

Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Steeple Sounds

May 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*

Like all parents with young children, I've heard the *Encanto* soundtrack daily for the past several months. There is one song my daughter loves most of all called "Surface Pressure". In the song, the character sings about how she has to shoulder everything, not just for her family, but for her entire community.

*"Pressure like a drip, drip, drip, that'll never stop, whoa-oh
Pressure that'll tip, tip, tip 'til you just go pop, whoa-oh-oh-oh
Pressure like a grip, grip, grip, and it won't let go, whoa-oh
Pressure like a tick, tick, tick 'til it's ready to blow, whoa-oh-oh-oh"*

The repeats of the drip and the tip and the grip and the tick really make the listener of the song connect with that feeling of pressure. It really can be all-consuming and overwhelming. And pressure is a fact of modern life. Pressure to be a productive employee, a supportive spouse, a loving and engaged parent, a good friend, a responsible global citizen. Pressure to give back, pressure to be happy, even paradoxically, pressure to "let go" and "take time for ourselves." The pressure to be a certain way, and have a certain kind of life, and be a certain kind of person, can feel relentless. But what if there were another way? The 20th century Trappist monk Thomas Merton says:

"A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. For in being what God meant it to be it is obeying him. It 'consents,' so to speak, to his creative love. It is expressing an idea which is in God and which is not distinct from the essence of God, and therefore a tree imitates God by being a tree. The more a tree is like itself, the more it is like God. If it tried to be like something else which it was never intended to be, it would be less like God and therefore it would give God less glory. For me to be a saint means to be myself. Therefore the problem of sanctity and salvation is in fact the problem of finding out who I am and of discovering my true self. Trees and animals have no problem. God makes them what they are without consulting them, and they are perfectly satisfied. With us it is different. God leaves us free to be whatever we like. We can be ourselves or not, as we please."

There's a lot in that excerpt that might trip us up if we let it—Merton's language about obeying God, sanctity, the notion of being a saint—but read it again, and really take in the reassuring and consoling idea that the more like ourselves we become, the more we give glory to God. A tree's job isn't to be the best fish it can be, or the best petunia, or best mountaintop. It's only real task is to be what God created it to be. Isn't that true for us too?

How closely we match up to some external model of the perfect worker or perfect family member or perfect person really doesn't matter much. Our only task is to become ever more fully ourselves, in all our quaint and quirky, weird and wonderful uniqueness. Each of us is free to be the person God created us to be, or we're free to pretend to be someone else. But we're not free to be someone else. Making peace with that spiritual truth is the first step toward disarming the external pressures that can rule our lives. May we each find our way to that peace, in our own time and in our own way.



Yours in Christ,

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.

**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 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 FRIDAY, MAY 13
and MONDAY MAY 30

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, May 17, 7pm

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

**We welcome Rev. Greta Macrae
to the pulpit on Sunday, May 8!**



You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you have a few hours you can spare between June 9-17?

Our congregational administrator will be on vacation, and it would be great to have someone to answer the phone, take messages, and check the mail for a few hours in the middle of the day. If you have a day or two you can lend a hand, contact Rev. Beth!

\$100+ Raised from AmazonSmile!

"This is the quarterly notification to inform you that AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to Central Square Congregational Church, in the amount of \$105.41 as a result of qualifying purchases made by customers who have selected this charity. Thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com or using the Amazon app with AmazonSmile ON, everyday purchases make an impact."

It costs you nothing extra! Contact the church office with questions.



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

Deacons

Deb Sorgman
– debsorgman@gmail.com
Jae Stotts – jaestotts@gmail.com

CSCC Care Team

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



Women's Guild Year Coming to a Close

The Women's Guild is planning to close out the current season with a banquet to be held on Wednesday, May 4 at the Fireside restaurant in Middleboro. Cocktails are at 5:30, with dinner served at 6 PM. This is always a special time of fellowship and sharing of a meal. Also, the Nominations Committee will announce the new slate of officers for the 2022-2023 season!

The recent rummage sale was a great success and earned us over \$2,300! This was accomplished through the hard work and contributions of our members. We also had wonderful help from the following list of volunteers: Rob Basler, Brad Barnsley, Steve Chandler, Steve Lancaster, Bill McNeil, John Scott, and Lee Scott. A big "thank you" to all!

Wishing all a wonderful, safe and healthy summer!

Sandy Alley and Bette de Koning



Happy May, Church Family!

As I thought about the month of May, I thought about May Pole dancing. It has quite a history and some not at all suitable for this newsletter (OH MY). But my recollections contained memories of my mom, a nursery school teacher. Every year at this time, she would construct a May Pole consisting of a long, decorated pole and paper streamers hanging loose from the top. Her nursery school children would hold onto a streamer and dance joyfully around the pole to music; full of gladness, warmth, love, play and laughter.

In its simplicity, the May Pole, the music, and the dance represent to me a sense of community, a sense of togetherness and a spirituality of letting go and letting God lead the way.

Truly,

Carol Chaffee



Greeters! Liturgists! Ushers!

For one Sunday, or several. No long-term commitment needed! Won't you put yourself or your family down for one Sunday?

Visit www.cscucc.org/events to sign up, or contact the church office.

\$4,000 a week

It was noted by church treasurer David Sheibley at the April Cabinet meeting that it takes \$4,000 per WEEK to keep the Central Square Church doors open and operating, even with minimal staff and few “extras”.

We are proud of the work we as a church community are able to do for each other, and for the opportunities our building provides for the greater community:

- Four different 12-step support groups meet in our building every week;
- Seven different girl scout groups meet in our building every month;
- The BSU Alumni Chamber Choir rehearses and performs in our sanctuary;
- The Women’s Guild & Fellowship meets monthly in our building, and we host their annual Fall and Spring rummage sales;
- And of course we are proud to host the ever-growing Bridgewater Food Pantry, and while their dedicated volunteer staff works tirelessly to procure and distribute food to those in need, CSCC provides them financial support for the electricity for their multiple refrigerators and freezers; heat and light; phone, photocopying, and administrative support through our church office; and cleaning and maintenance of the common areas.

Our building and support staff are truly part of our community outreach.

The ongoing challenge is that the pledges and weekly donations of our members and visitors do not meet the



expense of these valuable services. This is why you see our ongoing fundraising efforts. We desperately want to be able to continue doing God’s work in our community with all of the resources we have at our disposal, but if you look at our current and recent years’ budgets, you know it’s an uphill struggle. And it can’t sustain itself long term.

Here’s how you can help:

- When we have a fundraising event, take part in it and spread the word to your friends and neighbors. Encourage them to participate if they feel even one of the community groups mentioned earlier is a valuable part of our town;
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to “like” our Facebook page, follow us on Instagram, and sign up for our email list – so that they can be in the loop with upcoming opportunities to participate in our fundraising activities, and benefit from our programming and outreach;
- Keep your ears and eyes open for grant or donation opportunities for CSCC – maybe the company you work for has a community outreach or philanthropy program; maybe service or business organizations you are a member of support community programs such as ours; maybe you just see something on the internet or on social media that could help support what we do. Let us know!
- Volunteer to lend a hand on an upcoming project – not necessarily to be in charge, but to help out – anything from baking a pie, to manning a table at an event, to being willing to make a few phone calls. “Many hands make light work” really does ring true.

The annual budget meeting is Sunday, June 12.



Upcoming Fundraisers for CSCC!

(see elsewhere in this newsletter for details)

- Takeout Dinner Fundraiser, BBQ Style (May 22, reservations due May 16)
- Vendor/Craft Sale Event, Saturday, June 4 (we’re still looking for vendors!)
- Pie & Bake Sale! Saturday, June 4

Sadly, it’s not looking good to have our golf tournament this year, for lack of someone to head it up. But if you know someone – or a couple of “someone”s – who would be willing to oversee the organization of one (not doing everything, just making sure everything is getting done!), have them contact Moderator Anne Malmquist or the church office!

Heifer Project Living Gift Market



It was wonderful working with the children again, and planning for Heifer Project, following two years of not being able to gather. When Krissy and I were originally planning Heifer this year we were all going to meet for Sunday School in January. Once again COVID ramped up, but we decided not to be defeated and went with video lessons. This was not the same as being with the children and hearing their thoughts and excitement regarding Heifer, it was Sunday School though and especially it was HEIFER PROJECT.

We postponed the Living Gift Market which thankfully gave us two additional Sundays to meet with the children in person, and make some plans for the Heifer celebration. And what a celebration it was! If you were unable to be present for the Living Gift Market on Palm Sunday, you missed a wonderful and exciting event. Many children and many more adults participated, and even a couple of chickens. You could feel the energy in the room as the children and their families provided food and crafts for sale. It was a community once again.

Here are the results of the children saving money in their banks, asking friends and relatives to sponsor animals, and selling at the Living Gift Market:

We are sending:	6 Trio of Rabbits	\$360
	8 Beehives	\$240
	2 Water Buffalos	\$500
	1 Lamb	\$120
	1 Llama	\$150
	A Flock of Hope	\$ 60
	1 Goat	\$120
	1 Heifer	\$500
	1 Flock of Hope	\$ 60
	5 Flocks of Chicks	<u>\$100</u>
	Total	\$ 2,210



Come and witness the Heifer bulletin board and see how many of each animal the children are sending. We would also like to thank all who helped create the Living Gift Market and all the people who supported the event.

Krissy Cannizzo & Terry Reynolds

Takeout Dinner Fundraiser BBQ Style!

BBQ chicken, pulled pork,
potato salad, cole slaw,
cornbread, and dessert.
Dinner for two

Sunday, May 22
Reservations due
Monday, May 16

Catered by
Boston Tavern Middleboro

Kick off the summer BBQ season with the feast-for-two from Boston Tavern/Middleboro! BBQ chicken, pulled pork, potato salad, cole slaw, cornbread, and dessert. \$35 for each dinner-for-two. RESERVATIONS due no later than MONDAY, MAY 16. Pickup is Sunday, May 22, between 5:15 and 5:45. Cash or check at pickup. Visit www.cscucc.org/events to make your reservation online, or contact the church office.



Time for Rebirth!

In this period of Eastertide and hopefully post-COVID, or at least the worst of it, the Governance Team has been meeting to see where we are headed. Basically, the team would like to know... what is your passion about our Central Square Congregational Church?

We are working on an organizational structure to administer the basic functions: worship, prayer, finance, the building, our missions and outreach, our social times, faith formation, and our history. We are looking to make the administration of our entity more joyful and less onerous. Teams, rather than fixed committees; shorter terms of office for some Cabinet or Council positions. In order to help us discern the best configuration, we need a sense of what ministries and programs the church is needing and wanting.

All members and congregants are in essence "owners" of this church. As we re-

emerge from COVID, and winter, and Lent, we would like to know what excites YOU about church. We have a group that has expressed great excitement about bringing back breakfast in some form. The Bee ministry has blossomed. We just had a very successful Heifer Project program.

Programs and projects do not need to be perpetual or long term. They do not need to be based in the church building. If there is a desire to have some virtual programs, let's make them happen.

What we need from you now is your input, an email to the church office (office@cscucc.com) with **REBIRTH** in the subject line. Your message can include:

- what you passionately want to continue at our church;
- what you passionately want to add, even if temporary.

What are you excited about doing or wanting to continue to do for our church?

Rebirth. In what form to carry us toward our third century on the Square and in our community, local, national, worldwide? Send us your thoughts.

Yours in Christ's work,

*Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Gordon Brailsford,
John Sharland, Rev. Beth Stotts, Gail Wershing*

Email: office@cscucc.com



SUNDAY, MAY 1! All are welcome!





Mark your calendars!

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, or you know someone who might be, visit www.cscucc.org/events for the information and registration form, or see the other side of this page. Inside and outside spots available.

If would be willing to bake a pie or another baked good for the sale, email Darlene Brown at darlingsb@verizon.net or call her at 508-617-7782.



Easter Altar Flowers, in loving memory of:

Bruce Maclay	Mom & Dad	Bev Mitchell	George H. Mitchell & Gramma Peg, Love, The Family
Nina Tiliakos	Grandmother Geni	Kay Wheeler	Julie Lybarger, Naiya Mae Lybarger
Connie & Gordon Brailsford	The Family	Lynn Pietras	Fred & Alice Yeaton
The Wells Family	Brian Crowley	Gail Wright	Scott
The Stotts Family	Jon Lybarger & Julie Lybarger	The Sheibley Family	John & Amber Sheibley, and Tom Sheibley
Gloria Weinrebe	Taylor & Weinrebe Family	The Sheibley Family	Ed Healy & Beverly Healy, Loving grandparents
Rachel Lawson	The Lawson Family	The Sheibley Family	Susan Wershing
Rachel Lawson	The Lopez Family	Nina Gabel-Jorgensen	Niels Gabel-Jorgensen
Gail Wershing	Frank Wershing	The Shave Family	Nancy & Robert Shave
Gail Wershing	Albert & Mary Wilson	The Shave Family	Nana & Papa
Troy Hubbell	For Kelli & Molly, "Always in my heart	Anne Chaffee	David Chaffee, Sr.
Ellen Crawford	Loved ones	Bill & Terry Reynolds	Loved Ones
Steve & Connie Chandler	Loved ones		
Diane & Peter Glass	Our Parents		



Know someone who might be interested? Send them this form!

SPRING 2022

VENDOR/CRAFT FAIR

Date: Saturday, June 4

Time: 9am-1pm

Setup time: 8am-9am

Central Square Congregational Church
71 Central Square, Bridgewater (On the common)

\$30 for an inside table (8' table and chairs provided)

\$25 for an outside spot (you provide your own setup)

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis, based on submission of form and dependent on timely receipt of payment.

Checks should be made out to Central Square Congregational Church, or CSCC.

Only one vendor per manufacturer or brandname will be accepted. Event will be held rain or shine. No refunds.

YES! I'd like to reserve a spot to sell my products and services!

Choose one: ☐ Inside table (\$30) ☐ Outside spot (\$25)

Choose one: ☐ Email me link to pay by credit card, or

☐ I will mail/drop off a check at the church (payable to CSCC).

Name: _____

Company name (optional): _____

Email address: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Brief product or service description (please include any manufacturer or brand name):

Please complete this form (or just provide all the information listed on the form) and send to dianesheibley@gmail.com. **An electronic fillable version is available at www.cscucc.org/events.**

If you opt to send a check, send to: CSCC, Attn: DIANE, 71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324, or drop it off in the church mailbox (at the side door). Your space is not guaranteed until payment is received.

Contact Diane at dianesheibley@gmail.com or 508-207-2524 with any questions.

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...

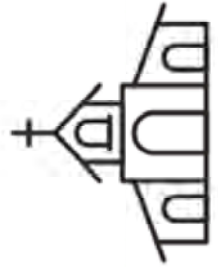
Something I heard
or learned
about God today is...

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 – May 2022 (Year C)

Sun., May 1

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

Mon., May 2

Psalm 121

Ezekiel 1:1-25

Acts 9:19b-31

Tues., May 3

Psalm 121

Ezekiel 1:26—2:1

Acts 26:1-18

Wed., May 4

Psalm 121

Isaiah 6:1-8

Luke 5:1-11

Thurs., May 5

Psalm 23

Ezekiel 11:1-25

Revelation 5:1-10

Fri., May 6

Psalm 23

Ezekiel 20:39-44

Revelation 6:1—7:4

Sat., May 7

Psalm 23

Ezekiel 28:25-26

Luke 12:29-32

Sun., May 8

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

Mon., May 9

Psalm 100

Ezekiel 37:15-28

Revelation 15:1-4

Tues., May 10

Psalm 100

Ezekiel 45:1-9

Acts 9:32-35

Wed., May 11

Psalm 100

Jeremiah 50:17-20

John 10:31-42

Thurs., May 12

Psalm 148

Ezekiel 2:8—3:11

Revelation 10:1-11

Fri., May 13

Psalm 148

Daniel 7:13-14

Revelation 11:15

Sat., May 14

Psalm 148

Daniel 7:27

Revelation 11:16-19

Sun., May 15

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Mon., May 16

Psalm 133

1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42

Acts 11:19-26

Tues., May 17

Psalm 133

2 Samuel 1:4-27

Acts 11:27-30

Wed., May 18

Psalm 133

Leviticus 19:9-18

Luke 10:25-28

Thurs., May 19

Psalm 67

Proverbs 2:1-5

Acts 15:36-41

Fri., May 20

Psalm 67

Proverbs 2:6-8

Acts 16:1-8

Sat., May 21

Psalm 67

Proverbs 2:9-15

Luke 19:1-10

Sun., May 22

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Mon., May 23

Psalm 93

1 Chronicles 12:16-22

Revelation 21:5-14

Tues., May 24

Psalm 93

2 Chronicles 15:1-15

Revelation 21:15-22

Wed., May 25

Psalm 93

2 Chronicles 34:20-33

Luke 2:25-38

Thurs., May 26

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 27

Psalm 97

Exodus 33:12-17

Revelation 22:6-9

Sat., May 28

Psalm 97

Exodus 33:18-23

John 1:14-18

Sun., May 29

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17,

20-21

John 17:20-26

Mon., May 30

Psalm 29

Exodus 40:16-38

Acts 16:35-40

Tues., May 31

Psalm 29

2 Chronicles 5:2-14

Acts 26:19-29

MAY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am Communion Worship (in person and online) 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 6pm Communion & Crafts 6:45pm AA Meeting	2 4:30pm Daisies #64998 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open 6:30pm Women's AA	3 7pm Women's NA	4 5pm Daisies #64997 & Juniors #62521 5:30pm Women's Guild Annual Banquet (Fireside Restaurant)	5 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	6	7
8 10am Communion Worship (in person and online) 6:45pm AA Meeting	9 5:30pm Girl Scouts #66204 6:30pm Women's AA	10 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7pm Christian Outreach 7pm Women's NA	11 7pm Trustees	12 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14
15 10am Worship (in person and online) 5pm Girl Scouts #827 6:45pm AA Meeting	16 4:30pm Daisies #64998 6:30pm Women's AA	17 7pm Women's NA	18 5pm Girl Scouts (Daisies #64997 and Juniors #62521) 7pm Cabinet Meeting	19 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	20	21
22 10am Worship (in person and online) 6:45pm AA Meeting	23 5:30pm Girl Scouts #66204 6:30pm Women's AA	24 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7pm Women's NA	25	26 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	27	28
29 10am Worship (in person and online) 6:45pm AA Meeting	30 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Women's AA	31 7pm Women's NA			29	30

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes April 20, 2022 at 7pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Anne Malmquist, Moderator.

Cabinet members in attendance: Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; David Sheibley, Treasurer; Diane Sheibley, Clerk; Gordon Brailsford & Ed Buckland, Board of Trustees; Deb Sorgman, Board of Deacons; Terry Reynolds, History & Memorials Committee and Women's Guild & Fellowship.

Rev. Beth opened the meeting with a devotional and a prayer.

March Minutes

The meeting minutes from the March meeting were presented and reviewed. Rev. Beth motioned to accept them as written; Dave Sheibley seconded. The minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report – Rev. Beth Stotts (also see written report)

Rev. Beth reported that “it was a busy month”. She also reported that CSCC will be one of several satellite hosts for the Young Clergy Women International Conference in July. The Transgender Day of Visibility that CSCC hosted was well attended and a great event. Rev. Beth will be on vacation next week (April 26-29). May 8, Rev. Greta Macrae will be preaching. There has been much pastoral care – visits, texts, calls, chats, people feeling helpless.

Treasurer's Report – Dave Sheibley (also see written report)

Dave reported that we had a better giving month in March than earlier in 2022. There has been \$40,000 transferred this fiscal year from the endowments. If anyone has any fundraisers they want to do or see done, especially like a golf tournament, we are in need of them.

Congregational Administrator's Report – Rev. Beth for Deborah Lancaster (also see written report)

Rev. Beth noted that she asked Deborah to include all upcoming events in our building in her report, to show how active our building is. Also, Deborah will be on vacation June 9-17. It was requested that a mention in Steeple Sounds of volunteers who might be willing to answer the phone and mind the office while she's out, would be helpful.

Building Project – Gordon Brailsford

Gordon reported that we are still waiting for the town to send a check to the new person in Providence who is doing

the paperwork on the deed restriction, so she can finish her work. He stressed the importance of having an attorney review it once it's drafted. He also noted that he's not in favor of a deed restriction just for the steeple repair grant – it will put limitations and restrictions for the whole building, in return only for our ability to do work on the steeple.

Governance Committee – Anne Malmquist

Anne reported that the committee, that began meeting before the pandemic, has begun meeting again. They are looking at models of how we might reorganize our governance based on how others are doing the same; for example, perhaps fewer business meetings and more “doing” meetings; and Cabinet might not be structured the same way it is now. It may be likely in 6 months or so that a congregational meeting is needed to review proposals of what we should do. The committee is comprised of Anne, Rev. Beth, Gordon Brailsford, John Sharland, and Gail Wershing. Sherley Phillips has expressed interest. Their next meeting is Sunday, April 24.

Vendor Event Fundraiser – Diane Sheibley

Diane announced that she is organizing a vendor/craft fair event for Saturday, June 4, from 9-1. Vendors will be charged \$30 for an indoor table, or \$25 for an outside (front lawn) space. There will also be a pie sale and baked goods sale. Anyone who knows someone who might be interested in participating as a vendor, or making a pie or baked good, should contact Diane. Darlene Brown will be coordinating the pies and baked goods. Diane estimated that it could raise about \$1200 for the church.

The topic of another takeout dinner fundraiser was also brought up. It was noted how much people liked them, and that they're a good fundraiser. Diane noted that we've been very lucky that for the past takeout dinners, an angel has stepped up and paid the Boston Tavern catering bill, allowing the church to keep the entire \$35 per 2-person meal. But even if that doesn't happen again, the church will make needed funds from one. Diane will look into it, possibly for May.

Fundraising Ideas

There was a discussion on fundraising ideas to raise money for the church.

- Have someone in to present a program of some kind that we could just sell tickets to

continued...

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

continued...

- Millis' minister is a comedian
- Look into Loretta LaRoche? Diane reported that she had reached out to her people some time ago and that it was expensive to bring her in. But she'll check again with them to see if anything has changed.
- Rev. Beth will ask Brian McLarin and will look into other presenters
- It was suggested that perhaps the vendor/craft fair could have raffles.

Anne shared that she had a meeting with Kathleen Mosher regarding stewardship, and they talked about having a "PR kit" that shows who we are and what we do. It could be used to raise money, and explain to possible donors what all we provide to the community.

2022-23 Budget – Ed Buckland

Ed presented the situation of the draft budget proposal from the Trustees. He noted that very modest raises were included for the staff, and also suggested a small reduction in the number of hours for our Congregational Administrator and our Sexton. Rev. Beth suggested that perhaps additional time away from the office could be offered instead of a raise for her, like additional study time.

Revenue projections are an estimated \$4000 down from last year; costs are an estimated \$10,000 higher. One suggestion was to lower the percentage of pledge money that is allocated to the Board of Christian Outreach, in favor of using some of that money to help offset the expenses associated with all of the outreach that happens in the

building (that costs money, i.e. electric, oil, cleaning, admin support).

More discussion of fundraising ensued.

• We need to get our food permit, so we can have food events again. To get that we have to have someone take the online course and get certified in things like "safe serve" as well as choking aid. The breakfast folks are anxious to get back in the building, and it was discussed that one of them might be willing to get the certification necessary. We could also go back to having sit-down food events.

• The 4th of July is an opportunity. Rev. Beth volunteered the Stotts family to host a table on the front lawn, perhaps selling baked goods, water, lemonade. It will likely be a 'free will offering' rather than pricing specific items. The lemonade table that the Growth Committee did for a couple of years on the front lawn was very well received. And we'll offer the use of the building as well for bathrooms.

It was suggested that we might do a "capital campaign" type of drive to feed our endowments. It was also suggested that we bring back the "moment for mission" during each Sunday worship to keep people posted on our financial concerns and/or projects. Dave Sheibley noted that it takes \$4,000 per WEEK to keep the doors to the church open (including personnel). It was asked if there was a long-term plan for getting the budget to be not a deficit budget, and not completely deplete our endowments in the next few years. There is not.

Rev. Beth closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:45



Treasurer's Report
March 31, 2022
Fiscal Year July 2021 - June 2022

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	88,319	103,595	(15,275)	138,000
Unpledged Offerings	13,030	3,378	9,651	4,500
Plate Offering	686	751	(65)	1,000
Total · Pledges / Offerings	102,035	107,723	(5,689)	143,500
Special Collections				
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	310			
Total · Special Collections	310			
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Golf Tournament	0	5,405	(5,405)	7,200
Breakfasts	0			
Church Fair	8,327	5,255	3,072	7,000
Misc Fundraisers	238	3,753	(3,515)	5,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	8,565	14,413	(5,848)	19,200
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	2,308	1,351	957	1,800
Private Bldg Use		638	(638)	850
Total · Facility Usage Income	2,308	1,989	319	2,650
Miscellaneous Income	300			
Total Income	113,519	124,126	(10,607)	165,350
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	81,518	82,710	1,193	110,180
Total · Support Staff Expenses	35,033	36,233	1,199	48,266
Total · Office Expenses	7,621	6,231	(1,390)	8,300
Total · Church Building Costs	41,471	22,370	(19,101)	29,800
Operating Committees				
Christian Education	0	563	563	750
Church Growth	408	751	343	1,000
Deacons	939	751	(188)	1,000
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	484	450	(34)	600
Stewardship	0	263	263	350
Outreach	2,708	3,257	550	4,339
Total · Operating Committees	4,539	6,035	1,496	8,039
MACUCC Fellowship Dues		2,027	2,027	2,700
Miscellaneous Expenses				
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues		150	150	200
Total Expenses	170,181	155,756	(14,426)	207,485
Net income (loss)	(56,663)	(31,630)	(25,033)	(42,135)
Transfer from Investments	40,000	31,630	(8,370)	42,135
Transfer from Capital Campaign funds	1,800			
	<u>(14,863)</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>

Treasurer's Report
March 31, 2022
Fiscal Year July 2021 - June 2022

Cash balances		
Operating account		6,048
Money Market		
Restricted	29,405	
Unrestricted	767	
		<u>30,172</u>
Minister's Discretionary account		1,488
PayPal account		178
Outreach account		
Includes paid pledge set-aside	1,136	
Food Pantry	35,470	
		<u>36,606</u>
Capital Campaign account		<u>4,859</u>
Total cash balances		<u><u>79,351</u></u>

Endowments investment fund		
Protected principal	135,513	
Unrestricted funds	63,309	
		<u>198,822</u>
Total value 3/31/2022		
Income (Loss) YTD FY 2022	(2,344)	
Parsonage investment fund		
Principal parsonage sale	60,314	
Income (Loss) on investment	30,709	
		<u>91,023</u>
Total value 3/31/2022		
Total investments 3/31/2022		<u><u>289,844</u></u>

Food Pantry Balance February 28, 2022	36,890
Donations	101
Expenses	<u>(1,521)</u>
Food Pantry Balance March 31, 2022	<u><u>35,470</u></u>

Giving Comparison						
	2020 Month	2021 Month	2022 Month	2020 YTD	2021 YTD	2022 YTD
Jan.	10,230.00	13,532.33	10,029.82	10,230.00	13,532.33	10,029.82
Feb.	10,030.33	11,754.66	6,562.91	20,260.33	25,286.99	16,592.73
March	10,672.86	11,538.00	13,355.24	30,933.19	36,824.99	29,947.97
April	14,962.00	13,129.33		45,895.19	49,954.32	
May	13,017.66	11,279.57		58,912.85	61,233.89	
June	16,806.33	13,469.24		75,719.18	74,703.13	
July	9,191.00	13,048.91		84,910.18	87,752.04	
Aug.	8,192.66	10,053.72		93,102.84	97,805.76	
Sept.	11,465.00	10,624.57		104,567.84	108,430.33	
Oct.	8,213.83	15,581.54		112,781.67	124,011.87	
Nov.	8,571.66	12,400.72		121,353.33	136,412.59	
Dec.	14,686.00	10,377.35		136,039.33	146,789.94	



1821-2021

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
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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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