



Steeple Sounds

The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

October 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

Fall is such a season of transition, where the world slowly shifts from the vibrant green of summer into the fiery hues of autumn. It's a time when we feel the need to pause and reflect—on the changes within ourselves and the world around us.

I have an apple tree in my front yard that we planted when my youngest daughter was born. This tree, its branches now heavy with fruit, offers a picture of abundance—yet it is also in the letting go of its fruit that new life can emerge.

I invite you to take a moment as the crispness of Fall settles in—grab your favorite kind of apple—and reflect with me on the beauty of this season of change. Bite into that apple, feel its sweetness, its earthiness, and its fullness. Notice the way the fruit satisfies yet reminds you that it didn't grow in isolation; it's the result of months of careful nurturing, the sun, the rain, the earth—each element coming together to create something life-giving.

In the midst of the harvest season, the importance of community becomes clear. We need each other, just like the apples need the branches to bear their fruit, and the branches need the roots to stay grounded. As the leaves fall, we lean on our siblings in Christ—each person holding another up, offering strength and encouragement when the wind feels too strong. There is power in shared faith and mutual support, where we can help each other navigate life's inevitable changes, knowing that together, we are being shaped for something greater.

In this same way, our lives are intertwined with others. Just like the apple tree relies on the seasons, the soil, and the community of nature around it, we too rely on the people around us to help us grow, to help us bear fruit. Fall can be a time of shedding—of letting go of what no longer serves us. But it can also be a time of abundant harvest—of reflecting on the relationships that sustain us, the faith that strengthens us, and the trust that even in seasons of change, we are held by something greater.

So, as you enjoy that apple, consider how faith and community play a role in your own life. Where have you seen growth in the last season? How have you experienced God's presence through others? And as you think about the transitions ahead, know that even as the trees shed their leaves, we are called to stand firm in our roots, just as our communities and our faith can provide stability during change.

Let the sweetness of the apple remind you of the richness that comes when we open ourselves to the nourishment of others, to the strength of community, and to the quiet trust that the changing seasons always hold something good and holy.

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, & Sun: 9am-1pm
Thu, 11am-3pm
and by appointment**

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 15, 7pm

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

CSCC Team Leadership 2025-26

Spiritual Engagement Team Leaders:
Deb Sorgman, Eric Stotts

Congregational Team Leaders:
Carol Chaffee, Natalie Muurisep

Property & Finance Team Leaders:
Patrick Donahue, David Hanson, John Sharland

Community Engagement Team Leaders:
Heather Ciaramitaro, Stephanie Holmgren,
Terry Reynolds



There will be three opportunities to gather for fellowship time after worship this month. Please consider signing up to volunteer with 1 or 2 others on October 5th, 12th, or the 26th. The sign up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board near the kitchen. I can answer any questions that you may have. Thank you.

Connie Chandler



**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

CSCC Care Team

Carol Chaffee • Bev Mitchell
 Rev. Beth Stotts • Nina Gabel-Jorgensen

Deacons

Deb Sorgman
debsorgman@gmail.com
 Anne Malmquist
amalmquist@comcast.net
 Stephanie Holmgren, Altar
 Deacon

Cristi Ciaramitaro
 Savannah Wells, Jr. Deacon
 Liam O'Connell, Jr. Deacon
 Tallinn Muurisepp, Jr. Deacon

CSCC Junior Choir 2025-26!

**Rehearsals at 9:40am:
Oct. 5 - Oct. 19**

**Performance at 10am:
October 19**



Coins for Kids Church

Don't forget to bring your spare change for the Coins for Kids Church collection! This helps to pay for Kids Church

supplies and teaching materials.

We normally collect it on the first Sunday of the month, but feel free to bring it on any Sunday!

**Monthly Community Meal
Friday, October 3, 5-7pm**

Italian Night Supper



The Bridgewater community is cordially invited to the CSCC monthly community meal: Italian Night Supper!

This month's theme will combine our farm to table idea with our love of Italian food.

Menu will be:

Pasta/meatballs • Salad
 Veggie Pizza • Garlic bread

The cost is \$5 per person, or \$20 per family. No advance tickets needed. Open to the public!

Would you like to help with the event? Visit cscucc.org/events, or contact the church office.

It's Lunch Time!

**Potluck Lunch and Fellowship
Third Sunday of the month,
following worship.**

Not able to bring anything? No worries.
Please join us anyway.

Sunday, October 19!



Save your used Halloween decorations!

Once Halloween is over, if you have decorations and supplies that you no longer want, PLEASE give them to the committee planning our next "Magical Event", which will take place on January 10, 2026. Last year's event was such a great success, we're looking forward to this one being even bigger and better, and raising even more money for the church. Contact the church office or Terry Reynolds if you have decorations you can send our way!



New Year Starts Oct 1st

Calling all women of the church and their friends to our first meeting of the year, 2025-26! We will meet at 6:30 pm for a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dish, whether a soup, side, entrée, salad, or dessert to share on our community table.

We will follow the dinner and social hour with a business meeting to start planning our Fall Rummage Sale and support of the Fall Church Fair! Our new Program Brochure of speakers for our meetings this year will be distributed. Bring a friend for an enjoyable time to try us out! We will be taking donations for our Food Pantry at this meeting.



Save the Date!

**Women's Guild
& Fellowship**

Rummage Sale

Saturday, Oct. 18

Start cleaning those closets, basements, and garages in preparation for your donations to the Fall rummage sale at our church! We take usable clothing in good repair of any size, household goods, pictures, lamps, kitchenware, kids toys and playthings for outdoors, pocketbooks, Fall and Christmas décor, accessories, and jewelry. We will not be taking any electronics or TVs. Tell your neighbors we will be taking donations, too! The more, the merrier!

We need lots of items in good condition, so bring them to Fellowship Hall on Tues and Wed (14th and 15th) from 9 - 1pm and Thurs and Fri (16th and 17th) from 9-3! *All proceeds benefit local and world-wide non-profits!*

Come join us on Saturday, October 18 to find your new treasure! We will have our "SOUPS TO GO" (we will have at least 5 varieties) as well as sandwiches, chips, and a dessert for a lunch Grab and Go. Yum! Save your Saturday cooking for our treats!

Hope to see you there!

**Our hours for the Rummage Sale will
be 9-1 (Oct 18th) with a Fill-a-Bag sale
starting at NOON!**



World Communion Sunday

October 5, 2025

"That All May Be One"

*"Reminding us of our unity
in Christ"*



It Takes Courage To Grieve

Grief is a wound that needs attention in order to heal. To work through and complete grief means to face our feelings openly and honestly, to express or release our feelings fully, and to tolerate and accept our feelings for however long it takes for the wound to heal. For most of us, that is a big order. Therefore, it takes courage to grieve. It takes courage to feel our pain and to face the unfamiliar.

It also takes courage to grieve in a society that mistakenly values restraint, where we risk the rejection of others by being open or different. Open mourners are a select group, willing to journey into pain and sorrow and anger in order to heal and recover.

FROM: *The Courage to Grieve* by Judy Tatelbaum, Lippencott and Crowell

Submitted by Carol Chaffee



Floral Broom Workshop
Oct. 4 at 10am

Join floriculturist Cristi Ciaramitaro for a hands-on workshop where you will craft your own seasonal, decorative broom.

Open to the public, so tell your friends! Share the Facebook event!

Cost is \$35 per person. Workshop is limited to 12 attendees. Find the link to make your reservation at www.cscucc.org/events. Register today before it's sold out!



CENTRAL CLOSET THRIFT SHOP
 at Central Square Congregational Church
 71 Central Square, Bridgewater
Wed & Sat, 10-2
cscucc.org/thrift-shop

Fall has arrived! In Central Closet Thrift Shop, we have made room for fall and winter merchandise. As you purge your cabinets and closets keep us in mind - your cast off items are just what some of our customers may be looking for.

We welcome new or gently used clothing and accessories for adults and children, seasonal decorations, household items, books, and toys. Please no electronics, broken items, torn or stained clothing. We do limit donations to up to 20 items per visit. Donations are only accepted during shop hours: Wednesday 10-2 and Saturday 10-2. Thank you for your generosity!

Please note the Central Closet Thrift Shop will be closed the week of the Women's Guild's annual fall rummage sale, Oct 15-18. (The sale is on the 18th.)

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

Lynn, together with Connie, Sandy, Jane and Gail



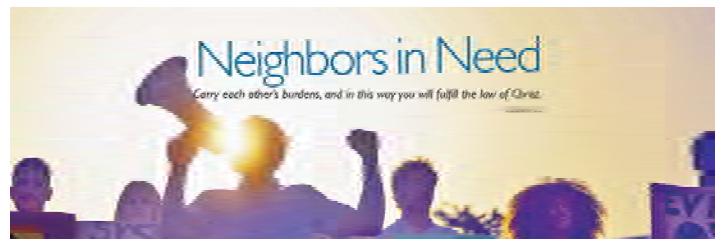
The Attic Treasures Table at the Church Fair is looking for the following things. Hopefully you will be able to donate some items. People are always looking for: DISHES, NOTEPAPER, CANDLES, BASKETS, TOYS IN GOOD CONDITION, CHRISTMAS ITEMS AND SMALL APPLIANCES - JUST TO NAME A FEW THINGS.

Donations can be brought to the church the week prior to the fair (the week of Nov. 3), during office hours.

A few years ago, BR High School started a program where students can go into a room at the high school (before Christmas) and pick out things for Christmas presents to give to family members. We have had a group come at the end of the sale and pick out anything they might be able to use with this wonderful project.

Thanks so much!

Debbie Golob and Bev Mitchell



The Neighbors in Need offering will be received on Oct. 5.

The Neighbors in Need theme this year is "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. [Galatians 6:2]"

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. One-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Please be generous in your support of this mission of the UCC. CSCC will receive this offering on Sunday, Oct. 5.

kids CHURCH

October is here! We had a fun first month back with the kids, and are fully in the swing of things after the summer off. This month we'll continue using curriculum from Illustrated Ministries. For those who are unfamiliar with Illustrated

Ministries, it is a progressive Christian curriculum that simplifies a lot of the language used in the Bible to get at the heart of a given passage in a way children can understand. We will continue following the Lectionary that Rev. Beth will be preaching on. The hope here is that since both the kids and their caregivers are hearing the same lessons, it could spark some intergenerational discussion on the scripture outside of church.

I want to give a special thank you to all the parents for not just getting their kids' registration forms in, but thoughtfully answering what Bible story or biblical message that they would like their kids to learn. Learning about faith and the Bible is a journey, not a destination. If there are specific themes or passages that you feel are important to their faith journey, I want to make sure we do our best to incorporate them. Based on that feedback, we've already secured a 6-week curriculum on The Lord's Prayer that we will be doing next Spring. So thank you again for all your input!

Just a quick programming note: There will be no Kids Church on October 12th (Indigenous People Day weekend).

Looking forward - Advent starts at the end of November and I can't wait to tell you about all the amazing things we have planned in next month's Steeple Sounds! Until then enjoy the Fall, and as always if you have any questions or thoughts, please don't hesitate to get a hold of me!

Eric Stotts

Kids Church Director



End of life
planning
**WORK
SHOP**
WITH
REV. BETH
SUNDAY
NOV. 2, 11AM

*You are
invited to plan
for your own
legacy*

Five Wishes Workshop on All Saints!

As we gather on All Saints (Nov.2) for worship to reflect on and honor the lives of those who have gone before us, you are invited to take a moment to plan for your own legacy. Join Rev. Beth for a special Five Wishes Workshop, where we'll explore how thoughtful end-of-life planning can reflect your values, wishes, and faith.

In this session, we will guide you through the Five Wishes advance directive, helping you express your personal and spiritual desires regarding healthcare and end-of-life decisions. By aligning this important planning with the season of remembrance, we hope to empower you to make decisions that honor both your life and the lives of your loved ones.

Date: November 2nd

Time: 11am

Location: Fireplace Room of Central Square Church, UCC



Looking to help with an event or a ministry? Know someone who needs community service hours?

Be sure to keep an eye on the volunteer page on our website. It's updated often with new projects, committee requests, and opportunities.

cscucc.org/time-talent/



Fall Harvest Fair & Turkey Supper

Friday & Saturday Nov. 7-8

Many Hands Make Light Work

Friday, November 7: Pie Night!

Pie and Shopping
6:30 – 8:30pm

Saturday, November 8

Shopping 9am – 1pm
Lunch served 11am – 1pm
Turkey Supper 5:30pm

We're very excited about this year's fair. Our community comes together: to work for the good of our church, to raise funds for our church, to share fellowship and food, TO BE THE CHURCH!

This is a major fundraiser for the church, so it literally is "all hands on deck". There is a place for everyone and everyone has a place. "Many hands make light work."

The Most Wanted:

- ♥ Pie, cookie and bread BAKERS – see Darlene Brown
- ♥ A lunch crew to join Heather Ciaramitaro in prepping and serving lunch.
- ♥ A Set-up and Clean-up crew throughout the fair at various times and, in general, volunteers to help, around and about.
- ♥ Gift Basket Donations! Do you know a local business that would donate a gift basket in return for some publicity? Or maybe your family would put together a fun basket? Baskets and gift cards gratefully accepted. Baskets and items for this table are finalized by **November 2** so that signage and space can be prepared. Krissy Cannizzo is the organizer of this table.
- ♥ Community service-seeking students – sign up ahead of time with the church office, specific times are needed.
- ♥ Folks to distribute FLYERS at their favorite public places – available October 1
- ♥and more!

Contact a member of the fair committee or the church office if you are able to contribute to any of the above, or if you have another idea or way to share your time and talent. You can also sign up online - visit cscucc.org/time-talent

Our Fair lunch menu is being re-energized and refreshed. The luncheon is held on the Saturday of the fair, November 8, from 11am – 1pm. It is a light luncheon, with a to-go option.

Our traditional turkey supper will be served on Saturday, November 8 at 5:30pm. Reservations are highly recommended as we are capping the tickets at 80. Reservations can be made online, calling the church office prior to November 6, or at the fair.

Here is a list of table chairs should you want to reach out to them with a specific way to help.

Pie Night – Mary Barnsley
Crafts – Jane O'Connell, Terry Reynolds
Attic Treasures – Bev Mitchell and Debbie Golob (see additional article in this Steeple Sounds)
Baked Goods – Darlene Brown
Jewelry – Barbara Morey and Annie Blanchard
Harvest – David Hanson and Carol Chaffee
Gift Basket Raffle – Krissy Cannizzo

continued...



“Many Hands Make Light Work”

Nehemiah 3 – a summary of the passage provided by Calvary Chapel, Palos Verdes

After arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah set out in the night to investigate the city’s condition. It was in bad shape, probably worse than he had imagined. **The work ahead was massive, and it would require many hands.** As the saying goes, **many hands make light work.** Even still, one might easily have looked at the job and said, it’s too big!

Nevertheless, *the people offered up willing hearts and ready hands*, and God can work with that. In any great task you need leadership, a vision, and *some skin in the game*. Nehemiah was clearly the leader - he had a burden from the Lord, and a plan in place. This was necessary, but *what was most necessary was people*. People are always the way in which God advances his plans on the earth.

It was the people who had to say, *“Let us rise up and build.”* Without everyone involved, the task was too great. The high priest (**v. 1**), a goldsmith, a perfume maker (**v. 8**), a city leader, and his daughters (**v.12**), all put their shoulders to the work. Some did more, some did less, and some did nothing at all (**v. 5**). Their names were recorded in the Bible, because God cares about people and not just projects.

The people worked with all of their hearts, side by side. Families worked together to build the section of the wall just in front of their own home (**v. 28, 29**). Because, individually protected homes adds up to make a collectively protected community. When those with more skill and energy finished their own section, they went on to help others (**v. 30**). The things that are too much for just one person or even a few are achievable when everyone rises up and gets involved.

God has strategically placed us where he wants us to be in order to accomplish great things. He has an important work for us to do: in the church, in neighborhoods, in business, in government, and especially in homes. So together, let’s get our hands on the work.

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 – October 2025 (Year C)

Wed., Oct. 1

Psalm 119:49-56
 Jeremiah 33:1-13
 Matthew 19:16-22

Thurs., Oct. 2

Lamentations 3:19-26
 Jeremiah 52:1-11
 Revelation 2:8-11

Fri., Oct. 3

Lamentations 3:19-26
 Jeremiah 52:12-30
 Revelation 2:12-29

Sat., Oct. 4

Lamentations 3:19-26
 Lamentations 1:7-15
 Matthew 20:29-34

Sun., Oct. 5

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Lamentations 1:1-6
 Lamentations 3:19-26 or
 Psalm 137
 2 Timothy 1:1-14
 Luke 17:5-10

Mon., Oct. 6

Psalm 137
 Lamentations 1:16-22
 James 1:2-11

Tues., Oct. 7

Psalm 137
 Lamentations 2:13-22
 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21

Wed., Oct. 8

Psalm 137
 Lamentations 5:1-22
 Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

Thurs., Oct. 9

Psalm 66:1-12
 Jeremiah 25:1-14
 2 Timothy 1:13-18

Fri., Oct. 10

Psalm 66:1-12
 Jeremiah 27:1-22
 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Sat., Oct. 11

Psalm 66:1-12
 Jeremiah 28:1-17; Luke 5:12-16

Sun., Oct. 12

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
 Psalm 66:1-12
 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Mon., Oct. 13

Psalm 102:1-17
 Jeremiah 29:8-23
 Acts 26:24-29

Tues., Oct. 14

Psalm 102:1-17
 Jeremiah 29:24-32; Ephesians 6:10-20

Wed., Oct. 15

Psalm 102:1-17
 Jeremiah 25:15-32
 Matthew 10:5-15

Thurs., Oct. 16

Psalm 119:97-104
 Jeremiah 26:1-15
 Acts 17:22-34

Fri., Oct. 17

Psalm 119:97-104
 Jeremiah 26:16-24
 2 Timothy 2:14-26

Sat., Oct. 18

Psalm 119:97-104
 Jeremiah 31:15-26
 Mark 10:46-52

Sun., Oct. 19

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104
 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5
 Luke 18:1-8

Mon., Oct. 20

Psalm 129
 Jeremiah 38:14-28
 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Tues., Oct. 21

Psalm 129
 Jeremiah 39:1-18
 James 5:7-12

Wed., Oct. 22

Psalm 129
 Jeremiah 50:1-7, 17-20
 Luke 22:39-46

Thurs., Oct. 23

Psalm 65
 Joel 1:1-20
 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Fri., Oct. 24

Psalm 65
 Joel 2:1-11
 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Sat., Oct. 25

Psalm 65
 Joel 2:12-22
 Luke 1:46-55

Sun., Oct. 26

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
 Joel 2:23-32
 Psalm 65
 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
 Luke 18:9-14

Mon., Oct. 27

Psalm 87
 Joel 3:1-8
 1 Peter 4:12-19

Tues., Oct. 28

Psalm 87
 Joel 3:9-16
 1 Peter 5:1-11

Wed., Oct. 29

Psalm 87
 Joel 3:17-20
 Matthew 21:28-32

Thurs., Oct. 30

Psalm 119:137-144
 Jeremiah 33:14-26
 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Fri., Oct. 31

Psalm 119:137-144
 Habakkuk 1:5-17
 2 Peter 1:1-11

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*Unless otherwise noted, worship services are both online and in-person	Please note: The full calendar of all building uses is available on cscucc.org or by contacting the church office.		1 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open 6:30pm Women's Guild & Fellowship	2 10-1 Food Pantry open 11-3 Church office open 7pm AI-Anon	3 5pm Italian Night Community Meal	4 10-2 Thrift Shop open 10am Floral Broom Workshop
5 Neighbors in Need Offering World Communion Sunday 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Communion Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting	6 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open	7 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	8 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open 2pm Church crafters	9 10-1 Food Pantry open 11-3 Church office open 7pm AI-Anon 7pm Property & Finance Meeting	10	11 10-2 Thrift Shop open
12 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 10am Worship* 7:30pm AA Meeting	13	14 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	15 Steeple Sounds 9-1 Church office open 10am Staff meeting 10-2 Thrift Shop open 7pm Cabinet	16 10-1 Food Pantry open 11-3 Church office open 6:30pm Church crafters 7pm AI-Anon	17	18 9-1 Rummage Sale
RUMMAGE SALE SET UP						
19 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church, Jr. Choir performance 11am Monthly potluck 7:30pm AA Meeting	20	21 9-1 Church office open 2pm Church crafters 7pm Women's NA	22 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open	23 10-1 Food Pantry open 11-3 Church office open 7pm AI-Anon	24	25 10-2 Thrift Shop open
26 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 10am Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting	27	28 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	29 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open 6:30pm Church crafters	30 10-1 Food Pantry open 11-3 Church office open 7pm AI-Anon	31	

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes September 17, 2025 at 7pm

Location: Fellowship Hall, Church

Devotional - Rev. Beth

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Anne Malmquist, Moderator.

Cabinet members in attendance:

Anne Malmquist, Moderator; David Sheibley, Treasurer; Nina Gabel-Jorgensen, Clerk; Heather Ciaramitaro, Community Engagement; Natalie Muurisep and Carol Chaffee, Congregational Engagement; Patrick Donahue and John Sharland, Property and Finance; Pastor Beth Stotts

Other

Lynne Pietras, Gail Wright

August minutes

Minutes approved

Update on Pastor's report

34 calls

Keep Gordon in prayer

Change to Pastor Beth's schedule is going well so far. Still a work in progress that will need ongoing tweaks. She is doing shifts as a chaplain and she loves it.

Treasurer's Report - Dave

1. Nothing too unusual
2. Summer was not great, but better YOY (year over year).
3. Unusual expense - elevator expense. \$5k repair to unjam doors. Food Pantry paid for half of it.
4. Carol has a question - Acknowledging memorial gifts. The church used to acknowledge gifts. The church needs to acknowledge them. Gail used to write the thank you notes on behalf of the church. There used to be a memorials committee. Need to fold memorials into one of the teams. John Sharland - memorials committee used to receive and acknowledge the money and decide how to spend it. If it came in with restrictions the trustees took care of that. Otherwise it got spent.

Gail said she also let the family know the amount that was made in their family name. Suggestion that Karissa take on that duty of those two tasks - thank you to giver and update to the family. Question about Venmo and/or Paypal gifts. That gets communicated to Karissa.

Karen Chaffee donated a Rice Cooker in Anne Chaffee's name. Carol says to use it in a fundraiser. Zojurushi rice cooker!

Community Engagement Report - Heather C

1. Cookout - moderate attendance. Hard to gauge how much to buy in advance.
2. Autumnfest 9/27. They need more assistance.

3. First Friday - discussion about which food would be fun and easy to prepare.
4. Carol Chaffee - discussion of the five UCC offerings.

Food Pantry

Members coming to them however they only speak Haitian Creole. The church will talk to the Town Manager about transportation back to Waterford village as often the families are walking back with young children and bags of groceries. Nina is volunteering to procure a Haitian translation of the policies and procedures of the Food Pantry for the Haitian attendees.

Congregational Team - Natalie

1. World Communion Sunday 10/5. Trying reaching out to youth that have not shown up for a while. The goal is to send them a note that we miss them and encourage them to visit.
2. Question about subs for Pastor Beth. This comes under the Spiritual Engagement team. Discussion about how many work units add up to Sundays. The following dates are the only ones so far that she will not be leading worship: October 26 and September 28. The most intense time for pastoral care is October through February. Lots of needs, lots of darkness. January and February might farm out more sermons to free up pastoral care time. Still a work in progress.

Property and Finance - John Sharland

1. John requests the \$\$ amount of the memorial account. Dave will provide that. Possible projects for the memorial amount.
2. Elevator repaired and inspected. \$4800 to get the door working again. The lightest user is the congregation and North River. Food pantry is the heaviest user. The food pantry paid half. The phone was not working either. Appointment tomorrow morning to talk about phone. The state inspector flunked the inspection because the phone inside the elevator wasn't working. The phone needs to be switched to a VOIP system. We have 90 days to fix it.

Finally started on the sidewalk. Dave, John and Patrick worked on the side sidewalk. The cost is \$20 plus sweat equity. David is very busy farming. David brought his tractor to lift the concrete.

3. There is a bee nest behind the siding in the front behind the original siding. They are in the wall. David Hanson and John are going to get rid of them in the winter.

Old Business

- September line dance event. October 4th famous flora culturalist. Moving date of Magical event to January 10th. November is Fair time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Treasurer's Report
August 31, 2025
Fiscal Year July 2025 - June 2026

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	19,539	22,082	(2,544)	130,000
Unpledged Offerings	1,918	2,038	(121)	12,000
Plate Offering	74	170	(96)	1,000
Kid's Church	0	85	(85)	500
Total · Pledges / Offerings	21,530	24,375	(2,845)	143,500
Special Collections				
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	223	340	(117)	2,000
Total · Special Collections	223	340	(117)	2,000
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Church Fair	0	1,359	(1,359)	8,000
Central Closet Thrift Shop	2,613	2,548	65	15,000
Misc Fundraisers	539	1,359	(820)	8,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	3,151	5,266	(2,114)	31,000
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	1,075	679	396	4,000
North River Collaborative	3,000	3,058	(58)	18,000
Private Bldg Use	0	85	(85)	500
Food Pantry support	300	306	(6)	1,800
Total · Facility Usage Income	4,375	4,128	247	24,300
Miscellaneous Income	93	170	(77)	1,000
Total Income	29,373	34,278	(4,906)	201,800
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	17,908	17,128	(781)	100,832
Total · Support Staff Expenses	6,878	9,216	2,337	54,253
Total · Office Expenses	880	1,376	496	8,100
Total · Church Building Costs	5,216	6,370	1,154	37,500
Teams				
Spiritual Engagement	255	255	(0)	1,500
Kid's Church	35	0	(35)	
Congregational Engagement	6	136	129	800
Coffee Hour Donations	0			
Community Engagement	37	170	133	1,000
Breakfasts/Lunches	0	0	0	0
Property and Finance	0	51	51	300
Community Engagement Reserve	293	331	38	1,950
Total · Teams	627	943	316	5,550
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	0	340	340	2,000
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	34	34	200
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	31,510	35,405	3,896	208,435
Net income (loss)	(2,137)	(1,127)	(1,010)	(6,635)
Transfer from Investments			0	6,635
	(2,137)	(1,127)		0

Treasurer's Report
August 31, 2025
Fiscal Year July 2025 - June 2026

Cash balances

Operating account	14,022
Money Market	26,363
Minister's Discretionary account	257
Community Engagement Reserve	2,538
Building fund/Capital Improvements account	3,640
PayPal account	217
Venmo account	0
Total cash balances	<u>47,037</u>

Vanguard investment funds

Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	96,823
Deposits (withdrawals)	
Gain (loss) for month	<u>4,202</u>
Unrestricted funds, ending	<u>101,025</u>
Total investments 8/31/2025	<u>236,538</u>

Food Pantry account balance 7/31/2025	21,169
Donations	201
Expenses	<u>(4,723)</u>
Food Pantry account balance 8/31/2025	<u>16,647</u>

Giving Comparison

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2024 YTD	FY 2025 YTD	FY 2026 YTD
July	15,290.21	8,815.30	10,755.61	15,290.21	8,815.30	10,755.61
Aug.	8,061.22	7,908.21	10,774.61	23,351.43	16,723.51	21,530.22
Sept.	10,587.06	13,892.94		33,938.49	30,616.45	
Oct.	12,608.01	9,569.39		46,546.50	40,185.84	
Nov.	8,281.58	10,814.97		54,828.08	51,000.81	
Dec.	13,625.20	14,193.23		68,453.28	65,194.04	
Jan.	10,226.11	9,936.61		78,679.39	75,130.65	
Feb.	7,168.42	14,385.21		85,847.81	89,515.86	
March	11,414.05	10,867.26		97,261.86	100,383.12	
April	21,591.08	16,246.75		118,852.94	116,629.87	
May	18,534.50	24,662.86		137,387.44	141,292.73	
June	9,079.51	13,336.04		146,466.95	154,628.77	



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