# Steeple Sounds

*The monthly newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church, UCC*
November 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*

This time of year always makes me feel nostalgic. There's something about the letting go of summer and the changing of the leaves. There is something holy about remembering what was and what is to come. It makes sense that it's also the season when we hold our **All Saints Day** worship services.

Each year, on the first Sunday of November, Christians around the world observe All Saints Day as a time to remember those who have gone before us and to give thanks for the people who've helped to shape our lives. We remember family members, friends, church members, and all those whose love, kindness, and faith have helped make us who we are.

We live in a busy and loud world that is constantly in motion. All Saints Day invites us to pause. It reminds us that remembrance and grief deserve space, that love does not end with death, and that we do not walk the journey of faith alone. We carry the stories, lessons, and love of those who came before us. We remember because love matters. We gather because we belong to one another. And we give thanks because, in life and in death, we are held in the boundless love of God.

**Please join us for worship on All Saints Day, Sunday Nov. 1**, as we remember our loved ones, celebrate Communion, and give thanks for the saints whose lives have touched our own. Whether you come carrying grief, gratitude, or both, there is a place for you. You are invited to bring an item to worship to share with the congregation that serves as a reminder of the saints in your life. You can place the item on the altar, share a story or a name, and light a candle in their honor.

We remember them.

In Christ,
*Rev. Beth*

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

## Remote Worship on Facebook and YouTube

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

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

## Next Cabinet meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 18, 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 that the office will be closed:
Fri, 11/6
Sun, 11/8
Wed, 11/11 (Veterans' Day)
Fri, 11/27 (Thanksgiving holiday)

## 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 @cscc-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.

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 them at 508-697-6016 Ext.1 or bridgewatermafoodpantry@gmail.com 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
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!

## Church Directory 2026

Hi everyone! Jenne your friendly office manager here. The photo day for the new church directory went very well on Monday, October 12th. The photographers were wonderful and took so many lovely photos for us.

If you were unable to be there or just missed the event, you may submit your own photo. You can email it to the Church Office at office@csccucc.com. Please send them in by Sunday, November 8th. We are so excited to have a brand new directory for everyone.

Thanks again!

*Jenne*

## Christmas Poinsettias

The Congregational Engagement Team, Natalie Muurisepp, Logan Muurisepp, and Jeanne Roscoe, will begin taking orders for memorial poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season on Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday of Advent. Sales will close on December 13. Watch your Monday emails, the website, and the December Steeple Sounds for all the details on how to place your order!

## Give us your unwanted Halloween decorations!

Now that Halloween is over, if you have decorations and supplies that you no longer want, PLEASE give them to the committee planning our next "Magical Event", which will take place on January 20, 2027. Last year's event was such a great success, we're looking forward to this one being even bigger and better, and raising even more money for the church. Contact the church office or Terry Reynolds if you have decorations you can send our way!

## All Saints Day Altar & Ofrenda Invitation for Sunday 11/1

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

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

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

**Please have your picture or item in by 10/30 and place it in the church office.** You will be able to take your memento home with you following worship. If you miss that deadline, feel free to bring it with you to worship.

Contact Stephanie Holmgren at sholmgren @ praxis-counseling.com or the church office with any questions.

## Women's Guild & Fellowship

The CSCC Women's Guild and Fellowship is off to a great start. At our October meeting, we enjoyed an array of pot luck dishes from our members, reacquainted with one another and got down to rummage sale business and our year ahead. One very interesting fact about our group: We had 35 ladies in attendance, each one jotted down their age on a slip of paper. We tallied up all the slips to find the median age of our membership. Our ages ranged from 45 - 90. The median age of the WGF is 74 years old. This is an amazing fact about an amazing group.

Our next meeting is November 4 at 6:30pm. The program for the evening is titled:

**The Alliance of Therapy Dogs.** Our presenter is Leslie Stoltz and her dog Finnley.

Our Hostess Team for the evening is Chris Ventura, Rachel Lawson, Donna O'Neil and Donna Albro. Our Material Aids focus is Journey House Gift Bags. Different types of toiletries will be collected for the residing women.

All women are welcome and bring a friend on November 4th.

*Co-Presidents,*

*Carol and Debbie*

In the Fall, the Bridgewater schools and other organizations do food drives to help stock the Bridgewater Food Pantry. Volunteers are needed to come and help sort out the many donations on Saturday, Nov. 21, 3-5pm. All ages welcome. No experience necessary, and no advance signup needed.

Central Closet Thrift Shop is once again welcoming the holiday season. We have fall and winter items arriving daily, which means there is always something new to be seen. Stop in often so you won't miss out on a special item at our special price!

**The shop will be closed on November 7th**, for the annual church fair, but we will be open on Veterans Day, November 11th. We are offering a 10% discount to all veterans and all service members. Just our way of saying thank you to all Veterans for all you have done.

November 28th is small business day. Anyone with a purchase of $10 or more will receive **one free item** from our sale section.

Happy Thanksgiving to all,

*Connie, Sandy, Jane, Lynn and Gail*

## Warmth in Cold Places – Sharing Warmth, Spreading Hope

As part of our church's commitment to caring for our greater community, the CSCC Community Engagement Team is excited to once again host our annual Warmth in Cold Places collection in support of the Taunton Soup Kitchen.

As the colder months approach, we invite our congregation to help spread warmth, kindness, and compassion to neighbors in need by donating new or gently used warm clothing including coats, sweatshirts, long pants, socks, gloves, hats, and more. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those facing difficult circumstances in our surrounding communities.

Donations will be accepted Nov. 15 - Dec. 13. Volunteers are welcome to help sort donations on Sunday, Dec. 13, following worship. Donations can be placed in the bin just inside the Church St. door of the church.

Thank you for helping us share God's love, one act of kindness at a time!

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

• Congratulations to Logan Muurisepp, who earned an individual gold medal while his team earned a silver medal, at the FFA Nationals in Indianapolis.

• Congratulations to Josephine Stotts, who appeared in "The Lion King, Jr." at the Burt Woods School in Middleboro last month.

• Barbara Morey reported that she returned from a trip abroad that included a visit to the North Pole!

• Congratulations to Cristianna Ciaramitaro for coming in first place with her tablescape in the "Weddings Around the World" presentation at the Bristol Agricultural High School Fall Show.

• THANK YOU to Erik Muurisepp, for volunteering to be our new Fire Steward!

*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@csccucc.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?***

**Our youth had a great time at TopGolf last month!**

# kids CHURCH

This November in worship and Kids Church, we are taking a deep dive into Matthew 25, exploring what it means to live out our faith through love, service, and readiness. Through engaging lessons, activities, and discussions, our kids will discover how small acts of kindness—feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, and caring for others—are direct ways we share God's love with the world around us.

Later in the month, we're gearing up for one of the most special times of the year! Starting November 29, our curriculum will transition into the Advent season. Together, we'll embark on a journey of joyful anticipation as we focus on Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, discovering the true heart and promise of Christmas.

Parents and caregivers, we invite you to ask your kids what they've been exploring each Sunday and join us in praying for their hearts as we prepare for this wonderful season. Thank you for letting us partner with you in nurturing the faith of our youngest members!

Kids Church Director,

*Eric Stotts*

## Sermon Series on Matthew 25: Living Our Faith

In Matthew 25, Jesus offers three powerful parables that challenge us to move beyond simply believing in God. Instead, Jesus asks us to live out God's love in tangible, meaningful ways.

Over three weeks, we will explore what it means to be a people of faith who stay awake to God's presence, use our gifts in service to others, and recognize Christ in our neighbors—especially those who are vulnerable, marginalized, or too often overlooked.

Through the parable of the ten bridesmaids, the parable of the talents, and the parable of the sheep and the goats, we will hear Jesus' unmistakable call to care for the hungry, welcome the stranger, tend to the sick, and stand alongside those in need.

Through this sermon series, you will be invited to ask not just what you believe, but how your faith shapes the way you live.

**Because faith is not just something we profess. It is something we practice.**

**November 8, 15, & 22**

## Volunteers are still needed...

...to help in various ways for the fair, from baking, to helping provide food and drink items, to being there that day to lend a hand. Visit www.csccucc.org and click on the fair link to see what's needed, and sign up if you can!

Same is true for the turkey dinner a week later. Lots to contribute! We need your help to make this BIG fundraiser a success! Use the same link as above to see what is needed, or contact the church office.

**Come and shop and eat! And tell your friends and neighbors!**

Attic Treasures is looking for items to sell at The Church Fair. We are asking for things like - candles, writing paper, dishes, Christmas items, small toys, perfume, wallets in good condition. Please check if you have any Christmas sweaters and tops (men and women)! Drop off is on Thursday (11/5) and Friday (11/6). Hope to see you shopping!!!!

*Debbie Golob and Bev Mitchell*

**Make your turkey dinner reservations by visiting www.csccucc.org and clicking on the fair/dinner link, or call or email the church office.**

## Cookies, Carols & Crafts!

**A Little Sugar, a Little Sparkle, and a Whole Lot of Christmas Spirit!**

Saturday, December 5th | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Join us at Central Square Congregational Church for a festive afternoon filled with sweet treats, holiday music, crafts, and community fun! Bring your family, invite your neighbors, and come make some merry memories with us!

Christmas Cookies & Treats – Enjoy delicious holiday goodies and a little something sweet!

Christmas Crafts – Get creative with festive crafts and handmade holiday fun for all ages!

Christmas Carols – Sing along to your favorite Christmas classics and fill the afternoon with holiday cheer!

Hot Cocoa & Holiday Fun – Sip something warm, share a smile, and enjoy the magic of the season together!

$5 Suggested Donation – Your generosity helps support our church and its mission of spreading love and kindness throughout our community.

When: Saturday, December 5th
Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: Central Square Congregational Church

**Come for the cookies, stay for the carols, get crafty, and leave with a heart full of Christmas joy!**

All are welcome — we can't wait to celebrate the magic of the season with you!

## Hanging of the Greens: Preparing for the Season of Hope!

As Advent approaches, we invite you to join us for our Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 22 following worship. The Hanging of the Greens is a special time when we prepare our sanctuary for the coming Christmas season. Through the decorating of our church, we'll reflect on the meaning behind the evergreens, wreaths, candles, and other symbols that remind us of God's enduring love and the hope of new life.

More than decorating our church, this is an opportunity to prepare our hearts for the season ahead. As we bring light and beauty into our sanctuary, may we also make room for hope, practice peace, share joy, and welcome the love of God into our lives and our community.

Come help us begin this sacred season together as we prepare our church—and ourselves—to welcome the One who comes to dwell among us!

## 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.

*It might seem a tad early to be talking about severe winter weather, but like it or not, it'll be here soon enough. In preparation, we encourage everyone to sign up for text alerts. You can choose to only receive texts regarding worship/event cancellations, if that's your preference. Use the link on the home page of www.csccucc.org to sign up.*

## It's Getting To Be That Time of Year: A Reminder of Our Policy on Delay or Cancellation of Worship Services Due to Acts of Nature

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

The Senior Deacon in conjunction with the Senior Pastor will discuss the need and reason for cancellation of worship service. Closure notifications will be made via Facebook, text alert, and email, and will be indicated on the home page of the website as well as on the church phone voicemail.

The main factors used to decide a cancellation are:

1. Excessive amounts of snow
2. Parking availability (or parking ban)
3. Damage to the church
4. State of Emergency
5. Power Outage

To ensure you receive timely notification of weather issues, be sure you are on our email list as well as our cell phone text message notification list. You may opt-out at any time. Links to sign up for both lists are on the home page of the website (www.csccucc.org). Contact the office with questions.

**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.

- Annual Church Fair & Turkey Dinner, Nov. 6,7,14

  Needed: pie makers, cookie & bread bakers, chili chefs, donations of various foods and drinks for the lunch and turkey dinner, and general volunteers. Visit csccucc.org for info or to sign up (or contact the church office)
- People needed to go to local businesses and ask them to donate a gift basket or a gift card for our upcoming events.
- Food Sorting Event for the food pantry: Saturday, Nov. 21, 3pm
- Hanging of the Greens, Sunday, Nov. 22 following worship.
- Warmth in Cold Places donation sorting event, Sunday, Dec. 13, following worship.

And we're always in need of:

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

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

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

# Daily Lectionary Scripture References – November 2026 (Years A & B)

**Sun., Nov. 1**
*Twenty-Third Day after Pentecost*
Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

**Mon., Nov. 2**
Psalm 128
Joshua 4:1-24
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

**Tues., Nov. 3**
Psalm 128
Joshua 6:1-16, 20
Acts 13:1-12

**Wed., Nov. 4**
Psalm 128
Joshua 10:12-14
Matthew 15:1-9

**Thurs., Nov. 5**
Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 5:10-12
Revelation 8:6—9:12

**Fri., Nov. 6**
Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 8:30-35
Revelation 9:13-21

**Sat., Nov. 7**
Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 20:1-9
Matthew 24:1-14

**Sun., Nov. 8**
*Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

**Mon., Nov. 9**
Psalm 78
Joshua 24:25-33
1 Corinthians 14:20-25

**Tues., Nov. 10**
Psalm 78
Nehemiah 8:1-12
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

**Wed., Nov. 11**
Psalm 78
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Matthew 24:29-35

**Thurs., Nov. 12**
Psalm 123
Judges 2:6-15
Revelation 16:1-7

**Fri., Nov. 13**
Psalm 123
Judges 2:16-23
Revelation 16:8-21

**Sat., Nov. 14**
Psalm 123
Judges 5:1-12
Matthew 12:43-45

**Sun., Nov. 15**
*Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*
Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

**Mon., Nov. 16**
Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Judges 4:8-24
Romans 2:1-11

**Tues., Nov. 17**
Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Exodus 2:1-10
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

**Wed., Nov. 18**
Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Esther 7:1-10
Matthew 24:45-51

**Thurs., Nov. 19**
Psalm 100
Genesis 48:15-22
Revelation 14:1-11

**Fri., Nov. 20**
Psalm 100
Isaiah 40:1-11
Revelation 22:1-9

**Sat., Nov. 21**
Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:25-31
Matthew 12:46-50

**Sun., Nov. 22**
*Reign of Christ/Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

**Mon., Nov. 23**
Psalm 28
Numbers 27:15-23
2 Timothy 2:8-13

**Tues., Nov. 24**
Psalm 28
Zechariah 11:4-17
Revelation 19:1-9

**Wed., Nov. 25**
Psalm 28
Jeremiah 31:10-14
John 5:19-40

**Thurs., Nov. 26 (Year B)**
*Thanksgiving*
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Zechariah 13:1-9
Revelation 14:6-13 or
Daniel 7:1-3 and Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Like 6:20-31

**Fri., Nov. 27**
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Zechariah 14:1-9
1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

**Sat., Nov. 28**
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Micah 2:1-13
Matthew 24:15-31

**Sun., Nov. 29**
*First Sunday of Advent*
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

**Mon., Nov. 30**
Psalm 79
Micah 4:1-5
Revelation 15:1-8

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# NOVEMBER 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1**<br>All Saints Day<br>8:30am Sr. choir<br>9-1 Church office open<br>10am Communion Worship*, Kids Church<br>5pm Confirmation Meeting<br>7:30pm AA Meeting | **2**<br>6-7:30pm Food Pantry Open | **3**<br>9-1 Church office open<br>7pm Women's NA | **4**<br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-2 Thrift Shop open<br>6:30pm Women's Guild & Fellowship | **5**<br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>5:45pm Fair Setup<br>7pm Al-Anon | **6**<br>6:30-8:30pm Church Fair Pie Night! | **7**<br>9-1 Church Fair! |
| **8**<br>8:30am Sr. choir<br>9:40am Jr choir<br>10am Worship*, Kids Church<br>7:30pm AA Meeting | **9** | **10**<br>9-1 Church office open<br>7pm Women's NA | **11**<br>Veterans' Day (office closed)<br>10-2 Thrift Shop open | **12**<br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>7pm Property & Finance Meeting<br>7pm Al-Anon | **13**<br>9-1 Church office open | **14**<br>10-2 Thrift Shop open<br>5:30pm Turkey Dinner |
| **15**<br>Steeple Sounds due!<br>8:30am Sr. choir<br>9-1 Church office open<br>9:40am Jr choir<br>10am Worship*, Kids Church<br>11am Potluck lunch<br>7:30pm AA Meeting | **16**<br>6pm Magical Event Mtg | **17**<br>9-1 Church office open<br>7pm Women's NA | **18**<br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-2 Thrift Shop open<br>7pm Cabinet Meeting | **19**<br>10-1 Food Pantry Open<br>7pm Al-Anon | **20**<br>9-1 Church office open<br>10am CSCC Staff Mtg | **21**<br>10-2 Thrift Shop open<br>3-5 Food Pantry food sorting event |
| **22**<br>8:30am Sr. choir<br>9-1 Church office open<br>9:40am Jr choir<br>10am Worship*, Jr. Choir Perf, Kids Church<br>11am Hanging of Greens<br>7:30pm AA Meeting | **23** | **24**<br>9-1 Church office open<br>7pm Women's NA | **25**<br>9-1 Church office open<br>10-2 Thrift Shop open | **26**<br>THANKSGIVING<br>7pm Al-Anon | **27** | **28**<br>10-2 Thrift Shop open |
| **29**<br>First Sunday of Advent<br>8:30am Sr. choir<br>9-1 Church office open<br>10am Worship*, Kids Church<br>7:30pm AA Meeting | **30** | **Unless otherwise noted, worship services are both online and in-person* | | | | |

Please note: The full calendar of all building uses is available on csccucc.org or by contacting the church office.

# CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes
# September 16, 2026 at 7pm

**Location:** Fellowship hall, Church

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; Drew Sullivan, Community Engagement; David Sheibley, Treasurer; Rev. Beth Stotts, Pastor; John Sharland, Property and Finance

**Guests:** Connie Chandler

**Acceptance of August Minutes**
Motion to accept August minutes, Dave Sheibley; Natalie Muurisepp seconded. Minutes passed.

**Pastor's Report**
- Confirmation program coming up. It's not just for non confirmands but for anyone who wants to re-engage.
- Met with the Deacons; church calendar planned through Advent.
- There was a pool party for the youth. It was an inter-generational pool party.
- World Communion Sunday is coming up.
- Ian Jackson wedding is also coming up.

**Treasurer's Report**
- Fairly normal month.
- 10k in August.
- Ran on budget for last month.
- Investment accounts doing better than they have for about 10 years.
- Concern about oil prices for upcoming Winter.

**Community Engagement**
- Autumn Fest 9/26. They are looking for volunteers to help out. They will talk to Stepanie Holmgren about sending out an email blast. It is going to be set up at BSU.
- 10/4 - Neighbors in Need offering.
- Supporting ministries of Justice and also supporting Council of American Indian Ministry
- Starting to collect items for Warmth in Cold Places. Dates to come.
- Themed baskets to support the church will be throughout the year. Donations are encouraged. Please reach out to Stephanie.
- Reverend Beth will make breakfast tacos on 10/4.
- We are a 5-5 congregation. We participate in all the UCC offerings.

**Congregational Engagement**
Partnered with Community Engagement and Sunday was a success.

***continued...***

# CSCC Cabinet Meeting – Minutes

## *continued...*

**Property and Finance Team**

• We have a donation of $3500 for the floor. We are waiting for Arthur Sharp and David Hanson to connect to get it done. We may be able to use 50 cases of flooring left from another job.
• The water heater in the boiler room needs to be replaced. We got a $2000 bid from Ray Isaacs. Will reach out to Concannon and Bovil for bids as well.
• Church Mutual sent 5 surveys to fill out. This is prior to renewal. Not sure if this will increase church insurance costs. Roof survey, freeze protection survey, electrical survey we did check to see if we needed a new circuit for the freezer.
• Email from insurance co suggesting umbrella policy. For $750 extra we increased the policy to 1 million dollars.

**Spiritual Engagement**

• Kids church has started and everything was planned through Advent.
• We need a fire steward for the candles. We didn't have the candles filled with fire starter fluid for Sunday service. The responsibility of the Fire Steward is to fill the candles and order oil. Drew said he would do it as a last resort. Reverend Beth said she wants someone to be fired up about it.
• Through the end of the year, Reverend Beth has coverage. We will need to organize the new year to cover Reverend Beth's Sundays off. Nina will do January 10.

**Food Pantry Discussion**

• Request for updates.
• Connie covered the office on Thursday. She's done it for a couple of weeks. There were a few calls.
• Have only had one meeting so far with the transition team.
• Still waiting for job descriptions.
• Reverend Beth got a message from the middle school PTO that they would like to collect food throughout the year.
• Jack Melcher is doing the ordering from home. The other guys are going to the food bank to pick up food.
• The students come back tomorrow from the Brockton program. We need people upstairs desperately. Jack Melcher said that the Brockton program contacted him. There is a need to follow up regarding having more infrastructure in place as Jack is home. Need a central person on site.

**New Business**

• The Thrift shop would like a permanent sign. There was a suggestion to add thrift shop days and hours to wooden the sign. Also add a sign to the side door. Dave will follow up with Sign Design to see what the cost and design would be.
• We are low on money for the Emergency Fund. Need and amounts have increased substantially.

The next meeting is October 21, 2026 at 7pm.
The meeting was adjourned at 7: 39pm.

Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2026
Fiscal Year July 2026 - June 2027

| | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Difference | Annual Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Income | | | | |
| Regular Pledges | 20,568 | 30,751 | (10,183) | 122,000 |
| Unpledged Offerings | 6,638 | 6,805 | (168) | 27,000 |
| Plate Offering | 118 | 252 | (134) | 1,000 |
| Kid's Church | 44 | 126 | (82) | 500 |
| Total · Pledges / Offerings | 27,368 | 37,934 | (10,567) | 150,500 |
| Special Collections | | | | |
| SNEUCC Fellowship Dues | 0 | 504 | (504) | 2,000 |
| Total · Special Collections | 0 | 504 | (504) | 2,000 |
| Fundraisers/Events Revenue | | | | |
| Church Fair | 0 | 1,764 | (1,764) | 7,000 |
| Central Closet Thrift Shop | 3,447 | 3,781 | (334) | 15,000 |
| Concerts/Special events | 0 | | | |
| Misc fundraisers | 413 | | | |
| Total misc fundraisers | 413 | 1,260 | (848) | 5,000 |
| Total · Fundraisers/Events Revenue | 3,859 | 6,805 | (2,946) | 27,000 |
| Facility Usage Income | | | | |
| Non Profit Bldg Use | 776 | 1,134 | (358) | 4,500 |
| North River Collaborative | 5,250 | 5,293 | (43) | 21,000 |
| Private Bldg Use | 200 | 126 | 74 | 500 |
| Food Pantry support | 750 | 756 | (6) | 3,000 |
| Total · Facility Usage Income | 6,976 | 7,310 | (334) | 29,000 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 120 | 630 | (510) | 2,500 |
| Total Income | 38,323 | 53,184 | (14,861) | 211,000 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Total · Senior Minister Expenses | 26,988 | 26,579 | (409) | 105,449 |
| Total · Support Staff Expenses | 14,781 | 13,919 | (862) | 55,223 |
| Total · Office Expenses | 2,215 | 2,168 | (48) | 8,600 |
| Total · Church Building Costs | 3,841 | 9,958 | 6,117 | 39,508 |
| Teams | | | | |
| Spiritual Engagement | 271 | 504 | 233 | 2,000 |
| Kid's Church | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Music (Materials/Substitutes) | 0 | | | |
| Congregational Engagement | 0 | 101 | 101 | 400 |
| Community Engagement | 216 | 202 | (14) | 800 |
| Property and Finance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Engagement Reserve | 309 | 461 | 153 | 1,830 |
| Total · Teams | 796 | 1,268 | 472 | 5,030 |
| SNEUCC Fellowship Dues | 0 | 504 | 504 | 2,000 |
| Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues | 0 | 50 | 50 | 200 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Expenses | 48,621 | 54,446 | 5,825 | 216,010 |
| Net income (loss) | (10,298) | (1,263) | (9,036) | (5,010) |
| Transfer from Investments | 0 | | | 5,010 |
| | (10,298) | (1,263) | | 0 |

Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2026
Fiscal Year July 2026 - June 2027

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cash balances | | |
| Operating account | | 9,154 |
| Money Market | | 25,564 |
| Emergency Fund | | 109 |
| Community Engagement Reserve | | 2,157 |
| Building fund/Capital Improvements account | | 7,141 |
| PayPal account | | 334 |
| Venmo account | | 319 |
| Total cash balances | | 44,777 |
| | | |
| Vanguard investment funds | | |
| Protected principal | | 135,513 |
| Unrestricted funds, beginning | 122,935 | |
| Deposits (withdrawals) | | |
| Gain (loss) for month | (6,363) | |
| Unrestricted funds, ending | | 116,572 |
| Total investments 9/30/2026 | | 252,085 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Food Pantry account balance 8/31/2026 | 24,233 |
| Donations | 596 |
| Expenses | (2,329) |
| Food Pantry account balance 9/30/2026 | 22,500 |

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 | 10,127.61 | 16,723.51 | 21,530.22 | 18,817.22 |
| Sept. | 13,892.94 | 9,193.84 | 8,550.45 | 30,616.45 | 30,724.06 | 27,367.67 |
| 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.csccucc.org

Est. 1821

## Church Administration

**Pastor**: Rev. Elizabeth Stotts, csccpastor@hotmail.com
**Office Manager**: Jennifer Foronjy, office@csccucc.com
**Sexton**: Rich Sullivan
**Minister of Music**: Julia Scott Carey, juliascottcarey@gmail.com
**Director of Video Evangelism**: Paul Holmes
**Treasurer:** David Sheibley, treasurer@csccucc.com
**Office telephone**: (508) 697-6016
**Facebook pages:** facebook.com/csccuccbridgewaterma (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.csccucc.org/giving for the link to our Amazon wish list.

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Bridgewater, MA 02324

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