



THE AGAWAM ARROW

March 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:** Sharon Christian

Website: www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

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

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



The Pastor's Musings

It's March already, and Easter is March 31st! It's quite early this year, so it may still be a bit chilly. I remember, as a child, dressing up for Easter in a spring dress and hat! How many of us women will be wearing hats on Easter this year? Probably not too many, as it seems to have gone out of style quite a while ago.

As Easter approaches, you may notice that I often mention the fact that we are walking with Jesus to the Cross. I feel it is important to do so, so we remember what is truly important about Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection. In fact, many churches have started referring to Easter as Resurrection Sunday, the most holy of our Christian holidays.

So, what will you be doing on Easter? Hopefully you will start the day by coming to church, as we celebrate together the Resurrection of Christ. After church is usually a different story. There are many Easter traditions with roots that can be traced back to non-Christian and pagan celebrations. Examples include Easter eggs, and related games such as egg rolling and egg decorating.

It is believed that eggs represented fertility and birth in certain pagan traditions. Egg decorating may have become part of the Easter celebration in a nod to the religious significance Jesus' Resurrection or re-birth. And of course there are Easter egg hunts!

In some households, the Easter Bunny delivers candy and chocolate on Easter Sunday morning. These candies often arrive in an Easter basket. The origin of the Easter Bunny is unknown, although some believe it arrived in America with German immigrants in the 1700s. Rabbits are known to be enthusiastic procreators, so the arrival of baby bunnies in springtime became associated with birth and renewal.

Easter foods are also full of symbolism. An Easter dinner of lamb has historical roots, since a lamb was often used as a sacrificial animal in Jewish traditions, and lamb is frequently served during Passover. The phrase "lamb of God" is sometimes used to refer to Jesus and the sacrificial nature of his death.

So however you and your family celebrate our holiest of holy holidays, I wish you all a pleasant and meaningful Easter Day. And remember to thank God always for the Resurrection of our Savior!

Godspeed,
Susanne

Parish Cupboard

All types of nonperishable food items

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on **March 9th** at 7:30 am at **Bobbie J'z**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Woman's fellowship will be on **Wednesday, March 13, at 12:30 pm** at the Buccaneer Lounge. Please let Sharon know if you are going.

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

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We held a second interview with one applicant after which we presented the applicant with a compensation packet. Unfortunately, the compensation did not meet their needs and we therefore had to inform them they were no longer under consideration. Further discussion concerning our continued search will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting after the Church service on March 3rd, 2024. Lesley Young, Chairperson





**Deacons
Called
To Serve**

Deacon of the Month of February: Sharon Christian

Welcome to March. Will she come in like a lamb and go out like a lion or come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? I guess on Mother Nature truly knows the answer. March brings many things – the first signs of spring and daylight savings time. Don't forget to spring your clocks ahead by one hour on March 10th. Here are some of the other things to look forward to this month.

It started on February 14th and continues through March 28th. Lent, which last for 39 days, one month plus 10 days depending on the years calendar. We as Christians do this because Jesus Christ suffered in the desert for 40 days. Ask yourself what you will give up for those days – coffee, chocolate, wine, salad, etc....

March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, which was originally celebrated in Ireland with religious services and feasts to honor St. Patrick for bringing Catholicism to Ireland. He was a patron saint and Apostle of Ireland. One myth about St. Patrick is that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland after they attacked him during a 40 day fast.

March 24th is Palm Sunday. They say that the feast commemorated Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It gets its name from the palm branches the crowds of people waved and used to greet and honor Jesus Christ as he entered the city. The people made a path of fronds and clothing as a sign of respect and praise for Jesus Christ.

March 28th is Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday. This is the day during Holy week that commemorates and washing of feet and the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. Maundy comes from the Latin word Mandatum and reflects Jesus' word, "I give a new commandment". The day always comes between March 19th and April 22nd.

March 29 is Good Friday. It's two days before Easter and the day we commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We as Christians honor Jesus by not eating meat on this day. This is part of Holy Week.

March 31st is Easter Sunday. A Christian festival and cultural holiday that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is also called Pascha or Resurrection Sunday. Easter Sunday has become a public holiday in the US.

March brings us all new life and new prospective.

Deacon, Sharon Christian

MARCH FLOWERS

3/4 –Roses in Loving MEMORY of JANELLE CHRISTIAN, daughter of DAVE CHRISTIAN
(2) Rose in loving MEMORY of LORI HAUSER, daughter of JOHN & JOAN HAUSER

3/10 – In loving MEMORY of LOVED ONES from DIANE JESERSKI

3/17 – Loving MEMORY of FRIEDA BASSETT, Mother of DICK BASSETT

3/24 –Loving MEMORY of KEN FORNI, Husband, from SANDI FORNI

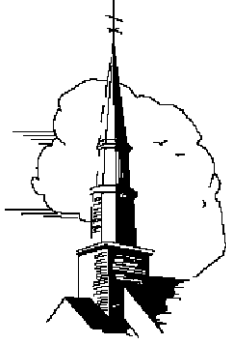
3/31 Easter Lilies



MISSIONARY

Well once again a big "THANK YOU" to all for a successful "Souper Bowl" during February. We were able to donate 166 cans of soup and 48 packets of Ramen Noodles to the West Springfield Parish Cupboard. We shall be **collecting "Undies" during the month of March**; a basket will be placed in the Narthex. These will be delivered to the Springfield Rescue Mission at the end of the month. On **March 10th we shall have a special collection for "One Great Hour of Sharing"** and envelopes will be placed on the pews for you to use if you wish to donate. This was a program started in 1946 as victims of war in Europe were struggling through near-starvation and homelessness. A few American Christians responded by raising funds for relief for those in perilous situations. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC within Wider Church Ministries.

Lesley Young, Chairperson



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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Agawam Congregational Church of Agawam Massachusetts is hereby called for Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, in the Sanctuary immediately following the Sunday church service.

The following business will take place at the meeting.

- To act on all the reports in the Annual Report other than those of Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the Pastor's Salary Fund and other invested funds.
- To conduct the Annual Election of Officers on a slate prepared by the Executive Board and printed in the Annual Report.
- To act on the Annual Budget in the Annual Report prepared by the Treasurer.
- To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Clerk

SPRING

TAG SALE



When: Friday, March 22 & Saturday, March 23, 2024

9 am—2 pm

Where : Agawam Congregational Church

745 Main Street, Agawam



**Clothing and accessories, toys and games, books,
holiday décor, puzzles, sports cards, kitchen & other
household items and MUCH MORE !**

Limited \$25 Vendor Tables Available

Call 413-786-7111 or




email @ office@agawamcong.com for more info.





March 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
3 10am Worship Service Communion	4 7pm Property	5 10am playgroup 6:30pm Missionary	6 11am Bible study	7 6:30pm Choir	8	9 7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J'z
10 10am Worship Service 12pm Church Without Walls *One Great Hour of Sharing	11	12 10am playgroup 7pm Deacons	13 11am Bible study 12:30pm Women's Fellowship Buccaneer Lounge	14	15	16
17 10am Worship Service	18 1pm Trustees 4pm Loaves & Fishes	19 10am playgroup 1st day of Spring! 	20 11am Bible study	21 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm Choir	22 9am-2pm Tag Sale	23 9am-2pm Tag Sale
24 10am Worship Service Palm Sunday	25 	26 10am playgroup	27 11am Bible study	28 1pm Exec. Board 6:30pm Choir	29 Good Friday	30
31 EASTER 10am Worship Service						