

# THE AGAWAM ARROW

June 2026



## 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](mailto:office@agawamcong.com)

**Church Sexton:** Dave Christian

**Deacon of the Month:** Nancy Mitchell

**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 following is the fifth and final column that appeared in *The Republican* back in February. I hope you enjoy it!

p.s. I'll be speaking at the Springfield Rotary's June 18th meeting at Student Prince Cafe at 20 Fort Street in Springfield at 12 noon for all who would like to attend.

### Column 5– Step 5: “Faith over fear: Transcending party polarization”

In the last column I pointed out that our fellow citizens are neither clones of Donald Trump nor Joe Biden – and that the best way for us to learn about each other is by listening – even when we want to shout so much it hurts.

In that column I challenged Democrats and Republicans alike to understand each other's fears.

That was the hard part. Now comes the easy part. Helping us feel good about ourselves.

For the key to depolarizing the nation doesn't come from public policy so much as helping ourselves grow. Grow in faith. Grow in humility. Grow in love. One happier, humbler soul at a time.

Let's start with faith. Why faith? Because faith conquers fear.

And right now our fears need to be balanced by our faith.

In his seminal book *The Untethered Soul*, Michael Singer writes that fear is the language of our psyche just as pain is the language of the body.

Singer points out that we are all walking around listening to a neurotic little voice in our heads – one that never shuts up and insists that everyone should love us and is constantly complaining whenever things don't go our way.

This is the human predicament in a nutshell.

The problem, you see, is that our brain wants to control the world when in reality, it can only control the way we think about the world.

In my book on humility, I point out what I call the paradox of control. That is, the more you try to control others the more control they have over you.

Think about it. If I'm trying to control you and you resist, it bothers me. Many of our political problems stem from us wanting to impose our will on the other side.

What does this mean in the context of depolarization? First, let's be clear: It does not mean that we stop fighting injustice or threats we perceive to our way of life. Nor does it mean we stop doing the hard work of fixing what is wrong with this great nation.

For all its flaws, America is one of the greatest and boldest experiments of all. And while it is bound to fall short of its ideals – something that bothers both right-winger and leftists alike -- it is vitally that we try to live up to them. As the Declaration of Independence proclaims:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that **all men are created equal**, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

My brothers, my sisters, my fellow Americans. We need to have faith. Faith in our Democracy. Faith that our brothers and sisters on the other side of the political battlefield are only fighting with us because they want our country to be the best version of itself it can be. Faith that they, too, care about America as much as we do.

And let me close with this. As the Declaration of Independence declares, we should also have faith in our Creator.

This brings about another aspect of faith: Faith in God. And while I am not foolish enough to insist that you believe as I do, I can't end a column on faith without sharing my testimony. That when I was a young man wrestling with my mortality, God revealed Himself to me and let me know I was a Spirit in a body. A Spirit that would never die. And that God loved me more than words can say. If you're struggling today, I pray that God opens your eyes as He has mine.



**Deacon of the Month : Nancy Mitchell**

As we enter another month (June) we look back at the trees, flowers and grass. We watch them turn from dark brown to different shades of beautiful green. The same as with our lives we come from gloomy faces from the snow and cold weather to smiles in seeing the world change beautiful colors. But our determination in ourselves never changes. We work on building on confidence in ourselves, our constant determination in our relationship with Jesus. We know that God is always there with us no matter how we feel about ourselves. God continues to help us remain happy and strong, even when we walk through cloudy days. He reminds us that the sun is always shining on us, behind every cloud. Just stop and look up and see God smiling down on you with his love radiating on you.

Deacon  
Nancy Mitchell



**FLOWERS**

**June 7 – OPEN**

**June 14** – In HONOR of our FRIENDS, Diane Simpson, Marion Esdted & Mary Jane Stewart, from WARREN & ANN TAPPLY

**June 21** – In loving MEMORY of RUDOLPH BERTAGNOLLI, from his son DAVID BERTAGNOLLI (2) HAPPY BIRHTDAY MEL CROSBY – Love you Dad, from Sandi Blakely

**June 28** – In loving MEMORY of PATRICK DECOTEAU, Husband and loving Father, from DONNA DECOTEAU (2) In loving MEMORY of PARENTS, HUSBAND, BROTHER, SISTER & GRANDSON, from JUDY DAVIS



### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's fellowship will meet on Wednesday, June  
24<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at EB's to support the fundraiser that  
day.

**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 call 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!

### 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.

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

No Memorial donations were made in  
February.

## Financial update from the Treasurer – Donna Decoteau

Here's the financial update for the newsletter.

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Apr	Total Actual	2026 Budget	Actual vs. Budget %
Income from Pledges	15,592	11,912	14,673	42,177	15,597	57,774	134,900	43%
Bank Balance 12/31/2025	(3,440)	-	-	(3,440)		(3,440)	-	0%
Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.)	1,293	1,201	3,893	6,387	3,627	10,014	27,000	37%
Income from Invested Funds	10,000	-	9,000	19,000	-	19,000	51,510	37%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>23,445</b>	<b>13,113</b>	<b>27,566</b>	<b>64,124</b>	<b>19,224</b>	<b>83,348</b>	<b>213,410</b>	<b>39%</b>
Pastor's Expenses	6,930	9,137	7,302	23,369	6,297	29,666	91,828	32%
Other Personnel Salaries	4,504	4,714	4,946	14,164	4,676	18,840	56,151	34%
Other Operational Expenses	6,083	6,004	7,186	19,273	6,667	25,940	65,431	40%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>17,517</b>	<b>19,855</b>	<b>19,434</b>	<b>56,806</b>	<b>17,640</b>	<b>74,446</b>	<b>213,410</b>	<b>35%</b>

April 2026 represents 4/12 or 33%

### MISSIONARY

Our group will be serving the coffee hour during June and all collections will be used to support the Loaves and Fishes program. No special Missions will be held during June, July, & August. Happy Summer!

### PASTORAL SUPPORT GROUP

This group will be meeting on Sunday June 28th after coffee hour. If you have any issues that you would like us to discuss at this meeting, please contact one of the members of the group. The members are Warren Tapply, Steve Paul, Donna Decoteau, Lesley Young & Pastor Dan.

**Give Back Wednesday E.B.'s Fundraising Program**

**Join Us & Help Raise Money!  
Agawam  
Congregational  
Church**



Raise \$\$\$ for a new updated sign for the church.

**EAT at**

**E.B.'s**

385 Walnut Street Ext., Agawam, MA

**WEDNESDAY, JUN 24TH**

and **10%**

**of the day's total food sales\***



*\*Open to close. Dine-in, Take Out, or Delivery.  
Alcohol sales, sales tax, GC sales excluded*

(413) 789-3525



[ebsrestaurants.com](http://ebsrestaurants.com)



# UPCOMING EVENTS!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 13<sup>th</sup> : Men's fellowship** at 7:30am at Bobbie J'z







**June 21<sup>st</sup>:** Father's Day!

**June 24<sup>th</sup> :** Fundraiser at EB's.

**June 24<sup>th</sup> :** Women's fellowship 12:30 at EB's

June 2026

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7pm Property	2	3 11am Prayer 11:30 Bible study	4 6:30pm Choir	5 	6
7 10am Worship	8 1pm Executive Board	9	10 6:30 pm. Deacons	11	12 	13 7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J'z
14 10am Worship Sandwich in a bag Flag Day 	15 4pm Loaves & Fishes 6pm Trustees	16	17	18	19	20
21 10am Worship 	22	23	24 • EB's fundraiser 12:30pm Women's fellowship @ EB's	25	26	27
28 10am Worship	29 	30			