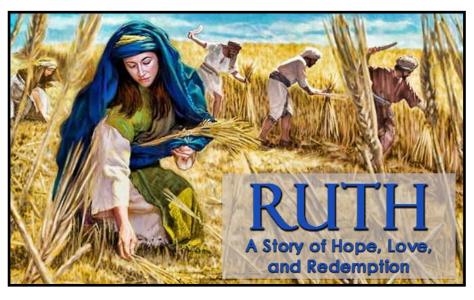
SERMON	NOTES		

ITHACA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting with our community by offering hope and purpose in Christ.

May 2023



The book of Ruth (found in the Old Testament) is one of the best short love stories ever written. The story revolves around three characters – grieving Naomi, loyal Ruth, and compassionate Boaz. God reveals his precisely planned providence through the lives of these seemingly insignificant characters.

Naomi's story promises hope for us, as her heart goes from emptiness to fullness. Boaz gives us a model of how to be a God-honoring man as he demonstrates compassion and justice that reflects the grace of God. Ruth inspires us with actions of loyalty, graciousness, courage, and devotion. God elevates her life from being an outcast to a person of significance in his plan to bring salvation to all people.

Overall, the book of Ruth helps us to see the larger story of God's redeeming grace, giving us a greater understanding of how God's providence works in real-life details of real-life situations in the lives of real-life characters – including you.

GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Children's Church at 10:30 AM during Worship Service

All children preschool - 6th grade are welcome. Pastor Gary will dismiss them to the education wing for a Christ-centered experience geared for them. Please retrieve your children following the service.

Cry Room and Nursery Care

Available during Sunday worship service for children 3 years old and under. Both are located in the education wing and the nursery is staffed by volunteers on a rotating schedule. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the nursery or if you'd like to volunteer, please contact Deana Schaffer at 989-576-1765.

Assisted Listening System

A "**Hearing Loop**" is provided in this sanctuary for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use this service, please switch to "T".

STAY CONNECTED

Senior Pastor: Gary Simmons

Assistant to the Pastor: Mark Monroe **Worship Leader:** Keegan Hartman

Contact Pastor Gary

Parsonage: 989-875-3086

E-mail: PastorGarySimmons@Gmail.com

Questions to ask? Announcements to make?

E-mail: Connect@IthacaUMC.org

Phone: 989-875-4313 (Leave a message)

Church Office: Currently Unstaffed

Join the Prayer Chain: Prayer@IthacaUMC.org

Sermons, calendar, and much more online!

Website: www.IthacaUMC.org

FB & Insta: @IthacaUnitedMethodistChurch

YouTube: Ithaca UMC Worship









UPCOMING EVENTS

Straw Polling Slips

Please submit your input for the straw poll regarding a church name change and denominational affiliation by Sunday, May 7th.

Leadership Board Meeting

Monday, May 8th at 5:30 PM in the church basement. Another will follow on Monday, June 12th at 5:30 PM.

Town Hall Meeting — Global Methodist Church Affiliation Sunday, June 11th immediately following the worship service.

Church Conference

TBA. Stay tuned.

Special Session of the Michigan Annual ConferenceNovember 30th.

Choir Practice

Welcoming new voices to make a joyful noise unto the Lord every Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.

THE MISSION FIELD

Do you see a need that has gone unmet? We're looking for a few outwardly-focused ministry ideas. If you have any suggestions for how Ithaca UMC can connect with the community to offer hope and purpose in Christ, please get in touch with one of the members of the Leadership Board: Pastor Gary Simmons, Mark Monroe, Ben Bates, Jim Bowen, Joelle Gibson, Keegan Hartman, Glenda Konecny, Scott Merchant, and Anna Rittersdorf.

FAITH@HOME

Small groups are a great way to build authentic relationships with other Christ followers and dive deeper in discipleship. If you'd like to take this opportunity to grow in your faith and experience Christian camaraderie, we encourage you to join an existing small group or start one of your own. Please contact Mark Monroe at 989-506-7996 or Ken Gibson at 989-388-2831.