

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of all people, thank you for Jesus Christ, who binds us together in Christian love and service. Help all of us grow in our appreciation of our value and the value of those who are different from us. Remind us that we are all important parts of one body of Christ. 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

Your generosity, O God, is beyond our deserving. You grant health to our bodies and minds. You surround us with vast resources and with people who love us. You allow us to make decisions about the use of our time and possessions and relationships. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to share with others some of what we have received. Help us to use all our gifts as you intend. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN**

Shalom to You

UMH 666

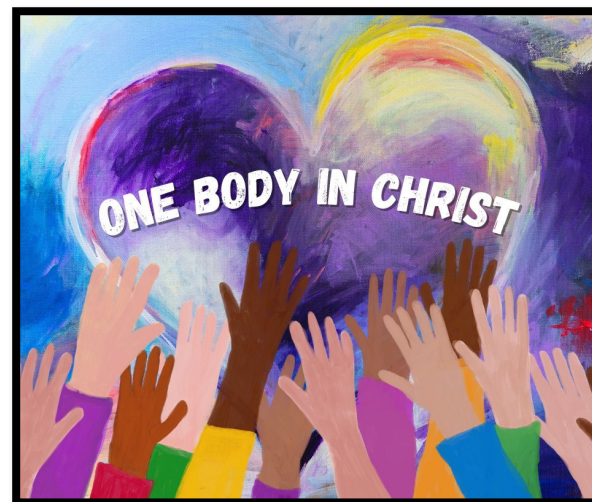
***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Jenny Lee

POSTLUDE

Upper St. Croix Parish

**ONE Parish THREE Churches:
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
August 15th, 2021
"Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost"**



The United Methodist Church

8:30 AM at Central-Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service

9:45 AM at Atlas

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 – centralumc2016@gmail.com

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
August 15th, 2021

“Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost”

* Please rise as you are able.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you!”

(Wave your hands!)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive**

God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

Let us join our voices in giving thanks.

The works of God are all around us.

Those who share in God’s work lack for nothing.

We are called to faithfulness, as God is faithful.

We are people of the covenant, gathered to please God.

Holy and awesome is God’s name.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

Come, then, as wise and faithful people.

Come as a beloved community of the redeemed.

We are amazed that God remembers us.

We reach out to the God who cares for us. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Many Gifts, One Spirit

UMH 114 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

(The Apostles’ Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I

believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE NEW TESTAMENTS**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Open Mind and Open Door”

Pastor Jenny Lee

Announcements (Insert) August 15th, 2021

Introduction of Two Small Group Gatherings

You're invited to
Join Us

We will be starting two new small group gatherings. The purpose of these gatherings is to help us build good relationships with God and with one another. This will help revitalize our faith and our church community. In addition, we will evolve in our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ, and contribute to our local community and the global world.

We will begin with two small groups, and later on, we hope to add additional groups. We will meet (gather) regularly (once a week or twice a month). Each group has a leader and an assistant leader (or secretary). Each leader and assistant has the responsibility to communicate with members, and prepare for each gathering. They will also work with Pastor Jenny. These two groups are open to everyone, and they welcome all! We will open our church to the community for these gatherings and plan to start the first week of August 2021.

1. Prayer Group (Breakthrough Prayer)

"This kind can come out only through prayer." (Mark 9:29)

It is an intercessory prayer group for the people, church, community, county and the world. The prayer group will learn about many styles of prayer, and will practice some of them. The prayer group will keep record and report as witnesses of the power of prayer.



2. Craft Group

"A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul." (Acts 16:14)

This group will meet and craft together. Some of the potential projects are crocheting, knitting, handmade crafting, drawing, etc. We welcome everyone from beginners to those who are open to teaching others. The goal of the craft group is to get to build relationships with our church family and neighbors in the community, and to also contribute to a local community through fundraising and mission work.



If you are interested in either of these groups, please contact Pastor Jenny.

(Main Office: 715-463-2624, Cell: 773-793-7307, or Email: jennlee1732@gmail.com).

We look forward to gathering-God always shows up, we hope you do too.

1. Today is "Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost." May God bless you and your family members!
2. Sunday Service times: 8:30 am in Grantsburg-Central, 9:45 am in Atlas, and at 11:15 am in St. Croix Falls. Zoom service will be at 8:30 am.
3. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- You may find signup sheets for volunteers at the back of the sanctuary.

Grantsburg: Liturgist

This Sunday (8/15): Volunteer needed

Sunday (8/22): Mark Nelson

Atlas: Liturgist

This Sunday (8/15): Colleen Adam-Schween

Sunday (8/22): Volunteer needed

St. Croix Falls: Liturgist

This Sunday (8/15): Kathy Gionis,

Sunday (8/22): Kathy Gionis

4. Missions in August:

Grantsburg: Collecting the school supplies (*Questions to Deb Hammer. 715-463-4309*)

Atlas: Collecting the School supplies (*Questions to Sue Olson: 715-554-3126*)

St. Croix Falls: Interfaith Care Center (*Questions to Karen Sciacca: 715-338-1865*)

5. We have Prayer Group gathering every Sunday: Central-Grantsburg will be at 8:10 am before service and St. Croix Falls will be at noon after service. We welcome everyone who wants to pray together.
6. Breakthrough prayer in August: Please pray for our Youth/Children directors and ministry.
7. Administrative Council meetings: Central-Grantsburg is at 6:30pm on August 17, St. Croix Falls is at 4pm on August 19 via Zoom, and Atlas is at 10:30am on August 20th.
8. UMW will be hanging out at Mary's Cabin on August 18. (They meet at 10 am at the church, and will carpool. Questions to Mary McNally: 715-791-8010)

9. Jim and Fay Andrews 50th Wedding Anniversary Party will be held at 17049 Furuby Rd., Shafer. MN.
10. Pastor Jenny's schedule in this week:
 - Office hours for Central-Grantsburg is from 9 am to 5 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, and for St. Croix Falls it will be from 11 am to 4 pm.
 - North West Clergy meeting is at 9am on August 19.
11. Our parish's joint service will be held at 9:45 am on August 29 in Atlas Park.
12. 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 unless we give you the other notice.

Topic: Upper St. Croix Parish's Sunday Zoom Service Time:
Sundays, 08:30 am Central

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZlZFNumEVaD BlCytTRzVxMFlIZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460 Passcode: 568271

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

Phone: +1 312 626 6799,

Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271

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

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.

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

14. 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

Charles Wright 8/15

Charlie Zeigler 8/17

Valetta Walton 8/20





August 15th, 2021
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

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

“Open Mind and Open Door”

I want to start with a funny story. I heard about this old nun who was living in a convent next to a construction site. She noticed the coarse language the workers used and decided to spend some time with them to correct their ways. She decided she would take her lunch, sit with the workers and talk with them. She put her sandwich in a brown bag and walked over to the spot where the men were eating. Sporting a big smile, she walked up to the group and asked, “Do you men know Jesus Christ?” They shook their heads and looked at each other, somewhat confused. Then one of the workers looked up into the steelworks and yelled out, “Is anybody up there who knows Jesus Christ?” One of the steelworkers yelled down, “Why?” The worker yelled back, “Cause his wife’s here with his lunch.”

As I mentioned last Sunday, I want to talk about “United Methodism” throughout the month of August. Today, for the second time, I want to say that “United Methodists are the people of inclusive mindset.” The inclusive mind, in other words, means “open hearts, open minds, and open doors.” Do you think that you are people of an inclusive mindset?

When I attended a Sunday service for the first time, it was a communion Sunday. Even though I followed my mother to the church, I felt I was a stranger. I didn’t know about any Christian rite, any hymn, and I didn’t even know when I should stand or sit. When communion time came, the pastor invited people to go to the front of the altar to receive a piece of bread and

a cup of wine. However, I was excluded because I was not baptized yet. I felt that they invited me to a party and didn't allow me to eat any food. It seemed to me I wasn't welcome. Two years later, I was baptized and became a seminarian. My father converted to become a Christian. All my family members went to church together. When it came time for communion, my father was excluded because he was not yet baptized. I felt sorry for my father because I remembered what it felt like when I experienced the same situation. I said to my father, "I'm sorry, daddy, you cannot receive the communion." My father said, "It's fine because I drank wine a lot before I became a Christian."

The good thing about United Methodists is "inclusiveness" and "openness." United Methodists welcome everyone to the communion table regardless of age, gender, ethnicities, social and cultural backgrounds, even whether someone has been baptized or not, whether they are church members or guests. United Methodists believe that the communion table belongs to the Lord, not to the individual church. When we share a piece of bread and a cup of the wine during communion it means that we share Jesus' love and grace. Therefore, an open communion table means a lot. Sharing the bread and the wine during communion symbolizes that we share one body in Christ, which means we are a family in Jesus Christ. Furthermore, it is a rite to confess that we are equal before God. God loves everyone and embraces everyone who comes to Him. To break a loaf of bread symbolizes Jesus' death on the cross for our sins, and to receive the bread and wine symbolizes the forgiveness of our sins. We encourage people to come and join communion to remember how Jesus loved us through his ministry, death, and resurrection and to recall that we are sinners who are forgiven. Coming to the front by ourselves to receive the bread and the wine is a rite to express our willingness to come to God. What the wonderful gift from the United Methodists!

United Methodists believe that we belong to the global and diverse living body of Jesus Christ. All Christians, regardless of denominations, are parts of the body of Christ, which means we are one family in Jesus Christ because we believe in one God, are baptized by the name of the father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and are saved by the same God's grace. Each United Methodist follower of Jesus is one with other United Methodists and also one with followers of Jesus of every age and land.

Some of you might have experienced other denominational churches. Perhaps, those experiences nurtured you with diverse beliefs and worship styles. United Methodists more clearly belong to the Protestant family of communions. A number of Protestant denominations, including the Baptists, Episcopalians, Lutherans, and Presbyterians, share our belief in two sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion, salvation by grace through faith, and Scripture as our final authority while the Roman Catholics differ from us in that it has seven sacraments, and the pope in Rome is the final authority (p.36., *Living as United Methodist Christians*). Of course, there are differences among the Protestant Churches. For example, Baptists, who come out of a European reform movement, emphasize adult baptism by immersion and the independence of local congregations. Episcopal congregations, out of the Church of England's Anglican faith (which John Wesley belonged to), have a strong loyalty to their *Book of Common Prayer* and hire their own pastors, while bishops appoint our pastors. Lutherans, who follow the traditions of the German reformer Martin Luther, focus on salvation by faith and permit local congregations to call their own pastors. Pentecostals share Wesley's enthusiasm for the work of the Holy Spirit, but unlike United Methodists, they emphasize practicing the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues in worship. Finally, Presbyterians, who trace their roots to John Calvin, are governed by lay boards and emphasize God's sovereign plan for all of creation. In spite of

differences, United Methodists celebrate our connections with these differing Protestant groups (p. 37, *Living as United Methodist Christians*).

A variety of Christian traditions are found within our own congregation. We are a theologically diverse denomination. Perhaps, some of you are suffering because of the people who feel exclusive. Some of you feel hurt looking at people who left the church because they have different opinions. Some of you don't feel good because you couldn't support them. I do too. A month ago, I received a text. It said, "Until all are openly welcome in all ways, I do not feel welcome either." It came to me with a heavy burden. I'm still praying for this person. However, remember that nowhere all are openly welcome in all ways unless we open our hearts, minds, and doors. I told you that United Methodists welcome everyone. But, I wonder if you do as well. I wonder if you are open your hearts, minds, and doors to everyone without any bias. Please try to put on the other's shoes, as if your brother or sister has the issue that bothers you to accept, or if your daughter or son is in the same situation you cannot welcome. Throughout human history, there were exclusive or marginalized people socially, politically, and economically. However, Jesus came to the world to be friends with them. Jesus is a friend of us as well as of them. Jesus died for them as well as for us.

I encourage you to read today's scripture carefully. One body doesn't have the same parts. One body has diverse parts such as eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, and legs. There are no useless parts among many parts of the body. God creates all things, and human beings. "There are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." (Vs. 20-21) "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (Vs. 26-27). Thanks be to God. Amen!