



Steeple Sounds

The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

August 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 Our Moderator Anne Malmquist

This summer, I headed off to my European vacation full of excitement and anticipation. First, my flight from Boston was delayed, so I missed the connection, and I arrived at my destination in the middle of the night. Then we found out that there is not enough water in the Danube River for our river cruise to sail. So we found ourselves on a bus trip rather than a river cruise. It was not the vacation I planned for. However, I still got to spend a few days in Budapest, a beautiful, vibrant city. I still heard a fantastic concert in an historic building in Vienna. I still got to eat wiener schnitzel several times, and I got to eat real Vienna sausage from a street cart. I saw Mozart's birthplace and the church where they filmed the wedding scene in *The Sound of Music*. I got to eat and talk and laugh with old and new friends.

Our church is kind of like that, too. It may not be what we remember or what we thought it would be, but it is wonderful and vibrant (and we eat a lot). I truly appreciate that the members (official and unofficial) of our church are willing to do things differently than expected. Members help lead worship, help in the food pantry, help the thrift shop, run outreach activities and fundraisers. Our members care for each other in so many unseen ways.

I have said before that August always feels like Advent or Lent to me—a time of anticipation and preparation for a new beginning. I hope everyone has a restful August and that we all return to Ordinary Time with open hearts and minds and a contagious cheerfulness.

Anne



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

Remote Worship on Facebook and YouTube

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

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

Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 19, 7pm

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

CSCC Team Leadership 2026-27

Spiritual Engagement Team Leaders:
Deb Moore, Deb Sorgman, Eric Stotts

Congregational Team Leaders:
Natalie Muurisepp, Logan Muurisepp,
Jeanne Roscoe

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

Community Engagement Team Leaders:
Heather Ciaramitaro, Stephanie Holmgren,
Drew Sullivan



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

*Please note the office will be closed
August 2, 9, & 13*

Beginning Aug. 23:

Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun: 9am-1pm

*Please note the office will be closed Sunday,
August 30*

*Rev. Beth returns from sabbatical on
August 4*

Venmo!

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



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



**Bridgewater
Food Pantry**
at Central Square
Congregational Church, UCC

**Open Thursdays, 10am-1pm and the
first Monday of the month, 6-7:30pm**

www.cscucc.org/food-pantry

The Bridgewater Food Pantry, hosted and supported by CSCC, is open Thursdays, 10am-1pm, and the first Mondays of the month, 6-7:30pm, except holidays. All Bridgewater residents who are in need of food are welcome.

If you are a Bridgewater resident unable to come to the food pantry, but are in need of food, please contact the church office by email or phone (below) and arrangements will be made for you.



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

Bev Mitchell • Deb Moore
 Rev. Beth Stotts • Nina Gabel-Jorgensen

Deacons

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

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



Coins for Kids Church

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

supplies and teaching materials.

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



SAVE THE DATE!

Kids Church begins Sunday, Sept. 13



Outdoor worship begins Aug. 16 and continues through Sep. 6.

Note that these services will not be livestreamed - they are in-person only.



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

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?



July has been hot, but that hasn't stopped us from being open. We are keeping our shop as cool as possible. Fans are on and ice water is available. Come in and join us for some bargain shopping and socialization.

August 12th will be the last day we will accept summer merchandise. August 12th will also be the first day we will be accepting fall items. Donations are accepted during shop hours, Wednesdays 10-2. Church attendees are also welcome to drop items off before worship on Sundays.

Thanks again for your continued support. We appreciate all you do to make the Central Closet Thrift Shop a success!

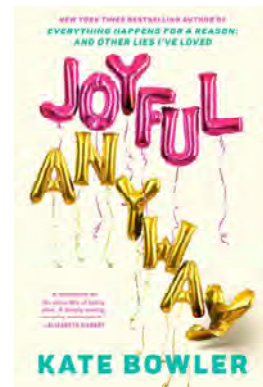
Connie, Sandy, Jane, Lynn and Gail

PS - SOS! We need pant hangers! If you have any to spare, please drop them off at the shop, or at the church office if you can't make it on Wednesdays.

August Book Study: Joyful Anyway by Kate Bowler

By sharing her personal experience and stories from some of our culture's preeminent historians, philosophers, and religious scholars, Bowler presents an original and inspiring understanding of joy. This is a type of joy that is different from happiness, and it does not depend on resolving the things that make life difficult. Drawing on a decade of living with serious illness and a lifetime as a divinity professor, studying America's obsession with progress, she shows why the relentless pursuit of happiness may, in fact, keep us from experiencing true joy.

The concepts in the book will be the basis for discussion during the Picnic Table Outdoor Worship services on August 16, 23, and 30. Read the book if you're interested, but even if you don't, the topics will make for interesting and inciteful basis for conversation that all can participate in and benefit from.



Here are some upcoming events and other volunteer opportunities. Community service students welcome for most events. Tell your friends! Need not be a church member to help us out! If interested in helping, or knowing more, contact the church office.

- Kickoff Sundae & BBQ, Sept. 13 (set up, clean up, food donations)

And we're always in need of:

- Scripture readers (every Sunday)
- Greeters (every Sunday)
- Ushers (every Sunday)

For all upcoming volunteer opportunities, visit cscucc.org/time-talent. Updated constantly!



Have you ever thought about joining the choir?

Our senior choir consists of volunteer singers. We sing one anthem a week, in addition to an introit and a prayer response. We enjoy expressing our faith and spirituality through a variety of musical styles, from Renaissance to contemporary, spirituals to jazz. Our members have an inspiring love of music, often in addition to sight-reading and musicianship skills, but singers of all abilities are welcome. We rehearse on Sunday mornings before worship, performing in the worship service at 10am almost every week between Labor Day and Memorial Day. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact the Minister of Music, Julia Scott Carey at juliascottcarey@gmail.com or contact the church office. **No previous experienced necessary!**

SENIOR CHOIR STARTS UP AGAIN SEPTEMBER 13

(New choir members are welcome at any time!)



This year, Rev. Beth will be introducing a confirmation program geared toward the 14+ age range, completely inclusive of adults. It will be for young people to help them clarify their faith; and for adults who may be in a place on their faith journey where they want to do more exploration or deconstruction of their faith/beliefs. Deb Sorgman will be the primary leader, and Rev. Beth will be the secondary leader.

Here is the schedule:

- Sept. 20 at 11am in the Sanctuary we'll have a confirmation information session.
- The meeting dates are all required, will be held from 5-6:30pm, and are as follows:

Oct. 4
Nov. 1
Dec. 6
Jan. 3
Feb. 7
Mar. 7
Apr. 4
May 2

Confirmation Sunday will be on Pentecost, May 16.

If you are interested in participating, or you have questions about it, contact Rev. Beth at csccpastor@hotmail.com or 508-697-6016 (after August 4, when she's back from sabbatical). All those curious about it are also encouraged to attend the information session on September 20 - no obligation!



Our Junior Choir provides a way for the younger members of our congregation to become involved in the musical life of our church. The Junior Choir generally rehearses two Sundays a month at 9:40am, with performances about once a month on an additional Sunday. Sometimes our Junior Choir will join our Senior Choir for a combined anthem, in lieu of their own song during worship. On performance days, children will rehearse prior to the worship service promptly at 9:40am.

Children are not required to read music to join the Junior Choir. The choir is a great way to build music literacy and confidence, as well as providing opportunities for young people to express themselves musically and spiritually, while having lots of fun!

If you have any questions, please contact the Minister of Music, Julia Scott Carey at juliascottcarey@gmail.com or contact the church office at 508-697-6016 or office@cscucc.com.

Junior choir begins on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 9:40am

Visit cscucc.org/music to register your youth online, or to print the PDF version of the registration form



Southern New England Conference
 United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – August 2026 (Year A)

Sat., Aug. 1

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
 Genesis 31:1-21
 Matthew 7:7-11

Sun., Aug. 2

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 32:22-31
 Psalm 17:1-7, 15
 Romans 9:1-5
 Matthew 14:13-21

Mon., Aug. 3

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
 Genesis 31:22-42
 Romans 1:8-15

Tues., Aug. 4

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
 Genesis 32:3-21
 Acts 2:37-47

Wed., Aug. 5

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
 Isaiah 43:1-7
 Matthew 15:32-39

Thurs., Aug. 6

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
 Genesis 35:22b-29
 Acts 17:10-15

Fri., Aug. 7

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
 Genesis 36:1-8
 Acts 18:24-28

Sat., Aug. 8

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
 Genesis 37:5-11
 Matthew 16:1-4

Sun., Aug. 9

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 14:22-33

Mon., Aug. 10

Psalm 28
 Genesis 37:29-36
 2 Peter 2:4-10

Tues., Aug. 11

Psalm 28; Genesis 39:1-23
 Romans 9:14-29

Wed., Aug. 12

Psalm 28
 Genesis 40:1-23
 Matthew 8:23-27

Thurs., Aug. 13

Psalm 133
 Genesis 41:14-36
 Revelation 15:1-4

Fri., Aug. 14

Psalm 133
 Genesis 41:37-57
 Acts 14:19-28

Sat., Aug. 15

Psalm 133
 Genesis 42:1-28
 Matthew 14:34-36

Sun., Aug. 16

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Mon., Aug. 17

Psalm 130
 Genesis 43:1-34
 Acts 15:1-21

Tues., Aug. 18

Psalm 130; Genesis 44:1-34
 Romans 11:13-29

Wed., Aug. 19

Psalm 130
 Genesis 45:16-28
 Matthew 8:1-13

Thurs., Aug. 20

Psalm 124
 Genesis 49:1-33
 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Fri., Aug. 21

Psalm 124
 Genesis 49:29—50:14
 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Sat., Aug. 22

Psalm 124
 Genesis 50:15-26
 Matthew 16:5-12

Sun., Aug. 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Exodus 1:8—2:10
 Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20

Mon., Aug. 24

Psalm 8
 Exodus 1:1-7
 Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Aug. 25

Psalm 8
 Exodus 2:11-15a
 Romans 11:33-36

Wed., Aug. 26

Psalm 8
 Exodus 2:15b-22
 Matthew 26:6-13

Thurs., Aug. 27

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
 Exodus 2:23-24
 Ephesians 5:1-6

Fri., Aug. 28

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
 Exodus 3:16-25
 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Sat., Aug. 29

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
 Exodus 4:1-9
 Matthew 8:14-17

Sun., Aug. 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
 Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Mon., Aug. 31

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
 Exodus 4:10-31
 Revelation 3:1-6

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>*Unless otherwise noted, worship services are both online and in-person</i>						1
2 10am Worship* 7:30pm AA Meeting	3 6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open	4 9-1 Church office open 2-4pm Church crafters 7pm Women's NA	5 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open	6 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	7	8
9 10am Worship* 7:30pm AA Meeting	10	11 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	12 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open	13 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	14	15 Steeple Sounds submissions due
16 9-1 Church office open 10am Outdoor Worship (in-person only) 7:30pm AA Meeting	17	18 9-1 Church office open 10am CSCC staff meeting 7pm Women's NA	19 10-2 Thrift Shop open 7pm Cabinet Meeting	20 9-1 Church office open 10-1 Food Pantry Open 2-4pm Church crafters 7pm Al-Anon	21	22
23 9-1 Church office open 10am Outdoor Worship (in-person only) 7:30pm AA Meeting	24 6pm Magical event meeting	25 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	26 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open	27 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm Al-Anon	28 9-1 Church office open	29
30 10am Outdoor Worship (in-person only) 7:30pm AA Meeting	31	* NOTE: CALENDAR HAS BEEN UPDATED SINCE THE PRINTED ISSUE WAS MAILED *				

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

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	134,241	130,000	4,241	130,000
Unpledged Offerings	33,475	12,000	21,475	12,000
Plate Offering	1,032	1,000	32	1,000
Kid's Church	383	500	(117)	500
Total · Pledges / Offerings	169,130	143,500	25,630	143,500
Special Collections				
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	1,053	2,000	(947)	2,000
Total · Special Collections	1,053	2,000	(947)	2,000
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Church Fair	7,613	8,000	(387)	8,000
Central Closet Thrift Shop	17,015	15,000	2,015	15,000
Concerts/Special events	2,204			
Other misc. fundraisers	1,583			
Total misc fundraisers	3,787	8,000	(6,417)	8,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	28,415	31,000	(4,789)	31,000
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	4,390	4,000	390	4,000
North River Collaborative	18,000	18,000	0	18,000
Private Bldg Use	510	500	10	500
Food Pantry support	1,800	1,800	0	1,800
Total · Facility Usage Income	24,700	24,300	400	24,300
Miscellaneous Income	2,933	1,000	1,933	1,000
Total Income	226,231	201,800	24,431	201,800
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	103,312	100,832	(2,480)	100,832
Total · Support Staff Expenses	52,570	54,253	1,683	54,253
Total · Office Expenses	9,690	8,100	(1,590)	8,100
Total · Church Building Costs	44,850	37,500	(7,350)	37,500
Teams				
Spiritual Engagement	1,205	1,500	295	1,500
Kid's Church	904	0	(904)	
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	550			
Congregational Engagement	227	800	573	800
Community Engagement	373	1,000	627	1,000
Property and Finance	0	300	300	300
Community Engagement Reserve	2,018	1,950	(68)	1,950
Total · Teams	5,278	5,550	273	5,550
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	2,000	2,000	0	2,000
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	430	200	(230)	200
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	218,129	208,435	(9,694)	208,435
Net income (loss)	8,102	(6,635)	14,737	(6,635)
Transfer from Investments	0			6,635
	8,102	(6,635)		0

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

Cash balances

Operating account	18,818
Money Market	27,645
Emergency Fund	399
Community Engagement Reserve	1,849
Building fund/Capital Improvements account	7,141
PayPal account	697
Venmo account	0
Total cash balances	<u>56,548</u>

Vanguard investment funds

Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	111,055
Deposits (withdrawals)	10,000
Gain (loss) for month	341
Unrestricted funds, ending	<u>121,396</u>
Total investments 6/30/2026	<u>256,908</u>

Food Pantry account balance 5/31/2026	26,809
Donations	1,201
Expenses	<u>(2,741)</u>
Food Pantry account balance 6/30/2026	<u>25,269</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	8,702.42	78,679.39	75,130.65	78,867.02
Feb.	7,168.42	14,385.21	12,530.61	85,847.81	89,515.86	91,397.63
March	11,414.05	10,867.26	17,401.95	97,261.86	100,383.12	108,799.58
April	21,591.08	16,246.75	11,527.59	118,852.94	116,629.87	120,327.17
May	18,534.50	24,662.86	18,088.15	137,387.44	141,292.73	138,415.32
June	9,079.51	13,336.04	30,715.09	146,466.95	154,628.77	169,130.41



1821-2021

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324 • www.cscucc.org



Church Administration

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, csccpastor@hotmail.com

Office Manager: Jennifer Foronjy, office@cscucc.com

Sexton: Rich Sullivan

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

Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes

Treasurer: David Sheibley, treasurer@cscucc.com

Office telephone: (508) 697-6016

Facebook pages: facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma (main page),
facebook.com/groups/801550253194149 (youth page)

Instagram: @centralsquarechurch

Steeple Sounds submissions deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Amazon Shopping!

Shopping on Amazon and feeling generous? Check out the CSCC Wish List, and drop an item in your cart for us! Visit www.cscucc.org/giving for the link to our Amazon wish list.

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71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

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