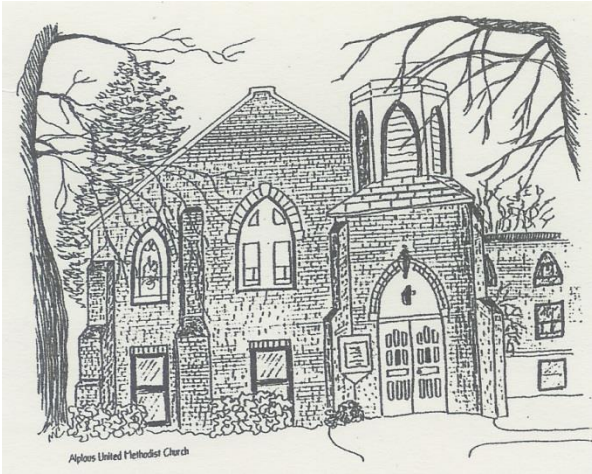




The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



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

Be Alert! Advent is upon us. And while Advent is a time of waiting – at this time of year we don't have the luxury of time to sit and wait and contemplate what it means to prepare and to be alert for the arrival of Christ. The season is fraught with hectic times and creative accounting for time and budgets as we plan and prepare to make the most of this Christmas Season.

Be Alert! The warning brings to mind recent announcements from the State Department and Homeland Security as travel increases. What should we be alert for- as Christians in Advent?

We know that Christ came – he was born in Bethlehem, and was laid in a manger because there was no room at the Inn. We know His story, His ministry, His salvation – why are we waiting? Because His work is not yet complete. Christ will come again - this is what we are waiting for.

Be Alert! We should be alert to notice signs of his coming. We should be prepared to welcome the stranger – offer comfort to the afflicted – have compassion for the vulnerable. This is what we do when we wait and prepare. These acts of welcome and blessing are ways to live out our faith and to trust in the salvation we already know from Christ. This is the current work of the church – living forgiveness and welcoming the lost and the “least”.

Be Alert! Christ will be among the served – will you recognize Him?

Shalom,
Pastor Kristi

United Methodist Women

Our Christmas luncheon will be held December 10th at 11:30 at Applebees on Route 50. Mandy is in charge of arrangements. We took in a little over \$2,000 at our Mayan Hands sale; a big thank you to Mandy and Sandi for all the time and effort they put in to make the sale a success!

Community Luncheon

We had a wonderful turnout in November for our Thanksgiving luncheon. Let's try to do the same on December 8th. Invite a friend and bring a dish to pass if you can. See you on Thursday the 8th.

**Lay Leader**

As we enter into Advent Season, let's take a moment to remember the reason for Christmas lights, Advent candles and our candle light Christmas Eve Service.

The Birth of Jesus

"About the time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel."

An Event for Everyone

There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth who please him" (Luke 2:1-14). The Message

In the disciple John's account of Christ's Life he describes Jesus as the Light of the world: "There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light. The Life-Light was the real thing: Every person entering Life he brings into Light" (John 1:6-9). "If we claim that we experience a shared life with him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth—we're not *living* what we claim. But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin" (1John 1:6-7). The Message

The baby in Bethlehem, whose birth we celebrate, became the living, risen Christ who has saved us from our sin. As it is written above, we are instructed to "walk in the light, God himself being the light". May everyone that has experienced His saving Grace find peace now and forever as we walk in His light together.

Merry Christmas,
Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader

Blue Christmas – Sunday December 20th 7pm

Despite its joys, Christmastime can evoke feelings of hurt for some individuals experiencing difficult life situations. Losing a loved one, especially on Christmas, being let go from a job or financial struggles in general, dealing with broken relationships, suffering from an illness or loneliness can cause depression during the holidays. There are many reasons why the "happiest time of the year" can be difficult. This service intends to be simple and hopefully moving and powerful. We will express and tend to some of our hurts while also offering Christian hope. All are welcome.

Movie Night schedule

12/18 – "Sword in the Stone"

Movies are free and will get started at 7pm. Popcorn and water are provided free of charge. These events are open to the community - everyone is welcome! However you must stay with your children, it is not a "Drop-off" program.



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>
12/6	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
12/13	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
12/20	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:47-55	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45
12/25	Isaiah 9:2-7	96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
12/27	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

Prayer list

Ginny Smith	Bill Broland
Barbara Hutchins	Alice Lewis
Jeanne Story	Claudia Lewis
Robin's grandson Tyler and family	Tami Flanders and family
Amanda's cousin David and family	Anne, Emily, and Deontae Kwiatkowski
Gordon Neufeld and family	Matthew from Living Gospel Ministries
Victims of disasters and violence	Residents of nursing homes

Fulfilling our promises - our presence and our presents

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
10/4	?	\$1,661
10/11	23	\$502
10/18	34	\$681
10/25	20	\$545

Comparison of expenses and income

	For October	Actual year to date	Budgeted year to date
Expenses	\$4,627	\$55,356	\$60,924
Income	\$3,389	\$37,612	\$45,830



Alplaus United Methodist Church

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November 21, 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

Jesus was so clear in teaching that generosity bears fruit in abundance. He said, in many ways, that giving away does not diminish us, but is instead a source of new life.

Giving can help to develop this kind of relationship with God in Jesus and shape our lives as we realize the blessings that we have come from Him. Experiencing the joy of generous giving is a wonderful goal and one that we can readily identify with when we rise to an occasion because we must, and are giving of ourselves to others even when we haven't planned ahead for it. The Spirit moves and we follow. Giving is an act of trust, a leap of faith. When we give, we acknowledge that our lives belong to God and we offer ourselves, along with our gifts, to be used by God.

How is God inviting you to participate in the life and ministry of our church congregation, by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness? Sharing our gifts is a way to help each of us to know Christ and to make Christ known to others. Another is to contact Pastor Kristi and she will assist you in finding an area in our church that you can help in.

Let us be faithful with all that God has given us. God can take little things and multiply their impact beyond what we can imagine. Do not hold back, even if you think your gifts are "too little." God can multiply even our smallest gifts in ways that allow people and faith to be restored. For those who are able, allow God to show you that He will be found faithful to His supporters as you increase your faithfulness and generosity.

Please take some time to pray on how God is calling you to respond and then prayerfully consider completing and returning the 2016 commitment form below. Even if your giving will remain unchanged for the coming year, please complete and return it to the church at your earliest convenience. Either put it in the collection plate anytime, or mail it to the church, to the attention of the Finance Committee. Please pray, always for our church-this blessed community where we gather "to know Christ and to make Christ known."

Thank you, Your Finance Committee

Where your Treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21 In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and His church, I plan to contribute to the needs of the Alplaus United Methodist Church for 2016:

MY ESTIMATE OF GIVING IS: Weekly \$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ or Yearly _____

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

(I understand that I may change my pledge at any time by contacting the Financial Secretary, Lisa Beretz 330-9277)

Alplaus United Methodist Church December 2015 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7pm Scouts	3 1-3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	4 5:45pm Bridge	5
6 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service, Knitting Dedication Church Annual Conference after worship service, followed by Council Mtg.	7	8 Noon – Community Luncheon	9 7pm Scouts	10 11:30am UMW Christmas Luncheon 1-3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	11 2-4:30pm Cub Scouts	12
13 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service, followed by Childrens Christmas pageant & Pot Luck luncheon, SICM offering Sunday.	14	15	16 7pm Scouts	17 1 -3pm Knitting Group Mtg. 7pm Choir	18 5:45pm Bridge 7pm Movie Night, "Sword in the Stone"	19 Cub Scouts, afternoon or evening
20 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service 7:00pm Blue Christmas Service	21 Muse article deadline!	22	23 7pm Scouts	24 7:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26
27 1 st Sunday after Christmas No Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service	28	29	30 7pm Scouts meeting.	31 New Years Eve		

Pastor Kristi's Office hours: 10am – Noon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

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AlplausUMC.org

First Class Mail



DECEMBER 1, 2015



Articles for the January newsletter must be submitted to alplausmuse@gmail.com no later than **December 21st**.

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.