



# THE AGAWAM ARROW

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October 2024

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## 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](mailto:office@agawamcong.com)

**Church Sexton:** Dave Christian

**Deacon of the Month:** Bill Murray

**Website:** [www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com](http://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 12<sup>th</sup>**  
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](mailto: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  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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 delirous , 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 untrampled 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





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 16<sup>th</sup>

**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](mailto:office@agawamcong.com)





# ACC Family Playgroup

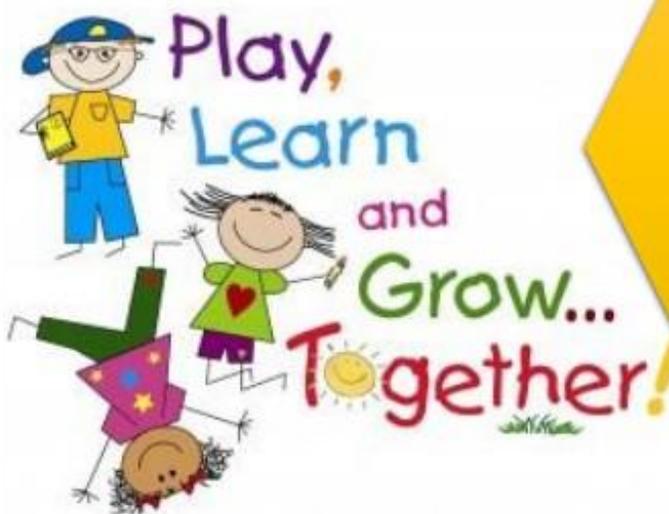
You're invited to join us for crafts, stories,  
songs, free play and more!

When – Every Tuesday from 10 am – 11 am

Starting on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto: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 27<sup>th</sup>? 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

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!

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**3:15 PM TRUNK SET UP BEGINS**

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

**5:45 PM AWARDS**



*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](mailto: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
20 10am Worship Service	21 1pm Trustees 4pm Loaves & Fishes	22 10am playgroup	23 11am Bible study	24 6:30pm Choir	25	26 5pm Harvest dinner
27 10am Worship Service	28	29	30	31		
4pm TRUNK OR TREAT						