



# THE AGAWAM ARROW

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April 2024

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## AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ, 745 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001

A church where the Holy Spirit is alive, uniting people with Christ through:  
Transforming ministries, vibrant worship, diligent study, and warm fellowship.

“A place to call home – A people to call family”.

*We are gathering together to worship on Sunday morning. Please join us  
in person or livestream on Facebook through our website.*

### Church Staff:

**Pastor:** Reverend Dr. Susanne Hayes

**Organist/ Choir Director:** Ann Tapply

**Administrative Assistant:** Dawn Stevens [office@agawamcong.com](mailto:office@agawamcong.com)

**Church Sexton:** Dave Christian **Deacons of the Month:** Warren Tapply

**Website:** [www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com](http://www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com)

**Office phone:** 413-786-7111 **Office hours:** Mon-Fri 8am-12pm

*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*



## The Pastor's Musings

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter and Resurrection Sunday! But of course, Easter is not over yet! We have seven more Sundays of Easter. This season of the church is called Eastertide.

In the midst of these Sundays, we cannot overlook the solemnity of the Ascension of Jesus, which is celebrated on the 40th day of Eastertide, a Thursday. On this day, Jesus ascended to Heaven, after his resurrection, where he was exalted as Lord and Christ, sitting at the right hand of God. This understanding is summarized by the theologian Justus Knecht who wrote: "Our Lord went up Body and Soul into heaven in the sight of His apostles, by His own power, to take possession of His glory, and to be our Advocate and Mediator in heaven with the Father. He ascended as Man, as Head of the redeemed, and has prepared a dwelling in heaven for all those who follow in His steps."

Remember these words of unbelievable comfort from John's gospel. "In my Father's house there are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and I will take you to myself, so that where I am, you will be also." (14.2-3)

Finally, Eastertide will end on Pentecost, which we will celebrate on May 19<sup>th</sup> of this year. It takes place on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter Sunday. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, mother of Jesus, and the Apostles of Jesus, while they were in Jerusalem. On this day, the Apostles converted three thousand people. For this reason, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the church, as it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.

So, while you may think that Easter has come and gone, it certainly has not gone anywhere. We have a lot yet to celebrate! May God bless you all during this glorious Eastertide season.

Godspeed,  
*Susanne*

### Parish Cupboard

**All types of nonperishable food items**

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on **April 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 am at **Bobbie J'z**

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Woman's fellowship will be on **Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** at the Buccaneer Lounge. Please let Sharon know if you are going.

### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

All concerns should be addressed to the Property Committee first please, not the church Council. Tom Mathes is our Property Committee chair and is available to speak with anyone.

Thank you.

**Thank you, Marilyn Alexander, for sending cards and bulletins to the shut-ins. It makes a difference in people's lives knowing that they are missed and thought of often as they so truly are.**

### UpperRoom and Our Daily Bread booklets

are available in the the church office. Feel free to stop by and pick one up and allow the Lord to refresh your soul as you read the word of God on a daily basis.

### CHURCH LIGHTING

This is a wonderful way to honor a loved one, a birthday, an anniversary, or any event in your life. Your generous contribution is used to light the lower spotlights in the front of the church.

Suggested Donations:

One week: -\$20.00 & One Month: -\$75.00

### JUNK FOR JESUS

We are now collecting scrap metal to raise funds for the church. Please contact Dick (413.786.2430) or Dave (413.854.8416)

*Want to earn Free \$\$ for the church?? Bring your used INK CARTRIDGES to the church and we recycle them for money! Leave ink cartridges by the office door. In the past few months, we have earned 50.00 in free \$\$! This has helped pay for color ink. Thanks to Dave Bertagnolli for heading this project up.*

### Lending Cupboard Ministry:

We have medical equipment for those in need; please call the office for more info. We are accepting donations to this ministry as well. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### LOAVES & FISHES

Volunteers are needed to help **serve!** We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Sauce and **ELBOW** macaroni are always appreciated! Thank you!

### SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We have held one meeting with the consultant so far which was well attended. We shall be arranging another 2 meetings after Easter, so please keep your ears open for these dates and mark your calendars as it is important that we all attend so that we can get the most out of these meetings. After which I am hoping to get our Church Profile rewritten and again posted on the SNEUCC website.

Lesley Young, Chairperson



**Deacon of the Month of February: Warren Tapply**

**Where do we go from here?**

Its been 4 years since we have been searching for a new settled Pastor. We've been through an Interim Pastor and have gone to a Bridge Pastor. Now it appears we can only afford a Half or Part-time Pastor!  
How long can our Patience last?

In a message from Romans: 4: 5 Paul tells us about **Developing Patience!**

There's more to come: We continue to shout or praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary---we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

Truly we have learned to **develop Patience!** Part of developing Patience is trusting in God's Love for us!  
1 John 4: 7 **God is Love**

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love---so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about---not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and damage they've done to our relationship with God.

My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us---perfect love!

Truly with all our **Patience and the Love** of God and fellow members and friends in Christ, we now look forward to developing new pathways to move forward in our church!

My friends, continue to pray for Patience and Love for one another as we listen for Gods guidance, and we move forward in the life of our Church!

Warren Tapply, Deacon of the month

**APRIL FLOWERS**

**4/7 –**

**4/14 –** In loving MEMORY of THELMA BARRETT, Mother and JOSIE BORGATTI, granddaughter of FAY BORGATTI

**4/21 –** Loving MEMORY of SUE PECKHAM, Mother, from DALE MELANSON & FAMILY

**4/28 –**Loving MEMORY of NANCY KING, Mother of DENNIS, THOMAS and BECKI KING



**MISSIONARY**

We would like to thank you for your donation to "One Great Hour of Sharing" which was the special collection that was taken on March 10th. We are continuing to collect for "Undie Sundays" and baskets have been placed in the Narthex. At the end of March, we shall be donating collected items to the Springfield Rescue Mission. We organized our duties for the upcoming month when Missionary will be serving at the coffee hours.

Lesley Young, Chairperson







**GIRL SCOUTS**

The cookie sale has now finished and troop #65350 was very pleased to have sold over 100 packets at their drive through held at the church on the 16th of March.



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Agawam Congregational Church  
745 Main St., Agawam, Ma 01001 Phone: 786-7111

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10am Worship Service Communion	8 7pm Property	9 10am playgroup 6:30pm Missionary	10 11am Bible study	11 6:30pm Choir	12 	13 12:30pm Women's Fellowship Take 5
14 10am Worship Service 12pm Church Without Walls	15 1pm Trustees 4pm Loaves & Fishes	16 	17 11am Bible study	18 6:30pm Choir	19	20 
21 10am Worship Service St. Patrick's Day	22	23 10am playgroup	24 11am Bible study	25 1pm Exec. Board 6:30pm Choir	26	27 
28 10am Worship Service Crop Walk	29 	30 10am playgroup	