



The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



The Alplaus United Methodist Church's Vision and Mission:

Our vision for the AUMC is to be a viable, active, welcoming church that supports both individual members and the community through a loving, spiritual atmosphere.

Our mission is to actively live our Christian faith through worship, prayer, and service, and to be God's love to our neighbors in all places.

Pastoral letter

Already the summer is coming to an end – just the other day Kylie remarked that the sunset sky was appearing too early... As the summer winds down we rejoice in the activities of swimming and biking and look forward to the beginning of a new school year and season. This summer, in our worship together, I have gone off lectionary to offer a sermon series on the Spirit.

Our Summer Spirit Series has taken a turn towards Spirituality. We have gone from hearing and learning about that elusive 3rd person of the Trinity to connecting to the holy through prayer. During one of our Children's messages, we broke down the Lord's Prayer into phrases of what we mean when we recite this prayer taught to us by Jesus through scripture. (Matthew 6:9-13) It was my custom at other congregations to shake up the summers by using different translations or wordings or even re-phrasing this foundational prayer during the worship service. Not surprisingly, this was not a popular change. I too find comfort in the traditional, familiar and expected. However, the practice of thinking through the Lord's Prayer with different language is, I believe, an important one. From time to time we should reflect upon the meaning behind the very familiar. We can do this with this prayer, a beloved hymn, the pledge of allegiance, and the national anthem (that I tearfully sing each time there is an American gold medal ceremony during the Olympics.)

In this spirit, I offer up this version, to unsettle and to challenge:

(as my inner prayer song is "First-born of Mary, provocative preacher, itinerant teacher, outsider's choice... Jesus inspires and disarms and confuses whomever he chooses to hear his voice")

Our Mother, our Father, Source of our being,
whose presence is heaven, all Creation sings of you, "Holy!"

May your Realm unfold among us, your desire be fulfilled,
this world blossoming out of your delight.

Give us the breath of life, one breath at a time.

Accept our brokenness; give us acceptance of others who are broken.

Lead us beyond our desires and save us from the grip of evil.

For the world is within you; all power is from you, and all glory is about you,
in eternity, which is in the present moment. - Amen

Blessings!
Pastor Kristi



Lay Leader

"The Lord has heard my supplication; The Lord will receive my prayer." Psalm 6:9

Poised For Prayer

On a stormy day, a woman climbed the Weisshorn in the Swiss Alps with two experienced guides. As they neared the peak, exhilarated by the view before her, the woman sprang forward and was almost blown away by a gust of wind. One of the guides caught her and pulled her down, saying, "On your knees, madam! You are safe here only on your knees."

We typically regard "on our knees" as the standard position for prayer, but talking to God isn't limited to a certain position. He can hear us, regardless.

Three Christian women were talking once about the "best" position for prayer. One argued the importance of holding one's hands together and pointing them upward. The second advocated stretching out on the floor. The third thought standing was better than kneeling. As they talked, a telephone repairman listened as he worked on a nearby phone system. Finally, he could contain himself no longer and interjected, "I have found that the most powerful prayer I ever made was while I was dangling upside down from a power pole, suspended 40 feet above the ground."

Pray while driving in your car (with your eyes open, of course). Pray while cleaning your house. Pray while working in your office. And yes, pray while kneeling in your quiet place. The important thing is not your position of prayer, but the fact that you do pray! Because when you do, God hears you.

Blessings,
Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader

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>
9/4	Jeremiah 18:1-11	139: 1-6, 13-18	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
9/11	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	14:1-7	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
9/18	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	79:1-9	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
9/25	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	91:1-6, 14-16	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16: 19-31

Fulfilling our promises - our presence and our presents

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
July 3	56	\$0
July 10		\$1,083
July 17	14	\$790
July 24	22	\$300
July 31	20	\$810



Comparison of expenses and income

	For July	Actual year to date	Budgeted year to date
Expenses	\$4,712	\$38,269	\$40,522
Income	\$2,983	\$27,999	\$29,162

Community Luncheon

The luncheon will be Tuesday, September 13th from 11:30am – 2:00. Please bring a dish to share, and feel free to bring a friend, as we welcome Fall!

United Methodist Women

The UMW will begin meeting again in October. Details will be provided soon - please consider joining us!

Words of Wisdom (from Guidepost magazine)

- “Compliments cost nothing but can make someone feel like a million bucks.” Angela Marinez
- “God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it.” by Susan Griffioen
- “A grateful heart is a magnet for miracles.” actress Roma Downey
- “Faith is what gets you started. Hope is what keeps you going. Love is what brings you to the end.” Franciscan nun, Mother Angelica
- “Be strong. You never know who you are inspiring.” Jeremy Chan

September Birthdays

10	Henry Polgreen
19	Nancy Flanders
	Anne-Marie Kwiatkowski
20	Kathy Herrick-Davis
	Amy Riordan
29	Schallai Lange

September Anniversaries

20	Berkley & Kathy Davis '86

Prayer list

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ginny Smith | Bill Broland |
| Barbara Hutchins | Alice and Claudia Lewis |
| The King, Story, and Culver families | Robin’s grandson Tyler and family |
| Gordon Neufeld and family | Tami Flanders and family |
| Amanda’s cousin David and family | Anne, Emily, and Deontae |
| Victims of disasters and violence | Kwiatkowski |
| Yvonne White’s family | Esther Miller |
| Sandi Donahue and family | |

SPRC News

SPRC will be meeting in Sept. and Oct. to complete the required Church Conference reports regarding our specific church and pastor. We invite you to provide any of the committee members with your opinions, both positive and negative, regarding our church and pastor to guide us in the formation of these reports. The present members are: Barb Trask, Robin Bowman, Sue Wither, Nancy Flanders, Sandi Donahue, Pastor Kristi, and Lisa Beretz

**Sunday School News**

Sunday School will be starting up again on Sept. 18 at 9:15am. We hope to see all of the children there for the start of a fun, new year.

Fellowship Coffee Hour

One of the many great things about our church is the fellowship that is shared after church in fellowship hall with refreshments. It runs on the contributions of our members who bring a few refreshments to share and make the coffee before church starts. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for church attendees to sign up for that activity. By signing up in advance to provide refreshments, it keeps us from having an overabundance of food when several people decide last minute to bring something because no one signed up, or just the opposite, having no food and scrambling to provide something. You can sign up to provide the snacks by yourself or find a friend to help you. The snacks don't need to be fancy. Afterwards, it is your responsibility to see that the dishes get washed and put away. There is a dishwasher that can do the dishes for you. If you don't know how to operate it, just ask someone else, and they'll help you out. Juice, coffee, and half and half are provided by church funds, so they should be available in the kitchen for you to serve. It would be great if everyone would take the time to sign up for a week or several weeks over the next few months on the designated calendar. If everyone would take a turn with this wonderful ministry, it would mean less work for some of our members who are frequently bringing food to share so we don't go hungry.

Pampered Chef Party Coming in October

On Saturday, October 1, at 1:00 pm we will be hosting another Pampered Chef Fundraiser Party at our church. In years past it has been a great fundraising activity for our church thanks to your efforts to bring in orders from friends and family. We will be using a different host this year to support a woman in Alplaus, Barb Esmond. She should provide the catalogs at the beginning of September and they will be passed along right away. Some ways to make a large profit for the church: Invite friends and family to attend the party to see the demonstrations and taste the great food that is prepared. If they can't attend, ask them if they'd like to place an order through you. Purchase items to give away for Christmas and upcoming birthdays and weddings. Give the catalog to family members and ask them to make a wish list so you'll know what they like. Start thinking about who you could surprise with a Pampered Chef gift. We hope to see you all there!

Her Treasure Box

"Her Treasure Box" is a cute little thrift shop of arts and craft supplies at 1775 Van Vranken Avenue in Schenectady. It is open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturday from 10am - 4pm. It was formed to support a program called "Eyes Wide Open NENY, Inc." which is a non-profit organization that raises awareness about Human Trafficking. Stop by to purchase some supplies or donate some of your leftovers. They have items for stamping and card making, beading and jewelry making, fabric and sewing notions, ribbons and lace, wood for painting, frames, baskets, silk flowers, patterns, and yarn, in addition to other miscellaneous items. You can find out more about "Eyes Wide Open NENY, Inc." by visiting their website: www.eyeswideopenneny.org.

Alplaus United Methodist Church September 2016 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Please note that worship time goes back to 10:15 am on September 11th.</p>				1	2 6:30pm Bridge	3
<p>4 16th day after Pentecost 9:30am Communion Worship Service</p>	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9 6:30pm Bridge	10
<p>11 17th day after Pentecost 10:15am Church Worship Service SICM Food Collection Day. Council Meeting after coffee hour.</p>	12	13 11:30 – 2pm Community Luncheon	14	15 7pm Choir	16 6:30pm Bridge	17
<p>18 18th day after Pentecost 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service. SPRC Meeting after coffee hour.</p>	19	20 Muse article deadline!	21	22 7pm Choir	23 6:30pm Bridge	24
<p>25 19th day after Pentecost 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service. Worship Committee meeting after coffee hour.</p>	26	27	28	29 7pm Choir	30 6:30pm Bridge	

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

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AlplausUMC.org

First Class Mail



SEPTEMBER 1, 2016



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