

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



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UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

THE UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH

715-463-2624 Parish Office (in Grantsburg)

715-483-9494 St. Croix Falls Church

Church Email: centralumc2016@gmail.com,

Pastor Jenny Lee: JENNLEE1732@GMAIL.COM

Website: www.upperstcroixparish.org

Facebook: Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Churches

August 2020



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.



“You Are the Church”

“I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

Experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic, many things, including church ministry, are changing. New technologies came to the front line of our life. Our church also started using new technologies such as an FM transmitter for Drive-In Service at Atlas Park, Zoom Live online Services, Zoom meetings, and Virtual Sunday School. These are new experiences for the church using these services. Like this, church ministry seems to bring a new paradigm to rethink “church.” What does the church mean for us?

We know that we are the disciples of Jesus Christ. And, we know that the church mission is “making the disciples of Jesus Christ all generations (all nations) for the transformation of the world.” Let us think about who shall perform the mission. Yes, we, the disciples of Jesus Christ, should fulfill the mission. If so, we, the disciples of Jesus Christ, are the church.

The first thing we think of when we hear the word “church” is the church building because a building is something we can see and touch. When we say, “going to church,” we usually mean going to the church building or other physical location where we have worship service. Since we started to have Sunday worship services at Atlas Park, I am not sure that we thought Atlas Park would be our church. No one thought Atlas Park would be our church. We might say, “Until we reopen the church safely, we will have Sunday worship services at Atlas Park.” It implies that the church still means the building. The space is essential for God’s people to gather together safely. The early Christians needed the space to worship God and have fellowship safe from persecution. So, they used to assemble in an upper room of someone’s house or in a cave. Now, we are also looking for safe space from the pandemic.

Finally, we found a new place for Sunday Service. It was Atlas Park. We originally planned for a church picnic day at Atlas Park for our joint service on May 31st. It was about to be canceled due to the pandemic. But, we decided on a new experience of an Outdoor Service using an FM transmitter. It is a new experience for us to have a Sunday worship service sitting in our own parked vehicle. It is a great blessing for us to be able to use a big area of Atlas Park for Sunday services. Everything has gone smoothly so far. We are able to enjoy the beautiful nature God made and join worship services weekly as if we are going on a picnic every Sunday. We experience God’s amazing grace at Atlas Park. Furthermore, we enjoy meeting God’s people in person, even though we are wearing masks and keeping social distancing. We experience a church as “a gathering of God’s people” through “Drive-in services (outdoor services).”

Last week, Grantsburg-Central UMC reopened the church building. It took four months to reopen the church due to the pandemic. It was a small gathering last week, but there was a great impression. Everyone was happy to be back to the sanctuary. Until reopening the church building, it took many members’ efforts and dedication of love. Before reopening the church building, the Administrative Council members had a special meeting on July 7th. At the meeting, they considered the church family first, who were not be able to join in the Drive-In Services or Facebook virtual Services (or Zoom services).

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

Most of them could join either one. But, as the representative of the church members, they considered others first. Some of them said, “Actually, I would prefer to join the outdoor Service, which is the Drive-In Service at Atlas Park because it is safer than Indoor Services in the church. However, thinking of others who could not join there, we may need to reopen the church.” Finally, they decided to reopen the church and created a “task force team.” They made a list of what they had to prepare in accordance to the reference of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church and Church Mutual (a church’s insurance company). Their efforts and dedication are from God’s love and the love of neighbors (church family). Through their commitment, we may find the meaning of church. The church does mean not only the building, but also the people who love God and love their neighbors. We could experience a church through the love of God’s people.

Jesus gave a new commandment to his disciples that love one another. He says, “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another” The people who love one another in Jesus Christ would be the disciples of Jesus. The gathering of the disciples is the church. The disciples have one thing in common, to believe in Jesus Christ and trust him alone salvation. In addition, they love one another as Jesus loved us. If you do so, you are the church.

Blessings.

Pastor Jenny Lee





GIVING

Will You Bear Fruit?

August 2020

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." (Matthew 13:22-23)

What is a church to do in these difficult times? It is to be hoped that each church would continue to perform its mission and ministry as it has always done and strive to do it even better.

This summer, I am working with two churches, on opposite ends of the state, that have chosen at this time to undertake significant fundraising campaigns for debt reduction and building renovation. Each has a six figure goal that is 1½ to 2 times its annual giving.

The Foundation interviewed 30-40 people from each church. What they shared with us is (1) an enthusiasm for the ministry and mission of the church, (2) a practical stewardship of the building and budget, and (3) a disregard for worldly worries and concerns. Not that they are ignoring the challenges of the Covid-19 epidemic, rather they will not let it deter their mission, their ministry, or their financial giving.

People from both churches noted that the greatest strength of their congregation is engagement in community outreach. They want to continue this outreach during the pandemic and grow it in the future. This they can do most effectively if they act now to reduce indebtedness or address needed building renovations. So, at a time when some congregations are simply waiting and some Christians are holding back on giving, these congregations are starting major Capital Campaigns.

Join me in praying for their success and in discerning what you can do to support the mission and ministry of your church.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at
www.wumf.org or [Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org)
Or call 1-888-903-9863

To Be Beloved Community

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Acts 4:32-35)



I am a bishop of two minds. In my best mind, I believe that we are the people that God needs us to be. In this mind, I believe that we see each other as gifts from God, of immense and unequalled value, regardless of race, ethnicity, economic level, or educational background. In this best and most positive mind, language is never a barrier, heritage and culture are valued, and we view each other as sacred siblings in the grand family of God. I would absolutely love to live with this mind.

But I know it is not the whole story. We are not always one in spirit, knowledge, and truth. We allow our differences to eclipse our strengths. We sometimes allow barriers of language, heritage, and culture to divide us. We set aside our reconciling and uniting faith to focus instead on those things which separate us. This is my other, troubled mind.

In short, we are human. At our most generous, we can do amazing things. We take wonderful care of each other, we make incredible sacrifices, we give beyond all expectation. This is when we do it well. But on any given day, we tend to look out only for our own personal needs. We see the stranger as competition at best, and as a threat at worst. We are so worried about our own needs and safety that we cannot even conceive of thinking about the safety and needs of others – and we don't want to feel guilty about this, either. We make the world all about us individually, or about those few people closest to us. We don't have anything against other people, we simply need to take care of our own.

But Jesus challenges this notion. Jesus teaches that everyone is "our own." What we do to the least of our brothers and sisters we do to Jesus. Jesus does an amazing job of blurring the line between "us" and "them." In Jesus' view, there is only a singular "all of us." I cannot withhold care, compassion, or concern from any other human being – my connection and responsibility rests with anyone with whom I come in contact.

SOUL FOOD CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

SOUL FOOD CONTINUED...

Over the past few months, conversations have focused on who should be talking with whom, who is at the table and who is not, who is being heard, and who is left out. The very nature of this conversation shows that we still have a long way to go. All of us should be talking with – and listening to—all of us; especially white Americans should be listening to black and brown voices. Together we should be exploring and understanding our Asian immigrant voices. Without ample opportunity to listen, to understand, and to respond, we will simply see our tragic problems repeated over and over again. The realities of widespread racial inequality, anti-racial minority behaviors, white privilege, and white supremacy will not go away if we pretend they don't exist. We must talk about these things if we want to eradicate them.

We do not need more chaos. We need to learn from the chaos to create a world order that is just, fair, kind, loving, equitable, merciful, and peace-filled for all of God's people. Our vision is a beloved community that includes and appreciates all our differences as well as our similarities. Beloved community will guarantee that all have enough basic necessities met that everyone can enjoy a good quality of life. Beloved community will witness to our broken world what is the will and desire of God. Beloved community is the space where everyone can celebrate who they are, and be celebrated by all those who know and love them best.

Grace and Peace, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



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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 we receive 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!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7429002>



Central UMC will be holding in-church services Sunday's at 8:15 am. We hope these procedures will make you safe and feel safe. COVID-19 recommended safety measures:

1. Entrance and exit to the building will be through the southeast doors on Pine Street. Other entrances will not be available. Phased exit to keep social distancing will also be through this entrance.
2. All attendees, including staff and volunteers, will have their temperatures checked upon entry using a non-contact thermometer.
3. Protective facial masks are required for all attendees throughout the entire service— please bring your own mask with you. A small supply of masks will be available for those who forget or for guests.
4. Social distancing, six (6) feet intervals at arrival, seating, and departure will be observed. Families may sit together.
5. No hand shaking or physically passing of the peace.
6. No passing of items, attendance cards, sign-up sheets, offering plate, etc. Offerings can be deposited in offering box upon departure.
7. Singing may be possible wearing a protective facial mask. No Bible books and Hymn books can be used, but we provide info on a screen. Piano music will be provided.
8. Bathroom accessibility only through the door by the baptismal font.
9. All other areas of the church, including Wesley room, dining room, kitchen, nursery and basement, will be closed.
10. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be available.
11. No social time in church, no food or beverages will be served.

These changes are designed for everyone's safety!
We look forward to seeing and worshipping with you again.



Congratulations!

Peter Branstad 8/3
Erica Harmon 8/3
Greg Huff 8/3
Jodi Elmgren 8/4
Ronald & Sally Aldorfer 8/4
Corey Smestad 8/7
Keith & Kate Lehne 8/13
Charles Wright 8/15
Kristin Zastrow 8/19
Valetta Walton 8/20
Adeline Dauer 8/22
Carol Drohman 8/22
Mike & Carol Alderman 8/25
Floyd & Carol Drohman 8/28
Art Bistram 8/30
Landon Smestad 8/30



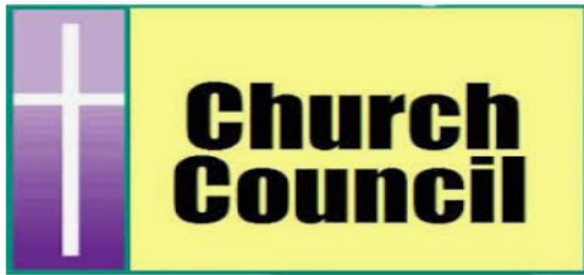
Son screen prevents
sin burn...

A GLANCE AT CENTRAL'S OFFERING INCOME THROUGH JUNE 2020



Funds	June 2020	Year-to-Date 2020
General Funds Gifts	\$ 5,377.00	\$ 28,335.00
Loose Offering	\$ 25.00	\$ 242.55
Upper Room	\$ -	\$ 20.00
Sunday School	\$ -	\$ -
Total General Funds	\$ 5,402.00	\$ 28,597.55
Equipment Replacement Fund	\$ -	\$ 168.00
Capital	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Missions		\$ 316.00
Specials	\$ -	\$ 131.00
Other-Pastors Youth Fund	\$ 50.00	\$ 780.00
A/C Fund	\$ -	\$ -
JMW	\$ -	\$ -
JMM	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 390.00	\$ 400.00
All Funds	\$ 5,452.00	\$ 30,492.55

GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS



Admin Council
6:30 pm ~ July 18th
Central UMC



There will not be a meeting in August.

UMW NEWS....

Our next meeting will be August 12th. We will take a tour of Faith's Lodge near Danbury, walk their labyrinth and then go on to Mary McNally's cabin for lunch, meeting and a pontoon ride. Faith's Lodge provides a safe haven for families struggling with the death or medically complex condition of a child. We will meet at church at 9am and carpool to Faith's Lodge. From there we will drive to Mary's cabin near Webb Lake. Mary and I will provide all that is needed for grilled hotdogs along with condiments and beverages. We are asking for two salads, two pans of bars, and a large bag of chips. Call me at (715-222-3016) by noon on August 10th to let me know if you will join us, if you want to bring food, and if you are willing to drive. We invite all women of the congregation. During our meeting we will elect officers. Please be thinking of good candidates for these positions and don't be too quick to discount yourself. The local church is a good place to learn leadership skills. UMW, Methodists and Christians in general need to lead in our turbulent world.

LuAnne Martell, UMW President

AUGUST MISSION

It is that time of the year to collect school supplies. While you purchase these supplies, please lift up a prayer that the opening of schools will go smoothly and we do not see a positive Covid-19 case in the school system. We will also restart collecting Mac and Cheese for the Backpack Program. The backpacks continued to be sent out to students while they were distant learning this past spring.



BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

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



ATLAS NEWS

Upper St. Croix Parish



Sundays, Through August

10:00 am

Atlas Park next to Atlas UMC

If possible please print out your own materials that will be emailed out to everyone. There will be some hard copies at available.

There will be individual packets for the Communion service on August 2nd.

We look forward to seeing you!

INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

Offerings:

7/5	\$1320.00
7/12	\$ 101.00
7/19	\$ 293.00
7/26	<u>Unavailable</u>



Total \$1714.00 (as of 7/19)

\$3278.84 - Needed per Month to cover expenses. **\$1564.84** shortage for July.

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



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. Thank you for your continued support of this program!



Reed Olson
8/1

Roxane & Van Brock

Rachel Tooze
8/27

8/22

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Church
Council

July 17th at 6:00 pm
Atlas UMC





LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

You are invited to bring food for the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Luck . As we are not currently holding church services, please drop your food shelf donations off in person at the food shelf.

August Collection:
School Supplies and/or Pasta & Rice Products



Annual
Rummage
Sale



Atlas UMC Annual
Thrift and Bake Sale

This year's sale has
been cancelled due to
the COVID-19
pandemic.

Everyone can help slow the spread of COVID-19.



Summer Blessings

Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

PSALM 97:11-12



LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY Monthly Report May 2020

Households Served 52
Adults 89
Children 5
Total People 94

Luck School District 39
Unity School District 12
Other 0

New Families:
Unity 0, Luck 1, Other 0

USDA Food Received 1155#
NON-USDA (Donations) 704#
Groceries Purchased 585#
Volunteer Hours 55 1/2

Items Needed: Cereal & Person Items



ST. CROIX FALLS NEWS

REMEMBER THE FOOD SHELF

On Communion Sundays, you are invited to bring in donations for the SCF Food Pantry... just be sure your food items have not expired.

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 8/2/20



Currently there are no Helping Hands signed up for August as we will continue our outdoor Drive-In Services through the summer.

We will keep you posted as to when the church will open for Sunday Services.

Thank you!



THE ST. CROIX FALLS FOOD SHELF HAS BEEN SOOO BLESSED BY GOD THESE LAST 3 MONTHS WITH DONATIONS AND FOOD SERVICE. I THANK GOD THAT I AM ABLE TO SERVE THOSE PEOPLE IN NEED, AND I WISH TO THANK EVERYONE WHO DONATED IN EVERY WAY..

MY HEARTFELT THANKS...SHARON ASP



**Charles Zeigler
8/17**

**Jim & Fay Andrews
8/22**



AUGUST MISSION:

August's Sailor Hat offering will go to support Interstate Caregivers



**St. Croix Falls
Admin Council Meeting via
Zoom**

**Thursday, August 20th
4:00 pm**

MISCELLANEOUS

Swimming Night at Skonewood Retreat

Wednesday, August 19th
4 to 6 pm (Later if you want to stay)
All are welcome to join us...

Bring a picnic dinner or snacks to enjoy!
It's sure to be a fabulously good time!



Virtual Sunday School
4-6 pm Monday's via Facebook
Pick up prepared supplies at
church on Sunday
Sunday lesson posted
Mondays at 4pm on Facebook

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY PASTOR JENNY LEE

It's been one year since Pastor
Jenny joined the Upper St.
Croix Parish as our pastor.

We are so grateful for all your
hard work and dedication
during this challenging year.

We hope you have enjoyed
your first year living in
Grantsburg!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CANCELLED FOR 2020



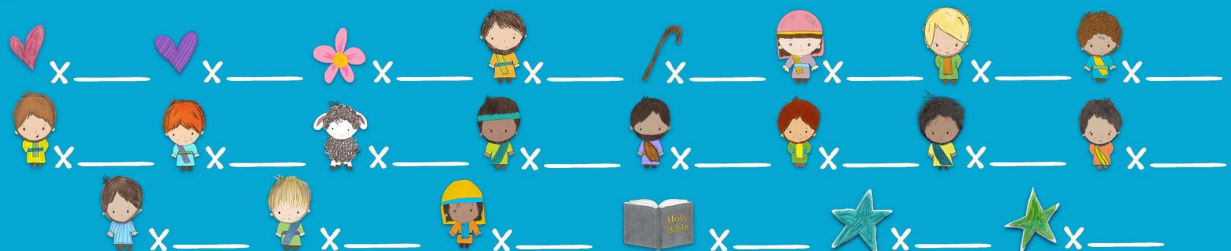
Due to the pandemic,
VBS has been
cancelled for 2020.

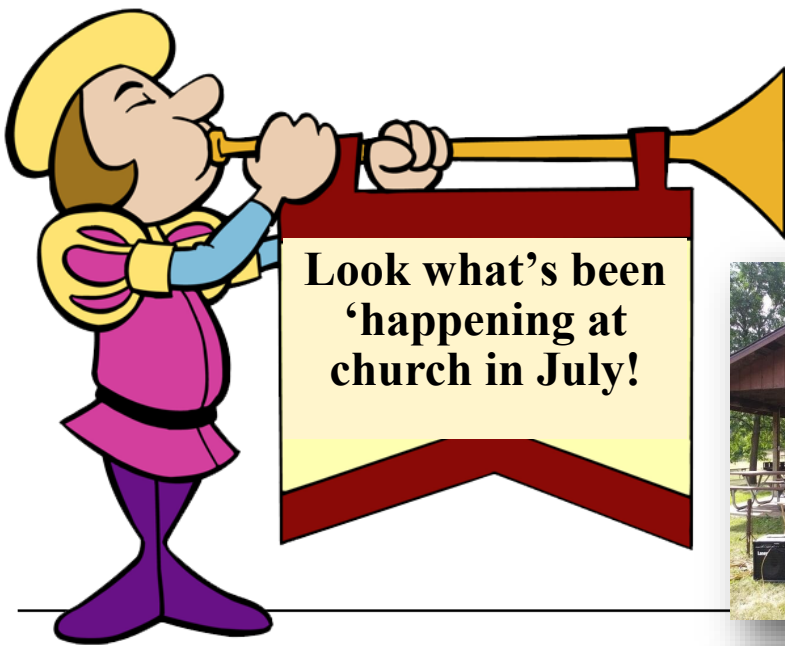
The grant we received
will be used for VBS
in 2021.



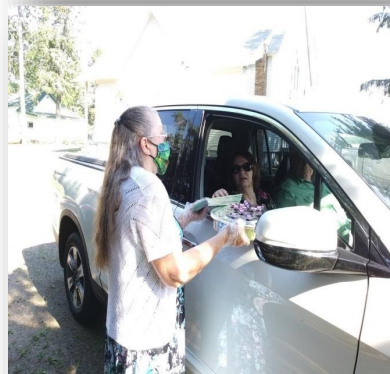
SUMMER FUN ACTIVITY PAGE

≡ I Spy New Testament ≡





**Drive-In Service at Atlas Park
on June 28 through July 19.**



**Grantsburg-Central Reopened
the church on July 19.**



Family visitation on June 29th.



**Starting a
Virtual Sunday
school on
July 19.**

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: **715-520-2397**

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

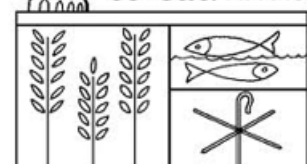
Family Pathways Food Shelf—2000 US Hwy 8, St Croix Falls

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



YOU give them something to eat. Mt 14:16



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 <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 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.

