

Steeple Sounds

The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
April 2025

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

Holy Week & Easter at Central Square Congregational Church, UCC



Palm Sunday, April 13, 10am

- Kids Church leading worship!

Maundy Thursday, April 17

- Soup and Bread Supper at 6pm
- Foot Washing and Communion at 7pm

Good Friday, April 18, 3pm

- Worship with Pianist Julia Scott Carey and Soprano Rose Hegele

Holy Saturday, April 19, 10am

- End of Life Planning with Rev. Beth
Have you heard of Five Wishes? It's an Advance Directive and Medical Power of Attorney document that Rev. Beth will help you navigate.

Easter Sunday, April 20

- 6:30am – Sunrise worship at Hanson Farm
Celebrate the Risen Christ together with people from all over the Bridgewater/Raynham area!
- 10am – Easter worship at CSCC with Trumpet Fanfare!



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.



**Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 9am-1pm
and by appointment**

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, April 23, 7pm

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

CSCC Team Leadership 2024-25

Spiritual/Congregational Engagement Team

Leaders:

Carol Chaffee, Linda Chipman,
Deb Sorgman, Eric Stotts

Property & Finance Team Leaders:

Patrick Donohue, Dave Hanson, John Sharland

Community Engagement Team Leaders:

Heather Ciaramitaro, Diane Glass, Terry Reynolds



I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, beautiful cards, calls, visitors, flowers and well wishes during my time out and in the hospital. It was very scary but with all the love and support it was made to be a little easier. I'm so thankful for everyone in this community and to be a part of it. Again, my sincere thanks to you all.

Jenne Foronjy



**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
Anne Malmquist - amalmquist@comcast.net
Cristi Ciaramitaro
Savannah Wells, Jr. Deacon
Liam O’Connell, Jr. Deacon

CSCC Care Team
Carol Chaffee
Bev Mitchell
Rev. Beth Stotts
Nina Gabel-Jorgensen



Pilgrim Association Spring Meeting 2025!

Sunday, April 27, 2:00pm
Hingham Congregational Church, UCC
Program to include a review of the newly released draft of the United Church of Christ Manual on Local Church



**April 6 Offering
(rescheduled from March 30)**



Thank you to everyone who is helping out with coffee hour after worship. The response has been welcoming and the fellowship time is appreciated by all. April dates will be the 6th, 13th, and the 27th. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board near the kitchen in Fellowship Hall, or contact the church office. Two to three volunteers are needed each Sunday. Thank you in advance.

Connie Chandler



JOIN REV. BETH IN CELEBRATING
NATIONAL BURRITO DAY!
Friday, April 4
12:00 noon
at Fiestas
34 Bedford St.
East Bridgewater

CSCC Junior Choir 2024-25!

**Rehearsals at 9:20am:
Apr. 6 - Apr. 13 - Apr. 20**

**Performance at 10am:
April 20 (Easter)**



Saturday
April 12
9am - 1pm

Bag sale starts at 12pm

Sponsored by the Women's Guild & Fellowship

Homemade soups & sandwiches "to go"

Baked goods



Lent is in full swing! In March, the kids worked hard on various projects and learning about what the Lenten season is all about.

These 40 days can often bring up some complex emotions so we've been working through what those emotions are, and then figuring out why as Christians this time is important to us. This will all culminate for Kids Church with them presenting what they've been working on to the congregation on Palm Sunday. So how will this work?

Well, unlike other interactive worship services in the past, we will have displays not only in the Sanctuary, but also in the Kids Church Room! These displays will explain not only what we've been working on throughout Lent, but what a typical Sunday morning looks like in Kids Church. We hope to see everyone on Palm Sunday, April 13!

Eric Stotts, Kids Church Director



A Community Event: Baked Potato Bar & Bingo

Join us for a night of Yumminess and Fun.

On May 3 from 5 - 7 PM

- \$10 - over 17 - for one potato, two potato, three potato, four
- \$5 - 17 and under - for one potato, two potato, three potato, four

Create your perfectly topped baked potato and enjoy some fun and silliness playing Bingo and Hot Potato. We will supply the baked potatoes, and an enormous amount of topping selections. The sky's the limit. May your juices flow with artistry and creativity.

If you don't want a potato, you can join us for some fun and games at no charge. Sign ups are encouraged.

From "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off!"

You like potato and I like potato;
You like tomato and I like tomato;
Potato, potahto, tomato, tomahto;
Let's call the whole thing off!

Let's Call The Whole Thing Off lyrics © Ira Gershwin Music, Nokawi Music, Chappell & Co., Inc

Church World Service

As you recall, on January 12, our worship service was about Church World Service; how it began, how it operates, and how we can help. If you go to the Church World Service website today, the following message pops up:

"Urgent: Sweeping funding suspensions and restrictive policies have forced CWS to make painful cuts, leaving vulnerable families without critical support. As a community of compassion and action, we refuse to turn our backs on those in need. Your donation today can help bridge the gaps,

ensuring that refugees, communities battling hunger, and disaster-affected families receive the care and protection they deserve. Give now to keep hope alive."

If you feel so inclined to individually support Church World Service, a non-profit organization that expends less than 10% of its budget on overhead, please visit cswglobal.org/donate.

Thank you,

Carol Chaffee

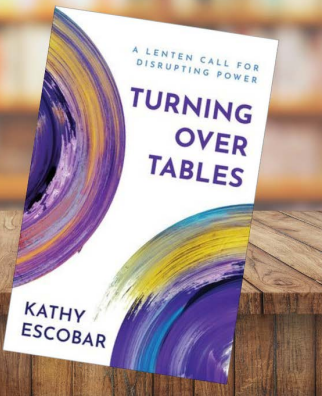


84.6% U.S. Government Support
8.6% Public Support & Community Appeals
4.5% Member Communions & Other Organizations
1.7% Investment & Other Income
.6% Donated Materials



78.1% Services for Displaced People
9.7% Management & General
4% Global Relief & Development
3.2% Fund Raising
3.1% Emergency Response
1.9% Advocacy

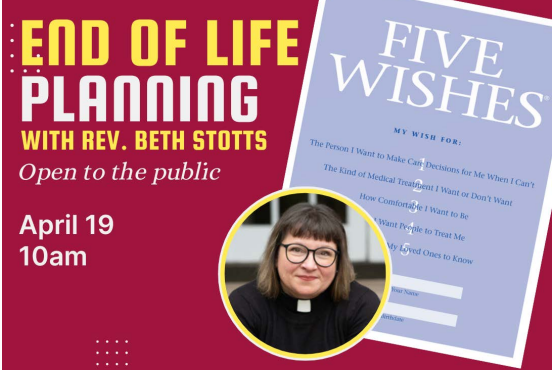
Lent & Easter



Lenten
Book Study

Turning Over Tables
A LENTEN CALL FOR DISRUPTING POWER
KATHY ESCOBAR

Saturday
April 5
9:30am



END OF LIFE PLANNING
WITH REV. BETH STOTTS
Open to the public

April 19
10am

FIVE WISHES
MY WISH FOR:
The Person I Want to Make Care Decisions for Me When I Can't
The Kind of Medical Treatment I Want or Don't Want
How Comfortable I Want to Be
Who I Want to Be Around
Who I Want to Treat Me
Who I Want to Know

End of Life Planning
Led by Rev. Beth Stotts
Certified Five Wishes Facilitator
Saturday, April 19, 10am

Five Wishes is an end of life planning document combining a living will and health care power of attorney in addition to addressing matters of comfort care and spirituality.

Wishes 1 and 2 are both legal documents. Once signed, they meet the legal requirements for an advance directive. Wishes 3, 4, and 5 address matters of comfort care, spirituality, forgiveness, and final wishes.

Bring your coffee and join Rev. Beth for a discussion on this meaningful process.



Join together on Maundy Thursday for a **simple soup and bread supper** prior to our Worship Service on April 17.

We will gather in fellowship hall at 6 PM and enjoy some soup, bread, and water. **Reservations are required by Sunday, April**

13 so we know how much soup to make. Please email the church office - office@cscucc.com or sign up on our website. A suggested donation of \$5 per person is appreciated to cover the menu costs.

Featuring corn chowder and chicken soup.

The Congregational and Spiritual Engagement Team

Bridgewater State University Choirs Present

Simon Bore the Cross

by Margaret Bonds

with poetry by Langston Hughes

Friday, April 18 - 7:00pm

at Central Square Church

Free Admission • cscucc.org/events for details



Maundy Thursday, Foot Washing and Communion
April 17, 7pm



Good Friday, Worship

with pianist Julia Scott Carey and soprano Rose Hegele

April 18, 3pm



Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Hanson Farm

An ecumenical service presented by the churches of Bridgewater
April 20, 6:30am



Easter Sunday Worship at CSCC, with Trumpet Fanfare
April 20, 10am



After our very successful fund raising campaign last Fall, Forni Oil told us that they could not get to installing a new boiler until March and they said that the zones it heats might be without heat for up to a week.

Well, March came, but in the meantime, we realized that with the North River Collaborative school using one of the large rooms that is heated by that boiler, they could not be without heat for a full week. So the good news is that we actually thought about this and caught ourselves, but also that Forni was contacted and we have locked in the week of April school vacation (week of April 21) for the new boiler installation.

The old boiler gave us quite a week in March, needing first a Forni service call for a plugged nozzle on the burner and then a Sunday afternoon into the night emergency plumbing need to replace the ages old circulator pump that feeds the area used by North River. The two problems were not related, just coincidental. Many thanks from the team for Dave Hanson's success at contacting local plumber Ray Isaacs on Sunday at noon and being with Ray into Sunday night to get the problem fixed.

Again, thank you to all who donated to the New Boiler Fund. While we were there on Sunday night, so were 75 or 80 folks who were attending the AA meeting in Fellowship Hall. People of all walks of life in recovery, one day at a time. Without your generous support, both in regular giving and for these special projects, we would not be able to be the beacon of hope and service to the many outside groups that call our church building their meeting place.

Wishing you warmth and comfort,

John Sharland for the Property and Finance Team



Giving Statements

If you need a statement of your giving to CSCC for 2024, contact CSCC Financial Secretary Judy Pino at Judith.Pino@comcast.net.



It's Budget Time!

April 15 is the due date for teams to get their budget info to the Treasurer, Dave Sheibley (treasurer@cscucc.com). Here's a bit of explanation to help you determine if you should submit a 'budget request'.

Income

If you have an INCOME line item that should be added to the 2025-26 budget, please submit it. Maybe it's a new fundraiser that you'd like to plan. Remember that we have been running deficit budgets in recent years, which we can't sustain forever. Do you and some friends have a new fundraiser you'd like to plan for the church in the next fiscal year? Or maybe there is a new component planned for an existing fundraiser. If you'd like to head one up, but don't have any ideas, let us know that too - we have some!

Expenses

If you foresee that you would like your group, project, ministry, or other responsibility to receive more money for plans that you have for next year, please submit those requests to your team. They might involve (but aren't limited to):

- Bible and book studies • Worship music/choir
- Kids Church • Altar/sanctuary décor and supplies
- Worship supplies and planning

All projects and ministries should report their budget needs to their teams, so that the teams can submit their budgets to the Treasurer by April 15.

If team leaders have questions, feel free to reach out to Dave at treasurer@cscucc.com.



"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself; and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is... life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you."

—Pope Francis



Annual Reports from teams and ministries are due to the office no later than May 15, for the program year 2024-25.

Not sure what you should write, or if you are expected to submit a report? Visit the website to see past years' reports: visit cscucc.org, click on "About Us", then "Annual Reports", or ask the office for a copy of last year's.

CLOSED APRIL 9 & 12

CENTRAL CLOSET THRIFT SHOP
at Central Square Congregational Church

Wed & Sat, 10-1 * www.cscucc.org/thrift-shop

It's Lunch Time!

Potluck Lunch and Fellowship
Third Sunday of the month.
for living worship.

NO LUNCH THIS MONTH

Unable to bring anything? No worries.
Please join us anyway.

Because the third Sunday of the month falls on Easter this month, there will be no potluck lunch. See you in May!



At our next meeting on April 2 at 6:30pm, we will be doing chair yoga with Judy from Maha Yoga in Bridgewater. Come and see how good it feels to loosen up your muscles! This is for all ages.

Spring Rummage Sale

The Guild rummage sale will be held Saturday, April 12, from 9-1 with bag sale starting at 12noon.

There will be clothing of all sizes, shoes, pocketbooks, accessories, jewelry, linens, household items, toys, books/puzzles, glassware, holiday decor, and more.

Our famous Soups "to go" will be on sale as well as sandwiches (with chips and brownies) and baked goods. Yum!

We need lots of donations so bring in your items in good condition to the Fellowship Hall beginning Tuesday April 8. All proceeds benefit local and worldwide non-profits.

Spring is here - time to spring forward, time to clean and reorganize. We are in the process of cleaning, too, at the Central Closet Thrift Shop. We could use some suggestions of changes you would like to see us make. Any ideas you might have, please share. During the month of April we will have a suggestion box out on the thrift shop side of the fellowship hall. Don't be shy, fill out a form and drop it in. All forms will be read and considered. Thanks in advance.

Central Closet Thrift Shop will be closed April 9th and 12th, and reopening on April 16th. The Women's Guild and Fellowship of Central Square Congregational Church will be getting the fellowship hall ready for their annual Spring rummage sale. The sale is being held on Saturday April 12th, 9-1. Be sure to check out their info on this page.



Any and all donations for Central Closet Thrift Shop should be delivered to the shop during shop hours. We are now accepting Spring and Summer items. Please limit your donations to 20 items per drop off.

As always thanks for all your help and support,

Connie, Sandy, Jane, Lynn, & Gail

PS - we still have Hilliard's chocolate bars for sale! What a great idea for Easter! 2 for \$5



Maybe You Can't Do It...Right Now

by Sheri Turner

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

I am moved by Paul's humility in Philippians. I believe this to be inspired writing because more of us need to see this example of humility. Paul understands that humility doesn't mean not acknowledging your strengths. He in fact lists many of his positive attributes when he writes to his audience. While he recognizes he is quite a specimen in his community (who knew that which day one was circumcised mattered?), he also recognizes that he should not lose focus on what is truly important. He has strengths sure, but those pale in comparison to what Jesus has taught him is truly important. Paul acknowledges that while he has positive attributes they are worthless if he doesn't continue to aim to be faithful to Christ's teachings.

Paul also acknowledges that he has not yet achieved the goal that Christ has taught him to pursue, but that the pursuit itself is to be honored. I am thinking of a song by Miley Cyrus as I write this called "The Climb." Miley sings in this song about how the pursuit of the goal itself is the point. The pursuit itself has intrinsic value. While achieving the goal would be great, it's the actual pursuit of something worthy that matters. As I consider this I find myself thinking about what kinds of thoughts Jesus had while living his brief thirty three years here on earth. Moving through his life as a human, he knew he had a lot of trials, both literal and figurative, ahead. I'm sure he had times where he felt unmotivated or discouraged, yet he kept in pursuit of his goal. Can you imagine Christ popping his eyes open one morning on his journey, rubbing the sleep from his eyes and thinking, "Why bother getting dressed today? People are only going to make fun of me...and I have no idea how much more walking I have to do. Maybe I'll just turn over and go back to sleep. Hardly anyone will believe

me anyway." How horrible would that have been? We'd be in a real pickle as humans if he had done that, wouldn't we?

So when you have a day or two where you feel like there's no point to starting your day (I have this feeling more than I like to admit) remember the mere act of *trying* matters in God's eyes. He cares that you are willing to do even the smallest thing to pursue what you feel your calling is. Some days you may be able to run towards the goal like a victor, but other days the best you can do is put your shoes on and take a few steps on the route. If you must sit down and take some water after this, God says it's okay. He is with you. Just don't give up. Whether it is a full-tilt run for miles or a few faltering steps that you can accomplish, it matters. Remember that you are pursuing something important and that your efforts in your pursuit ARE the goal.

Sometimes when I'm trying to do something difficult, I find myself thinking "I just can't do it." I might feel scared of trying to do what I am trying to accomplish. I may not have the physical strength, the emotional capacity or the intellectual grasp of whatever skills are needed to accomplish my intended goal. If it's important to do whatever it is, I will sometimes cry and curse to myself. In those moments, I am trying to learn to remind myself that I can't do it...yet. If I don't get it done in the moment I can keep trying and eventually I WILL accomplish the task.

One last thought to offer you all some encouragement. Don't look back. By that I mean, don't spend a lot of time regretting what you didn't accomplish, or bemoaning what you *should* have done. That is a TRUE waste of time. Keep pressing on towards the goal and don't worry about what you *didn't* do yet. What matters is that you are doing something to accomplish your goal now. God says so.

never let a
STUMBLE IN THE ROAD
BE THE END OF THE
journey

Central Square Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324



March 19, 2025

Dear Members and Friends of Central Square Church,

We write to you today as your leadership team, with both a heavy heart and a deep trust in God's guidance, to share an important decision regarding the future of our pastoral leadership. After much prayerful discernment, thoughtful discussion, and consideration of our current financial realities, we have come to realize that we need to seriously consider changing the pastor's position from full-time to $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

We understand that this is difficult to take in, and we recognize the deep impact it may have on each of you. Please know that this has not been an easy discussion to have. It reflects our commitment to being faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us by God and the congregation. As you are aware, maintaining the financial health of our church is an ongoing challenge, and we believe this is a step in navigating our current financial landscape.

This change in the pastor's position does not lessen the strength of our faith or the commitment to our collective ministry. We have overcome difficult times in the past and with God's guidance, we can be empowered by opportunities for growth in new roles. Rev. Beth remains deeply committed to serving our community, and we will all need to work together to ensure that needs are met in creative and meaningful ways. We trust in God's movement through this church and each of you, knowing that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us into new possibilities.

We understand that some of you may have questions about how this transition will look. If you have any questions or concerns, you are invited to attend one of the three listening sessions (one of which will be held over zoom) with the Church Moderator, Anne Malmquist and our Senior Deacon, Deb Sorgman. We will follow the listening sessions up with a congregational vote in May.

Thank you for your faithful support and participation in this community of faith and our ministries.

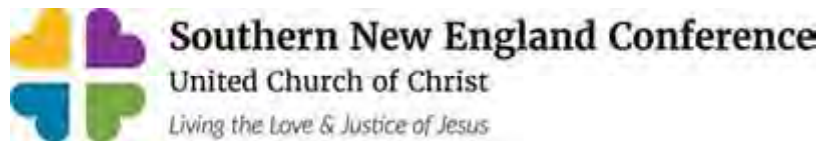
In Christ's love and service,

The Members of the Cabinet
Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

If you have any questions or concerns,
you are invited to attend one of the three listening sessions (one of which will be held over Zoom) with the Church Moderator, Anne Malmquist and our Senior Deacon, Deb Sorgman:

Saturday, April 5th, 10:30am in the Fireplace Room
Sunday, April 6th, 11:30am in the Fireplace Room
Tuesday, April 8th, 5:30pm via Zoom (contact the church office for the link)

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



Daily Lectionary Scripture References – April 2025 (Year C)

Tues., Apr. 1

Psalm 53
Leviticus 25:1-19
Revelation 19:9-10

Wed., Apr. 2

Psalm 53, 2 Kings 4:1-7
Luke 9:10-17

Thurs., Apr. 3

Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:1-7
Philippians 2:19-24

Fri., Apr. 4

Psalm 126, Isaiah 43:8-15
Philippians 2:25—3:1

Sat., Apr. 5

Psalm 126, Exodus 12:21-27
John 11:45-57

Sun., Apr. 6

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Mon., Apr. 7

Psalm 20
Exodus 40:1-15
Hebrews 10:19-25

Tues., Apr. 8

Psalm 20
Judges 9:7-15
1 John 2:18-28

Wed., Apr. 9

Psalm 20
Habakkuk 3:2-15
Luke 18:31-34

Thurs., Apr. 10

Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 53:10-12
Hebrews 2:1-9

Fri., Apr. 11

Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 54:9-10
Hebrews 2:10-18

Sat., Apr. 12

Psalm 31:9-16, Leviticus 23:1-8
Luke 22:1-13

Sun., Apr. 13

Palm Sunday
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40

Mon., Apr. 14

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Tues., Apr. 15

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Wed., Apr. 16

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3, John 13:21-32

Thurs., Apr. 17

Maundy or Holy 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. 18

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. 19

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. 20

Easter
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Mon., Apr. 21

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Joshua 10:16-27
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Tues., Apr. 22

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a
Revelation 12:1-12

Wed., Apr. 23

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
2 Samuel 6:1-15
Luke 24:1-12

Thurs., Apr. 24

Psalm 150
1 Samuel 17:1-23
Acts 5:12-16

Fri., Apr. 25

Psalm 150
1 Samuel 17:19-32
Acts 5:17-26

Sat., Apr. 26

Psalm 150
1 Samuel 17:32-51
Luke 24:36-40

Sun, Apr. 27

Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 28

Psalm 122
Esther 7:1-10
Revelation 1:9-20

Tues., Apr. 29

Psalm 122
Esther 8:1-17
Revelation 2:8-11

Wed., Apr. 30

Psalm 122
Esther 9:1-5, 18-23
Luke 12:4-12

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>*Unless otherwise noted, worship services are both online and in-person</i>		1 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	2 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open 6:30pm Women's Guild & Fellowship	3 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	4 9-1 Church office open 12pm National Burrito Day with Rev. Beth at Fiesta, EB	5 9:30am Book Study 10-1 Thrift Shop open 10:30am Listening Session re: Pastoral Leadership
6 Fifth Sunday of Lent One Great Hour of Sharing 8:30am Sr. choir 9:20am Jr choir 10am Communion Worship*, Kids Church 11:30am Listening Session re: Pastoral Leadership 7:30pm AA Meeting	7 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open	8 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA 11:30am Listening Session re: Pastoral Leadership (Zoom)	9 9-1 Church office open	10 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon 7pm Prop & Fin Team	11 9-1 Church office open	12 9-1 Rummage Sale
13 Palm Sunday 8:30am Sr. choir 9:20am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church leads worship 7:30pm AA Meeting	14	15 9-1 Church office open 10am CSCC Staff Mtg 7pm Women's NA	WG&F Rummage Sale Dropoff & Setup, 9am-1pm		18 Good Friday 9-1 Church office open 3pm Good Friday Worship* 7pm BSU Choirs present "Simon Bore the Cross"	19 10-1 Thrift Shop open 10am End of Life Planning with Rev. Beth
20 Easter Sunday 6:30am Sunrise service at Hanson Farm 8:30am Sr. choir 9:20am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Jr. choir performance 7:30pm AA Meeting	21	22 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	23 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open 7pm Cabinet Mtg	24 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	25 9-1 Church office open	26 10-1 Thrift Shop open
27 10am Worship* 2pm Pilgrim Assn Spring Meeting 7:30pm AA Meeting	28	29 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	30 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open	Please note: The full calendar of all building uses is available on cscucc.org or by contacting the church office.		

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes March 19, 2025 at 7pm

Location: Fellowship Hall, Church

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Anne Malmquist, Moderator.

Cabinet members in attendance:

Anne Malmquist, Moderator
David Sheibley, Treasurer
Carol Chaffee, Spiritual Engagement Team
Carol Chaffee, Congregational Engagement Team
Nina Gabel-Jorgensen, Clerk
John Sharland, Property and Finance
Terry Reynolds, Community Engagement Team

Others in Attendance:

Dave Hanson

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

February minutes

The meeting minutes from the February meeting were presented and reviewed. John Sharland motioned to accept the minutes as written, Anne Malmquist seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Update on Pastor’s report

Lenten plans and Easter plans underway. Temp office manager working out. Hired a sub for Rev Beth’s summer month vacation. Super Saturday workshop was incredible. One of the better ones. Pilgrim Association ministry check-in scheduled for April 9th. Missed last time in 2018 due to Josephine’s birth! Pastoral calls down. 3 funerals. Burrito Day is April 4th. April 5th book discussion then holy week begins. See Beth’s report for other dates.

Treasurer’s Report - Dave Sheibley

1. Pretty good month
2. \$14k in February, 6k donation from one person.
3. Investments are “ok”.
4. 1.5% every month put into Community engagement account
5. Diane S. reminding us to submit a budget request to Property and Finance committee by April 15th.
6. Question regarding coffee hour expenses and lunches. Carol requests an itemization of expenses regarding this expense line.

Congregational and Spiritual Engagement Team – Carol Chaffee

1. Selling lilies, daffies, and tulips for Easter Sunday. March 30th is the last date for order. Waiting for order forms to get to Carol - especially for memorial messages and payments.
2. Connie had an idea to have a simple soup supper on Maundy Thursday. Soup, bread, water. 6pm. Two types of soup. Reached out to two high schoolers for community service with one supervisor so we can go to the service.
3. Baked potato bar. Potatoes from Hanson’s. Play Bingo! Chocolate bars as prizes. Need bingo supplies. May 3rd, 5-7pm. Rev Beth will check with the Senior Center for bingo support. Potato Bingo.

Community Engagement Report

1. Voted to support Church World Service.
2. One great hour of sharing, last week of March and first week of April
3. Bridgewater Business Association - nothing new.
4. No progress on new sign - check on the Amazon link Dave sent. The sign in the link has wheels. ***continued...***

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

continued...

5. Food pantry got a new freezer.

Property and Finance

1. Flat roof is fixed. \$2350.
2. Waiting to hear from the guy with the “scissor lift” to get the front corner of the church fixed as well as the two windows.
3. Two Sundays ago - serviced burner for the Sunday School room. Circulator pump had a lot of air, it needed to be purged. The pump had to be replaced. Put in a used one in the meantime until we can get a new one. No bills yet from Forni Brothers or the plumber for the circulator pump.
4. Installation of new boiler April 21.
5. Floor - church street entrance. Too much money for now.
6. John motioned to keep Patrick Donahue on the Property team. Carol Chaffee seconded.
7. Getting video cameras for the back door, with a sign “under surveillance”.
8. Replace office door lock with a deadbolt that can be opened with a code for security reasons.
9. Upgrade sign to lock door after 8pm.
10. Brick project re: front walk on hold.

Reducing Reverend Beth’s time to ¾ time - letter review

Congregation listening sessions will be held on April 5th, 6th and 8th (zoom). Annual meeting would go forward with whatever decision was made regarding this issue. John motioned, Anne seconded, all in favor. Letter going out on 3/20/2025. The line items will accompany the letter.

Stewardship

Early stages, starting to come together. Working on the Gala. Coming up on the 30th.

Community Service Job List

When High School calls us for possible community service tasks, we’d like to have a list of tasks ready and at hand. Need a list of what we need for example:

- Cut grass
- Wash Windows
- Shutter dusting
- Ask each of the committees for a list of tasks

Team Point Person

- Designate someone to answer emails from each of the teams.
- Nina will create a column in excel spreadsheet to indicate who is the point person.

Property and Finance Team sub-Committee

Two types of fund-raising:

- a. Budget Church (Regular fund raising) and
- b. Capital Campaign
 - i. Needs monthly meeting

Additional random ideas:

Kids Trivia Movie night

Patreon fund raising for online congregation

Next Cabinet meeting is April 23rd. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2025
Fiscal Year July 2024 - June 2025

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	76,293	82,992	(6,699)	125,000
Unpledged Offerings	12,423	7,967	4,456	12,000
Plate Offering	380	664	(284)	1,000
Kid's Church	420	332	88	500
Total · Pledges / Offerings	<u>89,516</u>	<u>91,955</u>	<u>(2,439)</u>	<u>138,500</u>
Special Collections				
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	163	1,328	(1,164)	2,000
Total · Special Collections	<u>163</u>	<u>1,328</u>	<u>(1,164)</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Church Fair	7,065	5,311	1,753	8,000
Central Closet Thrift Shop	12,389	9,959	2,429	15,000
Furnace fundraiser	33,453	0	33,453	0
Misc Fundraisers	22	0	22	0
Julia Concert	1,555	0	1,555	0
Magical Evening	1,558	0	1,558	0
Total Misc Fundraisers	3,135	1,992	1,144	3,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	<u>56,042</u>	<u>15,270</u>	<u>37,658</u>	<u>23,000</u>
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	2,545	2,656	(111)	4,000
North River Collaborative	9,000	9,959	(959)	15,000
Private Bldg Use	0	332	(332)	500
Food Pantry support	1,000	797	203	1,200
Total · Facility Usage Income	<u>12,545</u>	<u>13,743</u>	<u>(1,198)</u>	<u>20,700</u>
Miscellaneous Income	180	664	(484)	1,000
Total Income	<u>158,446</u>	<u>122,961</u>	<u>35,485</u>	<u>185,200</u>
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	82,983	79,472	(3,511)	119,698
Total · Support Staff Expenses	30,418	33,531	3,113	50,503
Total · Office Expenses	7,112	5,909	(1,203)	8,900
Total · Church Building Costs	21,305	21,644	339	32,600
Teams				
Spiritual Engagement	1,797	996	(801)	1,500
Kid's Church	339	0	(339)	
Congregational Engagement	191	598	406	900
Community Engagement	975	664	(311)	1,000
Breakfasts/Lunches	(148)	0	148	0
Property and Finance	119	199	80	300
Community Engagement Reserve	930	1,245	315	1,875
Total · Teams	<u>4,203</u>	<u>3,701</u>	<u>(502)</u>	<u>5,575</u>
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	0	1,328	1,328	2,000
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	133	133	200
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	<u>146,021</u>	<u>145,718</u>	<u>(303)</u>	<u>219,476</u>
Net income (loss)	12,425	(22,757)	35,182	(34,276)
Transfer from Investments	20,000		(20,000)	31,276
	<u>32,425</u>	<u>(22,757)</u>		<u>(3,000)</u>

Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2025
Fiscal Year July 2024 - June 2025

Cash balances	
Operating account	17,603
Money Market	27,356
Minister's Discretionary account	453
Community Engagement Reserve	2,933
Building fund/Capital Improvements account	28,166
PayPal account	80
Venmo account	<u>162</u>
Total cash balances	<u><u>76,753</u></u>

Vanguard investment funds	
Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	90,068
Deposits (withdrawals)	
Gain (loss) for month	<u>(305)</u>
Unrestricted funds, ending	<u>89,763</u>
Total investments 2/28/2025	<u><u>225,276</u></u>

Food Pantry account balance January 31, 2025	26,166
Donations	270
Expenses	<u>(2,983)</u>
Food Pantry account balance February 28, 2025	<u><u>23,453</u></u>

	Giving Comparison					
	<u>2023 Month</u>	<u>2024 Month</u>	<u>2025 Month</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>	<u>2025 YTD</u>
Jan.	10,307.95	10,226.11	9,936.61	10,307.95	10,226.11	9,936.61
Feb.	9,713.95	7,168.42	14,385.21	20,021.90	17,394.53	24,321.82
March	9,535.31	11,414.05		29,557.21	28,808.58	
April	15,149.70	21,591.08		44,706.91	50,399.66	
May	21,938.88	18,534.50		66,645.79	68,934.16	
June	8,696.40	9,079.51		75,342.19	78,013.67	
July	15,290.21	8,518.30		90,632.40	86,531.97	
Aug.	8,061.22	7,908.21		98,693.62	94,440.18	
Sept.	10,587.06	13,892.94		109,280.68	108,333.12	
Oct.	12,608.01	9,569.39		121,888.69	117,902.51	
Nov.	8,281.58	10,814.97		130,170.27	128,717.48	
Dec.	13,625.20	14,193.23		143,795.47	142,910.71	



1821-2021

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

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Church Administration

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Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes

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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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