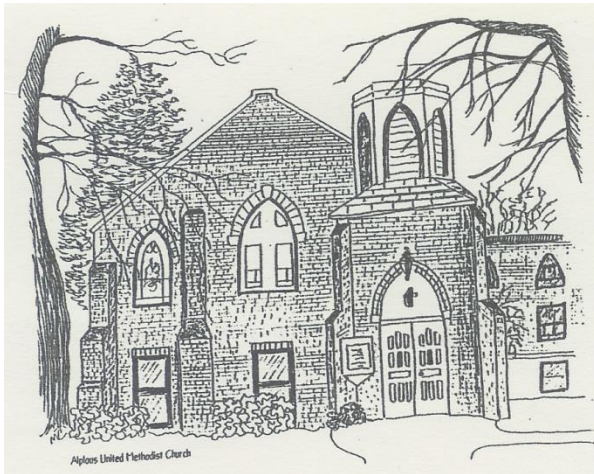




## The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



### ***The Alplaus United Methodist Church's Mission and Vision:***

*Our vision for the AUMC is to be a viable, active, open church that supports both individual members and the community with a loving, spiritual atmosphere.*

*Our mission is to worship, serve, pray, and play by connecting with the community and each other.*

### **Pastoral Letter**

January! May God bless you and keep you well this year! Has it really been six months? It seems like time is flying by. I only just got here. This month, I have had the pleasure of getting to know this congregation better. Kylie and I went to the City Mission to help out in November (we missed December) we had a great time and look forward to going again soon. We also had our first Church dinner together and I had a great time! I haven't been able to say that after all my church dinners... I really enjoy the way this congregation pulls together and works together and has fun together doing it!

This is the time of year for making and keeping or making and breaking resolutions. Some folks make them just to have fun breaking them. Others find the beginning of a new year an opportunity to start the year fresh – with a clean slate and do their best to make themselves be their own (or latest version of) “best selves”. Whether you make your resolution stick or not – I wonder at the amount of fresh starts that are available to us.

Not only do we get a clean slate every January First, but we can also start fresh every time we come to God in prayer. At any point, we may approach the Holy with a desire and a determination to recognize our faults or failings and bring a resolve to do better. In the Lord's Prayer we seek to have our trespasses forgiven as we forgive those who trespass against us. Forgiveness is part of life – as are the fresh starts that come with forgiveness.

There are times when forgiveness is difficult or painful. Sometimes we hold on to the pain of hurt or betrayal and refuse to forgive someone else. Sometimes we don't know how to forgive. Is forgiveness condoning wrong actions? When forgiveness is difficult sometimes we have to choose – moment by moment – to not carry resentment; choose to put down the shame or the hurt or the sorrow and choose to free yourself from carrying it. The repetitive process of making the choice to no longer carry the burdens can ease itself into a permanent forgiveness.

I am focusing on forgiveness at the start of this year because I also want to remind folks as they are making and or breaking New Year Resolutions that often the forgiveness we forget is our own. We hold ourselves back when we forget that we are a forgiven people. We cannot make a fresh start if we are clinging to our past faults.

2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Embrace your fresh start! Choose the New Year or any moment to come to God in prayer and remember that Christ has shown us that forgiveness is part of life. Lay down the heavy burdens of shame and guilt and



with your newly freed hands embrace the forgiveness offered to you. May God bless you and keep you well this year!

Blessings,  
Pastor Kristi

**The United Methodist Women**

In January we don't have a regular UMW meeting. Instead we hold our planning meeting for the new year. Come with program ideas as well as mission projects. The meeting will be held at 12:30pm on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of Mary Herrick.

**Prayer List**

Jack Leveille	Ginny Smith	Dorothy Ziegler
Barbara Hutchins	Dan Trask	Lu Diel's family
Claudia Lewis	Alice Lewis	Janice's family
Terry Gleason	Jeanne Story	Residents of nursing homes
Bill Broland	Mary Jackson	
Marcie Krout	Anne, Emily, and Deontae Kwiatkowski	
Gordon Neufeld and family	All victims of disasters and violence	

**Fulfilling our Promises - our presence and our presents**

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
Nov 2	?	\$2,057
Nov 9	34	\$1,173
Nov 16	37	\$1,271
Nov 23	26	\$690
Nov 30	28	\$275

**Comparison of expenses and income**

	For Nov	Actual year to date	Expected year to date (budgeted)
Expenses	\$5,074	\$61,222	\$67,467
Income	\$5,466	\$41,400	\$41,660

**Pill Bottle program**

In developing countries, medicines – when actually obtainable – are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves, or any other available container. Donations of clean, unlabeled plastic pill bottles help the poorest of the poor in many ways.

Pill bottles of all types are accepted: prescription or over the counter, large or small, with or without child proof caps. Placing a nickel, dime, or quarter in each bottle helps with shipping costs. There will be a container in Fellowship Hall in which to put our bottles.



**Lay Leader**

**Every Day is Christmas**

Author Unknown

Every day is Christmas  
when you have the kind of mind,  
That stores up all the goodness  
and the sweetness it can find  
When you don't need an occasion,  
to spread a bit of cheer,  
But just keep on a-giving,  
of yourself throughout the year

Every day is Christmas,  
with a gaily wrapped surprise,  
When you've learned to see the friendship,  
in someone else's eyes.  
When you try a little harder,  
and complain a little less,  
Holding fast to all the fervor  
of the faith that you possess

Every day is Christmas,  
when you've found that you can be  
More concerned with words like "you"  
and less with "I" and "me".  
When it's fun to do a favor,  
and to lend a helping a hand,  
When being understood means less,  
than when you understand

Every day is Christmas,  
with a beauty deeply cast,  
When you find it doesn't matter,  
if you're first or if you're last  
When you can face your conscience,  
and be glad of what you are,  
Then every day is Christmas,  
with a stable and star.

Blessings,  
Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader  
(518) 330-9277 or [LLBeretz@gmail.com](mailto:LLBeretz@gmail.com)

**Community Luncheon**

Sorry we had to cancel the December luncheon because of snow. Hope January will be different. We are planning to celebrate "Little Christmas", which is on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, at the January 13<sup>th</sup> luncheon. This will be the Christmas party we didn't have! Bring a dish to share if you can and also invite a friend.

**Lectionary**

These are listed with the idea that you might care to read the scriptures before attending church each week, especially if you will be the liturgist and especially the psalms, which we seldom read in worship. While there is no worship service, there are also suggested readings for New Year's Day 1/1 and Epiphany 1/6.

	<u>Hebrew Scripture</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Jan 1	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Psalm 8	Revelation 21:1-6a	Matthew 25:31-46
Jan 4	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1: 10-18
Jan 6	Isaiah 60:1-8	Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 11	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Jan 18	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Jan 25	Jonah 3:1-5,10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20

## Alplaus United Methodist Church January 2015 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Epiphany Sunday <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Communion Worship Service</b>	<b>5</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>8</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Baptism of the Lord <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service</b> <b>SICM Food Collection Day</b> <b>Council Mtg after coffee hour at Trask's home</b>	<b>12</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>13</b> <b>11:30am – Community Luncheon</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts  7pm Scouts	<b>15</b> 12:30pm UMW Planning meeting at Mary's house 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 2nd Sunday after Epiphany <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service</b>	<b>19</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting  <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	<b>20</b> 5:30pm Serving at City Mission <b>Muse article deadline!</b>	<b>21</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>22</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 3rd Sunday after Epiphany <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service</b>	<b>26</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts  7pm Scouts	<b>29</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>31</b>

Pastor Kristi's Office hours: Wednesday 9am – 12pm, Thursday 11am – 2pm.

Alplaus Methodist Church  
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First Class Mail



JANUARY 1, 2015



Articles for the February newsletter must be submitted to [alplausmuse@gmail.com](mailto:alplausmuse@gmail.com)  
no later than **January 20<sup>th</sup>**.  
Thank you!

If you would like to receive your copy of our monthly Muse via email, please let me know at  
[llberetz@gmail.com](mailto:llberetz@gmail.com) and put "Muse" in the subject line.