Upper St. Croix Parish Grantsburg, St. Croix Falls, Atlas, Wolf Creek P.O. Box 128 Grantsburg, WI 54840





Upper St. Croix Parish Christmas Service Schedule



Sunday, December 24th

10:00 am St. Croix Falls 11:00 am & 4:00 pm Atlas 5:00 pm Wolf Creek 9:00 am & 7:00 pm Grantsburg

UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER THE UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH 715-463-2624 Parish Office (in Grantsburg) 715-483-9494 St. Croix Falls Church 715-483-9904 Parsonage Email: centralumc2016@gmail.com, pastor.kookho@gmail.com pastor.ranyoo@gmail.com Website: www.upperstcroixparish.org Facebook: Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Churches



December 2017

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." - Romans 12:15

Dr. Richard C. Halverson (1916-1995), chaplain to the U.S. Senate, was credited in 1984 for a speech before the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church:

> "In the beginning the church was a **fellowship of men and women** centering on the living Christ. Then the church moved to Greece, where it became a **philosophy**. Then it moved to Rome, where it became an institution. Next it moved to Europe where it became a culture, and, finally, it moved to America where it became an enterprise."



While I was reading a news article, this quote struck my mind. And it made me think about what does our church look like? Does it look like fellowship or philosophy or institution or culture or enterprise? I think this not only shows the regional differences, but also shows different understandings of the church today. Some people think church is one of social meetings, so they come to church to meet many people. Some people think church is a place, helping people to experience some milestones in life, such as baptism, confirmation, wedding, and funeral, so they want church to provide some service according to their needs. Some people think church is a volunteer agency, so they ask for some help from the church. Some people think church is a family home, so they grow in church and live within the church.

As one of the people who loves church, my sincere hope for our churches is to restore the former image of the church, which is of a fellowship of people centering on the living Christ. When church lost its first image, it became just a building for a particular function. However, as we sing "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we are the church together," the church is not a building but a people.

Then how can we restore our church to its original image – a fellowship of people centering on the living Christ? "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." As we live together following the love of Christ Jesus by sharing our moments of life, yes! Surely we can restore our first image.

As I look back at this year, I am so grateful to God for our 4 churches. Especially, since we had many funerals this year. Losing a loved one is very difficult, bringing lots of tears, but as one body of Christ, all congregations took care of the deceased's family and were committed to working together for the funeral service. Furthermore, this year we added 4 new babies in our parish. All congregations welcomed our new brothers and sisters in Christ with love and smiling faces. In addition, countless joys and concerns were shared in the church during the year. On all such occasions, we rejoiced together and we wept together, and most importantly we prayed altogether.

It is such an honor to serve God together with you. It is such a joy to be the church together with you. My best reason for Thanksgiving this year is you, our church! Thank you for being my church family and being church together with me. Let us keep trying to do our best to rebuild our church to be a true fellowship of people centering on the living Christ together.

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE



GIVING God At Work! December 2017

... for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. (Philippians 2:13)

How we invite God to work in us is to become increasingly more like Christ in the process called discipleship. Its aim is to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, but this usually comes in stages of commitment whether it be prayer, presence, service, witness, or giving.

There are four stages of giving.

In **Stage 1**, people spend on themselves and then to give to God from what is left over. They usually give little or nothing. They are not ready to commit.

In **Stage 2**, people take responsibility and wonder what equal shares of the goal (e.g., church budget) are. Of course, this fails to recognize that households have different levels of resources. People at this stage are ready to give regularly and many of them pledge.

In **Stage 3**, people want to put God first in their lives, even if they must change spending habits and attitudes toward having things. They understand that an offering to God is intended to be a sacrifice. They look to move toward tithing, giving ten percent of their income to God, by increasing the percentage of income they give each year.

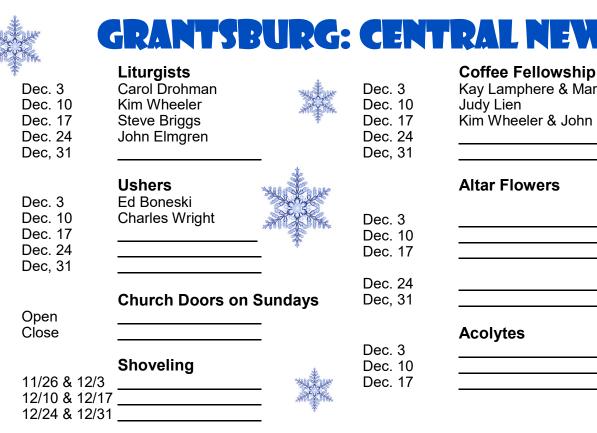
In **Stage 4**, people want to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. They see even what they spend on their own needs to be support for their discipleship. Often, their giving to church exceeds the 10 percent tithing mark.

Where are you in your discipleship journey? Is this the year, you make a change? Let's pray for one another as we grow together.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at www.wumf.org or Facebook/wumf.org Or call 1-888-903-9863







Ashley Bistram	12/3
Florence Buggert	12/5
Mildred Buggert	12/6
Mikala Hammer	12/7
Brian Lund	12/10
Justin Paulson	12/10
Becky Fossum	12/11
Janice Lee	12/12
Daniel Harmon	12/16
Ali Goepfert	12/18
Kim Wheeler	12/18
Charles & Mary Lou Wr	ight 12/23
Kylie Pewe	12/24
Mike Giles	12/24
Grant Manley	12/25
Janelle Smestad	12/25
Carol Huff	12/30

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

A GLANCE AT CENTRAL'S OFFERING INCOME THROUGH OCTOBER 2017



Kay Lamphere & Mary Lou Wright Kim Wheeler & John Peterson

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GRANTSBURG: CENTRAL NEWS

GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS





CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 20th 6:30 pm Central UMC



United Methodist Men's December Meeting

Sat., December 9th 8:00am at Central UMC

Devotions: Don Anderson

Refreshments: Art Bistram

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER MISSION RESULTS

Thank you to all who supported Trick or Treat for UNICEF & Operation Christmas Child. This year Central Church collected \$169 for UNICEF and 42 shoe boxes for children around the world. Your generosity is much appreciated!



DECEMBER MISSION



Warm items of clothing and other items for the Christmas Store.

BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

In September Central UMC donated 190 boxes. Remember ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!

BURNETT COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Fri., Dec. 1Christmas in Siren
Christmas in the Park-GrantsburgSat., Dec. 2Santa Day-Grantsburg
Christmas at the Forts-DanburySun., Dec. 3Christmas at the Forts-DanburySat., Dec. 9Santa Day-Webster
Christmas at the Forts-Danbury
- Sun., Dec. 10 Chocolate Fest-Adventures in Siren

Sunday School/Youth Group



Rehearsals: Wednesdays November 29, December 6 and December 13 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm (times subject to change based on participant availability.

Performance: Wed., December 20th at 6:30 pm

All Central and any other parish church youth are asked to participate.



Upcoming Council Meeting

Admin Council Mtg. Tues., Dec. 19 6:30 pm Central UMC

CENTRAL CONTINUED ...

Memory Tree Ornaments are still for sale at Grantsburg for \$5. The ornaments are angels this year. Please see Terry Giles if you have any questions. Thank you!



AT CENTRAL FOR ENTIRE UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH



THE CHRISTMAS STORE Saturday, December 9, 8-10:00 am at Central Church

The Christmas Store was started 48 years ago by two women from Central Church. Throughout the year, they worked hard to find good, reusable toys at rummage sales. Then they would clean them up, make repairs here and there, craft new doll clothes and give them away to children in need in our community.

That tradition continues today, but instead of looking for good used toys, AND because of the generosity of businesses, organizations, individuals and churches in Grantsburg, we are now financially able to purchase a NEW toy for each family who registers to "shop" at the Christmas Store. We have always called it a "store" ~ but everything is free! In addition to toys, each family receives a ham and other fixings for their Christmas dinner.

If you'd like to make a donation to the Christmas Store, make a check payable to The Christmas Store and place it in the offering plate OR send your donation to Janelle Smestad @ 23098 Smestad Rd., Grantsburg OR bring socks, hats, mittens, scarves ... anything warm and put it in the SOX BOX in our sanctuary. Thanks for caring!

Women of the Upper Saint Croix Parish you are invited to attend a

Christmas Luncheon

at Central United Methodist Church on Wednesday, December 13th, 2017

Lunch will be served at 12:30 with a program following. Please join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. What a great way to begin the Christmas Season!

All women of the Upper St Croix Parish are welcome!

RSVP by Dec. 10th to Mary 715-791-8010 or LuAnn Martell 715-222-3016 or sign up on the clipboard at Central.



ATLAS NEWS

Liturgists

Dec. 3	Sue Olson
Dec. 10	Toni Koons
Dec. 17	Sunday School Program
Dec. 24	Colleen Adams-Schween
Dec. 31	Toni Koons

Ushers

Dec. 3 Dec. 10		—
Dec. 10 Dec. 17	Wendell Hauble	-
Dec. 24	Don Schween	
Dec. 31	Lowell Paulson	
Dec. 17	Coffee Fellowship Maxine Hauble	
	Oversiday a Oals a al	

Sunday School

- (Nursery/Middle Elem/Older Elem)
- Dec. 3 Christmas Program Practice
- Dec. 10 Christmas Program Practice
- Dec. 17 Christmas Program
- Dec. 24 No Sunday School
- Dec. 31 No Sunday School

Cleaning

(Note the date starts with the Sunday to be cleaned and the rest of that week is your responsibility also.)

12/3 & 12/10	Briana Olson
12/17 & 12/24	
12/31 & 1/7	

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 17th

During the 11 am service.



PLANET GREEN INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM

Do you have used ink jet cartridges or old cell phones? Every one that you donate to the church provides extra money to fund Atlas Church's ministry and outreach. This month we will receive \$61.00 from the last shipment we mailed in. Thank you for your continued support of this program!



INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

Offerings:	
Nov. 5	\$ 2249.00
Nov. 12	\$ 2274.00
Nov. 19	\$ 248.50
Nov. 26	\$ 806.00
Total	\$ 5575.50



\$3278.84 - Needed per Month to cover expenses.

<u>Oct. overage = \$ 2298.66</u>

Thank you for your faithful financial support of the ministry of Atlas church!



Copelan Grimes	12/13
Jeff Tooze	12/13
Patrick Grimes	12/18
Brody Woltz	12/19
Brittney Woltz	12/22
Madison Frenette	12/28



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Children's

'roaram

There will be no Admin Council Meeting in December





OCTOBER TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF MISSION RESULTS



Thank you to all the children for collecting for Trick or Treat for UNICEF. You raised \$45.98! This money will help a lot of other children live healthier, better lives!

NOVEMBER MISSION RESULTS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



This year Atlas UMC collected 31 shoeboxes along with miscellaneous donations to be brought to the drop-off facility to be used in making additional boxes. Thank you for your generosity, your time and your ongoing support.

DECEMBER MISSION-MITTEN TREE



We will collect mittens, scarves, hats, gloves, etc. Our donations will be taken to Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry ... they will help keep our neighbors in need warm this winter. Thank you for your kindness....

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS COFFEE, CRAFT & BAKE SALE

Saturday, December 2nd 9:00am - 1:00pm



- Have you reserved the date and spread the word?
- Can we count on you to offer a helping hand?
- Have you begun thinking about what little fancy Christmas treats you can bake for the "tea" upstairs?
- What you can offer to the craft fair downstairs? What baked goods you can provide for the Bake Sale?

We are grateful that so many of you share your many talents at this yearly church fundraiser!

Christmas Offering 10% to support local charitable programs.

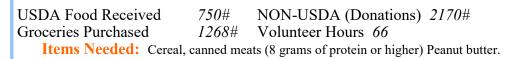


- 12/2**Christmas Coffee, Bake and Craft Sale**
- 12/3**Decorate the Mitten Tree**
- 12/17 Christmas Program/Potluck
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service s at 11 am & 4pm
- 1/3 **Sunday School Resumes**

LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY **Monthly Report ~ October 2017**

Households Served 80 Adults 137 Children $\frac{33}{170}$ Total People

Luck School District 41 Than Unity School District 39 Other Ω New Families: Unity 1, Luck 0, Other 0



LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

On Communion Sunday, Dec. 3 you are invited to bring food for the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Luck and supplies needed by Atlas Church. We do keep a basket out up front for donations brought at any time as well.

DEC. - Canned Stew

ST. CROIX FALLS NEWS



REMEMBER THE FOOD SHELF

On Communion Sundays, you are invited to bring in donations for the SCF Food Pantry. Canned vegetables, fruit or meat, fruit juice, cereal, peanut butter and jelly, kid-friendly soups, personal hygiene items ... just be sure your food items have not expired.



COMMUNION SUNDAY: December 3rd

Liturgists All of Nov.	Karen Sciacca	
Ushers All of Nov.	Steve Sylvester	
Altar Flowers All of Nov.	Karen Sciacca	
Coffee Hour Nov. 12 Nov. 19 Nov. 26	Peter & Kathleen Gionis Administrative Council Karen Sciacca	
Money Counters All of Nov.	Karen Sciacca	
Communion / Paramonte		

Communion / Paraments Nov. 5 Steve & LeAnn Sylvester

Potluck

Jim & Fay Andrews



Parish Group Meeting

4:00-6:00 pm

Sun. Dec. 10th at the Parsonage in St. Croix Falls



St. Croix Falls UMC donated **10** boxes to Operation Christmas Child this year.

Thank you for helping to bring Good News and great joy to children around the world through Operation Christmas Child.

> Millions of boys and girls will experience God's love through shoeboxes collected this year.







December 3rd

Íf you haven't already turned your commitment card in please bring it with you on December 3rd for Commitment Sunday.

NOVEMBER MISSION RESULTS

ST. CROIX FALLS UMC put together food bags for 11 Thanksgiving meals for 11 families in need in our own community.

Thank you to all who helped, whether by donating food supplies, or your time, to support this mission.

We are truly thankful for all of you!





Readers & Greeters

- Dec. 3 Linda Chouinard
- Dec. 10 Donna Blair
- Dec. 17 Barb Davidsavor
- Dec. 24 Marcie Marquardt
- Dec. 31 Marcie Marquardt

Coffee Fellowship

Dec. 24 Group

Cleaner

All Month:



CHRISTMAS EVE



Wolf Creek will hold service on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm. There will be no morning service.

Wolf Creek News

MISSION GIVING

For the fourth quarter of 2017 Wolf Creek collected 5 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child in addition to the offering collection for Operation Christmas in Balsam Lake. Thank you for your support!





COMMITMENT SUNDAY December 3rd

If you haven't already turned your commitment card in please bring it with you on December 3rd for Commitment Sunday.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING



Monday, Dec. 11th at 7:00 pm Wolf Creek UMC

MISCELLANEOUS

UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH ADVENT BOOK STUDY

Reflections on the Psalms by C.S. Lewis (\$11.38 on Amazon) C.S. Lewis was a British novelist, lay theologian and Christian apologist. He held academic positions at both Oxford and Cambridge University.

Bring your Bible and the main textbook, "Reflections on the Psalms". We will have time to read and learn the who book of Psalms in the Old Testament using the main text book with important themes in the Bible and our Christian life like "Judgement, Nature, Scripture, Praising, etc." based on the perspective of a lay servant and theologian, C.S. Lewis.

5 Sessions on Thursdays from 6:00-7:30 pm -Nov. 30, Dec. 14 and Dec. 28 at Central UMC in Grantsburg

-Dec. 7and Dec. 21 at Atlas UMC AND

4 Sessions on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm -Nov. 29 and Dec. 13 at St. Croix Falls UMC -Dec. 6 and Dec. 20 at Wolf Creek UMC



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By using this site, your purchase helps support our next generation in the parish! As stated above, there is no additional cost to you. Same products, same great deals, same shipping options, but now 0.5% of your purchase will help support the next generation in our parish.



The Salvation Army is in desperate need of bell ringers in St. Croix, Polk and Burnett Counties. They depend on the dollars raised to care for our homeless and those in need. If you are interested in ringing bells or would like to assign a time frame for your church to ring bells, please contact Angela Moulton to find out what times are available.

Angela Moulton

Media and Fundraising Manager St. Croix, Polk and Burnett Counties Salvation Army 715-246-1222 St. Croix 715-485-1221 Polk 715-497-4438 Cell

NORTH WEST DISTRICT 2018 SPRC TRAININGS

Please Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend One of the Training Sessions Listed Below!!

Sat., Jan. 6, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Barron UMC, 154 Memorial Drive, Barron WI 54812

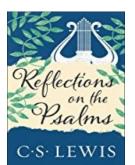
Sat., Jan. 13, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Glenwood City UMC <u>240 Oak St, Glenwood City, WI 54013</u>

Sun., Feb.18, 2018 - 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Eau Claire Hope UMC 2233 Golf Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701

All three sessions will be the same, allowing you to attend whichever one is most convenient for you.

All clergy and a SPRC member from each church are expected to attend and learn about their responsibilities. The training materials include duties of SPRC, future vision of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, congregational health and

growth and a time for questions and answers.



Burnett County Emergency Food Shelves and Distributions

Grantsburg Area Food Shelf No cost

Serving residents of the Grantsburg School District Open Thursday 9:30am-11:30am; **EMERGENCIES ONLY** on Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am Allowed to come 2 times a month Located between the Library and the Village Hall Office, 320 South Brad St., Grantsburg, WI

Indianhead Community Action Agency- "Connections" No cost

Serving all Burnett County residents Open 10am-3pm Monday, Tuesday & Friday Located in Webster next to the Holiday Gas Station (715) 866-8151

Ruby`s Food Shelf- Siren No cost

Serving residents of the Siren & Webster School Districts Open 10:00am-2pm Monday & Friday 10:00am-4pm Wednesday Closed Thursday

**You`re asked to be there at least 30 minutes before close Located at 24534 State Hwy 35/70 (Ruby`s Secondhand) (715)349-RUBY (7829)

Ruby`s Monthly Food Distributions *Bring own boxes or baskets Donation: \$20* For dates, times, and locations (no location restrictions at this time), visit <u>http://www.rubyspantry.org/distribution/distschedule.htm</u>

Second Harvest Food Distribution No cost

First and Third Thursday of every month Starts at 11:00am until food is gone Located at Connections in Webster (next to the Holiday Gas Station) This distribution is offered to anyone in need of food; please help get the word out

St. Croix Chippewa Commodities Distribution

24663 Angeline Ave., Webster 349-2195, Becky Reynolds Food distribution: Monday to Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm (Native American Income Eligible Only)

Closed first week of each month for inventory. Can only receive one time per month. A variety of items are available each month and may include canned meats; juice; canned foods; dry goods; frozen meats; cheese; rice and pasta; fresh produce.







Polk County Food Shelves

Amery

Amery Food Shelf—230 Deronda Street, Amery Food Shelf is located in the old Amery Regional Medical Center Building. Call (715) 268- 5999 before 12:00 noon on Wednesday. Leave name and number on voice mail. Open Thursday 2-6 pm. Area of service: Amery school district only

The Congregational Church—201 Harriman Ave. North, Amery Food distribution: 9-10:30 am every 2nd Saturday of the month . Registration is 7 am to 9:30 am. **715-268-7390 Special note:** No economic restrictions; however, a \$20.00 donation is asked to help cover the cost of the truck.

Ruby's Pantry –www.amery.ucc.org or office.ameryucc@gmail.com Area of service: County wide

Dresser

People Loving People --- 103 E. Main Street, Dresser Monday and Saturday 11 am – 1 pm Wednesday 2 pm – 5 pm Phone: 715-501-4657

Frederic

Family Pathways Food Shelf—1100 Wisconsin Ave South, Frederic Phone **715-327-4425** Open Tuesday 9 am—6 pm, Thursday 9 am—6 pm, Saturday 9 am—12pm **For best service please call for appointment.**

Luck

Loaves and Fishes Interfaith Food Pantry—300 North 1st Street, Luck Pantry is located in the back of the DBS Hall Open Tuesday & Thursday 11 am—1 pm Phone (715) 472-2003 Area of service: Luck & Unity School Districts

Osceola

The Open Cupboard Food Shelf—402 2nd Avenue, Osceola Call for appointment: **715-294-4357** Open Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm (The Open Cupboard also has used furniture & clothing) Area of service: Osceola & Dresser school district

St. Croix Falls

St Croix Falls Food Shelf—809 Pine Street, St Croix Falls Phone: 715-483-9138

Open Monday 9 am—11 am Wednesday 3 pm—6 pm Friday 9 am – 10 am Area of service: SCF school district, Dresser elementary, Centuria, Cushing & portions of Balsam Lake & Taylors Falls

Family Pathways Food Shelf—2000 US Hwy 8, St Croix Falls Phone: 715-483-2920

Open Monday 9–5 pm, Tuesday 9-5 pm, Wednesday 12 pm– 6 pm, Thursday 9-5 pm, Friday 9–5 pm, & Saturday 9-Noon







