

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

CSCC UCC
2025-26
Annual
Report

June 14

2026



These reports have been approved by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting held on June 14, 2026, and cover the fiscal year 7/1/25-6/30/26.

Annual Meeting

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Appendix 1 – Slate of Nominees (*proposed*)

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

Congregational Meeting and Vote on changing Pastor's time from Full time to 3/4time

Date: May 18th, 2025

Location: Church Sanctuary

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM
2. The meeting began with an opening prayer
3. The moderator, Anne Malmquist read the opening statement
4. 38 members signed in
 - Quorum was met (20 members – Church year 2024-2025)
5. Anne Malmquist motioned to change Pastor's Beth's FTE from full time (1 FTE) to part time pastor (.75 FTE)
6. So moved by Carol Chaffee
7. Seconded by Bill O'Neil

Questions

1. Carol Chaffee: with the reduction in units, will church membership decide where units are focused?
Deb Sorgman – Deacons will be the ones oversee how that is apportioned.
2. Patrick Donahue: Assuming we move to .75 can we revisit this in the future? Anne Malmquist – we can have another meeting to reinstate back to full time if doable. Pastor Beth – stated in the packet that we are going to have a reevaluation if this goes through.
3. Carol Chaffee – The packet says Reverend Beth will provide 40 Sundays as Pastor, are we going to close for the Summer? Deb Sorgman - No, the plan going forward is to have staff helping out during the Summer.
4. Gail Wright - How will this affect Reverend Beth's vacation time? Deb Sorgman – We will have to review the contract and figure it out from there.
5. Bill O'Neil – can we have a secret ballot? Anne Malmquist – we make decisions as a congregation, so No, no secret ballots.

Support of Motion

1. Anne Malmquist – invitation to come forward in support of motion
2. Carol Chaffee – strongly feels that as a church we need to be healthy financially. There are other expenses such as the postage on steeple sounds and paying dues to conferences which is supposed to be done by the congregation which the church covers. Important to remember that Reverend Beth makes us who we are and inspires us. We need to do this so we can continue our mission and hopefully we can address other financial issues that have been put aside.
3. Bill O'Neil – agrees with Carol and in addition states that we need more people to step up including new members. Everyone needs to increase their pledges.
4. Natalie Muurisep – Is very grateful for the church as a new member and hopes this will help us continue to thrive.

Opposition of Motion

1. Anne Malmquist inviting anyone in opposition of the motion
2. No one stepped forward.

Additional Feedback

Carol Chaffee requests to make another statement- thanks to everyone that filled out a pledge form. Reiterates that we need to take a stand. We need to take measures to stay financially healthy.

Vote

LIVE STREAM check

All those in favor from full time to $\frac{3}{4}$

31 in favor

2 Opposed

3 abstain

Closing

1. Voting from noon until 9am next for online members.
2. Ending prayer
3. Closing remarks by Anne Malmquist– call for volunteers for our teams. Will need extra help with big fundraising push.

Online voting:

3 in favor

5 opposed

2 abstain

TOTALS:

34 in favor

7 opposed

5 abstain

Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Bridgewater, MA 02324
Annual Meeting Minutes, June 8, 2025 12pm

Location: Fellowship hall, Church

Pastor Beth: Prayer

Anne Malmquist , Moderator

1. Discussion of proposed monthly events for future church year
 - a. Community meal - first Friday every month
 - b. Kid-friendly event - monthly
 - c. Adult friendly event - monthly
 - d. Encourage members to review some of the proposed events and provide feedback with ideas and/or volunteer assistance

2. Acknowledgement of the success (thanks to Terry Reynolds, et al) for the “Magical Evening” event. The success of the event confirmed that we are able to pull off elaborate community events. Parents were very happy to have an activity close to home that was affordable and that their children enjoyed.
3. Fundraising - start to think about doing a capital campaign. There is a need to repair the roof, steeple, sanctuary, etc.
4. Online community - services and activities for online worshippers. We are reaching out to a lot of people around the country and the world. There is a need for more outreach and involvement of the online congregation.

Additional Team Comments:

Community Engagement - Terry Reynolds

Gave to Church World Service.

Gave a shout out to the Thrift shop and its fundraising superpowers

Gala - please get your Gala tickets.

Congregational Engagement

Carol Chaffee thanked Connie Chandler. She makes fellowship time happen. She doesn't get overwhelmed. She is calm and has it all under control. She is also excited that Natalie will be joining the team.

Church fair - 5 of the 6 members are returning to the committee. Reviewed feedback and will make changes/improvements for the fair. Looking forward to the Turkey supper but will try something new. If anyone has ideas please let Carol know. Carol thanked the 8 volunteers who are Church staff

Property and Finance

John Sharland

Thanked the Thrift shop - \$15,000 for the year. Awesome job.

New Boiler 99% installed.

Some lingering software issues.

Anne Malmquist The church needs someone to go to the conference meetings other than Reverend Beth. John mentions the all-expense trips for the national conferences.

Connie Chandler The church fellowship donation jar had over \$250 in donations for coffee hour.

Anne motioned to accept annual report

Reverend Beth mentioned errors in the footer (last year's date). Change to update the footer to match today's date.

Eric Stotts - motioned to accept the annual report

Patrick Donahue seconded

All in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions

Slate of officers

Stephanie Holmgren was nominated as Community Engagement team member

Reverend Beth seconded.

Patrick Donahue asked how many times does the Church delegate have to attend the various conferences.

John Sharland answered.

Reverend Beth moves to elect the new member slate

Dave Sheibley seconded

All Aye, no oppositions no abstentions

WISE Program

Reverend Beth

Team - Heather Ciaramitaro, Stephanie Holmgren, Deb Sorgman

Reached out to the UCC MH network to find out what other churches are doing. The UCC Conference became WISE in 2022. The Team surveyed the congregation. The findings were that there was a need for resources around anxiety and de-stressing. Some activities were the following:

- Brought in resources
- Watched Inside-Out with the kid congregation and had a discussion.
- Intergenerational outing to see Inside Out 2
- a local therapist conducted a sermon
- Lent wellness practices.
- Also have a guide of MH resources in the Bridgewater area.
- Prepared a Wise covenant. (We vote and then it goes to UCC stating our WISE designation) .

Presented for vote

Reverend Beth motioned to become a WISE congregation

Heather Ciaramitaro seconded

All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions

Annual Budget

Dave Sheibley

This year is on an upswing. We have taken in more than in the previous 5 years. May was a very good month. We had generous donations from members in the past couple of months. Furnace income - part of the annual budget but not the monthly as it's not really a budget item. The pledges are better than last year. Still at a 33k deficit. Dues \$22 per person. What do Dues do? They help with SNE UCC council benefits.

We switched from Comcast to T-Mobile. This will help us save \$200 a month. (Applause for Dave) Call for questions

- Printing and reproduction were a large expense requiring a new copier and equipment
- Maintenance and repair - roof repairs offset. The furnace balance of 10k went to additional repairs. 8k should be offset by savings with an efficient new furnace.
- Spiritual engagement was a little higher. Paid for piano tuning, bibles, copyright licensing. Teams total are within reason but move around a little bit.
- Community engagement was less than budgeted

Dave Sheibley moved to accept the budget

Patrick Donahue seconded

Update on pledge amounts - a little less than 120k total. But should stay the same or continue to get better. There was a request from Eric Stotts for an online congregation vs in person pledge request.

3 Nos. The rest Ayes
No abstentions.

Jenne Foronjy and Diane Shiebley - thanks for behind-the-scenes support.
Anne Malmquist closed the meeting
Reverend Beth Prayed
Meeting ended 1:10 PM

Report of the Pastor

Annual Report from the Pastor

Rev. Elizabeth Stotts

Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting – 2026

Beloved,

This year has been a testament to what it means to be the church together. Not because of budgets or buildings or attendance numbers alone, but because of people. Because of countless acts of generosity, compassion, creativity, and faithfulness that happened quietly and consistently throughout the year. This year brought a significant transition in the life of our church as we moved from full-time pastoral ministry to part-time pastoral leadership. Any transition of this kind naturally comes with uncertainty, questions, and adjustments, and asks us to rethink rhythms, expectations, and responsibilities. It challenges us to discover what is essential and how we continue moving forward together.

Week after week, members of this congregation showed up. You prepared meals, taught children, worked in the thrift shop, sang in the choir, served on leadership teams, visited neighbors, helped at the food pantry, organized events, cared for the property, offered rides, sent cards, prayed faithfully, and welcomed new faces through our doors. Much of this work happened behind the scenes, often unnoticed except by God and those directly touched by it. Yet it is this spirit of volunteerism that continues to make our ministry vibrant and alive. And it continues to be why I love serving this community.

In many ways, this year reminded us that the church has never been built on one person alone. It is built through shared ministry. Through people willing to say, “I can help.” Through individuals offering their gifts, however large or small, for the sake of community and compassion. Our congregation continues to embody that calling beautifully and faithfully.

We continue to worship, serve, laugh, grieve, celebrate, and care for one another. We continue to seek ways to be Christ’s presence in our community. We continue to live into the truth that the church is not defined by the number of staff hours available, but by the love, faithfulness, and participation of its people.

As your pastor, I remain deeply grateful for the privilege of serving alongside you. Thank you for your trust, your flexibility, your kindness, and your willingness to continue building God’s kingdom, together. The story of this church is still unfolding. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Rev. Beth

Report of the Minister of Music

2025 was a fabulous year in the musical life of the church.

Our adult choir has performed an Anthem and Introit in every service between Labor Day and mid-June, with the exception of some holiday weekends. The adult choir continues to sing varied and challenging pieces, which mirror the themes in the readings and the liturgical calendar. They are able to learn music quickly and effectively, always presenting an expressive and meaningful performance. Some of our formerly regular choir members are sadly no longer able to join us every week; however, we remain small but mighty, with a handful of highly committed singers.

We have also been extremely blessed with to have a wonderful Junior Choir contributing to our church's music as well. Our children have performed in church once per month. It has been delightful to see their confidence increase with each musical offering. They are a talented and hard-working group of kids, and it's a joy to see them grow and thrive.

Other regular guest artists in our community include the pianist and vocalist Bob Richards, who performs one powerful and moving solo a month, and jazz trumpet star Cameron Shave, who is always ready to give our services a special touch of excitement whenever he is in town. We have also had beautiful musical offerings from Savannah Wells, who has shared several flute arrangements of hymns in our services, and Cristianna Ciaramitaro, who sometimes shares her stunning vocal talents with us. We have also had the great privilege of listening to several enthusiastic volunteers play the handbells in a number of services.

We have had a number of guest artists visit our church from outside of our community. These guest artists are professional instrumentalists and singers who are artistic collaborators of mine, and many of them have performed on the world's finest opera and concert stages. Some of our special visits from guest artists in 2025 included the tenor David Pelino, who shared a Martin Luther King-inspired program with us in January; soprano Rose Hegele, who sang a special Good Friday concert; and cellist Matthew Smith, who performed some virtuosic arrangements of Christmas favorites for us in December.

It has been a true joy for me to be the Minister of Music at this church. The adult and children's choirs are amazing to work with, and their performances and dedication are very inspiring. I love to plan the services and to think about the message which we are trying to convey in each service.

I will very much look forward to a wonderful remainder of 2026 and to the musical opportunities this new year will bring in our church!!

Respectfully, Julia Scott Carey

Report of the Church Moderator

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

We started the last church year with some major changes and some anxiety about those changes. We had a new pastorate model and an aggressive fundraising goal. No one knew exactly how any of this would work, but we went at it with hope and faith.

I am so impressed with the members of our church that offered to help with covering worship services to allow Rev. Beth to keep her work units within the $\frac{3}{4}$ time range. As we hoped, the church got to hear some new voices and share new worship experiences. One major concern people expressed about the change in the pastorate hours was that they didn't think they would like worship without Rev. Beth. Now, not to say we don't miss her energy when she is not in the pulpit, but WOW do we have some great lay leaders in our congregation. Patrick Donahue offered some historical perspective on scripture, and brought the beatitudes into our daily lives. Nina Gabel-Jorgensen led us in a mindfulness meditation that even engaged the Kids Church. They both have expressed willingness to lead worship again, and they have inspired others to think about volunteering as well. We have really grown as a spiritual community, and I hope we will continue to grow in the upcoming years.

We had some really fun community and fund-raising activities this past year. Some were more successful than others, and we learned a lot about what works and what doesn't. The Magical Adventure was wildly impressive and hopefully will become more popular as it becomes an annual fixture on the calendar. The Paint and Sip was fantastic and has produced some new artwork for the building spaces. Potato night continues to grow in popularity, and we learned that there is never enough bacon.

We have taken some great steps towards improving the organizational infrastructure of the Bridgewater Food Pantry, as it continues to be a vital resource to the town and the embodiment of Christ's commands to us as to how to live as Christians.

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

With God's grace,
Anne Malmquist
Church Moderator

Report of the Church Treasurer

Because the Annual Report is published before the June 30 fiscal year end, this was written on May 31, 2026. Financial reports for this fiscal year through May 31 are attached and the annual report on our website will be updated with final figures in July.

With fiscal year 2026 being the first year of Rev. Beth going to $\frac{3}{4}$ time, our financial position has improved considerably. In previous years we have needed to use tens of thousands of dollars per year from our limited investments to fund operations, this year we transferred \$10,000 from investments but should end the year with well over that amount remaining in our operating account. Additionally, our investments gained over \$26,000 through the end of May so, for the first time in over a decade, we should end the year with more in investments than we started with.

Giving and total income should easily exceed budgeted amounts. Use of the building by others contributed almost \$24,000, the Church Fair made a large contribution to income, and CSCC Thrift Shop revenue continues to surpass expectations. Other fundraisers brought in almost \$4,000 so far, thank you to all who help with fundraising! Expenses were mostly in line with budgeted amounts except for heating oil and electricity which had large increases earlier this year.

Financial documents included:

Operating Budget vs Actual FY2026

Cash Balances as of May 31, 2026

Non-Budgeted Activity Report FY 2026

Respectfully submitted,

David Sheibley

Church Treasurer

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
 Operating Budget vs. Actual Report
 July 2025 through May 31, 2026
 92% Thru Year

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% Budget</u>
Income			
Pledges / Offerings			
Regular Pledges	126,378	130,000	97%
Unpledged Offerings	10,751	12,000	90%
Plate Offering	903	1,000	90%
Kid's Church	383	500	77%
Total Pledges / Offerings	<u>138,415</u>	<u>143,500</u>	<u>96%</u>
Special Collections			
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	466	2,000	23%
Total Special Collections	<u>466</u>	<u>2,000</u>	
Fundraisers/Events Revenue			
Church Fair	7,613	8,000	95%
Central Closet Thrift Shop	15,736	15,000	105%
Misc Fundraisers			
Julia concert	614		
Aaron Wonson concert	409		
Magical Evening	1,181		
Paint night	700		
Other fundraisers	883		
Total Misc Fundraisers	<u>3,787</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>47%</u>
Total Fundraisers/Events Revenue	<u>27,136</u>	<u>31,000</u>	<u>88%</u>
Facility Usage Income			
Non Profit Bldg Use	3,780	4,000	95%
North River Collaborative	18,000	18,000	100%
Private Bldg Use	510	500	102%
Food Pantry Support	1,650	1,800	92%
Total Facility Usage Income	<u>23,940</u>	<u>24,300</u>	<u>99%</u>
Miscellaneous Income			
Bank Interest	434		
Women's Guild	1,000		
Misc Donations	1,465		
Total Miscellaneous Income	<u>2,899</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>290%</u>
Total Income	<u>192,856</u>	<u>201,800</u>	<u>96%</u>

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
 Operating Budget vs. Actual Report
 July 2025 through May 31, 2026
 92% Thru Year

Expense	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Senior Minister Expenses			
Payroll	23,408	25,051	93%
FICA Stipend	4,078	4,364	93%
Pension Fund	7,567	7,987	95%
Housing Allowance	29,901	32,000	93%
Professional Expenses	1,411	2,000	71%
Sabbatical Budget (see 1103.30)	990	1,080	92%
Health & Dental Ins	26,833	28,574	94%
Life & Disability Ins	811	856	95%
Total Senior Minister Expenses	94,998	101,912	93%
Support Staff Expenses			
Pulpit Supply	0	500	0%
Office Coordinator	14,444	15,760	92%
Minister of Music	16,032	17,389	92%
Sexton/Custodian	12,382	13,650	91%
Video Evangelism	1,000	1,000	100%
Sup. Staff FICA	3,191	3,580	89%
Support Staff Training	365	0	100%
Workers' Comp Ins	1,100	1,294	85%
Total Support Staff Expenses	48,514	53,173	91%
Office Expenses			
Bank Service Charges			
Vanco Fees	438		
PayPal/Venmo Fees	373		
Credit/Charge Card Fees	3		
Bank Service Charges	815	600	136%
Internet & Computer Related Exp	2,437	2,100	116%
Office Supplies	1,168	400	292%
Payroll & Treasurer Supplies	934	950	98%
Postage & eDelivery	735	900	82%
Printing & Reproduction	1,841	2,150	86%
Telephone	1,138	1,000	114%
Total Office Expenses	9,068	8,100	112%

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
Operating Budget vs. Actual Report
July 2025 through May 31, 2026
92% Thru Year

	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Church Building Costs			
Building Supplies	1,398	2,000	70%
Fire Alarm Monitoring Service	1,008	600	168%
Property & Liability Insurance	11,549	13,500	86%
Repairs & Maintenance	5,887	5,000	118%
Utilities			
Gas & Electric	8,312	7,000	119%
Fuel Oil	10,666	8,000	133%
Water & Sewer	997	1,400	71%
Total Utilities	19,975	16,400	122%
Total Church Building Costs	39,817	37,500	106%
Teams			
Spiritual Engagement Team	1,441		
Kid's Church	853		
Total Spiritual Engagement Team	2,293	1,500	153%
Congregational Engagement Team	145	800	18%
Community Engagement Team	588		
Breakfasts/Lunches	(252)		
Total Community Engagement Team	336	1,000	34%
Property and Finance Team	0	300	0%
Community Engagement Reserve	1,903	1,950	98%
Total Teams	4,677	5,550	84%
Misc Expenses			
MACUCC Fellowship Dues	0	2,000	0%
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	215	200	108%
Total Misc Expenses	215	2,200	10%
Total Expense	197,289	208,435	95%
Net Income (Loss)	(4,433)	(6,635)	
Transfer from Investments	10,000		
Adjusted Net Income (Loss)	5,567		

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
 Bank Account Cash Balances
 As of May 31, 2026

Cash

HarborOne Money Market	
Youth Group	718
Memorials	8,459
Music (Anderson)	3,987
Altar & Flowers	621
Memorials (Wood)	1,495
Deacons Fund	1,617
Women's Retreat	468
Mission Youth	418
Pastor Sabbatical Reserve	4,831
Memorials Woods Grant	5,000
Community Engagement Reserve	1,734
Interest Income	616
Total Money Market	<u>29,965</u>
Operating Account	21,486
Emergency Fund	1,369
Food Pantry	26,809
Building Fund/Capital Campaign	7,121
PayPal	179
Venmo	144
Total Cash	<u><u>87,072</u></u>

Vanguard Investments

Balance, 6/30/25	230,403
Withdrawals	(10,000)
Gain (Loss)	26,164
Balance 5/31/26	<u>246,567</u>

Central Square Congregational Church UCC
 Non-Budgeted Activity Report
 July 2025 through May 31, 2026

Other Income	
Flowers	680
Building Fund	3,570
Memorials	1,205
Ministers Discretionary Income	4,732
Total Other Income	<u>10,187</u>
Direct Pass Thru Income	
Designated Outreach & Missions	
One Great Hour Sharing MA	366
Strengthen The Church MA	229
Neighbors In Need MA	265
Christmas Fund MA	734
Blanket Fund/CWS	275
Heifer Project HPI	1,521
Total Designated Outreach & Missions	<u>3,390</u>
Staff Gifts	<u>2,400</u>
Total Direct Pass Thru Income	<u>5,790</u>
Total Non-budgeted Income	<u>15,977</u>
Other Expenses	
Community Engagement Reserve Disbursements	1,914
Flowers	543
Youth Group	84
Sabbatical expenses	2,344
Emergency Fund Usage	3,770
Total Other Expenses	<u>8,655</u>
Direct Pass Thru Expense	
Designated Outreach/Missions	
One Great Hour of Sharing MA	366
Strengthen The Church MA	229
Neighbors in Need MA	265
Christmas Fund MA	734
Blanket Fund/CWS	275
Heifer Project HPI	1,521
Designated Outreach/Missions	<u>3,390</u>
Staff Gifts	<u>2,400</u>
Total Direct Pass Thru Expense	<u>5,790</u>
Total Non-budgeted Expenses	<u>14,445</u>
Food Pantry account balance 6/30/2025	18,477
Donations	32,014
Expenses	(23,682)
Food Pantry account balance 5/31/2026	<u>26,809</u>

Report of the Office Manager

It is hard to believe that I am now completing my fourth year with CSCC. I continue to feel grateful to be part of such a welcoming, supportive, and caring community.

This past year, I coordinated all building rentals and facility use agreements, working with both returning and new groups that utilize our spaces. We continue to host several recovery groups and Girl Scout troops, and it has been wonderful to see these organizations thrive within our building. We have also welcomed a variety of community groups, including theater organizations, local choirs, and schools using our facilities throughout the week.

One of the highlights of the year has been continuing our partnership with North River Collaborative/SAILS, whose students and staff use our upstairs classrooms. Having them in the building brings so much energy and joy to our space, and I always enjoy interacting with them throughout the week.

In addition to ongoing rentals, we have hosted a variety of special events, including birthday celebrations, baptisms, memorial gatherings, community meetings, and seasonal celebrations. Managing these rentals involves coordinating contracts, scheduling spaces, distributing and collecting keys, maintaining calendars, and helping ensure that each group has what they need while using our facilities. I am encouraged by the continued interest in our building and look forward to welcoming even more community groups in the coming year.

My day-to-day responsibilities continue to include working with Rev. Beth on weekly bulletins, maintaining office operations, ordering supplies, managing office equipment, answering phones and emails, updating calendars, and assisting with the many administrative needs that arise throughout the life of the church. I am always happy to help wherever needed, whether that means creating signs, assisting the Thrift Shop or Food Pantry, supporting church events, or tackling the unexpected tasks that come with church life.

Serving as your Church Office Manager remains one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever had. I am grateful for the opportunity to greet members, support our ministries, and contribute to the daily life of the church. Thank you for your continued kindness, encouragement, flexibility, and support throughout the year. I especially appreciate everyone's understanding when my office hours occasionally vary due to my college schedule. Your support and encouragement have meant so much to me as I continue working toward my degree.

It is truly a pleasure to work alongside all of you, and I look forward to celebrating four years with CSCC this July and to another year of serving this wonderful congregation and community.

Membership as of May 31, 2026	143
TOTAL NEW MEMBERS	4

LOSS OF MEMBERS

Death	1
Transferred out	0
Resigned/withdrew	0
Removed by Deacons	0

OTHER STATISTICS

Baptisms	0
Confirmations	0
Weddings	1
Funerals	2

Respectfully submitted by Jenne Foronjy

Report of the Spiritual Engagement Team

It's been a busy year in the Spiritual Life of CSCC. With Reverend Beth going to 3/4 time there were many members that stepped up both as lay people both in and outside of worship. Many members served the spiritual life of the church this year by ushering, greeting, and reading scripture in worship, attending and leading book studies and book discussions, and through parish care. The youngest in our community served by ushering, acolyting, reading scripture, and serving communion. Their involvement and visibility bring a vitality to the life of the church which is truly intergenerational in spirit. Julia Scott Carey lead both the Choir and the Jr. Choir throughout the year and we had several high-quality guest performers join us in worship. Junior Choir did one performance monthly throughout the year and was very well received.

2025/2026 Statistics:

- New members: 4
- Weddings: 1
- Funerals: 2
- Baptisms: 0
- Vow renewals: 1

We added 2 new Deacons, Stephanie Holmgren (alter deacon) and Tallinn Muurisepp (Junior Deacon). Deb Sorgman continued to lead the Deacons and handle worship responsibilities alongside Rev. Beth. Eric Stotts continued as the Director of Kids Church. Attendance was down slightly when compared to the year before but still had a roster of 22 kids. Attendance continues to vary wildly from week to week from as little as 5 kids one week, to upwards of 15 during some weeks in December, February and May. The average youth attendance was around 12 on a weekly basis. Both Ashley Thompson and Diana Watts continued as teachers throughout the year alongside Eric Stotts. In October in Kids Church we did a 5-week section on the Lord's Prayer, its' meaning, and why different people used different words in saying it. In Advent, the kids learned

about the days leading up to the birth of Jesus and performed a pageant that they acted out prior to Christmas. Krissy Cannizzo ran the curriculum and programming during Heifer in January and February. Heifer continues to be a favorite event for both Kids Church and the congregation. Between what was raised in church and at the Living Gift Market, the kids raised a total of \$1,200 for Heifer International. We also had 1 church sleepover this year that was attended by 10 kids and was done during February vacation. For Lent we did things a little differently than in years past. On Palm Sunday we chose to explore what Easter means and the examined the story of Jesus's death and resurrection in a kid friendly manner. For the remainder of the year, we worked on lessons that mostly tied to the lectionary and the themes and passages that Rev. Beth preached on to the rest of the congregation.

This year, with the blessing of the Cabinet, we also revised our Child Protection Policy (CPP). Over the summer of 2025 Rev. Beth attended a conference workshop on updating policies within our conference. What came out of that was the realization that our CPP was one of the most restrictive in the conference. This update, in line with conference guidelines, eased our more restrictive two CORI'ed adults per group of kids, to a more practical 1 to 2 rule. In essence one CORI'ed adult could be in the presence of no less than two kids or in the case of only one kid, two adults (at least one with a CORI check) must be present. This update to the CPP provided the same accountability as the previous policy, but less restrictions in our ever-fluctuating and more online church population.

With a full year now of Rev Beth being 3/4 time we do have several observations on the success of our effort the previous year to get more lay participation. While lay participation was up, it was not nearly enough. By the end of the church year, even after exhausting our entire list of lay people to help with parish care related issues, worship, and the general spiritual life of the church; Rev Beth still hit a number of hours equivalent to a full-time employee, but at 3/4 time pay by years end. This was the fear of some when the listening sessions took place. One of our biggest underestimations was the amount of time required, not just for spiritual engagement (messages on Sunday, lay leadership, etc.) but the amount of admin time it takes to create the order of worship, the bulletin, and all of the behind-the-scenes pieces it takes to create a worship service. Next year we will need more people to fill sermon spots and/or more ideas for worship without sermons. Addressing this will be one of the key goals for the Spiritual Engagement Team going into the next church year.

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

Deb Sorgman & Eric Stotts
The Spiritual Engagement Team

Report of the Property & Finance Team for 2025-2026

Team members David Hanson, Patrick Donahue and John Sharland looked after the church building as best we could while Treasurer Dave Sheibley and Financial Secretary Karissa Marquis looked after the finances.

We met monthly, the week before Cabinet. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, normally held in the ambiance of the Fire Place Room.

Our relationship with the North River Collaborative remains healthy and strong. They use half of the large meeting room on the second floor as their classroom and they also use the kitchen. There are typically 4 or 5 students, who are young adults.

We continue our long tradition of offering our spaces to 12 Step groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous on Sunday nights and Al Anon, family support group on Thursday nights.

Recent projects completed include repair of the Church St. sidewalk and refinishing and painting of the water stained ceiling above the Church St. side stairway to the sanctuary. We also now have a security camera in the Church St. entryway area, next to the elevator up at the ceiling. It monitors 24/7/365 and can be addressed as needed to review any given timer period.

Projects still in the planning stages include repairing the front sidewalk, replacing the kitchen flooring and painting the remaining chipped areas of the building on the front (southeast corner) and on the Church St. side closest to the side door. The front sidewalk repair and the exterior painting will be done for gratis or next to nothing. We have a generous donation to cover the cost of the kitchen flooring replacement.

Along with repairing the front sidewalk, we are planning to install a split rail fence on both sides of the length of sidewalk, to help direct pedestrian traffic to the Juice Mill in a considerate way.

Our sexton, Rich Sullivan, has moved to Plymouth but continues with us for 20 hours a week, working on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We are blessed to have Rich as our sexton.

If you see Dave Sheibley today, please give him a warm thank you for the many hours he spends each month as our treasurer.

Report of the Congregational Engagement Team

In asking Google “what does it mean to be engaged.” Here is AI’s response, which rather fits nicely into defining what our TEAM is all about.

“To be engaged in something means to be actively involved, occupied, or deeply interested in an activity, task, or conversation. It implies participation rather than passive observation, often requiring focus, commitment, or dedication of time and effort.”

Over the course of the past year, from July to present day Potluck Luncheon and Annual Meeting, our TEAM has encouraged the congregation to engage in the life of the church, as an active participant to grow your faith, share your faith, grow your community and share your community. Our success is your success. In July, we gathered to decorate the church float and participated in the 4th of July parade in downtown Bridgewater.

Throughout the church year, we enlisted many to be liturgists, greeters and ushers. We let your light shine amongst us all. We presented the opportunity for you to honor loved ones at Christmas and Easter by purchasing various flowering plants that decorated our sanctuary.

During Lent, we presented a Stewardship Campaign that offered ourselves up in Christ's name. That campaign continues as we remind people all the time about the significance of making a pledge to the church. Our church budget is a working and everchanging path, seeking to grow the church in Christ's name.

Over the course of the year, we combined efforts with the Community Engagement Team in such events as the Magical Adventure and the Earth Day Celebration Pancake Supper. We hosted, with a lot of support from many, our 2nd Annual Baked Potato Bar and Hot Potato Game Night.

Fellowship Time:

From September through May, after worship coffee /fellowship time is held in Fellowship Hall on most Sundays. Summer fellowship time is more spontaneous, and volunteers are always welcome to sign up to offer light refreshments and cold beverages. Volunteers are asked to sign up on a list posted in Fellowship Hall. Coffee hour runs smoothly with 2-3 volunteers for set up, hosting, and clean up. During this past year, many of you have stepped up and helped host coffee hour either by baking, serving, or cleaning up. Your willing hands and hearts are very much appreciated. The success and sustainability of fellowship time is dependent upon all of us who enjoy gathering after worship as this is a group effort. Through your generous pockets this year, we have been able to give \$269.00 to the church after small expenses of a coffee maker and coffee. Thank you to all who have helped this past year and will continue to help in the future.

-Connie Chandler

There is a lot more WE can do. It does take a village to educate a child and it also takes a village to keep this church faithful and strong. We invite you to hop on and hop off the bus as the busyness of your life allows.

Many thanks to our families, especially Philip and Erik, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes in support of our church and us.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chaffee and Natalie Muurisep

Report of the Community Engagement Team

The Community Engagement Team had a very busy year with activities and events that took the team in a new and different direction. We planned receptions, cooked suppers with various themes and had some quiet evenings just for relaxation and fun. The community, friends and church members were all invited to attend these events. It all began when native Aaron Wonson held a free concert at the church on August 1. The Community Engagement Team was asked to hold a **reception** after the concert. We served cheese and crackers and fruit platter, lemonade, coffee and water. On December 12, the Music Loft offered a community Open Mic night to be held at CSCC. Following the performances the Community Engagement team served cookies and cocoa and children added their favorite choice of additions to their cocoa (marshmallows, whipped cream etc.)

Once again, the church participated in **Autumn Fest** held on Saturday September 27. This event is a Bridgewater Business Association (BBA) event held on the BSU College Quadrangle. Information about Fall events at the church were distributed to adults along with candy, tattoos and activity sheets for the children.

Another BBA event was “**Christmas on the Common**” held on Sunday, December 7. It began at noon following church. The church fair members sold crafts and jewelry and the heat and facilities were available for everyone to enjoy on that cold and blustery day.

Suppers were held to invite the community and church members to come together. The first supper took place on September 5th and was called “**An Old-Fashioned Cook-out**”. The menu included hotdogs, beans corn on the cob and watermelon. About 20 people enjoyed the event. At \$5.00 each we made about \$90.

In October we held an **Italian Supper**. On the menu was homemade spaghetti sauce and meatballs, Italian bread and garden salad. Cookies and brownies were served for dessert. There were 35 children and adults in attendance earning about \$180.

On April 17 we joined forces with the Congregational Engagement Team and held a **Pancake Supper**. We celebrated earth day with Carol Chaffee sharing the history of earth day and asking the attendees questions. Approximately 35 children and adults enjoyed a meal of pancakes with various toppings, bacon and sausages. We raised the prices and earned about \$300.

Dec. 7 “**Cookies, Cocoa, & Carols**” was held which was a new event. Each family brought 3 dozen cookies to exchange. While enjoying cocoa and cookies children and adults created Christmas crafts. The evening ended with the 10 people in attendance crossing the street to the Common singing Christmas Carols. While we are talking about food Heather Ciaramitaro holds monthly **Pot Luck Luncheons** after church inviting people to share their favorite food and conversation with others in the congregation.

Our repeat fundraiser was “**A Magical Adventure**” held January 10th. Approximately 75 people were in attendance. We made some changes this year. The sidewalk was decorated with recycled Christmas trees with faces on them. Children and adults experienced mixing potions, making magic wands, creating owls from pinecones, and potato printing forest pictures. Families enjoyed a walk through the magical forest filled with creature sounds and decorated trees filled with spiders, bats, owls, crows and even a very large snake. The forest ended in the fireplace room where the children enjoyed a visit with the bat lady who shared information about bats. Also included were stories about bats. Food was available. Macaroni and cheese and pancakes were offered with a choice of various toppings for each. Two stores were available to purchase toys and candy

Julia Scott Carey performed a beautiful “**Music in the Moonlight**” Concert featuring songs with moonlight or night in the title. Behind the piano was a black back drop with various size candles sheading a beautiful light behind Julia as she performed adding to the moonlight theme. Following the performance the people attending enjoyed cheese and crackers and fruit, coffee and tea and wine brought from home. Everyone had an opportunity to participate in a raffle of 10 prizes. This event took place in March and was hosted by the Community Engagement Team. \$614 was raised.

Moonlight Paint and Sip was held on Friday, March 27. People were invited to bring their own wine to sip while they painted. This also was a new event. Thirty – eight people were in attendance at a charge of \$20.00 per person at a profit of about \$700.00. It was a fun and creative event as all painted the quarter moon with embellishments.

During the church year various offerings were collected beyond our usual giving of our time talent and treasures. Sunday, October 5, 2025 we collected **Neighbors in Need** (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the U.S. One-third of this offering goes to the Council for American Indian Ministries a and 2/3 supports UCC justice ministries. The church gave \$240. On Christmas Eve the **Christmas Offering** is accepted. The Congregation gave \$734.

The One Great Hour of Sharing (O.G.H. S.) has been helping Christians bring God’s hope and healing to hurting people both in the U.S. and around the world. The congregation gave \$366. Sunday, May 24 the **Strengthen the Church** offering was accepted to help build the future of the UCC, supporting youth ministries, leadership development and new church initiatives. **Blanket Sunday** was held In January. Carol Chaffee demonstrated the many ways a blanket can be used for warmth and protection from the elements. Donations were accepted in the amount of \$275. A special event sponsored by Kids Church is **Heifer Project**. The children sponsor animals to be given to families around the world. This year the children raised \$1521 by selling food and crafts.

We are charged by the church to give to various organizations locally and around the world. This year we gave to the following:

Sunshine Farm in Bridgewater where animals serve as healing for troubled teens \$200.00

Be Community – provided food and time for their gathering here at church.

The Bridge Center – a fully accessible recreation center in Bridgewater \$200.00

The Bridgewater Library - \$200.00

The Market located at 129 Worcester St., Bridgewater \$150.00

Church World Services - \$300.00

Frank Ciamataro- \$450.00 To rent a van to see his son graduate and to attend his daughter’s awards ceremony.

Rev Beth’s Emergency Fund – people come to Rev. Beth in need of money for gas to get to work, money for heating their home and various other needs. \$500.

Respectfully submitted by, Heather Ciarmitaro, Stephanie Holmgren, and Terry Reynolds

Report of the Bridgewater Food Pantry 2025-26

(Covers May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026)

Number of clients served:

1717 households

2838 Adults

1482 Children

464 Seniors

16826 bags distributed

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Melcher

Report of the Church Fair Committee

Our Annual Church Fair was held Friday, November 7 and Saturday, November 8, 2025. The theme again was Fall Harvest. We raised and exceeded the \$7000 for the church's general budget, approximately \$7600.

The church fair included a Quilt show and sale this year thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Jane O'Connell and Mauree Bundock. We used the back half of the sanctuary for the display. The space provided a quietness to the hustle and bustle going on downstairs. The committee feels that the new idea brought a freshness and different appeal to the fair and hopes that the idea can be expanded upon.

Our Friday Night Pie event is always well attended, brings in the crowds for shopping also. For just two hours, the fellowship hall and beyond is bustling with activity. Saturday hours were 9 AM to 1 PM. We served a luncheon from 11:30 – 1 PM. We brought back the traditional turkey supper, November 8 at 5:30 PM with just one seating of 80 reservations and a handful of takeout orders to go. Over all the supper was a success. We made some adaptations to the menu based on feedback from the previous year recap. Members and friends were generous with their time, talent and treasure. The wider Bridgewater Community supported the fair wholeheartedly.

The Fair Committee included: Mary Barnsley, Connie Chandler, Lynn Pietras, Gail Wright, Krissy Cannizzo and Carol Chaffee. We starting meeting in September of 2025 and met about 4 times between September and November 7, 2025. We paid for some advertising but utilized the free resources of publicity available to us. We do increase our profits because our committee donates many items and doesn't ask for reimbursement. Everything from decorative napkins, take out containers, paper towels, tablecloths, turkeys and more are donated. In fact, most of the fair products, if not all, that people purchase are all donated by the crafters, the jewelers, the bakers, the farmers, the bargain hunters, the chefs, the gift givers, and more. The church fair is and has the potential to be a well-oiled machine in the future. It needs hands to keep the gears oiled.

Many thanks to all who were part of the church fair experience. There is always room for new ideas and new faces. This church fair committee has resigned as chair to the event.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chaffee

Report of the Women's Guild and Fellowship

We are a group of 37 women, including members of our church and women from other churches who do not have an established women's group to join. Through service and fundraising—primarily two rummage sales each year—we support our church and a range of local, national, and international charitable organizations of our choosing. Working together at these events builds fellowship and camaraderie, and many hands make the work lighter and more fun!

Several of our members also serve by running the Central Thrift Shop for the church and volunteering in other areas. At each meeting, we pass an "Angel" basket for simple cash contributions, which the membership votes to use to help someone with a special need. Last year, the funds supported a church member in crisis. This

year, Angel Fund donations supported the Minister's Discretionary Fund, the Praxis Institute for Mental Health, and Dress A Girl.

Charitable Giving

We are grateful to every member who gave their time, talents, and treasure throughout the year. Our charitable contributions totaled \$5,124 this year, surpassing last year's total of \$4,265. Rather than add more charities, we increased donation amounts in many cases to reflect rising costs due to inflation.

Bridgewater Contributions

- Two Bridgewater sober houses: Material Aid donations consisting of personal hygiene items, lotions, shampoos, and soap
- Annual donation to the church for utilities: \$1,000 (an increase of \$200)
- Operation Santa: \$400
- Food Pantry: Material Aid donations for low-stock items, plus a \$500 cash donation when SNAP donations were not funded
- Minister's Discretionary Fund: \$500, plus \$300 from the Angel Fund
- Citizen's Scholarship Foundation at BR High School: \$300 to support graduating seniors
- Old Colony Hospice (new): \$300
- Friends of Bridgewater Public Library: \$200
- Fourth of July Committee: \$100
- Lighting on the Common: \$100

Surrounding Communities

- L Street Ministry: \$500
- Teen Challenge in Brockton: \$365
- Greater Boston Food Bank: \$500
- Homes for Our Troops, Taunton: \$200
- Horizons for Homeless Children: \$200
- Praxis Institute for Mental Health: \$400 (Angel Fund)
- Penelope's Place: \$200

National and International Contributions

- Heifer Project: \$100
- Hygiene and Period Kits for Church World Service
- World Central Kitchen: \$400
- Dress A Girl: \$300 (Angel Fund)

Other Service Activities

In addition to financial giving, we send handmade cards to members of our church who may need encouragement during illness, the holidays, or times of limited social contact from our Good Cheer Committee.

Celebrations and Fellowship

We celebrated the year's accomplishments with a banquet at Loon Pond Lodge in Lakeville on May 6, with 34 members present.

On September 6, The Guild also planned a collation for the family of Ann Chaffee in connection with her celebration of life. Ann was our oldest member and served faithfully for many decades. After her service at the church, family and friends gathered outdoors at the home of her son Phillip and daughter-in-law Carol on a beautiful day.

Programs This Year

Programs were organized by the Executive Board at the planning meeting last August and were well attended, with 16 to 35 women participating each month.

- October: Potluck dinner by members to begin the year
- November: Protect Yourself from Fraud & Identity Theft — AARP
- December: Traditional Christmas service by Rev. Beth
- January: Game Night socialization
- February: Dress A Girl Around the World — Gloria Moran and Evelyn DeLutis
- March: Miss Louise's Fashion Show — Formal Wear
- April: The Life of Bees — Judy Macioci
- May: Annual Banquet Celebration — Loon Pond Lodge, Lakeville

Executive Board for 2026–2028

At the Annual Meeting, the following slate was presented and approved for two years of service:

- Co-President: Carol Chaffee
- Co-President: Deb Golob
- Secretary: Bette DeKoning (1 year)
- Treasurer: Jane O'Connell
- Auditor: Donna O'Neil
- Historian: Barbara Morey

Committee Chairs

- Banquet: Sandy Alley, Bev Mitchell, Mauree Bundock, Terry Reynolds
- Devotions: Annie Blanchard
- Good Cheer: Donna Albro
- Hospitality: Chris Ventura
- Material Aids: Beth Basler, Mauree Bundock, Mary Barnsley

Looking Ahead

Any woman in the church is welcome to join our first meeting, a fall potluck dinner on October 7 at 6:30 p.m., to see whether this group would be a good fit.

God bless our members and their dedication to service. I wish the new Executive Board much success in its term of office and look forward to the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna O'Neil, President

Report of the Director of Video Evangelism

To Our Friends at Central Square Congregational Church

Annual Report

May 13, 2026

Dear Friends,

We send you good thoughts and appreciate our continued partnership with CSCC and BTV. Paul Holmes and I always feel welcomed and appreciate the wonderful programming recorded and provided by the Central Square Community.

2025/2026 was another exciting and productive year for us, as we expanded productions and rolled out new state-of-the-art equipment, including enhancements in audio and a brand-new video switcher complete with graphics and additional features.

We continue to receive interactions from our viewers, who enjoy the professional and welcoming presentation of Sunday services, concerts, and special programming on YouTube, Facebook, and Channels 8 and 1073 . Please know that your positive messages and music reach an appreciative audience, including many who are homebound or have relocated to new homes, and are still able to remain connected to their religious community.

Our audience is very impressed and appreciative of the talents of Julia Scott Carey and her tremendous lineup of professional performers. Along with weekly Sunday services, we have aired over 30 hours of original music programming over the last 12 months.

During the past year, The Booth Video YouTube Channel featured 4615 devices watching, which typically includes approximately 12,000 viewers.

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

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

Sincerely,

Jeff Fowler
Station Manager
BTV Access Corp

Paul Holmes
Director of Video Evangelism
CSCCUCC/BTV Access Corp

Report of the Sexton

In late August of 2025 my wife and I sold our home in Bridgewater and relocated to Plymouth MA. After some discussions with John Sharland regarding me continuing my position as the Church Sexton we agreed that I would remain in that capacity as Sexton with some restricted hours.

Since the round-trip distance from my new home to and from Bridgewater is 60 miles, my schedule was adjusted to 3 days per week for 5 hours per day. Due to the needs of various groups and functions I now come to CSCC Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I have adjusted those days on occasion when the needs of the Church require it.

The Church remains busy hosting support groups in the evening and weekends. We also have expanded our classroom space for the North River Collaborative as their membership numbers have increased from last year. While that group generally does pick up after themselves, I ensure those areas are clean, and the bathrooms supplied daily to support their expanded membership. As always, I continue to support and assist internal and external groups in setting up the fellowship hall and other meeting rooms with tables and chairs when needed. I work closely with the Church Coordinator to address building issues and other general requests as required.

I replaced some floor tiles in the back hallway near the elevator. The heavy traffic from the pantry shopping carts and other wheeled carts are more than those floor tiles are designed for. My understanding is that there is a plan to replace those tiles as well as the kitchen tiles. As such I stopped that effort.

I would like to thank the members of the Property & Finance and the Church Staff for their continued support. In response to some noted extensive water damage in the Narthex staircase walls and ceiling a painter was engaged and did a great job of refurbishing that area.

Taking into consideration the age of our Church and the amount of activity and support it provides the Bridgewater community and beyond, we are blessed to have such a historical and beautiful building to do Gods work.

Respectfully,
Rich Sullivan
Sexton

Report of the Central Closet Thrift Shop

2025 was a very good year for Central Closet Thrift Shop!

The shop earned \$ 15,912.88 through the end of April 2026. It is clear the full-year income will exceed the budgeted projection of \$15,000 for the current fiscal year.

The hours of the Thrift were changed this year as well. The shop is closed on Saturdays in the Summer and stays open an additional hour until 2 p.m. Staying open until 2 p.m. has proven to be very popular with our customers and provided additional income.

We have had the privilege of having several students volunteering at the Shop. These young people are part of Next Step University. This is a program through Brockton High School and is housed at Bridgewater State

University. The goal of the program is to assist students to learn skills to aid them in obtaining employment. These young developmentally disabled adults have grown in their experience with the shop. It has been a true pleasure to work with these young people. They have been such a help!

As in years past, we are extremely fortunate to have many volunteers to help continue the success of the store, although additional help is always welcome and needed. Any time you may have to offer, no matter how long or short, is always a help. Come join us. We have a great time.

We send out our appreciation to those regular customers as well as those new customers who helped us be successful. Without consistent donations and our expanding customer base, we would not be as successful as we have been. Any new thoughts or ideas are always welcome and appreciated.

We look forward to continuing and growing the income and fun experience for our customers and volunteers.

Submitted,

Connie Chandler

Sandy Kuipers

Jane O'Connell

Lynn Pietras

Gail Wright

**CENTRAL SQUARE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

2026/27 Slate of Nominees

Moderator - Anne Malmquist
Clerk - Nina Gabel-Jorgensen
Treasurer - Dave Shiebley
Financial Secretary - Karissa Marquis

Community Engagement Team

- Heather Ciaramintaro
- Stephanie Holmgren
- Jenne Foronjy
- Drew Sullivan

Congregational Engagement Team

- Natalie Muurisepp
- Logan Muurisepp

Property and Finance Team

- John Sharland
- Dave Hanson
- Patrick Donahue

Spiritual Engagement Team

- Eric Stotts
- Deb Sorgman
- Deb Moore