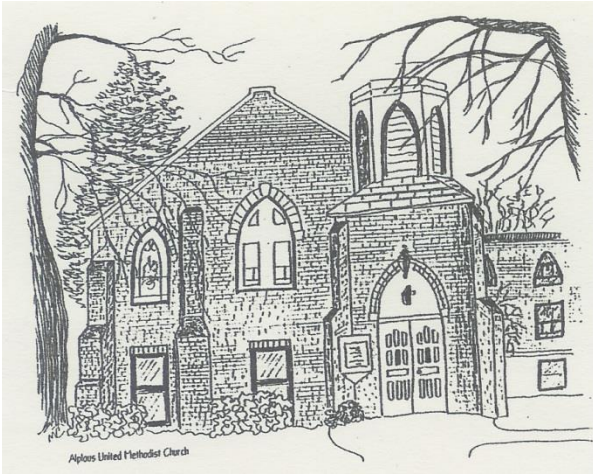




The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



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

Joy – may the New Year bring you joy – not from stuff, or even personal accomplishment – but joy that come from the fullness of life – living in the eternal grace and goodness of God.

Hope – may you live in hope – that fuels faith trusting that the goodness the Lord has promised will indeed come to you and to all.

Peace – may we know Peace this year – not merely the absence of war and violence but God's true Peace that accompanies Justice and Righteousness.

Love – may each heart open to the Holy to accept divine love waiting – come and dwell within each of God's own.

These gifts: Joy, Hope, Peace, and Love are the gifts we prepare for at Christmas. Sometimes we prepare and then they get lost in our busy-ness of Christmas. We know that Christmas is about Christ, his birth, the incarnation. We know that the season is filled with gifts and goodies. Remember that among the many gifts you gave and received this year – do not forget to open and accept these gifts as well. And because it is still Christmas (for a few more days) and this is the new year, I'll close with the last verse of one of my favorite new Christmas Carols: (TFWS #2095) Hope for Peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down to earth Child, star of stars that shine, This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Shalom,

Pastor Kristi

Community Luncheon

The luncheon in January will be held Tuesday the 12th, weather permitting. Sorry we had to cancel the Christmas party in December. Now that the new floor is ready for us, be prepared for a Christmas celebration at this luncheon. Bring some of your new recipes that you tried out over the holidays! See you at noon on the 12th.

**United Methodist Women**

January is the month we plan the program for the year. We will meet at the home of Mary Herrick on Thursday, January 21st at 12:30. Please think about some program ideas between now and then. Thank you to Mandy for making the arrangements for our Christmas luncheon, which was enjoyed by all.

Lay Leader

The Alplaus United Methodist Church's Mission and Vision statement is printed each month on the first page of this newsletter and it was suggested that it is in need of updating. The church council would like you to review it and give your opinion as to whether you think it is an accurate statement or not. You can send your reply to me, Lisa Beretz at: LLBeretz@gmail.com or call me at (518) 330-9277. If you believe it needs updating, please include some suggested wording in your response. Thank you.

Sermon of the Week, from Sermons 4 Kids:

Scripture: "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" Luke 2:49 (NIV)

Have you ever misplaced something? Of course you have. We have all done that, haven't we? Perhaps we were reading a book and put it down and then later couldn't remember where we put it. Maybe we were watching television and couldn't remember where we put the remote control. I have even put my coffee cup in the microwave oven and later couldn't remember where it was. What do we do when we misplace something? We usually retrace our steps to all of the places we have been until we find it.

Our Bible lesson today is about some parents who misplaced something. Now, these weren't just any parents - it was Mary and Joseph - the parents of Jesus. Mary and Joseph didn't misplace something like a book or some keys. They misplaced Jesus! Here is how it happened.

Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem every year for the Feast of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem just as they always did. After Passover, they began their journey home, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary didn't know it. They thought he was with some friends or family members who were traveling with them. After they had gone a day's journey, they began to look for Jesus among their relatives and friends, but he wasn't there. When they couldn't find him, they decided to return to Jerusalem to look for him. After searching for three days, they finally found him. Guess where he was? He was in the temple, sitting in the middle of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions.

When Mary and Joseph saw him, they were astonished. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Your father and I were anxiously looking for you."

Jesus answered, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" You see, even as a child, Jesus knew that he must follow the path that his Father had laid out for him, and at that moment, the most important place for him to be was in his Father's house.

Sometimes you and I may lose Jesus. We get so busy in our daily routine that we never give him a thought. Then, one day we realize that he is missing. Do you know what we need to do when that happens? We need to retrace our steps and go back to the place we left him. Where do we usually find him? In his Father's house!

Jesus said it was important for him to be in his Father's house. It is also important for you and me to be in his Father's house. Why? Because His Father's house is our Father's house too! It is a house of worship, a house of prayer, a house of peace, a house of love, a house of joy. What better place could there be for a child of God than to be in the Father's house?

Blessings,
Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader



Church time for older children

For children 4th grade and above, we have come up with a program that has the children in church some weeks and in a structured activity other weeks. On the 2nd Sunday of the month, Barb will lead a craft activity to make cards and/or decorations for the shut-ins. On the 4th Sunday of the month, Lisa will lead a discussion/activity from a booklet called "Our Daily Bread for Kids." All other Sundays of the month the older children should be in church with an adult. Children younger than 4th grade can attend the nursery care program held every week.

Sunday School News

November and December were busy months. We made Thanksgiving turkeys to send to our shut-ins and paper advent wreaths for home to keep track of the weeks in advent. The rest of the time was used to prepare for our Christmas Pageant: "A special place for Santa." The children listened to the story and brainstormed the props we needed. Then they chose the parts they wanted to be in the play. All of the children were cooperative and did an excellent job performing. A special thanks is given to Lisa and Schallai for all their work behind the scenes getting the children ready for each entrance with a different costume. After the skit a delicious pot luck luncheon was shared with great food and fellowship. A big thank you to everyone who brought the yummy food.

A reminder to all that there will be no Sunday School on Jan. 17th due to the Martin Luther King holiday weekend.

Movie Night schedule

I'm still trying to figure out if there is a correlation between low attendance and older movies... There may be less interest in the "classics" or it may be that I showed them at particularly busy times. We are going to continue with movies on the 3rd Friday - this month it's the 15th

- 1/15 – Tomorrowland
- 2/12 – Frozen (to kick off February Break!)
- 3/18 – Hotel Transylvania 2
- 4/15 – The Peanuts Movie

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>
1/3	Isaiah 60:1-6	72: 1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
1/10	Isaiah 43:1-7	29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
1/17	Isaiah 62:1-5	36: 5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
1/24	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 8-10	19	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a	Luke 4: 14-21
1/31	Jeremiah 1:4-10	71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13	Luke 4:21-30



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>
11/1	37	\$1,543
11/8	23	\$540
11/15	23	\$794
11/22	28	\$242
11/29	17	\$261

Comparison of expenses and income

	For November	Actual year to date	Budgeted year to date
Expenses	\$4,627	\$59,112	\$67,016
Income	\$3,389	\$41,102	\$50,413

Alplaus United Methodist Church January 2016 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 Epiphany Sunday 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Communion Worship Service	4	5	6 7pm Scouts	7 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	8 5:45pm Bridge	9
10 1st Sunday after Epiphany 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service. SICM food offering Church Council at church, after coffee hour.	11	12 Noon - Community luncheon	13 7pm Scouts	14 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	15 2 – 4:30pm Cub Scouts 5:45pm Bridge 7pm Movie Night	16
17 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany No Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19 5pm Serve at City Mission	20 7pm Scouts Muse article deadline!	21 11:30am UMW 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	22 5:45pm Bridge	23 Cub Scouts, afternoon or evening
24 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service	25	26	27 7pm Scouts	28 1 – 3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	29 5:45pm Bridge	30
31 4 th Sunday after Epiphany 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service						

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

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AlplausUMC.org

First Class Mail



JANUARY 1, 2016



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