

**TAWAS METHODIST CHURCH**

# **THE BEACON**

Volume 52 Issue 12

December 2025



Merry Christmas!

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

Merry Christmas! Welcome to Advent, the time of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. Christmas can be magical, exciting, and a time of great celebration. As Christians, we anticipate celebrating the arrival of God's Son, Jesus Christ. How are you preparing to receive the baby Jesus during this time of Advent?

The common themes of Advent are hope, joy, peace and love. But, in our world today, these values can be illusive, temporary, or short lived. Where can we find everlasting hope, joy, peace and love in this life? The prophet Isaiah shared this promise from God in Isaiah 9: 6-7,

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace.” (NRSV)

This prophesy will be fulfilled at two different times. The first fulfillment came with the birth of Jesus. To us a child will be born (human), but within the same person, a son is given (deity), the Son of God. This serves to describe the true nature and reality of Christ. He is both man and God. The second part of this prophecy reveals who Jesus is and the authority He will carry during the Golden Age of God.

As you prepare during this Advent season, what are you hoping to find this Christmas? Christmas is the season of good will, celebrated with the giving and receiving of gifts. What is the greatest gift you have ever received?

We should prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gift humanity has ever received. On Christmas day, we remember the birth of Jesus and the many ways He has touched our lives. Let us celebrate the coming of Christ and seek His everlasting gifts, values, and presence in our daily lives. He is the gift that keeps on giving, now and throughout eternity.

Merry Christmas!

May God Bless You!

Pastor Dan

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Worship Committee would like to thank everyone who came out to help decorate the church. His glory shows in the work of the hands of everyone who helped. A big thank you to Vicki Hunt for making the sloppy joes for our lunch, they were delicious. Please watch the bulletin and weekly update for the date we will "un"decorate the church. All help is appreciated. "Many hands make light work" May God bless your holiday season.

## **TAWAS METHODIST WOMEN**

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!!!! As usual December is proving to be a very busy month. Our COOKIE FEST will be here on Saturday, December 6th. I hope lots of cookies and goodies will be provided ....It's always a fun time getting it set up and seeing everyone come in and be excited too. Our Christmas Tea will be held on Thursday, December 11th at 6 pm. We are hoping for a great turnout. Signup sheets are still available in the Gathering Area.

Well, its the end of another year with our group. I want to personally thank each one of you for all your help with all of our events. We may be small in number but with our God nothing is impossible....I am looking forward to a New Year of HOPE and KINDNESS.

There will be no LUNCH BUNCH in December, but we will meet at Barnacle Bills in East Tawas on the 4th Wednesday in Jan 28th at noon. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 6th at 1 pm.

Sincerely and in Christian Love,

Judy Hills

## CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE

October 31, 2025

### General Fund:

Giving      181,442

Expenses    143,414

Surplus      38,028

### Building & Grounds:

Donations 33,254

Expenses

2024      (9,923)

2025      (16,720)

Balance      6,611

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

### **2026 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES**

I ordered new envelopes, should arrive soon. I will have them ready to start using by January 1st. I hope.

### **CHRISTMAS DINNER COORDINATOR NEEDED**

With Christmas fast approaching, it has been decided that we should have a Christmas Dinner here at church. Our Thanksgiving Dinner was a success and many attended. We would like to do this again for those who are alone, those who do not have relatives to go to and those that don't want to eat out that day. We are looking for someone to coordinate this dinner. It is not a hard task, just ask Carol in the office. Please consider taking this job on, we need to start preparing for it soon. If you are interested, please call the office. 989-362-4288. Let's help make Jesus's Birthday a wonderful celebration. Thanks.

Do You Know that we are having an "Adapt a Chair Campaign", the Tawas Methodist Women are sponsoring a drive to replace chairs in our church. For \$65.00 you can provide a comfortable chair that will be used in the choir, sanctuary, and classrooms throughout the church. Please contact Deb Dutton or Marilyn Denhoff if you are interested in adoption by December 1st.

### **ITEMS FOUND AT THE CHURCH**

1 small blue earring

Subaru fob

Small gold ring with a white stone and a pearl.

These items are in the church office (989-362-4288)

### **COMMENT FROM THE EDITOR**

I have received questions as to the accuracy of information and / or the lack of information in the BEACON. The information in the BEACON is received from Committee Chairs, Church Office, Pastor, etc. If I do not receive information about an event, event dates, etc., I cannot put it in the BEACON. If I receive information and later it is found not to be correct or not all of the information is there, it is not up to me to verify it (although I have on several occasions). Your assistance with this is appreciated.

Ralph (BEACON Editor)

## **MISSIONS**

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the OCC project. We delivered 49 boxes to the drop-off site. Children all over the world will be blessed with your shoebox gifts.

### **VETERANS LUNCHEON**

The Veterans Luncheon was a wonderful celebration of our Veterans. Thank you to those who attended and to those who brought salads and desserts. It was a beautiful time of fellowship.

### **ANGEL TREE**

Our Angel Tree is up in the Gathering Space. The angels are hung on the Angel Tree. Please take an angel /angels from the tree, purchase the item listed on the tag for the child and wrap the gift and tape the angel tag to the gift. Please be sure the gift is placed back under the Angel Tree by Monday, December 15th. Thank you!

### **CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGN**

Our newest project is to get Christmas cards to our veterans. We want our vets to know they are thought of and appreciated. We are working alongside the American Legion Auxiliary. Their mission is to fill 100 care boxes to pass out to 100 of our local veterans. We are aiming to put at least 1 Christmas card in each box.

Your Mission Committee, are asking you to take a few cards - write something down in the cards. If everyone is willing to do 2 cards - we will meet our goal to fill all the gift boxes.

After you turn them in by Dec 7th, we will get them to the American Legion Auxiliary to be distributed

MISSIONS continued next page.

## **MISSIONS: CONTINUED**

Example:

Thank you for your service and the sacrifices you made for our country.

Your courage and dedication have made a difference in the lives of so many.

Wishing you peace, health, and happiness. You are appreciated beyond words.

Because of your service, we enjoy the freedoms we have today; thank you.

Your bravery is an inspiration. We are grateful for you and all you've done.

Thinking of you and sending heartfelt thanks for your service to our nation.

May you always feel the pride and gratitude you have earned from your country.

### **Noisy Offering:**

December: FISH Christmas House

January: New kitchen supplies for TMC kitchen

The Mission Team would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas! 🏠🎄

## **THE OUTREACH GROUP**

The mission of this group is to make contact with those who may be lonely, or in need of encouragement. We do this by sending out cards, making phone calls, and personal visits.

We want you to know that you are not alone. We are here to support you!

If you know of someone who does need our support, please, let us know.

If you'd like to help, we'd love to have you join us!

Call or text:

Jess Sanker      989-820-7023      sanker@chartermi.net

Mary Bean      989-387-8681      queenbee1997.mb@gmail.com

## **CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGN**

We are planning to send out Christmas cards and letters to our veterans in Iosco County. We are asking you, your families and your friends to participate in this ministry.

We are working alongside the Tawas American Legion Auxiliary. We are asking YOU to take some Christmas cards and write a note inside to our veterans. Or write a letter to our veterans. You will be able to pick out some cards, so help yourself to as many as you need.

Christmas cards are provided – but you are more than welcome to use your own cards or make your own! There will be a table in the Gathering Space with cards and information. There will also be a box for your returned card(s). You will need to return the cards by December 7th.

We will kick this campaign off at the upcoming Veteran's Dinner, November 9th.

Your Mission Team is thanking you in advance for all your help!



## **EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS**

Dec 1st-4th, FISH & Coats for Kids, Gift House 9am -3 pm

Dec. 4th & 11th Flourish HomeSchool Co-Op 1-4pm

Dec. 4th Church Council Meeting

Dec. 6th Men's Breakfast 8:30 am

Dec. 6th TMW Cookie Fest 9am -Noon

Dec. 8th Service at 10am with Communion

Dec. 11th Ladies Christmas Tea, 6pm

Dec. 14th, Choir Cantata, & Noisy offering going to FISH Gifthouse

Dec. 15th Parsonage Open House 6:30pm -8:30pm

Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, Lori Frederick's Memorial Service 11am (Visitation 10am)

Dec. 21st. Kid's Program

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm

Dec. 25th Christmas Day Church will be closed

Dec. 31st New Years Eve, Church will be closed Jan 1 & 2nd

### **Regular Meetings**

Saturday: MMPG 8:30am

Monday: Ladies Bible study 11am

Tuesday: Friends Together 5pm

Prayer Ministry 5pm

Bell Choir Practice 6pm

Wednesday: Choir Practice 5:45pm

Book Study 7pm

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/4 Jason Sheridan  
12/6 Grace Look  
12/8 Jan Herrick  
12/10 Patricia Fisher  
12/14 Mary Jane Burdett  
12/14 Julie Lockman  
12/21 Terri Boudreau  
12/27 Bill Archer  
12/30 Gene Sanker  
12/31 Bonnie Hartley

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/19 Sean & Melissa Caraher  
12/30 Terri & Ralph Boudreau

*"The root of Jesse will come ...  
in him will the Gentiles*

*Hope*  
*Romans 15:12, ESV*



### **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.

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

When you have a meeting, please be sure to put a copy of your minutes in the Office Manager's 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 and sign up. Thanks.

### **CHECK YOUR CHURCH MAILBOX**

Make sure you check your mailbox at church. You may have mail!

### **WIPES & DIPES**

The Tawas Methodist Women are starting a new collection campaign. They are collecting diapers and wipes for little ones.

Diapers of any size even, pull ups and wipes any size will do.

Collection tote is outside the office door. Thank you!

## **FROM THE OFFICE**

Please stop by the tables in the Gathering Area, they are sign-ups for many of the December events and needs for some of them. December is a busy month here and we want to be sure you do not miss out on some of the events.

### **COOKIE FEST**

We need lots, and lots of cookies before December 5th. Our Cookie Fest is happening on Dec. 6 at 9am till noon. We sell out fast so we really need lots of Bakers baking lots of cookies. Sign-up sheet will be out in the Gathering Area.

### **Attention Ladies!**

The Christmas Tea is on Thursday, December 11th at 6pm. This is a lovely evening just for our ladies. The theme this year is the “Spirit of Christmas” and each Table Chair can decorate their table in anything they choose. It doesn’t have to be super fancy, or expensive. The Table Chair will provide a sweet treat for their table. This treat can be home-made or store bought. Please consider being a table Chair or an attendee. Hope to see many of you there. The sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area.

### **Part time Sunday School Teacher needed**

There is a very important job opening here at the church. A Part Time Sunday School Teacher is needed! If we don’t have a Leader for our children, we will not have children here to be led. It doesn’t take any training or experience, just your time and some room in your heart for our young ones. If you can fill in this special job, please contact Nancy Eldred.

**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.

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)

Our Purpose...

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