

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Loving Father, thank-you for giving us the opportunity to serve you ~ by serving others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND

OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***HYMN**

Together We Serve

TFWS 2175 (vs. 4)

***BENEDICTION** Unison

And now, for the One who first loved us, let us:

Go and proclaim that God's love is real.

Go and share God's love with one another.

Go and make our love noticeable ~ through our acts of service to others. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:

Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls

October 17th, 2021

“Twenty-first 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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www.upperstcroixparish.org

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
October 17th, 2021
“Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost”

*Please stand if you are able.

PRELUDE
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING OF THE GREETINGS
“Peace be with you”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive
Jesus called us ~ his disciples to love one another as he loved us.
Selflessly, actively, sacrificially.
Jesus said the world would know his disciples by our love,
Not by our perfectly lived lives or deep understanding of doctrine or even our unfailing devotion to Him.
He didn’t say those things were bad, he didn’t say they weren’t important. They aren’t how people recognize His followers.
No, it is LOVE that sets us apart from everyone else.
Love isn’t just a feeling. It is an action. It is demonstratable. It is noticeable.
One of the best ways to demonstrate LOVE ~ to make it noticeable ~ is through service.
Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *I’m Going to Live So God Can Use Me*
FWS 2153 (vs. 1 & 4)

OPENING PRAYER Unison
Lord, You have placed us in this community for a purpose. Help us to serve those who are placed among us. Help them to see your Spirit present in each of us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

RECOGNITION OF LAY SERVANTS AND LAY LEADERS
Terry Giles, Barb Loomis, and LuAnne Martell (Lay Servant) (G)

LuAnne Martell (Ad Chair) (G)
Mary McNally (President of UMW)
Charles Wright (Representative of UMM)
Sue Olson (Ad Chair) (A)
Kathy Gionis (Lay Servant) (SCF)
Karen Sciacca (Ad Chair) (SCF)

CHILDREN’S TIME (A)

Proclamation of God’s Word

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON **James 2:14-17**
14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: *They Will Know Us By Our Love* (G)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
UMW PURPOSE
SPECIAL RECOGNITION PIN
WORLD THANK OFFERING
REDress PROJECT
SERVICE PROJECTS
UNITED METHODIST MEN

Charles Wright

SERMON (A/SCF) *“What Would Jesus Do?”* **Pastor Jenny**



We Respond to God’s Word

CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS ... October

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p>Collecting donations for the food shelf.</p> <p>Communion Sunday: HOLIDAY FOODS (canned yams, stuffing, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes)</p>	 <p>Operation Christmas Child</p> <p>We will be supporting Operation Christmas Child-shoe boxes and information is available at church</p>
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GRANTSBURG... October

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!</p> <p>Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>Trick or Treat for UNICEF</p> <p>Collecting Loose Offering</p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS ...October

<p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p> 	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p>Homeless Shelter in Amery</p> 
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TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Today's Service

Central:
Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist UMW
Mowing *Volunteer Needed*
Acolyte(s) Willow Erickson
Fellowship UMW
Counter *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers UMW
Sunday School Younger/Older
LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis



Atlas:
Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Sue Olson
Usher(s) Sue Olson
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*
Sunday School Younger/Older
No class/ Colleen Adams-Schween

St. Croix Falls:
Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Karen Sciacca
Usher(s) Kathy Gionis
Money Counter Peter Gionis
Flowers Kathy Gionis
Fellowship Ad Council members

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:
"This kind can come out only by prayer." (Mark 9:29)
Please pray at least once a day, if it is possible!

- 1) Pray for the Youth/Children ministry.
- 2) Pray for our church's revitalization.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am. The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page. Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) You can hear “the service by Phone,” whenever you are able by calling 1-715-298-0854.
- 4) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

This Week’s Calendar:

Today: “21th Sunday after Pentecost” and “Laity Sunday” We celebrate lay ministry. You are God’s ministers. Thank you for your Wonderful ministry!

Sunday Worship Service:

8:30 am Grantsburg
9:45 am Atlas
11:15 am St. Croix Falls

10/17 (6pm)-10/18 (1pm-8pm): Provisional Elder’s Workshop (*Pastor Jenny*)

10/19: 6:30pm, Ad Council Meeting (G)

10/20: 1pm, UMW Meeting (G)

4pm, Go Fish (G)

7pm, 2020 Confirmation Class Reunion (Parsonage)

10/21 10am-3pm, New Ministry Strategy Board Retreat via Zoom (*Pastor Jenny*)

4pm, Ad Council meeting via zoom (SCF)

The week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Cameron Smallwood	10/19
Jim & Karen Sciacca	10/20
Cole Steffen	10/21
Georgeanne Koons	10/23



Next Sunday (October 24th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God’s People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*
Mowing *Volunteer Needed*
Acolyte(s) Willow Erickson
Fellowship *Volunteer Needed*
Counter *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers UMW
Sunday School Younger/Older
LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher(s) Sue Olson
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*
Sunday School Younger/Older
Josie Grimes/Jamie Steffen

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Karen Sciacca
Usher(s) Kathy Gionis
Money Counter Peter Gionis
Flowers Kathy Gionis
Fellowship Ad Council member



10/25: CHARGE CONFERENCE

10/31: ALL SAINTS SUNDAY (PLEASE SEND NAMES TO PASTOR JENNY BY OCTOBER 24, OF LOVED ONES LOST IN THE LAST YEAR WHOM YOU WANT TO HONOR AT THE ALL SAINTS SUNDAY SERVICE.)



October 17th, 2021
James 2:14-17; John 13:34-35

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

“What Would Jesus Do?”

Today is “Laity Sunday.” Laity Sunday “is observed on the third Sunday in October, this day calls for the church to celebrate the ministry of Christians of all ages in the home, workplace, congregation, community, and world” (*the Book of Worship*). The United Methodist Church, especially for North America’s Methodism, was begun by lay ministers. John Wesley, Founder of Methodism, sent lay ministers to America. Lay ministers, often called “circuit riders,” were sent to preach wherever people gathered. I know some of your grandparents or ancestors might have been circuit riders. Without lay ministers, today’s Methodists couldn’t exist. Therefore, the United Methodist Church respects lay ministers and clergy equally. At the Annual Conference and General Conference, the laity and clergy members have an equal vote regarding the decision-making related to United Methodist Polices and Doctrines. We do appreciate all people’s ministry. We build the church together and work on God’s mission together. Mainly, I appreciate our church leadership for your wonderful ministry. What a wonderful day to celebrate the UMM and UMW ministries today, and recognize lay servants in our parish!

I want to share a story. There was a pastor, Henry Maxwell. One day, a man came to pastor Henry, asking for help while preparing for his Sunday sermon. The man was laid-off from his company and lost his home. After the pastor listened to the man’s helpless situation he brushed him away and closed the door. On Sunday, at the end of the sermon, the same man appeared in the church. He walked up to “the open space in front of the pulpit” and faced the people. No one stopped him. He quietly confronted the congregation. He said, “I am not complaining, but just stating facts.” He addressed his situation, and that of many workers like him. As soon as he finished his address to the congregation, he collapsed and died a few days later. That following Sunday, Pastor Henry, deeply moved by the events of the past week, presented a challenge to his congregation: “Do not do anything without first asking, “What would Jesus do?” This question, “What would Jesus do?” challenged many people, and then their lives transformed totally. It is a classic Christian story written by Charles Monroe Sheldon. The full title is *In His Step: What Would Jesus Do?*

We are sometimes challenged to follow Jesus, being a disciple of Jesus Christ, even though our mission statement is “Making disciples of Jesus Christ in all generations [nations].” Have you ever thought about what the disciples of Jesus look like? I know, if I say, “the disciples of Jesus Christ,” you may imagine the disciples of Jesus in the book of the Gospel. You may think of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ in the Bible. But, I mean, “us.” We are disciples of Jesus Christ, aren’t we? Let us figure out what being disciples of Jesus means. As you may know, disciple means a dedicated follower of Jesus. If you are the faithful followers of Jesus Christ, you

are the disciples of Jesus. The book of the Gospel John 13:34-35 says, “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.” So, if you love one another, you are the disciples of Jesus. Even though you don’t say, “I am a disciple of Jesus Christ,” everyone may know you are the disciples of Jesus Christ by your loving of one another.

Like the story, somehow, it is easy to say “love.” However, loving in the act is that it may not be easy. Today, as we confess in the Call to Worship, “love is not just a feeling. It’s an action. It’s demonstrable. It’s noticeable” (*They Will Know Us by Our Love*, p.5). There is a saying. There are two things that people cannot hide; a cough and love. Do you agree with that? Everyone has no comment, for a “cough” cannot be hidden. But, you may wonder why we cannot hide “love.” Some of you may understand we mean by that. If you love someone or something, you always smile, are joyful, and usually forgive others. Moreover, a person becomes more beautiful, generous, and positive when they fall in love than they were before. Do you agree?

I want to tell you my story. My mother was baptized by an American missionary in a tent church. She was 10. She learned about writing and reading English as well as Korean from Sunday school. She couldn’t receive an official education because she was a girl. When I was in the same situation where my grandfather didn’t allow me to go to a high school because I was a girl, my mother decided to move out of my grandfather's house. I had to live independently from teenagers. I saw my mother’s suffering as a daughter-in-law, a wife, and a mother. I thought that was why my mother suffered even though she believed in God. I had a negative mindset regarding Christians. However, I met a Christian friend in high school. She often invited me to her house and fed me. Sometimes she shared her school supplies with me. She sometimes brought me to her church, and sang songs playing the piano. I think that it was Christian songs. However, she never asked or pushed me to come to church until we graduated from school. My most challenging times as a teenager could be warm because of her love. Much later, after I graduated from a seminary, I invited her and her husband to our church when I planted a new church. Her husband told me, “I wondered who you were. Since we were dating, my wife asked me to pray for you. Finally, I met you. Wow, you became a minister. Our prayers worked. My wife cried a lot the whole night because we were so grateful when we heard you became a minister and planted a new church.” My friend said, “I prayed for you for seventeen years. Finally, God answered my prayers. Thanks be to God.”

Love cannot be hidden. Even though the person you love cannot recognize your love now, God knows about you and your love. Love cannot hide from God and others. Our prayers sometimes take longer than we expect, but God never forgets your prayers. God becomes real to us by love.

Today’s scripture says, “if brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food; and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? If it has no works, it is dead” (James 2:15-17). Love in your actions for others. Love with your hands and feet. Your loose coins can feed hundreds of people in poverty. Your clothes and blankets stacked in your closets or storage can help hundreds of people in need. Every moment you face challenges, think “what Jesus would do?” God will guide you to the way of being his disciples. Thanks be to God. Amen!