18-28

### **Wed., Apr. 6**

Psalms 20  
Habakkuk 3:2-15  
Luke 18:31-34

### **Thurs., Apr. 7**

Psalms 31:9-16  
Isaiah 53:10-12  
Hebrews 2:1-9

### **Fri., Apr. 8**

Psalms 31:9-16  
Isaiah 54:9-10  
Hebrews 2:10-18

### **Sat., Apr. 9**

Psalms 31:9-16  
Leviticus 23:1-8  
Luke 22:1-13

### **Sun., Apr. 10**

*Palm/Passion Sunday*

#### **Palms:**

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29  
Luke 19:28-40

#### **Passion:**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalms 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:14-23:56 or  
Luke 23:1-49

### **Mon., Apr. 11**

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalms 36:5-11  
Hebrews 9:11-15  
John 12:1-11

### **Tues., Apr. 12**

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalms 71:1-14  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
John 12:20-36

### **Wed., Apr. 13**

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalms 70  
Hebrews 12:1-3  
John 13:21-32

### **Thurs., Apr. 14**

*Maundy Thursday*  
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **Fri., Apr. 15**

*Good Friday*  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalms 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1-19:42

### **Sat., Apr. 16**

*Holy Saturday*  
Job 14:1-14 or  
Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24  
Psalms 31:1-4, 15-16  
1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or  
John 19:38-42

### **Sun., Apr. 17**

*Easter*  
Acts 10:34-43 or  
Isaiah 65:17-25  
Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or  
Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-11

### **Mon., Apr. 18**

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24  
Joshua 10:16-27  
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

### **Tues., Apr. 19**

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24  
Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a  
Revelation 12:1-12

### **Wed., Apr. 20**

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24  
2 Samuel 6:1-15  
Luke 24:1-12

### **Thurs., Apr. 21**

Psalms 150  
1 Samuel 17:1-23  
Acts 5:12-16

### **Fri., Apr. 22**

Psalms 150  
1 Samuel 17:19-32  
Acts 5:17-26

### **Sat., Apr. 23**

Psalms 150  
1 Samuel 17:32-51  
Luke 24:36-40

### **Sun., Apr. 24**

*Second Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 5:27-32;  
Psalms 118:14-29 or  
Psalms 150;  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

### **Mon., Apr. 25**

Psalms 122  
Esther 7:1-10  
Revelation 1:9-20

### **Tues., Apr. 26**

Psalms 122  
Esther 8:1-17  
Revelation 2:8-11

### **Wed., Apr. 27**

Psalms 122  
Esther 9:1-5, 18-23  
Luke 12:4-12

### **Thurs., Apr. 28**

Psalms 30  
Isaiah 5:11-17  
Revelation 3:14-22

### **Fri., Apr. 29**

Psalms 30  
Isaiah 6:1-4  
Revelation 4:1-11

### **Sat., Apr. 30**

Psalms 30  
Genesis 18:1-8  
Luke 14:12-14

# APRIL 2022

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
|   |   |   |   |  | <b>1</b><br>5pm Girl Scout Glow Party           | <b>2</b><br>9am Lenten Book Study at Restoration Coffee          |
| <b>3</b><br>10am Communion Worship (in person and online)<br>6pm Communion & Crafts<br>6:45pm AA Meeting                        | <b>4</b><br>6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open<br>7pm Women's AA                           | <b>5</b><br>7pm Women's NA  | <b>6</b><br>6:30pm Women's Guide & Fellowship<br>7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir                                    | <b>7</b><br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>7pm Al-Anon                                 | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b><br>9am Women's Guild Spring Rummage Sale                |
| <b>10</b><br>10am Worship (in person and online)<br>5pm Girl Scouts #827<br>6:45pm AA Meeting                                   | <b>11</b><br>4:30pm Daisies #64998<br>5:30pm Girl Scouts #66204<br>7pm Women's AA | <b>12</b><br>6pm Girl Scouts #69063<br>7pm Christian Outreach<br>7pm Women's NA   | <b>13</b><br>5pm Girl Scouts (Daisies #64997 and Juniors #62521)<br>7pm Trustees<br>7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir | <b>14</b><br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>7pm Al-Anon<br>7pm Maundy Thursday Service | <b>15</b><br>3pm Good Friday Music & Meditation | <b>16</b><br>10am End of Life Planning with Rev. Beth            |
| <b>17</b><br>EASTER SUNDAY<br>6:30am Sunrise Service at Hanson Farm<br>10am Worship (in person and online)<br>6:45pm AA Meeting | <b>18</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>4:30pm Daisies #64998<br>7pm Women's AA             | <b>19</b><br>7pm Women's NA   | <b>20</b><br>5pm Girl Scouts (Daisies #64997 and Juniors #62521)<br>7pm Cabinet<br>7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir  | <b>21</b><br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>7pm Al-Anon                                | <b>22</b>                                       | <b>23</b>  |
| <b>24</b><br>10am Worship (in person and online)<br>5pm Girl Scouts #827<br>6:45pm AA Meeting                                   | <b>25</b><br>5:30pm Girl Scouts #66204<br>7pm Women's AA                          | <b>26</b><br>6pm Girl Scouts #69063<br>7pm Lions of Bridgewater<br>7pm Women's NA | <b>27</b><br>7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir  | <b>28</b><br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>7pm Al-Anon                                | <b>29</b>                                       | <b>30</b><br>7pm BSU Alumni Chamber Choir Spring Concert at CSCC |



## CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes March 16, 2022 at 7pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Anne Malmquist, Moderator.

**Cabinet members in attendance:** Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Denise Molinari, Vice Moderator; David Sheibley, Treasurer; Diane Sheibley, Clerk; Gordon Brailsford & Ed Buckland, Board of Trustees; Bill O’Neil, Board of Christian Outreach; Terry Reynolds, History & Memorials Committee and Women’s Guild & Fellowship.

**Also present:** Deborah Lancaster, Congregational Administrator

Anne Malmquist opened the meeting with a prayer.

### January and February Minutes

The minutes from the January and February cabinet meetings were reviewed. Dave Sheibley motioned to accept them as written. Denise Molinari seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Pastor’s Report** [also see written report] – Anne Malmquist for Rev. Beth Stotts

In addition to what’s on Rev. Beth’s report, Anne gave Gordon Brailsford a shoutout for all the work and time he’s put in at the church lately. Thank you Gordon! Diane also highlighted the upcoming book studies Rev. Beth will be hosting.

**Treasurer’s Report** [see financials] – Dave Sheibley

Dave noted that we’re falling behind a bit on giving. February was the lowest month in 3-4 years; January and February were off-pace compared to past two years. Dave included a chart of giving for the past couple of years in his written Treasurer’s Report.

He noted that we have transferred \$30,000 so far this fiscal year, and the plan was to need to transfer a total of \$40,000. Hopefully there will be some more fundraisers held to help with needed revenues, like a golf tournament. He also noted that investments are doing as well as they had been.

\$14,000 was transferred from the capital campaign fund to pay for the sanctuary ceiling repairs, although Gordon said it’s looking promising that insurance will pay for it. [edit—since the Cabinet meeting, insurance has, indeed, agreed to pay for the ceiling repair work]

**Congregational Administrator’s Report** [also see written report] – Deborah Lancaster

Deborah noted that, with the return of in-person worship, the bulletin format is back to the old “book format”. The print is a little smaller, so if needed, she can produce some large-print versions. There are two new girl scout troops meeting at the church. There are a lot of special events coming up.

**Food Pantry Report** [see written report] – Bill O’Neil

Food Pantry report was discussed. Bill reported that there has been a little uptick of people coming in. Jack submitted a recap of the last nine years that we’ve hosted the food pantry. [edit—the recap report appears in the April issue of Steeple Sounds] There is new shelving on the lower level. Gordon asked about the new freezer and concerns about an increase in the electric bill, but Bill noted that the freezer was a replacement, not an addition.

**Historical Church Building Committee** – Terry Reynolds

Brian Pfeiffer (who was formerly working on the deed restriction) sent all of his paperwork and work in process to Virginia Adams in Rhode Island, who will now be working on it. Barbara said it could be another 8 months or so to get the deed restriction process done. The HCBC will be submitting a new proposal to the Town of Bridgewater for phases 2 and 3 of the project, to get the ball rolling on those approvals. The Daughters of the American Revolution gave us a grant of \$10,000, and it was used to replace the louvres on the steeple. And the project is done! Chris Burgess, who did the old restoration of the weathervane, did the louvre work. We’ll be publicizing it in Steeple Sounds, on the website, and on Facebook, as publicizing the project and recognizing the DAR is part of our contract with them, in order to get the second half of the grant money.

The deed restriction has a long way to go and there are several items to be addressed, regarding being in the historic district of the town. The vinyl siding likely needs to be removed from the outside of the church (phase 3). We still don’t have the award letter from the town, although we’ve requested a copy many, many times.

*continued...*

## CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

*continued...*

### **Governance Review/Constitution-Bylaws Committee – Anne Malmquist**

Anne noted that this committee that was formed prior to the pandemic is now beginning to meet again. Our needs are even more different than before the pandemic, so tweaking our current Constitution/Bylaws probably won't work; it will take a complete rewrite. The committee is currently comprised of Gordon Brailsford, Gail Wershing, Anne Malmquist, John Sharland, and Rev. Beth. If anyone else would like to be involved, let Anne know.

After an analysis period, the next step will be a congregational meeting to approve/discuss the new governance structure. As part of their work, they are looking at what other churches are doing; what "membership" means in 2022; and how they can be inclusive of our online community.

### **Heifer – Terry Reynolds**

The Living Gift Market will be held on Palm Sunday, April 10. They are hoping to do it on the front lawn of the church, depending on the weather. They will be having Sunday school on the preceding two Sundays to help the children prepare for the market. Dave Hanson is hoping to bring some animals. Terry asked if it's OK to bring food to sell at the market, even if it's in the fellowship hall, regarding current COVID restrictions. As long as it's prepped prior to being brought to the church, there's no problem.

**Music Committee – Anne Malmquist for Ellen Crawford**  
Ellen is working on finding out from Julia when the choir might be starting back up again.

### **The Peace Sign sculpture**

The peace sign sculpture in front of the church is in honor of the prayers for peace for Ukraine. It was done by a local artist who asked if they could put it out there for a while.

### **Women's Guild & Fellowship – Terry Reynolds**

The spring rummage sale is Saturday, April 9, inside and outside. Donations for the sale will be accepted the week of April 4. The next Guild meeting is Wednesday, April 6. Beth Basler will be doing a presentation on National Parks. The annual banquet will be held in May.

### **Board of Trustees – Ed Buckland**

Ed noted that the pastor's discretionary (emergency) fund is getting quite low, and asked if we could solicit donations to it again. Re: town food permit. We need to have people certified for "serve-safe" practices. The qualification can be gotten with an online course. Bill O'Neil asked to have the requirements sent to him and he'll ask his wife if she is already qualified and/or would do it.

Nic Cannizzo is doing his eagle project to fix up the side door entranceway. (This planning began pre-pandemic.) It has been noted by the fire department that the mailboxes should not block access to the electrical panel, as they partially do now. A preliminary solution in Nic's designs has the door to the long closet behind the coat hooks that is nearest the office be blocked off and converted to a space that houses the mailboxes. There was much discussion on this solution. The trustees are meeting with Nic this Sunday (3/20).

### **Budget requests**

Dave noted that annual budget requests from boards and committees are due to the Trustees this month. After some discussion, it was decided Deborah will email the boards and committees, and let them know that their requests must be in the hands of the Trustees no later than April 15.

### **Other business**

- It was noted that Bob Spencer, former member, Trustee, and fill-in pastor, has passed away.
- The need for more fundraisers was noted. Will there be a golf tournament this year? It is an important fundraiser that is in the approved budget. Terry will talk to Barbara Morey to get her thoughts on holding the event, and how she might be involved.

Next month's meeting is April 20 at 7pm at the church.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Treasurer's Report  
February 28, 2022  
Fiscal Year July 2021 - June 2022

|                                      | YTD<br>Actual | YTD<br>Budget | Difference | Annual<br>Budget |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------------|
| Income                               |               |               |            |                  |
| Regular Pledges                      | 78,166        | 91,874        | (13,708)   | 138,000          |
| Unpledged Offerings                  | 9,899         | 2,996         | 6,903      | 4,500            |
| Plate Offering                       | 615           | 666           | (51)       | 1,000            |
| Total · Pledges / Offerings          | 88,680        | 95,536        | (6,856)    | 143,500          |
| Special Collections                  |               |               |            |                  |
| MACUCC Fellowship Dues               | 310           |               |            |                  |
| Total · Special Collections          | 310           |               |            |                  |
| Fundraisers/Events Revenue           |               |               |            |                  |
| Golf Tournament                      | 0             | 4,793         | (4,793)    | 7,200            |
| Breakfasts                           | 0             |               |            |                  |
| Church Fair                          | 8,327         | 4,660         | 3,667      | 7,000            |
| Misc Fundraisers                     | 88            | 3,329         | (3,240)    | 5,000            |
| Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue   | 8,415         | 12,782        | (4,367)    | 19,200           |
| Facility Usage Income                |               |               |            |                  |
| Non Profit Bldg Use                  | 2,148         | 1,198         | 950        | 1,800            |
| Private Bldg Use                     |               | 566           | (566)      | 850              |
| Total · Facility Usage Income        | 2,148         | 1,764         | 384        | 2,650            |
| Miscellaneous Income                 | 191           |               |            |                  |
| Total Income                         | 99,744        | 110,082       | (10,339)   | 165,350          |
| Expenses                             |               |               |            |                  |
| Total · Senior Minister Expenses     | 72,747        | 73,353        | 606        | 110,180          |
| Total · Support Staff Expenses       | 31,843        | 32,133        | 290        | 48,266           |
| Total · Office Expenses              | 6,555         | 5,526         | (1,029)    | 8,300            |
| Total · Church Building Costs        | 39,405        | 19,839        | (19,565)   | 29,800           |
| Operating Committees                 |               |               |            |                  |
| Christian Education                  | 0             | 499           | 499        | 750              |
| Church Growth                        | 373           | 666           | 293        | 1,000            |
| Deacons                              | 843           | 666           | (177)      | 1,000            |
| Music (Materials/Substitutes)        | 334           | 399           | 65         | 600              |
| Stewardship                          | 0             | 233           | 233        | 350              |
| Outreach                             | 2,392         | 2,889         | 496        | 4,339            |
| Total · Operating Committees         | 3,942         | 5,352         | 1,410      | 8,039            |
| MACUCC Fellowship Dues               |               | 1,798         | 1,798      | 2,700            |
| Miscellaneous Expenses               |               |               |            |                  |
| Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues         |               | 133           | 133        | 200              |
| Total Expenses                       | 154,491       | 138,134       | (16,358)   | 207,485          |
| Net income (loss)                    | (54,748)      | (28,052)      | (26,696)   | (42,135)         |
| Transfer from Investments            | 30,000        | 28,052        | (1,948)    | 42,135           |
| Transfer from Capital Campaign funds | 13,870        |               |            |                  |
|                                      | (10,878)      | 0             |            | 0                |



## Treasurer's Report - February 28, 2022 - Fiscal Year July 2021-June 2022

## Cash balances

|                                  |        |                      |
|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Operating account                |        | 2,325                |
| Money Market                     |        |                      |
| Restricted                       | 29,315 |                      |
| Unrestricted                     | 766    |                      |
|                                  |        | <u>30,081</u>        |
| Fair account                     |        | 0                    |
| Minister's Discretionary account |        | 1,988                |
| PayPal account                   |        |                      |
| Outreach account                 |        |                      |
| Includes paid pledge set-aside   | 1,517  |                      |
| Food Pantry                      | 36,890 |                      |
|                                  |        | <u>38,407</u>        |
| Capital Campaign account         |        | <u>2,639</u>         |
| Total cash balances              |        | <u><u>75,440</u></u> |

## Endowments investment fund

|                             |         |                       |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Protected principal         | 135,513 |                       |
| Unrestricted funds          | 71,153  |                       |
| Total value 2/28/2022       |         | 206,666               |
| Income (Loss) YTD FY 2022   | (4,499) |                       |
| Parsonage investment fund   |         |                       |
| Principal parsonage sale    | 60,314  |                       |
| Income (Loss) on investment | 30,228  |                       |
| Total value 2/28/2022       |         | <u>90,542</u>         |
| Total investments 2/28/2022 |         | <u><u>297,209</u></u> |

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|                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Food Pantry Balance January 31, 2022  | 41,717               |
| Donations                             | 347                  |
| Expenses                              | <u>(5,174)</u>       |
| Food Pantry Balance February 28, 2022 | <u><u>36,890</u></u> |

## Giving by Month for the Last Three Years

|       | 2020 Month | 2021 Month | 2022 Month | 2020 YTD | 2021 YTD | 2022 YTD |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Jan.  | 10,230     | 13,532     | 10,029     | 10,230   | 13,532   | 10,029   |
| Feb.  | 10,030     | 11,754     | 6,562      | 20,260   | 25,286   | 16,592   |
| March | 10,672     | 11,538     |            | 30,933   | 36,824   |          |
| April | 14,962     | 13,129     |            | 45,895   | 49,954   |          |
| May   | 13,017     | 11,279     |            | 58,912   | 61,233   |          |
| June  | 16,806     | 13,469     |            | 75,719   | 74,703   |          |
| July  | 9,191      | 13,048     |            | 84,910   | 87,752   |          |
| Aug.  | 8,192      | 10,053     |            | 93,102   | 97,805   |          |
| Sept. | 11,465     | 10,624     |            | 104,567  | 108,430  |          |
| Oct.  | 8,213      | 15,581     |            | 112,781  | 124,011  |          |
| Nov.  | 8,571      | 12,400     |            | 121,353  | 136,412  |          |
| Dec.  | 14,686     | 10,377     |            | 136,039  | 146,789  |          |

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### Church Administration

**Pastor:** Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com)  
**Congregational Administrator:** Deborah Lancaster, [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com)  
**Sexton:** Rich Sullivan  
**Minister of Music:** Julia Scott Carey, [juliascottcarey@gmail.com](mailto:juliascottcarey@gmail.com)  
**Director of Video Evangelism:** Paul Holmes  
**Treasurer:** David Sheibley, [treasurer@cscucc.com](mailto:treasurer@cscucc.com)  
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[facebook.com/groups/801550253194149](https://facebook.com/groups/801550253194149) (youth page)  
**Instagram:** @centralsquarechurch  
*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”, 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.

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