

# THE AGAWAM ARROW

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September 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:** Deb Pond

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

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

*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*



## **The Pastor's Musings**

It is September already, and the start of a new church year. And something very important during this time is that we hold both our church and our Search Committee in continual prayer, as we continue our search for a new settled pastor. So let me share some ideas about how we might do that.

Let us pray that we, as a church, will wholeheartedly trust God while we continue this search. And let us pray that the Search Committee trust in the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray that we, as a church, always look to our first love, Jesus Christ. And let us pray that the Search Committee hear the Spirit clearly, as they walk through the search process.

Let us pray that we, as a church, maintain unity and peace while we search for our next pastor. And let us pray that the Search Committee maintains a strong sense of harmony, as they review and discuss potential pastoral candidates. Let us pray that we, as a church, continually abide in Christ, and produce much fruit that continually glorifies God during this interim period. And let us pray that the Search Committee remains in close relationship with Christ always, as they carry out their mission.

Let us pray that we, as a church, abide in the love of Christ, and love one another with that same love. And let us pray that God works with our Search Committee to bond our church and our future pastor together in that same love. Let us pray that we, as a church, maintain fruitful ministries, as we prepare for our next pastor. And let us pray that the Search Committee is blessed with answers to their prayers for guidance.

Let us pray that we, as a church, understand that searching for a pastor is not easy and is primarily a spiritual process. And let us pray that the Search Committee continually acknowledges that they are being guided by God. Let us pray that we, as a church, grow in love toward one another, and that any conflict within us be reconciled by our faith in one another and in our Triune God. And, finally, let us pray for the Search Committee and all of the work they are doing on our behalf.

Godspeed,  
*Susanne*

## **Moderator's Notes**

It was a very long and busy Executive Board meeting in August. As always, we opened with a prayer asking God for guidance then proceeded to address a number of issues including our Boy Scout packs, stewardship, church safety, the direction of our pastoral search, and continuing the conversation on Open & Affirming with Rev. Bixby. As the meeting progressed I realized that God had heard our prayer and was guiding the discussion. Christ was certainly in our midst!

Our work will continue at our September meeting when we will lay out a calendar of activities for the upcoming year. And we will continue to pray for the search committee and Deacons as Susanne has agreed to continue as our bridge pastor until January 2025. Let us rejoice in the power that the Holy Spirit brings to all we do as a church!

Yours in Christ,

David Bertagnolli, Moderator

### Parish Cupboard

**All types of nonperishable food items**

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on **September 14<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 am at **Bobbie J'z**

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Woman's fellowship in September will be at Bobby J'z on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. Please call/ email Sharon by 9/9 @ 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.**

### 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

Once the consultant had given us his findings, we held a congregational meeting to determine how we moved forward with our request for a new Pastor. It was decided at this meeting, that we should advertise for a three-quarter time pastor. From this we were able to rewrite our Church profile over the summer and this has now been submitted to the SNEUCC for their approval and we have asked for it to be placed on their website as soon as possible. In between times, we held a zoom meeting with the NACCC which was an informational meeting which allowed us to learn and ask questions concerning their association, with a view of the possibility of joining and advertising the Pastor position on their website. We are working on their application forms and are in discernment at this time.



## SEPTEMBER FLOWERS

### Deacons of the Month of September:

Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not unto thy own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

Do we trust only in the Lord when things are going well? That's easy!!! Our personal life couldn't be better, our health is at its best and so far, our kids are doing what they are supposed to do and to top it off we just got that raise at work. Life couldn't be better. Then life throws us a curve ball and we fall apart.

At our Bible study this week the scripture was read about having a strong foundation in Christ. If we're like the foolish man who built his house on sand and when the floods came and the winds blew and beat on that house, the house fell. *Matthew 7: 26-27*

Trusting God in ALL things is what God wants us to do. He is always there for us in good times and in rough weather. He wants us to pray without ceasing and to put all our trust in Him. His plan is always for us. He will never leave us or forsake us. *Hebrews 13:5*

Deb Pond, Deacon

9/1 – In loving MEMORY of BRANDON FONTAINE, son of SHARON CHRISTIAN

9/8 – In HONOR & APPRECIATION of ANN TAPPLY & CHOIR, from your CHURCH FAMILY

9/15 – Worship service at Stanley Park

9/22 – In loving memory of BEATRICE CROSBY, wife of MEL CROSBY, from SANDI FORNI

9/29 - In loving MEMORY of RAY WYCKOFF, husband & BRIAN WYCKOFF, son, from HEATHER WYCKOFF & FAMILY



### MISSIONARY

As mentioned in the summer newsletter, we had no specific missions over the summer and any donations were used to support the Loaves & Fishes program. For the last 2 weeks of August, it was decided to collect school supplies that will be donated to the Agawam schools.

## 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.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total Actual	2024 Budget	Actual vs. Budget %
Income from Pledges	13,550	8,549	10,708	10,626	8,199	8,488	14,685	74,805	115,000	65%
Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.)	2,316	4,346	6,114	4,807	3,382	2,357	6,418	29,740	49,675	60%
Income from Invested Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,388	0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,866</b>	<b>12,895</b>	<b>16,822</b>	<b>15,433</b>	<b>11,581</b>	<b>10,845</b>	<b>21,103</b>	<b>104,545</b>	<b>166,063</b>	<b>63%</b>
Pastor's Expenses	3,676	3,676	3,676	3,676	6,067	4,154	4,633	29,558	58,753	50%
Other Personnel Salaries	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	26,957	46,700	58%
Other Operational Expenses	5,091	6,051	4,019	4,070	5,062	2,853	3,930	31,076	60,610	51%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>12,618</b>	<b>13,578</b>	<b>11,546</b>	<b>11,597</b>	<b>14,980</b>	<b>10,858</b>	<b>12,414</b>	<b>87,591</b>	<b>166,063</b>	<b>53%</b>
<small>July represents 7/12 or 58%</small>										

### GIRL SCOUTS

The troops will be starting up again kicking their year off with a Fall fundraiser to attain some startup funds for the troop. Only 2 troops will be using the church facilities for their meetings this year. Our Unit wishes to continue to thank the church for the use of their facilities.

# HUGE TAG SALE



**When:** Fri., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> & Sat., Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 9 am—2 pm

**Where:** Agawam Congregational Church  
745 Main Street, Agawam

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



Limited \$35 Vendor Tables Available

Call 413-786-7111 or

email @ [office@agawamcong.com](mailto:office@agawamcong.com) for more info.



## 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





*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@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 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.**



# September 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am Worship Service Communion	2 <b>Office closed</b>	3 Labor Day	4 6:30pm Missionary	5 11am Bible study	6 9am-2pm TAG SALE	7 9am-2pm TAG SALE
8 10am Worship Service	9 7pm Property	10 6:30pm Missionary	11 11am Bible study	12 6:30pm Choir	13 	14 7:30am Men's Fellowship @ Bobbie J'z
15 10:30 Joint Worship Service <b>STANLEY PARK</b> 12pm Church Without Walls	16 1pm Trustees 4pm Loaves & Fishes	17 10am playgroup	18 11am Bible study	19 6:30pm Choir	20	21 
22 10am Worship Service	23	24 10am playgroup	25 11am Bible study	26 1pm Exec. Board 6:30pm Choir	27	28
29 10am Worship Service	30					
