

SERMON “The Miracle of Pentecost” Pastor Jenny Lee

(If you miss the live service, you may view the video clip on Facebook, or listen to the Sermon by Phone.)

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

O God, you have spoken, and we have received the gift of life. You touched us with your Spirit, and then we open our hearts and minds so that you work through us. Open our eyes and ears so that we may understand others who are different from us. Guide us now to see miracles you make for us, and we may rejoice that you fill us with all good things. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS/THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Thank you, God, for this high moment in worship and in life when we have something to give that others need. Take our bread, our witness, and our lives to benefit all your human family. May your glory be known among us and in all the world. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *Spirit of the Living God* UMH 393 (2X)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

POSTLUDE

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
May 23rd, 2021
“Pentecost Sunday”



The United Methodist Church

8:30 AM at Central-Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service
10:00 AM at Atlas Park

CONTACT INFORMATION

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St. Croix Falls Office: 715-483-9494

www.upperstcroixparish.org

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
May 23rd, 2021
“Pentecost Sunday”

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSINGS OF VEHICLES/BIKES

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you!”

(Wave your hands!)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive**

Come, let us worship God who is the life-giving Spirit.

God of life, we come before you with lifeless spirit.

Come, let us worship God who is the Life-sustaining Spirit.

God of Hope, we come before you, hoping to fill with your Spirit.

Come, let us worship God who is the life transforming Spirit.

God of transforming Spirit, we come before you. Lead us to transform ourselves and the world by prayers and by acts in faith. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Spirit Song

UMH 347

OPENING PRAYER Unison

The Holy Spirit of Mighty Wind! Sweep through our midst to give us new breath. Awaken our spirits, inspire our praise, set us on fire with your love. May no one here remain unmoved by your presence or cut off from the dreams you inspire. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Acts 2:1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” 14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

You may send your giving (offering) to the church at the address listed below (*Please make your check payable to your individual church's name.*)

Atlas UMC: PO Box 254, Luck, WI 54853

Grantsburg-Central UMC: PO Box 128, Grantsburg, WI 54840

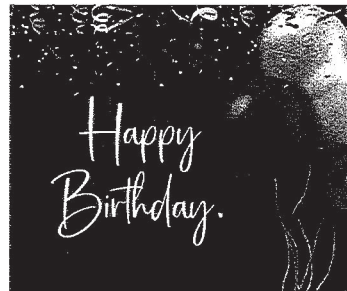
St. Croix Falls UMC: PO Box 458, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

12. This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries:

*If we miss your birthday, please let us know by email or phone call: centralumc2016@gmail.com / 715-463-2624

Link Loomis 5/27

Craig Giles 5/28



UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship Services
In person or online!

Central United Methodist Church will hold in-person services on Sundays at 8:30am. When you come please use the same safety protocols wearing masks and social distancing. At the same time there will still be ZOOM access available at 8:30 am as well.



Atlas and St. Croix Falls churches will have drive-in services at the Atlas park next door to Atlas UMC at 10:00 am on Sunday's (weather permitting).

Announcements (Insert) May 23rd, 2021

1. Today is “Pentecost Sunday!” May the Holy Spirit transform us to be Jesus’ disciples!
2. We recommend that you dress in red for church, honoring Pentecost Sunday. Also you may bring your vehicles/bikes so that we bless them (5/23).
3. Sunday Service time: At 8:30 am in Grantsburg-Central, and 10 am in Atlas Park (You may bring your lawn chair if you want to sit outside of your vehicles.)
Zoom service will be at 8:30 am.
****Please notice that we should use the same safety protocol wearing facial masks and keep social distance.***
4. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- Grantsburg-Central has signup sheets for volunteers at the back of sanctuary. We need ushers as well. If you are able to be an usher for both churches, please let Pastor Jenny know.

Grantsburg: Liturgist

This Sunday (5/23): Barb Loomis, the next Sunday (5/30): Mark Nelson.

Atlas Park: Liturgist

This Sunday (5/23): Sue Olson, the next Sunday (5/30): Sue Olson

5. Pastor Jenny’s office hours: Grantsburg is 9 am to 5pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and St. Croix Falls is 11 am to 4 pm.
6. We do “**Tablet Ministry**” for those who don’t have a computer and internet at home. Please let Pastor Jenny know if you need a tablet to view the service’s video clip, or to make a connection to the Live service.
7. An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am. Here is the Zoom service LINK. **This link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.** The link will be the same in May.

Topic: Sunday Zoom Services in May
Time: 8:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82558087434?pwd=RGVHSzFXSURVL0JuSFZNBTRwNU83Zz09>

****Please notice that it works only when the host opens it at service time on Sunday. When you check the other time, it doesn’t work.***

- If you are attending the Zoom service for the first time, you may be asked to download the Zoom app. It is free and you will need it.
- If you want to join from your smartphone with video, click the link.
- If you want to dial the number without video, you may dial the number below and enter the meeting ID and passcode.

Phone: +1 312 626 6799,

Meeting ID: 825 5808 7434, Passcode: 918014

Any questions regarding technological issues of the service, contact Pastor Jenny.

8. You can hear “**the service (the scripture lesson, song, sermon and prayer-about 30 minutes) by phone**” whenever you are able by calling 1-715-298-0854. We will upload a new one every Sunday afternoon.
9. If you miss a Sunday service, you may view a video clip on Facebook or use materials (mailed, emailed or on the Parish website) for a home service. **We have the link to our parish Facebook page on the homepage of our website. New clips will be uploaded every Sunday afternoon.**
10. **We no longer use the conference call for Sunday service.**
11. You may want to send your giving (offerings) to your church. If you have any questions regarding services or offerings, please email the church office at: centralumc2016@gmail.com.

May 23rd, 2021
Acts 2:1-21



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC

“The Miracle of Pentecost”

I want to start with something funny. I heard about this wife and husband. They were celebrating their sixtieth birthdays together. An angel suddenly appeared and said that God is going to grant them each one special request. They were so excited. The wife said, “My request is that we would be able to travel all over the world.” And then “pop,” and smoke was clear. She had tickets in her hand. Her husband put his head down and said, “My request is that I would be able to marry a woman, thirty years younger than me. And “pop,” and then smoke was clear. He became ninety years old.

Today, I want to talk about “miracles.” As you may guess, the word miracle means the intervention of supernatural power in keeping with a higher spiritual law that supersedes human nature laws. Our laws are the statements of how things usually work. Our talents and intellectual abilities are believed to define the limits of our performance. We may say it’s a miracle when a personality is transformed, or a person can think and act beyond the limitations of his/her capacities. In other words, miracle means that “the impossible happens.”

Sometimes we dream we would have a miracle in our lives. What kind of miraculous things do you want to happen in your life? As I shared in the funny story, if God would grant you one special request, what would you ask God for?

We can find many miraculous stories in the Bible. Especially, Jesus’ ministry was full of miracles: he made wine from water: fed five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish: healed the sick: walked on water: rose people from the dead. Do you think that it could happen today? You may say, “That’s because of Jesus.” You may be right. However, if they just happened because of Jesus, the Bible might not matter to us. Furthermore, Jesus, perhaps, might be a liar. Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12). Jesus said that we could do what Jesus did. Also, we will do even greater things than Jesus did. Please pay attention to who is “the one,” who will do what Jesus did and will do greater things than Jesus did. Yes, Jesus said, “the one who believes in me.” The one means, “Who believes in Jesus.” I understand that we believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, or at least some of you try to believe in Jesus, or we may say that we all are growing in faith. That’s why we are here to worship God.

We gathered together this morning to worship God in the name of Jesus. Also, we believe Jesus Christ our Lord is here among us. Jesus said, “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:20). Jesus also said, “You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” (John 14:14). Why don’t you ask Jesus about what you really need? Remember, all miraculous things in the Bible happened with prayers. Jesus prayed before feeding five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish (Matthew 14:19). He prayed before raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:40-41). When his disciples failed to drive the evil spirit out, Jesus said, “this kind can come out only by prayer” (Mark 9:29). Prayer is a great means of grace to bring miracles into our life. If we can make things happen, it is not called a

“miracle.” But, if it takes place when we can’t make things happen, we call it a “miracle.” Remember, if you want to see a miracle, you have to have faith in God and have to have eyes of faith to see a miracle. You know, Moses divided the Red Sea when the Israelites made an exodus from Egypt. He prayed to God. The fact that God parted the Red Sea happened because of Moses’ prayers. Moses said to people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm, and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today” (Exodus 14:13). The miracle will happen when we believe in God and when we pray in faith.

Today’s scripture describes the miracle of Pentecost. After Jesus’ ascension, his disciples gathered together in one place while they ran away and scattered when Jesus died on the cross. As Jesus said to them, they stayed in Jerusalem and all prayed, waiting for the Holy Spirit. In today’s scripture, it describes how the Holy Spirit came on the people. In other words, it describes that a miracle happens in the first church. “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And, suddenly, from heaven, there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability” (Acts 2:1-4). In this passage, what do you think the miracle is? You might say, “The Holy Spirit came on them;” “they could speak different languages.” What about “they stayed in one place, praying at all?” Before the Holy Spirit presented visibly, the miracle was happening in them and among them.

The miracle changed personality with supernatural gifts of intellect, emotional freedom, and a conviction that all things are possible. That’s the miracle of Pentecost. One hundred and twenty people who were frightened, helpless, self-centered, willful, and discouraged were transformed into new creatures. They were infused with supernatural power intellectually, emotionally, and physically. Imagine they were full of fear when Jesus died on the cross. They denied and abandoned Jesus. They locked the door when they gathered together. However, on the day of Pentecost, imagine how the other people in Jerusalem could hear their prayers. When they prayed in diverse languages, the people in Jerusalem could hear them, and they were amazed. It meant they didn’t lock the door, but they prayed in faith without any fear. They opened their hearts, minds, and doors so that God worked through them. The miracle was that the disciples who scattered with fear could gather in one place. The miracle was that the disciples who denied and ran away from Jesus came back to Jesus and all prayed. The miracle was the disciples believed Jesus’ promise, he will send the Holy Spirit. All things happened on Pentecost day like a miracle. Can it happen today? God is still working, and Jesus is still with us and among us. Furthermore, we are here, who believe in God and Jesus’ promise. What else do we need for a miracle? Yes, we need prayers. God allows us to use prayer as a tool to request the miracle. Samuel said that failing to pray sins against the Lord (1 Samuel 12:23). Let us pray for our church, our community, our country, and the world. Let us pray only in faith. The miracle is happening already among us. The things we are overcoming during COVID-19, and how we are able to reopen the church are the miracles. We, who couldn’t gather together in one place, gather together this morning for worshipping God. The miracle of Pentecost is beginning among us.

When Jesus healed the sick, Jesus said to them, “your faith has healed you.” Jesus didn’t say, “I healed you.” But he said, “Your faith had healed you” when he healed the blind, and when He healed the bleeding woman for thirty-eight years (Mark5:34; Mark10:52). Jesus said, “Everything is possible for one who believes” (Mark 9:23). For believers, nothing is impossible. Open your hearts, minds and doors so that you may see God’s miracles. Thanks be to God. Amen.