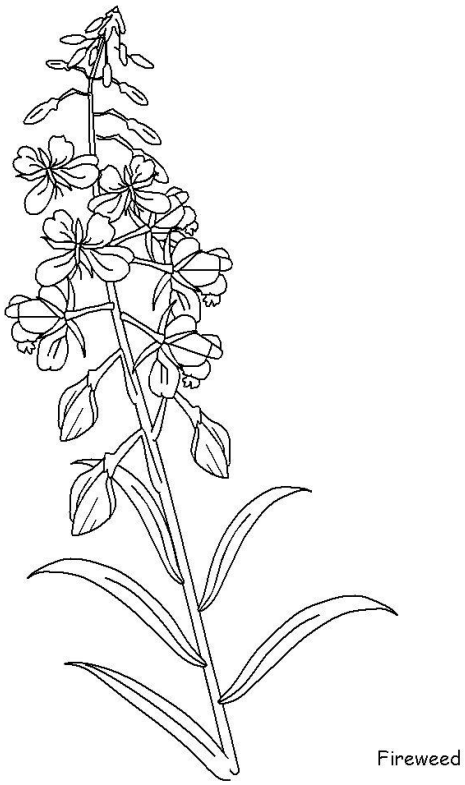
Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324

"We are a Christian Community of people
who are reaching out to our neighbors,
at home and abroad,
sharing our faith and our resources."



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2026

10:00AM

Prelude: *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Moonju Baek

Welcome & Announcements

Invitation to Fellowship

Introit: *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

Call to Worship

One: The world is not always an easy place to live.
All: There are days when the darkness feels overwhelming.
One: There are times when the ground beneath us seems uncertain.
All: And yet, even in the darkest places, new life can grow.
One: Like fireweed rising from the ashes, hope finds a way.
All: Like a candle shining in the darkness, God's promise remains.

One: So keep aware! Look for signs of God's presence.

All: We come to worship, ready to watch, and ready to hope.

Opening Prayer

God of hope, as we enter this season of Advent, quiet the noise around us and within us. There is so much competing for our attention, so much that weighs in our hearts, and so many reasons to feel uncertain about what lies ahead. Remind us that hope is not found in pretending everything is fine. Hope is found in trusting that you are present even in the places that feel broken. Open our eyes to the new life emerging around us. May our worship today help us notice the small signs of love, kindness, courage and compassion that remind us your story is still unfolding. Amen.

Opening Hymn #101: *"Comfort, Comfort, O My People"*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: HOPE *(see below)*

Sung Response: *"Hope Is a Candle"* **(see below)**

Moment For All Ages

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-37 Pg.794

Anthem: *"The Angel Gabriel"* Lisa Stafford

Sermon: *"Hope Is Here"* Rev. Beth Stotts

Hymn #103: *"Watcher, Tell Us of the Night"*

Prayers of the People

Celebrations and Concerns

(At this time, you are invited to share your prayer requests with the congregation. When you have finished, you may say, "This is my prayer". The congregation will reply, "This is our prayer".)

Moment for Meditation and Reflection

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer *(Please use the wording that is most meaningful for you)*

Creator God, who is in heaven, Holy is Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response: *"God of the Sparrow"* (Junior Choir)

Offering Our Gifts

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory: *"Aberyswyth"* Lee Walton

Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that Love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn: *"Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming"* *(see below)*

Benediction:

Postlude: *"Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"* John Carter

What's Happening at CSCC This Week

Sunday, November 29 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sr. Choir Rehearsal 8:30am	*(Sanctuary)*
Church Office open 9am-1pm	*(Office)*
Worship 10am	*(Sanctuary & Online)*
Kids Church 10:10am	*(Kids Church Room)*

Tuesday, December 1

Church Office open 9am-1pm	*(Office)*

Wednesday, December 2

Church Office open 9am-1pm	*(Office)*
Thrift Shop open 10am-2pm	*(Fellowship Hall)*
Women's Guild 6:30pm	*(Fellowship Hall)*

Thursday, December 3

Food Pantry open 10am-1pm	*(Church Street)*

Friday, December 4

Church Office open 9am-1pm	*(Office)*

Saturday, December 5

Thrift Shop open 10am-2pm	*(Fellowship Hall)*
Cookies, Carols, Crafts 12-2pm	*(Fellowship Hall)*

Sunday, December 6 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sr. Choir Rehearsal 8:30am	*(Sanctuary)*
Church Office open 9am-1pm	*(Office)*
Jr. Choir Rehearsal 9:40am	*(Sanctuary)*
Worship w/Communion 10am	*(Sanctuary & Online)*
Kids Church 10:10am	*(Kids Church Room)*
Christmas on the Common 12-4pm	*(Central Square)*
Thrift Shop open 12-4pm	*(Fellowship Hall)*
Craft Sale 12-4pm	*(Fellowship Hall)*
Confirmation Program 5pm	*(Fireplace Room)*

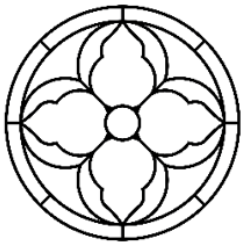
We are delighted to Worship with you today!

In this church, no matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!

An Open and Affirming Congregation

a just world for all ucc.org

WISE for Mental Health — Welcoming • Inclusive Supportive • Engaged



Do you need a visit? A meal? Someone to pray with?
Contact Rev. Beth, a Deacon, or a member of the Care Team.

Pastor

Rev. Beth Stotts – csccpastor@hotmail.com

Deacons

Deb Sorgman – debsorgman@gmail.com
Anne Malmquist – amalmquist@comcast.net
Cristi Ciaramitaro
Stephanie Holmgren, Altar Deacon
Liam O'Connell, Jr. Deacon
Tallinn Muurisepp, Jr. Deacon

Care Team

Bev Mitchell – bev1944@comcast.net
Nina Gabel-Jorgensen – ngjvns@gmail.com
Debra Moore – debramoore912@gmail.com

Church Staff and Officers

Pastor:	Rev. Elizabeth Stotts
Minister of Music:	Julia Scott Carey
Director of Video Evangelism:	Paul Holmes
Office Manager:	Jennifer Foronjy
Sexton:	Rich Sullivan
Kids Church Director:	Eric Stotts
Moderator:	Anne Malmquist
Communications:	Diane Sheibley
Treasurer:	David Sheibley
Financial Secretary:	Vacant

To contact the Church Office:

E-mail: office@csccucc.com
Phone: 508-697-6016
If you would like to make an appointment with Rev. Beth, please email her at csccpastor@hotmail.com.

Please donate to our ministries!

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Instagram: **@**centralsquarechurch

Mustard Seeds Prayer List

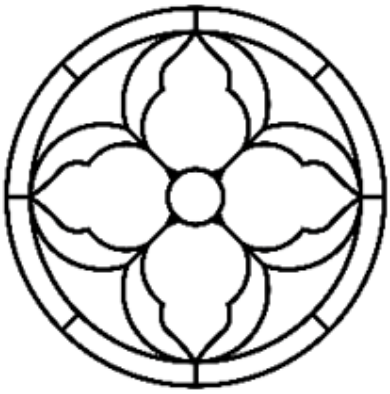
Prayer List of the People For the week of November 29, 2026

Please note: Prayer requests should be submitted by calling the Church Office at: (508) 697-6016 or by e-mail to: office@csccucc.com.

• Diana Francis thanks everyone for the prayers for her best friend Meredith and her family, whose father passed last week after a long illness. The family is thankful he is now at peace. (11/22)
• Asking for prayers for Mia Preiser's co-worker who recently lost her adoptive mother. (11/8)
• Asking for prayers for Addi Pryor, who is a local teen recovering from a leg amputation. (10/28)
• Continued prayers for John & Karen, friends of the Sheibleys, whose son and partner are facing a very serious medical situation for their newborn. (10/19)
• Prayers for our friend Bob Richards who is going through some health issues. (10/13)
• Asking for prayers for Michelle and her children Brayden and Rowan. (8/30)
• Asking for prayers Meghan Damon's family member struggling with health issues. (8/27)
• Asking for prayers for Jessica Mastin's dear friend Sheila and family (8/20)
• Terry Reynolds asks for prayers for Cori, daughter of her longtime friend whose cancer has returned and she is not doing well. (7/26)
• Drew Sullivan is asking for prayers as he struggles to find the right career and become independent. (7/12)
• Katrina Judge asks for continued prayers for her father as his treatment continues. (6/14)
• Prayers for Cheryl whose Parkinson's is progressing. (5/14)
• Prayers for Kurt Walker. Kurt grew up in our church. Prayers for his mom, Carol Daiker Howe as well, and requests for cards and visits for her. (4/19)

• Prayers for Barbara Montero, friend of Patrick Donahue, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. (4/19)
• Brianna and Liam O'Connell ask for prayers for Brianna's parents Shantia and Jonathan, and cousin Nette as they navigate two Alzheimer's diagnoses and other health concerns. (2/8)
• Nina Gabel's colleague Mayra Mieses is on indefinite medical leave. Prayers for her and her family. (2/1)
• Stephanie Holmgren asks for prayers for her father-in-law Richard, who was diagnosed with colon cancer. (11/9)
• Prayers for Ashley Earp's sister going through breast cancer. (10/26)
• Mary Barnsley asks for prayers for her sister-in-law Maryann with memory issues. (9/18)
Continued prayers for all veterans and those serving in active duty.

Please note: We, the church, are in constant prayer for our church family, our community, our nation, and our world. We are in need of prayer, all of us. It is what brings us together! If you have requested an addition to the prayer list, it is helpful for you to provide updates to the church office, whenever possible, or request that the prayer concern be removed as it is no longer a concern or the issue has passed. If we have removed a prayer concern and you would like it added back to the list because there is a great need to keep the prayer in the forefront of our hearts and minds, please go ahead and make this known to the church office. Thank you!



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Hope

Reader One: Fireweed is often one of the first flowers to grow after a wildfire. Where the earth has been scorched and the landscape has been changed, this beautiful flower pushes through the ashes. It does not erase the fire or pretend that nothing happened. It simply reminds us that new life is possible.

Reader Two: Sometimes life feels like that burned landscape. We experience loss, uncertainty, disappointment, and change. We wonder what might grow again and whether things will ever feel whole.

Reader One: And yet, God continues to bring life out of unexpected places. God continues to meet us in our waiting, our wondering, and our uncertainty.

Reader Two: Today we light the candle of HOPE. May it remind us to pay attention and to trust that God is still at work among us.

The first Advent candle is lit.

Congregation: May the light of HOPE shine in us, among us, and through us. May we become signs of hope for a world longing for new life. Amen.

Hope Is A Candle

Hope is a candle once lit by the prophets
Never consumed though it burns through the years
Dim in the daylight of power and privilege
When they are gone hope will shine on

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half-gone was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load



Poinsettia Memorial Orders

Poinsettia Memorial Orders will be accepted now through DECEMBER 13. If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia and have it decorate our sanctuary during the advent season, please place your order **no later than December 13**.

This year, we have red, white, and pink poinsettias, at $10 each. To honor a loved one, include a memorial message that will be printed in our worship bulletin, and then take your Poinsettia home, or gift it yourself to friend and/or church member. Flowers may be taken after worship on 12/20, or after either worship on 12/24.

Please print legibly. *(Note: if you prefer, feel free to use the form on www.csccucc.org.)*

Your name: _____

Your Phone #: _____ Your email: _____

Your Memorial message: _____

# of plants: RED_____ WHITE_____ PINK_____ Amount owed (@ $10 each): $_____

You can pay with cash, Venmo, check made payable to CSCC, or through our website link, being sure to note what the payment is for. You may email your order to the church office at office@csccucc.com, order online through our website, or fill out this form and put it in the collection plate no later than December 13.

Thank you,
The Congregational Engagement Team
Natalie Muurisepp, Logan Muurisepp, Jeanne Roscoe