



Steeple Sounds

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

From the Desk of Rev. Beth

Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, Pastor

There's a quote I love from Frederick Buechner: "The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are. Because the party wouldn't have been complete without you." It's a beautiful reminder that the life we're given is not only sacred, but also surprising.

As we enter May—a month of blooms and shifting seasons and hopeful sunrises—I find myself reflecting on the power of surprise. Not the kind that jumps out from behind the door, but the quiet kind. The kind that shows up in a child's question, a stranger's kindness, an unexpected answer to prayer, or a moment of deep peace right in the middle of a chaotic day.

In our faith tradition, we're no strangers to surprise. The whole Easter story, which still rings in our hearts during this season, is built on it. The tomb was empty. The stone was rolled away. Life triumphed over death. Again and again, Jesus showed up in places and among people no one expected—the margins, the ordinary roads, the locked rooms. Surprise was part of the gospel from the beginning.

So what does it mean for us, today, to live open to holy surprise?

It might mean letting go of our tight schedules for just a moment to sit with someone who needs to talk. It might mean being willing to be wrong, to change, to grow in ways we hadn't planned. It might mean saying yes to a small, quiet nudge from the Spirit to reach out, to risk, to try again.

When we welcome surprise, we welcome the Spirit's movement. We admit that we don't have all the answers—that maybe the mystery is where God most often speaks.

This month, I invite you to join me in paying attention to surprise. Where is it showing up in your life? What might God be saying through it?

Let's be people who live with our eyes open and our hearts soft. Let's welcome each other—and the world—with the kind of wonder that says, "I didn't expect this, but maybe it's just what I needed."

May the God of unexpected joy meet you in the smallest, most ordinary places.

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.



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

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, May 21, 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

SAVE THE DATE!

**CENTRAL SQUARE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**

ANNUAL MEETING

**INCLUDES MINISTRY
CELEBRATIONS, ANNUAL
ELECTION, BUDGET VOTE,
AND LUNCH!**

 **JUNE 8, 2025
AT 11:00 AM**



**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



DUE MAY 15

Annual Reports from all teams and ministries are due to the office no later than May 15. Reports should be reflective of the program year Sept 2024 - June 2025.

Not sure if you should be submitting a report, or how to phrase it? Visit www.cscucc.org/annualrpts for past years’ reports, or contact the church office.



The Reintroduction of Our Offering – An Act of Worship

Giving has always been a form of worship in the Bible and we are commended to honor and glorify God in this way.

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce.” (Proverbs 3:9)

Welcome back Offering! We have missed you and the spirituality and faith that you invoke in us as we worship together as a community (we discontinued our offering collection during the COVID epidemic). As of Easter Sunday, the offering has been reintroduced into our worship service. Sometimes we may have ushers pass the plate to you and other times we may invite you to bring your gifts to the plate. Regardless, giving of ourselves is a faithful act of worshipping our Triune God.

Congregational and Spiritual Engagement Team



After worship coffee hour/fellowship time has shown growth and interest! There is lively conversation as we greet each other while we enjoy some treats with our coffee or cold beverage. Coffee hour will continue through the four Sundays in May. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the board close to the kitchen entrance. Two to three hosts are needed each Sunday so please consider helping out. May 11th is Mother's Day. It would be very nice if some men and youth could host the fellowship time for all the moms, grandmothers, aunts, and mom-like figures in our lives. Instructions provided.

Thank you to everyone who continues to sign up and help with coffee hour. Thank you to those who don't sign up but pitch in and help with serving and clean up or provide a baked good. Weekly coffee hour would not be possible without everyone's help.

Connie Chandler

CSCC Junior Choir
2024-25!

Rehearsals at 9:20am:
May 4 - May 11 - May 18

Performance at 10am:
May 18

From the Property & Finance Team

The team held its April meeting on the 10th, in the warmth of the Fireplace Room. In attendance were John Sharland, David Hanson, Pat Donohue, Treasurer Dave Shieibley, and Gordon Brailsford, our consultant emeritus. We welcomed Pat Donohue to the team and once again thanked Gordon for his many years of contributions to the team's charge and efforts.

Recently, we have had repairs made to the flat roof of the church building. There were several issues with an actual small hole near a vent pipe and flashing problems. These caused leaks into two of the small rooms adjacent to the Kids Church space. The damaged ceiling tiles will be replaced soon. So far so good with no leaks now. We are expecting a bill of about \$2300 from Kevin Bean for this work.



We also coordinated with two contractors to replace the missing shingles on the sanctuary roof that blew off in one of the recent windstorms. An 80 ft. height capacity lift was used to get the roofing repair contractor onto the roof. While on site, we also used the lift for the roofing contractor to replace the two half moon plexiglass tops of two of the tall sanctuary windows on the Church St. side. We have not received a bill for this work yet.

Next up on our repair/replace/maintain agenda is the boiler replacement, which so many people made possible with their generous donations. This was scheduled for April school vacation week, but was delayed a bit. We expect completion soon.

Also, with the weather cooperating, we will soon be repairing the bad sections of the two front lawn sidewalks. That's all we can afford right now, but this work must be done, for pedestrian safety reasons. David Hanson gets all

Women's Guild & Fellowship

We had all hands on deck on April 12 for our Spring Rummage Sale and made \$2,359! All these monies go to charities and in case you've ever wondered, we give \$800 for the year to help CSCC pay for lights and heating oil. Thank you to any and all who helped us out.

On May 7 we will be celebrating with our year-end banquet at Loon Pond Lodge in Lakeville.

Diane Glass, Co-President

the credit for coordinating not only the roof repair contractors, but also working with others in town to assist with the sidewalk repairs. Our collective prayer is that we can put together a fundraising team specifically to gather the funds needed to do two new brick walkways with the money coming from the sale of engraved bricks.

The vinyl tile flooring on the first floor corridors and in the kitchen are in deplorable condition. We have one quote for replacement with vinyl plank floating flooring but it is too high for our budget right now. We are also going to get a quote for in-like-kind replacement with new vinyl tile squares.

When asked if you are a Christian, the best response is always "YES!", but there is always room for improvement. As Gracie Allen once said, "God is still speaking; never place a period where God has placed a comma."

Respectfully,

David Hanson, for the Team



A Community Event: Baked Potato Bar & Bingo

Join us for a night of Yumminess and Fun.

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

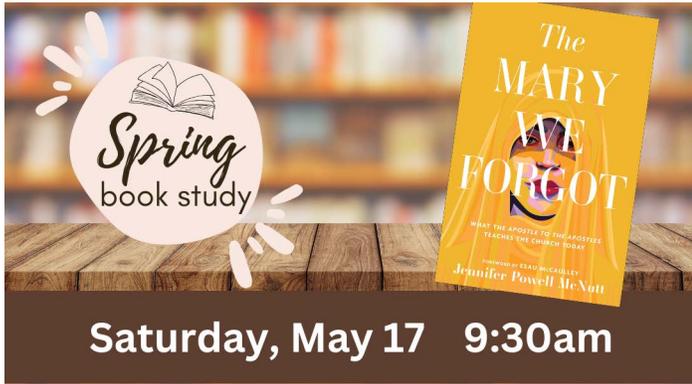
Create your perfectly topped baked potato and enjoy some fun and silliness playing Bingo and Hot Potato. We will supply the baked potatoes, and an enormous amount of topping selections. The sky's the limit. May your juices flow with artistry and creativity.

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



Join Rev. Beth in a conversation about "The Mary We Forgot: What the Apostle to the Apostles Teaches the Church Today," by Jennifer Powell McNutt on Saturday, May 17 at 9:30am. Whether you have finished the book or not, bring your coffee and enjoy a lively conversation. This event is open to the public. All are welcome.

Here's a description of the book:

Mary Magdalene's life was transformed when she was healed by Christ and joined his ministry from Galilee to Jerusalem. The Gospels teach that she was also a witness at the cross and the first one sent by Christ to preach his resurrection. Yet her story is often confused, scandalized, and undervalued by the church.

In "The Mary We Forgot", award-winning church historian and theologian Jennifer Powell McNutt unpacks Scripture and history to reveal the real Mary Magdalene: the first apostle of the good news and a model of discipleship for both men and women today.



Join us for lunch following the congregational meeting on Sunday, May 18.

Did you know?

1. You can drop off your well worn, tattered American flags at a drop box located at the Bridgewater Vet's Club, side entrance. The Veterans hold a ceremony annually to burn the flags.

2. You can drop off used eyeglasses at the Bridgewater Public Library. There is a dropbox to the right of the entrance. Sponsored by the Lions Club.

It's always good to repurpose, reuse, recycle, or dispose of appropriately, whenever we can.

The Care Team



**BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI CHAMBER CHOIR**

Sunday, May 18th, 4:00 pm

Charles A. Dillingham Director	Central Square Congregational Church
Derelyn Baker Kahler Accompanist	Bridgewater, MA (on the Common)

TICKETS AT THE DOOR

\$15 general | \$10 seniors/students
Children under 10 free



Do you have a 2025 graduate in the family?

Let us know! We want to congratulate them in the June issue!



Throughout the season of Lent we worked on a number of projects and we read different verses that told the story of Jesus, leading up his final days on Earth. For example, in learning about Mary anointing Jesus' feet with oil, we talked about death rituals, and remembered and drew depictions of our favorite memory of Jesus' life. During the Palm Sunday lesson, we made signs of what we would say to Jesus if we saw him entering Jerusalem on a donkey.

This all culminated with us presenting what we had been working on throughout Lent to the congregation on Palm Sunday! We set up stations for each week of Lent throughout the Kids Church room and we invited everyone in the congregation to explore all the work the kids had done. We still have several of our displays up in the hall between the elevator and the Kids Church Room, so if you weren't there on Palm Sunday, please come back and take a look!

May is the last month of our programming year (can you believe it?). We have a lesson based around honoring our family and specifically mothers, and one based around

Psalm 23. We also have our Kids Church party coming up on June 1, which will be last Sunday of Kids Church for the year.

One quick programming note: there will be no Kids Church on May 11th. As always, if you have any questions about what we do Sunday morning with the kids, please don't hesitate to reach out, but I'm really excited to share another awesome month of fellowship and fun learning with the kids before our church year ends!

Eric Stotts

Director of Kids Church

PS - our end of year Kids Church party is on Sunday June 1, during Kids Church time. Hope to see all our kids there!



The kids' Lenten journey was displayed for Palm Sunday.

CENTRAL CLOSET THRIFT SHOP
 at Central Square Congregational Church
 71 Central Square, Bridgewater
Wed & Sat, 10-1 * www.cscucc.org/thrift-shop

Tips for thrift! Have you thought of one yet? Still time to get your idea in. Changes will be announced in June. Be sure to check the next issue of Steeple Sounds for updates.

Winter is finally over. Spring/summer clothing and decor are arriving. All donations are greatly appreciated and accepted on Wednesday and Saturday 10-1. We keep our prices low and have half price sale items every month. None of our prices will be affected by any new tariffs or taxes.

So lots going on. If you could spare an hour or two we can always use an extra pair of hands. Doesn't matter whether you come to shop, donate, volunteer, or visit — all are welcome at Central Closet Thrift Shop.

As always thanks for all you do to help make the shop so successful.

Connie, Sandy, Jane, Lynn and Gail



Please remember not to tell anyone the key code to the church office door, or let them see you punch in the numbers. This is especially true if you have children with you. This is important to the security of the office.

Going Solo

By Sheri Turner

My adversary is furry, yellow and formidable. As I put down my overnight bags, my CPAP and my laptop on the cool tiled floor, Solo ducks behind a dark wood table and upholstered chairs in the open space that serves as a dining area. We have only met once before, but when we met, his people were there, serving as liasons. They were friendly, smiling and welcoming. He was able to weave in and out of the spaces between us wagging his yellow tail like a banner as we conversed, occasionally barking in agreement.

They were not there today. Solo's family had gone on vacation and entrusted me with caring for their youngest member. They left detailed instructions, phone numbers, food, poop bags and leashes. Solo's owner assured me help from neighbors, relatives and their nanny. Solo made no such promises to me.

I received lots of help as promised but Solo had his own agenda. He refused to eat the food his owner had left him. He hid when I tried to gently approach him. He wouldn't play with me. He backed up when I tried to pat him. When I tried to walk him or take him out for potty he became Houdini and escaped any means of detaining him that was derived. I bought new snacks to entice him to cooperate, I borrowed equipment from my personal arsenal of doggie equipment. I encouraged Solo's owner to purchase equipment to protect Solo which she readily did. The good thing was that he was curious about me. When I sat still and

dropped little bits of cheese and meat, as long as I didn't acknowledge his presence he would creep out from behind whichever table, couch, or chair he was behind and steal little bites.

Solo likes to be outside. The first time I took Solo for a walk he decided that collars and leashes were for chumps. He ducked his head and was out of his collar lickety split. He shot me a triumphant look and trotted to the neighbor's yard. When he got there he turned and bowed, looking to play with me. Since I wasn't familiar with Solo's behaviors, I wasn't going to let him run around unleashed. Unfortunately what I was going to "let" Solo do was immaterial. He was a rebel who challenged me to elicit the behavior I wanted without crushing his spirit.



This 100 lb bundle of canine joy has taught me so much. Solo refuses to be contained. He's happy, unselfconscious and uninhibited. This free spirit has challenged me to develop my creativity, my patience and my knowledge. Solo has shown me that when you attempt to control a situation, life reminds you that you are not in control. Approaching that lack of control with humility, grace and a sense of humor goes a long way to understanding why God has given us free will. Much like Solo, we are free to "slip the leash" and run if we choose. God's way is to calmly approach us and ask us to come home. God waits patiently for us while we decide if we're willing to return to Him. He sits quietly, allowing us to approach Him in our own time. He wants to preserve our spark so we can add it to His light.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, MAY 18, 11am

To discuss changing the pastor's position from full-time to 3/4 time, and to have a congregational vote on the matter.

See the flyer that accompanies this newsletter for more details, or contact the church office.



Watch for details of another yard sale this summer on our church lawn! You may "rent" a church table for all the things still hanging around that you'd like to get rid of. This will be open to the community.

The Community Engagement Team

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 – May 2025 (Year C)

Thurs., May 1

Psalm 30, Isaiah 5:11-17
 Revelation 3:14-22

Fri., May 2

Psalm 30, Isaiah 6:1-4
 Revelation 4:1-11

Sat., May 3

Psalm 30, Genesis 18:1-8
 Luke 14:12-14

Sun., May 4

Third Sunday of Easter
 Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
 Psalm 30
 Revelation 5:11-14
 John 21:1-19

Mon., May 5

Psalm 121, Ezekiel 1:1-25
 Acts 9:19b-31

Tues., May 6

Psalm 121, Ezekiel 1:26—2:1
 Acts 26:1-18

Wed., May 7

Psalm 121, Isaiah 6:1-8
 Luke 5:1-11

Thurs., May 8

Psalm 23, Ezekiel 11:1-25
 Revelation 5:1-10

Fri., May 9

Psalm 23, Ezekiel 20:39-44
 Revelation 6:1—7:4

Sat., May 10

Psalm 23, Ezekiel 28:25-26
 Luke 12:29-32

Sun., May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter
 Acts 9:36-43
 Psalm 23
 Revelation 7:9-17
 John 10:22-30

Mon., May 12

Psalm 100
 Ezekiel 37:15-28
 Revelation 15:1-4

Tues., May 13

Psalm 100, Ezekiel 45:1-9
 Acts 9:32-35

Wed., May 14

Psalm 100, Jeremiah 50:17-20
 John 10:31-42

Thurs., May 15

Psalm 148
 Ezekiel 2:8—3:11
 Revelation 10:1-11

Fri., May 16

Psalm 148
 Daniel 7:13-14
 Revelation 11:15

Sat., May 17

Psalm 148
 Daniel 7:27
 Revelation 11:16-19

Sun., May 18

Fifth Sunday of Easter
 Acts 11:1-18
 Psalm 148
 Revelation 21:1-6
 John 13:31-35

Mon., May 19

Psalm 133
 1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42
 Acts 11:19-26

Tues., May 20

Psalm 133 65:17-25
 2 Samuel 1:4-27
 Acts 11:27-30

Wed., May 21

Psalm 133
 Leviticus 19:9-18
 Luke 10:25-28

Thurs., May 22

Psalm 67, Proverbs 2:1-5
 Acts 15:36-41

Fri., May 23

Psalm 67
 Proverbs 2:6-8
 Acts 16:1-8

Sat., May 24

Psalm 67, Proverbs 2:9-15
 Luke 19:1-10

Sun., May 25

Sixth Sunday of Easter
 Acts 16:9-15
 Psalm 67
 Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
 John 14:23-29 or
 John 5:1-9

Mon., May 26

Psalm 93
 1 Chronicles 12:16-22
 Revelation 21:5-14

Tues., May 27

Psalm 93
 2 Chronicles 15:1-15
 Revelation 21:15-22

Wed., May 28

Psalm 93
 2 Chronicles 34:20-33
 Luke 2:25-38

Thurs., May 29

Ascension Day
 Acts 1:1-11
 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
 Ephesians 1:15-23
 Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 30

Psalm 97
 Exodus 33:12-17
 Revelation 22:6-9

Sat., May 31

Psalm 97
 Exodus 33:18-23
 John 1:14-18

MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>*Unless otherwise noted, worship services are both online and in-person</i></p>	<p>Please note: The full calendar of all building uses is available on cscucc.org or by contacting the church office.</p>			<p>1 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>2 9-1 Church office open</p>	<p>3 10-1 Thrift Shop open 5p Baked Potatoes & Bingo</p>
<p>4 8:30am Sr. choir 9:20am Jr choir 10am Communion Worship*, Kids Church 2pm SNEUCC Northeast Regional Mtg 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>5 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open</p>	<p>6 6-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA</p>	<p>7 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open 6:30pm Women's Guild & Fellowship</p>	<p>8 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon 7pm Property & Finance Meeting</p>	<p>9 9-1 Church office open</p>	<p>10 10-1 Thrift Shop open</p>
<p>11 8:30am Sr. choir 9:20am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA</p>	<p>14 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open</p>	<p>15 Annual Reports Due! 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>16 9-1 Church office open</p>	<p>17 9:30am Spring book study 10-1 Thrift Shop open</p>
<p>18 8:30am Sr. choir 9:20am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church, Jr choir performance 11am Congregational Mtg 11:30am Monthly Poluck Lunch 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA</p>	<p>21 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open 7pm Cabinet Meeting</p>	<p>22 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>23 9-1 Church office open</p>	<p>24 10-1 Thrift Shop open</p>
<p>25 8:30am Sr. choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA</p>	<p>28 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Thrift Shop open</p>	<p>29 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>30 9-1 Church office open</p>	<p>31 10-1 Thrift Shop open</p>

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes April 23, 2025 at 7pm

Location: Fellowship Hall, church

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

Cabinet members in attendance:

Anne Malmquist, Moderator David Sheibley, Treasurer

Carol Chaffee, Spiritual and Congregational Engagement Team Diane Glass, Community Engagement Team

Nina Gabel-Jorgensen, Clerk

John Sharland, Property and Finance

March minutes

The meeting minutes from the March meeting were presented and reviewed.

Anne Malmquist motioned to accept the minutes as written, John Sharland seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Update on Pastor's report

Reverend Beth was unable to make the meeting. Anne Malmquist provided some brief updates:

1. Working on ¾ time plans.
2. Out next week at a conference and a training.

Treasurer's Report - Dave

1. Pretty good month
2. Not as much as March
3. Doing better this YTD than last 2 years
4. Thrift shop making a bunch of money (\$\$\$\$!!)
5. Minor upswing in giving - new families are trickling into the congregation and giving is reflecting with an increase in funds.
6. Question from Carol - what to do with the pledge forms? Dave will put them in the office.
7. One training so far with Judy and replacement. Judy was ill. Training with Karissa Marquis will resume.
8. Teams to submit their budgets ASAP please.

Congregational and Spiritual Engagement Team – Carol Chaffee

1. Connie Chandler was responsible for the Maundy Thursday dinner idea. A fun time was had by all. There were approximately 25 people. Some people stayed to help clean up afterward. High school volunteers were not available that night to assist with the clean up.
2. Still need some volunteers for Potato Bingo. The logistics are still being sorted out. Bingo supplies are being collected as are the potatoes.
3. The Easter plants were disappointing. Carol would like to keep it just to lilies next year. The tulips and daffodils were not in great condition. The prices were different from the quote given. We may have collected extra which will be set aside for a flower fund.
4. \$110 collected at the Soup Supper. The volunteer soup makers kindly refused any reimbursement.
5. Sundae for Kids church and a potluck/picnic after the annual meeting to be organized.

continued...

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

continued...

6. The new sign needs a place to live. Preferably in an easy to access location.
7. New lock box with the old code in addition to a new programmable lock has been installed for the office. The kids figured out the code! Trying to get at Jenne's candy is the theory.

Community Engagement Report - Diane Glass

1. Terry is the official point person for emails.
2. Thinking about a yard sale. Jenne said she would be the point person for it. Maybe August or September for the yard sale. Date not chosen yet. Discussion about table rental price. Perhaps \$20 a space.

Property and Finance

1. Still waiting for the bill for the roof repair. Some ceiling tiles need to be replaced and some paint needs repainting where the leaks were.
2. See note about office locks above.
3. Installed security cameras inside.
4. Forni says they have to reprice the boiler. David Hanson is doing the work on this. The new price is \$21,700. David needed to get into one of the classrooms to check for a thermostat but didn't have access. Forni looked at the furnace again, NOW they are going to order it. 4 to 5 days to get it in-house. Forni wants us to shut off the boiler for the Summer. End of the heating season is May 10th. Inspection will be on June 1.
5. And finally the SIDEWALK - David Ferrari, fixing pieces for now instead of replacing the entire sidewalk. David Hanson is having a friend show him how to use a concrete cutter to cut the pieces for the sidewalk.

Congregational vote meeting re:¾ time - May 18th.

Diane Sheibley shared a script from the O&A meeting with Anne. Will use that as a guide.

Stewardship

1. Gala at Old Scotland links on 6/21/2025.
2. Fundraising focus group - once a month 1. Adult activity 2. Child activity. Come up with a \$\$ goal for each event. Meeting after church 4/27/2025.
3. Capital campaign. Anne met with a consultant on Zoom. Consultant approved by UCC.

High School Volunteer Chores

Still need an official list of chores/tasks that can be done around the church when the parents call to volunteer their teens for Community service hours.

Team Point Person

- Terry Community Engagement
- John Property and Finance
- Dave Treasurer

Next Cabinet meeting is May 21st. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

Treasurer's Report
March 31, 2025
Fiscal Year July 2024 - June 2025

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	84,673	93,579	(8,906)	125,000
Unpledged Offerings	14,886	8,984	5,903	12,000
Plate Offering	410	749	(339)	1,000
Kid's Church	444	374	70	500
Total · Pledges / Offerings	<u>100,413</u>	<u>103,686</u>	<u>(3,273)</u>	<u>138,500</u>
Special Collections				
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	163	1,497	(1,334)	2,000
Total · Special Collections	<u>163</u>	<u>1,497</u>	<u>(1,334)</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Church Fair	7,065	5,989	1,076	8,000
Central Closet Thrift Shop	13,711	11,230	2,481	15,000
Furnace fundraiser	33,453	0	33,453	0
Misc Fundraisers	37	0	37	0
Julia Concert	1,555	0	1,555	0
Magical Evening	1,558	0	1,558	0
Total Misc Fundraisers	3,150	2,246	904	3,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	<u>57,379</u>	<u>17,219</u>	<u>37,047</u>	<u>23,000</u>
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	2,725	2,995	(270)	4,000
North River Collaborative	10,500	11,230	(730)	15,000
Private Bldg Use	100	374	(274)	500
Food Pantry support	1,150	898	252	1,200
Total · Facility Usage Income	<u>14,475</u>	<u>15,497</u>	<u>(1,022)</u>	<u>20,700</u>
Miscellaneous Income	293	749	(456)	1,000
Total Income	<u>172,723</u>	<u>138,647</u>	<u>34,076</u>	<u>185,200</u>
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	92,901	89,610	(3,291)	119,698
Total · Support Staff Expenses	33,599	37,808	4,210	50,503
Total · Office Expenses	7,998	6,663	(1,336)	8,900
Total · Church Building Costs	29,960	24,405	(5,554)	32,600
Teams				
Spiritual Engagement	1,842	1,123	(719)	1,500
Kid's Church	548	0	(548)	
Congregational Engagement	107	674	567	900
Community Engagement	1,010	749	(262)	1,000
Breakfasts/Lunches	(148)	0	148	0
Property and Finance	119	225	106	300
Community Engagement Reserve	1,241	1,404	162	1,875
Total · Teams	<u>4,720</u>	<u>4,174</u>	<u>(546)</u>	<u>5,575</u>
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	0	1,497	1,497	2,000
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	150	150	200
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	<u>169,178</u>	<u>164,307</u>	<u>(4,870)</u>	<u>219,476</u>
Net income (loss)	3,545	(25,660)	29,206	(34,276)
Transfer from Investments	20,000		(20,000)	31,276
	<u>23,545</u>	<u>(25,660)</u>		<u>(3,000)</u>

Treasurer's Report
 March 31, 2025
 Fiscal Year July 2024 - June 2025

Cash balances	
Operating account	6,896
Money Market	27,494
Minister's Discretionary account	453
Community Engagement Reserve	3,059
Building fund/Capital Improvements account	28,290
PayPal account	168
Venmo account	814
Total cash balances	<u><u>67,173</u></u>

Vanguard investment funds	
Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	89,763
Deposits (withdrawals)	
Gain (loss) for month	<u>(4,326)</u>
Unrestricted funds, ending	<u>85,438</u>
Total investments 3/31/2025	<u><u>220,950</u></u>

Food Pantry account balance February 28, 2025	23,453
Donations	840
Expenses	<u>(893)</u>
Food Pantry account balance March 31, 2025	<u><u>23,400</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	10,897.26	29,557.21	28,808.58	35,219.08
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

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



Church Administration

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

Office Manager: Jennifer Foronjy, office@cscucc.com

Sexton: Rich Sullivan

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

Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes

Treasurer: David Sheibley, treasurer@cscucc.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.

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

FIRST CLASS MAIL

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

11:00am

This meeting will be held in person in the Sanctuary, as well as livestreamed (real time only).

One item of business will be conducted on this day:

To discuss changing the Pastor's position from full-time to $\frac{3}{4}$ time, and to have a congregational vote on the matter.

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.

The meeting will be held in the church Sanctuary. Those not able to attend in person the opportunity to watch the meeting via YouTube, using the link on the home page of the website, in real time, and on Facebook. Playback after the fact will not be available. CSCC Members will also be allowed to vote online from 12 noon Sunday, May 18 until 9am Monday, May 19.



Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, Pastor

Central Square Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
(508) 697-6016
www.cscucc.org * office@cscucc.com

Intention, Conscience, Reconciliation

Believe in the place!

Over the past month, our church family has come together to worship with intention, consciousness and reconciliation. We have heard bible passages that talk about fertile soil and fig trees, about stewardship and caretakers, and about reconciliation-bringing together two or more beliefs/ideals, making us stronger in our faith.

We learned about the need for our church membership to be intentional in their giving. Our giving was and is a two-step process this stewardship season. First, we made it an act of faith and worship to sign an intentional giving form and placed it in the offering plate. It was your signature on a slip of paper that you brought forth and placed in the offering plate that was an act of worship, an intentionality.

Now we are asking you to actually fill out an intentional giving form that states an amount that you will pledge to give to our church on an annual basis. The form is on the reverse side of this letter and is also available online (www.cscucc.org/giving). Please consider prayerfully and intentionally your annual gift amount to the church.

Our Steward family skit on March 30 revealed to us all that we are an autonomous church; we hire our staff, we call our own minister, we pay all the bills, we own the church building, WE ARE THE CHURCH! We depend on the church and the church depends on us.

Giving data is confidential, just in case you were wondering. We respect each individual's/family's finances and we only work with numbers, not the names behind those numbers.

Please fill out your intentional giving form, turn it into the office and thank you for who you are and what the church is because you are a part of it.

God bless,

Carol Chaffee



Envelope # _____
(For office use)

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC Annual Pledge Drive 2025-2026

(This form is also available on www.cscucc.org/giving)

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I am/We are changing my/our current pledge. The new pledge is:

\$ _____ per week per month other: _____

I am/We are a new pledger. My/our pledge is:

\$ _____ per week per month other: _____

I/we would like to keep my/our pledge the same for the coming year.

I/we will be making my contributions by:

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

Personal check mailed or dropped off with the office

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

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

Venmo (send money to @CSCC-UCC)

Credit card or Paypal on the church website (cscucc.org)

EFFECTIVE Immediately July 1, 2025 Other date _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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

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

BELIEVE IN THE PLACE – CENTRAL SQUARE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH – AND THE WORK WE DO!