

THE AGAWAM ARROW

Summer 2024



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

Church Sexton: Dave Christian **Deacons of the Month:** July-Marilyn Alexander
August-Don Cook

Website: www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

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

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



The Pastor's Musings

I want to share something with you that I personally think is very profound. My husband Michael has a list of five things that he has taught me are important in life. We both try to abide by it and have shared it with many others who have seen its profundity. I know we have deeply meaningful lists in the Bible, like The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. But Michael's list adds a little more human thought (rather than Divine thought) to the way we should live our lives. I certainly would never put any other list above those of God. But I still do want to share this with you. So here goes:

Michael's Rules for Living

1: Be respectful of everyone.

Always be respectful of all people, no matter who they are or what they represent.

2: Don't do anything to bring dishonor on yourself.

Always behave in ways that can never bring you disgrace.

3: Close the loop.

If you have made a commitment to someone, do it! And make sure they know you have done it to their liking.

4: Nothing is easy!

This is so true. A lot! You just have to remember this is true for everyone when a seemingly easy project turns into a nightmare.

5: When it's over, it's over!

When something unpleasant occurs between you and someone else, and you both agree to put it behind you, put it out of your mind forever. And move on.

If you think about these things, you'll see how much sense they make.

Godspeed,

Susanne and Michael

Moderator's Notes

The Executive Board decided not to meet in June or July but that doesn't mean we are inactive. In June we scheduled the final meeting with our consultant Rev. Bixby and arranged for another consultant to speak to us about church safety. We plan on meeting in late August to prepare for fall activities and in September we have scheduled a calendar meeting to better anticipate the many activities in our church over the upcoming year. We will also kick off our Stewardship 2025 campaign so look for more information on our church finances.

I pray that you have a safe and blessed summer.

Yours in Christ,
David Bertagnolli, Moderator

Parish Cupboard

All types of nonperishable food items

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's fellowship will meet on
July 13th/August 10th at 7:30 am at
Bobbie J'z

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Woman's fellowship in July will be at the
Buccaneer at 12:30pm. Please let Sharon
know if you're going. The August picnic will
be announced soon.

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
3rd Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Sauce and
ELBOW macaroni are always appreciated! Thank
you!

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

Lesley Young, Chairperson



Deacon of the Month of July: Marilyn Alexander

One of the wonderful Wednesday Bible studies Pastor Suzanne shared with us is from Matthew 5:3-11, commonly know as the Beatitudes or the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus went up on a mountaintop. Thousands gathered below who were from near and far, different ages, genders, races, spoke different languages, maybe different religions. Some knew Him, some heard of Him, some didn't, and were curious.

He taught them saying: Blessed are: the poor, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, are merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, persecuted for righteousness sake, are reviled and experience all kinds of evil and false accusations for My sake.

Thousands of years ago, hearing the rest of the beatitudes, they would have been comforted, at least, even if they didn't fully understand.

Here we are today, as we pray and thank God for Jesus, whose teachings comfort us and assure us, because we are , we have, and we will experience all the situations Jesus spoke of, and that we are blessed beyond because we are believers. AMEN

Deacon of the Month of August: Don Cook

It is my sincere hope that everyone is having a wonderful and blessed summer. This is my first writing as a deacon so please bear with me.

This church really is like a family to me and everyone is always so friendly. From a very young age, I have always loved the 23rd Psalm to get me though some tough times in my life and has become my favorite passage of Scripture. As summer winds down, I pray that everyone is blessed by the Lord like I have been.

Thank you from my heart,
Don Cook, Deacon of the month of August

JULY FLOWERS

- 7/7**—In LOVING MEMORY of my SISTER & PARENTS, from BARBARA YEAGER
- (2) LOVING MEMORY of my PARENTS, ALBERT & SUE PECKHAM, from DALED MELANSON & FAMILY
- 7/14** – LOVING MEMORY of DANIELLE & HONOR of TYLER BASSETT'S birthdays, from GRANDPARENTS, DICK & CAROLINE
- 7/21** –LOVING MEMORY of my PARENTS from LESLEY YOUNG
- 7/28** –LOVING MEMORY/HONOR of KING & NOONEY FAMILIES from JAN NOONEY

AUGUST FLOWERS

- 8/4** Loving MEMORY of JOHN TIMMS from JUDY TIMMS & FAMILY
- 8/11** Loving MEMORY of FLOYD, SR & BESSIE, Parents and FLOYD SESSIONS, JR, Brother from DOUG , JANET, ERIN & KORIE
- 8/18** Loving MEMORY of JOHN & NAUNDICE HAUSER, Parents & JIM HAUSER, Brother, from JOHN, JOAN & CATHIE
- 8/25** Loving MEMORY of JOHN HURLBUTT, Brother of DONNA DECOTEAU

MISSIONARY

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

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	Total Actual	2024 Budget	Actual vs. Budget %
Income from Pledges	13,550	8,549	10,708	10,626	8,199	51,632	115,000	45%
Other Income (rent, fundraising, Groups, etc.)	2,316	4,346	6,114	4,807	3,382	20,965	49,675	42%
Income from Invested Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,388	0%
Total Income	15,866	12,895	16,822	15,433	11,581	72,597	166,063	44%
Pastor's Expenses	3,676	3,676	3,676	3,676	6,067	20,771	58,753	35%
Other Personnel Salaries	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	3,851	19,255	46,700	41%
Other Operational Expenses	5,091	6,051	4,019	4,070	5,062	24,293	60,610	40%
Total Expenses	12,618	13,578	11,546	11,597	14,980	64,319	166,063	39%
<small>May represents 5/12 or 42%</small>								

SAVE THE DATE

Rev. Dr. Jerry Krupp, director of programs for NACCC will do a ZOOM meeting on JULY 14th from 11am-12pm, during coffee hour. The purpose of the meeting is to gain more knowledge of the NACCC.

We will meet in Bryan Hall and we encourage everyone to attend.

Join us for...

Vacation Bible School

at Agawam Congregational Church

July 15th-19th

5-7:30 PM

Community dinner at 5:15 each night



Join us as we **LAUGH, LEARN** and **GROW** our faith!

This **FREE** evening Vacation Bible School is open to children through 6th grade.

For more information call 413-786-7111

or email office@agawamcong.com

CRAFTS

BIBLE STORIES






WORSHIP

GAMES

SNACK




JULY 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			11am Bible study			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10am Worship Service Communion			11am Bible study	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J'z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10am Worship Service 11am Rev. Knupp 12pm Church Without Walls	6pm VBS	6pm VBS	11am Bible study 6pm VBS	6pm VBS	6pm VBS	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10am Worship Service	4pm Loaves & Fishes		11am Bible study			
28	29	30	31			
10am Worship Service			11am Bible study			

AUGUST 2024

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				1	2	3
						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am Worship Service Communion						7:30am Men's Fellowship@ Bobbie J'z
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am Worship Service 12pm Church Without Walls				6		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am Worship Service	4pm Loaves & Fishes					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am Worship Service	