



Steeple Sounds

The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

September 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

*Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind,
so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:2*

Growing up one of my favorite homework assignments was right at the beginning of the school year when we had to write about “What I did on my summer vacation”. I’ve always loved contemplative writing, even as a kid. I loved the practice of looking back over the season, chronicling the highlights, looking for areas of personal growth, and expressing gratitude for that specific period of time. I also loved hearing about how my classmates spent their summer.

The last church I served had an annual ritual during worship that I found particularly meaningful on this same theme. The first Sunday of the fall we would gather for Water Communion Sunday. Everyone would bring a little bit of water from some moment of their summer, share a brief story, and then pour it into a communal basin. There would be water from beach trips, water from a garden hose that served as a sprinkler all summer, water from swimming pools, lakes, rivers and the stories that went along. At the end of worship, the basin would be filled with water and with life. It was a profound communal experience that kicked the year off in a beautiful way.

Perhaps this type of reflection is what Paul is inviting us to do in Romans: to name the ways God is renewing us. Transformation doesn’t always happen in dramatic moments. Sometimes it happens quietly—in a place where we finally rested, in a conversation that changed us, in a new experience, in time with people we love, or simply in the space to breathe and remember who we are.

So, as summer ends, let’s take some time to look back—not simply to remember where we went or what we did, but to notice what summer has done in us. What restored you? What surprised you? What brought you joy? What did you learn? Where did you encounter God? Bring your stories, your pictures, your treasures, your memories—and bring yourself. On September 13 in worship, we’ll gather them together, much like that basin of water, and discover what happens when we pour the many experiences of our summer into the life of our community.

I can’t wait to hear what you did on your summer vacation!

In Christ,
Rev. Beth



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

Remote Worship on Facebook and YouTube

Sunday Worship will resume livestreaming from the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. beginning September 13.

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, Sept 16, 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, Wed, Fri, & Sun: 9am-1pm

Please note the office will be closed on Tuesday, September 25.

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.



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!



PLEASE NOTE: The Food Pantry will not be open on the first Monday of September due to the Labor Day holiday.

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

CSCC Junior Choir 2026-27
All children and youth welcome - no experience necessary!

Rehearsals at 9:40am:
Sept. 20 • Sept. 27

Performance at 10am:
(No performance in September)

It's Lunch Time!
Sunday, September 20
Potluck Lunch and Fellowship
Third Sunday of the month,
following worship.
Not able to bring anything? No worries.
Please join us anyway.



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

- Congratulations to Lizzie Marquis, who was baptized on August 9.
- Congratulations to Aiden Cannizzo, who earned his eagle scout rank in August.
- Congratulations and good luck to Karissa Marquis in her new job!

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?



Do you get Steeple Sounds in the mail, but find that it just sits on the counter unread? Then the email comes and you say, "Oh yeah! I haven't read it yet!" And then read it online? We are more than happy to keep mailing it to you. But if you would prefer just to read it online, and no one else in your house picks up the printed copy to read, we're also happy to save the postage and the trees. Drop the office an email if you'd like to opt out of the mailed copy.



We are back! Starting September 2, Central Closet Thrift Shop will be open most every Wednesday and Saturday, 10-2. Stop in, lots of new Fall items have been donated!

Speaking of donations — we greatly appreciate all the donations that you have brought into the shop making it so successful. Below is the most recent donation list of items needed for Central Closet Thrift Shop. We accept donations whenever the shop is open.

Thanks to all,

Connie, Sandy, Jane, Lynn, and Gail

Central Closet Thrift Shop Donations Criteria

We accept a maximum number of 20 items per visit, and only when the shop is open. Please do not leave items inside or outside of the church when the shop is closed.

Clothing / Linens: In season, clean items with no odors, pet hair, rips, stains, or missing buttons. Zippers must be in working order.

Household: Clean with no chips, stains, or missing pieces (i.e. puzzles and games).

Ask yourself: "Would I buy this item?"

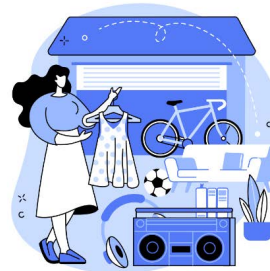
Thank you for considering us.

Women's Guild & Fellowship

All women are invited to our first meeting, a potluck supper on Wed. Oct. 7th at 6:30 PM. Your hostesses for the meeting are the Executive Board. Please bring a food item to share, which can be either an appetizer, salad, entree, vegetable, or dessert! Beverages will be provided.

We will enjoy a meal together, get reacquainted since our May gathering, and have our business meeting. Everyone is welcome to bring a friend, invite a newcomer and see what we are all about! Hope to see you there!

Debbie and Carol



Save the Date!

**Women's Guild
& Fellowship**

Rummage Sale

Saturday, Oct. 17

**Looking ahead – WGF Fall Rummage
Sale is October 17th from 9 AM – 1 PM.**

Please note change of date. Save your fall cleanouts for the WG&F rummage sale! Items can be brought to church October 13-16.

More information next month!



The Neighbors in Need offering will be received on Oct. 4.

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

Please be generous in your support of this mission of the UCC. CSCC will receive this offering on Sunday, Oct. 4.



Please share this with your children and youth:

As we get ready to begin another year of Kids Church, we invite you to think back over your summer and ask: Where did you see God? How did God move in your life? What did you learn about yourself, others, or God?

Maybe you saw God in a beautiful sunset, a family vacation, a new friendship, a moment of kindness, or even in a difficult time when you needed a little extra courage. God was with you through it all!

And now, as we gather back together for Kids Church, remember that you don't have to leave any part of yourself at the door. Bring your questions, your excitement, your worries, your stories, your laughter, your creativity, and even the things you don't understand. Bring your whole self, because God loves and welcomes all of you.

We can't wait to hear your summer stories, learn together, have fun, and discover all the ways God is moving in our lives.

Welcome back to Kids Church – I'm so glad you're here!

Eric Stotts

Director of Kids Church



See page 9 for the Kids Church registration form, or visit www.cscucc.org

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
- Autumnfest booth, Sept. 26
- Women's Guild Rummage Sale, Oct. 24
- Annual Church Fair & Turkey Dinner, Nov. 6,7,14

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!



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.

**Sept. 20 at 11am in the Sanctuary
we'll have a confirmation information
session - no obligation!**

Here is the program schedule. 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. All those curious about it are also encouraged to attend the information session on September 20.



You can tell Fall is near when you hear AutumnFest is happening. AutumnFest takes place on the BSU quadrangle Saturday, September 26, from 10 to 4. This is an opportunity for our church to give out information telling people who we are. We set up a tent and hand out flyers explaining all the happening events at Central Square Congregational Church. Sometimes we sell crafts from our talented craft group!

If you would like to be a part of this event and volunteer an hour or two that Saturday, please speak to one of the Community Engagement Team members (Heather Ciaramitaro, Stephanie Holmgren, or Drew Sullivan), or contact the church office.



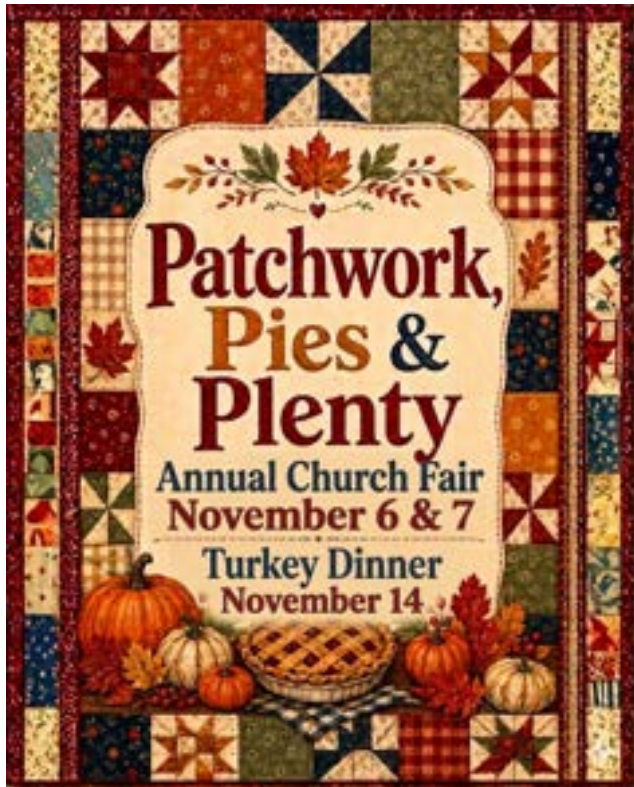
Our Junior Choir provides a way for the younger members of our congregation to become involved in the musical life of our church. The Junior Choir generally rehearses two Sundays a month at 9:40am, with performances about once a month on an additional Sunday. Sometimes our Junior Choir will join our 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 for full rehearsal and performance schedule, or to register your youth online, or use the registration form here on page 10.



Patchwork, Pies & Plenty Fall Harvest Fair

Come celebrate the season with friends, neighbors, and our wider community! Join us for pie, shopping, lunch, fellowship, and plenty of fall fun.

Friday, November 6 — Pie Night, 6:30–8:30pm

Enjoy pie and shopping as we kick off the weekend!

Saturday, November 7 — Fall Harvest Fair

Shopping: 9am–1pm, Lunch: 11am–1pm

Browse handmade treasures, baked goods, quilts, gifts, and more, then stay for lunch and fellowship.

A week later...

Annual Turkey Dinner • Saturday, November 14

We're switching things up a little this year! Our Annual Turkey Dinner will be held the following week, giving us another opportunity to gather around the table, enjoy good food, and share in fellowship. More details coming soon — stay tuned!

**Come together. Give thanks together.
Be the Church together.**

Want to help out with the fun? Contact a member of the fair committee, or the church office.

Your 2026 Fair Committee,

Stephanie Holmgren, Alison DeVasto,

Anne Malmquist



**Questions about the BSU Alumni
Chamber Choir? Contact Carol Chaffee
at galchaffee@gmail.com**



Peace Sunday at CSCC is Sept. 27 and Chalk Art Festival Sept. 26!

Join us on Sunday, Sept. 27 for a Peace Sunday Worship in honor of International Peace Day, which was designated in 1981 by the United Nations to be recognized annually on September 21. Bridgewater has activities and events to honor Peace Day throughout the week of September 19-27.

The community is also invited to join us in spreading the message of peace in chalk through words, images, and symbols, in their neighborhoods, and in all of their favorite places. If you need them, chalk supplies will be available at CSCC for people of all ages at 9am on Saturday, Sept. 26.



CSCC Emergency Aid Fund

At Central Square Church, we provide cash and gift card grants to community folks in dire need through the CSCC Emergency Aid Fund. We provide funds for prescriptions, rent, transportation, short-term housing, diapers and baby stuff, school supplies, etc. Almost all of our gifts are to people outside of the church, especially folks living on the edge economically or experiencing homelessness, unemployment, or underemployment. Any donation would be a wonderful gift! Simply put your check or cash in one of the small envelopes in the pews and place it in the Sunday collection plate, or drop it off at (or mail it to) the office. Just be sure it's clearly marked "Emergency Fund".

Donations can also be made via Venmo, or on the church website on the "giving" page.

Thanks in advance for your prayers and generosity.



Calling all news & events!

Have something that should be mentioned or highlighted in the October Steeple Sounds? Send it along to the church office by **SEPTEMBER 15**. Please be sure that there is a point of contact listed that we can print.



Did you know Youth and Families can be Ushers and Greeters, Too?

These small commitment/big impact roles are available throughout the year, and youth and families are welcome to volunteer as well. Whether for one Sunday, or once a month, ushers and greeters are needed to create a helpful and welcoming experience for all who come through our doors. Contact the church office, or speak to someone in one of those roles on Sunday for more information about how you can participate.

For more information, contact Jenne at office@cscucc.com or 508-697-6016.



Why is Wearing Your Nametag Helpful?

- Few people know everybody in the church.
- Your nametag is welcoming to a visitor.
- Nametags invite conversation.
- Knowing names makes fellowship more personal.
- Nametags save embarrassment.

If it's in your car, on your desk or dresser, or in the rack by the front door at church, there is someone on Sunday morning who might not know your name.

Please make an effort to wear your name tag so those of us who can't remember your name for a long minute won't have that embarrassment, and newcomers can get to know you. Thank you!



Come Sing with Us!

Rehearsals for the senior choir are at 8:30am on Sundays in preparation for that day's 10am service. All levels of experience are welcome.

Come Play with Us!

Do you play an instrument, and would you occasionally like to be included in the Sunday worship service? Contact our Minister of Music Julia Scott Carey at juliascottcarey@gmail.com or contact the church office. We love guest musicians!



Kids Church Registration Form

2026-2027

Child/Youth's Name _____

Child/Youth's Date of Birth _____

Projected year of high school graduation _____

Parents/Guardians _____

Address _____

Phone Number/s _____

☐ Please sign me up for the occasional Kids Church related texts, including changes in schedule

Email _____

Child/Youth Allergies _____

Other Information _____

Interested in volunteering in Kids Church? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Knowing the curriculum is planned out well in advance, are there any Bible verses or teachings that you are particularly interested in your child/youth learning about this year?

Please return this form to the church office as soon as possible. You may also email it to office@cscucc.com. An online form is available at www.cscucc.org/kidschurch.



Junior Choir Registration Form

2026-2027

Vocalist's Name: _____

Birth date: _____

Projected year of high school graduation: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Number: _____

☐ Please sign me up for occasional choir-related texts, including changes in schedule

Vocalist's Cell Phone Number (if any): _____

Email: _____

Are you interested in singing a solo? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Are you interested in singing in a small group of 2-4 singers? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Are you interested in playing an instrument? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If so, what instrument? _____

T-shirt size (please circle) Youth XS S M L XL Adult S M L XL

My child has permission to participate in the Junior Choir at CSCCUCC for the 2026-2027 church year. I understand that my child must attend all rehearsals and arrive ON TIME.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

We ask that this form be returned to the church office as soon as possible. You can fill this registration form out online at cscucc.org/music or take a photo of it or scan it and email it to office@cscucc.com.

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 – September 2026 (Year A)

Tues., Sept. 1

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 5:1—6:13
Revelation 3:7-13

Wed., Sept. 2

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 7:14-25
Matthew 12:22-32

Thurs., Sept. 3

Psalm 149
Exodus 9:1-7
2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Fri., Sept. 4

Psalm 149
Exodus 10:21-29
Romans 10:15b-21

Sat., Sept. 5

Psalm 149
Exodus 11:1-10
Matthew 23:29-36

Sun., Sept. 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Mon., Sept. 7

Psalm 121
Exodus 12:14-28
1 Peter 2:11-17

Tues., Sept. 8

Psalm 121
Exodus 12:29-42
Romans 13:1-7

Wed., Sept. 9

Psalm 121
Exodus 13:1-10
Matthew 21:18-22

Thurs., Sept. 10

Psalm 114
Exodus 13:17-22
1 John 3:11-16

Fri., Sept. 11

Psalm 114
Exodus 14:1-18
Acts 7:9-16

Sat., Sept. 12

Psalm 114
Exodus 15:19-21
Matthew 6:7-15

Sun., Sept. 13

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Mon., Sept. 14

Psalm 77
Joshua 3:1-17
Hebrews 11:23-29

Tues., Sept. 15

Psalm 77
Nehemiah 9:9-15
Romans 14:13—15:2

Wed., Sept. 16

Psalm 77
2 Kings 2:1-18
Mark 11:20-25

Thurs., Sept. 17

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 15:22-27
2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Fri., Sept. 18

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:1-21
2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Sat., Sept. 19

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:22-30
Matthew 19:23-30

Sun., Sept. 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Mon., Sept. 21

Psalm 119:97-104
Exodus 16:31-35
Romans 16:1-16

Tues., Sept. 22

Psalm 119:97-104
Numbers 11:1-9
Romans 16:17-20

Wed., Sept. 23

Psalm 119:97-104
Numbers 11:18-23, 31-32
Matthew 18:1-5

Thurs., Sept. 24

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Isaiah 48:17-21
James 4:11-16

Fri., Sept. 25

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Numbers 20:1-13
Acts 13:32-41

Sat., Sept. 26

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Numbers 27:12-14
Mark 11:27-33

Sun., Sept. 27

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Mon., Sept. 28

Psalm 42
Exodus 18:1-12
Philippians 1:3-14

Tues., Sept. 29

Psalm 42
Exodus 18:13-27
Philippians 1:15-21

Wed., Sept. 30

Psalm 42
Exodus 19:9b-25
Matthew 9:2-8

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*Unless otherwise noted, worship services are both online and in-person		1 9-1 Church office open 2pm Church crafters 7pm Women's NA	2 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open	3 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	4 9-1 Church office open	5 10-2 Thrift Shop open
6 9-1 Church office open 10am Outdoor Worship 7:30pm AA Meeting	7 LABOR DAY 7pm Community Engagement Team	8 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	9 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open	10 10-1 Food Pantry Open 2pm Church crafters 7pm AI-Anon 7pm Property & Finance	11 9-1 Church office open	12 10-2 Thrift Shop open
13 KICKOFF SUNDAY 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 10am Communion Worship* 11am Kick Off "Sundae" & BBQ 7:30pm AA Meeting	14 6pm Magical Event meeting	15 Steeple Sounds due 9-1 Church office open 9:30am CSCC staff mtg 2pm Church crafters 7pm Women's NA	16 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open 7pm Cabinet meeting	17 Kitchen Cleaning Day 10-1 Food Pantry Open 7pm AI-Anon	18 9-1 Church office open	19 10-2 Thrift Shop open
20 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church 11am Confirmation Info Mtg 11am Monthly potluck 7:30pm AA Meeting	21	22 9-1 Church office open 7pm Women's NA	23 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open	24 10-1 Food Pantry Open 2pm Church crafters 7pm AI-Anon	25	26 Autumnfest Peace chalk festival! 10-2 Thrift Shop open
27 Peace Sunday 8:30am Sr. choir 9-1 Church office open 9:40am Jr choir 10am Worship*, Kids Church 7:30pm AA Meeting	28	29 9-1 Church office open 2pm Church crafters 7pm Women's NA	30 9-1 Church office open 10-2 Thrift Shop open	Please note: The full calendar of all building uses is available on cscucc.org or by contacting the church office.		

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes May 20, 2026 at 7pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 by Anne Malmquist, Moderator.

Cabinet members in attendance: Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Nina Gabel-Jorgensen, Clerk; Natalie Muurisepp, Congregational Engagement; Stephanie Holmgren, Community Engagement; Patrick Donahue, Property and Finance; David Sheibley, Treasurer; Reverend Beth Stotts - Spiritual Engagement Team

Guests: Connie Chandler, Gail Wright, Lynn Pietras, Alison Devasto

Reverend Beth devotional and prayer

April Minutes approved.

Pastor Report

- Kids church Director determined June 14 last day of kid church
- Adult confirmation program next year 14 and over, classes on communion Sundays starting October 4 and last class on May 2nd. The reconfirmation ceremony will be on May 16. Deep dive and revisit faith.
- Reverend Andrew will preach five Sundays in the Summer. He will preach Pride Sunday, June 28.
- Altar picture on June 14th at Annual Meeting.
- Picnic table worship in Augusts except August 9th which will be the church baby Libby's baptism
- Reverend Beth worked all her units already as of 5/20/2026. Advent and Lent will need to be pared down significantly. She needs to take more Sundays off. Discussion about what was learned this first year and ¾ time and what we can do differently going forward. She was supposed to have coverage for 12 Sundays. Only 4 Sundays were covered.
- We have two new members
- We will be having a Church directory again - October 12th.

Treasurer's Report

- Ok Month.
- May will be a good month, some of the end of April will carry over into May.
- On track if not a little bit better than budgeted
- Net loss as of the end of April is 12k. Probably will end up with a net loss of around 6k.

Community Engagement:

- Moonlight paint night was very successful.
- Will decorate the toilets/bathroom with the Moonlight paintings
- Pancake Supper made \$300. 35 people. Natalie made the pancakes.
- The Pentecost offering is coming up next month.

Food Pantry

- No report this month as Jack was not available to provide a report.
- Anne followed up with Eric to see where they were in the new Food Pantry process. Still in a transition.
- Same amount of clients. Donations remain generous and on track.
- Idea floated to have Bridgewater Cable TV do a small piece on the Food Pantry.

Congregational Engagement

- Great time on Stewardship Sunday.
- Flowers for Easter were successful. The flower Vendor is great to work with. It was great to have so many flower options.
- 35 people came to the Potato event. There was a need for more food, especially sour cream and bacon.
- Discussion of Pie night and how to leverage it. One suggestion was to have a seasonal theme and have different pies dependent on the season.

Property and Finance

- Discussion of Annual budget at their last meeting.
- NRC will renew the lease. They will now inhabit the entire upper level. Discussion of increasing the rent. Consensus that the Agreement needs to be updated to include all rooms used. Patrick is going to follow up with John regarding the rent increase.
- Painting finished in the stairwell to the sanctuary.
- Plan to get the front walk finally repaired ASAP

Budget

- Need the actual pledges from the people who are already giving to the church.

continued...

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – May Minutes

continued...

- Discussion around the Fair and the line item in the budget. Question as to whether the Fair is moving forward or not and how that would impact our budget.
- The thrift shop is amazing.
- The Fundraisers were a bit short but we are finding our feet.
- More discussion around North River Collaborative and increasing their rent due to more space being utilized with lease renewal.
- Idea to sell pies via Facebook Marketplace on Pie Night. (Food is sold on FB Marketplace)
- Expense - 3% increase for all employees. Health Insurance is going up. Reverend Beth's insurance has increased by \$3,500..
- Oil, gas and electricity are going up.
- Our Investment accounts back up to where they were after taking out money.
- ¾ time discussion regarding Reverend Beth. As a congregation, we need to volunteer more. Need to do more to cover the Sundays she is off. There is talk about filling in for Reverend Beth and people who don't want to come because she's not there. There is some work to normalize folks stepping up to cover the absences. Reverend Beth loves her hospice job. However, she cannot work both in one day. She is still working on finding balance. The financial burden was hard at first. It's important to hear other people in the pulpit and hear different perspectives. An important point was made that her 12 Sundays off need to be scheduled in advance with enough lead time so we can find substitutes. Anne Malmquist mentioned that it would be helpful to have a management role added to the Spiritual Engagement team.
- Discussion about possibly increasing Food Pantry funding to church. With the increase in National Grid rates and the freezers using a lot of electricity, it seems reasonable that we could request an increase in their donation. A fundraising coordinator is key.

Motion to accept the budget as presented with caveat that we revisit the NRC lease and include the Fair caveat that we will be short 7k if we don't include it in the budget. Patrick Donahue made the motion. Natalie Muurisepp seconded. All ayes, no opposed. Reverend Beth abstained.

Spiritual Engagement (see pastor report).

Annual Meeting

- Each team needs an annual report. All annual reports except the Moderator report.
- Nominations are on track and we may have enough people on the teams which is wonderful.
- Lynne Pietras asked about who the Food pantry serves, especially since members from the church come from other towns and wouldn't be able to use it.
- People will not be turned away but only Bridgewater residents can use it.

The next meeting is June 17th. Note - issue from last year needs to be addressed. Calendering meeting. Reverend Beth is not available. Natalie Muurisepp will lead the devotional.

Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes June 17, 2026 at 7pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Anne Malmquist, Moderator.

Cabinet members in attendance:

Anne Malmquist, Moderator; Nina Gabel-Jorgensen, Clerk; Natalie Muurisepp, Congregational Engagement; Stephanie Holmgren, Community Engagement; Jenne Foronjy, Community Engagement; David Sheibley, Treasurer; Spiritual Engagement Team; Property and Finance

Guests: Carol Chaffee, Deb Golob, Terry Reynolds

Calendaring Highlights

- Reviewed monthly calendars
- No cabinet meeting July

September

- Barbecue - welcome back to church activity. Schedule Fellowship and outside for games - September 12. 3-5pm
FALL KICKOFF BARBECUE
- Autumn Fest - September 26. All day.
- Fellowship special coffee hour on September 13. (Fellowship Sundae).

October

- Potluck on third Sunday of month

November

- The Community engagement team will be supporting the Fair in November.
- November 6th and 7th is for the Fair. Pie night is that Friday.
- Poinsettia sales will be on November 29

December

- December 5th - Cookies, carols and crafts will be from 12 to 2pm at the Fellowship Hall. Discussion regarding sharing that time with the Thrift shop to combine xmas shopping and cookies.
- Poinsettia's last date for orders is on 12/13.
- Spiritual Engagement Christmas eve Services TBD

January

- Stephanie to talk to Julia about a concert in January, potentially on one of the Friday nights. Stephanie to confirm with Julia which Friday that will be. Also discussion about possibly a Sunday afternoon. Reminder to check the Patriot's schedule. Suggestion to have a MLK themed concert on the 17th (Sunday) with raffles. Keep the prices on the lower side. Put aside some of the nicer things from the thrift shop from the free pile for Gift baskets.

February

- Italian night. Saturday Feb 27 5 to 7p
- 2/28 sign up for easter flowers (Easter on 3/28)
- 2/9 Pancake supper (Mardi Gras)
- 2/10 Ash wednesday 530 -7

March

- 3/14 last call for easter plants
- Maundy Thursday soup night before service

April

- Pizza and Puzzles 4/10

May

- 5/21 6 to 8 Adult paint night
- Baked potato bar May 8

June

End of calendaring

Next meeting is August 19th.

Stephanie will be volunteering young people to clean the church this Summer.

Minutes not approved. There was no quorum. Will be available in September steeple sounds. Approval will be in August cabinet meeting.

Treasurer's Report
July 31, 2026
Fiscal Year July 2026 - June 2027

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Annual Budget
Income				
Regular Pledges	6,076	10,362	(4,285)	122,000
Unpledged Offerings	2,572	2,293	279	27,000
Plate Offering	41	85	(44)	1,000
Kid's Church	0	42	(42)	500
Total · Pledges / Offerings	8,690	12,782	(4,093)	150,500
Special Collections				
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	0	170	(170)	2,000
Total · Special Collections	0	170	(170)	2,000
Fundraisers/Events Revenue				
Church Fair	0	595	(595)	7,000
Central Closet Thrift Shop	936	1,274	(338)	15,000
Concerts/Special events	0			
Goat City Pub fundraiser	413			
Total misc fundraisers	413	425	(12)	5,000
Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	1,349	2,293	(944)	27,000
Facility Usage Income				
Non Profit Bldg Use	491	382	109	4,500
North River Collaborative	1,750	1,784	(34)	21,000
Private Bldg Use	0	42	(42)	500
Food Pantry support	250	255	(5)	3,000
Total · Facility Usage Income	2,491	2,463	28	29,000
Miscellaneous Income	56	212	(156)	2,500
Total Income	12,586	17,921	(5,335)	211,000
Expenses				
Total · Senior Minister Expenses	8,181	8,956	775	105,449
Total · Support Staff Expenses	3,793	4,690	897	55,223
Total · Office Expenses	518	730	212	8,600
Total · Church Building Costs	1,570	3,355	1,786	39,508
Teams				
Spiritual Engagement	0	170	170	2,000
Kid's Church	0	0	0	
Music (Materials/Substitutes)	0			
Congregational Engagement	0	34	34	400
Community Engagement	0	68	68	800
Property and Finance	0	0	0	0
Community Engagement Reserve	91	155	64	1,830
Total · Teams	91	427	336	5,030
SNEUCC Fellowship Dues	0	170	170	2,000
Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	0	17	17	200
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	14,153	18,346	4,193	216,010
Net income (loss)	(1,567)	(426)	(1,142)	(5,010)
Transfer from Investments	0			5,010
	(1,567)	(426)		0

Treasurer's Report
July 31, 2026
Fiscal Year July 2026 - June 2027

Cash balances	
Operating account	19,760
Money Market	25,320
Emergency Fund	349
Community Engagement Reserve	1,940
Building fund/Capital Improvements account	7,141
PayPal account	343
Venmo account	83
Total cash balances	<u>54,936</u>

Vanguard investment funds	
Protected principal	135,513
Unrestricted funds, beginning	121,396
Deposits (withdrawals)	
Gain (loss) for month	<u>(1,728)</u>
Unrestricted funds, ending	<u>119,668</u>
Total investments 7/31/2026	255,181

Food Pantry account balance 6/30/2026	25,269
Donations	1,281
Expenses	<u>(2,208)</u>
Food Pantry account balance 7/31/2026	<u>24,342</u>

Giving Comparison						
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2025 YTD	FY 2026 YTD	FY 2027 YTD
July	8,815.30	10,755.61	8,689.61	8,815.30	10,755.61	8,689.61
Aug.	7,908.21	10,774.61		16,723.51	21,530.22	
Sept.	13,892.94	9,193.84		30,616.45	30,724.06	
Oct.	9,569.39	15,637.07		40,185.84	46,361.13	
Nov.	10,814.97	10,784.47		51,000.81	57,145.60	
Dec.	14,193.23	13,019.00		65,194.04	70,164.60	
Jan.	9,936.61	8,702.42		75,130.65	78,867.02	
Feb.	14,385.21	12,530.61		89,515.86	91,397.63	
March	10,867.26	17,401.95		100,383.12	108,799.58	
April	16,246.75	11,527.59		116,629.87	120,327.17	
May	24,662.86	18,088.15		141,292.73	138,415.32	
June	13,336.04	30,715.09		154,628.77	169,130.41	



Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

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



Church Administration

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

Office Manager: Jennifer Foronjy, office@cscucc.com

Sexton: Rich Sullivan

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

Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes

Treasurer: David Sheibley, treasurer@cscucc.com

Office telephone: (508) 697-6016

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

Instagram: @centralsquarechurch

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

Amazon Shopping!

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

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

FIRST CLASS MAIL