



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 Message

The Times They are a Changing! Our Sunday morning worship is settled at 9am and not changing anytime soon, but the seasons are changing, and the leaves, and the clocks (FALL BACK 11/5!!). That's enough change for me! Add into the mix that the end of the year is approaching and with it comes a flurry of activities that we have already started to plan! I am excited that I am not submitting the same information again this month. There is a new study opportunity and a schedule in place for Game night. I've just been to a Worship Committee meeting and we have begun preparations for Advent, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and even into January! One thing that sometimes happens and is not posted or scheduled is lunch - I recently went to lunch with a member and we chatted about church and life and fun things and some personal things - you don't have to come by during office hours. Let me know if you'd like to visit and we will find a time/place to get together.

Blessings!

Pastor Kristi

Finding Your Path

On October 15 - Laity Sunday - Carolyn Koch and I had a dialogue during the morning message about how she became the unwitting guinea pig in the development of this Intentional Disciple Making Plan. Don't be scared away; this is a plan designed initially to meet a Conference requirement, but helps individuals at Alplaus UMC find their own, unique path to following Jesus and his call on their life. This new program is called "Finding Your Path". It will be an opportunity for one-on-one devotions and discernment and determining how God is equipping and calling you to participate in following Jesus Christ. If you are interested, or intrigued, reach out to pastor Kristi (home 518-399-0497/ mobile 838-200-8601).

Finance

If you would like to mail your contributions, please mail to: Alplaus United Methodist Church, Attn: Beth Costello, 1 Brookside Place, Alplaus, NY 12008. Thank you.

Church Conference

Church Conference will be on Thursday, November 2 at 6pm at Centre Glenville UMC, 171 Bolt Rd. Schenectady 12302. They are hosting a potluck at 5:30pm. If you are interested in attending, simply bring a dish to share and enjoy some fellowship with them, before the meeting.

Book Study

Our Advent Book Study will be *Almost Christmas - A Wesleyan Advent Experience*. This Advent study is based on a John Wesley Sermon "Almost Christian" and has 4 sessions: An Altogether Peace, An Altogether Hope, An Altogether Love and An Altogether Joy. I will be offering this book study to 3 congregations. You are welcome to participate at any location/time that suits your schedule. We will start on November 28!

The **Tuesday** gathering will be at **Salem UMC** in West Sand Lake at **6:30pm**.

The **Wednesday** gathering will be at **Church of the Covenant** in Averill Park at **2pm**. This will hopefully be recorded and able to be viewed online. While online viewing is not ideal for participation, it should be an option to consider if you know that you will have a conflict on another date.

The **Thursday** gathering will be at **Alplaus UMC** at **10:30am**.

Because this is available to so many folks, let me know that you are interested by November 13. I will order the books and have them shipped all at once and distribute them when they come in. It will be ideal, but not necessary, to read the small chapter in advance of our weekly meeting.

Game Night!

We have a schedule! We plan to meet on the Second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. In October, I learned a new card game (313 - thank you Lori!) and we played it 2 times; we finished just before 8pm. I bring cards, dice and Yahtzee. You're welcome to bring a game to share. There's no agenda, you play what you want. Hopefully we'll grow in number so that we can have simultaneous options for games. Come, be a part of this social gathering. Invite a friend or neighbor.

United Women in Faith

UWF will be meeting on November 9th from 12:30 to 2:15 pm. UWF is open to all women of our church community, please join us!

Mayan Hands Fair-trade Sale

Looking for a unique gift for the holidays? The Alplaus UWF is sponsoring a Mayan Hands Fair Trade Sale on Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th from 10 am to 5 pm at the Alplaus United Methodist Church. These high-quality hand-woven items make beautiful gifts. The Mayan Hands is a fair-trade nonprofit organization that helps women in nine Guatemalan communities earn a fair return for their work. Your purchases of their handmade products will be greatly appreciated for helping to support these talented Guatemalan weavers.

The Alplaus UWF will also have a variety of bagels available to purchase as a fundraiser at the same time. If you would like to learn more about the Mayan Hands Organization, please join us on Thursday, November 9th at the Alplaus United Methodist Church at 12:30 pm for our monthly UWF meeting. Brenda from the Mayan Hands Organization will be our guest speaker.

**Lay Leader****Wave Pool Story**

My mother very kindly bought my 7-year-old daughter and me season passes to a local water park last year. We had only been a handful of times while temperatures soared above 100°, but decided to take advantage of a slow day at the park one Friday morning. Most other kids were back in school and the temperatures had finally dropped a bit, so we swam for hours, fueled by soft pretzels and Hi-C.

One of the places we spent the most time was the wave pool. I'd squat down to my daughter's height in the water and together, we'd jump with and into the waves, over and over again. After a while, she noticed one area of the pool where the waves were crashing down harder and insisted I pull her to that spot while she floated there in a Superman pose.

Once we arrived, though, the waves were a LOT. They were crashing down, getting into our eyes and noses and just generally beating us up. At one point, my daughter received an especially big splash in the face and seemed a little shaken up. We were far from the wave pool exit, so I grabbed her by her life jacket and lifted her up and down with the waves while she recovered.

While I was lifting and lowering her, I was getting beat up...slapped in the face by waves, and nearly pushed over several times. I was feeling frustrated when I suddenly remembered...why was I still squatting in the water? I immediately stood up and realized at my full height, the waves were annoying but manageable.

It turned out that after squatting and floating on my knees for nearly an hour, I was so accustomed to it that I forgot I was a full-size adult. I shrugged in stupid amazement as I told my daughter, "Hey! I just remembered I'm tall" and we both cracked up laughing.

But friend, how easily do we forget who we are? We often spend so much time surrounded by drama or small minds or angry words or pettiness or whatever, that we forget we're bigger than that, that we can just...stand up!

Stand up and save your friends and family from that mess. Or just stand up and leave it altogether. But whatever you do, don't allow those negative surroundings to slap you in the face or push you over, or try to drown you. Don't allow them to bring you down to their level.

Instead, friend, remind yourself of who you are, who you were created to be, your purpose, your value, and your birthright. Your own two legs.

Stand up. Because the waves aren't stopping any time soon.
Shared by Deb Preston on Facebook, Sept 18th

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving,
Lisa Beretz, (518) 330-9277

Christmas Plants

Hi all, this is a reminder that the Christmas season is fast approaching. Although we do not have the price for the poinsettias at this time, I wanted to let you know to expect a separate email coming to you in early November with the poinsettia order form. We do know our cut-off date for orders is Sunday, December 10th. So, keep your eyes peeled for the second email. Happy Halloween and have a blessed Thanksgiving Everyone!

Amanda Smith-Lucier

Prayer list

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Atkinson family | Pastor Kristi's Uncle | Mary Herrick |
| Kay & Marcie Krout | Matthew & Tina Zawisza | Ralph Marra |
| Barb & Dan Trask's family | Vicky & Cliff Stoodley | Kristine Vedder |
| Janice Mix & grandson, Ethan | George & Pat Peterson | Lauri Nair |
| Susan DiBlasio | Carolyn Koch and family | Victims of Disasters & Violence |
| Gordon Neufeld's family & friend Marcy & family | Pauline Iwanowicz & sister Georgie | Friends and Family Traveling. |
| Loren White | Sally Halsey's sister | Residents of Nursing homes |
| Robin Bowman's family & grandsons Cole & Tyler. | Both Amanda Smith-Luciers & niece Anne & nephew Deontae & friends Betsy, Jan & Diane. | Claudia Lewis' sister Mary, cousin Crawford, granddaughter Aloura, brother John & friends Barb and Kenny. |
| Cindy Franze's mom Jane Uttberg | Frank Stekeur & family. | Sue Wither's friend Doreen's Mother. |
| Lynn Bouck and nephew Dale | Lisa Beretz friend's husband Stew Neal & brother Roy. | Dick Flanders |

November Birthdays

01 David Bowman
 22 Sean Trask
 Robert Wither
 24 Carlton Shepard
 25 Janine Stekeur

November Anniversaries

11 Bud & Sally Halsey
 27 Mike Iwanowicz & Kristi Van Patten

Our Presence

| | |
|--------------|----|
| September 3 | 20 |
| September 10 | 15 |
| September 17 | 18 |
| September 24 | 19 |

November Hymns

| | |
|-------|---|
| 11/5 | UMH #463 “Lord, Speak to Me”, UMH #581 “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” |
| 11/12 | UMH #540 “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” TFWS #2130 “The Summons”, UMH #722 “ I Want to be Ready |
| 11/19 | UMH #399 “Take My Life and Let it Be” TFWS #2150 “Lord, Be Glorified” |
| 11/26 | UMH #434 “When the Poor Ones”, UMH #62 All Creatures of our God and King, W&S #3128 “Whatever You do” |

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. Readings in **bold** will be read in church.

| | <u>First Scripture</u> | <u>Psalm</u> | <u>Epistle</u> | <u>Gospel</u> |
|-------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11/5 | Joshua 3:7-17 | 107:1-7, 33-37 | 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 | Matthew 23:1-12 |
| 11/12 | Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 | 78:1-7 | 1 Thes. 4:13-18 | Matthew 25:1-13 |
| 11/19 | Judges 4:1-7 | 123 | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 | Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 11/26 | Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 | 100 | Ephesians 1:15-23 | Matthew 25:31-46 |

Kids Page



GOD'S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.

e
7 2 4 1 6 3 i
 w y l a s
3 5 2 4 6 a

 continually,

 in all circumstances; for this
 is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
 h n t a s k
2 4 1 3 6 5

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

Answers: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

Alplaus United Methodist Church November 2023 Events Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 5:30pm pot luck meal, then 6pm Annual Church Conf. at Centre Glenville. | 3 | 4 |
| 5 19 th All Saints Sunday 9 am Communion Worship Service. Coffee Hour after Worship. | 6 1pm Leadership Meeting | 7 Election Day | 8 | 9 12:30pm UWF 6:30pm Game night | 10 Veterans Day 10am – 5pm Mayan Hands Sale | 11 10am – 5pm Mayan Hands Sale |
| 12 24 th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Worship Service. Coffee Hour after Worship. | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 25 th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Worship Service. Coffee Hour after Worship, followed by preparing a hot meal for Street Soldiers. | 20 Muse Articles Deadline | 21 | 22 | 23 Thanksgiving Day | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Christ the King Sunday 9 am Worship Service. Coffee Hour after Worship, followed by the hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary. | 27 | 28 6:30pm Book Study Salem UMC | 29 2pm Book Study Church of the Covenant | 30 10:30am Book Study Alplaus UMC | | |

Pastor Kristi's **CHURCH OFFICE** hours are Monday 12 - 2pm and Thursday 10am - 12pm, but she is available by text and phone other times. Church website: www.alplausumc.org - Church Phone: 518-399-6000 - Pastor Kristi's Cell: 838-200-8601 - Home phone: 518-399-0497 - Pastor Kristi's email: revklvp@yahoo.com

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WWW.AlplausUMC.org

First Class Mail



November 1, 2023



Articles for the December newsletter must be submitted to the editor, Elizabeth (Liz) Zenner at: alplausmuse@gmail.com no later than **November 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 text or calling at 518-330-9277 or email LLBeretz@gmail.com. Please put Muse in the subject line.

Autumn is like a second Spring when every colorful leaf is a flower!!