



Steeple Sounds

The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
April 2023

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

With Generosity & Gratitude

Dear Members and Friends,

On March 20, we officially began our Annual Pledge Drive, to be completed by Sunday, April 16. The process is simple. We mailed you a request plus forms and you reply with your pledge by completing the forms and return them to church in person or by mail by Sunday, April 16. If you prefer, or you are an online participant only, you may pledge online via the link on the home page of www.cscucc.org. We encourage you to be as **generous** as possible.

Sunday, March 26, on Stewardship Sunday, we asked those present to write individual thank you notes to all who pledge this year. These personal notes with expressions of **gratitude** will be sent to all who pledge during this period.

It is important for all of us, wherever on the journey, to understand that our annual pledges make Central Square Congregational Church come alive and stay alive—alive in worship, alive in the community, alive in committees and groups that use our building, alive in the world, as we all work together to make mission happen day after day. Our mission happens because we give selflessly and we give because of the LOVE that enables us to BE!

We have no national or regional United Church of Christ organizations that provide funds to our congregation. It is just us, generously backing up our feelings of appreciation and gratitude with money.

We ask you to remember we are still in transition, coming out of a tumultuous three-year period of dealing with worldwide health issues. Still, new ministries have begun—our Thrift Shop, Kids Church and more. We are reorganizing with a new constitution to match our needs of today. It is an exciting time to be a part of Central Square Congregational Church.

We chose to use the rising Phoenix as an emblem of this year's Pledge Drive because our church community is rising to serve with love, faith, generosity and gratitude. We hope you will join us in financially supporting CSCC-UCC.



With faith and gratitude from your Stewardship team,

Kathleen Mosher, Carol Chaffee, Gail Wershing

PS: Feel free to contact any one of us if you have questions about pledging. See us or leave a message with the office and we will get back to you. 508-697-6016

Fair Share Giving Guide

(To calculate your Adjusted Monthly Income, subtract from your total monthly income any extraordinary expenses such as childcare, large medical expenses, care for parent or family member or other large monthly expense.)

Adjusted Monthly Income	Adjusted Annual Income		2% Monthly Pledge		5% Monthly Pledge		10% Monthly Pledge
\$1,000	\$12,000		\$20		\$50		\$100
\$1,500	\$18,000		\$30		\$75		\$150
\$2,000	\$24,000		\$40		\$100		\$200
\$3,000	\$36,000		\$60		\$150		\$300
\$4,000	\$48,000		\$80		\$200		\$400
\$6,500	\$78,000		\$130		\$325		\$650
\$8,500	\$102,000		\$170		\$425		\$850
\$10,000	\$120,000		\$200		\$500		\$1,000
\$12,500	\$150,000		\$250		\$625		\$1,250
\$17,000	\$204,000		\$340		\$850		\$1,700

This year's pledge and EFT forms are on pages 9-10.



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.

Remote Worship on Facebook and YouTube

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

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.



Tuesday thru Friday, 9am - 1pm
and by appointment

**Please note that the office will be closed
April 18 - 21.**

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, April 19, 7pm

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

Venmo!

All types of donations to CSCC are welcome via Venmo. Aim your phone camera below, or use the Venmo app to send your donation to @cscucc-ucc



CSCC Junior Choir 2022-23!

**Rehearsals at 9:15am:
April 2 & April 9**

**Performance at 10am:
April 9 (Easter)**



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, except holidays. 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

Savannah Wells, Jr. Deacon

CSCC Care Team

Carol Chaffee

Bev Mitchell

Phoebe Hogg

Rev. Beth Stotts



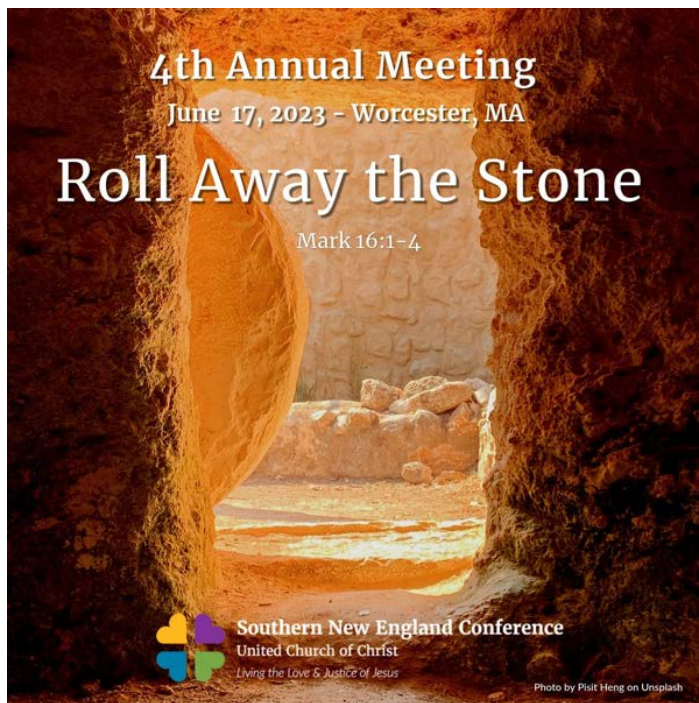
Coins for Kids Church : April 2

Don't forget to bring your spare change for the Coins for Kids Church collection on the first

Sunday of each month! This helps to pay for Kids Church supplies and teaching materials.



**Join us for breakfast on
Sunday, April 2 and Sunday, April 16**



News from your Wider Church Delegate John Sharland

I will be attending the Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference on June 17th at the DCU Center in Worcester. Join me!

For more info: www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/16428435



Congratulations CSCC!

The votes are in, and Central Square Church has approved a new constitution! It's an exciting time in our church, and this new structure of governance is part of it. Big, big shoutout of thanks to the committee that worked so hard for over a year to bring this to fruition: Anne Malmquist, John Sharland, Gordon Brailsford, Gail Wershing, and Sherley Phillips.



Women's Guild and Fellowship will be meeting on Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. All women from the church and friends are welcome to attend. Our program for the evening will be making a floral arrangement in a tea cup. Please bring your own tea cup or coffee cup (or similar sized container) and create your own design led by Garden Club members Sandy Alley and Donna Albro. We will also have a meeting and refreshments.

Jane O'Connell, Co-President



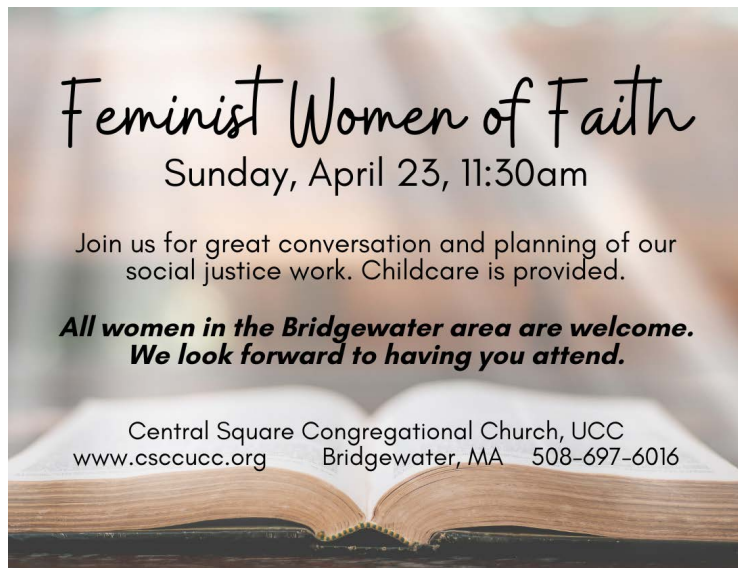
Guest Preacher,

April 16:

Mary Louise Gifford

We at Central Square Church are no strangers to the work of Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Gifford. Several years back we studied her book, "The Turnaround Church" and found her experiences and insights into congregational life renewing. On April 16 we will be

welcoming her into the pulpit as our guest preacher. She has served several congregations on the South Shore, served as the co-chair of the Massachusetts Conference's Commission for Evangelism and Church Vitality, has served the Southern New England Conference in various volunteer leadership positions, and is also a certified vitality coach. We are thrilled to welcome her to the pulpit!



Join us for great conversation and planning of our social justice work. Childcare is provided.

**All women in the Bridgewater area are welcome.
We look forward to having you attend.**

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
www.cscucc.org Bridgewater, MA 508-697-6016



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, April 15, 2023, 9am - 2pm

at Central Square Congregational Church
proceeds benefit local non-profits

•
Clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, books, toys,
household items, china, glassware, and jewelry

•
Homemade Soup "to-go", sandwiches, and baked goods

•
Bag Sale at 1 pm

*The Central Closet Thrift Shop will be closed on Wed. 4/12
and Sat. 4/15 to allow for this fundraiser.*

Annual Spring Rummage Sale: Donations Needed

The Women's Guild and Fellowship will be holding their Annual Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 15, at the church. We are looking for good, clean donations of spring/summer clothing for the entire family, shoes, hats, bags, linens, household items, spring/summer decorations, glassware, jewelry, sporting goods, and toys. We do not accept electronics, hardcover books, and big furniture.

We appreciate your donations that are clean and don't have stains, rips, holes, and chips. You can drop them off at the church during the week of April 10 on Tues, Wed, or Thurs, 9am-1pm; Fri. 9am-5 pm; or any other time the church is open for meetings that week. Donations should be left in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you so much for your donations! Our group gives money to local non-profits and other world-wide missions.

Jane O'Connell, Co-President

To Parents, guardians or grandparents...

The children are very excited as they are preparing for Palm Sunday which is, **April 2nd**. The children are all participating in scenes that tell the story of the last few days of Jesus' life. **We would appreciate it if the children would arrive early on Palm Sunday (between 9:15 and 9:30) to dress in their costumes and be ready to pass out the Palms.**



Thank you for your cooperation

*The Kids Church Staff
Connie, Eric, Cass, Jae & Terry*



"God made you and God made me, He made the world for us to see. God loves you and long ago, He sent his Son to tell us so. Jesus showed us many things, To love and share and dance and sing. To learn and pray, to help and care, He promised he'd always be there. He died but then came back to life, let's celebrate for He's alive! Amen." ~Unknown

Here's a prayer for young and old and everyone in between. Share it and carry it in your hearts during Holy Week and beyond. Its simplicity can touch us all.

*Carol Chaffee
Care Team*

Local Market

Holmestead Harvest will be at the Senior Center selling fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, cheese, eggs, and so much more to Bridgewater and out of town residents of all ages at market cost and SNAP/HIP recipients.

TUESDAYS AT 9:30AM

Bridgewater Senior Center
10 Wally Krueger Way

**CALL US IF YOU NEED A RIDE
508-697-0929**

bridgewaterma.org

Central Closet Thrift Shop

at Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

- Clothing - Housewares - Accessories
- Baby items - Jewelry - Books

Hours: Wed & Sat, 10-1
71 Central Square, Bridgewater

www.cscucc.org/thrift-shop

Central Closet Thrift Shop will be closed on Wed. 4/12 and Sat. 4/15 so the Women's Guild and Fellowship can hold their Annual Spring Rummage Sale. The Shop will also be closed on **Saturday 4/8**.

We are currently looking for donations of new or gently-used spring/summer clothing, footwear, and decorative items, pocketbooks, jewelry, glassware, household items, linens, toys, books, puzzles, DVDs, and CDs. No electronics.

Please clean your items and make sure there are no rips, stains, holes, broken zippers, chips, cracks, etc.

Donations will be accepted on Wed. and Sat. during shop hours and only 20 items per visit.

Thank you very much for supporting us in this mission to help the church. We have been very pleased to have so many donations and so many customers!

Connie Chandler, Jane O'Connell, Lynn Pietras, and Gail Wright

**Interested in knowing more about
becoming a member of Central
Square Congregational Church,
UCC?**

**The next new member Sunday is
May 28 (Pentacost!).**

**Contact Rev. Beth or the church
office if you'd like to know more.**



CSCC Youth Group: Open Mic, Poetry Slam, Talent Show

Where:
CSCC Sanctuary

When:
Sun., April 2, 11:30am

Who:
18 and under youth

What:
Interested youth are encouraged to prepare a 3-4 minute act to share... music, written word, art. material should be appropriate for the under 18 crowd!

Show us what you've got!



Christian Outreach
at CSCC

March found us reaching out to those near and far. For those in distant places, we held our One Great Hour of Sharing on March 19. With donations from you and the Outreach Fund, we raised \$350.

For those in our Bridgewater community, the Bridgewater Food Pantry at CSCC has been extremely busy serving those in need. Our inventory is being depleted and we ask that you consider donating a few items from the following list:

- toothpaste
- toilet paper
- paper towels
- tuna
- jelly
- cooking oil
- cereal
- shelf stable milk

We do not need macaroni and cheese or pasta.

Thank you for your continued generosity and concern for those in need.



BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI CHAMBER CHOIR



Are We There Yet?
Songs of Travel and Exploration

Saturday, May 6th, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Central Square Congregational Church (on the common)
Bridgewater, MA
Charles A. Dillingham, Director
Darlyn Baker Kahler, Accompanist

Tickets at the door | \$15 general | \$10 Seniors/Students | Children under 10 free
New! Choir Fundraiser BIG Travel Gift Basket Raffle at intermission
Handicapped Accessible | for info 781-888-4490
alumnichamberchoirBSU@gmail.com
The BSU Alumni Chamber Choir is a nonprofit organization
<https://alumni.bridgew.edu/get-involved/alumni-chamber-choir>

Image: "T.M." original pastel painting by A. Heywood, East Bridgewater, MA, 30" x 41"

AN EVENING WITH JULIA SCOTT CAREY
Friday, March 24 7pm

Thank You!

A big thank you to all who made Julia's piano concert to benefit CSCC possible, most importantly Julia, who donated her time and talent to the event, and to Rev. Beth who coordinated all the details to make the night possible.

It was a lovely evening and included a two-part concert of classics and familiar tunes, and a reception following with bring-your-own-wine, punch, hors d'oeuvres, and raffle items. The event raised over \$2,200 for the church!

Central Square Church, UCC		
Holy Week Schedule		
Palm Sunday	4/2/23 at 10am	Worship led by Kids Church
Maundy Thursday	4/6/23 at 7pm	Foot-washing and Service of Communion
Good Friday	4/7/23 at 3pm	Music and Meditation
Easter Sunrise Service	4/9/23 at 6:30am	Scripture and Song at Hanson Farm
Easter Sunday	4/9/23 at 10am	Celebration music and Flowering of the Cross

With the exception of Easter Sunrise Service, all services will be in-person and livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook. YouTube link will be posted on cscucc.org



Please note that the End of Life Planning Session with Rev. Beth, scheduled for Saturday, April 8, has been cancelled. Please reach out to Rev. Beth if you would like to discuss your planning.



Tulips, Lilies, and Daffodils

The History and Memorials Committee will once again offer the opportunity to purchase your favorite Spring flowers in memory of a loved one. The committee will decorate the church altar for Easter with the flowers. You may decide whether you would like the flower(s) donated to someone unable to attend church, or you would like to take the flower(s) home with you on Easter morning following the service. The cost of the flowers is \$10 each. The names of your loved ones will be published in the Easter bulletin.

There is one more opportunity to order your flowers — see one of the members of the H&M Committee after church on April 2.



Daily Lectionary Scripture References – April 2023 (Year A)

Sat., Apr. 1

Psalm 31:9-16
 Lamentations 3:55-66
 Mark 10:32-34

Sun., Apr. 2

Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66 or

Matthew 27:11-54

Holy Week

Mon., Apr. 3

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 36:5-11

Hebrews 9:11-15

John 12:1-11

Tues., Apr. 4

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 71:1-14

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 12:20-36

Wed., Apr. 5

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 70

Hebrews 12:1-3

John 13:21-32

Thurs., Apr. 6

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Apr. 7

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

Sat., Apr. 8

Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations

3:1-9, 19-24

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

1 Peter 4:1-8

Matthew 27:57-66 or John

19:38-42

Sun., Apr. 9

Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah

31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts

10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew

28:1-10

Mon., Apr. 10

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Colossians 3:5-11

Tues., Apr. 11

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Exodus 15:1-18

Colossians 3:12-17

Wed., Apr. 12

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Joshua 3:1-17

Matthew 28:1-10

Thurs., Apr. 13

Psalm 16

Song of Solomon 2:8-15

Colossians 4:2-5

Fri., Apr. 14

Psalm 16

Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Sat., Apr. 15

Psalm 16

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

John 20:11-20

Sun., Apr. 16

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 17

Psalm 114

Judges 6:36-40

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Tues., Apr. 18

Psalm 114

Jonah 1:1-17

1 Corinthians 15:19-28

Wed., Apr. 19

Psalm 114

Jonah 2:1-10

Matthew 12:38-42

Thurs., Apr. 20

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Isaiah 25:1-5

1 Peter 1:8b-12

Fri., Apr. 21

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Isaiah 26:1-4

1 Peter 1:13-16

Sat., Apr. 22

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Isaiah 25:6-9

Luke 14:12-14

Sun., Apr. 23

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Mon., Apr. 24

Psalm 134

Genesis 18:1-14

1 Peter 1:23-25

Tues., Apr. 25

Psalm 134

Proverbs 8:32-9:6

1 Peter 2:1-3

Wed., Apr. 26

Psalm 134

Exodus 24:1-11

John 21:1-14

Thurs., Apr. 27

Psalm 23

Exodus 2:15b-25

1 Peter 2:9-12

Fri., Apr. 28

Psalm 23

Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20

1 Peter 2:13-17

Sat., Apr. 29

Psalm 23

Ezekiel 34:1-16

Luke 15:1-7

Sun., Apr. 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10



Envelope # _____
(For office use)

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC Annual Pledge Drive 2023-2024

☐ I am making a change to my pledge ☐ I am making a new pledge

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FOR CHANGES:

I/we pledge to increase my/our annual giving to CSCC as follows:

\$ _____ more ☐ per week ☐ per month ☐ other: _____

I/we want to decrease my annual giving to CSCC as follows:

\$ _____ more ☐ per week ☐ per month ☐ other: _____

FOR NEW PLEDGES:

I/we pledge to my/our annual giving to CSCC to be:

\$ _____ ☐ per week ☐ per month ☐ other: _____

☐ I would like to keep my pledge the same for the coming year.

I/we will be making my contributions by:

☐ Personal check/cash put in the offering plate (*if cash, put in an envelope with your name for accurate recordkeeping*)

☐ Personal check mailed or dropped off with the office

☐ Auto-payment via my bank's online bill pay (*I will go online and set this up*)

☐ EFT (automatic bank account withdrawal by CSCC) -- please fill out the attached authorization form

Signed: _____ Date: _____

EFFECTIVE: ☐ Immediately ☐ July 1, 2023 ☐ Other date: _____

Please put this form (and EFT form if needed) in an envelope marked "Financial Secretary" and:

- Drop it in the offering plate on Sunday
- Put it in the "Treasurer" mailbox at the church
- Mail it to the church (CSCC, Attn: Financial Secretary, 71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324) Or email it to treasurer@cscucc.com

Authorization Agreement for Automatic Withdrawal of Funds

Envelope # _____ (leave blank if not applicable)

Name on Bank Account *(please print)* _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Choose one:

☐ I would like to make the following new contribution: \$ _____

☐ Weekly - debited on Mondays) ☐ Semimonthly - debited on the 5th and the 20th)

☐ Monthly - debited on the 5th or the 20th (please circle one)

☐ I authorize an increase of my current contribution by \$ _____ more

☐ I authorize a decrease of my current contribution by \$ _____ less

Please make these changes effective _____ (date)

For new EFT contributions only:

Please debit my contribution(s) from (check one):

☐ Checking Account (attach voided check)

☐ Savings Account (attach savings deposit slip)

Routing Number: _____

(Routing # is located at bottom of check between the symbols I: I:)

Account Number: _____

I authorize Central Square Congregational Church, UCC and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries from my account. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization. I understand there will be a \$5.00 fee automatically charged to my account for any insufficient fund (NSF) transactions. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

*Return form to office along with your pledge card.
EFT REQUESTED BUT NOT REQUIRED*

APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>*Unless otherwise noted, worship services are both online and in-person</i>						1 10-1 Thrift Shop open
PALM SUNDAY 2 9am Breakfast 9:15am Jr Choir Rehearsal 10am Communion Worship*, Coins for Kids, Kids Church 11:30am Youth Group Lunch/talent show 7:30pm AA Meeting	3 4:30pm Daisies #64998 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open 6:30pm Women's AA	4 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	5 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open 6:30pm Women's Guild & Fellowship 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	6 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Girl Scouts #70833 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Maundy Thursday service*	7 9-1 Church office open 3pm Good Friday service*	8 HOLY SATURDAY Lin Schuller's Memorial Service (time TBA)
EASTER SUNDAY 9 6:30am Sunrise Service at Hanson Farm (in person only) 9:15am Jr Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship*, Jr. Choir Performance 7:30pm AA Meeting	10 5pm Daisies #77308 6:30pm Women's AA	11 9-1 Church office open 7pm Christian Outreach 7pm Women's NA	12 9-1 Church office open 10am Staff meeting 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7pm Trustees 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	13 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 5pm Girl Scouts #64997 & 62521 7pm Al-Anon	14 9-1 Church office open 2:30pm Girl Scouts #66212	15 9-2 WG&F Rummage Sale
16 9am Breakfast 10am Worship* 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 7:30pm AA Meeting	17 4:30pm Daisies #64998 6:30pm Women's AA	18 OFFICE CLOSED 6pm Lion's Club Mtg 7pm Women's NA	19 OFFICE CLOSED 10-1 Thrift Shop open 7pm Cabinet 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	20 OFFICE CLOSED 10-1 Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Girl Scouts #70833 7pm Al-Anon	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 10-1 Thrift Shop open
23 10am Worship*, Kids Church 11:30am Feminist Women of Faith meeting 7:30pm AA Meeting	24 5pm Daisies #77308 6:30pm Women's AA	25 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	26 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	27 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 5pm Girl Scouts #64997 & 62521 7pm Al-Anon	28 9-1 Church office open	29 10-1 Thrift Shop open
30 10am Worship*, Kids Church 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 7:30pm AA Meeting						

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes March 15, 2023 at 7pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Anne Malmquist, Moderator.

Cabinet members in attendance: Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; Anne Malmquist, Moderator; David Sheibley, Treasurer; Diane Sheibley, Clerk; Gordon Brailsford, Board of Trustees; Bill O'Neil, Board of Christian Outreach; Carol Chaffee, Board of Stewardship; Terry Reynolds, Board of Christian Education; Barbara Morey, History & Memorials Committee; Jane O'Connell, Women's Guild & Fellowship

Additional attendees: Gail Wright, Connie Chandler

Rev. Beth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Diane Sheibley took attendance and verified that a quorum was present.

February Minutes

The meeting minutes from the February meeting were presented and reviewed. Rev. Beth motioned to accept the minutes as written; Bill O'Neil seconded. The minutes were approved.

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

There has been a lot going on. Time spent on promotional material, Lent, developing a food pantry brochure, and planning the Julia concert. Tickets for the concert are available through Eventbrite and through the office. The youth had their archery event, and it was great. Rev. Beth has been working with Terry on the Palm Sunday service, and with Carol Chaffee on Stewardship Sunday. Saturday the 25th is the Lenten book study. There has also been a lot of pastoral care. Rev. Beth asked that those present help promote the concert as much as possible. Also hold Lin and John Schuller in your prayers.

There will be a guest preacher on 4/16, Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Gifford, author of "The Turnaround Church". On Easter, there will be the sunrise service at Hanson Farm, and our 10am service.

Treasurer's Report – David Sheibley (also see printed report)

Dave reported that it was an average month of giving, and that it's holding steady. We're on schedule with budget, and thanks to the Thrift Shop we're doing a little better on income. He's a little concerned that normal pledges aren't higher, given that the 40-for-40k project should have pushed us to see higher income than the budgeted pledge amounts

each month. We have taken \$20k out of investments so far this fiscal year. We're doing OK, and paying all our bills.

Bridgewater Food Pantry – Bill O'Neil (see also Jack Melcher's printed report)

Bill reported that Pat Conn, longtime volunteer at the pantry, is out of Lifecare and back home after her hospital stay. They picked up 1800 pounds of food today from the food bank. The pantry is seeing about 30 people per week recently. They have run out of gift cards for the moment. There has been a new volunteer at the pantry who is helping as a Portuguese translator. Carol Chaffee mentioned that perhaps the Easter sunrise service collection could be for the food pantry. Gordon thanked the food pantry staff for keeping the downstairs clean.

Rev. Beth circulated the new Food Pantry brochure.

Board of Stewardship – Carol Chaffee

Carol met with Rev. Beth regarding the Stewardship Sunday service on 3/26. She is working with Gail Wershing and Kathleen Mosher on the communications that are going to be going out regarding pledging. She noted that it was exciting to have a stewardship drive back.

Building Project – Barbara Morey

There hasn't been any progress from the town on the building grant project. Barbara has sent several emails to the town and to the Rhode Island consultant, but received no responses.

Governance Committee – Anne Malmquist

Anne noted that this Sunday is our congregational meeting regarding the proposed new Constitution. At the next Cabinet meeting, she is hoping to have approval for a nominating committee. For the Constitution proposal, online voting goes live tomorrow (Thursday) and ends Monday at 9am.

Concert Fundraiser – Rev. Beth Stotts

Rev. Beth noted that plans are going along well. Diane is working on soliciting gift baskets for the raffle. Dave offered to help with running the twinkle lights. Rev. Beth is still in need of volunteers.

continued...

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

continued...

Heating System – Gordon Brailsford

A week ago the boilers went down. They came to fix them, and they went down again. They're going again now, but they noted that the boilers are also leaking. Gordon wants to wait until spring when it gets warmer to have them repaired. He suggested that perhaps there is memorial money that can be used to help pay for the repairs.

Report from Kathleen Mosher – read by Anne Malmquist in Kathleen's absence

- The Feminist Women of Faith group is going well. There are two women who are attending who aren't part of our church. The next meeting is on April 23.
- Breakfast is going great. We have more people helping, and can always use more. June 4th will be the last breakfast of the season.
- The Q&A on the Pronoun Project went well. New nametags will be coming out in the next few weeks.

Central Closet Thrift Shop – Connie Chandler

Connie reported that the shop is going well, some weeks better than others. There are currently sales going on to get rid of the winter clothing. The racks of clothes will stay out in the fellowship hall Wednesday through Saturday unless there is a special event (like the Friday concert), to make setup and cleanup easier.

Women's Guild & Fellowship – Jane O'Connell

Next month's meeting is on April 5. The theme is making a floral arrangement in a teacup. The rummage sale is Saturday, April 15. NOTE: the thrift shop isn't open either the Wed or the Sat the week of the rummage sale.

History & Memorials Committee – Terry Reynolds

The committee will once again be selling flowers to decorate the altar on Easter. They can be ordered after worship beginning 3/19.

Christian Education – Terry Reynolds

Terry reported that there are 3 kids in the PreK-K class, 7 kids in the Grade 1-3 class, and 7 kids in the grade 4-6 class. The numbers have increased from 9 to 17 since the beginning of the year. There is one middle schooler and two high school students currently participating. The kids will be leading worship on Palm Sunday. Three older kids who have not received bibles are getting theirs this Sunday.

Board of Christian Outreach – Bill O'Neil

The One Great Hour of Sharing collection is this Sunday.

Board of Trustees – Gordon Brailsford

Steve Chandler has been doing some improvements and repairs: he fixed the outlet/light behind the cross on the altar; he installed a light on the ramp; he put a hook and eye on the side door to be able to keep it open when needed; he repaired the sink in the bathroom. His work is much appreciated.

Rev. Beth closed the meeting in prayer at 8:05.

Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2023
Fiscal Year July 2022 - June 2023

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	87,103	89,877	(2,774)	135,000
Unpledged Offerings	8,269	6,658	1,611	10,000
Plate Offering	504	1,664	(1,160)	2,500
Kid's Church	140	0	140	0
Total · Pledges / Offerings	96,016	98,199	(2,182)	147,500
Special Collections				
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	60	1,332	(1,272)	2,000
Total · Special Collections	60	1,332	(1,272)	2,000
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Golf Tournament	0	0	0	0
Breakfasts	340	0	340	0
Church Fair	9,416	4,993	4,423	7,500
Central Closet Thrift Shop	2,698	0	2,698	0
Misc Fundraisers	910	3,329	(2,419)	5,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	13,364	8,322	5,042	12,500
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	2,201	1,997	204	3,000
Private Bldg Use		333	(333)	500
Food Pantry support	300	0	300	0
Total · Facility Usage Income	2,501	2,330	171	3,500
Miscellaneous Income	167	666	(499)	1,000
Total Income	112,108	110,848	1,260	166,500
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	73,411	73,333	(78)	110,150
Total · Support Staff Expenses	29,446	33,261	3,816	49,960
Total · Office Expenses	6,772	5,925	(847)	8,900
Total · Church Building Costs	21,227	21,227	0	31,884
Operating Committees				
Christian Education	864	499	(365)	750
Church Growth	470	666	196	1,000
Deacons	923	666	(257)	1,000
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	245	399	154	600
Stewardship	0	233	233	350
Outreach	1,276	1,348	72	2,025
Total · Operating Committees	3,779	3,811	33	5,725
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	0	1,798	1,798	2,700
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	133	133	200
Miscellaneous Expenses	27	0	(27)	0
Total Expenses	134,661	139,488	4,827	209,519
Net income (loss)	(22,553)	(28,640)	6,087	(43,019)
Transfer from Investments	20,000	28,640	8,640	43,019
	<u>(2,553)</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>

Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2023
Fiscal Year July 2022 - June 2023

Cash balances	
Operating account	5,180
Money Market	25,343
Minister's Discretionary account	1,268
Outreach account	834
Capital Campaign account	1,864
PayPal account	590
Total cash balances	<u>35,079</u>

Endowments investment fund	
Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	48,726
Deposits (withdrawals)	0
Gain (loss) for month	<u>(4,707)</u>
Unrestricted funds, ending	44,018
Total value 2/28/2023	179,531
Parsonage investment fund	
Beginning balance	62,721
Deposits (withdrawals)	
Gain (loss) for month	<u>(1,909)</u>
Total value 2/28/2023	60,812
Total investments 2/28/2023	<u>240,343</u>

Food Pantry account balance January 31, 2023	23,088
Donations	110
Expenses	<u>(4,236)</u>
Food Pantry account balance February 28, 2023	<u>18,962</u>

Giving Comparison						
	2021 Month	2022 Month	2023 Month	2021 YTD	2022 YTD	2023 YTD
Jan.	13,532.33	10,029.82	10,307.95	13,532.33	10,029.82	10,307.95
Feb.	11,754.66	6,562.91	9,713.95	25,286.99	16,592.73	20,021.90
March	11,538.00	13,355.24		36,824.99	29,947.97	
April	13,129.33	11,808.31		49,954.32	41,756.28	
May	11,279.57	14,476.24		61,233.89	56,232.52	
June	13,469.24	11,304.13		74,703.13	67,536.65	
July	13,048.91	16,505.70		87,752.04	84,042.35	
Aug.	10,053.72	9,586.37		97,805.76	93,628.72	
Sept.	10,624.57	9,379.22		108,430.33	103,007.94	
Oct.	15,581.54	15,615.55		124,011.87	118,623.49	
Nov.	12,400.72	9,164.75		136,412.59	127,788.24	
Dec.	10,377.35	15,622.72		146,789.94	143,410.96	



1821-2021

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

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



Church Administration

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, csccpastor@hotmail.com

Office Manager: Jennifer Foronjy, office@cscucc.org

Sexton: Rich Sullivan

Minister of Music: Julia Scott Carey, juliascottcarey@gmail.com

Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes

Treasurer: David Sheibley, treasurer@cscucc.org

Office telephone: (508) 697-6016

Facebook pages: facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma (main page),
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!

Shopping on Amazon and feeling generous? Check out the CSCC Wish List, and drop an item in your cart for us! Visit www.cscucc.org/giving for the link to our Amazon wish list.

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