

THE AGAWAM ARROW

October 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: Neal Ellsworth

Website: www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

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

From the Pastor's Desk



Praise and Pizza Night: Opening Our Doors and Seeing Where God Leads!

For the past several months, I've been working on an idea that I believe has the potential to become a wonderful new ministry for Agawam Congregational Church. It's called Praise and Pizza Night, and our first gathering will take place Friday, October 16, at 6:30 p.m.

The idea is simple: Imagine people coming together from Agawam, Springfield and surrounding communities for an uplifting Christian experience featuring contemporary music, singing, prayer, a short message from the heart and free pizza afterward. Imagine people of all ages and backgrounds worshiping together, enjoying one another's company and perhaps discovering a church home they never knew they were looking for.

And imagine what this could mean for our church!

One of the things I love about ACC is our traditional Sunday morning service and the wonderful people who make up our congregation. I have no desire to change that. But what if we could create another doorway into our church, one that might appeal to younger adults, families, college students and others who might not ordinarily attend a traditional Sunday service?

That's the vision behind Praise and Pizza Night.

The response has been wonderful!

I've brought this idea to our Fundraising and Events Committee, Executive Board, Deacons and Trustees, and everyone is on board! It's exciting to see our church leadership united in enthusiasm for a new ministry.

And I've been busy reaching beyond our church walls as well.

I've been in conversation with the Springfield Rescue Mission and the folks we serve through Loaves and Fishes. I've reached out to colleges, campus ministries, other churches and community organizations. I've also been inviting people from a variety of backgrounds, including Scouts, Rotarians and other community groups.

One particularly encouraging development has been the generosity of Dennis King, who has offered to help transport groups to our church and contribute \$100 toward the pizza for each gathering!

Steve Tapply will be providing contemporary Christian music for our first service, and we're working through the many other details involved in bringing people together for what I hope will be a very special evening.

What could this mean for ACC?

I see Praise and Pizza Night as an opportunity to reach people who might never otherwise walk through our doors. Some may come because they're looking for a church. Others may come because they enjoy contemporary Christian music, want to meet new people or simply appreciate an invitation to a free evening of fellowship.

And some may come just for the pizza!

That's fine with me. After all, I first started going to church because of a woman! Jesus has a way of fishing for us while we're fishing for something else.

**Praise
and
Pizza
Night**



Friday, October 16th at 6:30pm
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@agawamcongregational.com
We'd love to know if you're coming but all are welcome.



My hope is that some of our visitors will eventually become part of our church family. But even if they don't, we'll have created an opportunity for people to encounter Christ, experience Christian fellowship and build relationships with people they might otherwise never meet. I also believe this ministry could bring new energy into our congregation. It gives us an opportunity to work together, discover new gifts among our members and become even more connected to the communities around us.

This is just the beginning.

Our plan is to make Praise and Pizza Night a monthly service. We're starting on Friday, October 16, but our November gathering will likely take place on a Saturday afternoon. That would make it easier for those who prefer not to drive after dark and give us an opportunity to experiment with different schedules as the ministry develops.

I don't believe we need to figure everything out in advance. We can try something new, learn from the experience, make adjustments and see where the Holy Spirit leads us.

And here's where you come in!

I'd love for every member of our church to participate in whatever way feels right. Perhaps you can invite a friend, neighbor or family member. Perhaps you have connections to a community organization, college or another church that could help us spread the word. Or perhaps you'd enjoy helping with hospitality, food, transportation or other preparations.

We'll be distributing Praise and Pizza Night invitation cards on the two Sundays before the event. Please take a few and share them!

And if you're concerned about driving after dark, call the church office at 413-786-7111. We'll work on arranging carpools so that you can join us.

Most of all, I'd ask you to pray for this ministry. Pray for the people who will come, for the relationships that will develop and for the opportunities God may open up for our church.

I'm genuinely excited about what lies ahead. We have a wonderful congregation, a beautiful church and an opportunity to share God's love with people from all walks of life.

Let's open our doors, welcome our neighbors and see where God takes us!

Blessings,

Pastor Daniel

The Pumpkins Are Coming! The Pumpkins Are Coming!

And we need your help!

Just one day after our first Praise and Pizza Night, another exciting event begins at Agawam Congregational Church!

On Saturday, October 17, at 11 a.m., the pumpkins will arrive, and we'll need plenty of volunteers to help the Boy Scouts unload them and get everything ready for our pumpkin sale. Beginning Sunday, October 18, and continuing through Saturday, October 31, we'll be selling pumpkins as a fundraiser for our church. We believe this has the potential to be a very successful fundraising event, but we'll need everyone's help to make it happen.

There are two ways you can help:

- Saturday, October 17, at 11 a.m.: Come help the Boy Scouts unload the pumpkins! Many hands make light work, and we'd love to have a good turnout.

- October 18–31: Sign up to help sell pumpkins in two- or three-hour shifts. You don't have to commit to an entire day. Even one shift would be a tremendous help!

Beyond raising funds for our church, the pumpkin sale will give us another opportunity to connect with our neighbors and welcome people onto our church grounds.

Whether you're able to unload pumpkins, work a sales shift or both, we'd love to have you participate.

Please contact the church office at 413-786-7111 or office@agawamcong.com to volunteer.

Let's make this a wonderful fall season at ACC!

Warmly,

Pastor Dan





Deacon of the month: Neal Ellsworth

Romans 1:20

“ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

There is a time for everything ,a season for every activity under heaven.

It’s a beautiful day, well sort of. On a good day depending on the season, I find it helpful to fully enjoy the good day that God has blessed us with an invigorating walk. Every season comes with its own extremes as whether or not it’s a good day. A good day allows you to achieve a few helpful things with an easy walk. First off, it’s a great stress reliever. It can be enjoyed in many ways sometimes if you are in a safe environment like your neighborhood, you can let your mind wander on god’s creative nature all around you. If you need that electric connection, try getting lost in music on your favorite music device. My IPOD, for example, has music consisting of hits from the 50’s, 60’s,70’s and so on each with its own enjoyable past memories.

As a physical benefit it can serve as nature’s medicine. Due to past medical events in my past, I have been encouraged to monitor my physical measurables. I have noticed that even an easy walk will maintain my normal weight, lower my blood pressure, and blood sugar. All this with just an easy enjoyable walk, no Rocky Balboa workout required, I have learned to substitute the detestable term “workout” with the term ‘enjoyable activity.’ So as the TV commercial says “Go take a hike.”

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,
October 10th at 7:30 am at
Bobbie J'z

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's fellowship will meet on Wednesday
October 7th at **The Buccaneer Lounge** at 12:30pm.

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

Financial update from the Treasurer – Donna Decoteau

Category	Q1	Q2	Jul	Aug	Total Actual	2026 Budget	Actual vs. Budget %
Income from Pledges	42,177	42,678	9,540	9,606	104,001	134,900	77%
Bank Balance 12/31/2025	(3,440)				(3,440)	-	0%
Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.)	6,387	6,462	1,417	961	15,227	27,000	56%
Income from Invested Funds	19,000	1,500	5,000	18,000	43,500	51,510	84%
Total Income	64,124	50,640	15,957	28,567	159,288	213,410	75%
Pastor's Expenses	23,369	24,292	7,193	6,702	61,556	91,828	67%
Other Personnel Salaries	14,164	14,028	4,676	4,677	37,545	56,151	67%
Other Operational Expenses	19,273	17,177	4,780	13,123	54,353	65,431	83%
Total Expenses	56,806	55,497	16,649	24,502	153,454	213,410	72%

August 2026 represents 8/12 or 67%

Note: Other operational expenses includes oil tank removal 50% deposit

MISSIONARY

There will be no special mission for October, any donations will be used to support the Loaves and Fishes program.

PASTORAL SUPPORT GROUP

Our next meeting will be held at the beginning of November, and we will advise you of the exact date in the Sunday bulletins. Meantime if you have any immediate concerns or you wish to raise any concerns at our next meeting, the following people are in the group and can be contacted. Steve Paul, Donna DeCoteau, Pastor Dan, Warren Tapply,& Lesley Young.

GIRL SCOUTS

The troops will be using the church facilities again this year and will be starting their meetings in the first week of October. They are in the process of earning troop money doing a Fall Fundraiser, and I am hoping that a Girl Scout will be coming to the coffee hour to show you the products they are selling so that you can order some goodies if you would like. Any orders will be delivered after the delivery date of November 17th. More details will come in your Sunday bulletin.

Praise and Pizza Night



Friday, October 16th at 6:30pm

**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.



PUMPKIN SALE & BAKE SALE: Fundraiser. **October 17-31** Signup sheet in Bryan Hall. Each day will have 3 shifts. Two people per shift. **Oct. 24th from 10am-2pm.**, there will be a bake sale. We are looking for bakers for this event. Please bring baked goods in on the 24th or put items in the fridge beforehand.

A colorful poster for a Pumpkin Sale. At the top, the words "Pumpkin Sale!" are written in a large, stylized font. To the left of the text is a jack-o'-lantern. Below the title, a wooden sign displays the church's name and contact information. A green banner below the sign shows the dates. An orange box lists the hours for different days of the week. The bottom of the poster features a variety of pumpkins, including orange, white, and striped ones, along with sunflowers and a small orange traffic cone on a hay bale.

Pumpkin Sale!

Agawam Congregational Church
145 Main St., Agawam, MA
Phone: 413-786-7111

Dates: October 17 – October 31

Hours:

- Mon–Fri: 9:00–12:00 noon & 2:00–4:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00–6:00 pm
- Sunday: 12:00–6:00 pm

**Come pick out your perfect pumpkin—
big, small, and everything in between!**



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

Agawam Congregational Church
745 Main Street, Agawam
Sunday, October 25, 2026
4 pm—6 pm



FEATURING



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 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.

October 2026

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4pm Choir	2	3
4 10 am Worship	5 7pm Property	6 6:30pm Missionary	7 12:30pm Women's fellowship Buceaneer Lounge	8 4pm Choir	9	10 7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J'z
11 10 am Worship 11am Church without walls	12	13 	14 6:30pm Deacons	15 4pm Choir	16	17 Pumpkin sale 17 th -31 st
18 10 am Worship	19 4pm Loaves & Fishes 6pm Trustees	20	21	22 4pm Choir	23 	24 10am-2pm Bake Sale
25 10 am Worship 4pm Trunk or Treat	26 1pm Executive Board	27	28	29 4pm Choir	30	31