



THE AGAWAM ARROW

October 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

Deacon of the Month: Bill Murray

Website: www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

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



The Pastor's Musings

One of my very favorite scripture lessons comes from the gospel of John, which is also my favorite gospel! It says this: “Let not your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go, and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will take you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also (John 14:1-3).”

In this lesson, Jesus packs so much information and so much love that I can't help but rejoice in His words! And it's not because Jesus is talking about the afterlife, as much as it is because Jesus is making promises of love and comfort to all of us! Everywhere! And Jesus' promises make me feel really good, and really warm, and really fuzzy!

“Let not your hearts be troubled,” coming from Jesus, makes me believe that I should pay more attention to him, and not be so worried about everything that I have no control over. It's so easy for us to carry around a heaviness in our hearts. But Jesus tells us that we can all be relieved of such heaviness, if we would only listen to Jesus, relax a bit, and believe in all He says!

“You believe in God, believe also in me,” says Jesus. And do you know what? That's so easy to do when we think about Jesus' life on earth, and what He accomplished for all of us. When we look at Jesus, we can understand an awful lot about our God. We can see God through the way Jesus lived, and loved, and cared about us, while he dwelled upon this earth. And we can believe that this also is the true nature of God!

“In my Father's house are many rooms.” Wow! Jesus seems to be telling us that there is a place reserved for each and every one of us in God's Kingdom. Yes, we will be with God! Yes, we will even see God! Jesus' words are getting more and more exciting as we go along!

On to my favorite verse in this whole lesson! “If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?” Why is this my favorite? Because I hear Jesus saying to us, “I'm telling you all of this because it is true! I'm telling you all of this because you can count on every word I utter. I would never tell you something that I could not back up with the reality of God's Kingdom! I would never tell you anything that would mislead you. I would never deceive you. If it were not the truth, would I tell you all of these things? Of course not! Because - I AM the Truth!”

“And when I go, and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will take you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also.” More words of joy! More words of assurance! More words that we can absorb into our spirits, and always count on, because Jesus said them!

Can you imagine Jesus coming to you, and all of a sudden carrying you to a place that you’re not so sure about? Can you imagine Jesus carrying you in His arms, like a small child, and taking you with Him to a place of sheer joy and wonder, that you have yet to see? Can you imagine how you might feel, with Jesus taking you to the place where He resides? It’s indescribable! It’s unimaginable! But it’s breathtaking!

Do you believe in all of these words of Jesus? I know I do! And each of these words puts me in a place of pure amazement and delight! For if it were not so, why would Jesus have told us these things? And because Jesus says it is all true, I have no doubt in my mind that we will always be cared for by God. Now. Tomorrow. Forever.

Godspeed,
Susanne

Parish Cupboard

All types of nonperishable food items

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on **October 12th**
at 7:30 am at
Bobbie J'z

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's fellowship in October will be at
The Buccaneer Lounge on October 12 at
12:00. Please call/ email Sharon by 10/10 @
413-210-4438 or csharon63@yahoo.com if
you plan to attend.

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.

**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

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

It has been decided by the Executive Board not
to join the NACCC at this time and to stay with
the SNEUCC in our search for a new pastor. I am
extremely pleased to now tell you that our new
church profile has been accepted by the
Conference Minister and has now been posted on
their website. We now need lots of prayer from
all that we will attract many new applications.
God Bless.

Lesley Young, Chairperson



Deacon of the Month of October: Bill Murray

Hello fellow congregation members,

Hope all is well with everyone. I wanted to share a sonnet written by aviator John Gillespie. What touched me was the bravery and deep faith in god these aviators had. They faced overwhelming odds in a lot of these battles. Our veterans should always be honored and never disrespected. I thank god for who they are and the sacrifices they make for us. God Speed to all of them. Amen.

Getting back to John. He was a fighter pilot in World War 2. He was an American who flew with the RAF at the beginning of the Battle of Britain. This is called High Flight a pilots prayer.

Oh I have slipped the surly bonds of earth and danced
the skies on laughter silver wings.

Sunward I've climbed, and joined the mirth- Of the
sun-split clouds- and done a hundred things. You have
not dreamed of- Wheeled and soared and swung-
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there. I've chased
the shouting wind. Along and flung my eager craft
through footless hall of air up up the long delirious ,
burning blue.

I've topped the wind swept heights with easy grace.
Where never lark, or even an eagle flew.

And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod. The high
untrespassed sanctity of space, put out my hand and
touched the face of God.

Deacon,
Bill Murray

OCTOBER FLOWERS

10/6 – In loving MEMORY of DONALD FOGG,
husband of BETTY FOGG

10/13 – In loving MEMORY of STELLA
HUBBELL, mother of CAROLINE BASSETT,
from DICK & CAROLINE

10/20 – In loving MEMORY of “BUD” STRNISTE,
husband of CATHIE STRNISTE

10/27 – In loving MEMORY of FRANCIS
HURLBUTT, mother of DONNA
DECOTEAU



MISSIONARY

I am very pleased to let you know thanks to your generosity; I was able to deliver 4 full boxes of school supplies to Phelps Elementary School. The teachers were very appreciative. Our next mission will be in November and will be the Blanket Fund. Meantime, any donations will be put toward the Loaves & Fishes ministry.

Lesley Young, Chairperson

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.

[illegible]



Agawam Congregational Church
Invites you to a

TURKEY DINNER

SATURDAY, October 19, 2024

5:00 p.m.

TICKETS \$17 No tickets at door

Sit down and take out available!

***Cash or Check only. Deadline for tickets – October 16th**

Enjoy turkey with gravy, stuffing, butternut squash, roll, cranberry sauce, and a gingerbread square with whipped cream.

**Agawam Congregational Church
745 Main Street**

Tickets sold in the office M-F 8am-12pm. If you have a question,
please call

786-7111 or email office@agawamcong.com





ACC Family Playgroup

You're invited to join us for crafts, stories,
songs, free play and more!

When – Every Tuesday from 10 am – 11 am

Starting on Sept. 17th

Where – Agawam Congregational Church
745 Main St

Who – All children from birth to 5 years old



Contact the office at
786-7111 or
office@agawamcong.com
with questions or more
information and to let us
know if you'll Be joining
us!

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HOLLY WREATH BAZAAR



Country Store
Bakery
Farmers Market
Raffles
Crafters
Café
Christmas Corner

Saturday, November 23, 2024
9am-2pm
745 Main Street Agawam

TRUNK OR TREAT

We need your help! Can you donate candy? Enter a trunk? Volunteer on the 27th? Please see Donna Decoteau or Dawn if you have any questions.



*A FUN AND SAFE TRICK OR
TREATING EVENT FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY!*

Agawam Congregational Church
745 Main Street, Agawam
Sunday, October 27, 2024
4 pm—6 pm

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

3:15 PM TRUNK SET UP BEGINS

**4 PM TRUNKS OPEN FOR
VIEWING & VOTING**

5:45 PM AWARDS

BRING A BOX OF ELBOW
MACARONI OR A JAR OF
SPAGHETTI SAUCE TO BENEFIT
OUR LOAVES & FISHES
MINISTRY TO BE ENTERED IN A
SPECIAL RAFFLE PRIZE!



VEHICLES MUST PREREGISTER AS THERE IS A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPACES AVAILABLE.

To register your trunk contact ACC @ 413-786-7111 or email

office@agawamconq.com with your name, email, phone number & trunk theme!

*All candy donations are welcome to be dropped off at the church by OCTOBER 25st.

*There is NO access to electricity and generators are PROHIBITED.

*Jumper cables will be available for graveyard batteries.


*ONLY VEHICLES PARTICIPATING will be allowed to park in the lot. ALL OTHERS MUST PARK along
Elbert or Monroe Streets.

VEHICLES MUST BE READY FOR THE EVENT by 3:45 PM.



October 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10am playgroup 6:30pm Missionary	2 11am Bible study	3 6:30pm Choir	4	5
6 10am Worship Service Communion	7 7pm Property	8 10am playgroup 7pm Deacons	9 11am Bible study	10 6:30pm Choir	11	12 7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J'z 12pm Women's Fellowship Buccaneer
13 10am Worship Service 12pm Church Without Walls	14	15 10am playgroup	16 11am Bible study	17 6:30pm Choir	18	19 5pm Harvest dinner
20 10am Worship Service	21 1pm Trustees 4pm Loaves & Fishes	22 10am playgroup	23 11am Bible study	24 1pm Exec. Board 6:30pm Choir	25	26
27 10am Worship Service 4pm TRUNK OR TREAT	28	29	30	31		