

# THE AGAWAM ARROW

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April 2025

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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 Daniel Cohen

**Organist/ Choir Director:** Ann Tapply

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

**Church Sexton:** Dave Christian

**Deacon of the Month:** Deb Pond

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

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



Dearly beloved,

If you don't have a morning prayer ritual, I strongly encourage you to develop one. For me, at least, it has become a daily requirement to pray on my knees. I start by repeating the Lord's Prayer, saying at least 3 "Our Father's" before praising God and praying for all of you and the other people in my life, as well as those who are facing certain hardships. I then read four psalms – psalm 1, 8, 23 (3 times) and 27. These are all positive psalms that encourage me, first and foremost, not to worry and that God has everything in His control – something we all need to be reminded of in today's ever-changing world.

But that's not all I do. Between praying for folks and reading the psalms, I read two daily devotionals. The first, Sarah Young's Jesus Calling, speaks to me as if Jesus were talking to me personally. Typically, these are "feel good" messages of encouragement. The other, Oswald Chambers' My Utmost for His Highest, is superb and very deep but a bit more challenging.

Below is Sarah Young's devotional from March 28<sup>th</sup>. For some reason, God has put it on me to share this with you.

"I AM a God who gives and gives and gives. When I died for you on the cross, I held back nothing. I poured My Life *like a drink offering*. Because giving is inherent in My nature, I search for people who are able to receive in full measure. To increase your intimacy with Me, the two traits you need the most are receptivity and attentiveness. Receptivity is opening up your innermost being to be filled with My abundant riches. **Attentiveness is directing your gaze to Me: searching for Me in all your moments. It is possible to stay your mind on Me, as the prophet Isaiah wrote.** Through such attentiveness you receive a glorious gift: My perfect Peace."

What really stood out for me was the idea that we can focus not on our issues, but on God Himself. While most of us spend much time worrying about a future that does not exist – as Michael Singer states in his outstanding book The Untethered Soul "If you're bothered by the future, you're creating a future that doesn't exist that bothers you" – we Christians can, at any point in time, choose to disengage from our troubled minds and focus on a God who loves us and promises us that all things are working for our good. That whatever trials we may be facing are merely challenges specifically chosen by God to propel us to greater victories and deeper Spiritual growth.

Much love always,

Pastor Dan

### **MODERATOR'S NOTE**

The daily Lenten devotional that Pastor Daniel prepares for us usually ends with a challenge to help us practice humility. I must admit that I don't always meet that challenge but admitting that fact makes me feel a bit humble, so I guess his message succeeds one way or another.

At our March meeting the Executive Board reviewed some missed opportunities to further our church mission. As with Pastor Dan's Lenten challenges, it is humbling for me to admit those mistakes. Instead of beating myself up over this I can resolve to do better. In my walk with Christ, I am reminded of my daily need for His forgiveness. As the prophet Micah wrote:

***“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”***

***Micah 6:8 NKJV***

I pray that Christ will continue to bless you on your Lenten journey.

Yours in Christ,

David Bertagnolli, Moderator

### Parish Cupboard

**All types of nonperishable food items.**

**Please be sure that items are within "best if used by date".**

### 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)

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on Saturday,  
**April 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 am at  
**Bobbie J'z**

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's fellowship will be on **Sat., April. 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm at the Buccaneer Lounge**  
**Please let Sharon know if you're attending.**  
[Csharon63@yahoo.com](mailto:Csharon63@yahoo.com) or 413-210-4438

### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

All concerns should be addressed to the Property Committee first please, not the Executive Board. 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. **Any and all donated cards are welcome!!**

### 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

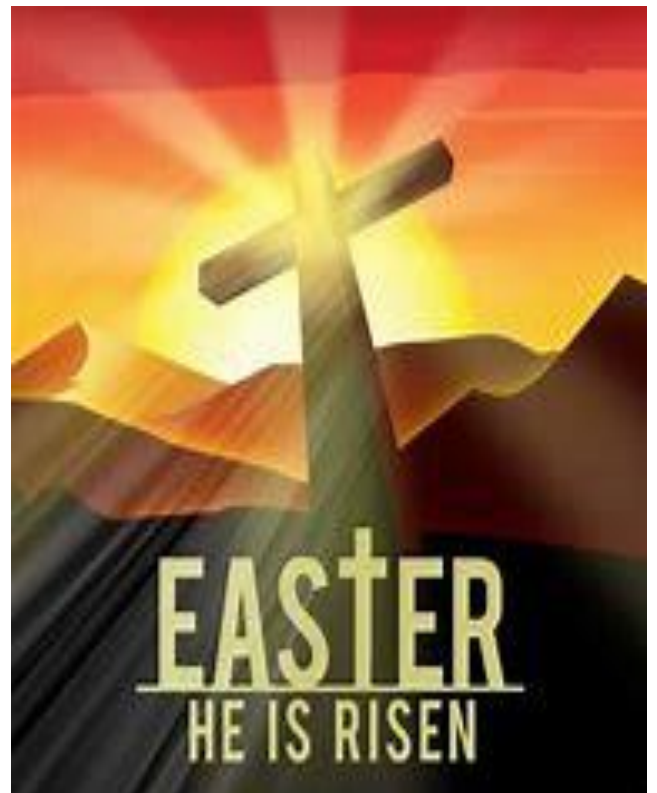
***Want to earn Free \$\$ for the church?? Bring your used INK CARTRIDGES to the church and we recycle them for money! Leave ink cartridges by the office door. In the past few months, we have earned 50.00 in free \$\$! This has helped pay for color ink. Thanks to Dave Bertagnolli for heading this project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



### Financial update from the Treasurer – Donna Decoteau

Category	Jan	Feb	Total Actual	2025 Budget	Actual vs. Budget %
Income from Pledges	12,573	8,901	21,474	121,000	18%
Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.)	5,462	2,650	8,112	30,675	26%
Income from Invested Funds	-		-	55,395	0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>18,035</b>	<b>11,551</b>	<b>29,586</b>	<b>207,070</b>	<b>14%</b>
Pastor's Expenses	1,600	400	2,000	86,492	2%
Other Personnel Salaries	4,478	4,603	9,081	55,848	16%
Other Operational Expenses	4,464	5,213	9,677	64,730	15%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,542</b>	<b>10,216</b>	<b>20,758</b>	<b>207,070</b>	<b>10%</b>
February represents 2/12 or 17%					

### GIRL SCOUTS

A big "Thank You" from troop# 66350 for your support of their sale of Girl Scout cookies on March 23rd. The sale will finish in April and the commission that the troops earn will be used for programs for the girls.



## APRIL FLOWERS

### Deacon of the Month of April: Deb Pond

On hill far away stood an old rugged cross

The emblem of suffering and shame

And I love that old cross where the dearest and best

For a world of lost sinners was slain

This old and familiar and meaningful hymn was written in 1912 by American evangelist and song leader George Bernard. The hymn talk about the cruelty of the Roman cross and how it was a Roman instrument of death.

All during this season of Lent we are reminded of the cross and the price Christ paid for our sins. His suffering was for our sins, yours and mine, so that we may believe He is the Son of God and spend eternity with Him.

After being in the tomb for three days, the tomb was empty. Jesus defeated death and resurrected from the grave. ALLELUIA!!

He is our risen Lord and Savior.

For I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross

'Til my trophies at last I lay down

I will cling to the old rugged cross

And exchange it some day for a crown.

Ephesians 2: 8-9. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing it is the gift of God, not as a result of works so that no one may boast.

This my friends is the true meaning of Lent. A time for examining our hearts and a time for repentance.

Deb Pond, Deacon of the Month

4/6 – In loving MEMORY of LES MELANSON,  
husband of DALE MELANSON

4/13 – Palms given in LOVING MEMORY of  
DONALD FOGG, husband, & ALAN FOGG,  
son, from BETTY FOGG  
(2) LOVING MEMORY of THELMA  
BARRETT, Mother & JOSIE BORGATTI,  
granddaughter of FAY BORGATTI

4/20 – Easter Flowers in loving MEMORY of  
SUE PECKHAM, Mother of DALE  
MELANSON  
(2) CONGRATULATIONS on your 40<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary Stewart and Karen Withee!

4/27– Loving MEMORY of NANCY KING, from  
DENNIS & DEBRA KING & THOMAS &  
BECKI KING  
(2) Lilac bouquet in MEMORY of ALICE  
MOORE from the FLOWER COMMITTEE



### MISSIONARY

Our thanks for your donations of undies for our March mission. We shall not be holding a special project during April, and any donations will be supporting the Loaves and Fishes program. They are in need of elbow macaroni and pasta sauce and so if you are shopping and can pick up an extra box or jar please leave your donation in the church office.

Lesley Young, Chair



# Huge

# TAG SALE

WHERE: Agawam Congregational Church

745 Main St. Agawam

WHEN: April 4th and 5th  
9am-2pm



There's something for everyone.  
Home goods, toys, sports cards,  
clothes, holiday décor, accessories,  
games, books and more more!





**AGAWAM CONGREGATIONALCHURCH  
IS**

**WALKING FOR HUNGER!**

**Join us – April 27, 2025, 1:00 p.m.**

**United Methodist Church**

**800 Amostown Road**

**West Springfield**

**Registration at 12:00 p.m.**

**See Nancy Mitchell for more information.**