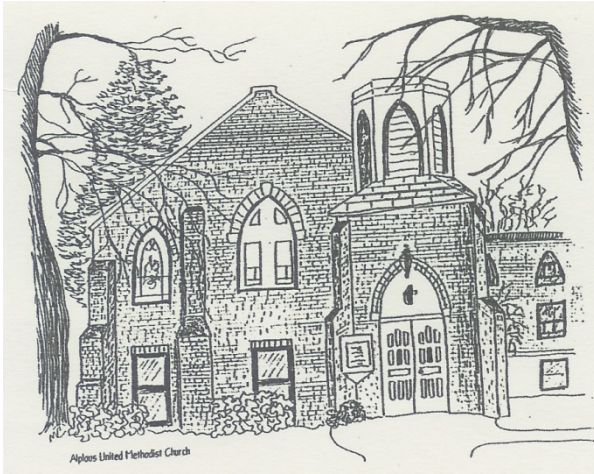




The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



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

Alleluia! Easter Joy! – We celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox; this year, on March 27. Our season of Easter is filled with joy and “alleluias.” Did you know that the Church gives up using the word alleluia during Lent? That is one of the reasons why there is a whole big, beautiful chorus of “Hallelujah” in Handel’s “Messiah.” Alleluia, or Hallelujah both mean “Praise the Lord” – so the term is certainly fitting for the season of Easter.

We celebrate the empty tomb, we rejoice with the resurrection – this is God’s undeniable answer of salvation for us.

We know that Jesus enjoyed a great reception when he entered Jerusalem – Palm Sunday. We know that Jesus predicted betrayal at the Last Supper in the upper room. We connect with the disciples who fell asleep in the garden while Jesus was praying. We were surprised that the disciples are armed at Christ’s arrest. We heard how each official had a part to play in the trial and sentencing of Jesus. We were shocked at the violence of Jesus’ torture and ridicule. We see ourselves: in the crowd taunting, in the disciples fleeing, in the women crying. We were humbled at the forgiveness uttered from the cross. We wept on Good Friday. We waited and prayed.

Easter came – the empty grave and the resurrection show us that despite our betrayal, our sins, our part in Christ’s death, still – we are shown proof of resurrection and forgiveness. We have not earned salvation – it is given, despite our failing efforts to be good; we are redeemed even while we are still sinners. The joy of Easter is being able to celebrate this gift – this salvation, this forgiveness because we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed, the Messiah.

Hallelujah!! Have a joyful and blessed Easter Season!

Pastor Kristi

**Community Luncheon**

We will meet Tuesday, April 12th in Fellowship Hall. Even though it will be after Easter, we will celebrate Easter anyway. Thanks to all who helped make our St. Patty's Day luncheon a success. Bring a friend and a dish to share if you can. See you on the 12th!

United Methodist Women

The April meeting will be on Thursday the 21st at 12:30. We will be assembling sewing kits for UMCOR. Ginny Marra is getting the dress material for us. The hostesses will be Sandi Donahue and Mary Herrick. All women of the church are invited.

Sunday School news

We have finally finished our unit on preparing for salvation from Ephesians 16. The Bible compares it to a knight preparing for battle with his special armor. Each piece of armor is equated with an activity we can do: pray, have faith, be righteous, share the news of Jesus, and tell the truth. On Palm Sunday we reenacted the events of holy week and on Easter there was no class. On March 13 during church time the children made Easter cards and decorations for the shut-ins. In April we start a new unit

Children's Church

We met on March 20th, due to the 4th Sunday being Easter Sunday. We had two children attending and we had a sermon, song, worksheets and activities from Sermon4Kids. The children acted out a Praise Parade, on Palm Sunday, like the people of Jerusalem did when Jesus entered their city. We look forward to meeting again on April 17th, due school vacation week starting on the 4th Sunday. Children grade 4th and above are encouraged to attend after the Children's Sermon during the regular worship service.

New hires at church

We would like to thank Tonya for 10 years of volunteering to run our nursery program during church. SPRC felt it was time for her to have the opportunity to worship with us during church time, something she could not do while serving in that position, so we have found someone else to fill that position. We hope you will personally take the time to thank her for her 10 years of service. We honored her with a special cake on March 13 during fellowship time. She has agreed to continue with her leadership running the monthly community luncheons and fundraiser dinners, and we thank her for sharing her expertise in the kitchen.

We would also like to thank Amanda C. for serving as our cleaner this past year. We appreciate her willingness to carry out those duties for us. She has now been hired to run the nursery program in place of Tonya during the church service. Please take a moment to thank her for filling that position.

And lastly, we would like to announce that Gordon has been hired for the cleaning position that became vacant when Amanda C. took over in the nursery. We thank Gordon for taking on that task and sparing us the process of advertising and running interviews.

Cleaning the clutter

Over the years SPRC has heard complaints about the clutter around the church, so we are making a concerted effort to address that issue over the next few months. Rooms are being reorganized, and outdated materials are being thrown out. We are looking for volunteers who would work together to sort through the books in the library and discard old, outdated books. If you are willing to help with that project, please see Barb Trask.

Also, if you have personal items stored here at the church (even if these items are used at church from time to time), it would be appreciated if they were taken home to free up space. There is very little storage area here at church, and we need to prioritize what that space is used for. There is a small amount of storage space in the garage. If you would like to store something out there, please discuss it with a member of the trustees.

**Lay Leader****The Black Dot: A Beautiful and Inspiring Story!**

This beautiful story has a simple, yet important message. I hope as many people as possible give it a read. I know I am happy I read it, as it gave me a few things to think about in my own life. Sometimes it is the simplest of stories that make us ponder the most.

One day, a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin. The professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers.

To everyone's surprise, there were no questions – just a black dot in the center of the sheet of paper. The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following: "I want you to write about what you see there". The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task.

At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams, and started reading each one of them out loud, in front of all the students. All of them, with no exception defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet. After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain: "I'm not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot – and the same happens in our lives. We have a white piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots. Our life is a gift given to us by God, with love and care, and we always have reasons to celebrate – nature renewing itself every day, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, the miracles we see every day... However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spot – the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend. The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they're the ones that pollute our mind.

Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love! *Author unknown – shared by Barb Trask.*

Blessings,
Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader

Church directory updates and corrections

Please add Sue & Doug Diblasio to your directory and welcome her. Sue & Doug first attended worship with us on Christmas Eve and now consider Alplaus her home church. We are so happy to have them as part of our church family. They live at 142 Maple Ave, Glenville NY 12302

We are so happy to be making this correction from our printed copies of the March Muse: Jeanne Story was reported to us by the Kingsway Manor as deceased last month and joyfully we report that she was only moved to another room. Her new address is: Kingsway Arms, Room 328, all else is the same.

Please remember to let us know when you move or have a change of any kind. Email LLberetz@gmail.com and put "Directory Update" in the subject line.

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	Esther Miller



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>
4/3	Acts 5:27-32	150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
4/10	Acts 9:1-20	30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
4/17	Acts 9:36-43	23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
4/24	Acts 11:1-18	148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35

Fulfilling our promises - our presence and our presents

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
2/7	18	\$777
2/14	42	\$702
2/21	21	\$1,288
2/28	26	\$512

Comparison of expenses and income

	For February	Actual year to date	Budgeted year to date
Expenses	\$3,301	\$11,931	\$11,578
Income	\$3,279	\$10,336	\$8,332

April Birthdays

1	Destany Guillaume		
2	Edward Uttberg		
10	Tyler Knaggs		
15	Eiry Blagg		
17	Barry Suydam		
20	Bethany Oliver		
22	Donald Wither		
24	Deontae Kwiatkowski		
27	Nathan Leveillee		
28	Samantha Oliver		

Lost and Found

There have been numerous items hanging in fellowship hall for 6 months or more. We ask that you take a look at them to see if any belong to you. Anything left at the end of April will be donated to goodwill. Some of the items include: 2 small umbrellas, 2 large umbrellas, a nylon backpack with a new pair of men's black snow pants in it, and several coats and shirts.