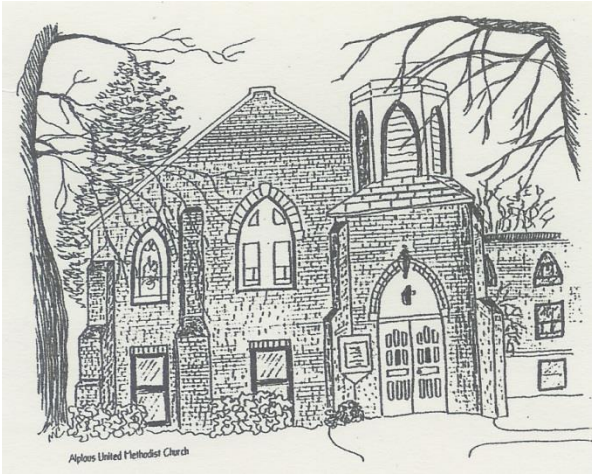




## The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



### ***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**

Good News, winter will end and spring will come, I promise!

Lent has started. A few intrepid souls came out to start their Lenten journey with music and prayer and ashes. Throughout the month of March, we will continue with Lent and for this season we are remembering to be God-centered and humble. Our scriptures this season takes us back to the beginning with readings from Genesis, Exodus, Numbers and Jeremiah as we recount the many ways God has reached out to offer restoration to people. We'll also double up the readings at the end of the month and include some beautiful and beloved passages from John before we enter into Holy Week on March 29<sup>th</sup> with Palm/Passion Sunday.

Palm Sunday has started to include Passion Sunday because there is so much that happens in between Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (celebrated Palm Sunday) and the celebration of the resurrection on the following Sunday (Easter). Attendance is generally low but the story is vitally important. Palm Sunday's service will begin with pomp and majesty (or as much as frivolity of children waving and dispensing palm fronds) and the service will gradually remind us that Holy Week and the days in between Palm Sunday and Easter include prayer, communion, betrayal, trial, denial, and death.

We will have a Good Friday service on April 3 at 7pm, here at the Alplaus UMC. Everyone is welcome to come – I've been talking with Amanda and Robin and I think it will be an interesting and hopefully deeply meaningful experience.

Our movie nights continue – we have had an intentionally low-key beginning but hope that interest will pick up and the church may be a welcome haven for family movie nights. Our first two movies went well. Our next movie will be "How to Train Your Dragon" on March 27 at 6:30pm (the day before the Easter Egg Hunt!)

So let me close with a reminder that Lent is a whole season of opportunity. Lent is an opportunity to turn your focus God-ward. To repent means to turn around. In this season, God reminds us that we have the opportunity to turn ourselves toward the Holy where we will find forgiveness, welcome, and wholeness. I am honored to be on this journey with the find folks of the Alplaus UMC.

Shalom,  
Pastor Kristi

**Lay Leader**

THIS IS SO CUTE!!!

It was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well?

**EXPLANATION OF GOD:**

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.'

'His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!'

'Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong, and besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.'

'And...that's why I believe in God.'

(If you believe in God, share this with a friend, and may God bless you too.)

Have an awesome day, and know that someone has thought about you!

Blessings,

Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader

(518) 330-9277 or [LLBeretz@gmail.com](mailto:LLBeretz@gmail.com)



**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.

	<u>Hebrew Scripture</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
3/1/15	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalms 22: 23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38
3/8/15	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
3/15/15	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalms 107:13,17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
3/22/15	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalms 51:1-12	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
3/29/15				
Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-11;	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11
Passion Sunday				Mark 14:1-15:47

**The United Methodist Women**

The meeting will be held March 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in Fellowship Hall. The hostess will be Shirley Sutphen, but the program has not been decided upon yet. Program booklets are being updated and will be available at this meeting.

**Community Luncheon**

Sorry we had to cancel the February meeting. We are planning to hold the next luncheon on March 10; this is if we don't have a snow storm! Bring a dish to share if you can and also invite a friend. Hope to see you there. Please arrive early so we can start the luncheon at noon.

**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	



**Special invitation 3/22**



Come to church on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and stay for the Intro to Young Living Essential Oils class immediately following coffee hour. Learn how essential oils can have a profound impact on your health and well-being. Presented by Jenn Suydam. [www.oilygurus.com/jenn-suydam](http://www.oilygurus.com/jenn-suydam)

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

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
Dec 7	28	\$1,062
Dec 14	26	\$1,050
Dec 21	43	\$745
Dec 24	54	\$780

**Comparison of expenses and income**

	For Jan	Actual year to date	Expected year to date (budgeted)
Expenses	\$5,297	\$5,297	\$6,080
Income	\$3,636	\$3,636	\$4,583

**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.

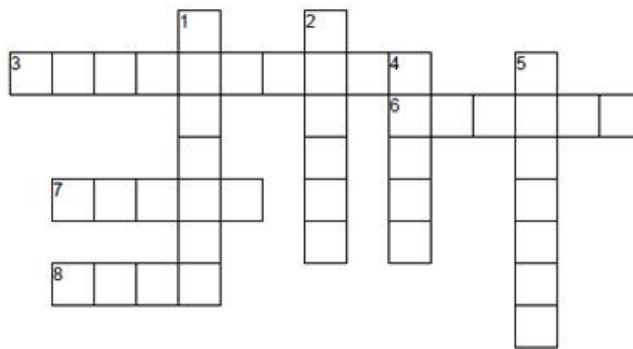


**Kids page**

## Into the Wilderness with Jesus

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. Mark 1:12-13 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 1:12-15 (NIV)



**HORIZONTAL**

- 3. A deserted area
- 6. Heavenly beings that protected Jesus in the wilderness.
- 7. The number that is ten more than thirty.
- 8. The opposite of bad.

**VERTICAL**

- 1. Encouraged someone to do something even though it was wrong.
- 2. To turn away from sin.
- 4. The fallen angel who tempts someone to do wrong.
- 5. To accept something to be true.

WILDERNESS	REPENT	GOOD	BELIEVE
FORTY	SATAN	ANGELS	TEMPTED

## Alplaus United Methodist Church March 2015 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Communion Worship Service</b>	<b>2</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Scouts	<b>5</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	<b>6</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service, SICM Food Collection Day. Council Meeting at Parsonage after coffee hour.</b>	<b>9</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>10</b> Noon – Community Luncheon	<b>11</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>12</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	<b>13</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>14</b> <b>5 – 7pm Corned Beef Dinner</b>
<b>15</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service</b>	<b>16</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>17</b> 5pm Serve at City Mission <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Scouts	<b>19</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Bridge <b>March Muse article deadline!</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service</b>	<b>23</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>26</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Bridge <b>6:30pm Movie Night in the Sanctuary</b>	<b>28</b> <b>11am – 12:30pm Easter Egg Hunt</b>
<b>29</b> Palm/Passion Sunday <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Palm Sunday Church Worship Service</b>	<b>30</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>31</b>				

Pastor Kristi's schedule - In the office: Wednesday 9-12 and Thursday 11-1.

# CORNERED BEEF DINNER

**Alplaus United Methodist Church**  
1 Brookside Avenue in Alplaus

**ADULTS (13+): \$10.00 ♦ VETERANS \$9.00**  
**KIDS (5-12): \$5.00 ♦ UNDER 5: FREE**  
**FAMILY PKG. \$25.00 (2 adults & 2 kids 5-12)**

**SATURDAY**

**Mar. 14**

**5 – 7 p.m.**

**518-399-6000**

Walk-ins Welcome & Takeouts Available

*MENU: Corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, bread, dessert, beverage (with eat-in only)*



DINERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR THE SICM FOOD PANTRY

church is handicapped accessible ♦ [www.alplausumc.org](http://www.alplausumc.org)

## Easter Events In Alplaus

The Alplaus Church and Pastor Kristi (399-6000) invite you to be our guest at the coming events:

11am – 12:30pm, Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>

Community Easter Egg Hunt for children with games and prizes. If still snowy it will be held indoors.

7am, Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>

Easter Sunrise Worship, followed by a pancake breakfast.

10:15am, Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Worship Service.

Alplaus Methodist Church  
1 Brookside Ave.  
Alplaus, NY 12008  
(518)399-6000  
AlplausUMC.org

First Class Mail



MARCH 1, 2015



Articles for the April newsletter must be submitted to [alplausmuse@gmail.com](mailto:alplausmuse@gmail.com)  
no later than **March 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 [lberetz@gmail.com](mailto:lberetz@gmail.com) and put "Muse" in the subject line.