



THE AGAWAM ARROW

January 2024

Happy New Year
2024

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

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

Website: www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

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

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



The Pastor's Musings

As I think about my first month as your Bridge Minister, I am feeling such joy, especially since I was able to start during my favorite season of all, that being Advent. It could not have been more perfect for me. For that is the time of year I am very personally caught up in the spiritual preparations for Christmas and was happy I could share my Advent adventure with you.

Probably most of you were counting the days until Christmas and thinking about Christmas shopping and what to eat that day, as I tried to slow you down a bit, so you could feel the anticipation and expectation that Advent brings to us all. And I hope I did slow you down a little! As we talked about the hope, peace, joy, and love that Advent brings to us and within us, I know I felt it deeply. And I hope you did too. For the miracle of God Incarnate was waiting to happen! And whether we were ready for it or not, it did happen! Christ was born! God was with us! Love surrounded us! And the more we realize the importance of Advent, the greater the gift of Christmas Day feels! So thank you for letting me share my Advent with you!

We are now in the midst of Christmastide, which started Christmas Day and ends on the Epiphany, January 6th of each year. Epiphany is the day we celebrate the appearance of the Wise Men at the baby's side, and how Jesus Christ revealed his divinity to them. After Epiphany and Jesus' baptism, things slow down for awhile on the church calendar, as we all catch our breath. And we need to catch our breath, because it won't be long before the Transfiguration and Lent are at our doorstep!

So, take a breath for now, and think about all that God has done for us through Jesus Christ. "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6, NRSV)."

Godspeed,
Susanne

Parish Cupboard

All types of nonperishable food items

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Woman's fellowship will be on **Wednesday, January 10th at 12:30pm** at **Bobbie J'z**.

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 Bertagnoli 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 3rd Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Sauce and **ELBOW** macaroni are always appreciated! Thank you!

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Committee has conducted a second interview with an applicant this past week. We have also received another profile which we are reviewing and will no doubt be asking the applicant for an interview in the New Year. Please keep us in your prayers as we work to find a new Pastor.

Lesley Young, Chairperson

Thank you!

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to our staff Christmas gifts.

With sincere appreciation,

ACC staff



Deacon of the Month of January: Donna Tapply

WHAT RESOLUTIONS ARE YOU MAKING THIS YEAR?

As we start this new year, it's always a time to reflect on the past year, and look forward to the new year,

Many of us make resolutions. What resolutions are you making ?

Things to think about. Are we - ?

- Sharing God's love to others around us – in the community, work, family?
- Being helpful to those around us, the less fortunate?
- Being non-judgmental, critical of others? Looking for the positive?
- Open to new things – a new pastor – new members – new ways of worship?
- Living as God intends us to live?
- Try something new – step out of your comfort zone to see what you might be missing!

Remember, God loves us and stands with us through everything.

Deacon, Donna Tapply

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Because of the growing threat of fraud, if you need to change your address, email address or phone number, please give the **written information** to a Deacon or Dawn in person.

JANUARY FLOWERS

Jan 7 –Loving MEMORY MR.&MRS. MAX KOZYNOSKI, SR & JOHN J(JACKIE), Brother from MR.&MRS. MAX KOZYNOSKI

(2) Honor of DICK & CAROLINE BASSETT'S 68th Anniversary!!

Jan 14 – RAY & ALICE ORR'S 76th Anniversary!

(2) LOVING MEMORY of LES MELANSON, from his wife, DALE MELANSON

(3) Steeple lighting in MEMORY of TIM BASSETT'S birthday, from DICK & CAROLINE

Jan 21 – MEMORY of EDNA BAXTER, Mother of DESEREE BLAIR

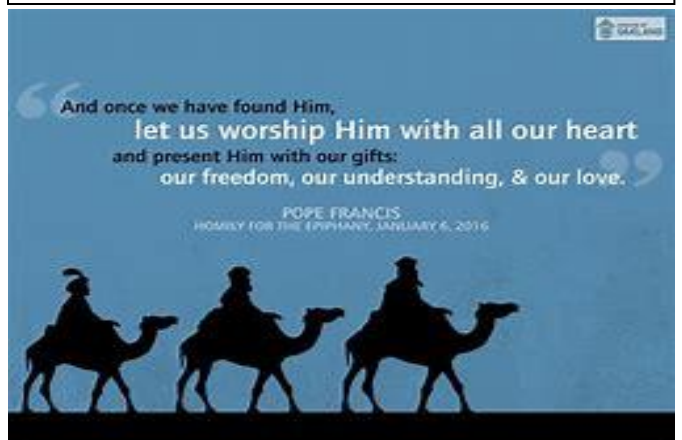
Jan 28 – MEMORY of our PARENTS, from WARREN & ANN TAPPLY



MISSIONARY

During December we put together 40 Xmas bags containing hats, gloves, and hygiene items which Tom Mathes very kindly delivered to the parish Cupboard in West Springfield. Thank you, Tom! As you have no doubt all noticed that the Mitten Tree in the Narthex is getting fuller each week. Thanks to all who have contributed. The tree will be up during the month of December and so there is still time to donate if you wish to. A full report will be given after we have collated the end result and decided who they will be sent to.

Lesley Young, Chairperson



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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	 OFFICE CLOSED	6:30pm Missionary		6:30 Choir		
7 10am Worship Service Communion	8 7pm Property	9 10am playgroup 7pm Deacons	10 12:30pm Women's Fellowship @Bobbie J'z	11 6:30pm Choir	12 7:30am Men's Fellowship @ Bobbie J'z	13
14 10am Worship Service 12pm Church Without Walls	15 1pm Trustees 4pm Loaves & Fishes	16 10am playgroup	17 	18 6:30pm Choir	19 	20
21 10am Worship Service	22	23 10am playgroup	24	25 1pm Exec. Board 6:30pm Choir	26 	27
28 10am Worship Service	29 	30 10am playgroup	31			