



The Alplaus United Methodist Church Muse



The Alplaus United Methodist Church's Vision and Mission:

Our vision for the AUMC is to be a viable, active, welcoming church that supports both individual members and the community through 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 letter

When I turn on the news and see more catastrophe, more pain, more violence...I find that I have no words. None of my own words from my meager life's experience could feel appropriate. I freeze up in painful silence, processing horror, hurt, and grief. I pray, I cry, I wonder when the terror will stop. I seek out loving responses from others. I offer the writing of an acquaintance, Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes (from *Unfolding light*; www.unfoldinglight.net):

We believe in the God of grace.
We follow the Teacher of love.
We live by the Spirit of mercy.
We trust God's healing of the world.

When people spread fear and division,
When evil, injustice, and oppression thrive,
no political revolution, program, or platform will save us,
but only a people transformed by grace and light,
and a bold and sustained outbreak of gentleness.

We will stand up to cynicism, hate, and indifference,
and blanket this world with compassion, calm and mercy.
We will proclaim the truth against all resistance.
We will meet fear and hate with healing.
We will obstruct the progress of injustice
with our prayers, our words, and our bodies.
We will infest the world with grace and love.

We pray for open hearts and a spirit of deep listening.
We pray for courage to enter the wounds of the world;
for a spirit of peace to face violence with nonviolence;
for patience to answer darkness with light.



We pray for humility to offer ourselves
as the first to be changed.
We pray for one another, for we are one Body.
We devote ourselves to sacrifice and discipline.

Giving thanks for the great spirit of grace
already breathing in us, already rising,
in hope and love, as the gentle people of God,
we go forth.

Blessings!
Pastor Kristi

Community Luncheon

The luncheon will be Tuesday, August 9th from 11:30am – 2:00. Please bring a dish to share, and feel free to bring a friend!

Bible study reminder!

Bible study will meet twice during August in Fellowship Hall. Follow us on alplaus.blogspot.com; discussion questions are listed. Feel free to post a response with a question of your own, or just a thought to share.

8/2 – 1 & 2 Timothy

8/16 – Colossians

Classes begin at 7pm. All are welcome to attend any or all weeks. You can come if you haven't read, you can come if you meant to read, you can come with questions and thoughts prepared, or not. You are always welcome to come.

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>
8/7	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	50:1-8, 22-23	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
8/14	Isaiah 5:1-3	80:1-2, 8-19	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
8/21	Jeremiah 1:4-10	71:1-6	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
8/28	Jeremiah 2:4-13	8:1, 10-16	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 11:1-13

Fulfilling our promises - our presence and our presents

	<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>
June 5	16	\$802
June 12		\$950
June 19	26	\$268
June 26	22	\$1,141

**Comparison of expenses and income**

	For June	Actual year to date	Budgeted year to date
Expenses	\$5,090	\$33,557	\$34,733
Income	\$3,161	\$25,016	\$24,996

Lay Leader

Thank you, Dick Knapp, for sharing this story with us.

Woman and the Fork (author unknown)

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things "in order", she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly. "What's that?" asked the pastor. "This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked. "Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. 'In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, "Keep your fork." It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!' So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.'"

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral, people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" and over and over he smiled. During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with her shortly before she died. He also told them about "the fork" and about what is symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. Cherish the time you have, and the memories you share. Being friends with someone is not an opportunity, but a sweet responsibility.

God bless you

Blessings,
Lisa Beretz, Lay Leader



August Birthdays

15	Daniel Trask
21	Shirley Sutphen
24	Cindy Franze
26	Kristi Van Patten
28	Virginia Smith
29	Jennifer Suydam

August Anniversaries

7	Dan & Barbara Trask '76
7	Any Riordan & Alan Bowman '87
22	Carl & Johanne Shepard '70

Prayer list

Ginny Smith
 Barbara Hutchins
 The King, Story, and Culver families
 Gordon Neufeld and family
 Amanda's cousin David and family
 Victims of disasters and violence
 Yvonne White's family
 Sandi Donahue and family

Bill Broland
 Alice and Claudia Lewis
 Robin's grandson Tyler and family
 Tami Flanders and family
 Anne, Emily, and Deontae
 Kwiatkowski
 Esther Miller

Church Administrative Council

The church council met during July and unanimously voted on a refined version of our mission and vision statements, which we feel better define what we do as a church. The new statements can be seen on the first page of the Muse. The old vision statement was "Our vision for the AUMC is to be a viable, active, open church that supports both individual members and the community through a loving, spiritual atmosphere." The old mission statement was "Our mission is to worship, serve, pray, and play by connecting with the community and each other." The council welcomes any feedback regarding these changes. Please contact the council chair, Lisa Beretz, at (518)330-9277 or email llberitz@gmail.com.

Alplaus United Methodist Church August 2016 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please note that summer worship time is at 9:30 am	1	2 7pm Bible Study: 1&2 Timothy	3	4	5 6:30pm Bridge	6
7 12 th day after Pentecost 9:30am Communion Worship Service Church council meeting after coffee hour	8	9 11:30 – 2pm Community Luncheon	10	11	12 6:30pm Bridge	13
14 13 th day after Pentecost 9:30am Church Communion Worship Service SICM Food Collection Day	15	16 7pm Bible Study: Colossians	17	18	19 6:30pm Bridge	20 September Muse article deadline!
21 14 th day after Pentecost 9:30am Church Worship Service	22	23	24 August Muse article deadline!	25	26 6:30pm Bridge	27
28 15 th day after Pentecost 9:30am Church Worship Service	29	30	31			

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

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(518)399-6000
AlplausUMC.org

First Class Mail



AUGUST 1, 2016



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