

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 your continuing providence, even when we complain. Thank you for the living bread, Jesus Christ, who feeds our spirits. In gratitude for undeserved grace and unlimited opportunity, we dedicate our offering and ourselves. Let our talk and our resources build up the body of Christ for greater service. May the needs of many be addressed in ways that bring hope, grace, and love to your children. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

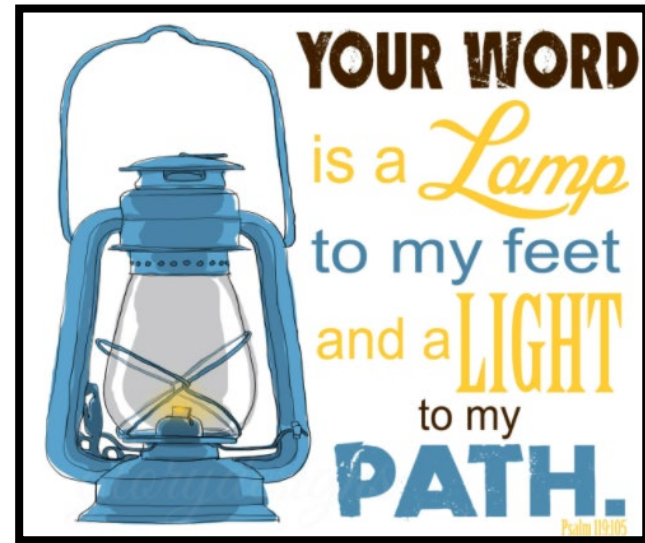
*We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another*

\*CLOSING HYMN *Here I Am, Lord* UMH 593 (vs. 1 & 2)

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

POSTLUDE

“Eleventh 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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**St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494

[www.upperstcroixparish.org](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)

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

## Upper St. Croix Parish

**ONE Parish THREE Churches:**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**August 8th, 2021**

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**August 8th, 2021**  
**“Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost”**

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\* 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                    (Psalm 119:103-106)**

Come, the people of God, to hear God’s words

Come, the people of God, to taste God’s words.

**How sweet are God’s words to our taste,  
sweeter than honey to our mouths!**

Come, the people of God who hate every false way.

Come, the people of God who seek the right way.

**God’s Word is a lamp to our feet and light to our path.**

**We have sworn an oath and confirmed it,**

**to observe God’s righteous ordinances. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN            *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing***

**UMH 57 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER    Unison                    (The Book of Worship)**

**Almighty God, in a time of great need you raised up your servants John and Charles Wesley, and by your Spirit inspired them to kindle a flame of sacred love, which leaped and ran, an inextinguishable blaze. Grant that all those whose hearts have been warmed at these altar fires, being continually refreshed by your grace, may be so devoted to the increase of scriptural holiness throughout the land that in this our time of great need, your will may fully and effectively be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE OLD TESTAMENTS**

**Psalms 119:97-109**

<sup>97</sup>Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

<sup>98</sup>Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

<sup>99</sup>I have more understanding than all my teachers,

for your decrees are my meditation.

<sup>100</sup>I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

<sup>101</sup>I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

<sup>102</sup>I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

<sup>103</sup>How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup>Through your precepts I get understanding;

therefore I hate every false way.

<sup>105</sup>Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

<sup>106</sup>I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,

to observe your righteous ordinances.

<sup>107</sup>I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

<sup>108</sup>Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.

<sup>109</sup>I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

**\*THE NEW TESTAMENTS**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*“The People of the Bible”*

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER    Unison**

**Bread of heaven, feed us. Word of truth, teach us. Holy Spirit, empower us once more to revive our spirits. Thank you for the Holy Bible, which is the word of the Living God. Grant us to be people of the Bible so that we follow in the footsteps of John Wesley as well as Jesus Christ. Help us to be kind and tender-hearted to one another and to embrace one another as you embrace us. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

## Announcements (Insert) August 8th, 2021

1. Today is “Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost.” May God bless you and your family!
2. Sunday Service times: At 8:30 am in Grantsburg-Central, 9:45 am at Atlas, and at 11:15 am at 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 (8/8): Barb Loomis  
Sunday (8/15): **Volunteer needed**  
  
**Atlas: Liturgist**  
This Sunday (8/8): Sue Olson  
Sunday (8/15): **Volunteer needed**  
  
**St. Croix Falls: Liturgist**  
This Sunday (8/8): Kathy Gionis,  
Sunday (8/15): Kathy Gionis
4. Missions in August:  
Grantsburg: Collecting school supplies  
(Questions to Deb Hammer: 715-463-4309)  
Atlas: Collecting school supplies  
(Questions to Sue Olson: 715-554-3126)  
St. Croix Falls: Interfaith Care Center  
(Questions to Karen Sciacca: 715-338-1865)
5. We will have the Prayer Group gathering from August 1st through the end of September 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. SPRC meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on August 12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) via Zoom
7. The UMM meeting will be held at 8am on August 14 (Saturday) at Central-Grantsburg.
8. Atlas has a Thrift Sale from 9am to 1pm at Atlas Church this Saturday, Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>.
9. Pastor Jenny’s schedule in this week:  
Korean clergy gathering is at noon on August 9 in Madovie, and New Ministry Strage Team meeting is at 10 am to noon on August 12 via zoom.

10. 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 Time  
Join Zoom Meeting

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFllZz09>**

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.

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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](mailto: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](mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com) / 715-463-2624

**Edna Newman**  
**8/12**



# 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](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)).

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



August 8th, 2021  
2 Timothy 3:16-17  
Psalms 119:105

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

### **“People of the Bible”**

I want to talk about the Bible today. I am surprised that the only American presidents are sworn in by placing their hands on the Bible at the inauguration, which means a lot to the country. The United States of America is blessed because Americans respect the Bible. They believe in God and believe in the Bible. I’m not sure if any other country does it the same way as the United States does. What does the Bible mean to you? I wonder how many of you read the Bible regularly? Do any of you read daily, weekly or monthly?

I didn’t believe in the Bible when I didn’t know about God. I thought it was like an “amulet.” I saw that many Christians keep the Bible in a holy place or carried the Bible, but I rarely saw them read the Bible. The first time I got a Bible was when I was in the hospital. I was hopeless hearing I would not walk again due to my spine being broken. One day a pastor and his wife whose church my mother attended visited me and prayed for me. The pastor’s wife gave me her Bible and said, “Sister, please read the Bible. While I was praying for you, God inspired me. God may heal you if you read this whole book.” Her Bible was an old and thick book. It looked ugly and difficult to read. I thought, “If I read this ugly book, can I walk? No kidding! I cannot believe it.” As soon as that idea came to my mind, I threw it away. It was then that I lost my chance to heal my spine. After that, two years later, God gave me a second chance through a pastor, who I didn’t know. After I received his prayer, I recalled that the pastor’s wife said, “God may heal you if you read this whole book.” And I took the Bible back, and began reading it. To tell you the truth; after I read the whole Bible, I was released from a hospital. The pastor’s prayer gave me hope that I might walk again. And, after reading the Bible, I was confident God might heal me. I noticed that the Bible is like the mirror of my life. The Bible showed me how I lived and how I should live.

I found out how beautifully God made human beings. God made a magnificent world for humans. God made me his masterpiece. However, I didn’t follow what God wanted just as Adam didn’t. I wanted to live by myself, as Adam and Eve decided with their free will when they chose to eat the fruit, which God prohibited them from eating. And they left God. I also found that I lived like Jacob, who lived with his own wisdom, and who ran away from his father Isaac and his brother Esau. He lived in his uncle Laban’s house, but cheated on him and ran away from him again. He faced a life crisis, which out of nowhere he goes to Jabbok River. He wrestled with God to receive God’s blessings. He noticed he could not live without God’s blessings. Finally, God hit his hip and broke his hip. Even though Jacob had wrenched his hip, he met God, and God blessed him. When I read Jacob’s story through the Bible at the hospital, I felt I saw myself. And, I read Jeremiah, “before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” Through these verses, I was full of confidence that God would heal me and use me for God’s work.” What does the Bible mean to you? Psalm 119:105 says, “Your [God’s] word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” The

Bible is the word of the Living God and our life's navigation. When you face a crisis of life, you may find a way to go forth through the Bible as I did, and many Christians did.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, always proclaimed that he was a person of one book-the Bible. He believed the Bible is the primary source to find the way to salvation. According to him, God reveals through biblical stories "the way to heaven." For him, "heaven" and "salvation" are a restored relationship with God and all of God's creation, which may begin now or later. United Methodists today affirm, as Wesley did, that "the Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary for salvation" and are "the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine." (p.19. Andy and Sally Langford, *Living as United Methodist Christians*)

Methodism started from a small group reading the Bible at Oxford University in 1729. Three young men and John Wesley gathered together to read and study the Bible weekly. People called the group "Bible Moths" because they hovered over the Scriptures like moths around a flame. Another name is based on their systematic pattern of biblical study, prayer, fasting, and serving community, Methodists. Wesley didn't create something unique for Methodism. Still, people who saw them called them "Methodists" because they kept gathering together for Bible study, prayed often, fasted twice a week, received Holy Communion weekly, served the poor, visited the local prison, and lived modestly. Wesley listened to the Bible and did what God commanded. Nevertheless, that gathering of eighteenth-century young adults, who studied the Bible and walked in the footsteps of Jesus, marked the beginning of a huge movement. Over the past two and a half centuries, this movement has changed millions of lives and transformed the world in significant ways.

United Methodists are first and foremost people who read the Bible and seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ within the universal church. We are similar to the first followers of Jesus Christ as we draw near to Jesus, explore the riches of the Holy Scriptures, and know that our lives have been transformed. (p.14-15, *Living as United Methodist Christians*) The Bible contains sixty-six different books: the Old Testament has thirty-nine books, and the New Testament has twenty-seven books. The biblical stories sometimes reflect on your past life, current life, and future life. Through the biblical stories, we may find our location in our faith journey. John Wesley started Methodism with the Bible and was born again through listening to the Bible someone read in worship service. When he was not part of a mission to America, he was depressed and lost confidence to go forward. However, when he attended a worship service in Aldersgate, he listened to the Scripture reading. It was Luther's Preface to Romans chapter 1:17, "For in it [the Gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'the one who is righteous will live by faith.'" As soon as he listened to the Scripture reading, he felt warm throughout his whole body as if the Holy Spirit covered him. After he started preaching outdoors and Methodism spread out to the whole of England. Wesley sent preachers to America in 1771. We are descendants of Wesley and the followers of Jesus Christ. We are the people of the Bible.

Look at the Altar! When you come into the sanctuary, you may find the eternal light, the cross, and the big Bible on the Altar. Do you ever wonder why we put the Bible on the Altar with the eternal light and the cross? It is a symbol of the Living God's eternal word for salvation. The Letter of Hebrews says, "The Word of God is living and active" (Hebrews 4:12). It uses a verb of present progressive form, "is living," which means that God's word is living at present. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." I am proud that I am a Methodist. I encourage you to be the people of the Bible. Let's read the Bible regularly, and be the people of the Bible. Thanks be to God. Amen.