THE AGAWAM ARROW

November 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
Church Sexton: Dave Christian
Deacon of the Month: Nancy Mitchell
Website: **www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com**
Office phone: 413-786-7111 Office hours: Mon-Fri 8am-12pm



From the Pastor's Desk

A Church to Be Proud Of!

I don't mind telling you that I'm feeling mighty bullish about Agawam Congregational Church these days! Many of you have labored tirelessly with our Pumpkin infestation.

And while our first Praise and Pizza Night was a tremendous success, bringing approximately 80 people together for worship, prayer, music and fellowship, what excites me most isn't simply what happened that evening. It's the extraordinary group of people who made it happen—and who have been faithfully serving this church for years, long before Pastor Dan ever came on the scene!

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus tells us, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

Well, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, that's precisely what you've been doing. And I think it's time we celebrated YOU!

A Team of All-Stars!

In my recent sermon, I compared our church to a football team, complete with quarterbacks, running backs, offensive linemen and some mighty impressive players who do their best work in the trenches.

And what a team we have!

Let's start with Dennis King, who not only helped make Praise and Pizza Night possible by paying for the pizza but also arranged transportation for 28 guests from Springfield—25 from Loaves and Fishes and three from Springfield Rescue Mission. Dennis also showed us what a strong man he is when our enormous shipment of pumpkins arrived!

Then there's our sexton, Dave Christian, whose delicious macaroni and meat sauce has become a monthly favorite at South Church's Loaves and Fishes ministry. Working alongside Dave are Gail and Tom Mathes, Dee Cyr, Judy Davis, Ron, Sharon Christian, Nancy Mitchell, and others who faithfully prepare and serve meals. My wife Christine and Sam Mathes have also helped.

This ministry doesn't bring a penny into our church treasury. In fact, it costs money. But look at the blessings it produced! Twenty-five of the people who joined us for Praise and Pizza Night came through our relationship with Loaves and Fishes.

Sometimes the ministries that produce the least money produce the greatest spiritual dividends.

Making a Joyful Noise—and So Much More!

What would our church be without music?

Our wonderful Music Director, Ann Tapply, works tirelessly to make our worship services special. She's joined by our faithful choir, and for Praise and Pizza Night, Steve Tapply brought his considerable talents as a guitarist and vocalist, joined by Marilyn Alexander and Christine.

And let's not forget Deseree Blair, who even tried to teach her rhythmically challenged pastor how to clap to the beat!

We are also blessed by Andrew Ellsworth, who helps keep the computer and technology running during our services. It's easy to overlook the people behind the scenes until something goes wrong. Andrew's contribution is an important part of our worship experience.

And a special word of appreciation for Miracle and Serenity, whose presence brings such joy and youthful energy to our church family. They remind us that the church is not simply a place where people gather on Sunday mornings. It's a family spanning generations.

The People Who Keep the Church Going

Speaking of people working behind the scenes, let's recognize the extraordinary efforts of Cindy Taylor and Ann Tapply, who have helped lead our pumpkin fundraiser, along with Marilyn Alexander, Myron Rust and everyone else who has volunteered their time.

Our Scouting friends also deserve tremendous thanks for helping unload those mountains of pumpkins. And I owe special thanks to Dale Melanson, who literally broke my fall when I took an unfortunate tumble off the pumpkin truck!

Then there are the leaders who keep our church functioning week after week.

Our Executive Board, led by Moderator Dave Bertagnolli, makes important decisions affecting our church's future. Our Trustees, led by Dale Melanson, oversee our finances and property. Our Deacons, led by Deb Pond, help make our worship services possible.

The Fundraising and Events Committee, led by Lorraine Dowd, works tirelessly to organize activities and bring people together. And Roberta Page deserves recognition for coming forward with some great ideas for our church.

Our Treasurer, Donna Decouteau, is one of the most faithful and dedicated people I've encountered, working behind the scenes with remarkable commitment and grace. Our wonderful Church Secretary, Dawn Stevens, is another essential part of the team, faithfully keeping our office running and helping hold everything together.

And let's recognize the many other ministries and their leaders: the Property Committee, including Dave Christian and Tom Mathes; the Men's Ministry, led by Dave Bertagnolli; the Missionary Committee and Pastoral Support, led by Leslie Young; the Safety Committee, headed by Marilyn Alexander; Christian Education, led by Christine; our Church Without Walls ministry, led by Nancy Mitchell; and our Flower and Friendship Committees, with Marilyn also helping lead the latter.

Each of these ministries contributes something important to the life of our congregation.

Our Prayer Warriors

I also want to offer special recognition to Myron Rust, Neal Ellsworth and Warren Tapply for their faithful service as prayer warriors.

Prayer is not always the most visible ministry in a church. There may be no applause, no public recognition and no way to measure its impact. But I believe prayer is one of the most important things we do.

When we pray for one another, for our church and for those who are hurting, we are doing the work of Christ. And I thank these men, along with everyone else who faithfully lifts our congregation before the Lord.

A Church Family That Keeps Growing

One of the most moving moments of Praise and Pizza Night was seeing Steve Paul and Buddy Vecchio back with us after their surgeries. Their presence reminded me that the success of a church isn't measured simply by attendance figures or financial contributions. It's measured by the relationships we build and the love we show one another.

And what a wonderful evening it was!

Approximately 80 people attended, including guests from Springfield and the surrounding communities. One person accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, and at least seven came forward for prayer.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Some people came because they heard there would be free pizza. But interestingly, when asked what they liked best, people mentioned the music and the message—not the pizza!

As I've said before, I first came to church because of a woman. Jesus has a way of fishing for us while we're fishing for something else!

Our next Praise and Pizza Night is scheduled for **Saturday, November 14, at 3 p.m.** I hope many of you will join us, invite friends and help us continue building bridges between Agawam, Springfield and beyond.

Every Member of the Team Matters
Finally, I want to thank every single person who faithfully attends our services, contributes financially, volunteers, prays, encourages others, or simply offers a welcoming smile to someone walking through our doors.
Not everyone serves on a committee. Not everyone sings in the choir, prepares meals or organizes fundraisers. But every one of you matters.
Your presence matters. Your prayers matter. Your generosity matters. Your love matters.
And as we enter our stewardship season, I hope you'll remember that your financial support helps make all these ministries possible. We have a church building to maintain, programs to support, and new opportunities to reach people with the love of Christ.
But even more important than the dollars we give is the spirit in which we give them.
In the Parable of the Talents, the master tells his faithful servant, "Well done, good and faithful servant."
I believe those are words God wants each of us to hear.
I am so grateful to be serving as your pastor. And I want you to know that I recognize how much of what makes this church special was already here when I arrived. You have kept the faith, supported one another, weathered challenges and continued doing God's work.
Now we're building on that foundation together.
So give yourselves a great big round of applause!

Agawam Congregational Church truly is a church to be proud of.
And I believe the best is yet to come.

With love and appreciation,
Pastor Dan

COLLATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank You All from the Collation Committee

The Collation Committee has been providing a light lunch following a Funeral/Memorial Service for church members and friends since 2013, and during this time we have done 39 collations. Times change and today many families prefer to have these at a local restaurant or elsewhere.
At this time we will not continue to do collations. If you would still like to have this type of luncheon, Bryan Hall is available to use and you are welcome to have food brought in either from friends or a caterer. You would need to be in contact with Dawn in the office for information on using Bryan Hall.
I have been very fortunate to have MANY church women in the past, and at this time, who have been willing to help in any way, whether it has been making sandwiches, baking or preparing things ahead of time. I thank you all for always being willing to help , many times at short notice. Our original intent was to do this for our church members in a familiar setting where they would be able to circulate and visit with friends at a sad time.

Deacon of the month: ***Nancy Mitchell***

Deacon of the month for November

As we enter into the year 2026, we look back at the should've, could, and would've in our lives. But does that make us better off? No, not really. Those should've, could've and would've were not meant to be. God had a plan for us, if he wanted us to look back, he would have told us to. No, God wanted us to move forward and how much better off are we today. We have to trust in him, think with our heart instead of our minds. Just look in God's direction, he will be there, he promises he will.



Flowers

A note from the Flower Committee:

The Church flower committee has decided to change the way we do the Sunday flowers. Caroline Bassett has been handling this for probably the last 20 years and has always done a wonderful job, and we thank her for her efforts. We are trying to make this easier for the committee and still provide the benefit of having flowers and allowing members to remember their loved ones.

We have prepared a spreadsheet, which will be hanging in the Narthex on the whiteboard, which shows the upcoming weeks and allows members to sign up to bring flowers for the week they have chosen. You will be responsible for picking up your own flowers and transporting them to church for the altar. Dawn, in the church office will be looking at that list and putting the appropriate information in the Sunday morning bulletin. For those who are unable to get to a flower shop or a grocery store to get flowers, you can reach out to the flower committee, and they will be happy to help you.

On weeks there has been no one signed up, the flower committee will make sure that there are flowers at the altar.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on Saturday, **November 14th** at 7:30 am at **Bobbie J'z**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Will be announced.

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 3rd 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

Donations were received in memory of

Nancy Modzelewski

MISSIONARY

We shall be setting up a table in the Narthex during the month of November so that we can collect money for the **Blanket Fund**. This is a very worthy worldwide mission to donate blankets to those in need. Please stop by the table before the church service begins and if you can make a donation. The suggested donation is $10.

PASTORAL SUPPORT GROUP

We shall be holding our next meeting on Sunday November 15th after coffee hour. If you have any issues you wish to be discussed, please contact one of the Group members who are Donna Decoteau, Steve Paul, Warren Tapply, Pastor Dan,& Lesley Young.

GIRL SCOUTS

The troops are still selling nuts, candy,& magazines as their Fall Fundraiser to raise monies for their troop expenses. This will finish on November 29th.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Well, what a busy and successful event! A huge thank you to Dennis King for his supervision setting out the trunks and for his Haunted Bus, and to all those who set up a trunk, including the Agawam Police and Fire Dept. Donna Decoteau set the ball rolling as she was going to be enjoying a well-earned vacation and would not be present on the date of the event. She and Deb Pond put together 160 treat bags, and as we had more candy donations, with the help of Dale Melanson we put together another 40, AND WE RAN OUT!!! That means that over 200 kids attended with their parents, what a great outreach program this event is and we had perfect weather. We were also able to collect some sauce and pasta for the Loaves and Fishes program together with other nonperishables that will be donated to the Parish Cupboard.

ONCE AGAIN, A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL PEOPLE THAT WERE INVOLVED!

Praise and Pizza Night



Saturday, November 14th at 3pm

At Agawam Congregational Church
745 Main St.

Free pizza – Your choice of meat, veggie or cheese

Live music, a short sermon and a high time in the Lord!!

Please let us know if you'll be joining us, 786-7111 or office@agawamcong.com

We'd love to know if you're coming but all are welcome.



November 2026

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
	7pm Property			4pm Choir		
8	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
10 am Worship 11am Church without walls			6:30pm Deacons	4pm Choir		7:30am **Men's Fellowship@** Bobbie J'z 10am Boy Scout Clean Up 3pm Praise & Pizza
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
10 am Worship	4pm Loaves & Fishes 6pm Trustees			4pm Choir	Bazaar set up	9am Holly Wreath Bazaar
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
10 am Worship	1pm Executive Board			OFFICE CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving!	OFFICE CLOSED	
29	**30**					
10 am Worship						