

# THE AGAWAM ARROW

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October 2025

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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, 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](mailto:office@agawamcong.com)

**Church Sexton:** Dave Christian

**Deacon of the Month:** Cindy Sanford

**Website:** [www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com](http://www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com)

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



September has been a busy month for me and our church – and so far our “new year” has gotten off to a great start!

First, I want to thank everyone who helped out at my INSTALLATION CEREMONY! This was a fantastic success with everyone I invited from near and far coming out to help celebrate with our church family. This included the other clergy from the Hampden Association (a group of 12 churches within the Southern New England United Church of Christ), as well as our Area Conference Minister, Terry Ogawa, who spoke passionately about her joy at seeing this church find a settled pastor after a five-year search.

I will never forget the ceremony or what an honor it is to serve this great church!

Second, this was followed by another great honor, as I was asked to preach at the 9/11 memorial ceremony at the Agawam Fire House. Special thanks to those of you who came out to support me as we honored those who paid the ultimate price trying to save others.

Third, we held our very first FREE Car Wash – a free event that brought us goodwill in the community. Thanks to those who stopped by to represent as well as the boy Scouts and their leaders who scrubbed cars. Special thanks to Dave Christian who helped set up.

Finally, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, we were extremely well-represented at the annual Hampden Association sponsored end-of-summer service in Stanley Park, with roughly 40 of us being from ACC!!! At this event, SNEUCC Executive Director Darrell Goodwin spoke eloquently about inviting an apparently homeless man to a fancy restaurant when he realized the man didn't just want a free meal, but to spend time with Darrell and his friend.

One last bit of great news: We have several folks who want to join the church, including a family of four with two young children. That's right, people in their 30s and a couple of kids to go along with my granddaughters in what I'm hoping is only the beginning of a youth explosion in our church! The church is growing and our prayers are being answered! May God continue to bless you personally and Agawam Congregational Church as we move into the month of October, where we're all invited to – get this – a WEDDING as well! For while I hear the church hasn't done one of these in ages, Sandi Forni and Marvin Blakley will be marrying here on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. and ALL of you are invited to the ceremony!

## **MODERATOR'S NOTE**

I love the worship service in our church, from the familiar greeting to the benediction response, all in our the beautiful sanctuary with organ music and choir voices. What a blessing it is to worship our Lord in this way! I'll be away one Sunday this month but will watch the service online and look forward to being there in person the next Sunday. I hope you enjoy each and every worship service at the church and remember the words of the Apostle Paul:

***“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” - Colossians 3:16 NKJV***

At our September meeting the Executive Board reviewed upcoming activities including the restart of bible study, the tag sale October 3-4, chili luncheon November 2, the Holly Wreath bazaar on November 22 and our annual stewardship effort. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Monday October 27.

Yours in Christ,

David Bertagnolli, Moderator

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on Saturday,  
**October 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 am at  
**Bobbie J'z**

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's fellowship will be on **Wednesday,**  
**October 15<sup>th</sup>** at 12:30pm at the Take 5. Please let  
Sharon know if you're going @413-210-4438 or  
Csharon63@yahoo.com

**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 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

We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Donations were made to the church in  
memory of Wayne Vangsness

### 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.



### **Deacon of the Month of October: Cindy Sanford**

God is Always With You

Isaiah 41:10: Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

My husband and I frequently ride our motorcycle long distances, occasionally to Seattle. Before every trip, he has his motorcycle inspected as a safety precaution. Sometimes service misses a critical part of the inspection. As is the case here.

On this one trip to the Ohio Motorcycle Rally on a beautiful Memorial Day Weekend, our rear wheel bearings jammed on late Sunday. Unable to reach Harley-Davidson Service after hours, we worried we'd be stranded for the weekend with the nearest service department 45 minutes away and likely closed until Tuesday.

On Memorial Day, Monday, Jim was distraught about getting to work on Tuesday without a vehicle, and he was also stressed about his uncertain lodging. I began to pray and continued to pray.

Out of hopelessness, Jim, once again, phoned the service department early on Memorial Day, and unexpectedly, received an immediate response from the Service Department. The Harley-Davidson dealership picked up the motorcycle, addressed the issue within an hour, accurately diagnosed the problem, and, as the required part was unavailable, replaced the defective wheel with one from a new motorcycle. As the bike was under warranty, the process was covered. Within four hours, we were able to resume our journey and return home in time for work on Tuesday.

Jim noted that the service department exceeded his wildest expectations and on a national holiday no less. He acknowledged their work by providing a reference for the dealership on the website in recognition of their efforts. God works in wondrous ways.

Philippians 4:6-7: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Cindy Sanford Taylor, Deacon

### **FLOWERS**

October 5th – In loving MEMORY of DONALD FOGG, husband and ALAN, son, from BETTY FOGG

October 12<sup>th</sup> – in loving MEMORY of STELLA HUBBELL, mother of CAROLINE from DICK & CAROLINE BASSETT

October 19<sup>th</sup> - in loving MEMORY of “BUD” STRNISTE, from CATHIE STRNISTE

October 26<sup>th</sup> – in loving MEMORY of FRANCES HURLBUTT, mother, from DONNA DECOTEAU



From the Treasurer: Donna Decoteau

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total Actual	2025 Budget	Actual vs. Budget %
Income from Pledges	12,573	8,901	13,549	15,495	13,539	12,486	7,227	10,597	94,367	121,000	78%
Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.)	5,462	2,650	5,446	5,328	3,136	1,364	935	760	25,081	30,675	82%
Income from Invested Funds	-	-	4,000	-	-	5,000		7,500	16,500	55,395	30%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>18,035</b>	<b>11,551</b>	<b>22,995</b>	<b>20,823</b>	<b>16,675</b>	<b>18,850</b>	<b>8,162</b>	<b>18,857</b>	<b>135,948</b>	<b>207,070</b>	<b>66%</b>
Pastor's Expenses	1,600	400	13,505	7,737	12,763	5,871	8,251	6,907	57,034	86,492	66%
Other Personnel Salaries	4,478	4,603	4,495	4,499	4,499	4,501	4,497	4,500	36,072	55,848	65%
Other Operational Expenses	4,464	5,213	5,522	5,555	5,254	2,397	4,210	5,151	37,766	64,730	58%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,542</b>	<b>10,216</b>	<b>23,522</b>	<b>17,791</b>	<b>22,516</b>	<b>12,769</b>	<b>16,958</b>	<b>16,558</b>	<b>130,872</b>	<b>207,070</b>	<b>63%</b>
August represents 8/12 or 67%											

### GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout troop#11630 attended our coffee hour on the 21st of September and took orders for their Fall Fundraiser. These items will be delivered on Sunday November 16th. Thank you for your support.

### MISSIONARY


The Missionary group will not be holding a meeting in October. No special missions are organized for this month and any donations received will support the Loaves and Fishes program. If you are out shopping and have any spare cash, they are running low on elbow macaroni and pasta sauce so please pick up a packet or jar to support this great program, thanks.

Lesley Young, Chairperson

### PASTORAL CARE GROUP

We joined in the webinar provided by the SNEUCC this past month and now feel that we are fully advised on how to move forward. This group has been formed to ensure that there is a bridge between our congregation and Pastor to support all of us. As I mentioned before, if you feel you cannot discuss the topic with the Pastor then you can always bring it to the attention of a group member. It has been decided to meet quarterly, and our first meeting will be held on Sunday November 16th after coffee hour. If any matter should arise in between times, please contact either Pastor Dan or a group member listed here and we can call an immediate meeting.

Members are as follows: Pastor Dan, Warren Tapply, Steve Paul, Donna Decoteau, Debbie King, Marilyn Alexander, & Lesley Young



# 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. 16<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!

# Huge

# TAG SALE

WHERE: Agawam Congregational Church

745 Main St. Agawam

WHEN: October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

9am-2pm



There's something for everyone.  
sports cards, Home goods, toys, ,  
clothes, holiday décor, accessories,  
games, books and more more!





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

**Agawam Congregational Church**  
**745 Main Street, Agawam**  
**Sunday, October 26, 2025**  
**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@agawamcong.com](mailto:office@agawamcong.com) with your name, email, phone number & trunk theme!

\*All candy donations are welcome to be dropped off at the church by OCTOBER 22nd.

\*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.**



Get ready for the



# Holly Wreath Bazaar

November 22nd from 9:00 to 2:00 pm

Agawam Congregational Church

745 Main St.

Agawam, MA 01001

Christmas Season is upon us. Come join us on this festive occasion:

- There will be more than **20 vendors and crafters** attending for shopping opportunities. Santa's Seconds will also be available to visit.
- At our **Country Store**, you are invited to visit the **bakery**, which offers a selection of pies, cakes, cookies, bars, and confections. Popcorn will also be available.
- Participate in our **two raffles** (the grand raffle and the church raffle with various options).
- **Have lunch** at our cafe and enjoy fresh hamburgers, hotdogs, and cheeseburgers.

We look forward to your visit to our church at 745 Main St., in Agawam on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



October 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				9am Tag sale set up 6:30pm Choir	9am Tag Sale  4pm prayer 4:30 pm Bible study	9am Tag Sale
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am Worship	7pm Property	6:30 Missionary		6:30pm Choir	4pm prayer 4:30 pm Bible study	7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J'z 10am Deacons
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am Worship			12:30pm Women's fellowship @ Take Five	6:30pm Choir	4pm prayer 4:30 pm Bible study	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am Worship	1pm Trustees 4pm Loaves & Fishes			6:30pm Choir	4pm prayer 4:30 pm Bible study	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10am Worship 4pm Trunk or Treat	1pm Exec. Board			6:30pm Choir	4pm prayer 4:30 pm Bible study	