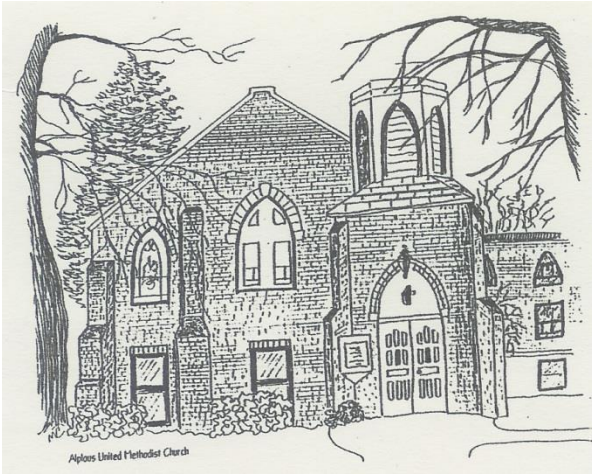




## The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



### ***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**

Welcome, Spring!

I thought that if I started with a cheery welcome like that, Spring might actually show up... we'll see.

Spring brings Easter and hope, chocolate and family gatherings. Spring brings days increasing in light and warmth. This amazing holiday of Easter reminds us that God's wish for us is to know forgiveness and fullness of life. This time of year is filled with hope, renewal and new possibilities.

The snow will melt and the mud will persist, but the green shoots of new life will come. Perhaps you are growing plants from seeds indoors already because you want to be prepared for the light and warmth that is certainly coming. At Easter we celebrate that we have prepared our hearts, we know that the tomb is empty and the stone rolled away and through this we know that God's gift of salvation is certainly for us.

Lent is ending in Holy Week, wherein we recount how completely and horrifically we humans rejected the Son of God. We denied and betrayed, accused and executed this One who had come in the name of the Lord. Easter affirms with empty tomb and shocking revelations that our human actions had no finality. God gives us, even after the violent terrors of Good Friday, an everlasting message of salvation in the risen Christ. And you should know that this message is for you - whether or not you started or kept a Lenten "fast" or habit. If you've found yourself on the inside of a church or not - this message of forgiveness and salvation is for you.

Like almost every church, we have many more members listed in our book than come on any Sunday, holiday or not. There are more reasons than you could imagine for folks to stay away: weather, health, busy schedules - these are the easy reasons to share. Still others avoid church because they feel unworthy, ashamed, or guilty. Please know - the Easter message of salvation is meant specifically for you. I admit that I am still new here in Alplaus. I will probably be "new" here for at least 2 or 3 more years. I rejoice in the congregation that I have come to know and love here in Alplaus. This congregation is full of warmth and welcome. Judgement is not easily found here - I haven't seen it yet, and I have to admit I've been on the lookout.

I hope that whenever you choose to worship here, you find renewal, forgiveness, welcome and love.

Easter Blessings,  
*Pastor Kristi*



### Lay Leader

Christian one liners:

- Don't let your worries get the best of you; Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.
- Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers. It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
- The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.
- When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.
- People are funny; they want the Front of the bus, Middle of the road, and Back of the church.
- Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever.
- If a church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.
- We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.
- God himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?
- Some minds are like concrete. Thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.
- Peace starts with a smile.
- I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?
- Be ye fishers of men. You catch'em - He'll clean'em.
- Stop, Drop, and Roll won't work in Hell.
- Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.
- Don't put a question mark where God put a period.
- Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.
- God grades on the cross, not the curve.
- God loves everyone, but probably prefers 'fruits of the spirit' over 'religious nuts!'
- God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
- He who angers you, controls you!
- If God is your Co-Pilot, you need to swap seats!
- Prayer: Don't give God instructions, just report for duty!
- The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.
- The Will of God never takes you where the Grace of God will not protect you.
- We don't change the message, the message changes us.
- You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage them.
- The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.
- There is no greater treasure than a good friend!  
(author unknown)

If this blessed you in a profound way today, share it with a few friends to bless them!  
I bet someone else will LOVE it too.

Have a Happy Easter and a great Spring!!

Easter 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>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
4/2 Holy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-14	116: 1-4 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
4/3 Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42
4/5 Easter	Acts 10: 34-43	Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18 Mark 16:1-8
4/12	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1- 2:2	John 20:19-31
4/19	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
4/26	Acts 4:512	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18

**The United Methodist Women**

The UMW will hold its April meeting on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup>. The program is TBA. Hostesses will be Sandi and Mary. Don't forget to bring the items of food and hygiene products that will be taken to the spring District UMW meeting at East Greenbush on April 18<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to attend the District meeting please contact Mary Herrick.

**Community Luncheon**

The luncheon will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship hall at 11:30am. We are hoping for a beautiful spring day, so please try to attend. Last month we all enjoyed a great St. Patrick's Day luncheon. Please bring a dish to share if you can.

**Prayer List**

Jack Leveille	Ginny Smith	Dorothy Ziegler
Barbara Hutchins	Dan Trask	Bill Broland
Claudia Lewis	Alice Lewis	Janice's family
Terry Gleason	Jeanne Story	Residents of nursing homes
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>
February 1	20	\$1,090
February 8	23	\$860
February 15	No service	
February 18 Ash Wednesday	14	\$
February 22	22	\$895

**Comparison of expenses and income**

	For Jan	Actual year to date	Expected year to date (budgeted)
Expenses	\$8,704	\$14,001	\$12,185
Income	\$2,844	\$6,480	\$9,167

**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.

**Coffee Hour**

Please remember to check the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall and volunteer! Alternatively, donations of non-perishable items or items that can be frozen can be made. Please attach a note indicating “for coffee hour use” as other groups use our kitchen and sometimes food goes unused if we don’t know what it’s for. Random volunteers to help clean up are always appreciated too.



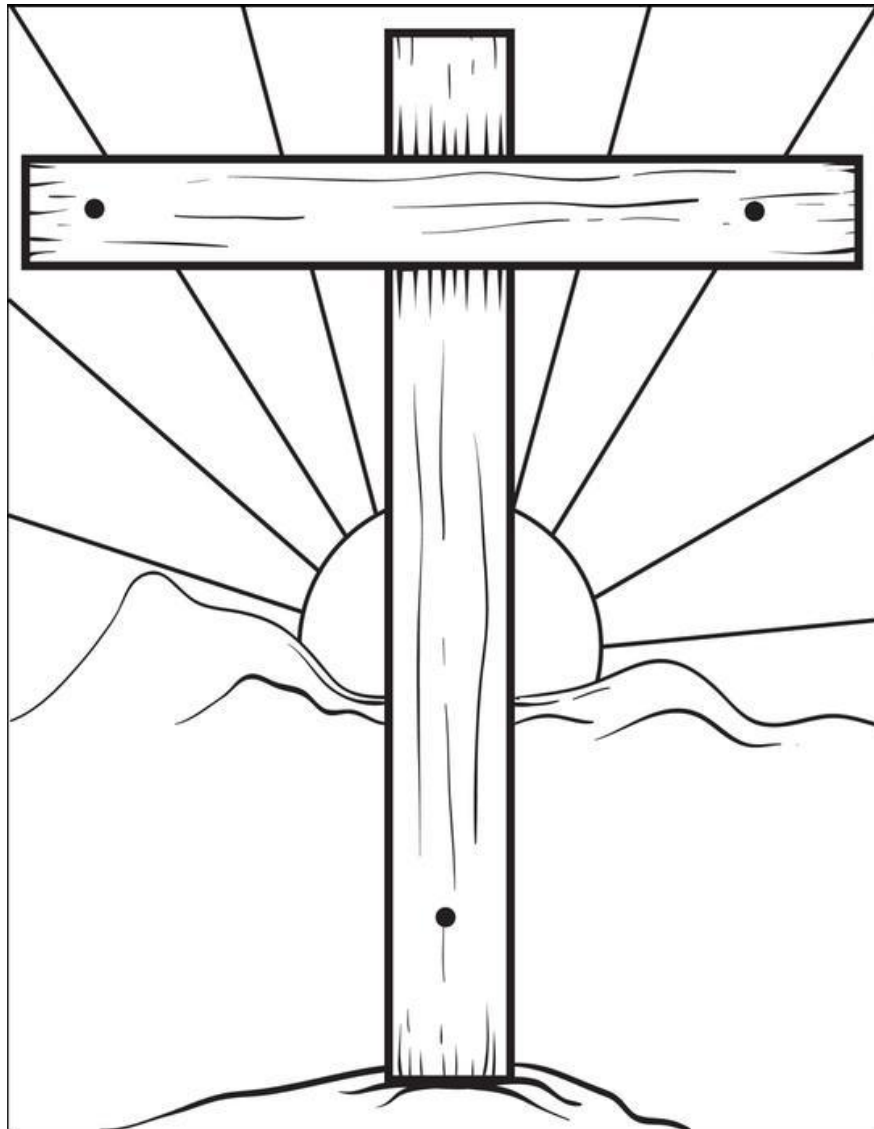
**How can we serve you better?**

Your insight as a participant in Alplaus United Methodist Church is important to the church council, in our attempts to keep worship meaningful and in future planning. Please consider these questions prayerfully. You can email your reply to: [LLBeretz@gmail.com](mailto:LLBeretz@gmail.com) (church council chair), mail it back to the church or place in the church council chair mail slot downstairs.

1. Name two things Alplaus UMC does that are most meaningful to you.
  
2. Name two things you would like to see changed or done differently at Alplaus UMC.
  
3. What is most important to you, that we keep in our special worship celebrations during Christmas, Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, All-Saints Sunday, etc?
  
4. How important is it to you that we keep the worship service to one hour in length?
  
5. As you can see by our receipts and expenses reported in the Muse each month we have a gap in our finances – any ideas on how to close that gap?
  
6. Originally the church was founded by the community. How can we again increase community involvement?
  
7. Do you feel our worship services are inclusive of the needs of all different groups, ages and stages of life?
  
8. Do you think your spiritual growth and healing has been enhanced by your experiences at Alplaus UMC?
  
9. Are there any hymns that are especially meaningful to you or anthems you would like to hear the choir sing if possible?
  
10. Please note any other suggestions or ideas that might help the church council plan for the coming year and improve our worship together.



Kids page



"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,  
will draw all people to myself."

John 12:32

## Alplaus United Methodist Church April 2015 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>2</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	<b>3</b> <b>7pm Good Friday Service</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Easter Day <b>7am Sunrise Service, Pancake breakfast after No Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service, no coffee hour</b>	<b>6</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>9</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service</b> <b>Council Meeting at Parsonage after coffee hours</b> <b>SICM Food Collection Day</b>	<b>13</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>14</b> 11:30 – 2pm Community Luncheon	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Scouts	<b>16</b> 12:30 UMW Meeting 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service</b>	<b>20</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting <b>May Muse article deadline!</b>	<b>21</b> 5pm Serve at City Mission	<b>22</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>23</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Bridge <b>6:30pm Movie Night, "Big Hero 6" in Sanctuary.</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service.</b>	<b>27</b> 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir		

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

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

First Class Mail



APRIL 1, 2015



Articles for the May newsletter must be submitted to [alplausmuse@gmail.com](mailto:alplausmuse@gmail.com)  
no later than **April 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.