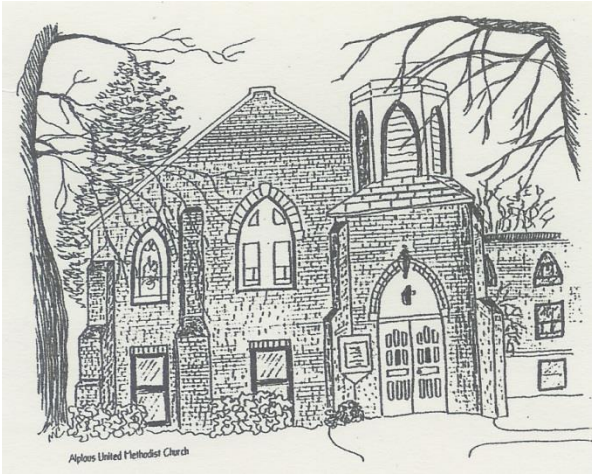




The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



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

We enter into Advent with lots to do. There is a business that seems to permeate life from mid-November through mid-January. Historically, Advent has functioned like Lent - a season of fasting and contemplation to reflect how the earth continues to need and long for the presence of Christ. Currently, Advent is trying to separate the harried individual from secular culture and reunite the community that prepares once more to receive and give the gifts of the Advent season: hope, love, joy and peace.

For hundreds of years, the people of God longed for and waited expectantly for a Messiah to come. Expectations continued to mount and the job description was a bit fluid. Lists of expected outcomes grew and grew. The constant parts of this waiting were the wait, and the faith that God would come and intervene on behalf of the people. Faithful waiting; hope for peace and liberation - these are the foundations of Advent.

As Christians, we have an already/not yet experience of preparation. Already we know that Jesus was born. We know who he is, we are thankful for his life, ministry and saving work already completed. But we too are waiting - for a return, for his love and salvation to be known and lived on the whole surface of the earth. We wait for the unfinished part. Our faith compels us to be ready to assist the process. Already we know the gifts of Christ, but not yet is the world reflecting His "kingdom come on earth - as it is in heaven."

Just in case your preparations for Christmas were not full enough - as we ready our homes, bake our goods and wrap our gifts - let us remember that we ready the earth for the return of the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Maybe we won't be using heavy equipment to prepare a highway for our Lord, but we have a constant element of waiting and preparing not for what is, but for what could be throughout the earth: hope, love, joy and peace.

Blessings,
Pastor Kristi

Words of Wisdom

Every week the Galway United Methodist Church puts a new expression on their kiosk. They have been inspiring me (Barb Trask) for years. I've decided to write some of them down and share them with you. As I drove by this week, the expression said: "God, our strength for today, our hope for tomorrow." How true!!!

**Lay Leader***Shirley & Marcy*

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week. As the two kids walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?' Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.' The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?' 'That's just Shirley Goodnest, and her daughter Marcy,' Timmy replied. 'Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always
(author unknown)

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and "Surely goodness and mercy" be with you today and always!!

Blessings,

Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader

(518) 330-9277 or LLBeretz@gmail.com

Christmas Luminaries

About 30 years ago the Alplaus United Methodist Church introduced the hamlet of Alplaus to Christmas luminaries. Luminaries are small white bags with a burning candle inside that are placed outside along your property on Christmas Eve. They are an adaptation from the small bonfires that were built in front of each home in Mexico to welcome the Christ Child on Christmas Eve. People in New Mexico carried on this tradition for many years. However, one year in the early 20th century, one family had been unable to adequately prepare the traditional home bonfire because of illness in their family. As the holiday season drew near, the youngest child placed a broken candle in a paper bag partially filled with sand, and placed it outside their home to keep the tradition and welcoming spirit alive. These "little lights" or "farolitos" have become a popular way to keep this welcome tradition alive. They are supposed to be placed along your property edge along the road and up your driveway or walkway. It is a beautiful sight to see streets lined with these lights. The more families that put out the luminaries, the more impressive the sight is. Luminaries will be available for purchase again this year. There will be some at the church starting Dec. 8, or you can contact Barb or Dan Trask at 399-6454 to place an order. They are \$3.50 per dozen, which includes the bags and candles.

Pill Bottle program

In developing countries, medicines – when actually obtainable – are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves, or any other available container. Donations of clean, unlabeled plastic pill bottles help the poorest of the poor in many ways.

Pill bottles of all types are accepted: prescription or over the counter, large or small, with or without child proof caps. Placing a nickel, dime, or quarter in each bottle helps with shipping costs. There will be a container in Fellowship Hall in which to put our bottles.



Community Luncheon

The luncheon will be held December 9th between 11:30am and 2:00pm in Fellowship Hall. It will be our Christmas party. Try to come and enjoy the day with your friends. Bring a dish to share if you are able.

The United Methodist Women

The UMW will hold its December meeting on the 11th at The Waters Edge Lighthouse Restaurant at 11:30am. Bring a friend or your husband. Please make reservations with Mandy Lucier. If you need a ride let us know.

Sunday School News

We continue to learn about the disciples. We have been reviewing the names of Jesus' original 12 disciples each week. We acted out the story of Peter escaping from jail with the help of an angle (Acts 12: 1-18). The children enjoyed playing the parts of Peter, a jail guard, an angle, and some friends of Jesus. We also learned about Jesus befriending a Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42), using cutouts to demonstrate the story. That story led us to a discussion about the "fruits of the spirit" (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) mentioned in Galatians 5:23. One week we reviewed the history behind Thanksgiving, and made foam cornucopias with Bible verses written on them from Deuteronomy 16:15 (Celebrate the feast to the Lord your God...The Lord your God will bless all your harvest) and Philippians 4:19 (My God will use his wonderful riches in Christ Jesus to give you everything you need).

On Dec. 7 and 14 we will be practicing our Christmas Pageant which we will perform immediately after church on Dec. 14. Each child will play several different parts. We hope you will stay to enjoy the show. Reminder, there will be no Sunday School on Dec. 28. Enjoy Christmas vacation with family and friends.

Thank you for supporting the Mayan Hands sale

The total sales and donations come to \$1800. Fifteen percent of this total, \$280, goes to the Scholarship Fund for the education of elementary and junior high children, and the rest goes to the Mayan Hands non-profit Fair Trade organization. They have been working for over 20 years with the Mayan artisans in the Guatemalan Highlands. Mayan women love to weave, as waving keeps them connected to the sacred and cultural Mayan Universe. Through Fair Trade, the women keep their families out of extreme poverty while making their beautiful handmade gifts.

Also thank you to Mandy, Sandi, and Amanda who worked three days setting up and overseeing the sale for our United Methodist Women's mission project.

Prayer List

Jack Leveille	Ginny Smith	Dorothy Ziegler
Barbara Hutchins	Dan Trask	Lu Diel's family
Claudia Lewis	Alice Lewis	Janice's family
Terry Gleason	Jeanne Story	Residents of nursing homes
Bill Broland	Mary Jackson	
Marcie Krout	Anne, Emily, and Deontae Kwiatkowski	
Gordon Neufeld and family	All victims of disasters and violence	



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>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Dec 7	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3: 8-15	Mark 1: 1-8
Dec 14	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec 21	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1: 47-55	Romans 16: 25-27	Luke 1: 26-38
Dec 25	Isaiah 52: 7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1: 1-12	Luke 2: 1-20 John 1: 1-14
Dec 28	Isaiah 61: 10-62:3	Psalm 148	Galatians 4: 4-7	Luke 2: 22-40

Fulfilling our Promises - our presence and our presents

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
Oct 5	32	\$1395
Oct 12	27	\$656.50
Oct 19	29	\$673.00
Oct 26	28	\$466.50

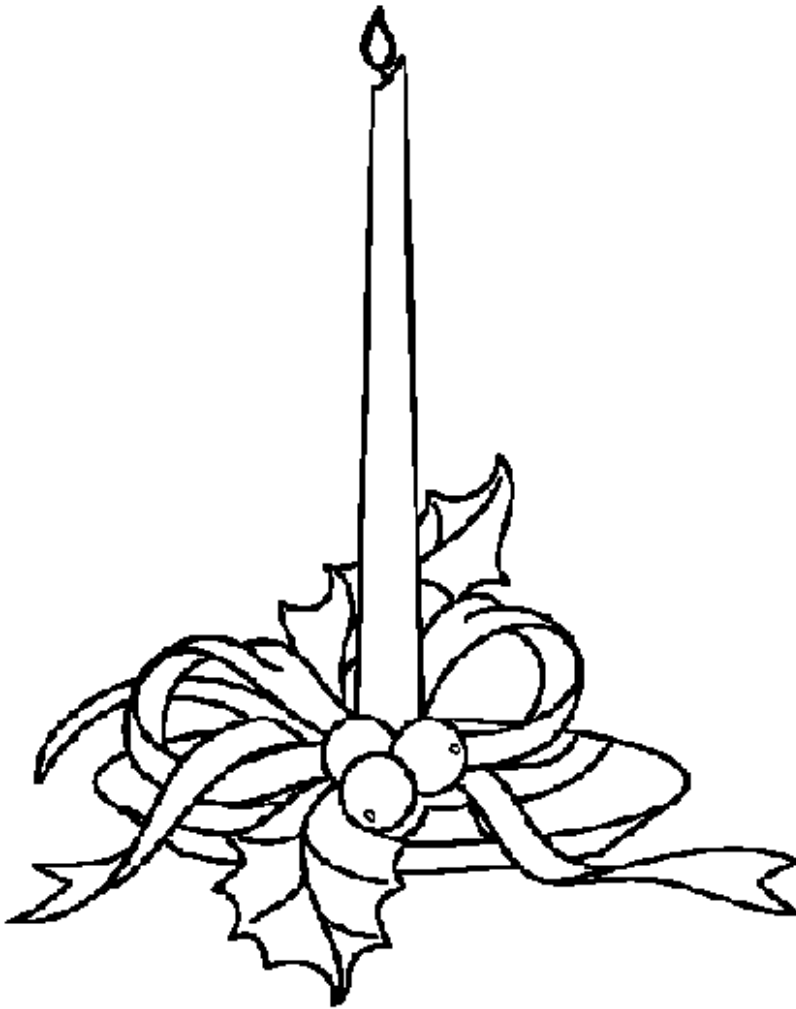
Comparison of expenses and income

	For Sept	Actual year to date	Expected year to date (budgeted)
Expenses	\$4,847	\$51,144	\$55,200
Income	\$3,132	\$32,743	\$37,494
	For Oct	Actual year to date	Expected year to date (budgeted)
Expenses	\$5,004	\$56,148	\$61,333
Income	\$3,191	\$35,934	\$41,660



Kids pages

THE CANDLE OF JOY



They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.
Isaiah 35:10 (NIV)

Sermons4Kids.com

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

The Holiday is upon us and it is time to order our poinsettias that will adorn our sanctuary from Felthousen Florist and Greenhouse. Mr. Felthousen has graciously left the price the same at \$11.00 per plant.

Please complete the order form and return by **December 14, 2014**.

If you would like to order a plant in memory of more than one person, please write additional information on the back of the form.

In memory or honor of: _____

Given by: _____

of Poinsettias: _____ Total Cost: _____

Checks should be made payable to Alplaus UMC. Please return this form with your payment to:

Alplaus United Methodist Church
Attn: Poinsettia Order
1 Brookside Ave.
Alplaus, NY 12008

Plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service, for those home bound, plants will be delivered.

If you have any questions please contact **Amanda Smith-Lucier** at 229-4591 and leave a message or e-mail at arsmithlucier@hotmail.com

TURKEY DINNER

Alplaus United Methodist Church
1 Brookside Avenue in Alplaus

ADULTS (13+): \$10.00 ♦ VETERANS \$9.00
KIDS (5-12): \$5.00 ♦ UNDER 5: FREE
FAMILY PKG. \$25.00 (2 adults & 2 kids 5-12)

SATURDAY

DEC 6

5 – 7 p.m.

518-399-6000

Walk-ins Welcome & Takeouts Available

MENU: turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, cranberry sauce, rolls, dessert, (beverage, with eat-in only)



DINERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR THE SICM FOOD PANTRY

church is handicapped accessible ♦ www.alplausumc.org

Alplaus United Methodist Church December 2014 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	2	3 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Scouts	4 1-3 Knitting Group 7pm Choir	5 Set-up for Turkey Dinner	6 5-7pm Turkey Dinner
7 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Communion Worship Service Council Mtg after coffee hour at Trask's home	8 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	9 11:30am-2pm Community Luncheon	10 7pm Scouts	11 11:30am UMW meeting at The Lighthouse Rest. 1-3pm Knitting Group 2:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	12 6:30pm Bridge	13
14 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service SICM Food Collection Day Sunday School Christmas Pageant following worship	15 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	16 5:30pm Serving at City Mission	17 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Scouts	18 1-3pm Knitting Group Mtg. 7pm Choir	19 6:30pm Bridge	20 Muse article deadline!
21 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service 7pm Blue Christmas Service at Scotia UMC Winter begins	22 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	23	24 7pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26 6:30pm Bridge	27
28 1 st Sunday after Christmas Day No Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service	29 7pm Fire Commissioner meeting	30	31 New Year's Eve			

Pastor Kristi's Office hours: Wednesday 9am – 12pm, Thursday 11am – 2pm.

Alplaus Methodist Church
1 Brookside Ave.
Alplaus, NY 12008
(518)399-6000
AlplausUMC.org

First Class Mail



DECEMBER 1, 2014



Articles for the January newsletter must be submitted to alplausmuse@gmail.com
no later than **December 20th**.
Thank you!

If you would like to receive your copy of our monthly Muse via email, please let me know at
llberetz@gmail.com and put "Muse" in the subject line.