



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, welcoming church that supports both individual members and the community with 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

We are at that time of year when folks make resolutions and resolve to be: healthier, thinner, more organized, more efficient, or just plain better. Make a good effort, if you want. New year, new start! I would like to point out that the term "resolution" has its roots in "reducing to a simpler form". So if you haven't been inspired to re-order your junk drawer, rediscover your love of aerobics or to reinvent your diet, you still have the opportunity to participate in an "old-school" resolution.

Last month our congregation met to discuss our future and how long our future might last and how we intend to face that future. As promised, no permanent plans were made. We discovered that if we choose to "carry on" and *if* our income and expenses stay the same, we could likely carry on for 8 or so years. In the meantime, we may wish to seek out friends and shared ministries in neighboring congregations to maximize efforts and ministry.

In preparation for this reaching out and exploring, we are going to have an adult class to brush up on fundamental beliefs and traditions of denominations. These classes will offer very simple forms (resolved) of major Protestant Branches of the Christian Tree. Our first class will be Tuesday 1/10 6:30 in the lounge and we will take a look at our own tradition of United Methodism. Future classes will look at: Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Baptist and Congregational traditions. As always, all are welcome. Come when you can, I will have notes that I can e-mail if you request. The blog aspect of our last class never really took off so I will cheerfully terminate that option. I am happy to discuss or forward notes from class to anyone who wishes to have the information.

In terms of resolutions - I would argue that we are always afforded the option to re-start and re-energize our lives of faith by simply turning God-ward in a heart-felt way.

Blessings on your New Year!

Pastor Kristi



Lay Leader

We are beginning a New Year, and I thought this little devotional I read in one of my bibles might be appropriate to share now. With every new year, many of us tend to make resolutions regarding what we are going to do differently, so whatever challenges you are facing with the new year I hope this is helpful.

Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" Judges 6:14

"Right Courage"

Napoleon called Marshall Ney the bravest man he had ever known. Yet Ney's knees trembled so badly one morning before a battle, he had difficulty mounting his horse. When he was finally in the saddle, he shouted contemptuously down at his limbs, "Shake away, knees. You would shake worse than that if you knew where I am going to take you."

Courage is not a matter of not being afraid. It is taking action even when you are afraid!

Courage is more than sheer bravado---shouting, "I can do this!" and launching out with a do-or-die attitude over some reckless dare. True courage is manifest when a person chooses to take a difficult, or even dangerous, course of action because it is the right thing to do. Courage is looking beyond yourself to what is best for others.

The source of all courage is the Holy Spirit, our Comforter. It is His nature to remain at our side to help us. When we welcome Him into our lives and He compels us to do something, we can confidently trust Him to be right there, helping us to get it done! (author unknown)

Thanks to everyone that contributed to Pastor Kristi and Janice's Christmas gift. Your generosity and quick response made it possible for us to give them a very nice gift at our Sunday Worship Service on December 18th as originally planned. If I forgot to contact you about joining in on giving them this gift, please let me know and I will make note to include you next Christmas. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year.

Blessings, Lisa Beretz; (518) 330-9277

United Methodist Women

January will be our planning meeting for the year. We will meet at the home of Mary Herrick at 12:30 pm. Please bring ideas for the new year.

Community Luncheon

We will meet January 10th in Fellowship hall if we don't have a snow storm. I'm hoping for a good turn out like we had at our Christmas party. Bring a dish to share if you can. We will meet at about 11:30.

Prayer list

Sandi Donahue's cousin Ingrid

Gordon Neufeld and family

Ginny Smith and family

Matthew and Tina Zawisza

All affected by cancer

Victims of disasters and violence

Dorothy Ziegler

Gordon Neufeld and family

Amanda C. Smith-Lucier

Bill Broland

Claudia Lewis

Esther Miller

Residents of nursing homes

**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>
1/1	Isaiah 63:7-9	148	Hebrews 2:1-10	Matthew 2:13-23
1/6 Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
1/8	Isaiah 42:1-9	29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
1/15	Isaiah 49:1-7	40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
1/22	Isaiah 9:1-4	27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
1/29	Micah 6:1-8	15	1:Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12

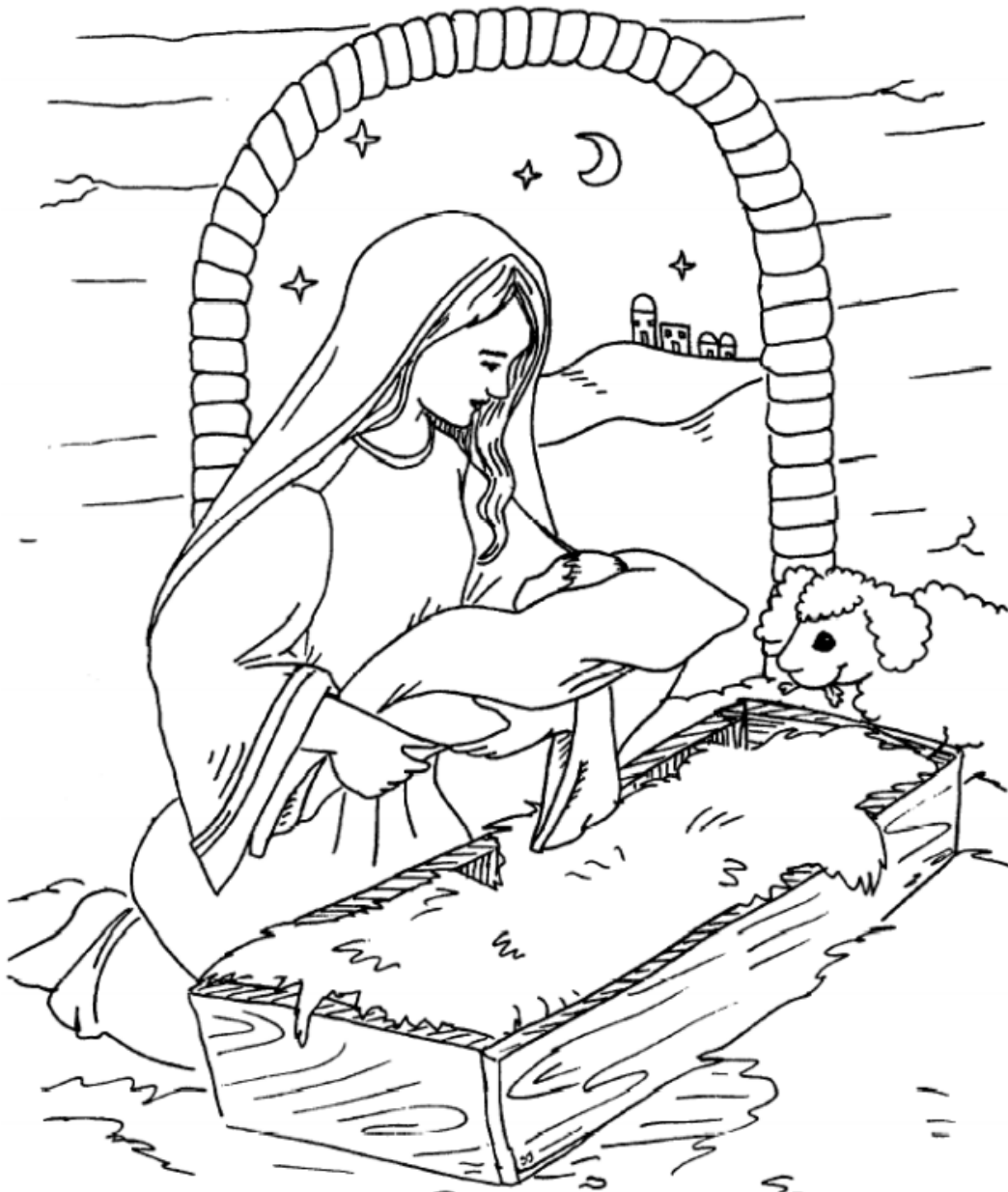
Fulfilling our promises - our presence and our presents

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
November 6	35	\$1,681
November 13	31	\$1,312
November 20	20	\$328
November 27	27	\$705

Comparison of expenses and income

	For November	Actual year to date	Over(short) to date
Expenses	\$(3,330)	\$(54,747)	\$(13,617)
Income	\$4,026	\$41,130	\$-

January Birthdays**January Anniversaries****4 Mauritz Van Niekerk****7 Virginia Marra****11 Patrick Trask****16 Robin Bowman****24 Tiniki Van Niekerk****26 Elise Dussault****30 Charles Guillaume**



Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

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Alplaus United Methodist Church January 2017 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Epiphany Sunday 9:15am Sunday School. 10:15am Communion Worship Service. New Year's Day.	2	3 7pm Boy Scouts Leadership mtg	4 7pm Scouts	5 1 – 3pm Knitting Ladies 7pm Choir	6	7
8 1 st Sunday after Epiphany 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service. Children's Craft during Worship. Church Council meeting after coffee hour. SICM Food Collection Day	9	10 11:30 – 2pm Community Luncheon	11 7pm Scouts	12 1 – 3pm Knitting Ladies 7pm Choir	13	14
15 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany No Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18 7pm Scouts	19 12:30pm UMW Planning meeting at Mary Herrick's home. 1 – 3pm Knitting Ladies	20 Muse articles Deadline.	21
22 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service & Children's Church during worship.	23	24	25 7pm Scouts	26 1 – 3pm Knitting Ladies 7pm Choir	27	28
29 4 th Sunday after Epiphany 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service.	30	31				

Pastor Kristi's office hours: 8am – 10am Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.