



THE AGAWAM ARROW

May 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:** Debra Pond

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 hard to believe it is May already! This will be my sixth month serving you and the church in Agawam. It has been a wonderful experience for me, and I have been extended a bit longer as the church continues meeting with its consultant and preparing a new and revised Church Profile. So, you'll have me around for a bit longer than initially expected!

In the midst of May, Eastertide will end with Jesus' Ascension and Pentecost. After that, we will go into a fairly long period of what is called "Ordinary Time" on our church calendar. During Ordinary Time, you will see the paraments in the church, as well as clergy stoles, will all be the liturgical color green. This period of Ordinary Time will continue until the beginning of Advent, which seems many months away! The purpose of this season is to support the whole congregation in living out the gifts and callings discerned during the Easter Season and commissioned on the Day of Pentecost.

The other thing I love about May, is that the flowers of spring will be coming to life again! And the trees will bloom and the heat of summer will become a normal part of our lives again.

Do you remember the ditty, "April showers bring May flowers?" I don't know about you, but the older I get the faster time seems to fly by. So, while it may seem that Ordinary Time will last a long time, before we know it, we will be preparing for Advent once again. And if I am still with you, a whole year will have passed by since my first Sunday in Agawam.

I imagine many of you will be preparing summer vacations and get-aways! Some of you may also decide to take a break from church! But I really hope you will not take a break, as we head through the summer together, and continue to worship our Lord God.

Godspeed,

Susanne

Moderator's Notes

This is the first time I have been the Moderator and it has been a real learning experience. I've learned a lot about our church finances and our affiliation with the umbrella organization the United Church of Christ (UCC). In the coming months I plan on sharing what I learn about these and other important issues concerning our church. You can expect to see a financial summary from our church treasurer in this and future monthly newsletters. We will also update you on our affiliation with the UCC and possibly other conferences as that situation develops.

Our church faces challenges but we also have many blessings. We are able to support our half time bridge pastor without much burden on our investments. We have a very competent and dedicated staff, generous and faithful members, life changing ministries, and best of all, the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future. I and the Executive Board will strive to use these blessings to keep our church “**...a place to call home, a people to call family...**”

Faithfully yours,
Dave Bertagnolli, Moderator

Parish Cupboard

All types of nonperishable food items

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on **May 11th** at 7:30 am at **Bobbie J'z**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Woman's fellowship will be on **Wednesday, May 8th** at the Partner's Restaurant. Please let Sharon know if you are going by May 7th, as she needs to make a reservation.

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 our 2nd meeting with the Consultant on April 27th and will have one more meeting to work out which direction our Congregation wishes to go forward. We had a meeting of the Search committee to discuss the rewriting of our Church Profile and it was unanimously decided to not do this until we have finished meeting with the Consultant. Meantime we have received an email of interest in applying for our part time position as our Pastor. This has come from a CCC member not via the SNEUCC. We shall be discussing whether to offer an interview with this possible applicant.

Lesley Young, Chairperson



MAY FLOWERS

Deacon of the Month of May: Debra Pond

When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues and the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2: 1-4

We celebrate Pentecost Sunday fifty days after Jesus resurrected from the dead. This day commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem. This year Pentecost is celebrated on May 19th. It is also celebrated as the birth of the church and Christianity.

At Pentecost through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit people of every nation are brought together in Christ Jesus.

On the night before He died Jesus told his disciples that He would be going away for some time. He reassure them that He would not be abandoning them and told them He would not leave them comfortless. John 14:18

Jesus promised that He would send us a comforter or helper that He may abide with you forever. The Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him or know Him, but you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:17

Jesus left believers with the precious gift of His Holy Spirit, a gift that abides in us always. He is the Spirit of Truth and source of Truth and communicates truth to us. Just as on Easter as we celebrated Christ's resurrection, let us now focus on the Feast Of Pentecost as Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit, who guides us in our daily lives so that we can testify of the real meaning of our Christianity through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Deacon, Debra Pond

5/5—In MEMORY of Eleanor Toussaint & Caroline Bassett's birthday- May 3rd

5/12 – Mother's Day

5/19 —In Memory of Mr.&Mrs. Frank Hayden, Parents, Richard Hayden, Brother & John Timms, Husband from Judy Timms

5/26 —ALL MILITARY, past & present
(2) Honor of Bruce Mitchells' birthday
(3) Rose in memory of all those who died in service of their country



MISSIONARY

We shall be serving coffee hour for the month of May. It was decided at our last meeting that we shall not be having any special missions for the months of May - August. Any donations made will be used toward the Loaves and Fishes program.

Financial update from the Treasurer

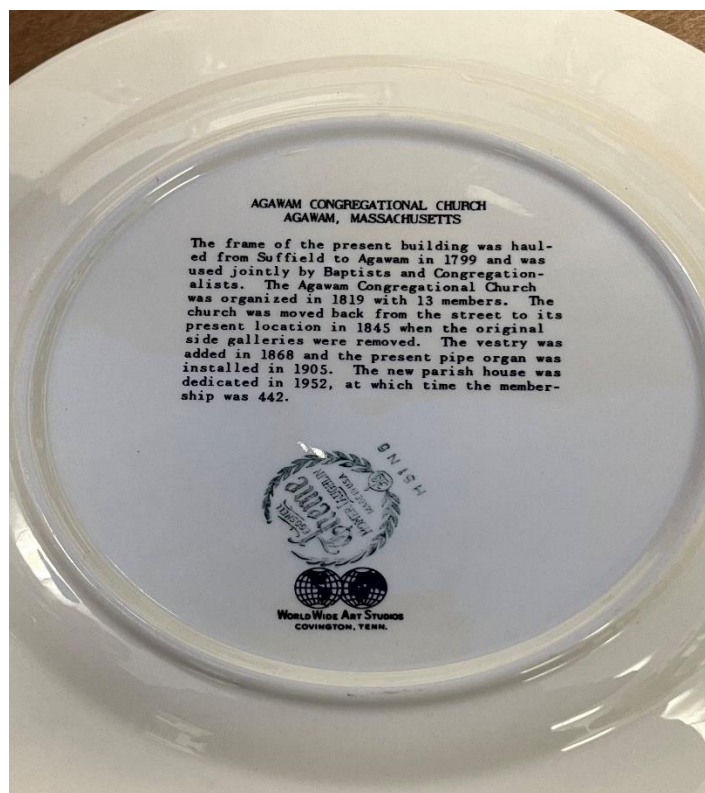
See below a summary of the operating income and expenses as compared to the budget. A big thank you to the congregation for supporting the operating expenses with your faithful giving on a timely basis.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Decoteau.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total Actual	2024 Budget	Actual vs. Budget %
Income from Pledges	13,550	8,549	10,708	32,807	115,000	29%
Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.)	2,316	4,346	6,114	12,776	49,675	26%
Income from Invested Funds	-	-	-	-	1,388	0%
Total Income	15,866	12,895	16,822	45,583	166,063	27%
Pastor's Expenses	3,676	3,676	3,676	11,028	58,753	19%
Other Personnel Salaries	3,851	3,851	3,851	11,553	46,700	25%
Other Operational Expenses	5,091	6,051	4,019	15,161	60,610	25%
Total Expenses	12,618	13,578	11,546	37,742	166,063	23%
March represents 3/12 or 25%						







NOTE OF INTEREST

Dale Melanson came across this plate at a tag sale.



May 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			11am Bible study	6:30pm Choir		
5 10am Worship Service Communion	6 7pm Property	7 6:30pm Missionary 10am playgroup	8 11am Bible study 12pm Women's Fellowship Partners Restaurant	9 6:30pm Choir	10 	11 7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J'z
12 10am Worship Service 12pm Church Without Walls	13 	14 10am playgroup 7pm Deacons	15 11am Bible study	16 6:30pm Choir	17	18
19 10am Worship Service	20 1pm Trustees 4pm Loaves & Fishes	21 10am playgroup	22 11am Bible study	23 1pm Exec. Board 6:30pm Choir	24	25
26 10am Worship Service	27  Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	28 10am playgroup	29 11am Bible study	30 	31	