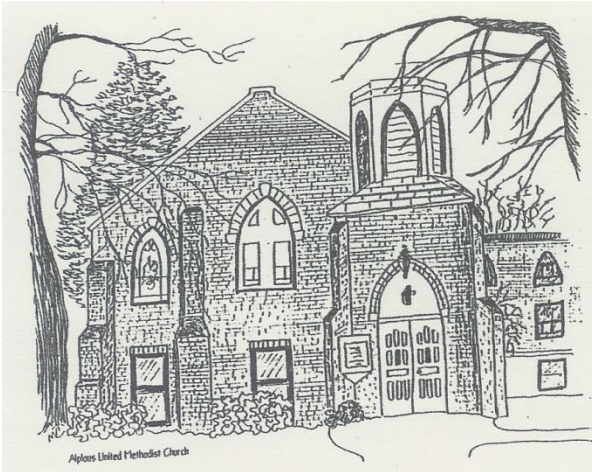




The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



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

If the season of Easter is about how Jesus breaks into our lives to reveal the mystery of resurrection and the possible into the lives of our usual reality, then the season after Pentecost (our current season) is about how the presence of the Holy Spirit takes up that cause and pulls us forward into becoming and building the Kingdom of God. I don't mean a separate country - or another opportunity for taxes and politicians. I mean that the Holy Spirit is calling us, urging us, and inspiring us to become and create reflections of God's will.

What's wrong? Are you intimidated at the thought that our goal is to live into God's will and create with the Spirit a new kingdom? Does the thought of this seem preposterous bordering on lunacy? Are you afraid that next I will ask for everyone to sell all their goods so we can re-distribute essentials as each has need and then give the rest to UMCOR? (The United Methodist Committee on Relief)

I can see how the thought of becoming and creating reflections of God's will is daunting. It could even be radical and extreme. It is what we pray for each time we pray the Lord's Prayer: "... thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..." In our recitation of this prayer we frequently pause in between "thy will be done" and "on earth as it is in heaven." I served a church that had decided to change how they collectively pray this together. (This was a congregation with an average age of 78, including one 30 year old pastor, and two other members not yet retired.) It started with one member who shared his understanding - that we are praying for God's will be done on earth - why break up the phrase to stop us from doing exactly that? He argued that punctuation matters and it wasn't included or recorded in any of the Scriptures. So, he shared his understanding that we ought to think of punctuating the prayer like this: "Thy kingdom come: thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven..." Then he started praying that way during the Sunday service, and after a few weeks everyone else was doing the same. I changed too and every time I prayed this prayer I paused ahead of time to remind myself: pray for God's will to be done on earth.

Not too long after this process, the congregation of retirees collaborated with other local churches and ministries to buy an old hotel/restaurant and refurbish it for community needs: food pantry, clothing closet, space for county services satellite offices, and seasonal low income housing.

That is an example of how the Holy Spirit is alive and at work today - bringing new life and purpose. The Holy Spirit creates opportunities for us to reflect the grace and love of God as we live into our understanding of forgiveness and salvation. Every year, we cycle through the story that begins with waiting for Christmas; we follow the life and ministry of Jesus; we remember how he lived and taught, was arrested, crucified, died and resurrected. We celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter - the gift of the Spirit - the mighty rushing wind that



breaks down barriers of language and power to give the Spirit of God to each person. Then, we live the season after Pentecost until the end of the year - when we celebrate how we expect the Lord to come again.

The season after Pentecost is called "Ordinary time" - we are measuring the amount of time that has passed since Pentecost. In the Church year - it's about 27 weeks. In reality it's been about 2000 years...We are always living with the gift of the Spirit, preparing for God's kingdom, praying God's will be done one earth... even right now! Who knew that my favorite church season would be called "Ordinary time"?

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>Psalms</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
6/7	1 Samuel 8:4-20	138	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20 - 35
6/14	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13	20	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Mark 4:26-34
6/21	1 Samuel 17:1-23, 32-49	9: 9-20	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
6/28	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27	130	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43

The United Methodist Women

The June meeting will be on the 18th. As I write this the place for our lunch has not yet been decided. This will be announced in the Sunday bulletin. Mandy will also have more information on this later.

Community Luncheon

The luncheon will be held June 9th from 11:30 – 2:00 in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a non perishable food item for the Schenectady Inner city Mission (SICM). We do this food collection several times a year. Hope to see more of you back in June. In July we will have a cookout. I want to thank everyone and especially Tonya who baked a beautiful big cake for my birthday. – Mary Herrick

Religious-Based Campership Scholarships Available

Summer camps play a valuable role in a child's life. The Alplaus United Methodist Church and the Alplaus Residents Association have a scholarship fund to help finance the attendance at religious-based summer camps for children in our town or who attend the Alplaus United Methodist Church. **Sky Farm Camp** in the Lake George area (skyfarmcamp.org) and Camp Aldersgate in Syracuse (aldersgateny.org) are examples of such camps that are offered through the Methodist church. They both offer numerous camp options during the summer for children of all ages with a wide range of activities. Even children as young as 3 years old can enjoy a 3 day adventure with their parent at the Skye Farm Camp. To find out about the various camp programs available at these two camps you'll need to access their web sites. If your family would like help financing a camp experience for any of your children this summer, please fill out an application form for each child (available on the display table in Fellowship Hall) and give it to Barb Trask. Parents are expected to pay the deposit, and the scholarship could finance up to \$300 additional expenses. If you need an application sent to you, Barb can be contacted at 399-6454 or dtrask1@nycap.rr.com. We hope some of the children attending our church will be able to attend camp this summer!

**Lay Leader**

I'm older than dirt.

Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?' 'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him. 'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?' 'It was a place called 'at home,' I explained! 'Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.' By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

Here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it: Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card. My parents never drove me to school. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow). We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at midnight, after playing the national anthem and a poem about God. It came back on the air at about 6 a.m. and there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line. Pizzas were not delivered to our home...but milk was.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers - my brother delivered a newspaper, six days a week. He had to get up at 6AM every morning.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies. There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or most anything offensive.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MEMORIES:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old. *Author unknown.*

I'm getting old too, and I can't remember if I had this in before, but since I put Mother memories in for May with Mother's Day I thought I would put a Dad's memories in for June for Father's Day. I hope you enjoy it.

Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader
(518) 330-9277 or LLBeretz@gmail.com



Prayer List

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

Fulfilling our Promises - our presence and our presents

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
April 5	53	\$1,608
April 12	31	\$1,602
April 19	32	\$802
April 24	24	\$812

Comparison of expenses and income

	For April	Actual year to date	Expected year to date (budgeted)
Expenses	\$5,415	\$23,915	\$24,370
Income	\$4,824	\$18,305	\$18,095

Correction to last month's year to date income

The Actual year to date income last month should have been \$13,481 and not \$7,001 as printed. Sorry for any confusion!

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.

Alplaus United Methodist Church June 2015 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7pm Scouts	4 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	5 6:30pm Bridge	6 Alplaus Community Garage Sale
7 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service. Picnic at Trask's after service, all are invited.	8	9 11:30 – 2pm Community Luncheon	10 7pm Scouts	11 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	12 6:30pm Bridge	13
14 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service. Church Council Meeting after service at the Parsonage. SICM Food Collection Day.	15	16 No serving at City Mission this month.	17 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Scouts	18 12:30 UMW Meeting 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	19 6:30pm Bridge	20 July Muse article deadline!
21 4 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Last Day of Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service. Father's Day	22	23	24 7pm Scouts	25 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	26 6:30pm Bridge No Movie Night until Sept.	27
28 5 th Sunday after Pentecost No Sunday School 10:30am Ecumenical Worship Service at Alplaus Firehouse.	29	30				

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

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Alplaus, NY 12008
(518)399-6000
AlplausUMC.org

First Class Mail



JUNE 1, 2015



Articles for the July newsletter must be submitted to alplausmuse@gmail.com no later than **June 20th**.

Thank you!

If you want to be removed from our Muse mailing list or you would like to save paper and be added to our Muse email list, please contact Lisa Beretz, by phone at 330-9277 or email LLBeretz@gmail.com. Please put Muse in the subject line.