

# THE AGAWAM ARROW

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January 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 Dr. Susanne Hayes

**Organist/ Choir Director:** Ann Tapply

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

**Church Sexton:** Dave Christian

**Deacon of the Month:** Don Cook

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

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



## The Pastor's Musings



I have recently had occasion to think about the power of touch and Christian healing. When I was pastor at First Congregational Church in Chicopee, I was honored to do several congregational healing services, as well as a number of individual healing services.

So I wonder if Christian healing falls into your lexicon of the variety of liturgies that you believe in. The United Church of Christ provides two such healing services in its "Book of Worship," which we ministers use as a basis for the many services of worship that we perform.

Services of healing have a Biblical heritage appropriate for the full life of a local church like ours. Anointing with oil and the laying on of hands are a sign of the covenant between God and Israel and God and the Church.

Touch is an amazing and powerful action. To touch someone, and to allow someone to touch us, is a huge act of trust in the other person. If you think about how it feels to be touched or hugged, you may find it either very uncomfortable or extremely healing. I think either response is normal. Perhaps it depends upon who is doing the touching or hugging, and what their motives are.

When I talk to children about touching, I always explain to them that Jesus touched many people, and by doing so He healed them of their physical and spiritual diseases. We talk about how it feels when they are sad about something, and Mommy or Daddy gives them a great big hug. And they say that it makes them feel much better! And we talk about the power that they, even as children, have to make someone else feel better, by simply touching or hugging them and saying kind words.

In this day and age, it seems that we all need to be very careful about who we touch or hug. And I'm not talking about inappropriate touch or abuse, which we all know is never ever appropriate under any circumstances, runs rampant, and happens all too often by people who are positions of power.

What I am talking about is a soft touch or a hug for someone who needs a spiritual boost, and is open and desiring of the Christian touch that Jesus so often used to heal people.

Believe it or not, even we pastors have to be careful with appropriate touches and hugs. Our training tells us to ask a person if we can give them a hug before doing so. And our training even includes how we are to stand while giving an approved hug.

Again, I don't know how you feel about being hugged or touched by another person. But if you are a hugger or a toucher, you know how powerful and soothing it can be.

And that is why we, as the Church, do believe in the ministry of healing. With prayer and the Love of God, we can come in our pain, be accepted and forgiven, and feel God's power through touch, anointing, and the laying on of hands.

If you ever think that you would like to try to feel physically or spiritually better through a service of healing, don't hesitate to ask me. I am always here for you to help you with any spiritual needs you may have. And if you want a hug, I've got one for you!!

Godspeed, *Rev. Susan*

*To All of My Friends at ACC,*

*Thank you so much for the Christmas card and gift you gave me. I so enjoy serving all of you and am happy that I can be with you during this Christmas season. I pray that each of you had a wonderful holiday and that this new year will be full of much joy.*

*Godspeed,  
Susanne*

### **Moderator's Notes**

*We welcome the New year with its new blessings, challenges and opportunities. The first opportunity and challenge our church will face will be at the special meeting on **January 12** when we will make an important decision about our future.*

*After each service we carry the light of Christ into the world and we now bring into the new year the joy of Christmas. In the midst of all this light and joy it can be easy to forget the less fortunate among us. But our church will continue our traditional ministries including Church without Walls, Loaves and dishes, and many others, thus living out our common commission:*

*“... strengthening the fainthearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

*I wish you all a bright, healthy and blessed New Year.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*David Bertagnolli, Moderator*

### Parish Cupboard

**All types of nonperishable food items**

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on Saturday,  
**January 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 am at  
**Bobbie J'z**

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Annual Christmas Yankee Swap/Potluck.  
**Wed., Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** at the Buccaneer Lounge. Let  
Sharon know if you'll be attending.

### 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

### 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.***

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 received one application in November for the  
position of our ¾ time pastor and conducted an  
interview by zoom. As the committee decided to  
pursue this applicant, a second in person  
interview was held on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. We are now in  
discernment and will notify you of any progress  
that is made in due course. Your continued  
prayers for us would be greatly appreciated by all  
of the committee.

**Lesley Young, Chairperson**



**Deacon of the Month of December: Don Cook**

It is my wish that everyone has had a very blessed holiday and religious season, and I hope all is well. As we enter a new year, I pray that everyone has a blessed year. I know that I am grateful to be a member of this church. The fellowship here has blessed me many times. I wish Rev. Susanne a great retirement and look forward to our finding a new pastor. Once again, I pray that everyone has a memorable and happy new year.

Deacon of the month, Don Cook



**JANUARY FLOWERS**

- 1/5 – In loving MEMORY of MR.&MRS. MAX KOZYNOSKI, SR. Parents and JOHN(JACKIE), brother of MR.&MRS. MAX KOZYNOSKI, JR.  
(2) HAPPY 69<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY to DICK & CAROLINE BASSETT!!
- 1/12 – HAPPY 76<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY to RAY & ALICE ORR, from the whole FAMILY  
(2) Loving MEMORY of TIM BASSETT, son of DICK & CAROLINE BASSETT  
(3) loving MEMORY of LES MELANSON, husband of DALE MELANSON
- 1/19 – loving MEMORY of EDNA BAXTER, mother of DESEREE BLAIR
- 1/26 – loving MEMORY of our MOTHERS, from WARREN & ANN TAPPLY

**MISSIONARY**

We made up 30 men's Xmas bags and 10 women's bags which held personal hygiene items, warm hats, socks, gloves, and Upper Room Devotionals. These bags were delivered to the Parish Cupboard in West Springfield at the beginning of Dec. We were able to collect \$485 in aid of the Blanket Fund in November. Our thanks to the giving congregation for their support. In Dec. we collected hats, gloves and scarves on our Mitten Tree, which was in the Narthex.

The present balance of the Missionary account, which supports our Loaves & Fishes ministry, is \$999.18. Any funds collected in January will support this program. No special mission will be carried out in January.

Lesley Young, Chairperson

## Financial update from the Treasurer

See below a summary of the operating income and expenses as compared to the budget. A big thank you to the congregation for supporting the operating expenses with your faithful giving on a timely basis.

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total Actual	2024 Budget	Actual vs. Budget %
Income from Pledges	13,550	8,549	10,708	10,626	8,199	8,488	14,685	6,485	6,758	10,266	12,077	110,391	115,000	96%
Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.)	2,316	4,346	6,114	4,807	3,382	2,357	6,418	495	4,829	6,336	6,807	48,207	48,287	100%
Income from Invested Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,388	0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,866</b>	<b>12,895</b>	<b>16,822</b>	<b>15,433</b>	<b>11,581</b>	<b>10,845</b>	<b>21,103</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>11,587</b>	<b>16,602</b>	<b>18,884</b>	<b>158,598</b>	<b>164,675</b>	<b>96%</b>
Pastor's Expenses	3,676	3,676	3,676	3,676	6,067	4,154	4,633	3,676	4,154	3,676	3,676	44,740	58,753	76%
Other Personnel Salaries	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	42,361	46,700	91%
Other Operational Expenses	5,091	6,051	4,019	4,070	5,062	2,853	3,930	3,933	7,133	14,231	4,353	60,726	60,610	100%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>12,618</b>	<b>13,578</b>	<b>11,546</b>	<b>11,597</b>	<b>14,980</b>	<b>10,858</b>	<b>12,414</b>	<b>11,460</b>	<b>15,138</b>	<b>21,758</b>	<b>11,880</b>	<b>147,827</b>	<b>166,063</b>	<b>89%</b>
November represents 11/12 or 92%														

Donna Decoteau, Treasurer

### GIRL SCOUTS





The Scouts are now meeting on a regular basis at the church. They will be starting their cookie booth sales in January, so look out for their booths so that you can support them and buy your favorite cookies.

They will be holding another recruitment event at the church on January 14<sup>th</sup>



January 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> 10am Worship Service Communion	<b>6</b> 7pm Property	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Missionary	<b>8</b> 12:30pm Women's fellowship Buccaneer Lounge	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J'z
<b>12</b> 10am Worship <b>11am MEETING</b> 12pm Church Without Walls	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7pm Deacons	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10am Worship Service	<b>20</b> 1pm Trustees 4pm Loaves & Fishes	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 1pm Executive Board	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10am Worship Service	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 	<b>31</b>	