

Central Square Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
cscucc.org

CSCC UCC
2024-25
Annual
Report

June 8

2025



These reports have been approved by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting held on June 9, 2024, and cover the fiscal year 7/1/24-6/30/25.

Annual Meeting

Annual Report 2024-25
Central Square Cong'l Church, UCC
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Dear Members and Friends of CSCC,

It is with deep gratitude and joy that I present to you our annual report for the year 2024/2025. As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the faithfulness of God and the incredible journey we have shared as a church community.

Throughout this past year, we faced various challenges, yet we also experienced profound moments of growth, service, grace, and transformation. Together, we continue to navigate uncertain times with faith and hope. I am continually humbled by the resilience and commitment demonstrated by each member of our congregation to BE THE CHURCH in the world.

In this report, you will find an overview of our activities, ministry highlights, financial updates, and our vision for the future. It is my hope that as you read through these pages, you will be inspired by the stories of faith, love, and hope that have defined our journey together.

As we look ahead, let us continue to lean on God's grace, trusting in God's love for us. May we serve our community, proclaim the Good News, and grow as disciples in Christ.

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and prayers as we serve God together.

Blessings,

Rev. Beth Stotts

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Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Bridgewater, MA 02324
Annual Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2023

Moderator Anne Malmquist called the meeting to order at 11:37am, and welcomed everyone.

Clerk Diane Sheibley verified that a quorum was met.

In addition to the items noted below, refer to the printed report for other information provided in person.

Prior year's annual meeting minutes were reviewed, with no comments.

ANNUAL REPORT

Pastor – Rev. Beth Stotts

In addition to her printed report, Rev. Beth noted how we live and celebrate our mission statement with everything we do. She reiterated her hopes for the future.

Anne Malmquist gave a shoutout to Jenne Foronjy for all her work on the annual report.

Music – Julia Scott Carey

Julia celebrated the great accomplishments of the musicians that visited CSCC in the last year. She applauded the work of the choir. She noted that Josephine Stotts sang in church once a month, and reminded us of the success of the “Night at the Opera” event held at the church. Julia enjoyed doing the concert fundraiser and offered to do another in the coming year. She called particular attention to the recent memorial services, and how they were sad but moving.

Moderator – Anne Malmquist

Anne noted that we are in the first year of our new governing structure, and thanked everyone for their patience and flexibility in implementing it.

Treasurer – Dave Sheibley

Dave noted that we have had a year similar to recent years, although giving was a bit better than it has been. He offered shoutouts to the fair, which did great, and to the big blessing that the thrift shop has been to CSCC's budget. He noted that we will need to replace the boiler in the next year. He also noted the need to step up our fundraising game as we continue to deplete our investments.

Spiritual Engagement Team – Eric Stotts

Eric noted that this is the first full year since COVID that all worships have been in-person. There was great participation in Kids Church – 27 kids total throughout the year. The team also spent time rewriting and updating the child protection policy.

Property and Finance Team – John Sharland

John called attention to the printed annual report, under the Property & Finance Team, that noted that we spent \$110,000 on preparing for grants from the town to do a major renovation to the building, and then (rightly so) abandoned the project of trying to procure them. As Dave noted, the boiler is going to have to be replaced this year, per the state inspector. It is estimated to cost around \$15,000. He reminded us that if you are able and interested, distribution from retirement funds can be made as donations to CSCC. He expressed his thanks to Lynn [Pietras] and Sandy [Kuipers] for coming up with fundraising ideas. If anyone wants to head one up, contact John. He also called attention to the paragraph in his annual report that thanked others who have contributed so much to the church which falls under the P&F Team umbrella.

It was asked of John if we had any alternative options for the boiler. John noted that we looked into converting to gas a few years ago, but the pipe that comes into the building isn't big enough.

Congregational Engagement Team – Carol Chaffee

Carol noted that we received our “5 for 5” certificate for last year, for participating in the five special offerings of the conference. She hopes that next year we'll be able to expand opportunities to reach out to the community. There is talk of a “Harry Potter”-type or “magical” themed fundraiser which would bring in community members.

Food Pantry – see printed report for full details

Anne noted that this is an important ministry for us. It was noted that need is increasing and alarming; and that it provides opportunities to volunteer.

Annual Fair – Diane Sheibley

Diane noted that it was another successful year for the fair, both in raising needed funds, and for congregational and community engagement. Total proceeds from the fair were \$8,052 (it was budgeted to bring in \$8,000).

Women's Guild & Fellowship – Barbara Morey

Barbara gave a special shoutout to Jane O'Connell for all the work she did for the Guild this year. They raised money all year long, which was distributed to various charities and organizations, most of them local. The Guild meets monthly with presentations of anything of interest to the women.

Video Evangelism – see printed report for details

Anne noted the number of viewers during the past 12 months was about 10,000 viewers! She noted that we are truly blessed to have this ministry at CSCC. The geographic breakdown sometimes includes Europe, Asia, and the rest in the US – from many states. Larry [Brown] offered thanks to Paul for always making it available – the last few weeks the primary server wasn't available, but Paul adapted so that our streaming would still get out there.

Sexton – see printed report for details

Rich [Sullivan] noted several thanks in his report to Gordon Brailsford, Steve Chandler, and John Sharland for their help whenever needed. John Sharland noted that Rich will be leaving us sometime in the near future as sexton, as he is moving to Plymouth. So a new Sexton will need to be hired.

Central Closet Thrift Shop – Connie Chandler

Connie was proud to note that the Thrift Shop has been open for a year and a half, and has been extremely successful. It sometimes fills the Fellowship Hall when it's open! They see many repeat shoppers. If we are to sustain its presence, they need a bigger pool of volunteers to help out the core volunteers. It's not big time commitment, but crucial to keeping it going.

Report of the Delegates (not in the printed report) – John Sharland

John noted that he has resigned as delegate, and so is not sure that we have current representatives. It might have slipped through the cracks of the new constitution, but delegates need to be either elected or appointed. Ideally, there should be two delegates for our church so they can share the responsibilities. Carol also shared her experience of being a delegate.

Anne Malmquist called for a motion to accept the annual report. Larry Brown so moved, and Gordon Brailsford seconded. The annual report was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEW PROPOSAL

Anne introduced Eric Stotts, who made a proposal to combine the Congregational Engagement Team and the Spiritual Engagement Team.

Eric noted that (1) it is hard to get people to serve on the Congregational Engagement Team; and (2) there is a lot of crossover between the two teams.

Eric Stotts made a motion that there be a one year trial of combining the two teams, with 3-5 people heading up the new combined team, and 2 votes in Cabinet. Carol Chaffee seconded the motion.

It was asked what the new team would be called, and there was not a firm decision on that yet.

The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS AND TEAM MEMBERS

Rev. Beth read the names of the nominees as follows:

Moderator: Anne Malmquist

Clerk: Nina Gabel-Jorgensen

Treasurer: David Sheibley

Assistant Treasurer: Philip Chaffee

Financial Secretary: Judy Pino

Congregational & Spiritual Team:

Carol Chaffee, Linda Chipman, Deb Sorgman, Eric Stotts

Property & Finance Team:

David Hanson, John Sharland, [one open position]

Community Engagement Team:

Heather Ciaramitaro, Diane Glass, Terry Reynolds

Church Delegate:

[open position]

Vote: The slate of nominees passed unanimously as proposed.

Rev. Beth called forward Larry Brown, Diane Sheibley, Krissy Cannizzo, and Mark Sorgman, and thanked them for their service during this first year of the new constitution year, and they were presented with thank you notes made by the Kids Church kids.

ANNUAL BUDGET

Mark Sorgman motioned to accept the proposed 2024-25 budget. Eric Stotts seconded.

Discussion:

- John Sharland noted that the North River Collaborative will be using the upstairs classroom and the kitchen during the school year, 5 days a week, for \$15,000/year.
- If we accept this budget, the \$31,000 shortfall will come out of the approx. \$225,000 in investments.
- Anne noted that next year we need to figure out how we're going to fix this... increase in pledges, fundraisers. We also need to look into grants for our building and kitchen.
- Nina Gabel-Jorgensen asked if we could set up a GoFundMe for our online viewers, or have online memberships.
- Anne noted that we need fundraisers to bring in outside money.
- Mark reminded us that the boiler isn't part of the operating budget. Perhaps we can get some one-time gifts for it. We also have a bit of money in the capital campaign fund.
- How would someone go about pitching a fundraiser? They should go to the Property & Finance Team. There is a project proposal form that can be submitted to P&F.
- Can we get a grant for the boiler?
- Diane Glass remarked that we need more people in our church. She encouraged people to invite others to come to church. Rev. Beth noted that statistics show that most of the time, they will say yes. It might be hard because of how "church" is viewed in today's world. She also reminded us to wear our nametags.
- Darlene Brown suggested that we have info on upcoming events (worship, etc) in the thrift shop bags. Regular events as well as special events.
- Krissy added that the new generation doesn't like to use paper. Maybe we should have a QR code that links to our web page, or something else online.

Vote (including online votes): No: 1; Abstain: 3; Yes: the rest of the group. The budget was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Report of the Pastor

Rev. Elizabeth Stotts

Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting – 2025

Beloved Church Family,

As I reflect on this past year in the life of our congregation, one word rises to the surface again and again: transformation. This year, the Spirit has been active among us—stirring hearts, opening doors, and guiding us into deeper faithfulness. I'm filled with gratitude for the ways our church continues to live into its calling as a service-oriented, vibrant, inclusive, and Spirit-led community. It truly is an honor to get to serve alongside such a faithful community.

One of the most significant milestones this year was our congregation's decision to begin the process of becoming a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) church for mental health. Through prayerful conversation, education, and the commitment of our WISE Task Force, we took bold steps to acknowledge the mental health challenges that many in our community face—and to respond with compassion, dignity, and action.

Our WISE covenant affirms that mental health is part of our overall well-being, and that every person is a beloved child of God, worthy of support, understanding, and inclusion. From special worship services to resource sharing, from small group conversations to community partnerships, from book studies to movie nights and trainings, our journey toward becoming WISE has not only raised awareness but deepened our care for one another.

This is gospel work—and I am proud of the way we embrace it with open hearts.

This year also brought fresh energy and creativity in how we support the mission of our church. From the Magical Event to concerts to the Baked Potato and Bingo game night, our fundraising efforts were not only financially successful but also deeply relational. They brought people together, highlighted the gifts within our church, and welcomed our neighbors in meaningful ways. These moments reminded us that church is not just what we do on Sunday mornings—it's who we are, together.

In a time when many churches are feeling financial strain, your generosity, innovation, and commitment have been an inspiration. Stewardship is more than dollars—it's about aligning our resources with our values, and you have done that beautifully.

Throughout this year, we have remained open to the winds of change, trusting that God is still speaking. We've tried new things in worship, and taken honest looks at what's working—and what's not, and we voted to

change the pastorate to a part-time position. Change is never easy, but it is necessary if we are to stay faithful to God's evolving call.

You have shown courage in the face of uncertainty, flexibility when plans shifted, and grace with one another as we change and grow. That openness is what will carry us forward—not only into next year, but into the future God is preparing for us.

As we move into a new church year, I invite you to continue listening—to one another, to the community around us, and to the Spirit who is always doing a new thing. There is more love to share, more justice to seek, and more joy to be found.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your creativity, your resilience, and your love. It is an honor to serve as your pastor.

With gratitude and hope,
Rev. Beth Stotts

Report of the Minister of Music

2024 was a terrific year in the musical life of the church.

Our adult choir has performed an Anthem and Introit in every service between September and June, with the exception of some holiday weekends.

The adult choir continues to sing a repertoire by a variety of composers, in many different styles. Our selections match the theme of the service and the liturgical calendar, adding a moving and reflective element to the congregation's worship experience. Some adult choir members have shared their gifts with us in solo performances as well. Brian Gilman has contributed several beautiful solos this year, and Peter Glass has joined us on trumpet.

We have also been extremely blessed to have an active junior choir. Josephine Stotts has performed in every junior choir anthem, sometimes as a soloist, and sometimes joined by other children. Her vocal confidence and her skills at learning complex lyrics and melodies have made immense strides this year. We have also been blessed with the virtuosic flute skills of Savannah Wells, and a beautiful vocal solo from Cristianna Ciaramitaro.

Other regular guest artists in our community include the pianist and vocalist Bob Richards, who performs at least one powerful and moving solo a month, and jazz trumpet star Cameron Shave, who is always ready to give our services a special touch of excitement whenever he is in town, usually at Christmas and Easter time.

We have had a number of guest artists visit our church from outside of our community. These guest artists are professional instrumentalists and singers who are artistic collaborators of mine, and many of them have performed on the world's finest opera and concert stages. Some of the special guest artist worship services in 2024 included a program of music by Ralph Vaughan Williams with baritone Dana Whiteside, a program of

music by Aaron Copland with mezzo-soprano Sarah Heltzel, and visits by sopranos Olga Lisovska and Sarah Vitale.

It has been a truly wonderful experience for me to be the Minister of Music at this church. The adult and children's choirs are amazing to work with, and their performances and dedication are very inspiring. I love to plan the services and to think about the message which we are trying to convey in each service, selecting our music based around the readings, the liturgical calendar, and the theme of Reverend Beth's sermons.

Respectfully, Julia Scott Carey

Report of the Church Moderator

CHURCH: n. The body of people who make the God of Jesus visible in the world
v. To make the God of Jesus visible in the world

Last summer, Rev. Beth approached the church leadership to say that she truly felt that it was important that we consider changing our pastorate to a ¾ time position, as staffing is the biggest financial expense of the church. Initially, I was ambivalent, nervous, and almost in denial. What did this mean for our church as a congregation and as part of the wider community? As we explored those questions, thorough discussions at cabinet and the listening sessions, I began to see how we could come together to make this new model, though not what we want, feasible. Rev. Beth is a professional, and I trust in her faith in God and her faith in us.

As has been noted, this change will not completely solve our financial woes. However, last November, the Magical Evening Event (huge shout out to Terry Reynolds) was such a success, that it made me believe that we can host many more successful fundraising activities. Events like this not only help us raise funds for our operating budget, they invite the community into our church, offering a soft way in to our congregation. Church doesn't only happen from 10 -11 on Sunday mornings.

One way I found my faith deepening this last year was through working with many people I hadn't worked closely with before. New officers and team members brought fresh ideas and questions to cabinet meetings. I got involved with planning and executing events in ways I hadn't before, leading me to new or deeper relationships. I saw it happening in places like Kids' Church and the thrift shop.

Our worship services would not be the same without the creativity, spirituality, and expertise of Julia Scott Carey, our Minister of Music, and Paul Holmes, our Director of Video Evangelism. Julia's music inspires and moves us and Paul helps us share it with our neighbors at home and abroad.

The most moving line from the movie *Conclave* came as the Cardinals were arguing about the direction of the church. Humble Cardinal Benitez says "The Church is not the past. The Church is what we do next."

I continue to be honored and humbled to be your church moderator. I am grateful, everyday, to be a part of this church community and I am excited about what our future will bring.

With God's grace,

Anne Malmquist

Church Moderator

Report of the Church Treasurer

Because the Annual Report is published before the June 30 fiscal year end, this was written May 31, 2025. Fiscal year 2025 is on track to be an improvement over last year, we will exceed our budgeted amounts for giving and total income. The current year's budget required us to use over \$31k from investments to fund the deficit but we will end the year needing to withdraw only \$20k. The Church Fair continues to make a large contribution to the budget and CSCC Thrift Shop revenue continues to surpass expectations. Other fundraisers brought in over \$3,000, thank you to all who help with fundraising! At this time last year, we had just learned that one of our oil burners needed to be replaced, the response of financial support from the congregation was overwhelming with gifts exceeding the cost by approximately \$10k. Other expenses were mostly in line with budgeted amounts with no unexpected expenses incurred thus far.

Financial reports for this fiscal year to date are attached and the annual report on our website will be updated with final figures by mid-July.

Financial documents included:

Operating Budget vs Actual FY2025

Cash Balances as of May 23, 2025

Non-Budgeted Activity Report FY 2025

Respectfully submitted,

David Sheibley

Church Treasurer

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
Operating Budget vs. Actual Report
July 2024 through May 23, 2025
89% Thru Year

	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Income			
Pledges / Offerings			
Regular Pledges	108,964	125,000	87%
Unpledged Offerings	18,211	12,000	152%
Plate Offering	725	1,000	72%
Kid's Church	472	500	94%
Total Pledges / Offerings	128,371	138,500	93%
Special Collections			
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	163	2,000	8%
Total Special Collections	163	2,000	
Fundraisers/Events Revenue			
Church Fair	7,065	8,000	88%
Central Closet Thrift Shop	15,648	15,000	104%
Misc Fundraisers			
Julia concert	1,555		
Magical Evening	1,558		
Paint night	219		
Baked Potato Bingo	321		
Total Misc Fundraisers	3,653	3,000	122%
Total Fundraisers/Events Revenue	26,366	26,000	101%
Facility Usage Income			
Non Profit Bldg Use	3,531	4,000	88%
North River Collaborative	13,500	15,000	90%
Private Bldg Use	100	500	20%
Food Pantry Support	1,450	1,200	121%
Total Facility Usage Income	18,581	20,700	90%
Miscellaneous Income			
Bank Interest	215		
Misc Donations	444		
Total Miscellaneous Income	659	1,000	66%
Total Income	174,141	188,200	93%

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
Operating Budget vs. Actual Report
July 2024 through May 23, 2025
89% Thru Year

Expense	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Senior Minister Expenses			
Payroll	35,121	41,853	84%
FICA Stipend	4,852	5,650	86%
Pension Fund	8,674	10,339	84%
Housing Allowance	28,308	32,000	88%
Professional Expenses	3,148	2,000	157%
Health & Dental Ins	25,699	26,748	96%
Life & Disability Ins	929	1,108	84%
Total Senior Minister Expenses	106,731	119,698	89%
Support Staff Expenses			
Pulpit Supply	602	500	120%
Sabbatical Budget (see 1103.30)	810	1,080	75%
Office Coordinator	11,108	13,260	84%
Minister of Music	14,500	16,883	86%
Sexton/Custodian	10,336	13,260	78%
Video Evangelism	0	1,000	0%
Sup. Staff FICA	2,652	3,320	80%
Workers' Comp Ins	1,085	1,200	90%
Total Support Staff Expenses	41,092	50,503	81%
Office Expenses			
Bank Service Charges			
Vanco Fees	280		
BCU Fees	63		
PayPal/Venmo Fees	258		
Credit/Charge Card Fees	1		
Bank Service Charges	602	600	100%
Internet & Computer Related Exp	2,788	2,100	133%
Office Supplies	549	400	137%
Payroll & Treasurer Supplies	236	950	25%
Postage & eDelivery	458	900	51%
Printing & Reproduction	3,197	2,150	149%
Telephone	2,003	1,800	111%
Total Office Expenses	9,832	8,900	110%

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
Operating Budget vs. Actual Report
July 2024 through May 23, 2025
89% Thru Year

	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Church Building Costs			
Building Supplies	1,034	2,000	52%
Fire Alarm Monitoring Service	552	600	92%
Property & Liability Insurance	13,452	11,000	122%
Repairs & Maintenance	5,859	5,000	117%
Utilities			
Gas & Electric	6,618	5,500	120%
Fuel Oil	7,999	8,000	100%
Water & Sewer	1,321	500	264%
Total Utilities	15,939	14,000	114%
Total Church Building Costs	36,836	32,600	113%
Teams			
Spiritual Engagement Team	1,872		
Kid's Church	596		
Total Spiritual Engagement Team	2,468	1,500	165%
Congregational Engagement Team	67	900	7%
Community Engagement Team	1,070		
Breakfasts/Lunches	(240)		
Total Community Engagement Team	830	1,000	83%
Property and Finance Team	119	300	40%
Community Engagement Reserve	1,445	1,875	77%
Total Teams	4,928	5,575	88%
Misc Expenses			
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	0	2,000	0%
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	200	0%
Total Misc Expenses	0	2,200	0%
Total Expense	199,420	219,476	91%
Net Income (Loss)	(25,279)	(31,276)	81%
Transfer from Investments	20,000		
Adjusted Net Income (Loss)	(5,279)		

Central Square Congregational Church UCC

Bank Account Cash Balances

As of May 23, 2025

Cash

HarborOne Money Market

Youth Group	802
Memorials	7,254
Music (Anderson)	3,987
Altar & Flowers	484
Memorials (Wood)	1,495
Deacons Fund	1,617
Women's Retreat	468
Mission Youth	418
Pastor Sabbatical Reserve	6,005
Memorials Woods Grant	5,000
Community Engagement Reserve	3,262
Interest Income	99

Total Money Market	30,892
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Operating Account	5,989
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Ministers Discretionary Account	223
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Food Pantry	20,261
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Building Fund/Capital Campaign	25,191
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PayPal	88
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Venmo	468
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Total Cash	83,111
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Vanguard Investments

Balance, 6/30/24	222,602
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Withdrawals	(20,000)
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Gain (Loss)	19,185
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Balance 4/30/25	221,788
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Central Square Congregational Church UCC
Non-Budgeted Activity Report
July 2024 through May 23, 2025
89% Thru Year

Other Income	
Furnace Fundraiser	33,453
Capital Campaign	770
Food Pantry	32,849
Ministers Discretionary Income	1,099
Total Other Income	<u>68,172</u>
Direct Pass Thru Income	
Designated Outreach & Missions	
One Great Hour Sharing MA	222
Strengthen The Church MA	20
Neighbors In Need MA	225
Christmas Fund MA	673
Blanket Fund/CWS	1,385
Heifer Project HPI	2,001
Total Designated Outreach & Missions	<u>4,526</u>
Staff Gifts	2,050
Total Direct Pass Thru Income	<u>6,576</u>
Total Non-budgeted Income	<u>74,748</u>
Other Expenses	
Community Engagement Reserve Disbursements	700
Food Pantry	21,393
Sabbatical expenses	2,703
Ministers Discretionary Usage	1,200
Total Other Expenses	<u>25,996</u>
Direct Pass Thru Expense	
Designated Outreach/Missions	
One Great Hour of Sharing MA	222
Strengthen The Church MA	20
Neighbors in Need MA	225
Christmas Fund MA	673
Blanket Fund/CWS	1,385
Heifer Project HPI	2,001
Designated Outreach/Missions	<u>4,526</u>
Staff Gifts	2,050
Total Direct Pass Thru Expense	<u>6,576</u>
Total Non-budgeted Expenses	<u>32,572</u>

Report of the Office Manager

Wow, year 3 with CSCC! Well, 3 years in July. I'm so glad to be here with you all. This past year, I once again worked with all our building rentals for the coming year, we took on some new Girl Scout troops as a couple had left and we maintained the same recovery groups as the previous year. Over this year we had some new groups that rented space with us, mainly the North River Collaborative/Sails, the school that rents our upstairs spaces during the week. Having them here is such a joy, I love interacting with the staff and students! We have hosted theater groups and local choirs too. We also were able to rent space for a few gatherings (birthday parties, baptism celebrations, Friendsgiving). I feel confident that we may be able to rent space to even more people/groups this coming year. I had contracts signed, made sure they all had keys (and made sure they were returned!) and their meetings were scheduled in the calendars, physical, and digital.

Being your Church Office Manager has been so rewarding, fun and an all-around lovely job. I am so happy to greet everyone, perform any tasks that everyone needs, and I really appreciate everyone being so kind and appreciative of the work I do. I continue to work with Rev. Beth on the weekly bulletins, maintain the office in different ways whether it's the office equipment, ordering supplies, answering phones and emails, and really, anything anyone asks of me. I enjoy helping out the Thrift Shop and Food Pantry when they need something like making signs or taking a to-go order. Drop by anytime to say hi, I always have some treats on my desk and a smile for you! I would like to thank everyone for dealing with the office hours varying a bit when I have classes, and for the support and kindness during my extended absence this year. You all kept me going! All in all, working here is an absolute pleasure and I'm thankful for the opportunity.

Membership as of May 31, 2025	139
TOTAL NEW MEMBERS	6 (<i>5 new, 1 transfer</i>)
LOSS OF MEMBERS	
Death	0
Transferred out	0
Resigned/withdrew	0
Removed by Deacons	0
OTHER STATISTICS	
Baptisms	4
Confirmations	0
Weddings	1
Funerals	3

Respectfully submitted by Jenne Foronjy

Report of the Spiritual Engagement Team

It's been a busy year in the Spiritual Life of CSCC. One of the highlights of this church year was the amount of lay participation, both within worship and outside of worship. Many members served the spiritual life of the church this year by ushering, greeting, and reading scripture in worship, attending and leading book studies and book discussions, and through parish care. The youngest in our community served by ushering, acolyting, reading scripture, and serving communion. Their involvement and visibility brings a vitality to the life of the church which is truly intergenerational in spirit. Julia Scott Carey lead both the Choir and the Jr. Choir throughout the year and we had several high-quality guest performers join us in worship. Junior Choir did one performance monthly thought out the year and was very well received.

2024/2025 Statistics:

New members: 6

Weddings: 1

Funerals: 3

Baptisms: 4

Vow renewals: 1

With the restructuring to a team format, we voted at the end of last year to combine the Spiritual Engagement Team and the Congregational Engagement Team. This experiment proved to be less than successful. At the cabinet meeting in April, we collectively asked cabinet to un-merge the two. As this was presented to the congregation last year as just a one-year trial, cabinet approved and we will be going back to the two separate teams in the coming program year.

We added 2 new Deacons, Cristi Ciaramitaro (voting deacon) and Liam O'Connell (Junior Deacon). Deb Sorgman, with the help of Anne Malmquist, continued to lead the Deacons and handle worship responsibilities alongside Rev. Beth.

Eric Stotts continued as the Director of Kids Church with a roster of 25 kids. With that being said, attendance still varied wildly from week to week from as little as 2 kids one week, to upwards of 15 during some weeks in December, February and May. The average youth attendance was around 10 on a weekly basis. Ashley Earp continued as a full-time teacher throughout the year alongside Eric Stotts. In the fall, the curriculum was based on Women in the Bible. In Advent, the kids learned about the days leading up to the birth of Jesus and performed a pageant that they acted out prior to Christmas. Also in Advent, Kids Church collected items for the

Bridgewater Senior Center. We also welcomed the addition of Diana Watts as a teachers aid. Krissy Cannizzo ran the curriculum and programming during Heifer in January and February. Heifer continues to be a favorite event for both Kids Church and the congregation. Between what was raised in church and at the Living Gift Market, the kids raised a total of just under \$2,000 for Heifer International. We also had 1 church sleepover this year that was attended by 10 kids and was done at the tail end of February vacation. For Lent and for the remainder of the year we used great curriculum from Illustrated Ministry that mostly tied into the sermons Rev Beth gave. On Palm Sunday the kids opened up the Kids Church Room to the congregation and explained what they had been working on for the previous 5 weeks. Many members of the church shared that it was one of their favorite services of the year and it was exciting for them to get to see what Kids Church is up to.

With Rev Beth going to 3/4 time starting in July, the team met to come up with a list of names of community members to see if they can help lead worship starting in the Fall. Lay participation is going to be an imperative with help in parish care related issues, with worship, and the general spiritual life of the church. At that meeting there was additional conversation about the greater role the Spiritual Engagement Team, Congregational Engagement Team, and Community Engagement Team will need to take on given this major switch in our church and what that might look like. This meeting took place prior to the vote to bring Rev Beth to 3/4 time, so no concrete actions were taken.

We look forward to seeing how the spirit will move through the congregation in the coming year and we are thrilled to see our community continue to grow.

Linda Chipman, Deb Sorgman, Eric Stotts

Spiritual Engagement Team

Report of the Property & Finance Team for 2024-2025

For the first 10 months this year, the team consisted of David Hanson and John Sharland, with one unfilled seat. In March, Patrick Donahue joined the team, adding much needed financial experience and acumen. Gordon Brailsford remains Consultant Emeritus and attends meetings and helps when he can.

For most of the year, it was “holding things together.” The flat roof was leaking. The sanctuary roof was leaking. The older and smaller of the two boilers was leaking. Through the tenacious bird dogging of David Hanson, we got the flat roof repaired and also the sanctuary roof. We anticipate an invoice of about \$2300 for this roof repair work, but it has not yet arrived.

In the Fall, we sponsored a mini-capital campaign to raise money for a new boiler. The estimate we had from Forni Bros. back then was \$21,000 and Forni said they couldn’t get to it until March of this year. We crossed our fingers in hopes the old one would make it through the heating season. (Which it did.) Proving that folks will give generously for capital or emergency needs, we raised \$32,000 and set it aside as The Boiler Fund.

Treasurer Dave Sheibley has been looking after the fund all winter and is ready to spring the money. We can't thank Dave enough for the many hours he puts in each month as treasurer. Any money left over from the fund will be used to defray the cost of repairing the two sidewalks at the front of the church.

As most know, we successfully added a \$1500 a month User Fee to the income side of the budget from North River Collaborative for use of one half of the Meeting Room upstairs, as a school for 3-5 young adults. This has been a great success. But we still have a budget deficit, a recurring theme for many years.

Not wanting to have no heat for a week for that classroom, which is heated by the old boiler, we asked Forni to install the new one during the week of April vacation. The best laid plans of men and mice.....They said the needed to re-price the job and they didn't get to that until the Monday of April vacation week. The good news is that the new price is only \$700 more, at \$21,700. The new date for the project to start is Monday, May 12.

Along with Fund Raising, the P&FT is responsible for Stewardship, which just one element of fund raising. The two of us couldn't do all that. Having Pat Donahue come on board helped, but we still needed a couple of teams to be formed for these efforts. Happily, a Stewardship Team was created and they have seen to it that Intentional Giving forms have gotten into the hands of all members and friends. A huge thank you to the Müürisepp family and Carol Chaffee for this effort. Hopefully, it will further reduce the annual budget deficit.

There is also a Fund-Raising Focus Group in the works, which will put together an actual fund-raising plan. Many thanks to our moderator for spearheading that.

Here endeth our one-page report for the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Report of the Congregational Engagement Team

This past year the church voted, on a trial basis, to combine the Spiritual Engagement and the Congregational Engagement Teams. Now, the trial period is up and I have proposed to the Moderator that we return to the Team models as first presented two years ago when the church voted in this model of Team Ministry. Nothing really changed over the trial year. It just emphasized the need for all of our teams to be strong in numbers, spirit and faith. I have been a lone team of one for a year and a half. Each team is supposed to have 3 members at least.

Despite the numbers or lack of, there is strength in numbers for the many events and activities that engage our congregation. I know who to call:

- To help with the 4th of July float for the parade
- To help make soup in the church kitchen for others and for ourselves
- To grill hot dogs at our Opening Day in September
- To be part of the Fair Committee
- To assist with Poinsettias and Easter Plants
- To bring new ideas to the table such as the Simple Soup Supper on Maundy Thursday and Our Baked Potato Bar Event.

- To facilitate our successful fellowship time after worship
- To send cards or pay a visit to a person in need
- To help.....

The Congregational Engagement Team engages the congregation but so do the Spiritual Engagement Team and the Community Engagement Team. You could be enjoying a cup of coffee at fellowship time, discussing the moving sermon just preached from pulpit and comparing the scripture reading to the mental health fundraising event you attended last week at the local community center; an engagement of 3 all in 1 setting, but let's think again. Your conversation touched on fundraising so let's change that to 4 in 1 because we just included the Property and Finance Team.

Many thanks to all who helped facilitate engagement over this past year. To be engaged with our congregation is to: greet, usher, read scripture, serve coffee, make soup, fellowship, play Hot Potato, share a story, tell a story, make a phone call, pay a visit, send a card, do a skit, listen, pray together, worship together, pray for others, support our church, its staff and its mission in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chaffee

Congregational Engagement Team

Report of the Community Engagement Team

The Community Engagement Team experienced another busy and productive year. We came out of the gate racing into September. We participated in Autumn Fest, a program offered by the Bridgewater Business Association. We had an opportunity to share information about our church, hand out a schedule of events we were offering during the Fall and sold Autumn crafts created by the Church Fair Crafters. We flew into November offering a new event for the church and especially the community. The event was called Witches & Wizards indicating Halloween was not over yet. The church grounds were decorated with pumpkins and bales of hay inviting people to enter the church. Inside they discovered 4 tents each with a different activity for children and adults to experience. There was also a food emporium, a storyteller and a store. This Magical Event raised \$1558. Racing into December came Christmas on the Common usually a wonderful event for us to participate. We opened our doors for people to warm up and use the facilities. Our church crafters sold many Christmas items but this year unknown to us the beginning time changed from 12:00 o'clock to 10:00 disrupting parking for church attendee's and presenting a difficult time for our handicapped people to attend church. A letter was written to the BBA and a meeting was attended. We explained our difficulties as well as the problems other churches experienced located in and near the Common. The BBA asked us to return in July or August when this issue would be addressed. Warmth in Cold Places an annual event at the Church also took place in December. Many winter items such as sweatshirts, jackets, socks, gloves etc. were collected. The committee spent an additional \$300 to supplement the items donated. The items were delivered to the Taunton church where many homeless people were able to come and select needed items. January celebrated a wonderful piano concert presented by our own Julia. Desserts and hors d'oeuvre followed the performance along with a raffle. The event raised \$1555. Our annual Heifer fundraiser held in February by the children was its usual successful event raising over \$2200. Baked goods and crafts made by the children were sold supporting all kinds of animals. People all over the world will be trained in the care and feeding of these

animals producing by-products to be sold. The monies earned will be used for food, clothing, housing and education. The project was led by Eric Stotts, Krissy Cannizzo and the Kids Church team. Thank you for supporting this project.

Each year there are 5 offerings collected with your help. This year the Neighbors in Need offering meant to help Native Americans totaled \$225, the Christmas fund is used to help retired ministers totaling \$673, Blanket Sunday led by Carol Chaffee raised \$480, One Great Hour of Sharing \$222 which the committee will match. The Strengthen the Church offering has not been collected as yet this year.

Each month a portion of the offering is designated for our use to give to various causes. This year we gave \$400 to the Minister's Discretionary fund, \$222 to match funds you donated to the One Great Hour of Sharing, \$200 to the L Street Church in Brockton which helps feed the homeless, \$200 to My Brother's Keeper, and \$200 to the Sunshine Farm Fund here in Bridgewater. Horses, cats, rabbits etc. at the Sunshine Farm help to provide respite care to traumatized foster children.

We will be saying goodbye to Diane Glass as she is leaving our team at the end of this Church year. She has helped the team over the last 2 years by keeping us connected to various groups in the church such as the Women's Guild and the Food Pantry. She helped organize the reception after Julia's concert and impressively shared information about our church to Autumn Fest attendees. Thank you Diane, you will be missed.

Submitted by Diane Glass, Heather Ciaramitaro & Terry Reynolds

Report of the Bridgewater Food Pantry 2024-25

(Covers May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025)

Number of client visits: 4574

Households 1363

Adults 2676

Children 1279

Seniors 619

Bags distributed 14103

Donations received \$33,420

Expenses \$24,124

Food Pantry operating account reduced by \$12,576 in 2022

The number of patrons utilizing the pantry has increased by 33% over the previous year.

We have built an incredible volunteer team that includes Pat Conn, John Shalignowitz, Bill O'Neil, Steve & Connie Chandler, Tom Aiello, Steve Wilson, Erin Reilly, Bob Marks, Peter Bergstrom. and our 2 interpreters Carlos Perez and Donna Noblin.

We continue to receive tremendous support from the local community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Melcher

Food Pantry Director

Report of the Church Fair Committee

Our Annual Church Fair was held Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2, 2024. The theme was Fall Harvest. We raised just over \$7000 for the church's general budget.

Our Friday Night Pie event is always well attended, brings in the crowds for shopping also. For just two hours, the fellowship hall and beyond is bustling with activity. Saturday hours were 9 AM to 1 PM. We served a luncheon from 11:30 – 1 PM. We brought back the traditional turkey supper, November 2 at 5:30 PM with just one seating of 80 reservations and a handful of takeout orders to go. Overall the supper was a success but there are few menu items that we would want to improve on or change altogether. Members and friends were generous with their time, talent and treasure. The wider Bridgewater Community supported the fair wholeheartedly.

The Fair Committee includes Mary Barnsley, Connie Chandler, Lynn Pietras, Gail Wright, Sandy Kuipers and Carol Chaffee. We starting meeting in September of 2024 and met about 4 times between September and November 1, 2024. We engaged several high school students for volunteers throughout the fair. We paid for some advertising but utilized the free resources of publicity available to us.

We had a recap meeting post fair to discuss feedback we had received of our successes and non-successes (failures is much too strong a word).

Many thanks to all who were part of the church fair experience. There is always room for new ideas and new faces. Let's chat!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chaffee

Report of the Women's Guild and Fellowship

We are a group of about 40 women, some of whom belong to the church and some of whom are members from the greater Bridgewater community. We seek to provide service to raise money through fundraising events (primarily 2 rummage sales a year) -so we can give to local, national and international charitable organizations of our choosing. Working together at events, fosters fellowship and camaraderie in our guild group. Many hands make the work lighter and more fun! Several of our Guild members donate their time to run the Central Thrift Shop for the Church. We are thankful for these results in this annual report and celebrated with a banquet at Loon Pond Lodge in Lakeville by 34 members on May 7th.

Our programs this past year, organized by the Executive Board at our Planning Meeting last August, were well attended with 22-35 women each month. Thank you to each and every member who gave of their time, talents and treasure throughout the year to make the success we achieved. Our charitable contributions this year totaled \$4,265 and benefitted:

Bridgewater:

2 Bridgewater sober houses: gifts totaling 44 sets of bath towels for Christmas
an annual donation of \$800 to our church for utilities
14 Christmas boxes to local military men/women serving abroad
Operation Santa
Food Pantry: For a couple of months, our Material Aid donations benefited the Food Pantry
with items needed for low stock, as demand for the pantry services has increased in the community
Minister's discretionary fund
Citizen's Scholarship Foundation at BR High School to support graduating seniors scholarship
fund (a first for the Guild)

Surrounding communities donations: L Street Ministry, Teen Challenge in Brockton and Penelope's
Place

National donations: NC Hurricane and Flood disaster and the LA Fire Disaster

International contributions: Heifer Project

Hygiene and Period Kits for Church World Service

Each meeting, we pass an "Angel" basket for simple cash contributions so that the membership may vote to
use these funds in service to someone special in need.

Our programs during this year by selected speakers were:

October	Pot Luck Dinner by Members to start the year off
November	Essential Oils by member Chris Ventura
December	Our Traditional Christmas Service by Rev. Beth
January	Jaguars of Pentara, Brazil by member Barbara Morey
February	Game Night for Member Socializing and Fun
March	Making Terrariums with Maryanne Cunningham
April	Chair Yoga with Judy Prisco
May	Annual Banquet Celebration, Loon Pond Lodge in Lakeville

Additionally, we have a program of sending handmade cards to those in our church who may need to be
uplifted during illness, the holidays or be shut-in with less visitation.

Any woman in the church is welcome to join our first meeting of a Fall potluck dinner on October 1st at 6:30
pm to see if you would enjoy joining this group! God Bless our members and their dedication to service!

Respectfully submitted,

Donna O'Neil and Diane Glass, Co-Presidents

Report of the Director of Video Evangelism

CSCC UCC 2024-25 Annual Report 2025

To Our Friends at Central Square Congregational Church,

We Hope this note finds you well and we send our very best as we celebrate another awesome year and
partnership with Central Square Congregational Church and BTV Access Corporation.

One of our primary missions is to bring impactful programming to our residents and our partnership allows us to do this, whether we are celebrating weekly services or connecting with one of our amazingly talented artists.

We continue to receive positive feedback from our viewers, who enjoy the professional and welcoming presentation of Sunday services, on YouTube, Facebook, Channel 8 and our new HD channel 1073.

Many of our viewers are homebound and you allow us to connect them with God and their community on a weekly basis, what an amazing gift.

Sunday services replay 8 times weekly on our channels and our virtual audience continues to grow. During the Past 12 months, The Booth Video YouTube Channel has drawn just shy of 3,000 devices, with approximately 8-10K viewers, over 458 Hours of watch time and 39,000 impressions, likes, and reactions. These numbers are in addition to viewership from the Central Square YouTube Channel and other social media platforms.

We are thrilled to continue working with Julia Scott Carey and her lineup of performers, which expands our programming for the community.

Paul and I are always grateful for the opportunity to bring the Good News to Bridgewater and beyond. We look forward to additional projects, partnership, and fellowship.

We wish you all the best for your annual celebration and look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fowler-Station Manager

& Paul Holmes-Director of Video Evangelism

BTV Access Corp CSCCUCC/BTV Access Corp

Report of the Sexton

As Sexton I have continued to keep the building as clean and tidy as possible each day. While I have not done any major refurbishing projects this past year I have continued to touch up areas with paint, puddy, screws, nails, electrical wiring etc. as needed.

The Church remains busy hosting support groups in the evening and weekends. We also are now providing classroom space for the North River Collaborative during the day. I keep those areas clean, and the bathrooms supplied daily. I continue to support and assist internal and external groups in setting up the fellowship hall and other meeting rooms with tables and chairs when needed. I work closely with the Church Coordinator to address building issues and other general requests as required.

I would like to thank the members of the Property & Finance and the Church Staff Teams for their continued support.

Special thanks to Gordon Brailsford, Steve Chandler and John Sharland for their hands-on assistance whenever I need it.

Respectfully, Rich Sullivan

Report of the Central Closet Thrift Shop

The Thrift Store hit its stride in 2024!

The shop earned \$15,490 through the end of May 2025. This is approximately an increase of \$3,000 from the previous year. This shows the success of the shop and its ability to contribute consistent income for our church.

In addition, we provide a service to the community and have many regular customers who love our store. We are told the store is a consistent stop along a day of Thrift shopping. We are also told how well displayed the merchandise is and that the pricing is fabulous!

We have been very fortunate to have many volunteers who help with continuing the success of the store, although we can always use more help. No amount of time is too short or long to help out! We are also grateful to those that contribute merchandise to sell.

We plan to strive for greater sales and additional shoppers by extending our advertising. New ideas are always welcome and encouraged. Come join the fun!

Submitted,

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

A WISE Congregation for Mental Health

For all with mental health challenges and their loved ones

We, the people of Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ know we are graced by the gifts, stories, and experiences of all our members, including those living with mental health challenges such as, but not limited to, mental illnesses, brain disorders, addictions, and trauma. We know these challenges can profoundly disturb our feelings, thoughts, and behavior. We care about the whole person: body, heart, mind, and soul. We affirm the deep and constant movement of God's Holy Spirit, seeking to bring us to the fullness of life. We believe that all people are beloved by God, and if a person has a mental health challenge that person has a right to be seen as a person first.

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself."* He made no distinction between various members of society; he did not show any partiality. He included all people in this commandment.

Sometimes individuals with mental health challenges such as brain disorders, mental illnesses, addictions, and trauma feel cut off from God and do not feel included. It is our calling to communicate to all individuals that God loves all of us equally, even when we do not feel the love of the Holy Spirit in our lives. People with mental health challenges have gifts to be offered in our faith community, and we want everyone to feel fully welcomed, included, supported, and engaged in the life, work, and leadership of our church.

We, Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, vote to continue to be a *welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged* (WISE) congregation for mental health.

We pledge to create a ***Welcoming*** environment for people with mental health challenges and their families:

- We pledge to educate ourselves and offer educational opportunities to help our whole congregation understand the issues surrounding the mental health challenges such as mental illnesses/brain disorders, addictions, and trauma and the implications of this covenant.

*** * * FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY * * ***

- In an effort to reduce social stigma, we pledge to examine our own attitudes and preconceived notions about mental health challenges and mental health and to confront our own ingrained stigma.
- We pledge to actively welcome those with mental health challenges into our faith community and provide a safe environment in which people can tell their stories and share their journeys.

We pledge to ***Include*** people with mental health challenges in the life, work, and leadership of the congregation:

- We commit to recruiting, nominating, and supporting persons with mental health challenges to serve on teams and in leadership positions within the congregation.
- When calling clergy and other staff, we pledge to be open to hiring persons with mental health challenges.

We pledge to ***Support*** people in our congregation who have mental health challenges and their families:

- We pledge to reach out to those suffering from brain disorders/mental illnesses, addictions, and trauma in the same way we reach out to those living with other physical illnesses.
- We pledge to offer companionship and compassion for individuals and families living with mental health challenges.

We pledge to ***Engage*** with other organizations that work at the intersection of mental health and faith/spirituality/religion:

- We pledge to welcome and encourage outside groups who deal with mental health challenges, brain disorders/mental illnesses, addictions, and trauma to use our church facilities.
- We pledge to engage with other organizations to find opportunities to be in shared mission, ministry, and advocacy together. This includes working with our church's WISE Task Force, the UCC Mental Health Network, and the UCC Disabilities Ministry.

This vote affirms that we join in the process of always becoming more welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged with all of God's people.

(Voted Month,Year)

Our Journey to Becoming WISE

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

The World Health Organization definition of mental health is “state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well, and work well, and contribute to their community... it is a basic human right.” The Mental Health Network W.I.S.E. program, (**W**elcoming, **I**nclusive, **S**upportive, and **E**ngaged) provides a path for congregations, associations, conferences and nonprofit organizations to join to reduce stigma and promote mental well-being.

In June of 2022, the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ officially became a WISE conference. Debbie Ringen, SNEUCC Minister for Health and Wellness said, “Romans 12:5 reminds us that *‘We, who are many, are one body in Christ’*. We can welcome all people when we challenge negative attitudes toward mental health and neurodiversity, question our assumptions, and correct misinformation about mental health challenges, substance use disorders, trauma, and brain differences.”

- WISE certification is a public positioning that our welcome is extended specifically to people with mental illness/brain disorders.
- Becoming WISE gives us access to even more resources on the UCC Mental Health Network as well as to consulting and peer collaboration.
- WISE is a natural extension of Open & Affirming.
- WISE certification differentiates CSCCUCC when engaging with mental health organizations.

In 2023, Rev. Beth Stotts approached several members of the congregation regarding becoming a WISE congregation through the UCC Mental Health Network. Officially an “Open and Affirming” congregation since 2014, we immediately recognized that WISE was consistent with our O&A stance and that it would be a natural progression in terms of demonstrably widening our welcome.

Here’s how our rollout went:

Step 1: Form a WISE team.

Mental health is already a visible issue within our congregation. In large part, our team members have personal experience with mental illness either as individuals or through relatives. Our congregation also has an unusual number of mental health practitioners, social workers, and nurses. Our WISE team includes the following members: Heather Ciaramitaro, Stephanie Holmgren, our deacons, Deb Sorgman and Anne Malmquist, and our pastor, Rev. Beth Stotts.

Step 2: Connect with the UCC Mental Health Network and examine available resources.

Reverend Beth and several members of the congregation took advantage of conference resources, workshops, and classes about WISE and mental health resources in our area. The toolkit on this page (<http://mhn-ucc.blogspot.com/p/becoming-wise-congregation-toolkit.html>) proved very valuable in guiding us through the WISE process and identifying resources. Likewise, we quickly sent an email to mhnucc@gmail.com letting the national UCC team know of our interest in becoming WISE.

Step 3: Invite leadership into the process.

We shared our idea with the leadership of the church and asked for their guidance to proceed with the process. Leadership agreed that working to de-stigmatizing mental health was important for our congregation to engage in. We gave monthly updates to the Cabinet in order to ensure that WISE was well understood by our leaders, to give leaders ample time to provide feedback, and to help ensure that they would support taking the proposal to a congregational vote.

Step 4: Engage the congregation.

We reached out to the congregation and invited feedback on how we could best move through the process by circulating a survey. Through the survey, we discovered that the congregation was interested in learning more about mental wellness, and their biggest concerns were around managing stress and anxiety.

Step 5: Educate the congregation.

We developed an approach that leads to the congregation's vote to become a WISE Congregation for Mental Health. To get the word out, and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, we organized the following successful activities during the 2024-2025 church year:

- Included an invitation to folks with mental health challenges in our weekly welcome during worship services.
- Requested prayers for those dealing with mental health challenges during the "Prayers of the People" segment of our worship service.
- At a Kids Church sleepover, we watched the movie "Inside Out" and held a discussion after about understanding big emotions.
- Organized an intergenerational outing to see the movie "Inside Out 2" with discussion that followed.
- Invited a local therapist to preach a sermon about the intersection of faith and mental wellness.
- Hosted Mental Health First Aid training at the church.

*** * * FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY * * ***

- Held a community book study and discussion on the book “Blessed are the Crazy” by Sarah Lund Griffith.
- Promoted workshops and webinars about mental health challenges, substance use disorders, trauma, and brain differences.
- The Deacons led different weekly Mental Wellness practices in worship during the season of Lent.
- Created a guide of local resources for Mental Wellness available in the church office.
- Prepared a WISE statement and covenant.

Step 6: Drafted the WISE Covenant

First, we reviewed the sample covenant on the UCC MHN, which provided an excellent framework for the document. The pastor then wrote the initial draft of our Covenant. Team members were then given the opportunity to review and comment on the Covenant. In addition, we sent the draft document to the national UCC team for validation that we were on the right track.

Step 7: Vote

We anticipate to have the vote take place at our annual congregational meeting in June 2025.

Step 8: Certify and celebrate being WISE

Once the covenant is approved by the congregation, we will then inform the national UCC mental health team that our Covenant has been approved. Once we receive an email stating that our document had been accepted and that we were now officially a WISE congregation, the news will be shared with the congregation by the pastor during worship.

Step 9: Publicize

Immediately following certification, we will issue a press release to the local print media affirming CSCCUCC’s welcoming stance toward people with mental illness / brain disorders. Our hope is that this news further differentiates us among local churches and compels people looking for an open, accepting congregation to come worship with us.

Step 10: Turn to the Future

Moving forward, our goal is to continue providing support beyond our congregation and into the wider community. One idea we have is to conduct a Mental Health Open House open to the community during Mental Health Awareness Month, featuring a variety of local service providers.

Below is a list of mental health resources available in and around Bridgewater, Massachusetts, including crisis support, counseling services, and community organizations:

24/7 Crisis & Helpline Support

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** Dial **988** for immediate, confidential support for mental health or suicidal crises. Available nationwide and in Massachusetts.
- **SAMHSA National Helpline:** Call **1-800-662-HELP (4357)** for free, confidential assistance with mental and/or substance use disorders.
- **Massachusetts Behavioral Health Helpline:** Call or text **978-409-7349** for help finding mental health and substance use services, with real-time interpretation in over 200 languages.
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text **HELLO** to **741741** to connect with a trained crisis counselor via text.
- **Mobile Crisis Intervention (ESP/MCI):** Call **1-877-382-1609** for 24/7 mobile support during mental health or substance use crises.

Local Mental Health & Substance Use Services

- **High Point Treatment Center (CBHC)** – Brockton, MA
Offers 24/7 crisis services, outpatient counseling, and stabilization programs for individuals and families.

30 Meadowbrook Dr, Brockton, MA 02301
(888) 725-9066
- **The Well: A Center for Hope and Healing** – Bridgewater, MA
Provides holistic care for emotional and spiritual wellness, including support groups and counseling services.
- **BAMSI Behavioral Health & BAMSI Kids** – Bridgewater, MA
Supports children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral needs through therapy and community-based services.
- **Praxis Integrated Counseling Services** – Bridgewater, Taunton, & East Bridgewater
Provides holistic care for the mind, body, and spirit, designed to empower individuals, couples and families to achieve emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being.

www.praxis-counseling.com

email: intake@praxis-counseling.com

phone : 508-426-6770

- **Care Solace** – Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District
A free, confidential service helping students, staff, and families find mental health or substance use treatment options. Available 24/7 in any language.

888-515-0595

www.caresolace.com/brrsd

BSU Campus & Employee Support

- **Bridgewater State University Counseling Center**

Offers confidential counseling services for students.

Weygand Hall, 351 Great Hill Dr, Bridgewater, MA 02325
(508) 531-1331

- **Bridgewater EASU (Employee Assistance Services Unit)**

Provides confidential counseling for employees and their families.

5 Wally Kreuger Way, Suite 4, Bridgewater, MA 02324
(508) 422-3483

Community & Family Support

- **Bridging L.I.V.E.S.** – Bridgewater & Raynham

A local coalition offering prevention programs, training, and support for families affected by substance use.

<https://brbridginglives.org>

- **Learn to Cope** – Massachusetts

Provides peer support for families of loved ones with addiction.

<https://learn2cope.org>

- **Parents Helping Parents** – Massachusetts

Offers a 24/7 Parental Stress Line at 1-800-632-8188 and online support groups.

- **Hope Floats** – Kingston, MA

A bereavement and educational center offering support for individuals and families dealing with grief and loss.

PO Box 345, Kingston, MA 02364
(781) 585-4221

<https://www.hopefloatswellness.org>

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
Proposed Budget 2025-2026

	FY 2025 Budget	Actual thru 5/10	FY 2026 Proposed	
Income				
Pledges / Offerings				
Regular Pledges	125,000	100,118	130,000	
Unpledged Offerings	12,000	17,316	12,000	
Kid's Church	500	472	500	
Plate Offering	1,000	608	1,000	
Total Pledges / Offerings	138,500	118,514	143,500	
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Church Fair or other	8,000	7,065	8,000	
Central Closet Thrift Shop	15,000	15,164	15,000	
Misc Fundraisers	3,000	3,160	8,000	
Total Fundraisers/Events Revenue	26,000	25,389	31,000	
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Rentals	4,000	3,531	4,000	
North River Collaborative Rental	15,000	13,500	18,000	
Food Pantry Support	1,200	1,300	1,800	
Private Rentals	500	100	500	
Total Facility Usage Income	20,700	18,431	24,300	
Misc Income				
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	2,000	163	2,000	
Misc Income	1,000	359	1,000	
	3,000	522	3,000	
Total Income	188,200	162,856	201,800	
Expense				
Senior Minister Expenses				
Payroll	41,853	33,286	25,051	
FICA Stipend	5,650	4,826	4,364	
Pension Fund	10,339	7,885	7,987	
Housing Allowance	32,000	27,200	32,000	
Professional Expenses	2,000	2,801	2,000	
Health & Dental Ins	26,748	28,814	28,574	
Life & Disability Ins	1,108	845	856	
Total Senior Minister Expenses	119,698	105,657	100,832	Includes 3% increase
Support Staff Expenses				
Pulpit Supply	500	602	500	
Sabbatical Budget	1,080	810	1,080	
Office Coordinator	13,260	10,564	15,760	\$20/hr x 16 hrs/wk
Minister of Music	16,883	13,869	17,389	Includes 3% increase
Sexton/Custodian	13,260	9,979	13,650	\$17.50/hr x 15 hrs/wk
Video Evangelism	1,000	0	1,000	
Sup. Staff FICA	3,320	2,535	3,580	
Workers' Comp Ins	1,200	1,085	1,294	
Total Support Staff Expenses	50,503	39,444	54,253	

*** * * FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY * * ***

	FY 2025 Budget	Actual thru 5/10	FY 2026 Proposed	
Office Expenses				
Total Bank Service Charges	600	486	600	
Internet & Computer Related Exp	2,100	2,665	2,100	
Office Supplies	400	491	400	
Payroll & Treasurer Supplies	950	197	950	
Postage & eDelivery	900	189	900	
Printing & Reproduction	2,150	3,186	2,150	
Telephone	1,800	2,003	1,000	
Total Office Expenses	8,900	9,217	8,100	
Church Building Costs				
Building Supplies	2,000	1,009	2,000	
Fire Alarm Monitoring Service	600	552	600	
Property & Liability Insurance	11,000	13,452	13,500	
Repairs & Maintenance	5,000	5,693	5,000	
Utilities				
Gas & Electric	5,500	6,618	7,000	
Fuel Oil	8,000	7,999	8,000	
Water & Sewer	500	1,321	1,400	
Total Church Building Costs	32,600	36,644	37,500	
Operating Committees				
Spiritual Engagement Team	1,500	2,397	1,500	
Property and Finance Team	300	119	300	
Congregational Engagement Team	900	67	800	
Community Engagement Team	1,000	862	1,000	
Teams Total	3,700	3,445	3,600	
Community Engagement Team Reserve	1,875	1,445	1,950	1.5% of pledge income
Total Operating Committees	5,575	4,890	5,550	
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	2,000	0	2,000	
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	200	0	200	
Misc Expenses	0	0	0	
Total Expense	219,476	195,852	208,436	
Net Income (Loss)	(31,276)	(32,996)	(6,636)	

*** * * FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY * * ***

Cash balances		Vanguard investment funds	
Operating Account	6,200	Protected principal	135,513
Money Market	27,636	Unrestricted funds	86,275
Minister's Discretionary Acct	223	Total investments 4/30/25	221,788
Community Engagement Reserve	3,256		
Building fund/Capital Improvements Acct	28,341		
PayPal Account	99	Food Pantry account balance 3/31/2025	23,400
Venmo Account	545	Donations	155
Total Cash Balances 4/30/25	66,299	Expenses	(2,143)
		Food Pantry account balance 4/30/25	21,412

**Nominees for Officers and Team Leaders
July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026**

Moderator - Anne Malmquist
Clerk - Nina Gabel-Jorgensen
Treasurer - Dave Shiebley
Asst. Treasurer - [open position]
Financial Secretary - Karissa Marquis

Community Engagement Team

Terry Reynolds
Heather Ciaramitaro
[open position]

Congregational Engagement Team

Carol Chaffee
Natalie Muurisep
[open position]

Property and Finance Team

John Sharland
David Hanson
Patrick Donahue

Spiritual Engagement Team

Eric Stotts
Deb Sorgman
Linda Chipman