



Steeple Sounds

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

From the Desk of Rev. Beth *Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, Pastor*

As the summer draws to a close, as our community prepares for the start of the academic year, as our children go back to school, or off to college, as we welcome new people into our midst and send off beloved friends, as we celebrate the beauty and bounty of the earth and as we lament pain and injustice both near and far, there is a particular word I have been thinking about, particularly when it comes to doing: BLESS.

There are many definitions of the word bless, but here is one I like: To make holy, to consecrate. To hold in reverence.

In religious and secular culture, we too often hear a spoken or implicit connection between blessing and reward, whether that be the blessing of health, wealth, security, opportunity, etc. Too little emphasis is given to the opportunities we have to do the blessing, to recognize the mundane and momentous moments, objects, and people as holy and hold them in reverence. And yet, the opportunities are all around us. And as church, what better way to be doers of the Word!

Blessing is something that we can do in any time and any place. We can say a blessing over a sink full of dirty dishes, thanking God for these vessels that held the food that nourished people. We can say a blessing as we park our cars, giving thanks for a safe arrival. We can bless one another. In Puerto Rican culture, it is a tradition that children greet elders with the word "Bendición" to which the elder replies "Que Dios te bendiga." The child literally asks for a blessing, and is met with the words "God bless you."

As we consider this Fall how to be doers of the word, let us also ask how in our daily living we are given opportunities to bless others and to bless the world around us. And we can start here: as you read the pages of this newsletter, whether it is a paper copy in your hands or a document on your computer screen, I invite you to offer a blessing over the words you read, the people who wrote them, and the ministries they describe. May the many opportunities to serve, build up community, witness to one another and the world, and know God more deeply and fully, be a blessing in your life as well.

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.

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.

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7pm

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



New Fall Hours!
Tuesday thru Friday, 9am - 1pm
and by appointment



Community Breakfasts Begin Again on Sunday, October 1!

They will be held on the first and third Sundays of each month, and are open to the public. Free will offering is gratefully accepted, but not required.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, contact Jenne in the church office. Lots of ways to participate before, during, or after, and without a big commitment, but with much gratitude from the breakfast team.



Coins for Kids Church

Don't forget to bring your spare change for the Coins for Kids Church collection! This helps to

pay for Kids Church supplies and teaching materials. Just put your coins in a baggie or envelope and mark it "Kids Church", and put it in the collection plate on Sundays.



Bridgewater Food Pantry

at Central Square
Congregational Church, UCC

**Open Thursdays, 10am-1pm and the
first Monday of the month, 6-7:30pm**

www.cscucc.org/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
 Rev. Beth Stotts
 Nina Gabel-Jorgensen

Women's Guild & Fellowship Annual Fall Rummage Sale

The Fall rummage sale will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023. We are looking for donations of Fall/Winter clothing for all, jewelry, glassware, home decor, books, games, toys, linen, shoes, pocketbooks, and housewares.

Please make sure your donations are CLEAN with no rips, stains, holes, chips, or cracks. We will accept items at the church starting Oct. 10.

Jane O'Connell, Co-President

YOUR DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!



rummage Sale
 Saturday, Oct 14

Fall/winter clothing, jewelry, glassware, home decor, books, games, toys, linen, shoes, pocketbooks, housewares.

Sponsored by the Women's Guild & Fellowship

Congregational Meeting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 11:15am
In person and livestreaming

One item of business will be conducted on this day:
"The Trustees of CSCC recommend to the congregation via the Cabinet that CSCC withdraw the application to the town of Bridgewater for CPC funds for CSCC. Further, the Trustees recommend the Historical Church Building Committee be dissolved."

The motion was approved by Cabinet on June 21, 2023, by majority vote.

No other business matters will be voted on at this meeting, unless presented in writing to the Moderator prior to the meeting. That business will be added to the agenda ONLY after an affirmative vote by 2/3 of the attending-voting members.

All church members are requested to attend. Voting will take place in person and online. Online voting link will be posted on cscucc.org on Thursday, September 21. All voting concludes at 9am on Monday, September 25.

From the minutes of the Cabinet meeting of June 21:
 "It has been a long and difficult process, and it is a constant state of going in circles. They awarded us money for phase 1 [of the restoration of the church building], but have delayed the disbursement of those funds with legal matters, and not providing us the agreements necessary to close the deal. And there will be restrictions placed on our building which we may or may not be able to comply with in the longterm, with no guarantees for money for phases 2 & 3.

The Trustees wish to offer a huge thank you to the members of the HCRC for their persistence, patience, and hard work in trying to see this process to fruition."

2023 Justice Summit

Trans and Nonbinary Belonging in the Church

Saturday ~ October 7, 2023

Old South Church, Boston & Livestream



Southern New England Conference
 United Church of Christ
 Using the Love & Justice of Jesus

In-Person and Online. Registration deadline is September 16. Visit sneucc.org/events.

A Message from YOUR Congregational Engagement Team Carol Chaffee, Kathleen Mosher, and Ginny Young

As we all find our way through our new model of organization, it is both exciting and daunting. Expect us to hit the ground and stroll not run, but stroll we will and with success.

Your Congregational Engagement Team is tasked with engaging the congregation. Simple enough as many of us are already very much engaged in the life of the church. So,

whether you're part of our viewership at home or you're present at church, we want you to be fully immersed with your gifts in the life of the church.

During worship in September, we will focus on strengthening our church community. Do you remember that

book that Rev. Beth read during worship this past spring, *The Invisible String*? No matter where you are, we are all connected by this invisible string and we want that string to be the strongest it can be. We want that string to endure through the hills and valleys of each of our lives. We want that string to be our lifeline when we need it and even when we don't.

- Be thinking of ways that YOU can best connect with another in our church family.
- Be thinking of ways that YOU can share of yourself with others in our church community.
- Be thinking of that Invisible String and the strength that it provides to YOU.
- Be thinking of YOU and YOUR relationship with GOD and how that best plays out in the community of our church.

Carol Chaffee

Congregational Engagement Team



**FALL KICKOFF
BBQ & PICNIC!**

You are *invited!*

**SUNDAY
SEPT 10
11:30am
(Following worship)**



*Hot dogs and all the fixings provided by the
Congregational Engagement Team*



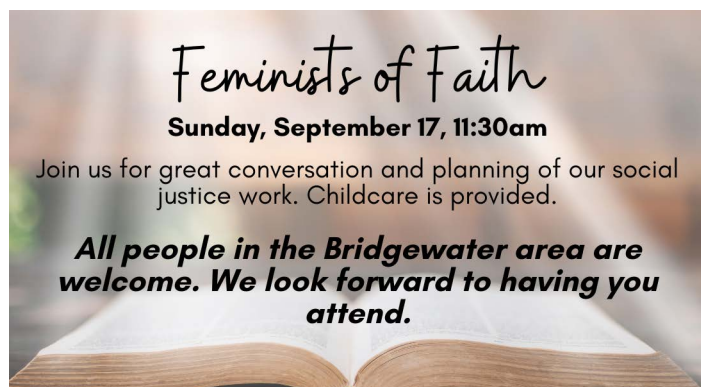
September 10 marks the beginning of the church program year which historically has been called "Homecoming Sunday" or "Rally Sunday" or "Welcome Back Sunday". A few years back we started calling it "Kick-Off Sunday" as it is the day that kicks off programs of the church like Choir, or Kids Church, or Fellowship Time. Many of us spent our summers adventuring and exploring, maybe traveling or just hanging out in our back yards. "Kick-Off Sunday" is when we come back together to share our stories, connect with one another, and begin new projects. The Congregational Engagement Team is hosting a Kick-Off Sunday BBQ after worship on the front lawn. In worship we will share communion with the bread and the cup, at the BBQ we will have communion of our lives; catching up with one another. Hot dogs and all the fixings will be provided by the Congregational Engagement Team. If you'd like to bring chips, drinks, or other goodies, you're welcome to. We look forward to this end-of-summer party!!!

Feminists of Faith

Sunday, September 17, 11:30am

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

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





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!

Contact the church office for more info or to sign up.



Communion This Fall by Jae Stotts, Deacon

Communion is about sharing what we have together as followers of Jesus. We have communion, sharing the bread and the cup, once a month in honor of our place in the story of Jesus. In September, we will have communion on Sept. 10 which is also our Kick-off Sunday. In October, communion will be on the first Sunday of the month. It is also World Communion Sunday. On this day we share communion with an emphasis on how Christians around the world share the bread and the cup too. This is a service about unity. Communion in November is in honor of All Saints Day. During this service we remember all of the people who went before us and paved the way in our faith and in our traditions. If you have questions about communion, please reach out to me through the office. I look forward to seeing you at the table!

Jae Stotts



Hello Friends!

With Fall just around the corner, we're revving up to another year of Kid's Church. I'm really excited at all we have planned! This year is going to look a little different in that we're going to try to introduce a couple of new things. We're going to have a Kid's Church altar, more inclusion of music, and hopefully a lot more from ideas generated by the youth of our church.

We're going to be using the Spark curriculum, which is a progressive Christian curriculum, combined with our usual Heifer and Advent programming to teach the stories of the Bible as well as Jesus' teachings. Fostering the youth of our church in an inclusive and biblical story-based environment is vital in helping them understand not only what it means to be a person of faith, but a member of our community. Please be on the lookout for sign-up sheets for youths in worship, in the Monday newsletter, and on our website.

Also I am still looking for a few more teachers, so if you have interest in helping with Kid's Church, please reach out to me or the office. Curriculum will be provided for you and we're breaking the year up into sections as we've done previously, so we're not looking for an entire year commitment, just basically a month+ from each teacher.

Our kickoff Sunday is the same as regular church, **September 10**. Looking forward to another great year!

Eric Stotts





Summer Worship by Josephine Stotts

Summer worship was good. We sat outside at the turquoise table and we pretended we ordered food. But it wasn't food! We were just pretending. The food we ordered was actually questions! We asked each other the questions. The questions were about the Jesus story for the day. And we prayed. I had fun.

Jo



Summer is over and Fall has arrived. Come in often and browse the shop for our newest donations. If you like J Jill, Coach, Nike, Under Armour, LLBean, Lands End, Pyrex, etc., you might just find it here. We never know what our next bag of donations might have.

Donations are always welcomed during shop hours (Wednesday 10-1 and Saturday 10-1). Currently we are accepting new or gently used Fall Clothing, holiday decorations, footwear, pocketbooks, jewelry, household items, glassware, linens, books and toys. Please no electronics, and limit donations to 20 items per visit.

Fall and some winter items will be available starting in September. A few summer items are still available for \$1 each. Our blue ticket items will be half price while they last. Shown below is our item of the month. These Fall arrangements will be available for only \$3 each. Once they are gone, they are gone.

Thanks to all for helping to make the Central Closet Thrift Shop such a success. It has made all of the work worthwhile.

*Connie Chandler, Jane O'Connell,
Lynn Pietras, & Gail Wright*

September at Central Sq. Cong'l Church, UCC

A Gathering of Spirits Sunday Worship at 10am



Sept. 3 Hymn Sing Sunday

Sept. 10 Kick-Off Sunday and
Post-Worship BBQ!

Sept. 17 & 24

Sermon Series: What does it
mean to be a Christian?



71 Central Sq. Bridgewater, MA 02324
cscucc.org



Item of the Month: These Fall
arrangements are available for only
\$3 each in September. Once they are
gone, they are gone!



November 3 - 6:30-8:30pm (Pie Night!)
November 4 - 9am - 1pm

The fair will be here before you know it! And as you know, it's one of the biggest fundraisers of the year for the church. So get your pie tins and baking sheets ready, and start going through your basements and attics!

More details will come in the October Steeple Sounds, but Bev Mitchell is already collecting Attic Treasures in her garage — and she and her team are especially interested in your Christmas item donations (especially Christmas/holiday clothing!). The only clothing we accept for Attic Treasures is Christmas clothing, and we are in need of yours! Those sweaters you got last year that you know you don't want to feel pressed to wear again; that musical tie; the elf shirt; and of course, the reindeer antlers. Then there are the super fun Christmas-themed items you got for your kids last year that aren't even close to fitting this year. We want them all! Donations will be accepted the week prior to the fair, or contact Bev Mitchell to work out other arrangements.

Attic Treasures will also be accepting housewares, dishes, decor items, games, and toys... just no electronics, TVs, or computers, please.



Have you ever thought about joining the choir?

Our senior choir consists of volunteer singers. We sing one anthem a week, in addition to an introit and a prayer response. We enjoy expressing our faith and spirituality through a variety of musical styles, from Renaissance to contemporary, spirituals to jazz. Our members have an inspiring love of music, often in addition to sight-reading and musicianship skills, but singers of all abilities are welcome. We rehearse on Sunday mornings before worship, performing in the worship service at 10am almost every week between Labor Day and Memorial Day. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact the Minister of Music, Julia Scott Carey at juliascottcarey@gmail.com or contact the church office.

SENIOR CHOIR STARTS UP AGAIN FOR THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10!

(New choir members are welcome at any time!)

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION: HONORING TRADITION WHILE EMBRACING CHANGE

Rev. Marie Lucca presents
A church growth workshop

Come explore the religious preferences of each generation and the cultural shifts that are challenging today's churches. How can congregations be more welcoming to younger demographics in ways that are faithful?



24 SEPTEMBER 2023



2:00 - 4:30 PM



FIRST CHURCH SANDWICH, UCC
 136 MAIN STREET, SANDWICH, MA



Rev. Beth is going to this workshop — would anyone like to join her?

The Barnstable Association has invited Rev. Marie Lucca, a Church Vitality & Growth Consultant, to lead an engaging, energetic, and eye-opening workshop on Sunday, September 24 from 2:00 - 4:30 pm that will explore the religious preferences of each generation and the cultural shifts that are challenging today's churches. As a congregation, how can we respond in ways that are faithful? Rev. Lucca will discuss the worship preferences, communication styles, governance structures, and donation practices of each generation, and will offer suggestions on how our congregation can be more welcoming to younger demographics while remaining true to ourselves.

Register online at:

<https://mailchi.mp/a9995772089b/generation-to-generation>

Or contact the church office or Rev. Beth.

To find this Lectionary online, visit www.sneucc.org/Lectionary



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – September 2023 (Year A)

Fri., Sept. 1

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26,
45b Exodus 3:16-25
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Sat., Sept. 2

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26,
45b Exodus 4:1-9
Matthew 8:14-17

Sun., Sept. 3

*Fourteenth Sunday
after Pentecost*
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26,
45b Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Mon., Sept. 4

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 4:10-31
Revelation 3:1-6

Tues., Sept. 5

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 5:1-6:13
Revelation 3:7-13

Wed., Sept. 6

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 7:14-25
Matthew 12:22-32

Thurs., Sept. 7

Psalm 149
Exodus 9:1-7
2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Fri., Sept. 8

Psalm 149
Exodus 10:21-29
Romans 10:15b-21

Sat., Sept. 9

Psalm 149
Exodus 11:1-10
Matthew 23:29-36

Sun., Sept. 10

*Fifteenth Sunday after
Pentecost*
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Mon., Sept. 11

Psalm 121
Exodus 12:14-28
1 Peter 2:11-17

Tues., Sept. 12

Psalm 121
Exodus 12:29-42
Romans 13:1-7

Wed., Sept. 13

Psalm 114
Exodus 13:1-10
Matthew 21:18-22

Thurs., Sept. 14

Psalm 114
Exodus 13:17-22
1 John 3:11-16

Fri., Sept. 15

Psalm 114
Exodus 14:1-18
Acts 7:9-16

Sat., Sept. 16

Psalm 114
Exodus 15:19-21
Matthew 6:7-15

Sun., Sept. 17

*Sixteenth Sunday after
Pentecost*
Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114 or Exodus
15:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Mon., Sept. 18

Psalm 77
Joshua 3:1-17
Hebrews 11:23-29

Tues., Sept. 19

Psalm 77
Nehemiah 9:9-15
Romans 14:13-15:2

Wed., Sept. 20

Psalm 77
2 Kings 2:1-18
Mark 11:20-25

Thurs., Sept. 21

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 15:22-27
2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Fri., Sept. 22

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:1-21
2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Sat., Sept. 23

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:22-30
Matthew 19:23-30

Sun., Sept. 24

*Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost*
Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Mon., Sept. 25

Psalm 119:97-104
Exodus 16:31-35
Romans 16:1-16

Tues., Sept. 26

Psalm 119:97-104
Numbers 11:1-9
Romans 16:17-20

Wed., Sept. 27

Psalm 119:97-104
Numbers 11:18-23,
31-32 Matthew 18:1-5

Thurs., Sept. 28

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Isaiah 48:17-21
James 4:11-16

Fri., Sept. 29

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Numbers 20:1-13
Acts 13:32-41

Sat., Sept. 30

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Numbers 27:12-14
Mark 11:27-33

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*Unless otherwise noted, worship services are both online and in-person					1 9-1 Church office open	2 10-1 Thrift Shop open
3 10am Hymn Sing Worship* 7:30pm AA Meeting	4 LABOR DAY 6:30pm Women's AA	5 9-1 Church office open 2pm Church crafters 7pm Women's NA	6 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open	7 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	8 9-1 Church office open	9 10-1 Thrift Shop open
10 KICK-OFF SUNDAY! 10am Communion Worship* 10am - Kids Church 11am - Welcome Back BBQ 7:30pm AA Meeting	11 6:30pm Women's AA	12 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	13 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open 7pm Property & Finance Team mtg 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	14 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	15 9-1 Church office open	16 10-1 Thrift Shop open
17 10am Worship* 10am - Kids Church 11:30am - Feminists of Faith mtg 7:30pm AA Meeting	18 6:30pm Women's AA	19 9-1 Church office open 6pm Lions Club mtg 7pm Women's NA	20 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open 7pm Cabinet mtg 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	21 9-1 Church office open 10am - CSCC staff mtg 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	22 9-1 Church office open	23 10-1 Thrift Shop open
24 10am Worship* 10am - Kids Church 11:15am - Congregational Meeting 7:30pm AA Meeting	25 6:30pm Women's AA	26 9-1 Church office open 2pm Church crafters 7pm Women's NA	27 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir	28 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	29 9-1 Church office open	30 10-1 Thrift Shop open

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes August 16, 2023 at 7pm

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

Cabinet members in attendance: Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; David Sheibley, Treasurer; Diane Sheibley, Clerk; Krissy Cannizzo & Terry Reynolds, Community Engagement Team; Carol Chaffee, Congregational Engagement Team; John Sharland & Mark Sorgman, Property and Finance Team; Eric Stotts, Spiritual Engagement Team.

Additional attendees: Jane O'Connell

Diane Sheibley took attendance. Quorum was met.

June Minutes

The meeting minutes from the June meeting were presented and reviewed. John Sharland motioned to accept the minutes as written; Carol Chaffee seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Pastor's Report – Rev. Beth Stotts

Rev. Beth called attention to the projects she has been working on: Uke camp (big success!), Dr. Mary Lou Gifford's visit to preach, planning for the Fall, pastoral visits, 3 funerals, 2 upcoming weddings. Worship this Sunday will be in Music Alley, and there are 6 people who have expressed interest in performing music. She is having surgery on 8/31, and will be recovering for at least a few days after. Sunday, 9/3 will be a "hymn sing Sunday" as she will not be able to preach. 9/10 is kickoff and communion worship. And the whole month will be "congregational engagement" month. There will be a bbq and picnic after worship on 9/10.

She spent several days dealing with a paperwork misunderstanding with the Secretary of State's office, regarding her credentials in being able to perform weddings. It's all straightened out now.

Treasurer's Report – David Sheibley

Dave reported that things are going OK. It was a pretty good giving month last month for the middle of summer, which was especially helpful since the month prior was not a good one. Dave asked about the lawnmowing. There was talk of having gotten a lawnmower for the church, but the landscaping company is still coming and charging us \$50 per mow. Jenne will be asked to inquire with them if they would be willing to donate their services. We could give them a donation letter to acknowledge their gift.

Community Engagement Team Report – Krissy Cannizzo and Terry Reynolds

The team hasn't met yet, they were waiting to meet with Anne. They will arrange a time to meet soon.

Congregational Engagement Team Report – Carol Chaffee

The team has had two meetings, and they are formulating ideas and plans. September will be the month to get folks to sign up for what they'd like to do, and the Team will be organizing a talent bank. They will be looking to build a list of how people can serve the church without a big commitment.

Property & Finance Team – John Sharland

The team had their initial meeting last week. Among their goals, they need to form a "stewardship" team. Carol and Kathleen expressed their interest in continuing participation in that work. Our sexton Rich is moving to Plymouth at some point, so we need to find a new sexton. The position is 15 hours a week at \$17/hour. Rev. Beth has reached out to Anna Combs, who has filled in for Rich when he has been on vacation in the past. The team will meet monthly on the second Wednesday of the month.

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

continued...

Spiritual Engagement Team – Rev. Beth

The team met on 6/28. They went through the member and visitor lists, and prayed over them. Eric is working on Kids Church [more later].

Building Project/Congregational Meeting – Anne Malmquist

At the June Cabinet meeting, it was proposed and approved that we should withdraw our application for CPC funds from the town to fix our building. The annual meeting to get the congregation's approval is set for 9/24. In summary of the reasons: * they are asking for too many restrictions that we may not even be able to keep up with; * there is no guarantee of any monies in addition to the steeple money they have verbally granted; * we cannot get specific information on the grant details or the deed restriction.

Kids Church – Eric Stotts

Eric noted that they're still looking for some teachers. Kids church begins 9/10. Rev. Beth worked on the details of a service project trip for next summer. It will be an intergenerational trip, in partnership with the Dover church. They send 80 people to Maine each summer the last week of June, typically.

Team Emails – Eric Stotts

Eric has set up a gmail account for each team, so that all communications can be kept in one place over time, for smooth transition to new members, as well as a central place of reference. The folders of documents can be shared between people or other teams. The team email addresses will also make it easy for people in the congregation and the community to communicate with the teams without singling out specific team leaders, or having to know who they are or how to get in touch with them. It does require someone on each team to be regularly checking the email box and responding accordingly.

Fundraising Plan – Anne Malmquist

Anne explained the need to have a plan to make up the budget deficit. It needs to be a laid out, thought through plan of fundraising with dates, projects, and dollars. The P&F team will find a few people to head up a fundraising plan.

Bridgewater Downtown Revitalization Plan

Carol noted that she went to a presentation at the library for new proposals to fix up the downtown area of Bridgewater. They are gathering information in preparation for their presentation on Sept. 26. Maybe we should invite him to the church to present the plans to our congregation, since anything affecting the common affects us as a church.

Other business

- Krissy called attention to the food pantry report that was distributed to cabinet members.
- Rev. Beth offered major congratulations to the thrift shop people who do a great job and raise money for the church. There are always folks coming in to buy!
- John Sharland mentioned security. Do we need to be more vigilant? There are people acting out against those who support the LGBTQ+ community, and we should be aware of that whenever we are gathering as a church community. The SNEUCC conference offers training workshops. Open and affirming churches are being targeted.
- The Sandwich UCC church is hosting a workshop "From Generation to Generation – Honoring Tradition while Embracing Change". Rev. Beth is attending and would welcome anyone that wants to attend with her. It's on 9/24.

Rev. Beth asked everyone to share their favorite moment of the summer.

Rev. Beth close the meeting in prayer at 8:10.

Treasurer's Report
July 31, 2023
Fiscal Year July 2023 - June 2024

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	15,095	10,616	4,479	125,000
Unpledged Offerings	175	849	(674)	10,000
Plate Offering	20	212	(192)	2,500
Kid's Church	0	0	0	300
Total · Pledges / Offerings	15,290	11,704	3,587	137,800
Special Collections				
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	206	170	37	2,000
Total · Special Collections	206	170	37	2,000
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Breakfasts	0	0	0	0
Church Fair	0	679	(679)	8,000
Central Closet Thrift Shop	950	0	950	13,000
Concert/Special Event	0	0	0	0
Misc Fundraisers	120	425	(305)	5,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	1,070	1,104	(34)	26,000
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	995	255	740	3,000
Private Bldg Use	0	42	(42)	500
Wedding Rentals	0	425	(425)	5,000
Food Pantry support	100	102	(2)	1,200
Total · Facility Usage Income	1,095	824	271	9,700
Miscellaneous Income	12	85	(73)	1,000
Total Income	17,674	14,990	2,684	176,500
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	9,190	9,873	684	116,252
Total · Support Staff Expenses	2,850	4,244	1,394	49,974
Total · Office Expenses	763	756	(7)	8,900
Total · Church Building Costs	1,297	2,896	1,599	34,100
Operating Committees				
Spiritual Engagement Team	0	79	79	925
Property and Finance Team	0	79	79	925
Congregational Engagement Team	42	79	37	925
Community Engagement Team	53	79	25	925
Outreach Committee Reserve	226	159	(67)	1,875
Total · Operating Committees	322	473	152	5,575
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	0	170	170	2,000
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	17	17	200
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	14,422	18,430	4,008	217,001
Net income (loss)	3,252	(3,440)	6,692	(40,501)
Transfer from Investments	0	3,440	3,440	40,501
	3,252	0		0

Treasurer's Report
July 31, 2023
Fiscal Year July 2023 - June 2024

Cash balances	
Operating account	4,753
Money Market	26,056
Minister's Discretionary account	312
Outreach account	1,311
Capital Campaign account	2,299
PayPal account	99
Venmo account	53
Total cash balances	<u>34,883</u>

Endowments investment fund	
Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	55,322
Deposits (withdrawals)	0
Gain (loss) for month	4,779
Unrestricted funds, ending	<u>60,101</u>
Total value 7/31/2023	195,614
Parsonage investment fund	
Beginning balance	50,347
Deposits (withdrawals)	0
Gain (loss) for month	1,157
Total value 7/31/2023	<u>51,504</u>
Total investments 7/31/2023	<u>247,118</u>

Food Pantry account balance June 30, 2023	12,848
Donations	1,761
Expenses	<u>(1,203)</u>
Food Pantry account balance July 31, 2023	<u>13,406</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	9,535.31	36,824.99	29,947.97	29,557.21
April	13,129.33	11,808.31	15,149.70	49,954.32	41,756.28	44,706.91
May	11,279.57	14,476.24	21,938.88	61,233.89	56,232.52	66,645.79
June	13,469.24	11,304.13	8,696.40	74,703.13	67,536.65	75,342.19
July	13,048.91	16,505.70	15,290.21	87,752.04	84,042.35	90,632.40
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

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Church Administration

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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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