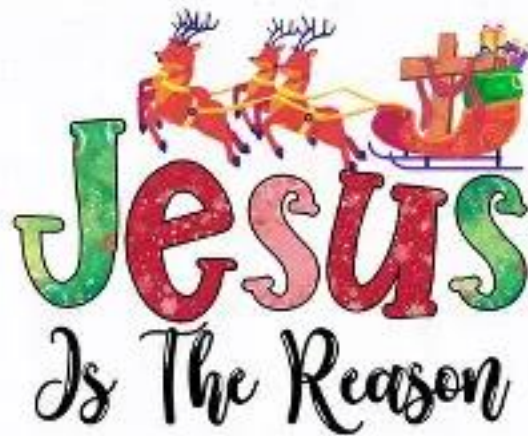


THE AGAWAM ARROW

December 2025



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, YouTube @Agawam
Congregational Church, MA or Ch. 15(the following week at 1pm)*

Church Staff:

Pastor: Reverend Daniel Cohen

Organist/ Choir Director: Ann Tapply

Administrative Assistant: Dawn Stevens office@agawamcong.com

Church Sexton: Dave Christian

Deacon of the Month: Nancy Mitchell

Website: www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

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

From the Pastor's Desk



Hi everyone,

As I'm writing this the day before Thanksgiving, I wanted to tell you all how thankful I am for the best "job" (it is, after all, a "ministry") I've ever had!

All of you have been so wonderful to me and my wife Christine as well as my grands Miracle and Serenity! We couldn't be more appreciative.

I also want to wish everyone a wonderful and very merry Christmas! Something we'll celebrate not only at 10 p.m. service on the 24th of December, but with a Christmas Cantata service on Sunday, the 21st.

Also, we'll be celebrating the season by having a bus trip to the Bright Nights light show with a pizza party following on Wednesday, December 10th – so be here at 4:30 if you want to join that – as well as Christmas Caroling on Sunday the 14th from 2 to 4 p.m. (but please plan to come at 1:45 so we don't drive off without you).

This Thanksgiving we are grateful for our church family, our family and friends, and are looking forward to the new year. I myself have some writing I'm hoping to publish to help heal the nation and my wife is planning to start a new business in 2026 offering therapeutic massage to help heal sore bodies right here in Agawam, Lord willing. So, we are asking for your prayers.

Also in January we will start having Bible studies at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays so that those folks who don't like driving in the dark can study God's Word with me.

Finally, I give thanks that the church is growing and that we plan to bring in several new members, tentatively on December 14th (I'll let you all know when a date is finalized).

May God continue to bless and keep you!

Much, Much Agape Love!

Pastor Dan

MODERATOR'S NOTE

Another year comes to a close and I look back on all that we have been blessed with in 2025, the greatest of which I think is Pastor Dan. And I look forward to the blessings that God will shower upon us in 2026. May the Holy Spirit be with you this Advent and Christmas season, and keep in your hearts the words of the Apostle Paul:

"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." - I Corinthians 13:13 NKJV

At our November meeting the Executive Board discussed upcoming activities during Advent and a number of possible new activities for 2026. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Monday December 22.

Yours in Christ,
David Bertagnolli, Moderator

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### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. If you submit a report, please email it to the office **by January 16<sup>th</sup>**.

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on Saturday,  
**December 13th** at 7:30 am at  
**Bobbie J'z**

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Annual Christmas Potluck Lunch! **Wed., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** at  
**12:30pm** in Bryan Hall. Contact Sharon with  
questions@413-210-4438 or [Csharon63@yahoo.com](mailto:Csharon63@yahoo.com).  
No gifts over \$20. Handmade gifts welcome!

**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

### 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)

***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

We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m.  
Sauce and **ELBOW** macaroni are always  
appreciated! We are looking for volunteers to be  
available if needed. Please see Dave Christian or  
Lesley Young if you are interested in volunteering.  
Thank you for your support in this outreach ministry!

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Donations were made to the church in  
memory of Wayne Vangsness

### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

All property related 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.



## FLOWERS

**December 7<sup>th</sup>** – In loving MEMORY of  
ROBERT & BERTHA TOWERS, parents of  
SHARON, ANATAYA & DIANE TOWERS

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** – In loving MEMORY of  
ROBERT SHIELDS & FAMILY, from MARILYN  
ALEXANDER

**December 21<sup>st</sup>** – CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS  
(2) In loving MEMORY of CLARISE SCOVILLE  
from her daughter & son in law, LORRAINE &  
PATRICK DOWD

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** – loving MEMORY of CAROL  
HALLACK, mother of SUE from STEVE & SUE  
TAPPLY

**December 28<sup>th</sup>** – in HONOR of DICK  
BASSETT'S 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!! From CAROLINE  
BASSETT & FAMILY

### Deacon of the Month of December: Nancy Mitchell

*As we enter the holiday season, our minds are rushing to get Christmas cards sent out, buying Christmas gifts and wrapping them, and planning our Christmas dinner. Unfortunately, there are many families that do not have this luxury. They have no Christmas cards to send out, or Christmas presents to buy and no Christmas dinner to plan. As we go through this busy time, we need to think about those families and in counting our blessings, we need to help those families in need, so they can enjoy this holiday season with joy and love. The Bible says, Give freely to others as he has given to you, and you will reap your blessing tenfold.*

Deacon of the month: Nancy Mitchell

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## THANK YOU

We would like to thank our family, VA, Church and the Lions Club families for all their help and attention to us since Dick's illness. The meals, calls and visits are greatly appreciated by both of us.

God's blessings to all.  
Sincerely,  
Dick and Caroline Bassett



| Category                                       | Q1            | Q2            | Q3            | Oct           | Total Actual   | 2025 Budget    | Actual vs. Budget % |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Income from Pledges                            | 35,023        | 41,520        | 28,804        | 9,795         | 115,142        | 121,000        | 95%                 |
| Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.) | 13,558        | 9,828         | 2,897         | 3,087         | 29,370         | 30,675         | 96%                 |
| Income from Invested Funds                     | 4,000         | 5,000         | 15,000        | -             | 24,000         | 55,395         | 43%                 |
| <b>Total Income</b>                            | <b>52,581</b> | <b>56,348</b> | <b>46,701</b> | <b>12,882</b> | <b>168,512</b> | <b>207,070</b> | <b>81%</b>          |
| Pastor's Expenses                              | 15,505        | 26,371        | 22,031        | 6,772         | 70,679         | 86,492         | 82%                 |
| Other Personnel Salaries                       | 13,576        | 13,499        | 13,546        | 4,451         | 45,072         | 55,848         | 81%                 |
| Other Operational Expenses                     | 15,199        | 13,206        | 14,827        | 2,591         | 45,823         | 64,730         | 71%                 |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                          | <b>44,280</b> | <b>53,076</b> | <b>50,404</b> | <b>13,814</b> | <b>161,574</b> | <b>207,070</b> | <b>78%</b>          |
| October represents 10/12 or 83%                |               |               |               |               |                |                |                     |

### MISSIONARY

We held a special collection on 11/9 & 11/16 to collect funds for the Samaritans Purse, and the donation will be used for the people affected by the hurricane in Jamaica. Meantime the Blanket Fund has been set up in the Narthex and will continue for the month of November. In December we shall be setting up the Mitten Tree to collect hats, mittens, gloves & scarves to be divided between the Springfield Rescue Mission and the Building Bridges program. We shall also be making up 40 Xmas bags containing personal and hygiene items which will be taken to the Parish Cupboard to be donated to 30 men and 10 women. Lastly, there will be a special collection at the Xmas Eve service for the "Christmas Fund" which provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC ministers, church workers, and their families. Envelopes will be placed in the pews at this service.

Lesley Young, Chairperson

### PASTORAL CARE GROUP

This new group met on November 16th with Pastor Dan. We discussed with him how he and Christine were settling into their new home, and all seemed well on that front. The only discussion we had regarding the Congregation was that the bible study time at 4.30p.m. on a Friday was not convenient to all who wanted to join. It was decided to make further enquiries to see if there would be enough interest to form a second group which would meet on a Wednesday at 11a.m. This is a work in progress and if the interest is there, Pastor Dan would be on board to set up 2 group sessions in the new year. We shall be meeting again in February which will be our first quarterly meeting of 2026.





# ACC Family Playgroup

You're invited to join us for crafts, stories,  
songs, free play and more!

When – Every Tuesday from 10 am – 11 am

Starting on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>

Where – Agawam Congregational Church  
745 Main St

Who – All children from birth to 5 years old



Contact the office at  
786-7111 or  
[office@agawamcong.com](mailto:office@agawamcong.com)  
with questions or more  
information and to let us  
know if you'll Be joining  
us!



Agawam Congregational Church

# BRIGHT NIGHTS BUS TRIP

Join us on  
Wednesday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm  
Bus departs promptly at 5pm  
Pizza party at church after the trip

**\*\*Donations welcome**

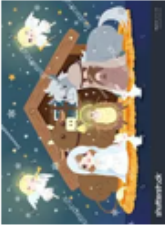






**Reservations required**

Please call 413-786-7111  
or email [office@agawamcong.com](mailto:office@agawamcong.com)



# December 2025

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

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                      | MONDAY                                                                              | TUESDAY                             | WEDNESDAY                                                                          | THURSDAY                                                                                                | FRIDAY        | SATURDAY                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                          | <b>1</b>                                                                            | <b>2</b>                            | <b>3</b>                                                                           | <b>4</b>                                                                                                | <b>5</b>      | <b>6</b>                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                             | 7pm Property                                                                        | 6:30pm Missionary<br>10am playgroup |                                                                                    | 6:30pm Choir                                                                                            |               |                                                                                     |
| <b>7</b>                                                                                                                    | <b>8</b>                                                                            | <b>9</b>                            | <b>10</b>                                                                          | <b>11</b>                                                                                               | <b>12</b>     | <b>13</b>                                                                           |
| 10am Worship                                                                                                                |  | 10am playgroup                      | 12:30pm Women's<br>Christmas potluck<br><br>4:30pm Bright<br>Nights Bus Trip       | 6:30pm Choir                                                                                            |               | 7:30am Men's<br>Fellowship@ Bobbie<br>J'z                                           |
| <b>14</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>15</b>                                                                           | <b>16</b>                           | <b>17</b>                                                                          | <b>18</b>                                                                                               | <b>19</b>     | <b>20</b>                                                                           |
| 10am Worship<br><b>1:45 Caroling</b><br> | 1pm Trustees<br>4pm Loaves &<br>Fishes                                              | 10am playgroup                      |  | 6:30pm Choir                                                                                            |               |                                                                                     |
| <b>21</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>22</b>                                                                           | <b>23</b>                           | <b>24</b>                                                                          | <b>25</b>                                                                                               | <b>26</b>     | <b>27</b>                                                                           |
| 10am Worship<br>                       | 12pm Exec. Board                                                                    | No playgroup                        | 10pm Christmas<br>Eve Service                                                      | Merry Christmas!<br> | OFFICE CLOSED |                                                                                     |
| <b>1st day of winter</b>                                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                     |                                                                                    | OFFICE CLOSED                                                                                           | OFFICE CLOSED |                                                                                     |
| <b>28</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>29</b>                                                                           | <b>30</b>                           | <b>31</b>                                                                          |                                                                                                         |               | <b>29</b>                                                                           |
| 10am Worship                                                                                                                |                                                                                     | No playgroup                        | NEW YEAR'S EVE                                                                     |                                                                                                         |               |  |