



## 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**

“What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding,  
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming,  
That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it,  
It’s fresh like spring, you want to sing; you want to pass it on.”

“I wish for you, my friends, this happiness that I’ve found,  
You can depend on God, it matters not where you’re bound,  
I’ll shout it from the mountain top; I want the world to know,  
The Lord of Love has come to me; I want to pass it on.”

It’s spring and whenever I see the willows getting bright yellow, the oaks and red maples turning a rosy red before the itty bits of green start to show, I think of this song. These verses (2 & 3) from #572 in the United Methodist Hymnal “Pass it On” have been my favorite since I started attending church camp at the age of 8.

At camp, I learned about Christian community – what an intentional community of love with God’s peace and justice as an expected foundation can be. I loved going to church, I was intrigued by the Bible stories, but camp is where it all came together for me. Camp was where I felt whole and welcome and part of something great.

Years later, when I volunteered as a counselor, I felt like I had “made it” because I could help kids to fall in love with God and Christian community like I did at camp. I later worked on staff, directed specialty camps and even helped to write curriculum that was used all summer for all campers. I’m writing about camp now because it’s spring and the trees are budding and because I am also filling out Kylie’s application for Summer camp and I hope that folks who read this know that our Conference has 5 summer camps where lives are transformed.

If you know of any children whose lives could be inspired, confidence lifted and faith grown – consider checking out these camps and the experiences they offer. The dates next to each are for Open House. These events are great for first time families to meet staff and tour the facilities. All open houses are free.



More specifics at [campsandretreats.org](http://campsandretreats.org):

Asbury – furthest west, south of Rochester - [asburyun.org](http://asburyun.org)- 6/5 2-5pm

Casowasco – Kylie's favorite, south of Syracuse - [casowasco.org](http://casowasco.org) – 6/12 2-7pm

Sky Lake – gorgeous and near Binghamton - [skylakecenter.org](http://skylakecenter.org) – 5/15 1:30-5:30pm

Aldersgate – furthest north, east of Watertown - [aldersgateny.org](http://aldersgateny.org) – 6/19 2-7pm

Skye Farm – closest, just north of Warrensburg - [skyefarmcamp.org](http://skyefarmcamp.org)– 6/26 1-4pm

Enjoy the beauty of the budding trees, the singing birds, and the blooming flowers – remember to try and pass on the goodness, the grace and the joy you are granted each day!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Kristi*

#### **Lay Leader**

#### **Drinking from my saucer (A very spiritual and true poem)**

I've never made a fortune, and it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.  
And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

Haven't got a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.  
But I've got loving ones all around me, and that makes me rich enough.  
I thank God for His Blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.  
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.  
So Lord, help me not to gripe, about the tough rows I have hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough,  
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already Blessed enough.  
And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

When I think of how many people in this world have it worse than I do,  
I realize just how BLESSED we really are. *(Author unknown)*

Thank you to my friends and family that share these great stories and poems, they are such a blessing. If you have any that you would like to see in the Muse, please let me know.

Blessings,  
Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader



**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>
5/1	Acts 16:9-15	67	Revelation 21:1-10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29
5/5 - Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
5/8	Acts 16:16-34	97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
5/15 - Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-17, 25-27
5/22	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15

**Fulfilling our promises - our presence and our presents**

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
3/6	25	\$1,428
3/13	30	\$1,049
3/20	22	\$1,221
3/27	53	\$1,999

**Comparison of expenses and income**

	For March	Actual year to date	Budgeted year to date
Expenses	\$7,251	\$19,182	\$17,367
Income	\$5,679	\$16,033	\$12,498

**May Birthdays**

1	Olliver Suydam
2	Julia Pfaffenbach
4	Mary Herrick
	Jeannine Bechand
11	Claudia Lewis
15	Emily Kwaitkowski
22	Janice Mix
23	Jane Uttberg
25	Gemma Kwaitkowski

**May Anniversaries**

18	Janice Mix and Bill Broland '14
25	Jeff and Cindy Leveillee '03

**Community Luncheon**

The luncheon will be Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall from 11:30am – 2pm. We had a good turn out last month for our Easter celebration. Our thanks go to Shirley Deluka for all she did in setting up the decorations. Please bring a friend, and a dish to share on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**United Methodist Women**

The UMW will meet May 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. Mandy and Amanda are the hostesses, and Mandy will present the Prayer and Self-Denial program. The pledge for the year will be collected – any amount that you would like to give will be appreciated. Thank you to Mandy and Amanda for putting the UMW program booklet together. It has a new look.

**Sunday School news**

Sunday School is winding down for the year. We started our last unit about Moses on April 17. We learned how he was put in a basket and floated down the river in an effort to save him from being murdered along with all the other male babies at that time. Then we made edible baskets from chow mein noodles, and chocolate and butterscotch chips. We put an edible gummy baby in the basket to represent baby Moses. I coated one of the edible baskets with wax, and we floated it down the river we made in a bucket. The children had fun. There will be no Sunday School on May 29 due to the holiday weekend, and our last day will be June 12.

**Spring cleanup**

Thank you to everyone who helped with our clean-up on April 10. A lot of work was completed, and more areas of the church were decluttered. There are a few things left on the listed that needed to be completed, so if you were absent or are willing to put in some more time, please see Dan or Barb Trask to look at the list.

**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
Sandi Donahue and family	

**Upcoming Events**

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 3pm, Alplaus Community Wide Garage Sale, hosted by the Alplaus Firehouse Auxillary.

June 4<sup>th</sup>, Ice Cream Social at church, hosted by Alplaus UMC.