



THE AGAWAM ARROW

May 2025



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 Daniel Cohen

Organist/ Choir Director: Ann Tapply

Administrative Assistant: Dawn Stevens office@agawamcong.com

Church Sexton: Dave Christian

Deacon of the Month: Betty Burrage

Website: www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

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



Hi my fellow Agawam Congregational Members,

It's been less than three months since I became your pastor, and already things are starting to happen.

Good things.

In fact, people have told me that there is a new energy in this place. That there is a strong sense of hope where there wasn't one before.

Well, I'm excited to tell you that, as I shook hands after Easter service something that had never happened to me before happened.

A gentleman told me that he'd like to join the church.

What's more, there are six others who, though slightly less dramatically, have indicated their desire to become part of this body of believers.

So we are growing.

Already.

And to whom do we have to thank for all of this?

Not me.

For in the final analysis, I could work 20 hours a day, seven days a week and pass out a thousand of those invitation business cards I gave out to you the other day, and still not a soul might join the church because of it.

For in the end, it's all about God and His Grace. That without God, nothing will be accomplished.

Not that we shouldn't do our part.

For in the case of the gentleman who expressed interest in joining the church on Easter Sunday after meeting with me in my office, it was one of you who had invited him to church the week before that helped make that happen. And it may not have happened at all had I given a bad sermon.

So was it God or was it us?

The answer is "Yes."

For God uses us to help fulfill His wishes.

I'm reminded of the story of the Rabbi who wants to win the lottery. He prays to God "Lord, let me win the lottery."

He doesn't win.

So he pleads with God. "God, I've been a good Rabbi. I've kept your commandments and led your people in the ways of the Torah. Lord, please let me win the lottery."

Again, he doesn't win.

Finally, he begs God to help him win the lottery. "God, I don't understand why you've failed me so far! You know how much I need the money. My kids are going off to college and I can't afford the tuition. Lord I beg of you please, *please* let me win the lottery!"

Suddenly a voice comes booming down from heaven. “Moshe,” God says. “Meet me halfway – buy a ticket!”

The point: That God will work with us, but we have to do our part as well.

So my friends, let me leave you with this: This month be on the lookout for those who need a loving church home – and for those who need Christ. Then talk to them about our church and a God who loves them so much He sent down His Son to die on a Cross for us to save us from the consequence of our sins.

Much love always,

Pastor Dan



What a better nation we would be
if we stopped telling each other
to have a happy Memorial Day and
instead reminded each other
to have a grateful one.
@faithnofilter
May you have a Grateful Memorial Day.



MODERATOR'S NOTE

Last month Pastor Daniel shared his daily routine of prayer, praise and reading. Every few months we announce the availability of the latest daily devotionals Upper Room and Our Daily Bread. Whatever your routine may be, we all should know our need to connect with God daily. I hope you take advantage of these or other resources to enhance your walk with our risen Savior and let me know if there are any other materials we can provide. The Apostle Paul's encouraged the Colossians by writing:

***“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,” - Colossians 2:6
NKJV***

At our April meeting the Executive Board reviewed recent activities including the tag sale and Easter services. We are now preparing for the Pastor's move into the parsonage and planning summer activities. Our last meeting before the summer break is scheduled for May 29.

Yours in Christ,

David Bertagnolli, Moderator

Parish Cupboard

All types of nonperishable food items.

Please be sure that items are within "best if used by date".

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on Saturday,
May 10th at 7:30 am at
Bobbie J'z

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's fellowship will be on **Wed. May 7th**
12th at 12:30pm Kaptain Jimmy's

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

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.

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!

CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE

The Boy Scouts will be holding a can and bottle drive in the parking lot on Saturday, May 31st, from 11am-3pm.



MAY FLOWERS

Deacon of the Month of April: Betty Burrage

Every day we are surrounded by God's blessings, not the least of which is the joy of fellowship. Whenever we show our love and appreciation of others, whether through our actions, words, or just with a smile, we channel God's love for every one of us.

We can take inspiration from the popular lawn signs that urge us to "Be Kind", but we need God's help and guidance to follow through. To this end, here is a wonderful prayer that appears on a granite boulder in Stanley Park in Westfield.

..... A Prayer

O Lord, grant that each one who has to do with me today may be the happier for it. Let it be given me each hour today what I shall say and grant me the wisdom of a loving heart that I may say the right thing rightly.

Help me to enter into the mind of everyone who talks to me and keep me alive to the feelings of each one present. Give me a quick eye for little kindnesses that I may be ready in doing them and gracious in receiving them. Give me a quick perception of the feelings and need of others and make me eager hearted in helping them. **Amen.**

If you seek to visit the "Prayer Boulder", remember to smell the roses along the way.

Blessings to all.

Betty Burrage, Deacon

5/4 – In loving MEMORY of ELEANOR TOUSSAINT and in HONOR of CAROLINE BASSETT for their May 3rd. birthdays from DICK & CAROLINE BASSETT

5/11 – in loving MEMORY of MR.&MRS. FRANK HAYDEN, parents, RICHARD HAYDEN, brother & JOHN TIMMS, husband of JUDY TIMMS

5/18 – in HONOR of DALE MELANSON, from her daughter SHELLY GONCALVES

5/25– IN HONOR OF ALL MILITARY(men and women) past and present

(2) in HONOR of BRUCE MITCHELL'S birthday, husband of NANCY MITCHELL

(3) Red Rose in MEMORY of all those who have died in SERVICE to their country, from the FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE. **WE DON'T KNOW THEM ALL.....BUT WE OWE!! THEM ALL.**



MISSIONARY

There will be no special mission this month, and all donations will be used toward the Loaves and Fishes program

Lesley Young, Chair

GIRL SCOUTS

A big "Thank You" from troop# 66350 for your support of their sale of Girl Scout cookies on March 23rd. The sale will finish in April and the commission that the troops earn will be used for programs for the girls.

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total Actual	2025 Budget	Actual vs. Budget %
Income from Pledges	12,573	8,901	13,549	35,023	121,000	29%
Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.)	5,462	2,650	5,446	13,558	30,675	44%
Income from Invested Funds	-	-	4,000	4,000	55,395	7%
Total Income	18,035	11,551	22,995	52,581	207,070	25%
Pastor's Expenses	1,600	400	13,505	15,505	86,492	18%
Other Personnel Salaries	4,478	4,603	4,495	13,576	55,848	24%
Other Operational Expenses	4,464	5,213	5,522	15,199	64,730	23%
Total Expenses	10,542	10,216	23,522	44,280	207,070	21%
March represents 8/12 or 25%						



AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH INVITES TO YOU

HILLFEST

WORSHIP FESTIVAL

SATURDAY

JULY 19, 2025



BUS LEAVES AT 12 NOON | RETURNS AT 10PM
FROM AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 754 MAIN STREET, AGAWAM

BRING CHAIR * BRING PICNIC LUNCH OR DINNER * NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED.

FOOD TRUCKS AND VENDORS WILL BE AT EVENT!

\$60 PER PERSON

INCLUDES BUS, TIP, EVENT TICKET, AND PARKING

RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY JUNE 1ST * CASH OR CHECK ACCEPTED

TEXT OR CALL: **413-204-4717**

EVENT IS RAIN OR SHINE. NO REFUNDS.

WWW.HILLFESTEVENTS.COM



May 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 10am Worship Service Communion	5 7pm Property	6 6:30pm Missionary	7 12:30 Women's fellowship Kaptain Jimmy's	8 6:30pm Choir	9 	10 7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J's 10am Deacons
11 10am Worship 12pm Church Without Walls MOTHER'S DAY	12	13 	14	15 6:30pm Choir	16	17
18 10am Worship	19 1pm Trustees 4pm Loaves & Fishes	20	21	22 1pm Executive Board 6:30pm Choir	23	24
25 10am Worship Service	26 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	27	28	29 	30	31 3pm Boy Scouts Can and Bottle Drive (Parking lot)