

THE AGAWAM ARROW

September 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: Fay Borgatti

Website: www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

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

From the Pastor's Desk



Some thoughts on my 64th Birthday

Dear Church Family,

I recently celebrated my 64th birthday, not a BIG birthday, like, say, 60. Or 70.

Not even 65 when I can take a small pension.

Or 67 when the government finally allows me to take Social Security AND keep working.

But still a small milestone.

I remember my mother sending my Grampy a song for his 64th birthday. "Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64" sang the beetles.

This is truly the best time of my life.

And, oh, I've had some good times.

But nothing, I mean nothing, as rich as my life is now.

I'm working on a book about Depolarizing America politically. A book that is coming to fruition as we speak. Like a statue out of a block of marble. I've started speaking on the subject and the response has been incredible! I'm just learning about how others are making an impact in the same arena, and am so excited about where this project is going! I'm making new friends along the way and enjoying every minute of it.

As for the book itself, it keeps getting funnier, deeper and more useful.

And that's just the beginning of my joy.

For on this journey I'm accompanied by my wife of 21 years. My sons Jason and Samuel. My granddaughters Miracle and Serenity. And my dog Sammie.

Correction, "our" dog, Sammie.

My wife Christine keeps me on my toes. She's such an awesome and amazing woman. My relationships with Jason and Samuel keep deepening and I love them both dearly. As for Miracle – she is a free-spirited seven-year-old, full of vitality and energy. A natural performer. Serenity, who just turned 4 the other day, is more down-to-Earth and our relationship is and has always been deeply loving. As Christine noted the other day when Serenity took me by the hand and dragged me off to play with her "She knows she has your heart."

Sammie is a love machine – and reminds me daily that D-o-g spelled backwards is "G-o-d."

And while we're not precisely honeymooners anymore, having been together almost a year and a half now, my love affair with my church, Agawam Congregational Church, in Agawam, Massachusetts, continues. With new ideas coming to me for a second service – a monthly "event" with modern music pizza ordered by our "guests" percolating in my soul.

The people in my congregation have been such a blessing to me, my wife and our ministry. I can't say how grateful I am for God allowing me to be His under-Shepherd. For Jesus allowing me to worship Him in His Divinity – and being paid to do so. What an awesome privilege.

For this is my second birthday as Full-time Settled Pastor. And to live in a parsonage – a beautiful home right next to the church – and become a neighbor to my flock...allowing us to share a life as well as a ministry.

How good is that?

And to my merry band of psychotherapy clients, I love them, too. Some really good people.

Finally, a shout out to all of you. My friends and those who know me by my writing.

But I can't end this letter without talking about the One I love the most. God. God who is both Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit living with me. As I get closer to the finish line of this life, I am growing to trust Him

more. To preach without knowing He will catch me
And I pray for you, whoever
I want to brag, but because
of my sins. Worked with bad boys
than I deserve. My prayer
In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Deacons for the summer : Fay Borgatti

My journey to becoming a Deacon

I am not much of a joiner and certainly not a leader. I prefer not to try new things or go to new places. Becoming a deacon was not on my list of things to do. For quite some time I had started feeling an urge to become more involved in our church, but I never did anything about it. I thought I should pray about it more.

In January I asked God for a clear sign on what he

without a net,
to help me lead.
these things because
I've paid my
price. More kindness
it on me right now.



Men's Ministry Event

The Men's Ministry is having a "Pizza Get Together" this Friday,
September 4th, at Don Cook's house.

The time is 5:30 and the address is 129 Birch Hill Road, in Agawam
(street is off of Elm)

We will order after we all get together. Each person will supply his
own drink (beer, soda, etc.)

This is open to all Men of the Church, not just the guys that attend
the monthly breakfasts

Fay Borgatti

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on Saturday,
September 12 at 7:30 am at
Bobbie J'z

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's fellowship will meet on Wednesday
September 9th at **Bobby JZ's** at 12:00.

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	Total Actual	2026 Budget	Actual vs. Budget %
Income from Pledges	42,177	42,678	9,540	94,395	134,900	70%
Bank Balance 12/31/2025	(3,440)			(3,440)	-	0%
Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.)	6,387	6,462	1,417	14,266	27,000	53%
Income from Invested Funds	19,000	1,500	5,000	25,500	51,510	50%
Total Income	64,124	50,640	15,957	130,721	213,410	61%
Pastor's Expenses	23,369	24,292	7,193	54,854	91,828	60%
Other Personnel Salaries	14,164	14,028	4,676	32,868	56,151	59%
Other Operational Expenses	19,273	17,177	4,780	41,230	65,431	63%
Total Expenses	56,806	55,497	16,649	128,952	213,410	60%

July 2026 represents 7/12 or 58%

MISSIONARY

We met on August 9th to allocate the coffee hour duties for August 30th and the month of September.

As you may know the donations we collect at these coffee hours is used to purchase the hamburger needed for the Loaves and Fishes program each month. Unfortunately, the cost of this meat has increased from around \$50 and is now around \$90 and is eating into the funds we collect. If you feel that you are in a position to make an extra donation to this worthwhile program to help us bridge the gap, please leave your donation in the collection basket on the food table at the coffee hour, or leave your donation in an envelope and place it into the missionary collection box in the narthex.

PASTORAL SUPPORT GROUP

The group met with Pastor Dan on June 28th, and we confirmed that all was well in his household. We spoke with the pastor about the possibility of him using a body microphone which will help free his hands especially during Communion. This will be looked into. Two other matters were discussed that had been brought to the attention of the group. We will meet again in the fall.

GIANT

TAG SALE



When: Friday, Sept. 11th & Saturday, Sept., 2026

9 am—2 pm

Where : Agawam Congregational Church
745 Main Street, Agawam



sports cards, clothing and accessories, toys and games,
books, holiday décor, puzzles, kitchen & other
household items and MUCH MORE !

Call 413-786-7111 or
email @ office@agawamcong.com for more info.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:30pm Missionary	2	3 	4	5
6 10 am Worship	7 LABOR DAY Office closed 7pm Property	8	9 6:30pm Deacons 12:00pm Women's fellowship Bobby JZ's	10 Tag Sale Set Up	11 9am Tag Sale	12 7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J'z 9am Tag Sale
13 10 am Worship 11am Church without walls	14	15 	16	17	18	19
20 10 am Worship	21 4pm Loaves & Fishes 6pm Trustees	22	23	24	25	26
27 10 am Worship	28 1pm Executive Board	29	30			