



# Steeple Sounds

The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC  
September 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*

My best friend gifted me the book *The Turquoise Table* last year and when I began reading it, I immediately knew we needed to read it as a church. The book is about how the author, Kristin Schell, was inspired to open the door to relationships and conversations in her neighborhood by putting a turquoise picnic table in her front yard. She was nervous in stepping outside of her comfort zone, but felt this was her mission field – to provide a welcome space for all to enter and share their deepest selves. Her passion and vulnerability was even showcased on the “Today” show as others have started putting turquoise tables in their front yards too.

It made me realize that the church needed a turquoise table too. I had spent the past several months looking for used picnic tables online but found them to be more than I could afford. Then, two days before we were scheduled to meet for our book discussion, someone told me that Star Drive-In was giving away their old picnic tables, so I called them up. They had one left and said it was mine if I wanted to come and get it. When my husband came home from work we drove over and with the help of two strangers, hoisted the 10-foot table in the back of his truck. As we pulled in the driveway at home, our neighbor across the street came over and helped unload it. The following day, we repaired rotted boards. We sanded, sanded, and painted (the actual color is the Pantone Color of the Year for 2022 called “Rolling Surf”).

It was ready just in time for our book study. Our beautiful turquoise table. A place out in the open, a place for all to gather to invite authentic conversations during this unsettling and turbulent time. There are so many topics to discuss: COVID-19, distance learning, trauma, mental health, racism. There are so many wounds and hurts and frustrations that need sharing...and healing.

Our faith teaches us that healing happens at the table.

We each need to do our part.

We need to listen.

Lead. Love. Learn.

At the table. The table is a safe place to face our vulnerabilities, ask questions, and reflect on experiences – good and bad. What matters most is the connection.

We need a few more turquoise tables in the world. Will you join me at ours?

*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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## Remote Worship on Facebook and YouTube

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

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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** the worship service on Sunday, September 4, will not be livestreamed; it will be in-person only.

## Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7pm

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



**NEEDED:**  
**September and October Ushers, Greeters, and Liturgists.**

One Sunday is all we're asking. Please visit [www.cscucc.org/events](http://www.cscucc.org/events) and click on the appropriate signup, or contact the church office.



**Tuesday thru Thursday, 9am - 1pm  
and by appointment**

## Venmo!

We continue to make it easier than ever to contribute to CSCC. The church now accepts donations via Venmo! Aim your phone camera below, or use the Venmo app to send your donation to @cscucc-ucc



## Food Pantry

**NONPERISHABLES ARE NEEDED!** If you are able to buy a few extra items at the grocery store, please consider donating some nonperishable food items to the food pantry in the next few weeks. "Whatever you like to eat, that's what you should donate," is the advice from the staff. Donations can be dropped off at the church during church office hours, Sunday mornings, or any time the building is open for meetings or events.

The Bridgewater Food Pantry, hosted and supported by CSCC, is open Thursdays, 10am-1pm, and the first Mondays of the month, 6-7:30pm (except major holidays). 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 Bev Mitchell  
 Phoebe Hogg Rev. Beth Stotts



### Sunday, September 18, 9:00a.m.

For those of you that remember way back before the pandemic, we used to gather for hot breakfast before worship service on the first and third Sundays of each month. Thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of Tom Struzik and his trusty crew, we will once again have the privilege of a tasty beginning to our Sundays twice a month, beginning Sunday, September 18.

If you haven't been before, we can't wait to see you there this Fall. If you have been before, welcome back!

The price is right -- pay what you can. And if you can't pay anything, we welcome you all the same. You won't want to miss this! This event is open to the community, so bring your friends!



Our Junior Choir provides a way for the younger members of our congregation to become involved in the musical life of our church.

Children are not required to read music to join the Junior Choir. The choir is a great way to build music literacy and confidence, as well as providing opportunities for young people to express themselves musically and spiritually, while having lots of fun!

Visit [www.cscucc.org/music](http://www.cscucc.org/music) for full details and to register, or contact the church office.

Registration deadline is **SEPTEMBER 25**.



**PLEASE NOTE: Worship on Sunday, SEPT. 4 will not be livestreamed, and will be held OUTDOORS on the front lawn of the church.**

# Women's Guild & Fellowship

The Women's Guild and Fellowship will be holding their Annual Fall Rummage Sale on **Saturday, October 15**, at the church.

We are looking for good, clean donations of: fall/winter clothing for the entire family, shoes, hats, bags, linens, household items, Christmas/Fall decorations, glassware, jewelry, sporting goods, and toys. We do not accept electronics, hardcover books, and big furniture. We appreciate your donations of clean, useful stuff.



You can drop them off at the church during the week of Oct. 10: Tues., Wed., Thurs, 9am - 1pm; Fri. 9am - 5 pm; or any other time the church is open for meetings that week.

*Jane O'Connell, Co-President*



Hello Friends!

I wanted to share some information with you regarding Confirmation at CSCC. I would be happy to work with your youth this year if they are interested in a year long, confirmation experience. If they would rather have a more immersed and intensive confirmation experience, the Southern New England Conference of the UCC is offering Confirmation Retreats that would be a single overnight, or a weekend long experience on the date of your choice. Upon completion of the retreat, the youth would then have the ritual of confirmation here at the church.

Please let me know what your youth's preference would be. I will support them in whatever option they choose. Let me know if you have any questions.

Peace,

*Rev. Beth*



## You still have time!

Okay, the fun part of summer is officially over. It's September. The pandemic has been curbed. Back to communal worship and back to business.

We started the 40 for \$40K project soon after our congregation voted to approve the new annual budget starting in July. The vote by an overwhelming majority approved a \$43,000 deficit. The easy idea was that we could move money from our church "savings" to solve that problem.

Some think that is not the best idea. After all, we have been moving money from the so-called savings for several years. Soon, if this solution continues, we will have no savings.

So, it is in all of our hands to redirect our efforts.

**Any increase** in your pledge and **any first-time** pledge of your monetary gifts will go to reducing—or even eliminating—that budget deficit.

We suggest an increase or new pledge of \$20 a week for this effort. Pledges can be gifted weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. So, that's \$20 a week, \$260 a quarter, \$520 for six months – or a one-time yearly gift of \$1040.

If you were a member of a club, a sorority, a fraternity, you would be paying dues to belong. Church is not like that. We have no mandatory member or participant fees. We simply ask that you give what you can to keep our congregational experience alive and well.

May the light of Christ shine upon you—

*Gail Wershing for Stewardship*

For PDF and online registration forms, visit [www.cscucc.org](http://www.cscucc.org) and click on the "40 for \$40k" logo, or contact the church office.





## Coming Home!

It's time to come home, home to Central Square Congregational Church, UCC in Bridgewater, MA. We have been away far too long. We have missed our friends, our worship, our singing, our quiet place, our support system, our faith community. So, it is time to come home this September. It is time to worship together, to fellowship together, to share a meal together, and to rebuild our church community together. Our church needs us and we need our church.

There are many definitions of home. Everything from our home as we know it to heading for home when we rounded third base. I chose a few to share with you that, to me, define my church, your church, OUR CHURCH.

**The place where you feel that you belong, usually because your ideas or attitudes are the same as those of the people who live there.**

**A place where one likes to be; restful or congenial place.**

**To the center or heart of a matter; closely; directly; deeply.**

**The place where something is discovered, founded, developed, or promoted; a source.**

**An environment offering security and happiness.**

Care Team blessings to all!

Truly,

*Carol Chaffee*



**CSCC t-shirts,  
sweatshirts,  
and hoodies!  
Child & adult sizes.  
Lots of color choices!**

**See the link on the  
[www.cscucc.org](http://www.cscucc.org) home page!**



## Did somebody say WALKING TACOS?

CSCC is considering having a booth at this Fall's Autumnfest sponsored by the BBA, where we'll sell some of our most popular food items, like walking tacos, and baked goods, as a **fundraiser** for the church.

What we need are just 3-4 volunteers to work the booth on Saturday, September 24, 10am-3pm. All arrangements will have been made, and everything will be ready for you. We just need you to greet and serve the customers. It's easy and fun! Please contact Diane Sheibley at [dianesheibley@gmail.com](mailto:dianesheibley@gmail.com) **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 9**, or the church office, for more information or to volunteer.





## Kids Church (formerly known as “Sunday School”)

**I am so excited about Kids Church this year.** So many wonderful events and happenings are going to take place. It will be a year of surprises! This year is being divided into quarters — we will lead off each quarter with a new fun activity that will introduce the theme. Here’s what it looks like:

The first Sunday following Labor Day weekend, **September 11**, will be a **WELCOME BACK SUNDAY!** Everyone is invited back to church and come together in the Sanctuary — it has been a while since adults and children have been together in worship! Following the service, parents will have an opportunity to fill out registration forms for Kids Church.

**September 18** will be **CELEBRATION SUNDAY**, and will kick off the Kids Church year with a **special, fun activity** in which all the children of the church will participate. (Girls and boys, you will find out what that activity is when you come to Kids Church that day.) You will also meet your first quarter Kids Church teachers.

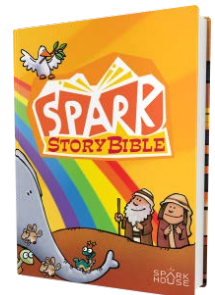
**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** is another Sunday we are urging you to attend. It is a Sunday all third, fourth, and fifth graders (and maybe more) will receive something special.

We will kick off the Kids Church year with the **Spark Program curriculum Activate Your Faith**. The teacher will prepare the children to hear the Bible story, open the Spark Bible, and explore the story in interactive, age-appropriate ways. The children will try a variety of multisensory activities that integrate Bible learning with life. The children will come together at the end of the lesson with a wrap-up and closing prayer.



**ADVENT**

The second quarter will explore **Advent**, the stories that lead up to the birth of Jesus. The culminating activity for this quarter will be determined by the students and teachers.



The third quarter the children will learn about **Heifer Project**, why we participate, how what we do helps other families around the world, and finally we will raise funds for Heifer with the culminating event (and a favorite of all the children), the Living Gift Market.



The last quarter the children will learn about **Lent**. The children will hear stories of Jesus’ life, culminating the series with the events of Holy Week. How we share that information will be determined by the children and teachers.

Four weeks remain where the children will spend one week reviewing each quarter with fun games and activities (April 23, April 30, May 7, May 14).

**We will have a different team of teachers working with the children each quarter.** Each team will teach their particular subject area for **7 weeks**. Each team will have 3 teachers; one will work with pre-k & K children; the second teacher with grades 1 & 2; the third teacher with grades 3 to 6. The children who are 12 will be assigned to a teacher each quarter. Their role is twofold – to continue learning about the Bible; and learning to serve their Kids Church class and the church according to their gifts.

**For Kids Church to work this year we need your help.** We have set up the Kids Church program this year so teachers may attend worship most of the church year: each teacher only needs to volunteer for 7 weeks. Will you volunteer for 7 Sundays?

Each program will have some culminating event. You may be needed for one Sunday, or a few Sundays. Will you volunteer for one Sunday, or 2 or 3, specifically for this special event?

*Terry Reynolds*



### **From the Desk of the Sexton : Volunteers Needed**

Since announcing my window shutters project in the August Steeple Sounds, I have been approached by several volunteers. Thank you! I am still in need of just 2-3 more, for helping to take the shutters down, and transporting them back and forth between my house and the church.

The project is the refurbishing of the window shutters on the windows along the sides of the sanctuary. This would require taking down the shutters, then transporting them to my home where I could scrape, sand, and paint them. Then the shutters would need to be transported back to the church and put back into place on the windows.

I'm happy to do the real beautification work, I just need a few extra sets of hands and an appropriate vehicle or two.

If you would be willing to assist me, please contact me by email or phone/text at Sully1950@comcast.net or 339-933-5436.

Thank you in advance.

*Rich Sullivan*  
*Sexton*



**Senior choir resumes Sunday,  
September 11, at 9:15a.m.**

**All are welcome!**

**No previous experience needed.**



### **Sunday, Sept. 4 : Communion Sunday**

Outdoor worship at 10a.m. on the front lawn at the Turquoise Table (feel free to bring a chair or blanket)

Today's worship is in-person only.

### **Sunday, Sept. 11 : Welcome Back Sunday!**

Worship at 10a.m. (online and in person)

Senior Choir resumes 9:15a.m.

Fellowship Time following worship

### **Sunday, Sept 18 : Celebration Sunday!**

Breakfast is back! 9a.m.

Worship at 10a.m. (online and in person)

Kids Church (a/k/a Sunday School) begins!

(children start off in worship)

Fellowship time following worship

### **Sunday, Sept 25**

Worship at 10a.m. (online and in person)

Kids Church (children start off in worship)

Fellowship time following worship



Please join us for a time of fellowship following Sunday worship, beginning September 11, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to bring a snack to share, on this or any Sunday.



**Fundraiser Alert!**  
**Mark Your**  
**Calendars and**  
**Tell Your Friends!**

15% of the Black  
Hat Brew Works  
sales on this date  
will be donated to  
CSCC, as part of  
their program to  
give back to the  
community.

# **Community Give Back Night**

**Thursday, October 6**

**3pm–8pm**



**25 Scotland Blvd.  
Bridgewater, MA**

An evening of support for the  
Central Square Church, UCC  
ministries which include the  
Bridgewater Food Pantry,  
Emergency Assistance Grants  
for those struggling to pay bills,  
meeting space to community  
groups, and spiritual support  
and resources to the greater  
Bridgewater Community.

**CSCC.UCC.ORG**

**FOOD TRUCK!!!**



**LIVE MUSIC!!!**





To find this Lectionary online, visit [www.macucc.org/Lectionary](http://www.macucc.org/Lectionary)



**Southern New England Conference**

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

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

### Thurs., Sept. 1

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Jeremiah 15:10-21  
Philippians 2:25-30

### Fri., Sept. 2

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Jeremiah 16:14—17:4  
Colossians 4:7-17

### Sat., Sept. 3

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Jeremiah 17:14-27  
Matthew 10:34-42

### Sun., Sept. 4

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Jeremiah 18:1-11  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

### Mon., Sept. 5

Psalm 2  
Jeremiah 18:12-23  
1 Timothy 3:14—4:5

### Tues., Sept. 6

Psalm 2  
Jeremiah 19:1-15  
1 Timothy 4:6-16

### Wed., Sept. 7

Psalm 2  
Jeremiah 20:1-18  
Luke 18:18-30

### Thurs., Sept. 8

Psalm 14  
Jeremiah 13:20-27  
1 Timothy 1:1-11

### Fri., Sept. 9

Psalm 14  
Jeremiah 4:1-10  
2 Peter 2:1-10a

### Sat., Sept. 10

Psalm 14  
Jeremiah 4:13-21, 29-31  
John 10:11-21

### Sun., Sept. 11

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28  
Psalm 14  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

### Mon., Sept. 12

Psalm 94  
Jeremiah 5:1-17  
1 Timothy 1:18-20

### Tues., Sept. 13

Psalm 94  
Jeremiah 5:18-31  
2 Peter 3:8-13

### Wed., Sept. 14

Psalm 79:1-9  
Jeremiah 14:1-10, 17-22  
Luke 22:31-33, 54-62

### Thurs., Sept. 15

Psalm 79:1-9  
Jeremiah 12:14—13:11  
Romans 3:1-8

### Fri., Sept. 16

Psalm 79:1-9  
Jeremiah 8:1-13  
Romans 8:31-39

### Sat., Sept. 17

Psalm 74  
Jeremiah 8:14-17; 9:2-11  
Mark 12:41-44

### Sun., Sept. 18

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Jeremiah 8:18—9:1  
Psalm 79:1-9  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

### Mon., Sept. 19

Psalm 106:40-48  
Jeremiah 9:12-26  
Acts 4:1-12

### Tues., Sept. 20

Psalm 106:40-48  
Jeremiah 10:1-16  
1 Corinthians 9:19-23

### Wed., Sept. 21

Psalm 106:40-48  
Jeremiah 10:17-25  
Luke 20:45—21:4

### Thurs., Sept. 22

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
Jeremiah 23:9-22  
2 Corinthians 8:8-15

### Fri., Sept. 23

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
Jeremiah 23:23-32  
Ephesians 2:1-10

### Sat., Sept. 24

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
Jeremiah 24:1-10  
Luke 9:43b-48

### Sun., Sept. 25

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15  
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

### Mon., Sept. 26

Psalm 119:49-56  
Jeremiah 32:16-35  
Revelation 3:14-22

### Tues., Sept. 27

Psalm 119:49-56  
Jeremiah 32:36-44  
James 5:1-6

### Wed., Sept. 28

Psalm 119:49-56  
Jeremiah 33:1-13  
Matthew 19:16-22

### Thurs., Sept. 29

Lamentations 3:19-26  
Jeremiah 52:1-11  
Revelation 2:8-11

### Fri., Sept. 30

Lamentations 3:19-26  
Jeremiah 52:12-30  
Revelation 2:12-29

# SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 6:30-8:30pm Church crafters 7pm AI-Anon 7:30pm BSU Choir Practice	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10am Communion Worship (in person and online) 6:45pm AA Meeting	<b>5</b> LABOR DAY 6:30pm Women's AA	<b>6</b> 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	<b>7</b> 9-1 Church office open 7:30pm BSU Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 6:30-8:30pm Church crafters 7pm AI-Anon	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Welcome Back Sunday!</b> 10am Worship (in person and online) 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 6:45pm AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 10-12 Church Crafters 6:30pm Women's AA	<b>13</b> 9-1 Church office open 7pm Outreach Mtg 7pm Women's NA	<b>14</b> 9-1 Church office open 7pm Membership class via Zoom 7pm Trustees Mtg 7:30pm BSU Choir Practice	<b>15</b> Steeple Sounds submissions due 9-1 Church office open 10am CSCC Staff Mtg 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	<b>16</b> 2:30 Girl Scouts #66212	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Celebration Sunday!</b> 9am Breakfast at CSCC 10am Worship (in person and online) 10am Kids Church 6:45pm AA Meeting	<b>19</b> 4:30pm Daisy Troop #64998 6:30pm Women's AA	<b>20</b> 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	<b>21</b> 9-1 Church office open 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7pm Cabinet Mtg 7:30pm BSU Choir Practice	<b>22</b> 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 5pm Girl Scouts #64997, #62521 6:30-8:30pm Church crafters 7pm AI-Anon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Bridgewater AUTUMNFEST
<b>25</b> 10am Worship (in person and online) 10am Kids Church 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 6:45pm AA Meeting	<b>26</b> 10-12 church Crafters 6:30pm Women's AA	<b>27</b> 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	<b>28</b> 9-1 Church office open 7:30pm BSU Choir Practice	<b>29</b> 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	<b>30</b> 2:30 Girl Scouts #66212	

## CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes August 17, 2022 at 7pm

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

**Cabinet members in attendance:** Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; Anne Malmquist, Moderator; David Sheibley, Treasurer; Diane Sheibley, Clerk; Deb Sorgman, Board of Trustees; Gordon Brailsford, Board of Trustees; Bill O'Neil, Board of Christian Outreach; Kathleen Mosher, Board of Stewardship; Terry Reynolds, History & Memorials Committee; Jane O'Connell, Women's Guild & Fellowship; Ellen Crawford, Music Committee.

Also present: Mary Barnsley, Lynn Pietras, Gail Wright, Connie Chandler, Carol Chaffee

Rev. Beth opened the meeting with an excerpt from "The Turquoise Table," and a prayer.

### June Minutes

The meeting minutes from the June meeting were presented and reviewed. Deb Sorgman motioned to accept them; Dave Sheibley seconded. The minutes were approved.

### Pastor's Report – Rev. Beth Stotts

Rev. Beth talked about the "Community Give Back" Night at Black Hat Brew Works that she organized. (October 6) 15% of all of their sales that day will be donated to CSCC. She also developed the worship schedule for the 2022-23 year. She oversaw the transition to a new Congregational Receptionist. She also put together the Junior Choir information, and four kids have already signed up to participate.

Questions ensued regarding the circumstances surrounding Deborah's departure from the Congregational Administrator position. It was noted that a 6-month performance review was conducted, noting several specific areas of concern that needed immediate improvement. At the time her 1-year performance review was conducted, those areas had not satisfactorily improved. The chair of the Trustees, the chair of the Deacons, several officers, and Rev. Beth deliberated on the situation, and the decision was unanimously made to discontinue her employment.

As with any transition, opportunities were created. Diane Sheibley offered to take on the role of Communications Coordinator, to not only help keep the messaging of the church consistent across different media and among various ministries, and offering more organized marketing, but also took some responsibility off the front office position. This allowed for less of a time commitment needed, thereby reducing the cost of that person. And with

the front office position primarily focusing on greeting and tending to visitors, answering the phone and email, and working with the outside groups and renters, an adjustment to "receptionist" from "administrator" seemed appropriate.

Bill O'Neil noted that Jack Melcher resigned from church membership, and stated that it was largely due to Deborah's termination.

Rev. Beth went on to note that there will be a membership class / info session next month (Sept. 14) via Zoom. It was asked what membership really means at CSCC these days; some of that will be answered during the session. Anne also noted that the Constitution & Bylaw Committee is reviewing exactly that topic (among others); what does the "new" version of membership mean? How does it relate to those who worship with us virtually? The world operates differently now.

### Treasurer's Report – Dave Sheibley

We had a pretty good first month of the fiscal year. That is partly thanks to the 40-for-\$40k project (thanks to Gail Wershing and the Board of Stewardship); some people prepaid the year's additional pledge, so that helped. There were no unusual expenses, and the investments are going back up. We're doing better than we have in a while. It was asked if people are using the online avenues of making donations; Dave responded yes.

### Bridgewater Food Pantry – Bill O'Neil

Bill noted that we have seen an uptick in the number of pantry users recently; up 62% in 2022 over the same period last year. We're still getting donations from Aldi's and Stop & Shop. We're running low on nonperishables and could use some donations. We're also giving out gift cards to pantry attendees. Connie & Steve Chandler have been helping to deliver to shut-ins.

### Historical Church Building Committee – Anne Malmquist for Barbara Morey

At the town's CPC June meeting, the committee could not all agree to committing to our Phase 2 & 3 proposals at that meeting. At the town's CPC July meeting, voting on approval of Phase 2 & 3 was to take place and Barbara was going to insist on their giving us an approximate \$ value for each phase. But the meeting was cancelled because they did not have a quorum. At the town's CPC August meeting, the CPC will vote on approval of Phase 2 & 3 and Barbara will ask for a \$ value before CSCC signs a deed restriction (which they

*continued...*



## CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

*continued...*

have said is required to accept the Phase 1 grant). She will then take this information to the Board of Trustees, and ask for a special meeting.

Gordon added that we still don't have a copy of the original grant agreement; and the CPC committee needs to agree on whether the siding needs to be removed or not. He also noted that balance between the commitment for funds from the town and the work to be done, is that, for example, the staging alone will cost \$80,000.

### **Governance Review Project** – Anne Malmquist

Anne noted that this committee is made up of herself, John Sharland, Gail Wershing, Sherley Phillips, and Rev. Beth. The next meeting is expected to be in September.

They are working on how to structure governance in today's world, and have looked at other churches' models. Rev. Beth pointed out that just about every other church is going through the same thing as us. It was asked if the UCC puts out any guidelines to help. The answer was that any guidelines they have reflect how we're currently structured.

### **Care Team** – Carol Chaffee, Care Team Member

Carol noted that she talks to a lot of people, and there are a lot of them who are truly concerned about our church. Will we work to preserve the church building, and then not need it? With the virtual atmosphere, is the building going to be obsolete?

Many people realize that 20% of the people do 80% of the work, and that weighs heavily on people. There is concern that there aren't enough checks and balances, and may be conflicts of interest. We have to trust God and each other, but what does membership look like today? What are the commitments of pledges? The hope is that people will come back to church, but membership looks very different with members of the church community being increasingly geographically diverse.

Rev. Beth noted that we're in a time of grieving; a post-COVID grief, with what it took away from us and our traditional practice of church. We need the community of church and the church family, and the kids are missing out, and want it.

### **Autumnfest** – Diane Sheibley

Diane proposed that the church have a food booth at the BBA Autumnfest community event on 9/24, as a fundraiser. We could sell walking tacos, baked goods, maybe pies. She is willing to do the prep work and make all the arrangements, but needs people to work the booth from 10-3 that day.

Deb Sorgman said she'd help in advance. Gail Wright will work the booth if there are others to help. Carol Chaffee will help for the last hour and with cleanup. Diane will work on getting other volunteers to man the booth.

### **Coffee Hour** – Diane Sheibley

Diane asked if coffee hour would be starting up again in the Fall, since it's been on hold since COVID hit, and who would be organizing it. Discussion ensued. Making coffee seems to be the real roadblock to getting volunteers. It was decided that it would be done by volunteers week to week who would be willing to bring a snack to share. Coffee may or may not be available. It will be called "Fellowship Time" instead of using the word "coffee" or "hour". Perhaps we should have a decorated wooden spoon that would be passed from one volunteer to the next each week to indicate who's responsible. Rev. Beth will work on a spoon. She will also be responsible for the first week of snacks, 9/11.

### **Sunday School / Kids Church** – Terry Reynolds

Sunday School will be called Kids Church this year. There are about 20-25 kids eligible for Kids Church this year (3 yrs -> 11-12 yrs). It will be run in quarters so no adult needs to commit to the whole year, and miss worship. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter—sparks bible curriculum; 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter-advent; 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter-Heifer; 4<sup>th</sup> quarter-Lent. Different teachers for each quarter. Parent volunteers will help the teachers with individual Sundays. Terry has almost all of the teachers she needs, and materials have been ordered. Welcome back Sunday will be on 9/11 (all kids will stay in worship); Celebration Sunday, when Kids Church will begin, is on 9/18.

### **Fundraising Idea – Thrift Shop** – Connie Chandler, Lynn Pietras, Gail Wright

Connie asked if the church would be open to hosting a thrift shop. She said the ones that exist now do very well and are quite popular. The small room under the stairs could be used to store items and clothing racks, and then during the open hours of the shop, items could be brought out and displayed in the fellowship hall. Perhaps just begin with a day or two a week. Need to check if we need a permit from the town. It was asked about where things would be stored that have been stored in that room, like Warmth in Cold Places items. It was noted that there are other places in the building, like in the extra office, or downstairs in the youth room. A core

*continued...*

## CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

*continued...*

group of people would need to be in charge of staffing it. It would be clothing as well as other items.

Cabinet indicated that it is in favor of the idea. Connie and her team will talk to the Trustees regarding the details and logistics.

### **Board of Trustees** – Gordon Brailsford

Gordon noted that we need a new endowment fund manager, with the resignation of Jack Melcher. The eagle scout project is moving forward; Nic is currently doing fundraising and planning. Sexton Rich Sullivan would like to refurbish the window shutters in the sanctuary, and he still needs a couple more volunteers to help uninstall and reinstall them. Gordon noticed that in the sanctuary ceiling, some of the insulation had been moved for the initial renovation inspections. He put it back where it belongs. There was an issue of one of our trees encroaching on a neighbor's property and on our office windows, and Bruce Maclay trimmed it all back. There are also some gutters missing, and the Trustees are working on addressing that.

### **Board of Deacons** – Deb Sorgman

Deb noted that as Fall approaches, and we get back to worshipping in person following COVID, there is again a need

for readers, greeters, and ushers. The website (events page) has an online signup available, or people can contact the office.

### **Board of Stewardship** – Kathleen Mosher

The 40-for-\$40k campaign is doing well. We currently have 15 participants.

### **Women's Guild & Fellowship** – Jane O'Connell

Jane reported that she came across a set of bylaws for the WG&F that says it was started in March of 1922. At their opening meeting in October, they will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She also noted that she has a box of historical stuff that should be stored at the church, and she'll be bringing in.

### **Other**

- Celebration Sunday will be 9/18 – Kids church starts, and the breakfasts resume. Julia will also be celebrated for her 10 years of ministry at CSCC.
- Welcome Sunday will be 9/11. Fellowship Time following worship will resume.
- Steeple Sounds deadline for the October issue is 9/15

Rev. Beth closed the meeting in prayer at 9:07pm.

*imagine*  
the impact  
of being kind.  
smiling more.  
seeing the good first.  
life is too short  
to be dragging others down.  
you get a choice  
every single day.  
choose kindness.  
this world needs you.

*words by rachel marie martin  
findingjoy.net*

Treasurer's Report  
July 31, 2022  
Fiscal Year July 2022 - June 2023

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	11,406	11,466	(60)	135,000
Unpledged Offerings	5,080	849	4,231	10,000
Plate Offering	20	212	(192)	2,500
Total • Pledges / Offerings	16,506	12,527	3,978	147,500
Special Collections				
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	60	170	(110)	2,000
Total • Special Collections	60	170	(110)	2,000
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Golf Tournament	0	0	0	0
Breakfasts	0			
Church Fair	0	637	(637)	7,500
Misc Fundraisers	147	425	(278)	5,000
Total • Fundraisers/Events Revenue	147	1,062	(915)	12,500
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	160	255	(95)	3,000
Private Bldg Use	0	42	(42)	500
Total • Facility Usage Income	160	297	(137)	3,500
Miscellaneous Income	5	85	(80)	1,000
Total Income	16,878	14,141	2,737	166,500
Expenses				
Total • Senior Minister Expenses	8,672	9,355	684	110,150
Total • Support Staff Expenses	2,305	4,243	1,939	49,960
Total • Office Expenses	659	756	97	8,900
Total • Church Building Costs	872	2,708	1,836	31,884
Operating Committees				
Christian Education	0	64	64	750
Church Growth	35	85	50	1,000
Deacons	0	85	85	1,000
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	0	51	51	600
Stewardship	0	30	30	350
Outreach	158	172	14	2,025
Total • Operating Committees	193	486	293	5,725
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	0	229	229	2,700
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	17	17	200
Miscellaneous Expenses				
Total Expenses	12,700	17,795	5,095	209,519
Net income (loss)	4,178	(3,654)	7,831	(43,019)
Transfer from Investments	0	3,654	3,654	43,019
	4,178	0		0



Treasurer's Report  
 July 31, 2022  
 Fiscal Year July 2022 - June 2023

Cash balances	
Operating account	5,318
Money Market	30,483
Minister's Discretionary account	898
PayPal account	0
Outreach account	2,075
Capital Campaign account	1,274
Total cash balances	<u>40,047</u>

Endowments investment fund	
Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	37,305
Deposits (withdrawals)	0
Gain (loss) for month	9,746
Unrestricted funds, ending	<u>47,051</u>
Total value 7/31/2022	<u>182,564</u>
Parsonage investment fund	
Beginning balance	79,087
Deposits (withdrawals)	0
Gain (loss) for month	4,542
Total value 7/31/2022	<u>83,629</u>
Total investments 7/31/2022	<u>266,193</u>

Food Pantry account balance June 30, 2022	27,818
Donations	2,649
Expenses	<u>(1,758)</u>
Food Pantry account balance July 31, 2022	<u>28,709</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	11,808.31	45,895.19	49,954.32	41,756.28
May	13,017.66	11,279.57	14,476.24	58,912.85	61,233.89	56,232.52
June	16,806.33	13,469.24	11,304.13	75,719.18	74,703.13	67,536.65
July	9,191.00	13,048.91	16,505.70	84,910.18	87,752.04	84,042.35
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

71 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324 • [www.cscucc.org](http://www.cscucc.org)



## Church Administration

**Pastor:** Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com)

**Congregational Receptionist:** Jennifer Foronjy, [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 pages:** [facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma](https://facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma) (main page),  
[facebook.com/groups/801550253194149](https://facebook.com/groups/801550253194149) (youth page)

**Instagram:** [@centralsquarechurch](https://instagram.com/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" 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.

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC  
71 Central Square  
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