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

DECEMBER

COME WORSHIP WITH US

> Sunday's 9:00 am Central UMC

10:00 am St. Croix Falls UMC

> 11:00 am Atlas UMC



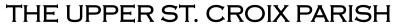
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

> 4:00 pm Atlas UMC

5:00 pm St. Croix Falls UMC

> 7:00 PM Central UMC

United Methodist Messenger





715-463-2624 Parish Office (in Grantsburg) 715-483-9494 St. Croix Falls Church

Email: centralumc2016@gmail.com, pastor.kookho@gmail.com or pastor.ranyoo@gmail.com Website: www.upperstcroixparish.org

Facebook: Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Churches

December 2018



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

There is a novel, Robinson Crusoe, written by Daniel Defoe. It is a story about a man shipwrecked on a desert island. After that, he had to lead a solitary life. Then he realized that he became a "thrown being" regardless of his will. All the other colleagues were all drowned, and only he was alive. He had no clothes to wear, but the climate was so hot that he did not need any clothes at all. And he had no weapon to defend himself, but there were no wild beasts attacking him like he saw when he went to Africa in the past.



Robinson had no one to talk to so he taught a parrot to talk. Even though he did not have the necessary materials and tools, he believed that God supplied the most basic things that he needed to live through a broken ship. Therefore, he finally learned a very valuable lesson, that he could find at least something to be thankful for even in the midst of a miserable situation.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a, Paul said, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." Actually, when he was writing this letter to the church at Thessalonica, he was struggling with great suffering. Then, what made him to be thankful in the midst of hardship?



First, Paul was not thankful for the richness associated with 'material possessions.' Secondly, he was not thankful for an easy life, rather he was thankful for having 'a thorn in the flesh.' Thirdly, he was not thankful for 'being exalted.' However, he was only thankful for knowing Christ in his life. He regarded everything as loss except gaining Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:8) Therefore, he could rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances.

We may not able to live just like Robinson Crusoe or Paul, but at least we could learn something from their attitude of being thankful. As we wait for the coming of Jesus, I sincerely hope and pray that we remember the most important reason to be thankful that we have. It is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Since he came to us, we are able to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances.

Blessings,



The Stain That Will Not Go Away

As United Methodist Christians we have so very much to celebrate. We are known globally for our good works and life-giving, life-saving ministries. I am so proud to serve as president of our General Board of Global Ministries and to see the impact UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) continues to make. My heart swells to see the dedicated women and men



serving in so many ways to bring mercy, justice, healing, and restoration to the world. It is an important mission that we have – to make faithful disciples of Jesus Christ who can work together by God's grace and guidance to transform our world into the very image of heaven on earth.

But as the Council of Bishops met earlier this month, we engaged in a humbling, troubling, and urgent conversation about racism in our country and world. In many ways, in many places, and with many people we have made great strides in healthy race relations. At the same time, we live in an "us-them" culture that too often focuses more on differences and divisions than on commonalities and connections. We see a rise in hate crimes that are racially, ethnically, theologically, or culturally motivated and cannot help but question why we cannot do better. What role may the church play in "breaking down the dividing walls" and eliminating the "hostility" that leads to destruction, violence, and prejudice? What is our witness?

We are a people bookended by the Tower of Babel where our "language was confused" (Genesis 11) and we could no longer maintain a unity of understanding and mutuality, and a Pentecost where by the power of the Holy Spirit language difference was conquered and we became a people of a common faith, hope, and love all empowered by that same Spirit (Acts 2).

What is it in the human psyche that looks for ways to judge and suspect and fear "the other?" Why is "different" bad? In almost every human endeavor — from agriculture to biology, from meteorology to chemistry, from art to literature to music to culinary arts — we understand that diversity, complementarity, contrast, and harmony are positive and healthy and good. Why does this same essential wisdom not translate to the whole, broad, diverse, and eclectic reality that is the human race?

Skin color, language, dress, worldview, culture — none of these things in and of themselves is good or bad, better or worse, superior or inferior. Yes, they are different, but who are we to say "ours is better than theirs?" Jesus teaches, and Paul confirms, that we are one — no longer Greek or Jew, slave or free, male or female (this or that, either/or) — we have been drawn together in love and grace and kindness and holy generosity to be forgiven our failings and flaws and to be made one in Christ.

Our Bishops are engaged in continuing work through a Dismantling Racism Task Force. In our own Annual Conference, our Connectional Table has made the elimination of institutional racism a core priority of its work. It is critically important that we open our eyes to the reality in our culture and be honest about violent acts motivated by race, and do all we can to oppose them. Let us pray together that we might view all people as sisters and brothers, let us celebrate what we share in common as well as what we each uniquely bring to the community, and let us stand together in opposition to any act of prejudice, bigotry, bias, and racism. By God's grace, Jesus' kind compassion, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, may we witness to the goodness of ALL of God's people.

Blessings, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



GIVING The Community of Love December 2018

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 4:8-11a, NRSV)

In addition to being secure in God's abundance, good stewards need to be oriented toward building a community of love. We do this because it is what God wants for us and because it glorifies God: our community of love is God made visible to those who cannot see him. The community of love has many aspects:

Loving God. In order to best love others, we must love God first. This is the greatest commandment and the source of our love.

Loving one another. More than loving others as ourselves, we are called to recognize that we share the same shortcomings and sinfulness in the eyes of God. Therefore, in constant love for one another we avoid being judgmental and practice forgiveness.

Living out our giftedness in the Body of Christ. We share the gifts that the Holy Spirit has bestowed on us in order to build the church. We have all things in common: we study scripture and pray together, we are in fellowship and break bread together, we give generously and distribute the proceeds to meet our needs and the needs of others.

Witnessing to God's glory. We as individuals and as the church exist to glorify God. The community of love is a light that shines for all to see. This stewardship season let us remember not just what we give, but why we give: so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

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



THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERS 15.8 BILLION cards, letters and packages between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.











The first Salvation Army collection kettle took place in San Francisco's Oakland Ferry at the foot of Market St. It was a large crab pot with a sign that read "Keep The Pot Boiling".









MISCELLANEOUS

PLEASE CONSIDER USING AMAZON SMILE FOR YOUR HOLIDAY PURCHASES...

Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Upper St. Croix Parish.

The money earned will be used to support our parish's next generation. Thank you to those who are using the link below when shopping through Amazon. Please feel free to share this link with anyone you know who shops through Amazon. You receive the same products at the same price yet you can make a big difference in supporting our youth!

Copy and past the address below (or click on the link if you're seeing it electronically) into your browser and then bookmark the page for future use. Once you log into your account you can bookmark that and it will save your information if you make that selection! Thank you for your support!

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Support us when you shop this holiday

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GRANTSBURG: CENTRA

Dec. 2 Dec. 9

Dec. 16 Dec. 23 Dec. 30

Dec. 2 Dec. 9 Dec. 16 Dec. 23 Dec. 30

Dec. 2

Dec. 9

Dec. 16 Dec. 23 Dec. 30

Dec. 2 Dec. 9 Dec. 16 Dec. 23 Dec. 30	Liturgists Kim Wheeler John Elmgren Jodi Elmgren Steve Briggs Terry Giles	
	Ushers	
Dec. 2		
Dec. 9	Valetta Walton	
Dec. 16	Charles Wright	
Dec. 23		
Dec. 30		
	Church Doors on Sur	ndays
Open		
Close		
	Snow Removal	
11/18 & 12/2	Mike Giles	
12/9 & 12/16		
12/23 & 12/30		

Dec. 2 Dec. 9 Dec. 16 Dec. 23 Dec. 30

Coffee Fellowship

Judy Lien Terry Giles



Altar Flowers

Hammer Family-Celebrating Mikala's B-Day Pauline Kratchmer

Acolytes

Sunday School

Laura Harmon



ANNIVERSARIES The state of Ashley Bistram 12/3

Florence Buggert 12/5

Dec. Counter

Mikala Hammer 12/7

Edna McCann 12/9

Brian Lund 12/10

Justin Paulson 12/10

Becky Fossum 12/11

Janice Lee 12/12

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BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Harmon 12/16

Ali Goepfert 12/18

Kim Wheeler 12/18

Charles & Mary Lou Wright 12/23

Kylie Pewe 12/24

Mike Giles 12/24

Grant Manley 12/25

Janelle Smestad 12/25

Carol Huff 12/30

A GLANCE AT CENTRAL'S OFFERING INCOME THROUGH OCTOBER 2018

-
3.4

Funds	October 2018	Y	ear-to-Date 2018
General Funds Gifts	\$ 4,955.00	\$	54,990.36
Loose Offering	\$ 141.00	\$	1,731.03
Upper Room		\$	36.00
Sunday School	\$ _	\$	100.00
Pie & Ice Cream Social	\$ -	\$	448.00
Harvest Supper	\$ 1,829.00	\$	1,829.00
Other	\$ -	\$	175.00
Total General Funds	\$ 6,925.00	\$	59,309.39
Equipment Replacement			
Fund	\$ 84.00	\$	2,179.82
Capital	\$ 50.00	\$	500.00
Missions	\$ 216.15	\$	1,973.99
Specials	\$ 80.00	\$	542.00
A/C Fund		\$	100.00
Other-Pastors Youth Fund	\$ 25.00	\$	600.00
Central's Youth Fund	\$ -	\$	85.00
Undesignated Memorials		\$	32,727.45
имм	\$ -	\$	518.00
All Funds	\$ 7,380.15	\$	98,535.65

GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS

UM MEN~DECEMBER MEETING

Saturday, Dec. 8th at 8:00 AM Central UMC

DevotionsMike Giles

RefreshmentsMike Giles





BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!

MISSION UPDATES

September- Moola for Milk raised \$132.84 which will be used for Milk vouchers for the Grantsburg Backpack program.

October- Trick or Treat for UNICEF raised \$116.15.

November - 25 shoe boxes were filled, plus a separate cash donation of \$25.00 for Operation Christmas Child.

BACKPACK Program - 128 Boxes of Mac & Cheese were delivered to the Grantsburg Backpack program.



DECEMBER MISSION

Collecting warm clothing items for the Christmas Store.



DEC. MEETING

Dec. 18 ~ 6:30 pm Grantsburg UMC

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S

Upcoming Events



- Annual Christmas Luncheon will be at Central UMC December 12th starting at 12:30pm. Lunch will be followed by a Christmas program. There are signup sheets on the clipboard for attendance, food contributions and kitchen helpers.
- There will be a 2019 UMW planning meeting during coffee hour on December 30th for all members who want to join us. We will discuss programs, studies and mission giving in the new year.
- There are no UMW activities planned for January. Relax and enjoy the New Year!
- Our next general meeting will be on February 13th at 1pm following kitchen cleaning (10am-noon) and bag lunches.



Women of the Upper Saint Croix Parish You are invited to attend a Christmas Luncheon

at Central United Methodist Church.

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!

ATLAS NEWS

Lituraists

Dec. 2 Dec. 9 Dec. 16	Colleen Adams-Schween Toni Koons
Dec. 23	
Dec. 30	
	Ushers
Dec. 2	Don Schween
Dec. 9	Roxane Brock
Dec. 16	
Dec. 23	
Dec. 30	

Cleaning

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

12/2 & 12/9	
12/16 & 12/23	
12/30 & 1/6	

Cheryl Olson

Sunday School

(Older/Middle/Primary)

Dec. 2 & Dec. 9 Christmas Program Practice

Dec. 16 Christmas Program
Dec. 23 No Sunday School
Dec. 30 No Sunday School

Nov. 16



Offerings:

Nov. 4 \$ 1025.00 Nov. 11 \$ 370.00 Nov. 18 \$ 768.00 Nov. 25 \$ Unavailable



Total \$ 2163.00 (as of 11/18)

\$3278.84 - Needed per Month to cover expenses. *Nov. shortage* = \$1115.84

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



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

There will be no meeting in December



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



Sunday, Dec. 16th Atlas UMC

Program Practices
will be held
December 2nd & 9th
in place of Sunday
School



COUNTRY CHRISTMAS COFFEE, CRAFT & BAKE SALE

Saturday, Dec. 1st 9:00am - 1:00pm

Stop by, sit a spell and soak up the Christmas spirit while you enjoy coffee, cider and a variety of wonderful homemade treats upstairs and then go down to the basement and shop for unique gift ideas and delicious baked goods!

Plant 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.

Thank you for your continued support of this program!









Important Upcoming Dates for Atlas UMC

December 1 ~ Annual Christmas Coffee 9:00-1:00

December 2 ~ Mitten Tree

December 2nd & 9th ~ Christmas Program Practice in place of Sunday School

December 15 ~ Christmas Program Practice 10 am

December 16 ~ Christmas Program, Potluck & Kids Fun Sunday

December 23 & 30 ~ No Sunday School

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve service at 4:00



DECEMBER MISSION

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....



Special Christmas Offering



10% of our tithe will go to support the St. Croix Falls and Luck school back-pack program...let us all give thanks! Envelopes will be available in the church entry for this offering.

LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

On Communion Sunday, December 2nd you are invited to bring food for the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Luck. We do keep a basket out for donations brought at any time as well.

November:

CANNED STEW



LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY

Monthly Report ~ October 2018

Households Served 58 Luck School District 32
Adults 83 Unity School District 26
Children 24 Other 0

Total People 107 New Families: Unity 0 Luck 1, Other 0

USDA Food Received 1095# NON-USDA (Donations) 1727#

Groceries Purchased 1584# Volunteer Hours 71

Items Needed: Cereal (other than Cheerios), juice and soup.





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 2nd



Liturgists

Karen Sciacca

Steve Sylvester

Peter & Kathleen Gionis

All of Dec. Karen Scia

Ushers
All of Ded. Steve Sylve

Altar Flowers
All of Dec. Peter & Karen

Coffee Hour
Dec. 9
Dec. 16
Dec. 23

Communion / Paraments
Dec. 2

Money Counter(s)
All of Dec. Jim Andre Steve & LeAnn Sylvester

Administrative Council

Peter & Kathleen Gionis

Jim Andrews

Potluck Jim & Fay Andrews

DECEMBER MISSION

We will be putting together Christmas baskets for families in need!



Please continue to support our church missions through your love, prayers, and gracious giving!



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, December 2nd 11:00 am, Following Service



St. Croix Falls UMC made 13 Thanksgiving baskets for 13 families in the SCF School District.

We thank you so much for your prayers and generous support for this mission.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Monte Fay ~ Dec. 5th

WHAT IS ADVENT?

The season of <u>Advent</u>, which comes from the Latin word adventus meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the Church calendar, the Christmas season lasts sundown on December 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (January 6). This is sometimes popularly referred to as "the twelve days of Christmas."



WHAT DO THE ADVENT CANDLES MEAN?

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.







DECEMBER 16TH ~ 4:00-6:00 PM SCF PARSONAGE

KIDS FUN SUNDAY

Atlas UMC Sunday, December 16 12:00 pm





PARISH YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN

Saturday, Dec. 1 -Sunday Dec. 2nd St. Croix Falls Parsonage





GO FISH & FRIENDS FUN NIGHT

Wednesday, December 19th 5:00-6:30 pm Central UMC



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



People Loving People --- 103 E. Main Street, Dresser

Monday and Saturday 11 am – 1 pm Wednesday 2 pm – 5 pm

Phone: 715-501-4657



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.



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









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)



"If you love me, feed my sheep."

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

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 appear in n

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.