

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

Hear our prayer for all who may be helped by what we give. We offer more than money; we offer ourselves. May the sympathy and comfort we share with people in need serve to draw them closer to you. Keep us strong, that this church may give radiant witness to truth, constructive opposition to evil, and merciful redemption to those caught up in the wickedness of our times. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***HYMN** *I Know Whom I Have Believed* UMH 714 (vs. 1 & 2)

***BENEDICTION**
POSTLUDE

Pastor Jenny Lee

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:

Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls

October 24th, 2021

"Twenty-Second 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 24th, 2021

“Twenty-Second 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

God is gathering us from many different places.

No one is worthy, but all are invited.

God lifts us up when we stumble and leads us back.

God cares for us amid our pain and losses.

We are delivered from our fears and saved from trouble.

Happy are those who take refuge in a loving God.

Our lips pour forth laughter and joyous singing.

We join in shouts of praise to God Most High.

Taste and see how good God is.

Trust in the One who awakens joy in place of tears.

We will bless our God in all times and places.

Let us exalt God’s name together! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Grace Greater than Our Sin

UMH 365 (vs. 1 & 4)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

All-powerful God, we ask for your presence among us, for we need the knowledge and energy you alone can provide. Your ways are wonderful beyond our understanding. When our strength is spent, our vision clouded, and our hope gone, you reach out to us in ways we often fail to discern. We take heart to think that you are calling us to yourself, opening our eyes to see your wonders as if for the first time. We want to be a part of your faithful remnant in a world that too often loses sight of the holy. Help us, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 10:46-52

46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 49 Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” 52 Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *“It is Time to Ask for God’s Mercy!”* **Pastor Jenny Lee**

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Amazing God, whose claims on us are as old as creation and as new as this very moment, help us to hear you calling us, not alone that we may be healed, but that we might become instruments of healing in a hurting world. Restore to us that sight that is beyond seeing, so your church may respond with joy to the great high priest, in whose name we pray and carry out ministry. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER


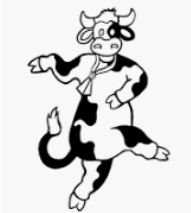

**INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND
OFFERINGS**

***DOXOLOGY**



UMH 95

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>Moolah For Milk</p> <p>Collecting loose change to support Moolah for Milk!</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	Volunteer Needed
Mowing	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Erickson
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
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 members

THANKS
FOR
BEING
AWESOME

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:

"This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29)
Please pray once a day at least, 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFlIZz09>
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460 Passcode: 568271
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: “22nd Sunday after Pentecost.” God bless you and your family members!

Sunday Worship Service:

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

October 25: 6:00pm Charge Conference in-person and via Zoom. In - person will be at Grantsburg. If you want to join the Conference via Zoom, please let pastor Jenny know to send you the Zoom link.

October 27: 4-6:30pm, District New Ministry Team Meeting (*Pastor Jenny*)

October 28: 9am, District Clergy Meeting via Zoom

The Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries:



Bob Popham	10/26
Kate Murtaugh	10/26
Sue Ott	10/26
Wendell & Maxine Hauble	10/26
Jim Mattson	10/29

Next Sunday (October 31st) Volunteers:

Ministers	All God's People <i>Pastor Jenny Lee</i>
Central:	
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Mowing	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Erickson
Fellowship	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis
Atlas:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Usher(s)	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
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



10/31: **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** (*PLEASE SEND NAMES TO PASTOR JENNY, WHOM WOULD BE HONOR IN ALL SAINTS SUNDAY SERVICE BY OCTOBER 24.*)

11/2-11/3: **ICD TRAINING IN STEVENS POINT, WI** (*PASTOR JENNY*)

11/7: **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS-REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK**



October 24, 2021
Mark 10:46-52

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

“It is Time to Ask for God’s Mercy!”

I want to start with a funny story. There was a Christian who fell in the ocean, and he couldn’t swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, “Do you need help, sir?” The Christian calmly said, “No, God will save me.” A Little later, another boat came by, and a fisherman asked, “Hey, do you need help?” The Christian replied again, “No, God will save me.” Eventually, the Christian drowned and went to heaven. The Christian asked God, “Why didn’t you save me?” God replied, “Fool, I sent you two boats!”

We sometimes misunderstand God’s work even though we believe in God like the Christian in the story. God can work through people around us. God can work through our pets and our plants too. So, keep your minds and hearts open to sense God’s work and God’s presence. To believe in God is to hope God makes things happen that we can’t. The Letter of Hebrews says, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” If you hope for things to happen earnestly, they will come true. Even though it may take longer than you expect, if you don’t give it up, God doesn’t give it up. “Faith” is to hope God makes things happen. If it hasn’t happen yet, you might think that you have little faith. What does having little or a lot of faith mean? Jesus mentioned having little faith in the Gospel of Matthew.

One day, the disciples who failed to cast out a demon asked Jesus why they couldn’t cast out the demon. Jesus answered them, “because of your little faith. If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20) According to this word if we have “little faith” like the size of the mustard seed, there is nothing impossible for us. However, we know there are many things impossible “for us.” Is it because our faith is too little? If it is so, how could our faith be big enough?

In today’s scripture, we see a blind man Bartimaeus, who received his sight through his faith. Imagine the blind man Bartimaeus. He was a beggar who was sitting on the roadside every day begging for daily food. He could hear what people were talking about. One day, he felt something different from the other days. There were many more people who passed by him, talking about Jesus. Hearing about Jesus, he thought that if anyone would bring him to Jesus, he may be healed. However, nobody cared about him, and they just passed him by. But, a chance presented itself. When Jesus and his disciples were about to leave the city of Jericho, blind man Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by him. As soon as Bartimaeus heard that it was Jesus, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” People scolded him telling him to be quiet. However, he didn’t want to lose the chance to heal his sight. It would be, perhaps, the only chance for him, which may never come again. If you were Bartimaeus, what would you do? Are you going to stop? Are you going to give it up? No, you can’t stop. You can’t

give up. It was the same for Bartimaeus. He cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Among many people, Jesus perhaps couldn’t see him, as he was sitting on the roadside. He stopped walking and stood still. Finally, Jesus heard him and said, “Call him here.” People said to him, “Take heart; get up; he is calling you.”

Can you imagine how Bartimaeus felt at that moment? He couldn’t see anything. A large crowd gathered around him. How can he go to Jesus? However, he didn’t think about “how.” Immediately, he sprang up and ran toward Jesus. He didn’t care about throwing off his cloth, which might be the only cloth he had. He sprang up and came to Jesus. Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” Bartimaeus said to him, “Let me see again!” Jesus said, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way. What did you see through Bartimaeus?

We see Bartimaeus’ urgent shouting, because he couldn’t give up his only chance. We see he had a lot of obstacles and difficulties. He had physical problems; he couldn’t see, and he couldn’t go alone. He had material problems; he might worry about daily food, cloth, and shelter. Perhaps, he had emotional difficulties. He might have had times of hopelessness, depression, and desperation. We assume he lost his sight at a certain point in his life because he said, “I want to see again.” He might have had a time of complaint, “Why me?” He was the person who survived day by day, begging daily for food on the street. Among all these difficulties, his biggest obstacle was, perhaps, the people around him, who blocked him from going to Jesus and didn’t want him shouting at Jesus. In order to achieve his goal, he gave up the daily begging food; he gave up his only cloth; he didn’t care about the people who blocked and scolded him. His primary goal was to meet Jesus. For him, it was an urgent issue to receive Jesus’ mercy. What about you? What about your faith? In order to meet Jesus and receive God’s mercy, can you give up important things? What is most important to you? How urgent are your prayers? Why don’t you ask for God’s mercy? Perhaps, Jesus stands still to hear you. Who knows, it might be the only chance you have to receive God’s mercy.

Let’s focus on Jesus a little more in everyday life if we can’t hear Jesus. Jesus stands still, waiting for us, even if we are too busy to sense Jesus. Even though Jesus asks us, “What do you want me to do for you?” we do not say what we need because we are complaining too much or we still sit down in hopelessness and depression. Listen, “Take heart; get up; he is calling you.” It is time to ask for God’s mercy. Even though there are people who block you from listening to Jesus’ calling for you, are you still unable to hear Jesus because you overthink the “how and why?” Expect God, who will provide the way for you, and get up to receive God’s mercy! Are there others around you needing God’s mercy? Are you blocking them from coming to Jesus physically, emotionally, or spiritually? If so, it is time to say to them, “take heart; get up, God is calling you.” It is time to receive God’s mercy! Don’t lose the chance God gives you. Please open your hearts and minds to sense God’s presence! It is time to ask for God’s mercy! Thanks be to God. Amen!