



Steeple Sounds

The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
November 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

Every year when November rolls around, I instantly think about Thanksgiving. It is my favorite holiday. Over the years I have come to welcome Thanksgiving as a day of rest, connection, and tradition. In a culture driven by opinions, power, and consumerism, Thanksgiving is a day when we can turn away from outside pressures and turn toward what is most important... giving thanks to God.

It can feel difficult to focus on gratitude when the world around us is filled with uncertainty, struggle, and division. Yet it is precisely in these times that giving thanks becomes most essential.

My husband used to roll his eyes at me when I would talk about gratitude. I even thanked him after our very first kiss. He thought that was kind of weird and I guess it is. To him the concept of consistent gratitude was a bit much.

But gratitude is not a denial of hardship — it is a faithful act of resistance against despair. When we pause to give thanks, we remember that God's goodness persists even in the midst of conflict. We notice the small mercies that sustain us: a friend's kindness, a meal shared, a sunrise that brings new light, a first kiss.

This season invites us to reclaim thankfulness as a spiritual practice. In giving thanks, we soften our hearts, strengthen our hope, and open ourselves to God's renewing presence. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "Give thanks in everything; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

May this Thanksgiving season draw us closer to one another, deepen our compassion, and renew our trust that even now — especially now — God is at work bringing healing and peace.

In Christ,

Rev. Beth





Central Square Congregational Church, UCC, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts is an open and affirming church. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Remote Worship on Facebook and YouTube

Sunday Worship will continue to be livestreamed from the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.

Use the link on the homepage of www.cscucc.org to access Sunday worship, or visit our Facebook page. Past worship services are also available in both places.

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 19, 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 Muurisepp

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

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



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

*Please note the office will be closed on
Tuesday, Nov. 11 & Thursday, Nov. 27.*

Venmo!

All types of donations to CSCC are welcome via Venmo. Aim your phone camera below, or use the Venmo app to send your donation to @cscucc-ucc



Did you know that Venmo has fewer fees to the church than Paypal? So if you can't decide which one to use, choose Venmo.



**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.

**Please note the food pantry will be closed on
Thursday, November 27.**



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 • Deb Moore
 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



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!

CSCC Junior Choir 2025-26!

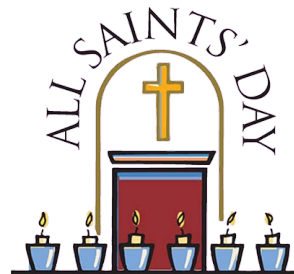
**Rehearsals at 9:40am:
 Nov. 2 - Nov. 9 - Nov. 16**

**Performance at 10am:
 Nov. 16**



November is certainly the time to gather. After worship Fellowship Time will happen on November 2, 9, 23, and 30 providing there are volunteers to host a simple after worship time of coffee, water, and light refreshments. Please sign up on the list located on the bulletin board near the kitchen by starting your own 2-3 member team or add your name to a team that needs another 1-2 members. This is an all-church volunteer opportunity, with little time requirement, that is enjoyed by many. Thank you!

Connie Chandler



All Saints' Day Altar & Ofrenda Invitation for Sunday 11/2

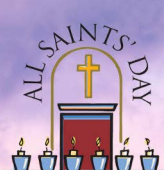
On All Saints' Day, we celebrate and give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, those whose lives, love, and faith have drawn us closer to God. This year, our altar will include an ofrenda, a special display of remembrance inspired by the tradition of honoring those who have passed on.

You are invited to bring a small item, photo, or symbol that represents something or someone who has helped shape your faith, a loved one, a teacher, a piece of music, a favorite book, or anything that reminds you of God's presence in your life. Together, we will create a sacred space of gratitude and reflection, celebrating how God continues to work through the people, stories, and experiences that guide our spiritual journey.

As we honor the saints of our lives, may we be reminded of the great cloud of witnesses surrounding us and be encouraged to live our faith with joy and hope.

Please have your picture or item in by 10/31 and place it in the church office. You will be able to take your memento home with you following worship.

NOVEMBER at CSCC



ALL SAINTS' DAY

Come and Worship!

During worship, we will remember our loved ones who have passed from this life into God's eternal embrace.

Sunday, November 2
10am (eastern time)



FALL BACK
Don't forget to reset your clocks!

End of life planning

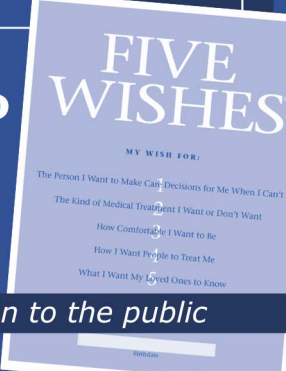
WORKSHOP

WITH REV. BETH STOTTS

SUNDAY
NOV. 2, 11AM

You are invited to plan for your own legacy

Open to the public



FIVE WISHES

MY WISH FOR:

- The Person I Want to Make Care Decisions for Me When I Can't
- The Kind of Medical Treatment I Want or Don't Want
- How Comfortable I Want to Be
- How I Want People to Treat Me
- What I Want My Loved Ones to Know



*Just added!
Quilts for show!
Quilts for sale!*

Fall Harvest Fair & Turkey Supper

Friday & Saturday
Nov. 7-8

It's Lunch Time!

Sunday, November 16

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

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



Bridgewater Food Pantry
Food Sorting
Volunteers Needed!
Saturday, Nov. 22, 2pm
Central Square Congregational Church, UCC



Please bring your food or warm clothing donation to worship on Sunday, Nov. 23 for our special offering.

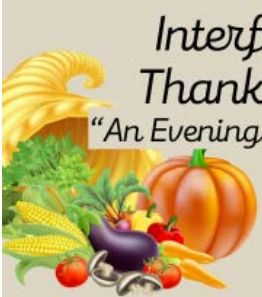
Happy Thanksgiving!



Hanging of the Greens!

Come help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season!

Sunday, Nov. 23
following worship



Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Worship

"An Evening of Music, Gratitude & Light"

Tuesday
November 25
7:00pm

First Parish Church
50 School St., Bridgewater, MA



Just added!
Quilts for show!
Quilts for sale!

Fall Harvest Fair

“Many Hands Make Light Work”

Friday, Nov. 7 ~ Pie Night!

6:30–8:30pm

Saturday, Nov. 8 ~ 9am–1pm

Lunch served 11am–1pm

Turkey Supper

Saturday, Nov. 8 ~ 5:30pm

**Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
Bridgewater ~ www.cscucc.org**



Give us your unwanted Halloween decorations!

Now that 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!



We are still looking for Christmas clothing for Attic Treasures.

We also hope we get donations of items like:
candles • notepaper • dishes • toys in good condition
perfume/hand lotion, etc.

Please drop off at the church on 11/6 and 11/7. Call Bev Mitchell if you have any questions (508-697-2949).

We mentioned this before -- B/R High School students come at the end of the sale. A program was started a few years ago that students before Christmas could pick out presents to give to family members. Hopefully we will be able to help them again.

Thanks so much!

Debbie Golob and Bev Mitchell



The holiday season is here once again. Lots of fall and winter merchandise has arrived to the shop. Plenty of special prices and sales to take advantage of! Stop in and start your holiday shopping - we're sure you'll like our prices and our goods. Central Closet Thrift Shop also has \$10.00 gift certificates for only \$9.00. Fun gift for the right person.

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 up to twenty items per visit. Donations are only accepted during shop hours, Wednesday 10-2 and Saturday 10-2. Thank you for your generosity.

Special dates for November

November 8th - Central Closet Thrift Shop will be closed for the annual Fall Fair of the Central Square Congregational Church.

November 26th and 29th - special prices and sales to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Stay tuned for more sale announcements! Thanks again to all our customers, donors, and volunteers for helping us help our church,

Connie, Sandy, Jane, Lynn and Gail



After a fabulous pot luck dinner for our season opener last month, the Women's Guild and Fellowship will meet Wednesday evening, Nov. 5, at 6:30pm.

Our speakers for the program will be (AARP sponsored), Dennis Hogengasser and Andy Murry for the topic: "Protect Yourself from Fraud and Identity Theft". This is a most important topic to get the latest information updates to safeguard our personal and financial identities. All the women of the church and their friends are invited to attend! Hope to see you there!

Donna O'Neil



Need Turkey Supper Reservations?

Our annual 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 (www.cscucc.org/fair-2025), calling the church office prior to November 6, or at the fair on Nov. 7 & 8.

Ticket prices are as follows:

Adults, 18-59: \$20 per person

Veterans, Seniors 60+, College students: \$15pp

Children 4-17: \$10pp

Under 4 free

Supper includes turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, gravy, cranberry sauce, dessert, and a beverage.

Open to the public! All are welcome!



Brrr, we didn't want to remind you, but winter is on the way. Along with it comes the cold, windy, and oh yes snowy weather. It is time to think about **Warmth in Cold Places**, a favorite project of CSCC. Once again, we will be collecting warm clothes to give to the homeless people of Taunton. As a matter of fact, we have already begun to fill the storage bin located in the back hall. If you would like to be a part of this favorite project, look for gently used hooded sweatshirts, sweaters, coats, and jackets to donate. While you are shopping this fall, t-shirts, socks, gloves, and mittens are much needed. Long underwear is much appreciated.

Oh, did I mention **SOCKS**? It doesn't take long for socks to become wet and no place to dry them, so socks are very popular. Whatever you would like to donate would be much appreciated. Let's see how many times we can fill the bin in the back hall and shower the homeless of Taunton with wonderful warm gifts. We will be collecting from now until the middle of December. Look for the box in the front entry or the bin in the back hall.

The Community Engagement Team



It is a gift to know and experience gratitude.

What is gratitude?

Benedictine monk Br. David Steindl-Rast suggests that two qualities belong in our basic definition of gratitude. The first is appreciation: You recognize that something is valuable to you, without consideration of its monetary worth. The second quality Br. David mentions is that gratitude is a response to something *freely* given to you — gratis.

I have a friend who has a unique gift of gratitude. We have taken long walks, worked in the garden, cleaned grapes, chatted about paint colors, enjoyed coffee, enjoyed laughs and smiles. Though my appreciation of the surrounding world and its beauty is above par, hers is at a grand level. She sees the beauty of a tiny leaf in the fall, a clump of grapes still on the vine, the fluff of milkweed in blossom as it invades her yard. She so aptly expresses her gratitude, shares it with me and redirects and empowers me to that grand level of gratitude.

Care Team ~ Carol Chaffee



Join us for a spirit-filled Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service as we come together across faith traditions to give thanks for God's abundant blessings. Through prayer, song, and community, we'll celebrate gratitude, unity, and hope for the season ahead. All are welcome — come as you are and bring your thankful heart!

Participating clergy from Bridgewater UMC, Christian Science Society, Central Square Congregational Church UCC, Trinity Episcopal, St. Thomas, New Jerusalem Church, First Parish UU, and Reimagine Community Inc.



This month we are continuing our 6-week exploration of The Lord's Prayer! The goal is to not just learn the words of The Lord's Prayer, but to understand what we are saying when we say those words and why. We are also

exploring concepts of forgiveness both to ourselves and others, and how we pray when things are difficult. Each week is essentially a deep dive into one specific line of The Lord's Prayer... but we make it fun!

When we complete this curriculum we'll jump right into our Advent curriculum on the last Sunday of the month. The kids are excited about presenting the Christmas pageant in worship (December 21), so we will talk about the story of Jesus and explore what it must have been like to be the people in the story of Christ's birth. And, while we would encourage parents/guardians to have their kids there every week to be ready for the pageant, it is not required, and every child that wants to participate will be included.

Kids Church is an important part of the life of the church and and, as always, we thank the congregation for their support and encouragement for the spiritual growth of the youngest members of our community. If you have a gift or calling you'd like to share with Kids Church, please reach out to me.

Enjoy the Fall and hope to see everyone soon!

Eric Stotts

Kids Church Director



Cookies & Community: Cocoa & Carols Friday, December 5

Join us for a festive evening of holiday cheer at Central Square Congregational Church! Bring your family and neighbors to share cookies, enjoy holiday movies, and sing carols.

What's Happening

Community Cookie Exchange – Bring 3 dozen cookies to share and take home some new favorites.

Kids' Christmas Movies – Cozy holiday films for all ages.

Hot Cocoa & Treats – Warm up with festive drinks and snacks.

Singing Christmas Carols – At 7:00pm, we'll bundle up and head outside to the brightly lit Common to spread holiday cheer together.

\$5 Donation – Help support our church and its mission while enjoying a fun evening with your community.

Date & Time: Friday, December 5th, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Location: Central Square Congregational Church

Come for the cookies and cocoa, stay for the carols, and leave with your heart full of holiday spirit!

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, Nov. 23, 11am

Let's get ready for Advent together! We'll gather to decorate the sanctuary with wreaths and greens, setting the stage for a season of worship and celebration. This is a wonderful opportunity for children, youth, and adults alike to take part in preparing our church home for Christmas.



Calling all past confirmands and youth group members!

Yes, you 20-, 30-, and even 40-somethings. We would like to open a channel of communication with you by email. We want to celebrate your milestones with you. We want to keep you in prayer at times of need. You became an adult and we DO like to think that we, the church, played an important role in your journey. So let us in, stop by the church, check out our website, come to worship anytime but especially during the Advent and Christmas season. Sign up for our newsletter to keep informed about what might be of interest to you. Please send an email to the church office (office@cscucc.com) so we can connect with you. Thank you!

The Congregational Engagement Team
Carol Chaffee and Natalie Muurisepp



Holiday Open Mic
December 12
6-8pm
71 Central Square, Bridgewater

Perform your favorite holiday song, or just come and watch! Enjoy a festive evening, surrounded by family and friends from the Bridgewater community.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PERFORM:
 Please email musicloftbridgewater@gmail.com with your song selection and instrument.
 Sign-ups will close Dec 11.
 On the night of the show, please arrive 20 minutes early with your instrument (if applicable). Sound equipment is provided.

ALL AGES WELCOME!!!
 Join us afterward for cookies, hot cocoa, and photos with the Grinch!!



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever By Barbara Robinson

\$4.49 paperback on Amazon.com

The six Herdman children are “absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world”. They lie and steal and smoke cigars. They even burned down Fred Shoemaker’s old toolhouse. Now they’re taking over the Christmas pageant.

The Herdmans have never heard the Christmas story before, and they don’t know anything about shepherds or wise men. When Imogene hears about the swaddling clothes, she demands to know why anyone would tie up a baby and put him in a feedbox. Leroy, Claude, and Ollie are planning on a gift that means much more than gold, frankincense, and myrrh - the ham from their Christmas basket.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever has been a favorite of children and their parents since 1972. Readers of all ages will delight in this unusual and refreshing interpretation of Christmas



Inclement Weather Policy

It’s that time of year again. Weather occasionally interferes with our ability to safely hold events and worship services here at CSCC, so be sure to familiarize yourself with the inclement weather policy, a link to which is on the home page of our website (cscucc.org).

Closure notifications will be made via Facebook, text alert, and email, and will be indicated on the home page of the website as well as on the church phone voicemail.

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 – November 2025 (Year C)

Sat., Nov. 1

Psalm 119:137-144
Habakkuk 2:5-11
John 8:39-47

Sun., Nov. 2

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 119:137-144
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

Mon., Nov. 3

Psalm 142
Habakkuk 2:12-20
1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Tues., Nov. 4

Psalm 142
Habakkuk 3:1-16
Jude 5-21

Wed., Nov. 5

Psalm 142
Habakkuk 3:17-19
Luke 19:11-27

Thurs., Nov. 6

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Zechariah 1:1-17
Acts 22:22—23:11

Fri., Nov. 7

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Zechariah 6:9-15
Acts 24:10-23

Sat., Nov. 8

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Haggai 1:1-15a
Luke 20:1-8

Sun., Nov. 9

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Haggai 1:15b—2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or
Psalm 98
Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

Mon., Nov. 10

Psalm 98
Haggai 2:10-19
2 Peter 1:16-21

Tues., Nov. 11

Psalm 98
Haggai 2:20-23
2 John 1-13

Wed., Nov. 12

Psalm 98
Zechariah 8:1-17
John 5:19-29

Thurs., Nov. 13

Isaiah 12
Isaiah 57:14-21
Romans 1:18-25

Fri., Nov. 14

Isaiah 12
Isaiah 59:1-15a
2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

Sat., Nov. 15

Isaiah 12
Isaiah 59:15b-21
Luke 17:20-37

Sun., Nov. 16

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Mon., Nov. 17

Psalm 76
Isaiah 60:17-22
Ephesians 4:25—5:2

Tues., Nov. 18

Psalm 76
Isaiah 66:1-13
1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1

Wed., Nov. 19

Psalm 76
Isaiah 66:14-24
Matthew 23:37—24:14

Thurs., Nov. 20

Luke 1:68-79
Jeremiah 21:1-14
Hebrews 9:23-28

Fri., Nov. 21

Luke 1:68-79; Jeremiah 22:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-9

Sat., Nov. 22

Luke 1:68-79
Jeremiah 22:18-30
Luke 18:15-17

Sun., Nov. 23

Reign of Christ
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Mon., Nov. 24

Psalm 117
Jeremiah 30:1-17
Revelation 22:8-21

Tues., Nov. 25

Psalm 117
Jeremiah 30:18-24
Revelation 22:8-21

Wed., Nov. 26

Psalm 117
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Luke 1:1-4

Thurs., Nov. 27

Thanksgiving
Psalm 122
Daniel 9:15-19
James 4:1-10
Or
Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and
Psalm 100
Philistines 4:4-9
John 6:25-35

Fri., Nov. 28

Psalm 122
Genesis 6:1-10
Hebrews 11:1-7

Sat., Nov. 29

Psalm 122
Genesis 6:11-22
Matthew 24:1-22

Sun., Nov. 30

First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 3:1-12 or Matthew
24:36-44

NOVEMBER 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 10-2 Thrift Shop open
2 All Saints Worship 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Communion Worship*, Kids Church 11am Five Wishes Workshop 7:30pm AA Meeting	3 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open	4 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	5 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open 6:30pm Women's Guild & Fellowship	6 10-1 Food Pantry Open 11-3 Church office open 7pm Al-Anon	7 6:30-8:30pm Church Fair Pie Night!	8 9-1 - Church Fair 5:30pm Turkey Supper
9 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting	10	11 Veterans' Day - office closed 7pm Women's NA	12 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open	13 10-1 Food Pantry Open 11-3 Church office open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Property & Finance Meeting	14	15 Steeple Sounds submissions due 10-2 Thrift Shop open
16 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Jr choir performance 10am Worship*, Kids Church 11am Monthly potluck 7:30pm AA Meeting	17	18 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	19 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open 10am CSCC staff mtg 7pm Cabinet Meeting	20 10-1 Food Pantry Open 11-3 Church office open 7pm Al-Anon	21	22 10-2 Thrift Shop open 2pm Food Pantry Food Sorting
23 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 10am Worship*, Kids Church 11am Hanging of the Greens 7:30pm AA Meeting	24	25 9-1 Church office open 6:30pm Thanksgiving Ecumenical service at First Parish UU 7pm Women's NA	26 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open	27 Thanksgiving 7pm Al-Anon	28	29 10-2 Thrift Shop open
30 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 10am Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting						

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes October 15, 2025 at 7pm

Location: Fellowship hall, Church

Pastor Beth Devotional 7:05 p.m.

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

Cabinet members in attendance:

Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Nina Gabel-Jorgensen, Clerk; Natalie Muurisepp and Carol Chaffee, Congregational Engagement; Terry Reynolds, Community Engagement; John Sharland, Property and Finance; Eric Stotts, Spiritual Engagement; Pastor Beth Stotts

Guests

Ms Josephine Stotts

September minutes

Minutes approved with these amendments - separate the discussion about World Communion from the discussion about reaching out to older youth. Carol Chaffee asked a question about Neighbors in Need - which prompted a discussion about 5 offerings.

Spiritual Engagement Team

Kids church will be working on the Lord's Prayer for the next six weeks. Carol asks whether the discussion includes ASL (American Sign Language)? Carol suggests learning the Lord's Prayer in ASL. Eric Stotts agreed this was a good idea. A discussion followed about different versions of the Lord's Prayer depending on denomination. Terry suggested bracelet/bookmark beads for reciting the different portions of the LP.

Child Protection Policy Update:

The CPP updates include the "Rule of Three". This is the current Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ's guidance for child safety procedures. Carol Chaffee questioned the definition of "3 people" and asked Eric Stotts for clarification.

Carol also suggested a few edits regarding typos. John Sharland provided context for our attention to boundary training. Boundary training is very important for Pastors and children in church.

Eric made motion to accept Child Protection Policy Update; Carol seconded. All "Aye". No opposition or abstentions.

Josephine Stott loves Kids church and the Pastor.

Pastor Report

Lots of clergy meetings. Bridgewater clergy worked on ecumenical Thanksgiving service. It will be happening and the other churches are working on the service. Reverend Beth is working on All Saints worship. The children will be participating in the building of the altar. There will be a Holiday open-mic December 12, 6-7:30pm, 7:30 to 8 will be cookie and cocoa time and Mr. Grinch will come to take pictures. There is a need for assistance with making cookies for the event.

Food Pantry discussion - Reverend Beth spoke to Bridgewater Town Manager. The biggest concern is transportation. Clients getting food back to their homes is problematic. Town Manager and new director to Senior Center working on a transportation grant. They will attempt to dovetail these needs with the grant. Patrick Donahue will be preaching on October 26th.

Nina - reached out and found translation resources for the Food Pantry pamphlet. She will reach out to the translator for pricing and process.

continued...

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

continued...

Community Engagement Team Report - Terry Reynolds

Attendance for the community dinner was larger than last month. Terry is grateful for Angelina providing Italian music for the event. Autumnfest was at the end of September. The Ciaramitaro family ran the booth. Terry attended the BBA meeting. BBA Christmas on the Common changed from 12:00 to 10:00 last year. Terry negotiated that they change time to 11:00. There will be a parking barrier at the end of Church Street. There will be a sign indicating that churchgoers can park on Church Street. We have the right to ask vendors to move until 11am. It might be a good idea to let folks know to come earlier if they need assistance. RB asks if we can put cones for members who need accessibility access.

Warmth in cold places - bring donations.

December - Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols. December 5th. Cookie swap. "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is the movie suggested by Reverend Beth.

Postponed Magical Event until January.

Congregational Engagement Team - Natalie Muurisepp

1. World Communion Sunday 10/5. Went wonderfully. Did well.
2. Younger generation outreach coming up for the winter.
3. Opportunity to ask questions about the Fair at this Sunday's potluck.

Property and Finance Team - John Sharland

Might not get to repair the main sidewalk this Fall. Main sidewalk repair to happen next Spring.

Treasurer report

Spending more than taking in. Rummage sale was not announced but was on Facebook. Lots of stuff came in regardless. \$130 a week short on average. Annual shortage \$6600. No earnings had to come out of investments for the first quarter!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting November 19th. No December cabinet meeting.

Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2025
Fiscal Year July 2025 - June 2026

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	27,726	32,767	(5,041)	130,000
Unpledged Offerings	2,789	3,025	(236)	12,000
Plate Offering	131	252	(121)	1,000
Kid's Church	78	126	(48)	500
Total · Pledges / Offerings	30,724	36,170	(5,446)	143,500
Special Collections				
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	223	504	(281)	2,000
Total · Special Collections	223	504	(281)	2,000
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Church Fair	0	2,016	(2,016)	8,000
Central Closet Thrift Shop	3,818	3,781	37	15,000
Misc Fundraisers	520	2,016	(1,496)	8,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	4,339	7,814	(3,475)	31,000
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	1,075	1,008	67	4,000
North River Collaborative	4,500	4,537	(37)	18,000
Private Bldg Use	0	126	(126)	500
Food Pantry support	450	454	(4)	1,800
Total · Facility Usage Income	6,025	6,125	(100)	24,300
Miscellaneous Income	137	252	(115)	1,000
Total Income	41,447	50,865	(9,417)	201,800
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	26,460	25,415	(1,045)	100,832
Total · Support Staff Expenses	11,538	13,675	2,137	54,253
Total · Office Expenses	1,516	2,042	526	8,100
Total · Church Building Costs	6,042	9,452	3,410	37,500
Teams				
Spiritual Engagement	413	378	(34)	1,500
Kid's Church	47	0	(47)	
Congregational Engagement	(24)	202	225	800
Coffee Hour Donations	0	0		
Community Engagement	199	252	53	1,000
Breakfasts/Lunches	(57)	0	57	0
Property and Finance	0	76	76	300
Community Engagement Reserve	416	492	76	1,950
Total · Teams	994	1,399	405	5,550
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	0	504	504	2,000
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	215	50	(165)	200
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	46,765	52,537	5,772	208,435
Net income (loss)	(5,318)	(1,672)	(3,646)	(6,635)
Transfer from Investments			0	6,635
	(5,318)	(1,672)		0

Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2025
Fiscal Year July 2025 - June 2026

Cash balances	
Operating account	5,955
Money Market	26,912
Minister's Discretionary account	97
Community Engagement Reserve	2,661
Building fund/Capital Improvements account	3,550
PayPal account	560
Venmo account	501
Total cash balances	<u>40,236</u>

Vanguard investment funds	
Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	101,025
Deposits (withdrawals)	
Gain (loss) for month	<u>3,363</u>
Unrestricted funds, ending	<u>104,388</u>
Total investments 9/30/2025	<u>239,901</u>

Food Pantry account balance 8/31/2025	16,647
Donations	520
Expenses	<u>(1,853)</u>
Food Pantry account balance 9/30/2025	<u>15,314</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	9,193.84	33,938.49	30,616.45	30,724.06
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.org

Sexton: Rich Sullivan

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

Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes

Treasurer: David Sheibley, treasurer@cscucc.org

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.

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