

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly Bible version, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



<b>DAY 1</b> Genesis 3:15	<b>DAY 2</b> Isaiah 7:14	<b>DAY 3</b> Matthew 1:20-21	<b>DAY 4</b> Luke 2:11	<b>DAY 5</b> Luke 2:52	<b>DAY 6</b> Mark 1:9-11	<b>DAY 7</b> Matthew 4:1-10
<b>DAY 15</b> Luke 9:20-22	<b>DAY 14</b> Mark 6:41-42	<b>DAY 13</b> Matthew 12:8	<b>DAY 12</b> Luke 8:24-25	<b>DAY 11</b> Luke 4:40-41	<b>DAY 10</b> Matthew 11:28-30	<b>DAY 9</b> Luke 6:27-31
<b>DAY 16</b> John 3:16-17	<b>DAY 17</b> John 6:35	<b>DAY 18</b> John 8:12	<b>DAY 19</b> John 10:14-15	<b>DAY 20</b> Mark 10:13-16	<b>DAY 21</b> Mark 9:2-3	<b>DAY 22</b> Matthew 20:17-19
<b>DAY 29</b> Mark 11:15-16	<b>DAY 28</b> Matthew 21:8-9	<b>DAY 27</b> John 12:3	<b>DAY 26</b> John 11:25-27, 43	<b>DAY 25</b> Luke 10:36-37	<b>DAY 24</b> Matthew 14:25-27	<b>DAY 23</b> Luke 19:9-10
<b>DAY 30</b> John 17:17-19	<b>DAY 31</b> Luke 22:3-6	<b>DAY 32</b> Mark 14:22-24	<b>DAY 33</b> John 13:3-5	<b>DAY 34</b> Matthew 26:39	<b>DAY 35</b> Luke 22:63-65	<b>DAY 36</b> Mark 15:22-26
<b>DAY 39</b> Luke 24:1-8	<b>DAY 38</b> John 19:40-42	<b>DAY 37</b> Matthew 27:50-54	<b>DAY 40</b> Matthew 28:19-20			



Hello My Friends! I hope that all is well with you! While this winter has proved very challenging, as a Family of Faith we have overcome everything that nature could produce! Our community may still have snow on the ground, the temperature may remain cool, and the skies above us may be gray, but our hearts are warmed by this Family of Faith and the presence of God.

As Christians, we live our spiritual lives on a journey of faith. From the moment we accept Jesus into our hearts and receive the Holy Spirit, God's Spirit will lead us towards being Christ-like in this life. We are never sure where God will lead us, although we know that God has our best interest in His heart. Abraham was called by God to follow His leading into the desert. He did not know where God would lead, yet by faith he followed. Genesis 12: 1-2 reveals the promise that God offers to Abraham,

“Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” (NRSV)

Abraham received guidance and promises from God that served to shape the rest of his life. We too can rely on the promises of God and we can know His guiding presence. As we approach this Easter season, where is God leading you on your spiritual journey? How are you growing more Christ-like in your daily walk? Like Abraham, God is calling to each of us to grow in our spiritual lives, commitment to God, and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

March 5th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent is a time of personal reflection, during which we can consider our relationship with God and to prepare our hearts for Easter morning. In the Roman Catholic tradition, people may choose to “Give Up” something for Lent or to offer a short-term sacrifice of something personal in acknowledgment of Christ's sacrifice for us. Rather than “giving up” television, video games, chocolate, etc..., let us embrace a transformational change in our spiritual lives. Ladies, you might consider joining the Monday morning Bible study. Men, you might consider the Prayer/Study on Saturday morning. Everyone might consider the Sunday morning Bible study, Tuesday Evening Prayer time, or the Book Study on Wednesday evening which are all available to us. The Holy Spirit may guide you to choose another approach to Christian growth. Rather than “Giving up” something of little significance or sacrifice, let us follow the Spirit's leading and grow in our faith and knowledge of God.

May God Bless You!  
Pastor Dan



BIBLE, JESUS, CHURCH

# Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 3/ 2 Sharon Durant
- 3/ 5 Don Lake
- 3/ 6 Thomas Mark
- 3/11 Dennis Wetzel
- 3/14 Shelly Revord
- 3/14 Carol Westcott
- 3/16 Ann Reasoner
- 3/18 Grace Schlagel
- 3/20 Randy Brewer
- 3/22 Donna Williams
- 3/28 Harold Knight

No March Anniversaries



## BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARIES

If you do not see your Birthday or Anniversary date listed here, it may not have been placed in our Church Data Base. We strive to honor your special days, so just give the Office a call at 989-362-4288 with your information. Thank you so much!





March 5th Ash Wednesday  
Service at 6:00 PM

April 12th Palm Sunday  
Saturday Service at 4:00  
PM

April 13th Palm Sunday  
Service at 10:00 AM

April 17th Maundy  
Thursday Service at 7:00  
PM

April 18th Good Friday  
Service at 1:00 PM

April 19th Holy Saturday  
Service at 4:00 PM

April 20th Easter Sunday  
Traditional Worship Service  
at 10:00 AM



## NEW OUTREACH GROUP

The New Outreach group has been formed to help meet the needs of some of our congregation. We send out Christian cards to help lift spirits, and in sympathy. We also have some people who are making phone calls, and a few who are making home visits. If you know of someone that is sick/infirm, who needs to be contacted, please let us know. We would need to have their information (name/phone/address).

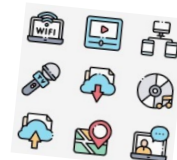
We are in need of stamps right now. If you can donate some stamps, or money to help purchase them, it would be appreciated. If you would like to help out, please call or text Jess Sanker @ 989-820-7023 or Kay Klenow 989-305-6926.



## HELP NEEDED

**IT Team Member:** Be willing to learn to run the computers and videos for the Saturday & Sunday services. Try it, see if it is something you would like to do. Thanks for your consideration.

Laura,  
Office Manager,  
please call 362-4288





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am Adult Sunday School 10am worship At the church or (WIOS-AM) or (ZOOM) tawasmc.org						1 8:30 Men's Breakfast 4pm Casual Service <b>Communion Saturday</b>
2 <b>Communion Sunday</b>	3 11am Ladies Bible Study 12:15pm Outreach Committee mtg.	4 9am-11am Ladies Pickelball 5pm Friends Together Cancer Support 5:00pm Prayer Ministry 6pm Handbell practice	5 5:45pm Choir <b>6pm Ash Wednesday Service</b> 7pm Pastor's Book Study	6 9am-11am Ladies Pickelball  12-4pm Flourish Homeschoolers	7	8 8:30 Men's Prayer-Group  4pm Casual Service
9 Noisy Offering (Tawas Bay Hockey Arena) 	10 11am Ladies Bible Study	11 9am-11am Ladies Pickelball 5pm Friends Together Cancer Support 5:00pm Prayer Ministry 6pm Handbell practice	12 Carnival Volunteer mtg.  7pm Pastor's Book Study	13 9am-11am Ladies Pickelball  12-4pm Flourish Homeschoolers	14	15 8:30 Men's Prayer-Group  4pm Casual Service
16	17 11am Ladies Bible Study  St. Patrick's Day	18 9am-11am Ladies Pickelball 5pm Friends Together Cancer Support 5:00pm Prayer Ministry 6pm Handbell practice	19 12-6pm Red Cross Blood Drive  5:45pm Choir 7pm Pastor's Book Study	20 9am-11am Ladies Pickelball  12-4pm Flourish Homeschoolers	21 <b>6:30pm Family Fun Night</b>	22 8:30 Men's Prayer-Group  4pm Casual Service
23	24 11am Ladies Bible Study	25 9am-11am Ladies Pickelball 5pm Friends Together Cancer Support 5:00pm Prayer Ministry 6pm Handbell practice	26 12 Noon Ladies Lunch Bunch  5:45pm Choir 7pm Pastor's Book Study	27 9am-11am Ladies Pickelball 12-4pm Flourish Homeschoolers 6:30pm Trustee mtg.	28	29 8:30 Men's Prayer-Group  4pm Casual Service
30	31 11am Ladies Bible Study					

## THANK YOU

A thank you for our collection for Samaritan's Purse. This money was to be used to help the people who were hit by the last Hurricane.

Dear Friends,

I am deeply grateful for your generous gift to Samaritan's Purse. Your support and your prayers are a tremendous blessing as we relieve suffering in Jesus' Name.

Samaritan's Purse has teams and equipment in California preparing to help families by sifting through ashes of what once were their homes to search for meaningful items that may have survived the flames. We also continue to work in three states in the wake of Hurricane Helene. We have begun the long process of repairing and rebuilding houses and replacing mobile homes for hundreds of families in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, and we are assisting churches as they repair and rebuild.

As we work in crisis situations here and around the world, we want people to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them. "But you, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth" (Psalm 86: 15). We would appreciate your continued prayers. May God Bless you.

Sincerely,  
Franklin Graham



## GIVING ENVELOPES

Reminder that envelopes have come in if anyone needs them.  
Call me at 989-284-5898 or text me at same number. Deb



## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

When you have a meeting, please be sure to put a copy of your minutes in the Office Managers mailbox or drop them off at the Office. Thank you.



## AFTER SERVICE COFFEE AND SNACKS

Snacks are provided on Sunday after Service. We are always looking for volunteers to bring some snacks. There is a sign-up list on the refreshment table. Please help out and sign up. Thanks.

## CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE as of January 31, 2025

### GENERAL FUND

<u>2025</u> <u>BUDGET</u> \$14,800	<u>2025</u> <u>GIVING</u> \$16,901	<u>2024</u> <u>GIVING</u> \$16,992
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### DEBT FUND

<u>2025</u> <u>BUDGET</u> \$4,560	<u>2025</u> <u>GIVING</u> \$6,089	<u>2024</u> <u>GIVING</u> \$1,410
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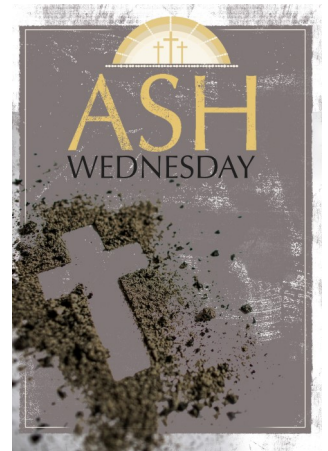
Donations for the Building and Ground projects:

Donations: \$14,651

Expenses: (\$10,316)

Balance: \$4,335

To give by credit card go to: [tawasmc.org](http://tawasmc.org)



### NEW EMAIL FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE

[office.tawasmc@gmail.com](mailto:office.tawasmc@gmail.com)

### CHECK YOUR CHURCH MAILBOX

Make sure you check your mailbox at church.



### AA MEETING WEBSITE

[ww.dist26aa.org](http://ww.dist26aa.org)



### LAYETTE MINISTRY

Layette Ministry is in need of baby boy and girl long sleeved onesies, hats and booties (0-3 months).

There is a tote in the Gathering Space for your donations.



Thank you,

## TAWAS METHODIST WOMEN

Welcome to windy March. We will have our next meeting on Tuesday, March 1st at 1pm. Our next game night will be Friday, March 21st at 6:30 pm. We had lots of fun last month so please come and join us. Bring your board games and cards and \$5 and have some great fellowship. Lunch Bunch will be the 4th Wednesday at 12 noon at the Big Boy. Everyone is welcome.

Sincerely and in Christian love,  
Judy Hills

### Methodist Women

If you would like more information of the Methodist Women activities, please contact:

Judy Hills ~~~~~MW President..... 984-4154  
Wanda Roach Archer~~~~MW Vice President.....  
Marilyn Denhoff~~~~MW Secretary.....362-1380  
Candy Thomas ~~~~~MW Treasurer.....739-2635  
Marilyn Denhoff~~~~MW Asst. Treasurer.....362-1380

### PEANUTS FOR SALE

The Tawas Methodist women still have 25 bags of peanuts left. \$5.00 for a 7 oz bag and it has a coupon for a free appetizer at Texas Roadhouse. The coupon is good until June 2025 and is honored at any Texas Roadhouse restaurant in the US. The women get \$4 profit from each bag sold.



### HARVEST TABLE

If you have excess produce, fruit, baked goods or crafts that you wish to donate, please place them on our Harvest Table in the Gathering Space.



### COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Non-perishable food items are needed for the community food pantry. Donations can be placed in the tote outside of the Church Office. The donations will be collected and delivered to the community food pantry on the third weekend of every month.







Thank you to those who either made Chili or a delicious dessert for the Souper Bowl Chili/Dessert Bake-Off. And of course thank you to those who attended the Souper Bowl Luncheon and tasted all of the delicious Chili and desserts and voted. The 2025 Souper Bowl winners were--



### **Chili Cook-off**

1st Place Gary Bushman  
2nd Place Pam Lynch  
3rd Place Pam Baker

### **Dessert Cook-Off**

1st Place Kelly Zidick  
2nd Place Diane Bushman  
3rd Place Nancy Soult



The Souper Bowl luncheon offering went towards VBS.

Noisy Offering:

March- Tawas Bay Hockey Arena

Thank you for all the support you give to the mission projects of our church.

The Missions Team

## **THANK YOU**

We received a thank you note from the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center, thanking us for supporting their Center and giving vulnerable children a voice.



Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.  
(2 Timothy 2:25-26 NIV)

## **CHURCH FINANCES**

A letter has been sent out regarding an opportunity for the Tawas Methodist Church to be debt free. On December 20, 2025, there will be a balloon payment due on the church mortgage loan. Twelve days later on January 1, 2026, the Disaffiliation Notes will mature. The plan has been to refinance this total amount of in a new mortgage loan,.

Recently, three individuals have come forward with an offer to eliminate the church debt and the monthly debt service obligation. Each of these individuals has offered to provide one-fourth of the debt, three-fourths altogether, if the remaining one-fourth, can be raised from the congregation. This one-time amount would be new money in addition to the expenses required annually for church operations. however, the need annually for debt service would be eliminated.

The purpose of this letter is to take a straw vote to see if this course of action can at all be considered. We are asking that you prayerfully consider the extent to which you would be able to contribute to the elimination of the church debt. Donations can be of cash or Disaffiliation Notes or both. Then, anonymously complete the enclosed form and no later than March 15 return it to the church office or place it in the mailbox of Candy Thomas, Chair of the Finance Committee.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. The church will proceed in whatever manner is indicated by your responses.

I you have not received a letter please contact the church office.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO MARILYN DENHOFF FOR BEING NAMED TAWAS METHODIST WOMAN OF 2025. PRESENTING IS DEB DUTTON.**





## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Upcoming Event....., **Friday March 21st, at 6:30 pm**, in our Family Life Center. It's FAMILY FUN Night. We'll have all sorts of games, board games, card games, dice games. OR., if you have a favorite game, please bring it along. A very fun evening. The admission is \$5. per person. Snacks too. Sponsored by the Tawas Methodist Women, and all proceeds go toward the Church Renovation Fund.  
Save the date ..



### **From the Office**

St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated here in Ireland for around 1,000 years - dating back to the ninth century. Historians believe the first parade to celebrate St. Patrick's Day took place on March 17, 1601, however, it wasn't actually in Ireland - instead, it took place in a Spanish colony known as St. Augustine, Florida. The parade and celebrations were created by the Spanish colonies Irish Vicar Ricardo Artur.

In 1848, the Official New York City St. Patrick's Day parade began, today it's one of the largest parades in America, with over 150,000 people taking part each year - with almost 3 million people watching!

Did you know that the color green wasn't always the national symbol for St. Patrick's Day? History reveals that the color was originally blue! However, this changed to the color green, as it represents Ireland as an island, along with its leafy green views, and it's named as 'the emerald isle' History of wearing green dates back to 18th century, and the popularity of shamrocks rose.

## COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

Our Community Carnival will be held April 5th. This has been a very successful event, bringing many children and their families into the church to have some good old fashion fun! This event takes months of planning, marketing, ordering, purchasing, and getting volunteer help.

A Meeting of the volunteers will be held on Feb. 5th at 5pm. It takes a lot of man-power to set this up and run it for one day, and the committee Chair is asking, pleading, begging for volunteers to help her make this a successful event. Please attend the first meeting on Feb. 5th at 5pm and see what is involved. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated. I will be there, how about you ?



**Tawas Methodist Church**

20 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.



ADDRESS LABEL

**Join us for Sunday Service**

**Saturday 4:00pm Worship**

**Sunday School 9:00am**

**Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.**

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  
9:00am to 2:00 pm (Lunch: 11:30—Noon)**

**Monday Closed**

**Church Office: 989-362-4288**

**Fax: 989-362-6320**

**Email: [office.tawasmc@gmail.com](mailto:office.tawasmc@gmail.com)**

**Web: [www.tawasmc.org](http://www.tawasmc.org)**

**Address: 20 W. M-55**

**Tawas City, MI 48763**



**Our Purpose...**

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

