



**November 2019**

# The Connection

**Tawas Area Presbyterian Church**  
**2095 E. U.S. Hwy 23, East Tawas, MI 48730**



*Pastor  
Kathleen Rowe*



## PUTTING OUR THANKFULNESS INTO ACTION!

### Living Out Matthew 25

Our Session recently adopted the Presbyterian Church USA call to become a “Matthew 25” congregation. Taking a look through this Bible chapter will remind you that it is where the good stewards of their master’s money were rewarded, and where Jesus gave blessings to those who fed the hungry, clothed the needy, cared for the sick, and visited the prisoners. As a Matthew 25 congregation, we will require of our church to be a helping hand in the community.

We traditionally provide assistance to a local charity by bringing in needed items at our Thanksgiving worship service. Last year we generously stocked the baby pantry at FISH in Hale.

This season we have learned of some important needs for the homeless shelter in Oscoda, where our help was greatly appreciated when we delivered bags of toiletries and lunch/snack foods on our Sermons of Service Sunday in September. The shelter is housed at Hope Anglican Church and headed by Pastor Tom Anderson, who is also the chaplain at Ascension St. Joseph Hospital. They would be extremely grateful for the following items:

- *IOSCO Transit bus passes to provide residents with transportation (priced at \$2.00-3.00 each)*
- *An in-house workstation (computer and printer/scanner) so residents can fill out applications and do other paperwork required for securing jobs and/or assistance. (probably a \$600-800 purchase)*

**TAPC can fulfill this “wish list” with a cooperative effort to bring in donations on Sunday, Nov. 24.**

Please consider “buying” a batch of bus tokens (*\$20 would buy 10*) or making a contribution toward the workstation electronics.



The effects of our shared blessings will provide hope and opportunity for the men, women, and families who are assisted by the shelter. Our Thanksgiving will include a tangible response to the teachings of Matthew 25:

*“Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me.”*

### **Tawas Area Presbyterian Church Mission Statement**

*To commit to God’s guidance and passionately share God’s love with people of all ages.*



11/03 2:00 am	<i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>
11/05 9:30 am	Bible Study
11/05 10:30 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
11/05 1:00 pm	Outreach/Events
11/11 8:00 am	Mens' Fellowship at Big Boy
11/11 9:00 am	Facilities
11/12 9:30 am	Bible Study
11/12 10:30 am	Deacons Meeting
11/12 1:00 pm	Worship/Music/Ed
11/19 9:30 am	Bible Study
11/20 4:30 pm	Session
11/21 10:00 am	Iosco Parkinsons
11/24 10:00 am	Our Thanksgiving Blessing Service
11/24 11:00 am	Decorating of the Sanctuary and Parlor
11/25 7:00 pm	TAMA Thanksgiving Service at Christ Episcopal Church
11/26 9:30 am	Bible Study
11/28 <i>Office Closed</i>	<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>

### *In Our Thoughts and Prayers ...*

#### **Our Shut-Ins ...**

Ruth Perrigo, Edie Moore, Bill Nelson, Phil and Shirley Macleod, Paul Hamilton

**Prayers to the family** of *Michel Hollenbeck* who passed on to glory on Monday October 14th.

**Prayers to the family** of *Virgina Scales* who passed on to glory on Sunday October 27th.

#### **Mission Co-Workers**

**Rev. Cathy Chang & family**, serving in Philippines.

**Michael & Rachel Ludwig**, serving in Niger.

**Rev. Dr. Lucy Der-Garabedian**, serving in Lebanon.

*I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes. - Ezekiel 36:27*

## Happy Birthday!

11/3 Mandy Schaaf

11/7 Gloria Ulman

11/16 Lynn Jackson

11/21 Judy Douglas

11/22 JoAnn Edwards

11/26 Kathleen Moore

## Happy Anniversary!

11/11 Gloria & Donald Ulman

11/14 James & Sharon Carruthers

11/28 Alan & Jill Gould

## Dates to Remember

### Sunday November 24

Our Thanksgiving Blessing Service where we are bringing in money to help the homeless shelter in Oscoda.

After the service we will be decorating the church for Christmas

### Monday November 25

TAMA Thanksgiving Service 7:00 pm at Christ Episcopal Church 202 Westover East Tawas MI, 48730. Pastor Kathleen will participate. The offering helps support the TAMA Chaplain,



## *STEWARDSHIP and FINANCE UPDATE*

This time of year, our giving tends to run behind and our expenses continue. Snowbirds fly away and our attendance drops. Please remember to continue to support TAPC while you are away.

Amount needed to meet monthly operating expenses for October	<b>\$ 12,662</b>
Amount received October 1st through October 31st	<b>\$ 8,532</b>

**And also, pay your Per Capita NOW, before you leave for the winter!**

**Per Capita is \$29.00 (new amount) per member.**

**Adding a little extra for someone else, helps!**

**Thank you for your gifts, talents and support - you are appreciated!**



### A Note from the Stewardship/Finance Committee Shared from Another Congregation

Stewardship- A Healthy Church

In the scripture lesson this Sunday from Luke 17: 5-10, Jesus speaks of the steward of a household, who puts on his apron to serve his master's dinner. He doesn't expect to sit down and be served by his master. He expects to work, to do his job, and eat later. Nor does he expect his master to praise him simply for doing his job. It IS his job after all. Jesus then draws this parallel: so you also, when you have done all that you've been ordered to do, should say, "I'm only a servant who has done only what I ought to have done."

This is a difficult passage. Most in church leadership today go out of their way to thank volunteers who step up and give of themselves. I know that I'm very grateful to many who share their time, talents and treasure with the church. And we are fortunate, in spite of the fact both the Saginaw Community and the United Methodist Denomination are shrinking, we maintain a vital and thriving ministry here. And the only reason we do that is because so many give of their time, their energy, their gifts and their resources to make ministry possible.

But after all, that is the call of Christ on our lives: give. Think of others as well as self. Do good, even for those who don't appreciate it. Which is hard and can drain our spirits. Sometimes, churches get a little panicked, and begin to feel that resources are scarce because they aren't what they once were. We must be on our guard against a 'scarcity mentality,' for that can cause a church to withdraw and focus on the wrong things. A healthy church is open to the spirit, open to others, and open to changes, even difficult ones. A healthy church needs much the same things as a healthy heart: a good diet and regular exercise. A healthy diet for a church is solid preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, and care that nurtures our faith in God, our relationships with others, our sense of call to the community, and our hope. Like saturated or trans fats, cynicism, fear, bitterness and despair can clog up the arteries of church life. Regularly exercising our faith through ongoing service to others is also good for us. Work a 2nd Tuesday community dinner, pack lunches for SS Peter and Paul's soup kitchen, or make treats for a Confirmation Class session. And finally, let's work on flexibility in our attitude. Don't glare at noisy children during worship or shush those who talk during the prelude on Sunday morning. Instead, rejoice that there are children here, and friendship being nurtured.

A steward is one responsible for their master's belongings. All of us are stewards of God's things. I have a good job, a lovely home and opportunities before me and my children. I give thanks for those things, but I am always mindful that I have these things because God has been at work in my life from the time I was very small- God gave me skills and talents to use, and family and friends to help me learn morality and grow up well. My opportunities are not of my own making- they are grace alive in my life. And so I return them to God's use - this is stewardship - for it is in giving that I am most alive and most aware of my own humanity and need. And it is in giving that I am most able to recognize the image of God on my life and others' lives also.

## Thanksgiving Services

TAPC's Thanksgiving Service will be Sunday, November 24th. Please join us for this very special worship time.

Our Thanksgiving Blessing Service this year is honoring the homeless shelter in Oscoda.

Please consider donating funds to purchase batches of bus tokens (*\$20 would buy 10*) or making a contribution toward the workstation electronics.

The Tawas Area Ministerial Association is also offering a Thanksgiving Service. Pastor Kathleen will be participating in this service. The TAMA worship service will happen Monday, November 25 at 7:00 pm at Christ Episcopal Church 202 Westover East Tawas MI, 48730.



### Hanging of the Greens and Pizza

Yes, you read that correctly! It's time to decorate for Christmas, and we are doing something different. Plans are to decorate on Sunday, November 24 after the service. Many hands make light work, and our youth will be available to help.

Don't worry. We will still have Fellowship Time with coffee and snacks. But we invite you to stay longer, help decorate and enjoy a special treat... **Pizza!**

Happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings, Your Worship, Music and Education Committee

### Purchase A Poinsettia

You are invited to help us decorate our TAPC sanctuary by donating a Poinsettia Plant or Plants "In Memory" or "In Honor" of someone you wish to recognize. You may place your poinsettia plant order by completing the information on the special CHRISTMAS FLOWER ORDER ENVELOPE found in the pew.

Poinsettia plants are **\$15.00 each.**

You are welcome to leave your completed order form, check and envelope in the offering plate or at the office. Make checks payable to TAPC for the full amount, **no later than Sunday, December 8th.** If you mail your orders, please make sure the office receives them by **December 8th.**

## Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Project

It is time to think about packing a shoe box for a child somewhere around the world for Christmas. Boxes are **due by Sunday November 17th**.

You can find the empty shoe boxes and brochures, on how to pack a shoe box, in the Servedy. Remember nothing edible; toothpaste, liquids or creams of any kind are not allowed. Remember to attach the Boy or Girl tag and check what age you filled your box for. **ALL BOXES MUST CLOSE TIGHTLY**. If you can put the postage in the box also, that would be great but not required. Remember to pray over your box, and if you wish, enclose a letter or card to the child. If you would like to track your box there is a way to do that by going to Samaritan's Purse - track my box, on the Internet. When you complete your box please place it in the meeting room in the cupboard marked SHOE BOXES. Any questions ask Marjory Leas. Thank you for your faithfulness over the years to this blessed project.

### Get ready for the Cookie Walk

Attention all bakers: Now is the time to think about what cookies you will be baking for the "Christmas Cookie Walk." The Cookie Walk is slated for Saturday, December 14th, from 9:00am-12:00pm. We will need bakers, helpers and volunteers to work that Saturday. Your help is needed to make this a success. Sign up sheets and flyers will be in the servedy in late November. Contact Kathy or Chuck Reddick if you have any questions.



### Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

Once again, TAPC has been asked to ring the bells for the Salvation Army. What a great way to serve our church and our community!

Bell ringers are needed for Thursday December 5 for two-hour shifts. It takes place at Neiman's Market in their vestibule. If you'd like to help, just find the sign up sheet in the servedy and pick a time.



Outreach and Events Committee will again be supporting Iosco County Toys for Tots during the Christmas season. This is a very worthwhile mission and there are many needy children who will not have a Christmas if we do not step up. Please bring **NEW, UNWRAPPED** toys to the church. There will be a Toys for Tots box in the parlor for donations. The appropriate age group is birth to 16 years of age. All donated toys and money must be at the church by 3:00pm, **SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH**. Donations of money are also accepted. Clearly mark "Donation for Toys for Tots" on the envelope. Any question please contact Chuck Reddick.

*Tawas Area Presbyterian Church says ...*  
**THANK YOU**  
 for allowing God to minister through you.

**Thank you to:** the congregation for all the donations of coats for Iosco Coats for Kids this year. The bin was emptied a couple times this season.

**Thank you to:** everyone who provided food and man power for the Michel Hollenbeck and Virginia Scales funerals. It was greatly appreciated.

**Thank you to:** everyone that donated shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse this year. It was greatly appreciated.

**Thank you to:** our Deacons and congregational caregivers who have visited our folks in the hospital and nursing homes.

**Thanks to all:** who serve our church as Committee Members, Elders or Deacons. The church continues to function because of you.

**Thank you to all:** those who give their offerings to help in the operation of our church. We could NOT do this without your weekly contributions!

**Thank you to all:** the folks who help make coffee, snacks and clean-up on Sundays. We have fellowship because of your efforts!

*New Event Happening*

Cardio Drumming ~ Monday's and Thursday's  
 5:00 Registration 5:30 Drum Time  
 No experience necessary just want to have fun  
 First time FREE  
 Returning drummers ~ \$6.00/session  
 Station rentals ~ \$5.00  
 Requirements....  
 Like upbeat, Like meeting new people, Like to laugh,  
 A desire to work up a sweat while getting a great workout  
 Any questions contact Jeanne Hebner 989-820-5535




*Because of your gifts ...*  
**We have:**  
 - Served **220** people in worship  
 in October 2019.

*We could not do this without your weekly offerings.  
 Thank you for financially supporting your church;  
 we need each and every one of you!*

*Deadline for  
 December Articles:  
**Wednesday,  
 November  
 20***

The Connection welcomes your contributions! Send them to Kristy's email listed below, or drop them off at her office.  
 Sunday Worship 10:00 am • Nursery room is available for your use • 989-362-2371 • www.tawaspresby.org