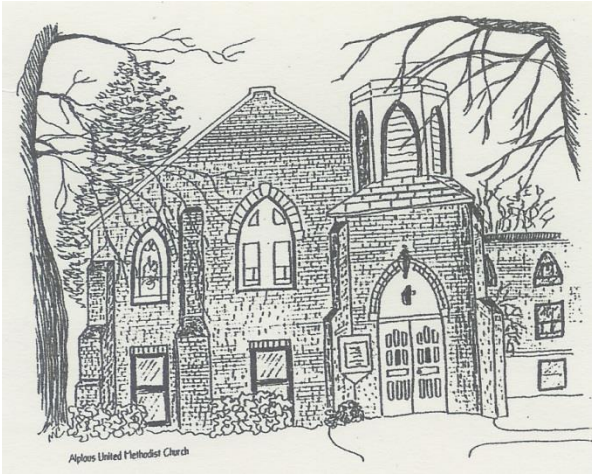




The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



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

New Year – new technology! Well, new to me at least. On January 26, we will have our first group discussion as we read *The World's Wisdom* by Philip Novak. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall (or maybe the lounge?) at 7pm. The new tech part of this is that I have started a blog so that folks who are unable to get to the building can still read with us and post questions and replies to other queries. This blogging business I've heard about before but am still learning the ropes of it. If you go to our site: <http://alplaus.blogspot.com/> you will see on a pretty generic page that lets you know that we are starting a discussion group on the 26th – please feel free to read the book with us and post thoughts or comments on the blog site.

Last year's new technology for me was learning the projector setup for our Family Movie nights – this program continues to varying degrees of success. Unfortunately I did not advertise our most recent "flick" and will try to do better for our next installment: "Frozen" on the second Friday of February (the beginning of February Break!) 7pm in the sanctuary. Our following two movies will be:

3/18 – Hotel Transylvania 2

4/15 – The Peanuts Movie

This church season, the Sundays after Epiphany and before Ash Wednesday, we are treated to a mini-series from Corinthians – focusing on the Body of Christ. As another of my New Year Resolutions is a healthier body; I am enjoying this focus on how to tend to and maintain the body of Christ as well. I read recently at stewardshipoflife.org: The antidote to flabby faith is simple: exercise the body through regular, basic faith practices, strive for the greater gifts, honor all members, and welcome the stranger to the table. In God's body there's always room for one more. Attention to body building, Holy Spirit-style, is as essential to the church as attention to one's own physical health and well-being is to each member.

I am one of the many joining classes as the Y – finding the parking lot busier than ever; I can't help but notice that our parking does not overflow on Sunday mornings, we still have our predictable comfortable space in "our" pews. Perhaps with a mind to tending to the missing limbs we may find more wholeness in Christ's body.

Shalom,
Pastor Kristi

**Community Luncheon**

The luncheon will be on Tuesday, February 9th in Fellowship hall from 11:30 to 2:00. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day so please bring a valentine to exchange with a friend. Hopefully it won't snow on the 9th. See you then!

United Methodist Women

There will be no meeting in February.

Lay Leader

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

'I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.'

The old woman smiled, 'Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?'

'That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them.'

'For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.'

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.

You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

So, to all of my cracked pot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path! - *Author unknown*

Blessings,

Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader

Pill Bottle program

Yes we are still collecting clean, unlabeled plastic pill bottles. They will be reused to help dispense medicine in poor, developing countries. There is a box on the table in Fellowship Hall to collect them.

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



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>
2/7	Exodus 34:29-35	99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9: 28-36
2/10 Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2,12-17	51: 1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:10	Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
2/14	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	91: 1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4: 1-13
2/21	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	27	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13: 31-35
2/28	Isaiah 55:1-9	63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13: 1-9

Fulfilling our promises - our presence and our presents

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
12/6	36	\$1,216
12/13	25	\$10,022
12/20	30	\$1,071
12/20 Blue Christmas	8	n/a
12/24	65	\$405
12/27	21	\$1,260

Comparison of expenses and income

	For December	Actual year to date	Budgeted year to date
Expenses	\$6,005	\$65,117	\$73,209
Income	\$13,975	\$57,077	\$54,996

Sunday School News

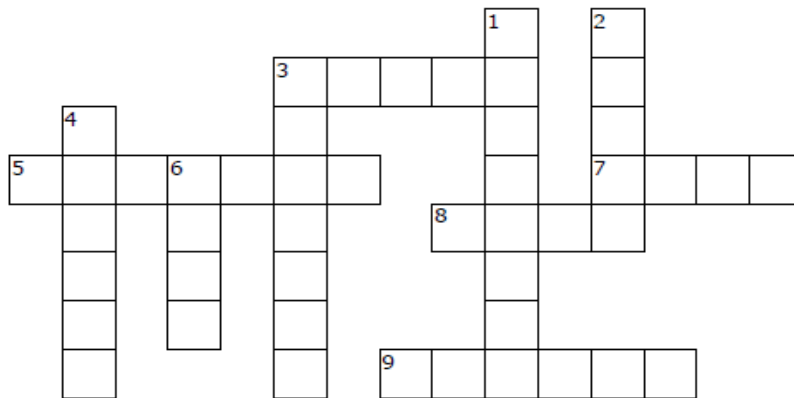
Due to illnesses and holidays we didn't meet much in Jan. Our lessons were focused around the concept of Jesus being "the light." We learned the song "This Little Light of Mine" and did a little role playing, dressing up in costume, as we breezed through a quick timeline of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Esau and how other nations took over the Israelites from time to time, but the Israelites eventually won their freedom each time through their devotion for God, perseverance and the help of God (with his leading light). We tied that into the use of lights, especially candles, in our Christian faith to represent Jesus's light. In February we will switch back to the unit on salvation which was interrupted by the Christmas season. On Feb. 7 children of all ages will be given the opportunity to make Valentines for the shut-ins during church time if they wish to do that. The nursery will be open for younger children if they do not want to do the craft. Please remember that there will be no Sunday School on Feb. 14 due to the holiday weekend, but being the 2nd Sunday of the month, there will be our usual food collection during church time.



Jesus in the Synagogue

"And he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:21 (NIV)

Based on Luke 4:14-21



ACROSS

- 3. Something you do to help someone
- 5. A person who speaks for God
- 7. Information about recent events or happenings; previously unknown information
- 8. The opposite of bad
- 9. A long roll of paper with writing on it

DOWN

- 1. A person who is kept in jail
- 2. Unable to see
- 3. To be allowed to do whatever you want to do
- 4. To deliver a sermon
- 6. Having little or no wealth and few or no possessions

PRISONER	FAVOR	GOOD	PROPHET	POOR
BLIND	FREEDOM	NEWS	PREACH	SCROLL

Alplaus United Methodist Church February 2016 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7pm Adult Book Discussion	3 7pm Scouts	4 1-3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	5	6
7 Transfiguration Sunday 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Communion Worship Service Council Mtg. at church, after coffee hour	8	9 11:30am – Community Luncheon 7pm Adult Book Discussion	10 Ash Wednesday 7pm Scouts	11 1-3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	12 7pm Movie Night, "Frozen"	13
14 1st Sunday in Lent No Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service SICM food offering Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day	16	17 7pm Scouts	18 1-3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	19	20 Muse article deadline!
21 2 nd Sunday in Lent 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service	22	23 7pm Adult Book Discussion	24 7pm Scouts	25 11:30am UMW 1-3pm Knitting Group 7pm Choir	26	27
28 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Church Worship Service	29 Happy Leap Day!					

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

Alplaus Methodist Church
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AlplausUMC.org

First Class Mail



FEBRUARY 1, 2016



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