



Steeple Sounds

The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
November 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

"Community is a basic need and hunger of the human heart. We are created for community, but often we do not experience it in the individualistic and competitive cultures that shape our lives. Community is a place of acceptance, intimacy and vulnerability, where we can bear fruit in solidarity with others and be the body of Christ for the sake of the world." (Henri Nouwen, Community)

Beloved,

Earlier this year Dr. Vivek Murthy, the United States Surgeon General, issued an "Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community" in response to what he has declared "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation." Here's an excerpt from Dr. Murthy's letter at the beginning of an 82-page document produced by the Public Health Service:

People began to tell me they felt isolated, invisible, and insignificant. Even when they couldn't put their finger on the word "lonely," time and time again, people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds, from every corner of the country, would tell me, "I have to shoulder all of life's burdens by myself," or "if I disappear tomorrow, no one will even notice."

Friends, this is a world that aches for the Gospel. Not a gospel of coercion to correct dogma or judgment. But a Gospel that will save souls – right here and now. The world aches for connection, for community, for relationship. The world aches for spaces where we are allowed to show up with our whole selves and find that we are together, seen, and valued. And, the research Dr. Murthy has collected shows pretty convincingly that when humans don't have connection, their lives are shorter and worse.

One cure for the Loneliness Epidemic? Go to church. Faith communities offer one of the few places left in Western society where people gather across familial, generational, and economic lines outside the trappings of consumerism. The Gospel of Jesus is one of intimate connection – it paints a picture of growing closer to God through a Way that requires the faithful to grow closer to one another. Our Christian call to worship, to pray, to serve, to do justice... are all calls to build and belong in community.

From the Advisory document I mentioned: *"Among people not reporting loneliness or social isolation, nearly 90% have three or more confidants. Yet, almost half of Americans (49%) in 2021 reported having three or fewer close friends — only about a quarter (27%) reported the same in 1990."* **Our number of lonely neighbors has almost doubled.** How might we be called to respond? If community is literally life-saving, what's our next faithful step?

During this season of thanks-giving, I'd love to hear how you are feeling the Spirit call you to respond to the Loneliness Epidemic. Let me know!



*In Christ,
Rev. Beth*



Central Square Congregational Church, UCC, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts is an open and affirming church. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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, Nov. 29, 7pm

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

CSCC Team Leadership 2023-24

Spiritual Engagement Team Leaders:
Denise Molinari, Deb Sorgman, Eric Stotts

Congregational Engagement Team Leaders:
Carol Chaffee, Kathleen Mosher, Ginny Young

Property & Finance Team Leaders:
Dave Hanson, John Sharland, Mark Sorgman

Community Engagement Team Leaders:
Krissy Cannizzo, Diane Glass, Terry Reynolds



**Tues, Thu, & Fri, 9am - 1pm
Wed 11am-3pm**

and by appointment

**Please note that the office will be closed on
Nov. 23-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

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



Did you know that Venmo has fewer fees to the church than Paypal? So if you can't decide which one to use, choose Venmo.



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



Coins for Kids Church Collection:

Sunday, Nov. 5

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.

CSCC Junior Choir 2023-24!

**Rehearsals at 9:20am:
Nov. 5 - Nov. 12 - Nov. 19**

**Performance at 10am:
November 19**

Turkey Dinner Takeout! Sun, Nov 12

Must reserve NO LATER THAN **SUN, NOV 5**

From Boston Tavern,
Middleboro



Dinner for Two \$40 Restaurant dining at home!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, gravy, cranberry sauce, dessert

WWW.CSCCUCC.ORG/FALLFAIR or 508-697-6016 for reservations

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, Nov. 21, 7pm, at CSCC**



**Join us for breakfast on
Sunday, Nov. 5 and Sunday, Nov. 19.**



Hello friends,

Isn't it nice sometimes to hang around a bit after worship, and catch up with friends, check in with a CSCC Team member, or chat with Rev. Beth?

We think it is, and we know some of you do, too. And that's why we'd like to ask your help. Perhaps you'd be willing to set up a table or two and put out treats to enjoy after worship; maybe you'd be willing to be one of the people that puts that table or two away afterwards, and packs up any leftover treats; or maybe you're willing to bring in a snack to share -- some fruit, cookies or brownies, or that extra pumpkin bread loaf you made on Saturday.

Please consider being the person the Fellowship Team can call on occasionally to help out with the Time of Fellowship. Contact Ginny Young or Connie Chandler for more details, or the church office.

Thank you!

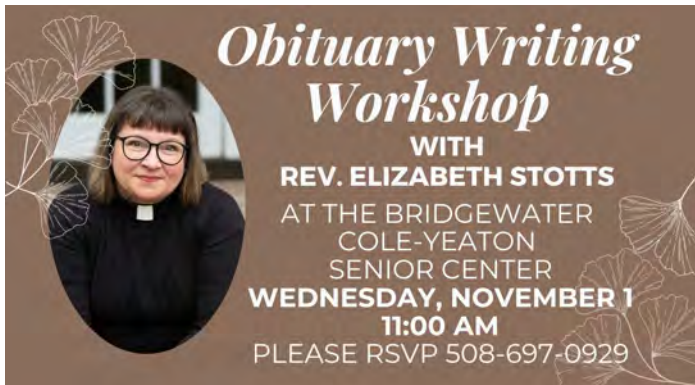
Women's Guild & Fellowship

Women's Guild and Fellowship will be meeting on Wed., November 1, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be Line Dancing with Margaret Wilson, so wear your dancing shoes and something comfortable! All women from the church and friends are invited. We also have refreshments and a meeting.

We just had a terrific Rummage Sale in October, and now some of us will be contributing to and working at the Church Fair in November. We're always looking for some younger women to step in and help us out and enjoy our programs! The two rummage sales (fall and spring) are our big fund raisers, and we donate all the money to worthwhile causes.

Thank you to all who helped out at the Rummage Sale!

Jane O'Connell, Co-President

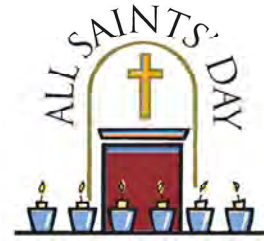


Obituary Writing Workshop
WITH
REV. ELIZABETH STOTTS
AT THE BRIDGEWATER
COLE-YEATON
SENIOR CENTER
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1
11:00 AM
PLEASE RSVP 508-697-0929

Don't leave it others to write your obituary... write it yourself! Look back on your life. Highlight the important people, events, and achievements of your life, leaving your loved ones the gift of telling the story of your life in your own words. In this one-hour workshop, Rev. Beth Stotts will offer creative examples of self-written obituaries and guide you in writing your own. It will take place at the Bridgewater Senior Center.



Bridgewater Food Pantry
Food Sorting
Volunteers Needed!
Saturday, Nov. 18, 2pm
Central Square Congregational Church, UCC



The Spiritual Engagement Team invites you to All Saints Worship on **Sunday, November 5th**. We all have saints who have passed through our lives and in this time of worship, we will honor the God in them that lives on in us. Please bring a photo, memento, or other item that represents your saint with you to worship. We will have a special time in the service where you will be invited to place your item on the altar and share a story (if you're comfortable doing so). May the memory of our loved ones be a continued blessing.



Our October deep dive on Commandments went really well! We started off by learning about what Commandments are, then dove into both the 10 Commandments and The Greatest Commandment. We then, as a class, took each of the 10 Commandments and figured out how each one fit into The Greatest Commandment. Was it "Love God", or "Love Others"? On the final Sunday of the month, during the moment for all ages, we tested the adults and showed off our Commandments mobile.

For November we're going to continue working from the Spark Curriculum mirroring closely what the adults are doing as we start to get ready to ramp up for Advent. More to come on that, and a look ahead toward Heifer in next month's Steeple Sounds!

Eric Stotts, Director of Kids Church





Church Fair
Friday, Nov. 3 6:30-8:30pm
Pie & Coffee night!
Saturday, Nov. 4 9am - 1pm
Lunch 11 - 1

Harvest table Jewelry
Attic Treasures Rummage
Homemade pies, breads, cookies, candy
Raffle baskets Crafts & holiday items
Walking Tacos & Homemade Soups!

Tell your friends! Come do some shopping, and have pie or lunch!

If you're signed up to contribute, here are the dropoff times:

For crockpot soups:

Saturday, 8-10am (warm soup in a crockpot, please)

For all baked goods, candy, and raffle baskets/items/gift cards:

Thursday 9-3, Friday 9-1 or 4-6

For Attic Treasures (in the fireplace room, please):

Tuesday 9-1, Wednesday 11-3, Thursday 9-3, Friday 9-1 or 4-6

It's not too late to volunteer to help or contribute something! Contact the church office or one of the members of the fair committee, or visit www.cscucc.org/fallfair with questions.

Attic Treasures

It's that time again. We need your Christmas items and other things to sell on the Attic Treasures table.

We are looking for Christmas clothes such as sweaters, ties, gloves, PJs, Christmas books, and Christmas jewelry. (Please no other clothing.) Save all clothes and shoes for the Thrift Shop!

We also are looking for nice dishes, writing paper, frames, new perfume, puzzles, toys and games, and housewares. See above for dropoff times, or call Bev Mitchell at (508)697-2949 if you have any questions.

Also, we need help selling on Friday night and Saturday ... it's a fun table with lots of laughs! Come join us.

Thanks so much,

Bev



Cookies, brownies, breads, and pies!



The bake table is always hugely popular at the fair, so we need lots of goodies to sell! See above for drop off times, and thank you! (Please bag cookies by the dozen and label them. Note on all baked goods if there are any ingredients of key concern to folks - nuts, etc.) Thank you!

“A Night at the Opera with Maryte Bizinkauskas”

Friday, November 10, 2023

Doors open: 6:30pm • Concert begins: 7:00pm

A reception with light hors d'oeuvres will follow.

Bring your favorite wine!

Tickets are \$30 general admission in advance.

\$20 for seniors - use promo code “senior”

\$10 for students - use promo code “student”

Scan QR code to purchase, or visit www.cscucc.org.



There will be raffle baskets, too!



Maryte Bizinkauskas began her operatic vocal training at the Boston Conservatory of Music where she graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Opera Performance under the guidance of John Moriarty and Iride Pilla. She acquired her Master of Music in Opera Performance under the tutelage of Boris Goldovsky at the esteemed Curtis Institute of Music and won the Metropolitan Opera National Auditions. She performed in concert at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City and went on to apprentice at the Santa Fe Opera. She has performed leading roles in Lithuania at the Vilnius Opera including Cio-cio San in *Madama Butterfly* and Musetta in *La Boheme* and at the Kaunas Music Theater again in the role of Cio-cio San and Hana Glawari in *Linksmoji Nasle (The Merry Widow)* and performed lead roles in Germany and Canada. She has been a guest artist with the Kaunas Philharmonic Orchestra, South Jersey Symphony, Brockton Symphony and Boston Bel Canto Opera. She was the Soprano soloist in the Verdi Requiem with the Thunder Bay Orchestra (Canada) and in Los Angeles. She also sang at the Philharmonic

Hall in Vilnius Lithuania for the Sugrižimai Arts Festival and a second concert in Recital Hall in Marijampole and at the Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton, PA.

Ms. Bizinkauskas currently teaches in the Music Department at Bridgewater State University, where she teaches Performances Studies Voice, Voice Class I and Voice Class II, Lyric Diction and Opera Ensemble. She also teaches Classical Voice at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and in her private studio.

Holiday Open Mic

CSCC and The Music Loft are thrilled to announce that CSCC will be hosting a Holiday Open Mic on **December 8th** at 6pm! We encourage musicians and performers of all ages to share their favorite holiday song. Individuals and groups can sign up to perform starting Nov.1 and signups will be closed on December 3rd after Christmas on the Common. Please contact the church office at 508-697-6016 or The Music Loft to sign up. We will need to know the performer's name, email, phone number, song selection (or up to three selections) and what instrument/s you'll be playing.

This Holiday Open Mic will be free, livestreamed, and available on BTV so that those who are homebound can enjoy this community holiday event. Following the Open Mic, THE GRINCH will be visiting and we'll have cookies and hot cocoa for all to share. Let's celebrate the season together!





Available November 1, 2023: Central Closet Thrift Shop will be offering gift certificates!

For only \$9.00, you will receive a \$10.00 gift certificate to give to someone on your gift list. Buy 1 or several and make your holiday shopping a little less stressful.

Central Closet Thrift Shop will be closed on November 4th as the annual church fair will be using our usual space. Stop in for crafts, food, harvest items, attic treasures, and so much more.

We will reopen on the 8th of November. Newly crafted items and gently used Christmas items will be available for sale at this time.

November 29th is our special sale day of the month. All customers will receive one free yellow ticket item with a purchase. More specials to be announced during the month.

We are still accepting new and gently used fall/winter clothing, seasonal decorations, footwear, pocketbooks, jewelry, household items, glassware, linens, books, and toys. Please no electronics and limit donations to 20 items per visit. Donations are accepted during shop hours, Wednesday 10-1 and Saturday 10-1.

Thanks to all our customers, our donors, and our volunteers for supporting us in our mission to help the church.

Connie Chandler, Jane O'Connell

Lynn Pietras, & Gail Wright

Property Donation Form

Members and Friends of Central Square Congregational Church - Greetings!

While we appreciate everyone's generosity, sometimes we need to take control of certain areas, such as donations of items like furniture, room air conditioners, folding chairs, etc. Your Property and Finance Team has decided to institute a donation form that asks that any such donations be approved before they are brought into the church. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

The form is available from the office, as well as on the "giving" page of the website at www.cscucc.org/giving, in PDF format. Please submit a form prior to bringing your item to the church.

Thank you for your help!

Mark Sorgman, Dave Hanson, John Sharland



*Save
The Date*

Saturday, Dec. 2
Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, Dec. 3
Christmas on the Common



MCCLOSKEY INSTITUTE OF VOICE

LIN SCHULLER MEMORIAL RECITAL



November 19, 2023

3:00PM

**CENTRAL SQUARE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

71 Central Square, Bridgewater MA 02324

Donations Accepted

All proceeds go to scholarships for future CMVT candidates



Also accepting mail donations:

5608 Harding Ave., Alexandria, VA 22311

* make sure to include Lin Schuller Memorial Recital
in notes section

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 – November 2023 (Years A&B)

Wed., Nov. 1

Psalm 119:41-48
Deuteronomy 26:16—27:7
Matthew 19:16-22

Thurs., Nov. 2

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 1:1-11
Romans 2:17-29

Fri., Nov. 3

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 2:1-14
2 Peter 2:1-3

Sat., Nov. 4

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 2:15-24
Matthew 23:13-28

Sun., Nov. 5

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

Mon., Nov. 6

Psalm 128
Joshua 4:1-24
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

Tues., Nov. 7

Psalm 128
Joshua 6:1-16, 20
Acts 13:1-12

Wed., Nov. 8

Psalm 128
Joshua 10:12-14
Matthew 15:1-9

Thurs., Nov. 9

Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 5:10-12
Revelation 8:6—9:12

Fri., Nov. 10

Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 8:30-35
Revelation 9:13-21

Sat., Nov. 11

Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 20:1-9
Matthew 24:1-14

Sun., Nov. 12

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Mon., Nov. 13

Psalm 78
Joshua 24:25-33
1 Corinthians 14:20-25

Tues., Nov. 14

Psalm 78
Nehemiah 8:1-12
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Wed., Nov. 15

Psalm 78
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Matthew 24:29-35

Thurs., Nov. 16

Psalm 123
Judges 2:6-15
Revelation 16:1-7

Fri., Nov. 17

Psalm 123
Judges 2:16-23
Revelation 16:8-21

Sat., Nov. 18

Psalm 123
Judges 5:1-12
Matthew 12:43-45

Sun., Nov. 19

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Mon., Nov. 20

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Judges 4:8-24
Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Nov. 21

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Exodus 2:1-10
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Wed., Nov. 22

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Esther 7:1-10
Matthew 24:45-51

Thurs., Nov. 23

Thanksgiving
Psalm 100
Genesis 48:15-22
Revelation 14:1-11 **OR**
Deuteronomy 8:7-18 and
Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Luke 17:11-19

Fri., Nov. 24

Psalm 100
Isaiah 40:1-11
Revelation 22:1-9

Sat., Nov. 25

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:25-31
Matthew 12:46-50

Sun., Nov. 26

Reign of Christ
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Mon., Nov. 27

Psalm 28
Numbers 27:15-23
2 Timothy 2:8-13

Tues., Nov. 28

Psalm 28
Zechariah 11:4-17
Revelation 19:1-9

Wed., Nov. 29

Psalm 28
Jeremiah 31:10-14
John 5:19-40

Thurs., Nov. 30

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Zechariah 13:1-9
Revelation 14:6-13

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>*Unless otherwise noted, worship services are both online and in-person</i></p> <p>5 8:30am Sr. Choir 9-10am Breakfast 9:20am Jr. Choir 10am All Saints Communion Worship* 10:15am Kids Church 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>6 5:30pm Girl Scouts #62143 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open</p>	<p>7 9-1 Church office open 6pm LGBTQ+ Support & Social (HS age) 7pm Women's NA 7:15 LGBTQ+ Support & Social (18+)</p>	<p>1 10-1 Thrift Shop open 11-3 Church office open 11am Obituary Writing Workshop (sr. ctr.) 6pm Girl Scouts #84495 6:30pm Women's Guild 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir</p>	<p>2 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Girl Scouts #70833 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>3 9-1 Church office open 6:30-8:30pm Church Fair & Pie Night</p>	<p>4 9-1 Church Fair</p>
<p>12 8:30am Sr Choir 9:20am Jr Choir 10am Worship* 10:15am Kids Church 11:30 Feminists of Faith 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 5pm Turkey Supper Takeout 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>13 4:30pm Girl Scouts #64998</p>	<p>14 9-1 Church office open 6pm LGBTQ+ Support & Social (HS age) 7pm Women's NA 7:15 LGBTQ+ Support & Social (18+)</p>	<p>15 *Steeple Sounds submissions due* 10-1 Thrift Shop open 11-3 Church office open 6pm Girl Scouts #84495 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir</p>	<p>16 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 5pm Girl Scouts #70833 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>17 9-1 Church office open</p>	<p>18 10-1 Thrift Shop open 2pm Food Pantry Sorting</p>
<p>19 8:30am Sr Choir 9-10am Breakfast 9:20am Jr Choir 10am Worship*, Jr Choir performance 10:15am Kids Church 1pm Girl Scouts #64997 & 62521 6pm Girl Scouts #69063 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>20 5:30pm Girl Scouts #62143 6-8pm Food Pantry Basket Prep</p>	<p>21 9-1 Office open 6pm LGBTQ+ Support & Social (HS age) 7pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7pm Women's NA 7:15 LGBTQ+ Support & Social (18+)</p>	<p>22 10-1 Thrift Shop open 11-3 Church office open 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir</p>	<p>23 THANKSGIVING 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>24 Church office closed</p>	<p>25 10-1 Thrift Shop open</p>
<p>26 8:30am Sr Choir 10am Worship* 10:15am Kids Church 5pm Girl Scouts #82722 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>27 4:30pm Girl Scouts #64998</p>	<p>28 9-1 Church office open 6pm LGBTQ+ Support & Social (HS age) 7pm Women's NA 7:15 LGBTQ+ Support & Social (18+)</p>	<p>29 10-1 Thrift Shop open 11-3 Church office open 6pm Girl Scouts #84495 7pm Cabinet Mtg 7:30pm BSU Alumni Choir</p>	<p>30 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Girl Scouts #70833 7pm AI-Anon</p>		

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes October 18, 2023 at 7pm

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

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

Diane Sheibley took attendance. Quorum was met.

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

September Minutes

The meeting minutes from the September meeting were presented and reviewed. John Sharland motioned to accept the minutes as written; Dave Sheibley seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Pastor's Report – Rev. Beth Stotts

Rev. Beth reported that there is a lot coming up: the fair, the “Night at the Opera” concert fundraiser, among other things. The Episcopal church in town has recently gotten a pastor. There will be a 7pm Thanksgiving service on 11/21 at CSCC, with other churches participating. People will be asked to bring a nonperishable food donation and monetary donations for the food pantry. Rev. Beth met with the people at The Well, and will be participating in a children's grief program. Christmas, being on a Sunday this year, will be comprised of the 10am service, which will the family service, half 4th Sunday of advent, and half Christmas eve; as well as the 10pm candlelight Christmas eve service. Dec. 12 is music Sunday. Rev. Beth is conducting a workshop at the senior center on writing your obituary, on Nov. 1. Finally, she is helping to organize a Holiday Open Mic night on Dec. 8. It will be a multigenerational event, and performers need to sign up ahead of time. The Grinch will make an appearance at the cocoa and cookies reception following, and Al Lucerda will be taking pictures.

Treasurer's Report – Dave Sheibley

Dave reported that we did OK last month. We're on track with budget revenue, and expenses are a bit lower than budget so far. Rev. Beth asked Dave if, with all the new technologies (venmo, paypal, etc), is the job still manageable? Dave replied that it's a little more time at the end of the month, but it's still fine. As an aside, it was noted that Venmo has lower fees than Paypal, so if people have both at their disposal, Venmo is better.

Community Engagement Team – Krissy Cannizzo

Krissy noted that they haven't met lately since they met so many times in September before Autumnfest. It was noted that the Stotts hosted breakfast last Sunday. Ginny Young is all set to do coffee hour this weekend.

Property & Finance Team – John Sharland

John talked to Sandy Kuipers about being involved in fundraising (along with Lynn Pietras and Kathleen Mosher). They will be invited to the P&F Team meeting on November 8 to discuss being the fundraising committee. John & Rich are working on getting the furnaces ready for the cold season and to be turned on (they need annual maintenance first). It was suggested that we should keep the air conditioning unit that's currently in the fireplace room for next year. It can be kept in the sacristy. Electrical stuff (lights, etc) was delivered today for installation this week. For the Saturday work day, it's going to rain on Saturday, so painting won't happen, but John will make sure it happens before winter.

John also discussed the group that expressed interest in using a room in the church for their office, in exchange for a user fee. Rev. Beth researched and drafted an agreement, but they decided it was more expensive than they could afford (the charge was to be \$800/month). But we now have an agreement template we can use for the next potential user.

continued...

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

continued...

Spiritual Engagement Team – Rev. Beth

There is a sermon series going on for the month of October. There is also going to be a sermon series at the end of November. Christmas eve services have been set and were discussed during the Pastor's report.

2024 Service Trip – Rev. Beth

Rev. Beth will meet with the Community Engagement Team regarding fundraising. We likely can't do the same kinds of fundraising projects we did for the youth mission trips. So far there are 6 adults and 3 youth interested.

Annual Church Fair – Diane Sheibley

Diane reported that the fair will take place on Friday evening, Nov. 3, 6:30-8:30 ("Pie Night") and Saturday, Nov. 4, 9-1. Plans are going well. Homemade soups and walking tacos will be sold for lunch. Diane asked permission to have raffles at the fair, and Rev. Beth asked for the same on the night of the concert (11/10). Diane motioned, Rev. Beth seconded. The motion was approve.

Next Cabinet Meeting

Several people noted that they would not be available for the normal Cabinet meeting date of 11/15, so it was decided that Cabinet would meet on 11/29.

Rev. Beth offered a closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 7:54pm.



Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2023
Fiscal Year July 2023 - June 2024

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	31,635	31,507	128	125,000
Unpledged Offerings	2,106	2,521	(414)	10,000
Plate Offering	84	630	(546)	2,500
Kid's Church	113	76	38	300
Total · Pledges / Offerings	33,938	34,733	(795)	137,800
Special Collections				
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	286	504	(218)	2,000
Total · Special Collections	286	504	(218)	2,000
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Breakfasts	0	0	0	0
Church Fair	0	2,016	(2,016)	8,000
Central Closet Thrift Shop	3,967	3,277	690	13,000
Concert/Special Event	0	0	0	0
Misc Fundraisers	(83)	1,260	(1,343)	5,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	3,884	6,553	(2,670)	26,000
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	1,767	756	1,011	3,000
Private Bldg Use	300	126	174	500
Wedding Rentals	0	1,260	(1,260)	5,000
Food Pantry support		302	(302)	1,200
Total · Facility Usage Income	2,067	2,445	(378)	9,700
Miscellaneous Income	36	252	(216)	1,000
Total Income	40,212	44,488	(4,276)	176,500
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	27,938	29,302	1,364	116,252
Total · Support Staff Expenses	9,665	12,596	2,931	49,974
Total · Office Expenses	3,156	2,243	(912)	8,900
Total · Church Building Costs	3,510	8,595	5,085	34,100
Teams				
Congregational Engagement	42	233	191	925
Spiritual Engagement	55	233	178	925
Community Engagement	292	233	(59)	925
Property and Finance	36	233	197	925
Community Engagement Reserve	475	473	(2)	1,875
Total · Teams	899	1,405	506	5,575
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	0	504	504	2,000
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	50	50	200
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	45,168	54,696	9,529	217,001
Net income (loss)	(4,956)	(10,208)	5,253	(40,501)
Transfer from Investments	10,000	10,208	208	40,501
	5,044	0		0

Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2023
Fiscal Year July 2023 - June 2024

Cash balances	
Operating account	6,693
Money Market	23,058
Minister's Discretionary account	512
Outreach account	1,061
Capital Campaign account	2,474
PayPal account	925
Venmo account	11
Total cash balances	<u>34,733</u>

Endowments investment fund	
Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	46,296
Deposits (withdrawals)	
Gain (loss) for month	<u>(6,732)</u>
Unrestricted funds, ending	<u>39,564</u>
Total value 9/30/2023	<u>175,077</u>
Parsonage investment fund	
Beginning balance	50,437
Deposits (withdrawals)	0
Gain (loss) for month	<u>(1,837)</u>
Total value 9/30/2023	<u>48,601</u>
Total investments 9/30/2023	<u>223,678</u>

Food Pantry account balance August 31, 2023	10,824
Donations	1,074
Expenses	<u>(2,282)</u>
Food Pantry account balance September 30, 2023	<u>9,616</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	8,061.22	97,805.76	93,628.72	98,693.62
Sept.	10,624.57	9,379.22	10,587.06	108,430.33	103,007.94	109,280.68
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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Sexton: Rich Sullivan

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

Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes

Treasurer: David Sheibley, treasurer@cscucc.com

Kids Church Director: Eric Stotts, eastotts@gmail.com

Office telephone: (508) 697-6016

Facebook pages: facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma (main page),
facebook.com/groups/801550253194149 (youth page)

Instagram: @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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Bridgewater, MA 02324

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