

TAWAS METHODIST CHURCH

**THE BEACON**

Volume 53 Issue 2  
February 2026

THE START OF  
*Lent*  
ASH WEDNESDAY





Hello My Friends! It seems that Christmas and the New Year celebrations were only a short time ago, yet Lent will soon be upon us. Lent is the time period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday set aside for self-reflection and preparation to meet our risen Lord. While some will use this time period for the self-denial of some frivolous thing, I encourage you instead to spend personal time in prayer, study, devotions or worship before our Easter morning celebration. Let us meet our risen Lord with clean hearts and new devotion in ministry.

Living in our nation and world today is a major concern to a growing number of people. Our nation remains divided, wars continue across the globe, and many people live without hope in their lives. At times our burdens may seem overwhelming. Jesus in Matthew 11: 28-29 offers us this hope for rest.

*“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (NRSV)*

As the scripture indicates, Jesus recognizes that in life, we may will feel exhausted, burdened, and in need of necessary rest. “Take the yoke” means to become a disciple, learn, and be in connection to Jesus. His “yoke is easy” because it is designed to fit our needs and His expectations from us are light.

What burdens do you face? We may be facing financial, health, family issues, or many other burdens that seek to take away our joy. Jesus in John 10:10 teaches us that *“He came that we may have life, and have it abundantly.”* In Christ we can find new life and rest for our souls. During this time of Lent, let us self-reflect, humble ourselves, and lay our burdens before the Lord. What is keeping you from a more satisfying relationship with Jesus? As people of faith, we can be much more effective in ministry if we remove the shackles of guilt, regret, and disappointment from our lives. Only Jesus can offer the abundant life and rest that will completely satisfy our souls.

May God Bless You!

Pastor Dan

## **FROM THE OFFICE**

After many days of trying to find out why our email was locked, and what the old passwords were and many other items were tried and failed, but alas... Our email has been restored. Many of the contacts have been added back into the system but I am sure some that some of our newer members have not been added back in. If you do not receive any items from the church, please let the office know and we will add your email back in. I want to thank all you for your patience.

Laura Loeffler

Office phone: 989-362-4288

### **PRAYER CHAIN**

We are developing a Prayer Chain that will also serve as a way to notify our congregation about schedule changes, delays, cancellations, sickness, deaths, special meetings etc. Once you are on this list, you will receive a call when special info needs to go out to the congregation.

Please list your name and phone number if you would like to be added to this list. We also want to include our shut-ins and those that may not live in our immediate area.



Prayer Chain

## **OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Feb. 18th Ash Wednesday Service  
Feb. 19th Marketing Committee Meeting  
Feb. 25th Ladies Lunch Bunch at Barnacle Bills  
Feb. 25th Worship Committee Meeting 1pm  
Feb. 26th Trustee Meeting 6:30pm

## **REGULAR MEETINGS**

Mondays:

Ladies Bible Study, 11am

Tuesdays:

Ladies Pickleball 9-11am  
Friends Together Cancer Support Group 5pm  
Prayer Ministry 5pm  
Bell Choir Practice

Wednesdays:

Choir Practice 5:45pm  
Pastors Book Study 7pm

Thursdays:

Ladies Pickleball 9-11am  
Flourish Home School Group 1-4pm

Saturdays:

MMPG 8:30 pm  
Casual Service 4pm

## **MISSIONS**

### **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

Half of the Christmas offering went to the F.I.S.H. organization and the other half was equally split and given to the TMC food pantry and the Holy Family Catholic Church food pantry. Thank you for blessing our local community through your giving. God is good!

### **CHRISTMAS CARD FOR THE VETS**

We were thrilled with the response we got from the congregation for the Christmas cards for our local Vets in December. We are planning to do this again for this coming Christmas – so start collecting your leftover Christmas cards. We are taking donations of Christmas cards. There is a red gift bag in the Gathering Space for you to place any extra Christmas cards you would like to donate.

### **MISSIONS CHILI COOK-OFF AND DESSERT BAKE-OFF**

On Sunday, February 8 after church service, we had a wonderful time of fellowship. We had seven entries for the Dessert competition and nine entries for the Chili-contest. Thank you to those who participated by making a dessert or chili. Thank you to those who were the Chili and Dessert tasters--we are sure you didn't go home with an empty stomach. A great time was had by all!

The Winners for Chili were:

1st place Marilyn Denhoff  
2nd place Gary Bushman  
3rd place Shane Roach

The Winners for the Dessert were:

1st place Kelly Zidick  
2nd place Pam Gerber  
3rd place Colleen Keith

### **Noisy Offering:**

February- Give2Give Hope

March- Methodist Children's Village

April- Compassion International

Happy Valentine's Day everyone!

Be Safe!

The Missions Team

## ANNIVERSARIES

2/5 Dick & Betty Look  
2/17 Bob & Pam Moore  
2/29 Mindy & Rick Caudill

## BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Pete Peterson  
2/6 Sam Dutton  
2/7 June Scott  
2/11 Jane Millard  
2/12 Donette Spiekerman  
2/19 Art Williams  
2/20 Nancy Eldred  
2/20 Kathleen Phelps  
2/21 Dot Sarki  
2/23 Dianne Knight  
2/28 John Eldred

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Christmas season is quickly followed by the Lenten season. The committee has been busy planning a Lenten schedule. New this year is Monday evening *Silence and Prayer*. The church will be open for those who would like to come and pray and listen for God's voice in the silence. Stay for as long or briefly as you like. Whether it's 5 minutes, a quick prayer or the whole hour. Come and get closer to our Lord.

## LENTEN SCHEDULE

February 18: Ash Wednesday 7PM service  
Mondays Feb 23 - March 30 6-7PM Silence and Prayer  
Palm Sunday March 28 & 29 Palm distribution  
April 2 Maundy Thursday service 7PM  
April 3 Good Friday 1PM  
April 4 Holy Saturday service 4PM  
April 5 Easter Sunday traditional service 10AM  
Join us during lent and grow closer to God.

## **CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE**

December 31, 2025

General Fund:

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| 224,430 | Giving   |
| 177,433 | Expenses |
| 46,997  | Surplus  |

Facilities Improvements:

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| 34,614   | Donations      |
| ( 9,923) | Expenses--2024 |
| (19,210) | Expenses--2025 |
| 5,481    | Balance        |

## **TAWAS METHODIST WOMEN**

No meeting until April. Lunch Bunch on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday of February 25.

## **NEW TITHING ENVELOPES**

Just received another shipment of the new envelopes, so if you didn't receive any of the new ones, please let me know so I can get you some. Either call me at 989-284-5898 or leave me a note in my mailbox at the church.

Deb

Tawas Methodist Church  
E. M-55  
Tawas City, MI 48763

POSTAGE  
REQUIRED  
IF  
MAILED

Please share this newsletter  
with anyone you know who  
may be interested in visiting  
our Church.

Join us for Sunday Service  
Saturday 4:00pm Worship  
Sunday School 9:00am  
Sunday Worship 10:00am  
At the Church, on WIOS-AM 1480  
or at [www.tawasmc.org](http://www.tawasmc.org)  
Pastor: Rev. Daniel Gonder  
Parsonage: 989-362-5399  
Office Manager: Laura Loeffler  
Music Director: Shawn Wygant  
Custodian: Judy Hills  
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday  
9am to 2pm (Lunch 11:30 to Noon)  
Monday- Closed  
Church Office: 989-362-4288  
Fax: 989-362-6320  
Email:  
[frontoffice.tawasmc@gmail.com](mailto:frontoffice.tawasmc@gmail.com)

Our Purpose;  
To connect people to  
God and one another  
through Jesus Christ.