The life of Naomi in the Old Testament is a story of Loss. We are all experiencing loss in one way or another during the COVID19 shutdown. Some have lost jobs, and others lost the opportunity for summer jobs. High School seniors lost or severely curtailed the end of their senior year and graduation. That’s a significant loss when you think that senior year is a kind of a rite of passage in our culture. Some have lost dear family members and friends to the scourging virus. Others have lost a good percentage of their retirement accounts. There are those who lost an opportunity to visit parents and other relatives and cancelled travel plans. Some have lost a sense of safety in their place of work. We have all temporarily lost the privilege of public worship.

Naomi lost much too. She lost her husband and her two sons as a result of moving to Moab during a famine in Bethlehem. It is ironic that Bethlehem means, “house of bread.” When there’s a famine in the ‘house of bread’ you know there is great loss. The three men in her life all died, leaving her alone with two daughters-in-law. Then one of those abandoned her as well. Naomi’s response to loss shows how deeply hurt she was:

*Ruth 1:20-21*
*She said to them, “Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the LORD has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?*

The silver lining in Naomi’s story starts out as a tiny glimmer and builds to be the brightest star of all. You begin to see it in the fact that she left Bethlehem in the middle of a famine (When she described herself as full), and returned some years later, at the start of the barley harvest (when she described herself as empty). Obviously, God saw things differently than Naomi. The barley harvest was just the early harvest, but it gave people hope in a greater harvest throughout the year. Before long, things started happening. Finally, her one remaining daughter-in-law married Boaz and became king David’s great-grandmother, and of course an ancestor of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. If Naomi’s life tells us anything, it says, do not lose hope when you have great loss, God is in control. Put your hope and trust in God, and He will see you through. He will not only do that, he will build for you a new future based on what he sees, not on what you see.

Whatever you have lost, or still may lose due to the coronavirus, count it as an opportunity to know God better. These days present to us an unprecedented opportunity to press in to know God through prayer and the reading and meditating on His Word, the Bible. Sometimes a loss in life leaves us just empty enough to be filled more with God’s love and grace.

God bless you all,
Pastor Kris
SCRIP GIFT CARDS FOR EVERYBODY!

Looking for a gift for a friend or loved one? Need an easy way to pay for groceries, gas, dining and more? Then Scrip Gift Cards are the answer. They are quick and easy to purchase and use, plus there are hundreds of companies to choose from. And the best news is that when you purchase cards, you are giving to your church without spending an extra dime! Whether you want cards or need answers about the program, visit the Scrip Card table in the Gathering Space. We are there every Sunday before and after the service.

FROM THE OFFICE

Due to the Covid-19 Virus the Church Office will remain closed. If you need to contact Pastor, please call his cell 989-310-0005. I do come into the office to get the mail, do bills, and get messages from the phone. If you need to contact me please call 989-820-9188. As soon as we get word from the Bishop, we will re-open the church and the office.

We are working on finalizing the Directory. You will be getting a call from myself or Marilyn Denhoff asking to confirm the information we have for you. We hope to have this completed in the next few weeks, and then to have it printed and completed by the end of April (finally). Thank you for your patience.

Laura Loeffler
Office Manager
5/1 Betty House
5/7 Terry Richardson
5/9 Nicholas Revord
5/11 Rachelle Tetley
5/21 Fran Eaton
5/21 Judy Hills
5/21 Carl Walker
5/22 Richard Look
5/26 Sue Anderson
5/27 Brad Hasty
5/27 Colton Hasty
5/29 Noah Davis
5/29 Pamela Moore
5/31 Paul Anderson

5/4 James & Sandee Simmons
5/7 Jim & Eva McArdle
5/15 Jon & Jennifer Look
5/15 Elite & Nancy Shellenbarger
5/17 Paul & Sue Anderson
5/17 Kurt & Anna Dalman
5/20 Gary & Pam Lynch
5/22 Lee & Julie Lockman

Mid-MI Emmaus
www.midmichiganemmaus.com

If your name, birthday or anniversary does not appear on our list or the information is not correct please call the Church Office at 362-4288 or email at: tumctawas@gmail.com
Hello everyone, I hope everyone is doing ok during these strange times. We will not be having a regular meeting in June. There is still a possibility of our Rummage Sale in July. We may be able to have a board meeting and discuss details sometime in June. If anyone has any ideas please let me know. Thanks and I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Sincerely yours,
Judy Hills Pres UMW

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

The COVID-19 virus has changed the way we do many things. It has unfortunately caused you the graduating Seniors to miss a big part of their high school years: Homecoming, sports, school activities, friendships, and a formal graduation ceremony. Congratulations on completing your Senior year and graduating. Know that the members of the Tawas United Methodist Church will be thinking about you and praying for you as you enter the next chapter of your life.

United Methodist Women

If you would like more information of the United Methodist Women activities, please contact:
Judy Hills ~~~~~~~UMW President......... 984-4154
Barbara Ritsema ~~~UMW Vice President.....362-0432
Melissa Schirmer~~~UMW Secretary...........362-5976
Candy Thomas ~~~~~UMW Treasurer..........739-2635
Sally Nagy~~~~~~~~~UMW Asst. Treasurer….362-7120
CHURCH ACTIVITY

According to the Covid-19 guidelines, we are extending our postponement of meetings and services until the end of May. Stay tuned for more detailed reopening plans.

Wednesday Confirmation Class, is via Zoom at 4:00 PM. Need Zoom instructions? Visit our website, tawasumc.org, click Tawas UMC Zoom and find Tawas UMC Wed. meeting. Having difficulties? Text 989-310-0005 or send an email to pastortumc@outlook.com

Wednesday Evening Book Study, is via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Need Zoom instructions? Visit our website, tawasumc.org, click Tawas UMC Zoom and find Tawas UMC Wed. meeting. Having difficulties? Text 989-310-0005 or send an email to pastortumc@outlook.com

Men’s Morning Prayer Group, Saturday morning is via Zoom at 8:30am. Need Zoom instructions? Visit our website, tawasumc.org, click Tawas UMC Zoom and find Tawas UMC Wed. Meeting. Having difficulties? Text 989-310-0005 or send an email to pastortumc@outlook.com

GIVING AS WORSHIP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Please remember that our church is operational. We have office staff collecting mail and paying bills. They’re working on updating and upgrading our ability to communicate online with a new website. And we have Sunday worship online. Our Staff/Parish Relations Committee decided to continue to pay our staff members through this pandemic. So, please continue to send your offerings to the church by mail (TUMC, 20 E. M-55, Tawas City, MI 48763). We thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to worship the Lord and participate in ministry. Thank you for joining us for worship via WIOSradio.com and tawasumc.org, (ZOOM) and facebook.com/TawasUnitedMethodistChurch/

God bless you all,

Ralph Boudreau, Jr.
Church Council, Chair
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<td>National Peace Officers Memorial Day</td>
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COVID-19 HOTLINE

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has established a hotline to answer health related questions about the COVID-19 virus. It is open from 8am –5pm seven days a week.

1-888-535-6136

FACE MASKS

This is just a quick note from Karlene:
Please notify me at kgfalker@yahoo.com if you need masks. I still have some available and they can be picked up.

DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION

Thank you to those who helped organize and serve Communion on May 3 during the Drive Thru Communion Service at the TUMC. There was a total of 46 faithful who received communion.

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

Join us for Sunday Service
Saturday 6pm Praise Worship
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship
Nursery (staffed) 10:00am
Christian Education 11:15am
Pastor: Rev. Kris Kappler
Parsonage: 989-362-5399
Office Manager: Laura Loeffler
Music Director: Shawn Wygant
Custodian: Judy Hills
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
9:00am to 2:00 pm (Lunch: 11:30—Noon)
   Friday Closed
Church Office: 989-362-4288
Fax: 989-362-6320
Email: tumctawas@gmail.com
Web: www.tawasumc.org
Address: 20 E. M-55, Tawas City, MI 48763

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