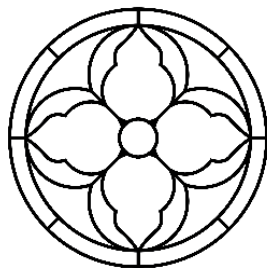


# Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324



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



## Sunday, August 24, 2025

9:00AM

### Welcome & Introductions

### Announcements

### Gathering Words *(Inspired by Psalm 63:1-2, Isaiah 55:1-3)*

One: The hungry search for bread. The thirsty look for water.

**All: This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.**

One: Those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

**All: This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.**

One: So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,  
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

**All: and let the God of life satisfy our souls.**

### Opening Prayer *(based on Isaiah 55:1-9)*

O God, we gather today seeking fullness. Not the fullness our world offers, but fullness that comes from You.

We spend so much of our lives on things that do not count—

things that promise much and give little.

Help us now—today—to find fulfillment in Your love.

May we discover all You have to give as we lift our hearts and minds and souls into Your Holy presence.

Amen!

### Opening Hymn: *“In The Bulb There is a Flower”*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There’s a dawn for every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

### Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3

Faith is kind of like trust. It means believing in something even when you can’t see it right in front of you. Think about when you plant a seed in the ground. You can’t see the flower or the vegetable yet, but you believe it will grow, because you trust the seed and the sunshine and the rain. That’s like faith—believing in what’s coming, even if it’s hidden right now. The Bible says people long ago trusted God this way, even when they didn’t know exactly how things would work out. So faith is like trusting God’s invisible work—just like trusting the seed will grow into something beautiful.

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.*

### Reading: Excerpt from *“Good Soil”* (p.162)

Chu writes, “The fifth commandment instructs us to honor our father and mother... ‘*Kabbed*,’ the Hebrew word that is translated “*honor*,” derives from a verb that means “*to be weighty*” or “*to be burdensome*.” *This* at least hints at the complexity of the task... what does “*honor*” even mean in modern society?

### Reflection

Trace our ancestries far back enough, and most, if not all, of us will find some agrarian roots – farmers, hunters, foragers, people who live off the land. Where in your life do you see some evidence, however seemingly insignificant, of your agrarian roots? What have you inherited, or perhaps returned to, that was part of your people’s story?

### Prayers

#### Celebrations & Concerns, Highs & Lows, & Prayer Requests

#### The Lord’s Prayer *(Please use the wording that is most meaningful for you)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## **We Remember Jesus: A litany of communion**

### **Invitation to the Table**

Everyone is welcome at God's table—big or small, young or old. This is Jesus' table, and there is a place for you here. Let's pray.

*God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us how to love. Thank you for this bread and cup, reminders that you are always with us. Amen.*

### **The Story**

On the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his followers. He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it. Then he said, *"This is my body, given for you. Remember me."* After supper, he took a cup, gave thanks, and shared it. He said, *"This cup shows God's love. When you drink it, remember me."*

### **Sharing the Meal**

Leader: The bread of life, given for you.  
The cup of blessing, poured out for you.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**All: God, thank you for this meal. Thank you for filling us with love. Help us share that love with the world. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn: "I Come to the Garden Alone"**

*I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses;  
and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.  
And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own,  
and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

*He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing;  
and the melody that he gave to me with in my heart is ringing.*

*And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

### **Benediction**

**We are delighted to Worship with you today!**

*In this church, no matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ.

**Do you need a visit? A meal? Someone to pray with?**

Contact Rev. Beth, a Deacon, or a member of the Care Team.

Rev. Beth Stotts – [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com)

Deb Sorgman – [debsorgman@gmail.com](mailto:debsorgman@gmail.com)

Anne Malmquist – [amalmquist@comcast.net](mailto:amalmquist@comcast.net)

Carol Chaffee – [galchaffee@gmail.com](mailto:galchaffee@gmail.com)

Bev Mitchell – [bev1944@comcast.net](mailto:bev1944@comcast.net)

Nina Gabel-Jorgensen – [ngjvns@gmail.com](mailto:ngjvns@gmail.com)

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**Please donate to our ministries!**



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## **Mustard Seeds Prayer List**

**Prayer List of the People For the week of August 24, 2025**

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*Please note: Prayer requests should be submitted by calling the Church Office at: (508) 697-6016 or by e-mail to: [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com).*

- Please send love, peace, and courage as my girls and I navigate a new chapter of our lives. Help us keep love in our hearts. (7/27)
- Prayers for the Chaffee family on the passing of Anne Chaffee. Our whole community mourns with you. (7/13)
- Evelyn Francis' (age 6) prayer is she hopes "people at the hospital will feel better, Amen!" (7/13)
- Prayers for a family member of a Hanson Farm employee. (6/22)
- Prayers for a father struggling with despair and uneasiness. May he find peace, love, and strength in God's arms. (6/15)
- Prayers of healing for Vale Sime, recovering at Life Care in West Bridgewater. (6/1)
- Patrick Donahue asks for prayers for Barbara Monteiro - for physical and mental health, depression, and for her vision, hearing, and spine.
- Donna & Bill O'Neil ask for prayers of healing and comfort for their friend, Shawn King who is undergoing treatment for cancer. Scans show good response. (5/6)
- Evelyn asks for prayers for her Papa's back to feel better. (5/4)
- Savannah Wells asks for prayers for her friend who has been diagnosed with and is receiving treatment for bone cancer in her knee. (4/13)
- Mary Barnsley asks for continued prayers for her sister-in-law Maryann with memory issues. She needs strength and courage to accept this. (4/13)
- Prayers for friends of Terry Reynolds, Tom and Maureen, and their son. Tom is recovering from triple bypass surgery with complications, and Maureen is battling lung cancer. Their son has also lost his job. (4/6)
- Prayers for discernment and courage for college students who are grappling with what it means to be Christians. (4/6)
- Prayers for a friend's husband and his grandmother; both are coping with the sudden loss of her father-in-law. (4/6)
- Prayers for Sally Burke. (4/6)
- Sheri Turner asks for prayers for a quick recovery from surgery for her friend Anna Jaworski, who has a broken wrist and is a writer. (4/3)
- Continued prayers for the Glass' niece Jennifer, who still struggles with extreme anxiety, but was finally able to go home after 5 weeks in McLean Hospital. (4/6)
- Prayers of healing for Laurie Scott, who had a procedure due to complications after a cardiac stent which resulted in some heart damage. (3/16)
- Prayers for Gloria Weinrebe's niece, Linda, who had some cancer removed. (3/16)
- Prayers for Dominic & Vinny Santarcangelo's grandfather who is recovering from surgery. (3/9)
- Continued prayers are needed for Doug Anderson's grandson James age 10, who has missed school for 2 1/2 years in his battle against neuroblastoma. (3/6)
- Continued prayers of healing for Beth, sister of Gail Wright & Lynn Pietras. (4/13)

- Prayers for Liz, Mark Sorgman's stepmom, who is housebound. (2/23)
- Prayers for Jamison who broke his shoulder. (2/23)
- Prayers for the LGBTQ+ community. (2/9)
- Prayers for Jack McMillian and his family as he is in hospice. He is the father-in-law of Sheri Turner's friend Sheri also asks for prayers for her mother-in-law Anne Turner who is going through health issues. (1/26)
- Gloria Weinrebe asks for prayers for Joanna with her double lung transplant. Prayers also for Doris Campbell, who was visiting Joanna and had a stroke at the hospital. The hospital staff saved her life with their quick response. (1/19)
- Prayers for Bill Govoni as he faces health issues and his wife Terry DeArruda as she navigates the system to support him. (12/5)
- Prayers for Joann Kelly and her 4 kids, Christine, Phillip, Emma, & Jack. Joann lost her life partner, Sean, to cancer last week. (12/1)
- Prayers for 9-year-old Vivian, who has leukemia, and her mother, Jen. Vivian's treatment plan is going according to plan and should be done in June 2026. (12/1)
- Prayers for Barbara, as she has ongoing tests at Beth Israel. (11/24)
- Krissy Cannizzo asks for prayers for Joe, who is dealing with transplant rejection. (11/10)
- Stephanie Holmgren asks for prayers for her friend's husband, Andy, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. (10/20)
- Prayers for Anita Mills, to learn how to live with severe chronic pain. (9/15)
- Prayers for Cheryl Cardillo, who is healing from surgery & cancer diagnosis. (4/7)
- Prayers of peace and comfort from cancer for Brian Q. (4/7)
- Prayers for Eric Thompson, Sue Corcoran's nephew, who is struggling with mental health problems. (1/21)
- Continued prayers for Ashley Earp's dad, who has dementia. (12/22)
- Asking God for love and prayers for both the Israeli people and for the people of Palestine. Both need our prayers, for all of the innocent people on both sides.

***Continued prayers for all veterans and those serving on active duty in the military both in the United States and abroad.***

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**Please note:** We, the church, are in constant prayer for our church family, our community, our nation, and our world. We are in need of prayer, all of us. It is what brings us together! If you have requested an addition to the prayer list, it is helpful for you to provide updates to the church office, whenever possible, or request that the prayer concern be removed as it is no longer a concern or the issue has passed. If we have removed a prayer concern and you would like it added back to the list because there is a great need to keep the prayer in the forefront of our hearts and minds, please go ahead and make this known to the church office. Thank you!

## **Church Staff and Officers**

|                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pastor:                       | Rev. Elizabeth Stotts |
| Minister of Music:            | Julia Scott Carey     |
| Director of Video Evangelism: | Paul Holmes           |
| Office Manager:               | Jennifer Foronjy      |
| Sexton:                       | Rich Sullivan         |
| Kids Church Director:         | Eric Stotts           |
| Moderator:                    | Anne Malmquist        |
| Communications:               | Diane Sheibley        |
| Treasurer:                    | David Sheibley        |
| Financial Secretary:          | Karissa Marquis       |

## **To contact the Church Office:**

E-mail: [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com)

Phone: 508-697-6016

This summer the church office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 9am – 1pm.  
If you would like to make an appointment with Rev. Beth, please email her at [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com).