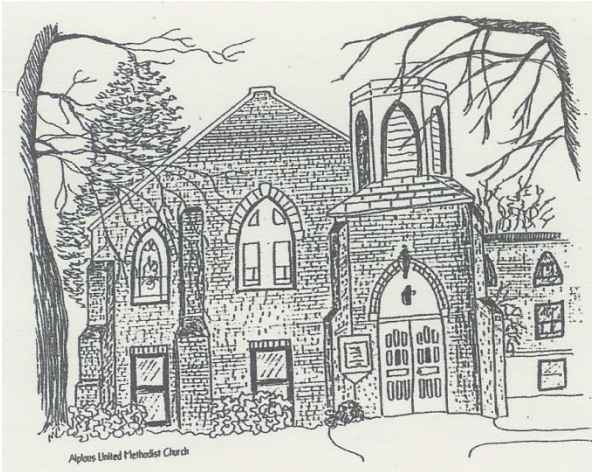




## The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



### ***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**

"I can see clearly now the [snow] is gone! I can see all obstacles [sticks and leaves] in my way..."

I recently sang this song with the congregation during a sermon. We were discussing Thomas and his status as an "out and about town doer" while the other disciples were cowering in fear. Because Thomas was out and about, he missed an encounter the others had with Jesus.

Now that we are well into Easter, we continue to wonder with the disciples as they hear again and again from Jesus. He appears to them, he comforts them, he encourages them, and promises them a gift from the Holy Spirit. These disciples are amazed and confused and terrified. They have seen their leader and friend arrested and killed. They are terrified of being the next one executed. Still, Jesus comes to them and tells them to not be afraid and to await the gift of the Holy Spirit. Throughout 50 days, Jesus continues to appear and to break down barriers. Locked doors, closed rooms, a government that executed him - these are not obstacles for Jesus. He overcomes these trivial matters and finds his friends to give them good news.

We have different, less obvious obstacles today. Usually a full calendar and a continually growing debt. You may be thinking of a financial debt - too many of us are over burdened by that - but what I mean is a debt of sleep, or quality time with family. We are so busy during the week with work and things that have to get done that we put off other things that will tend to our personal needs: sleep, good home-cooked food, time with our family, calls to connect with loved ones. These put off items then collect and accumulate a debt of self-care. These are the obstacles that get put off to the weekend - that magical time when we think there will be ample time to tend to these "debts" while also taking an overdue and well-deserved rest. When we put off caring for ourselves until there is ample time, we find ourselves never really "catching-up" or paying off that debt. And now is when I offer the very typical pastor response of "open your heart and mind to be comforted and consoled by the presence of the Holy."

You may think that you do not have time, or the right attitude, or even the ability to make time for the Holy in your life. You do. This season of Easter is about recognizing how Jesus is trying to break into your life. Jesus' "B&E" will not deplete your personal belongings or endanger your well-being. You probably won't share broiled fish with Jesus while inspecting his wounds, but Jesus is breaking through your barriers and overcoming the obstacles you place between your understanding of what is and what could be. The resurrected Christ cares about you and seeks out your well-being. Jesus comes to offer comfort and knowledge of his commitment to you and your wholeness of life.



The obstacles never go away. There will always be more to do, things and situations clamoring for our attention. When we pause for a moment, a breath, a heart beat..., we can find ourselves grounded, refreshed and renewed because in that still, small, moment we have allowed Jesus to overcome our barriers, to illuminate the obstacles in our way between what always is and what could be, with the help of the Holy Spirit. How I love the season of Easter!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Kristi*

**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>
5/3	Acts 8:26-40	22: 25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
5/10	Acts 10:44-48	98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
5/17	Acts 1:1-11	47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
5/24	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
5/31	Isaiah 6:1-8	29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

**The United Methodist Women**

The UMW will hold its May meeting on Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30. Mandy is in charge of the Prayer and Self Denial program. Mandy and Amanda are the hostesses. Don't forget your Prayer and Self Denial offering.

**Community Luncheon**

The luncheon will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship hall from 11:30 – 2:00. We will have Bingo. Please bring a dish to share if you can, and hope for a nice spring day!

**Lay Leader**

Some of you may not be old enough to remember the clothesline, but I do. My Mother would wash our clothes in a wringer washing machine, which was a washing machine that didn't spin the clothes to wring them out. You had to feed the clothes between two rollers that would squeeze the water out, then rinse them in a sink and back through the rollers again before hanging them outside on the clothesline. Those were the days! Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms

Blessings,

Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader

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

This is fun to read and quite true...we are probably the last generation that will remember what a clothesline was. And in lots of places they are illegal. It's the poem at the end that's the best!!!

**Remembering Mom's Clothesline**

There is one thing that's left out. We had a long wooden pole (clothes pole) that was used to push the clotheslines up so that longer items (sheets/pants/etc.) didn't brush the ground and get dirty. I can hear my mother now...

**THE BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES:**

(If you don't even know what clotheslines are, better skip this.)

1. You had to hang the socks by the toes... NOT the top.
2. You hung pants by the BOTTOM/cuffs... NOT the waistbands.
3. You had to WASH the clothesline(s) before hanging any clothes - walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
4. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.
5. You NEVER hung a shirt by the shoulders - always by the tail! What would the neighbors think?
6. Wash day on a Monday! NEVER hang clothes on the weekend, or on Sunday, for Heaven's sake!
7. Hang the sheets and towels on the OUTSIDE lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busybodies, y'know!)
8. It didn't matter if it was sub-zero weather... clothes would "freeze-dry."
9. ALWAYS gather the clothes pins when taking down dry clothes! Pins left on the lines were "tacky"!
10. If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothes pins, but shared one of the clothes pins with the next washed item.
11. Clothes off of the line before dinner time, neatly folded in the clothes basket, and ready to be ironed. IRONED??!! Well, that's a whole OTHER subject!

**And now a POEM...**

A clothesline was a news forecast, to neighbors passing by, there were no secrets you could keep, when clothes were hung to dry. It also was a friendly link, for neighbors always knew if company had stopped on by, to spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the "fancy sheets", and towels upon the line; you'd see the "company table cloths", with intricate designs. The line announced a baby's birth, from folks who lived inside, as brand new infant clothes were hung, so carefully with pride!

The ages of the children could, so readily be known, by watching how the sizes changed, you'd know how much they'd grown!

It also told when illness struck, as extra sheets were hung; then nightclothes, and a bathrobe too, haphazardly were strung. It also said, "On vacation now", when lines hung limp and bare. It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged, with not an inch to spare!



New folks in town were scorned upon, if wash was dingy and gray, as neighbors carefully raised their brows, and looked the other way.

But clotheslines now are of the past, for dryers make work much less. Now what goes on inside a home, is anybody's guess! I really miss that way of life, it was a friendly sign, when neighbors knew each other best... By what hung on the line.

*(Author unknown)*

**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>
March 1	20	\$1,938
March 8	23	\$712
March 15	33	\$2,173
March 22	36	\$946
March 29	?	\$1,232

**Comparison of expenses and income**

	For Mar	Actual year to date	Expected year to date (budgeted)
Expenses	\$4,768	\$18,770	\$18,277
Income	\$2,844	\$7,001	\$13,751

**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.



Kids page

## The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 10:11-18



P E P F E L D W S R L G F T T  
T B F L O C K P K M I U W E J  
Q V C Q K N O W F L F R I A Y  
L N B F O O H P J O E Q U T I  
Z G N L Q R I D Q V U C W N S  
A A I G O O D S T E T S A L S  
O S T M S J C N H S S D M L T  
B F G S R C Y Y Z E V R S I K  
D W E O H C A R E S E K H S A  
A O Q J B E O T M V C P C T K  
P L D V E F P Q T A R E T E T  
E F O O D H E H T E P K H N V  
N B G I S C U T E Q R A Y B S  
K G E C G B A O T R L S C V V  
U M R E Q O A T H D D D K X W

LISTEN	SHEEP	LOVES	WOLF	FLOCK
ATTACKS	CARES	PEN	GOOD	RUNS
SCATTERS	VOICE	SHEPHERD	LIFE	KNOW



"Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.'"  
*John 10:11*

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## Alplaus United Methodist Church May 2015 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service. Church Council Meeting after at Parsonage</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>7</b> <b>National Day of Prayer</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service. SICM Food Collection Day. Mother's Day</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 11:30 – 2pm Community Luncheon	<b>13</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>14</b> 2:30pm Cub Scouts 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Ascension Sunday <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service. Church Clean-up after church, please stay to help if you can.</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 5pm Serve at City Mission	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Scouts <b>June Muse article deadline!</b>	<b>21</b> 12:30 UMW Meeting 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Bridge <b>6:30pm Movie Night in the Sanctuary</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Pentecost Day  <b>No Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service.</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7pm Scouts Annual Conference begins for Amanda & Pastor Kristi	<b>28</b> 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Bridge	<b>30</b> Annual Conference ends for Amanda & Pastor Kristi
<b>31</b> Trinity Sunday  <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15am Church Worship Service</b>						

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

Alplaus Methodist Church  
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(518)399-6000  
AlplausUMC.org

First Class Mail



MAY 1, 2015



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