



Steeple Sounds

The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

April - May 2026

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

It feels like winter lingered way longer than usual this year. The bone-cold days stretched on, the gray skies seemed reluctant to give way, and for many of us, it wasn't just the weather that felt heavy. It has been a hard season in more ways than one—personally, collectively, even spiritually. There are winters that pass quietly, and then there are winters that ask something of us. This one, for many, has been the latter.

And yet—spring comes.

Not all at once. Not in a dramatic overnight transformation. But slowly, gently, persistently. The light lasts a little longer each evening. The air softens. Small buds begin to appear where, not long ago, everything looked lifeless. A bird chirps.

Spring doesn't ignore the winter that came before it. It grows out of it. There is something deeply faithful about that.

In our life together as a church, we honor the truth that seasons of hardship are real. We don't rush past them or pretend they haven't shaped us. Like the long winter, they leave their mark. But our faith also reminds us that those are not the only stories we carry.

As a Christian community, we are a people of resurrection. Spring invites us to notice the quiet ways new life is already unfolding among us. In moments of connection. In acts of kindness. In the courage it takes to keep showing up—for one another, for our community, for the work of love and justice. It may not feel like everything is in full bloom yet. That's okay. Early spring rarely does. But something is stirring and perhaps this is the invitation before us: to be gentle with ourselves as we emerge from a long and difficult season, and to remain open to the small, holy signs of renewal all around us.

As a church, we step into this new season together—carrying both the weight of what has been and the hope of what is still becoming, trusting that even after the longest winters, life finds a way to rise again.

Grace and peace to you in this season of new beginnings.

In Christ,

Rev. Beth



Please note: This is an April and May combined issue. The next issue will be June.

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, Thu, Fri, & Sun: 9am-1pm

**Next Cabinet meetings are
Wednesday, Apr. 15, 7pm
Wednesday, May 20, 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

CSCC Junior Choir 2025-26!

**Rehearsals at 9:40am:
Apr. 12 ~ Apr. 19 ~ Apr. 26
May 3 ~ May 10 ~ May 17**

**Performance at 10am:
April 26
May 17**

It's Lunch Time! Sunday, May 17

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

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

Last one before summer!

No potluck lunch in April, but mark your calendar for May 17 - last one of the season!



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 • 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



Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

The Strengthen the Church offering will be received on Sunday, May 24 (Pentecost).



Annual Reports

from teams and ministries are due to the office no later than May 15, for the program year 2025-26.

Not sure what you should write, or if you are expected to submit a report? Visit the website to see past years' reports: visit cscucc.org, click on "About Us", then "Annual Reports", or ask the office for a copy of last year's.

THE WORLD ON A PANCAKE

Stacks for the Planet

A COMMUNITY EVENT

Friday, April 17
6pm



Join us for a pancake supper in observance and celebration of Earth Day April 2026

Come **celebrate the Earth with us** and enjoy a stack (or two!) of pancakes with friends and neighbors. It's a fun, relaxed evening to gather as a community, share some good food, and appreciate the beautiful world around us.
April 17 at 6PM

Under 4 free • Ages 4 – 17, \$5
Over age 17, \$10 • Family \$25

There will be activities during the event that pertain to the annual observance of Earth Day.

Bring your family, invite a friend, and come hungry! There will be plenty of pancakes, laughter, and community spirit as we flip for the planet together.

*** Volunteers and donations are welcome and appreciated!** * If you'd like to lend a hand or contribute supplies, we would love your help.

Let's celebrate the Earth the best way we know how — with **good people, good pancakes, and a whole lot of community.**

To make your reservation, please email the church office or visit www.cscucc.org/events.



Holy Week & Easter at CSCC

For more details, visit www.cscucc.org/events or contact the church office.

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Soup & Bread Supper at 6pm
Foot Washing & Communion Service at 7pm

Good Friday, April 3

Sanctuary Meditation and Drop-in Time
with Rev. Beth, 9am-1pm

Holy Saturday, April 4

End of Life Planning with Rev. Beth, 12pm

Easter Sunday, April 5

Sunrise worship at Hanson Farm, 6:30am
Easter worship at CSCC, 10am



"Community is the heartbeat of humanity, pulsing with love and support."

- Carol Chaffee was honored last month by the Rotary Club of the Bridgewater as part of their International Year of the Woman Farmer celebration. Congratulations, Carol!
- Congratulations to Logan Muurisep, who was named MVP of the Bristol Aggie varsity basketball team.

Do you have an important milestone in your family you'd like to share with the CSCC community? Perhaps a retirement (yay!), a birth, a new job or house, a passing? Let us share in these important moments in the life of our community together.

Send your brief, one-line message (not more than a few words, please) to the church office at office@cscucc.com. If it's received by the 20th of the month, it'll be in the next Steeple Sounds. If it comes after, we'll save it for the next one.

What's new with you?



April is a time for many of us to get outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather and all the beauty of Spring. However, some of us still like to gather after worship for coffee, treats and fellowship time. If you are one of those people, we need your help in hosting coffee hour for a Sunday in April. The sign-up sheet will be posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board nearest the kitchen and the dates available are April 12th, and the 26th. Or you can contact the church office. Thank you in advance for helping out.

May should be bringing us even warmer weather which draws us outside for fun and leisurely activities. However, we can still gather after worship for hot or cold drinks, treats, and conversations. I will post a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall (or you can contact the church office) and see what we get for responses to helping host a Sunday in May. Dates most likely will be May 3, 10, 24, and 31st. These are subject to change.

I will be stepping down from coffee hour coordinator at the end of May. Thank you to the many hands and hearts that have come forth to help prepare, host, bake, and clean up. Your willingness to help out is greatly appreciated. I would like to pass the coordinator duties on to someone else, so please approach me at any time to talk about what I have done. There is no right or wrong and new ideas are always welcomed.

Connie Chandler



FUNDRAISER ALERT! WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Mark your calendars for May 13 - Goat City Pub in West Bridgewater is hosting a fundraising night for CSCC! Any time during their operating hours that day, have a snack or a meal (dine-in or takeout), or buy some gift cards, show the special coupon, and a portion of your purchase will be donated to CSCC!

Tell your friends, your neighbors, your family - the more the merrier! Let's really make this a big win for the church, in a most delicious way.

Thanks to Rev. Beth for arranging this event! Coupons will be available on the website, on Facebook, and from the church office, by May 1. See you there!



The Central Square Thrift shop is open for business. Happy Spring! Hopefully we'll be able to see some of our crocuses and daffodils any day now. For a little special indulgence this Easter and Spring season, come and check out our beautiful collection of vintage glass. We also have a nice collection of children's clothing. Our half price closet is full and waiting to be picked over.

Do you need a puzzle? Or a good book? We have it all and we are always getting wonderful surprises. So please come and visit us.

We would love and welcome new volunteers, too, so come and join the party. Stop by the shop, contact the church office, or chat with one of us if you're interested in volunteering.

Lynn, Connie, Sandy, Jane, and Gail

PS - The shop will be closed on April 8 & 11 to make way for the Women's Guild Spring Rummage Sale, which will be held on the 11th.



As I go through my daily life, I recognize and acknowledge how my day to day living impacts the world around me. I strive to have a small footprint, impacting my community in least possible way. For example – choosing not to take a trip the grocery store for one or two specialty items, making due with what I have, using innovation and creativity instead going by the book. It doesn't always work, but being conscious of the use of gasoline and trying to coordinate errands that are in the same general direction. I will honor and celebrate our earth on Earth Day, just as I do every day, with gratefulness and respect for our planet and its creation.

Carol Chaffee

“Nature’ Is What We See”

by Emily Dickinson

*‘Nature’ is what we see—
The Hill—the Afternoon—
Squirrel—Eclipse— the Bumble bee—
Nay—Nature is Heaven—
Nature is what we hear—
The Bobolink—the Sea—
Thunder—the Cricket—
Nay—Nature is Harmony—
Nature is what we know—
Yet have no art to say—
So impotent Our Wisdom is
To her Simplicity.*



Join us for our 2nd annual Bake Potato Bar and a game or two Hot Potato!

A Community Event of Yumminess and FUN for the whole family
Saturday, May 2 • 5-7pm
\$10 – over 17 • \$5 – 17 and under

Create your perfectly topped baked potato and enjoy some silliness playing Hot Potato. We will supply the baked potatoes, and an enormous number of topping choices.

If you would like to sign up to help with this event, please speak with Carol Chaffee or Natalie Muurisep.

Please make a reservation on the church website, contact the church office, or sign up at church on Sundays.

Women's Guild & Fellowship

April Fool's Day, April 1st is the date of the next Women's Guild and Fellowship meeting in Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. We will start with a business meeting to talk about the future of the Guild and the time of day it should meet next year. So, come and vote your preference after we discuss the options—this will be an important meeting.

Our program to follow will be all about bees by naturalist, Judy Macioci. Hear an update on these important garden creatures! Come celebrate early spring! Reminder, bring your \$40 check to reserve a seat at the May Banquet at Loon Pond Lodge in Lakeville.

Our final meeting of the year will be a celebration of the Women's Guild's fellowship and fundraising success to local, national, and international charities, on Wednesday, May 6. It will be held at Loon Pond Lodge at the Ted William's Camp in Lakeville. We will have a banquet meal together of sirloin tips, baked fish, and chicken picatta with salad, sides and apple crisp for dessert! Cocktail hour starts at 5pm with the meal to commence at 6pm, followed by the May business meeting (distributing the April rummage sale proceeds) and the Annual Report. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Donna O'Neil
President



Do you have a graduating senior in the family? Or perhaps someone completing a certificate program? Let us know so we can recognize them in next month's Steeple Sounds!

Please send the following info to the office:

Graduate's name

School/program graduating from

Plans for after graduation (short term, long term, or both)

plus a headshot or other photograph of the graduate

Rummage Sale

Saturday April 11 9am - 1pm

Bag sale starts at 12pm

Sponsored by the Women's Guild & Fellowship

Homemade soups & sandwiches "to go"

Baked goods

We know you have been cleaning for Easter company, so set aside those items you no longer need for the Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday April, 11th. Remember to check closets, basements and garages in preparation for your donations to Women's Guild 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, linens, Spring and Summer (4th of July) décor, accessories (pocketbooks, scarves, shoes) and jewelry. We will **not** be taking any electronics, TVs, or books. Tell your neighbors, we will be taking their donations, too! The more, the merrier!

We need lots of items in good condition, so drop them in the church's Fellowship hall on Tues and Wed (7th and 8th) from 9 -1pm and Thurs and Fri, (9th,10th) from 9-3 pm! *All proceeds benefit local and world-wide non-profits!*

Come join us on Saturday, April 11th 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 bag lunch, Grab and Go! Yum! Save your Saturday cooking for our treats at the bake sale table!

Our hours for the Rummage Sale will be 9am-1pm the Saturday after Easter (April 11) with a Fill-a-Bag sale starting at NOON! Hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE!

CENTRAL SQUARE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

ANNUAL MEETING

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

JUNE 14, 2026, 11:00 AM

Springtime Afternoon Tea



Gather together for an elegant affair filled with delightful conversations, exquisite teas, and a delectable assortment of sweet and savory treats.

**Tuesday, April 28
1:00 PM
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA**



Please RSVP to the church office at: 508-697-6016 by April 21. Transportation is available.

BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI CHAMBER CHOIR



Celebrate



the Seasons

**Sunday, April 26th, 4:00 pm
Central Square Church**

**Charles A. Dillingham, Director
Derelyn Baker Kahler, Accompanist**

Tickets at the Door
\$15 general / \$10 seniors/students
Children under 10 free

For info 781-361-0399
alumnichamberchoirbsu@gmail.com
The BSU Alumni Chamber Choir is supported in part by the BSU Alumni Association.



Last month in Kids Church, we journeyed through our Lenten curriculum, exploring themes of grief. While this may sound like a super heavy topic for kids, the general theme was: hard things happen, and what matters most is how we respond to them. Their compassion and care in their responses was truly inspiring, reflecting the love and teachings of Jesus in a real and meaningful way.

That journey brought us to Palm Sunday, where we explored not only Jesus's death, but also the promise of new life. In previous years, we've usually focused on the events leading up to the cross, but because Easter is always celebrated in intergenerational worship, we don't usually have the space to talk about the important part of the story... Again, if you only read up to the crucifixion of Jesus, you miss the most important part. Rebirth and new life! This year, with the help of Rev. Beth, we centered on the hope and joy of the resurrection in ways that could resonate with the kids in our church.

Going forward, as we step into the season of Eastertide, we are excited to follow the lectionary through April and May, discovering new stories and asking big questions together. Spring is a time of growth and renewal, and that energy is alive in Kids Church with both creative and joy-filled lessons ahead!

And while June may seem far away, we're already looking forward to celebrating with our year-end party together where the kids will attempt to wreck my Spotify algorithm (if you know, you know) with an ice cream and dance party! Stay tuned for more details and enjoy the changing of the seasons! Christ has risen, Huzzah!!

Grace and peace,
Eric Stotts
Kids Church Director



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 – April 2026 (Year A)

Wed., Apr. 1

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 70
 Hebrews 12:1-3
 John 13:21-32

Thurs., Apr. 2

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Apr. 3

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Psalm 22
 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
 John 18:1—19:42

Sat., Apr. 4

Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
 Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
 1 Peter 4:1-8
 Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Sun., Apr. 5

Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
 John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Mon., Apr. 6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
 Colossians 3:5-11

Tues., Apr. 7

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Exodus 15:1-18
 Colossians 3:12-17

Wed., Apr. 8

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Joshua 3:1-17
 Matthew 28:1-10

Thurs., Apr. 9

Psalm 16, Song of Solomon 2:8-15
 Colossians 4:2-5

Fri., Apr. 10

Psalm 16, Song of Solomon 5:9—6:3
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Sat., Apr. 11

Psalm 16, Song of Solomon 8:6-7
 John 20:11-20

Sun., Apr. 12

Second Sunday of Easter
 Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9
 John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 13

Psalm 114, Judges 6:36-40
 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Tues., Apr. 14

Psalm 114
 Jonah 1:1-17
 1 Corinthians 15:19-28

Wed., Apr. 15

Psalm 114, Jonah 2:1-10
 Matthew 12:38-42

Thurs., Apr. 16

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
 Isaiah 25:1-5, 1 Peter 1:8b-12

Fri., Apr. 17

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
 Isaiah 26:1-4
 1 Peter 1:13-16

Sat., Apr. 18

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
 Isaiah 25:6-9
 Luke 14:12-14

Sun., Apr. 19

Third Sunday of Easter
 Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
 1 Peter 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35

Mon., Apr. 20

Psalm 134
 Genesis 18:1-14
 1 Peter 1:23-25

Tues., Apr. 21

Psalm 134
 Proverbs 8:32—9:6
 1 Peter 2:1-3

Wed., Apr. 22

Psalm 134
 Exodus 24:1-11
 John 21:1-14

Thurs., Apr. 23

Psalm 23
 Exodus 2:15b-25
 1 Peter 2:9-12

Fri., Apr. 24

Psalm 23
 Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20
 1 Peter 2:13-17

Sat., Apr. 25

Psalm 23
 Ezekiel 34:1-16
 Luke 15:1-7

Sun., Apr. 26

Fourth Sunday of Easter
 Acts 2:42-47
 Psalm 23
 1 Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10

Mon., Apr. 27

Psalm 100
 Ezekiel 34:17-23
 1 Peter 5:1-5

Tues., Apr. 28

Psalm 100
 Ezekiel 34:23-31
 Hebrews 13:20-21

Wed., Apr. 29

Psalm 100
 Jeremiah 23:1-8
 Matthew 20:17-28

Thurs., Apr. 30

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
 Genesis 12:1-3
 Acts 6:8-15

To find this Lectionary online, visit www.sneucc.org/Lectionary



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – May 2026 (Year A)

Fri., May 1

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Exodus 3:1-12
Acts 7:1-16

Sat., May 2

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Jeremiah 26:20-24
John 8:48-59

Sun., May 3

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

Mon., May 4

Psalm 102:1-17
Exodus 13:17-22
Acts 7:17-40

Tues., May 5

Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:5-12
Acts 7:44-56

Wed., May 6

Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:13-18
John 8:31-38

Thurs., May 7

Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 6:5-22, Acts 27:1-12

Fri., May 8

Psalm 66:8-20, Genesis 7:1-24
Acts 27:13-38

Sat., May 9

Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 8:13-19
John 14:27-29

Sun., May 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20
11 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Mon., May 11

Psalm 93
Genesis 9:8-17
Acts 27:39-44

Tues., May 12

Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 5:22-33
1 Peter 3:8-12

Wed., May 13

Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 31:1-13
John 16:16-24

Thurs., May 14

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

Fri., May 15

Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:1-12
Ephesians 2:1-7

Sat., May 16

Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:13-15
John 8:21-30

Sun., May 17

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Mon., May 18

Psalm 99
Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24
1 Peter 4:1-6

Tues., May 19

Psalm 99
Numbers 16:41-50
1 Peter 4:7-11

Wed., May 20

Psalm 99
1 Kings 8:54-65
John 3:31-36

Thurs., May 21

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:1-9a
Acts 2:1-11

Fri., May 22

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:16-25
Romans 8:14-17

Sat., May 23

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 20:1-21
Matthew 5:1-12

Sun., May 24

Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Mon., May 25

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Joel 2:18-29
Romans 8:18-24

Tues., May 26

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29
Romans 8:26-27

Wed., May 27

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Numbers 11:24-30
John 7:37-39

Thurs., May 28

Psalm 8
Job 38:1-11
2 Timothy 1:8-12a

Fri., May 29

Psalm 8
Job 38:12-21
2 Timothy 1:12b-14

Sat., May 30

Psalm 8
Job 38:22-38
John 14:15-17

Sun., May 31

Trinity Sunday
Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>*Unless otherwise noted, worship services are both online and in-person</i></p>	<p>Please note: The full calendar of all building uses is available on cscucc.org or by contacting the church office.</p>		<p>1 10-2 Thrift Shop open 6:30pm Women's Guild & Fellowship</p>	<p>2 Maunder Thursday 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 6pm Simple Soup & Bread Supper 7pm Maunder Thursday service* 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>3 Good Friday 9-1 Church office open 9-1 Sanctuary open for meditation w/Rev. Beth</p>	<p>4 10-2 Thrift Shop open 12pm End of Life Planning Workshop w/Rev. Beth</p>
<p>5 Easter Sunday 6:30am Sunrise Service at Hanson Farm 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 10am Worship* 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>6 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open</p>	<p>7 9-1 Church office open 9-1 Rummage sale donations accepted 7pm Women's NA</p>	<p>8 9-1 Rummage sale donations accepted 7pm Property & Finance</p>	<p>9 9-1 Church office open 9-3 Rummage sale donations accepted 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>10 9-1 Church office open 9-3 Rummage sale donations accepted</p>	<p>11 9-1 WG&F Spring Rummage Sale & Soups On Lunch</p>
<p>12 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA</p>	<p>15 10-2 Thrift Shop open 7pm Cabinet meeting</p>	<p>16 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>17 9-1 Church office open 6pm Earth Day Pancake Supper</p>	<p>18 10-2 Thrift Shop open</p>
<p>19 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA</p>	<p>22 10-2 Thrift Shop open</p>	<p>23 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon</p>	<p>24 9-1 Church office open</p>	<p>25 10-2 Thrift Shop open</p>
<p>26 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Jr choir performance 10am Worship* 4pm BSU Alumni Choir Concert 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA</p>	<p>29 10-2 Thrift Shop open</p>	<p>30 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon</p>		

MAY 2026

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.				9-1 Church office open	10-2 Thrift Shop open 5pm 2nd Annual Baked Potato Bar
3 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr. choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting	4 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open	5 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	6 10-2 Thrift Shop open 5pm Women's Guild Banquet	7 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	8 9-1 Church office open	9 10-2 Thrift Shop open
10 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting	11	12 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	13 10-2 Thrift Shop open 7pm Property & Finance	14 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	15 Annual Reports Due Steeple Sounds Due 9-1 Church office open	16 10-2 Thrift Shop open
17 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Jr choir performance 10am Worship*, Kids Church 11am Potluck Lunch 7:30pm AA Meeting	18	19 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	20 10-2 Thrift Shop open 7pm Cabinet meeting	21 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	22 9-1 Church office open	23 10-2 Thrift Shop open
24 Pentecost Strengthen the Church 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 10am Worship*, Kids church 7:30pm AA Meeting	25	26 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	27 10-2 Thrift Shop open	28 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	29 9-1 Church office open	30 10-2 Thrift Shop open
31 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 10am Worship*, Kids church 7:30pm AA Meeting						

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes January 21, 2026 at 7pm

Location: Fellowship hall, Church

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

Reverend Beth was not in attendance for the first part of the meeting because she was leading an Interfaith Vigil with the UU Church.

Cabinet members in attendance:

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

Guests Bill O'Neil, Connie Chandler

October minutes

Minutes approved. Send Diane S. tonight's minutes so she knows what is happening and if any dates change. Last month's minutes approved.

Pastor report

Skipped the pastor's report.

Treasurer's report

Another good month, YOY from the past two years is still higher than two years ago. Doing a better job keeping to budget. Still not taking out from investments.

Carol Chaffee brought up the memorial fund topic. The Women's guild made a memorial gift to Anne Chaffee. Carol is unclear as to what the process is and there still seems to be a gap in the acknowledgement process. Was this added to Karissa's job description? Carol is requesting follow-up regarding that question. She is going on maternity leave. Dave and Karissa to let Jenne know when the gifts come in. Nina suggests a small policy regarding the process. Anne says that the process changes based on who does the giving and who the recipient is. Needs a central place to track the memorial gift. Two notes need to go out when a memorial gift is received - the giver and in whom the gift was given. NRC was not paying attention, they thought they may have double paid us but it wasn't the case.

Community Engagement Report - Heather Ciaramitaro

- Magic night made about \$1300. Good attendance.
- Skipping January and February potluck due to them falling on holidays.
- Pancake Supper in April
- March 13th Julia concert.
- Paint night - March 27th.
- May 2nd potato game night.
- June - Kid's Art festival.
- Possibility to use Community Center for an event, possibility for Kid's art. Stephanie has a connection to the Community Center.
- Dave H to help out with pancake breakfast
- Revamp activities based on congregation feedback and participation

Congregational Engagement - Carol Chaffee

- March 22nd, Stewardship Sunday. Newsletter article in March with goals. How to engage the congregation in more giving opportunities, tentatively :hear I am lord. Also discuss how to recruit more team members.
- Nametags. Graphic nametag design sheet. Options for nametag re-design. Looking into new lanyards. Natalie and Carol will work on organizing the existing board. Perhaps have a designated location for a name tag.
- Youth Alumni emails. Sent an advent greeting. Shooting for a Lent email. Please share any youth whose emails you would like to submit.
- How to engage online worshippers. They are going to speak to Paul about outreach.
- Revamped clipboards for volunteers for readings, greeters, etc.
- Need to find substitutions for RB in the coming Spring/Summer.

Property and Finance - Dave Hanson

- No heat was due to the old furnace. It needs a new circulator. They were able to locate a new one.
- Carol to get Dave Hanson Arthur Sharpe's phone number for linoleum replacement in kitchen.
- Get painting for ceiling upstairs. We need to find someone willing to get up on a ladder.
- Bruce Maclay will paint outside of the building where it is peeling. He volunteered to help using a step ladder and no higher.
- The thermostat in the Food pantry is all set.

continued...

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

continued...

- Snow removal seemed to be ok. Brian (DH nephew) uses snowblower. Need to make sure snow is removed for school and other folks who use the church. The school schedule is similar to regular school regarding cancellation.
- Philip Chaffee has been helping with snow removal. Carol is not sure that the sexton schedule is conducive to the life of the church. Bathrooms are not clean for Sunday. Sexton here MTW. When we have a weekend event - bathrooms aren't clean. Thrift shop also finds that bathrooms are dirty.

Spiritual Engagement

- Heifer is underway. The goal is \$1000. New initiatives.
- The theme for Lent is darkness and things that grow in the dark.

Food Pantry Issues

Please refer to the email chain that Reverend Beth sent to the cabinet regarding protocol concerns around lack of communication around cancelling the thanksgiving distribution. "Wrists were sufficiently slapped" Bill O'Neil said. "It won't happen again".

Anne Malmquist - Food Pantry feels like it is its own entity. Bill confirms that it is its own entity and has its own bank account. Discussion regarding tension between the food pantry and church. Acknowledgement that it's an important mission. Bill asked for examples for issues. One of which is that people have been turned away from volunteering as stated by Reverend Beth. Bill stated that they have enough volunteers. Request to include all volunteers. Push back against using all volunteers as it may be crowded. Anne reiterates whether this is a good space for the food pantry. We need to make the food pantry work better for everybody. Bill lists issues with moving, such as parking and elevator access. Connie suggests that the Food Pantry needs a Board of Directors, including someone in charge of volunteers. RP spoke with the Town Manager. Since it is the town's food pantry they do need a Board of Directors. The Food Pantry has grown and needs to act accordingly. Bill - happy to leave if they can get 100 people to help them move. Dave H- suggests to maybe add another day to make it a little easier and open for more volunteers. Bill says - open another day would be a full time job.

More than one day a week would be hard to monitor. It's a big time commitment. Connie - increase hours on Thursday. We are not the only Food pantry but we are the

only one that has shopping privileges. Heather - maybe share location. Discussion about extending hours and the amount of time and effort that goes into organizing the Pantry. The town council would oversee the Food Pantry board. Cedar community center may be open to supporting the food pantry. Bill - Nobody knows what happened to the thermostat on the outside wall. RB - need a line of accountability so things like that don't happen. Continuing talks regarding coordinating with the town council. Talks about expanding Food Pantry to other locations. RB - not the church's job to do that outreach. Tommy wants to talk about the Food Pantry with Jack about Cedar Street. Nina will follow up on info regarding the twelve food pantries in Brockton. Bill confirmed that Jack refused to attend the discussion.

Signage

Sent staff and Food Pantry leaders information from the Conference. There may be targeting of food pantries by ICE. Need to use the Private Area signage which requires a signed judicial warrant to enter. The conference needs us to be trained in how to deal with ICE. Nina will reach out to contacts to perhaps assist with a rapid response in case ICE does show up.

Reverend Beth took timestamped photos of the signs. We are to lock doors to private areas if ICE shows up.

The next meeting date is Ash Wednesday. February 25th will be the next Cabinet meeting date.

Closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.
Next meeting will be February 25th, 2026.

Minutes were approved at the March 18 meeting, as there was no February meeting due to snow.

Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2026
Fiscal Year July 2025 - June 2026

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	86,230	86,548	(318)	130,000
Unpledged Offerings	4,279	7,989	(3,710)	12,000
Plate Offering	606	666	(60)	1,000
Kid's Church	283	333	(50)	500
Total · Pledges / Offerings	<u>91,398</u>	<u>95,536</u>	<u>(4,138)</u>	<u>143,500</u>
Special Collections				
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	248	1,332	(1,084)	2,000
Total · Special Collections	<u>248</u>	<u>1,332</u>	<u>(1,084)</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Church Fair	7,613	5,326	2,287	8,000
Central Closet Thrift Shop	11,607	9,986	1,620	15,000
Magical Evening	1,181			
Misc Fundraisers	702	5,326	(4,624)	8,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	<u>21,102</u>	<u>20,638</u>	<u>(717)</u>	<u>31,000</u>
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	2,965	2,663	302	4,000
North River Collaborative	12,000	11,984	16	18,000
Private Bldg Use	400	333	67	500
Food Pantry support	1,200	1,198	2	1,800
Total · Facility Usage Income	<u>16,565</u>	<u>16,178</u>	<u>387</u>	<u>24,300</u>
Miscellaneous Income	1,133	666	467	1,000
Total Income	<u>130,446</u>	<u>134,349</u>	<u>(3,903)</u>	<u>201,800</u>
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	72,139	67,129	(5,010)	100,832
Total · Support Staff Expenses	33,962	36,119	2,157	54,253
Total · Office Expenses	6,288	5,393	(896)	8,100
Total · Church Building Costs	28,768	24,966	(3,802)	37,500
Teams				
Spiritual Engagement	645	999	353	1,500
Kid's Church	563	0	(563)	
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	300			
Congregational Engagement	184	533	348	800
Coffee Hour Donations	(89)	0		
Community Engagement	384	666	282	1,000
Breakfasts/Lunches	(152)	0	152	0
Property and Finance	0	200	200	300
Community Engagement Reserve	1,301	1,298	(2)	1,950
Total · Teams	<u>3,136</u>	<u>3,695</u>	<u>559</u>	<u>5,550</u>
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	0	1,332	1,332	2,000
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	215	133	(82)	200
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	<u>144,508</u>	<u>138,766</u>	<u>(5,742)</u>	<u>208,435</u>
Net income (loss)	<u>(14,062)</u>	<u>(4,417)</u>	<u>(9,645)</u>	<u>(6,635)</u>
Transfer from Investments	10,000			6,635
	<u>(4,062)</u>	<u>(4,417)</u>		<u>0</u>

Treasurer's Report
 February 28, 2026
 Fiscal Year July 2025 - June 2026

Cash balances	
Operating account	12,287
Money Market	27,669
Minister's Discretionary account	722
Community Engagement Reserve	3,635
Building fund/Capital Improvements account	7,100
PayPal account	368
Venmo account	66
Total cash balances	<u>51,848</u>

Vanguard investment funds	
Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	111,759
Deposits (withdrawals)	(10,000)
Gain (loss) for month	4,300
Unrestricted funds, ending	<u>106,058</u>
Total investments 2/28/2026	<u>241,571</u>

Food Pantry account balance 1/31/2026	32,945
Donations	912
Expenses	<u>(3,890)</u>
Food Pantry account balance 2/28/2026	<u>29,967</u>

Giving Comparison

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2024 YTD</u>	<u>FY 2025 YTD</u>	<u>FY 2026 YTD</u>
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	15,637.07	46,546.50	40,185.84	46,361.13
Nov.	8,281.58	10,814.97	10,784.47	54,828.08	51,000.81	57,145.60
Dec.	13,625.20	14,193.23	13,019.00	68,453.28	65,194.04	70,164.60
Jan.	10,226.11	9,936.61	9,177.42	78,679.39	75,130.65	79,342.02
Feb.	7,168.42	14,385.21	12,530.61	85,847.81	89,515.86	91,872.63
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

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Church Administration

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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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