

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Thank you, God, for choosing us to speak for you and to act on your behalf. It is an honor to share with others what you have entrusted to us. Our offerings represent ourselves and the depth of our commitment. We rededicate to you the talents, abilities, gifts, and resources you have placed in our hands. May we be the faithful stewards in mutual ministry. Amen!

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

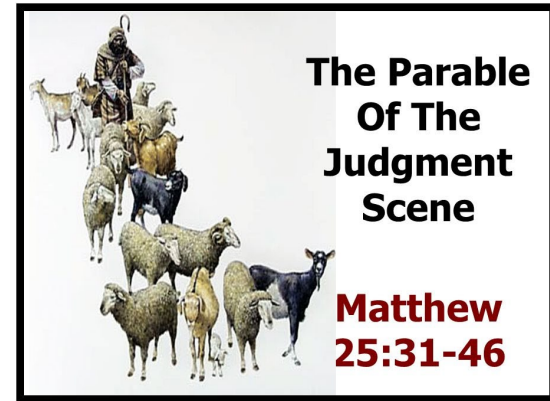
\*CLOSING HYMN *Hymn of Promise* UMH 707 (vs. 1 & 2)

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

\*POSTLUDE

# Upper St. Croix Parish

**ONE Parish THREE Churches:**  
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls  
February 27th, 2022  
“Transfiguration Sunday/ Stewardship Month”



**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 with Online Zoom Service*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Pastor Jenny Lee:** [jennlee1732@gmail.com](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)

**Youth Director Shayna Schmid:** [snsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snsnyder@gmail.com)

**Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg:** [centralumc2016@gmail.com](mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com)

**Parish Office:** 715-463- 2624 **St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494

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

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

Worship Resources “Gathered by Love” by Lavon Bayler.

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**February 27th, 2022**

**“Transfiguration Sunday/ Stewardship Month”**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**\*PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**

*“Peace be with you”*

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*MISSION STATEMENT**    Responsive

Let us shout our mission statement together.

**Let us make the disciples of Jesus Christ through all generations with open hearts, open minds, and open doors for the transformation of the world. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**    *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

UMH 110 (vs. 1 & 2)

**OPENING PRAYER**    Unison

**Transforming Spirit, who awakened Jesus’ disciples on the mountaintop, awaken us here that we may discern the vision you place before us. We listen for the Word Christ has for us amid the perils of our day. We dare to question our call and examine ourselves, for we want to share your truth, not our own biases and manipulations, with the world. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 25:31-46

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right

hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40 And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

***“Build, Grow and Serve”***

*(Stewardship Sermon # 4)*

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER**    Unison

**God of all nations and all peoples, break into our narrow understandings of who you are and whom you welcome as disciples. As we listen for your Word, may we hear your welcoming “Come,” but also your command to “Go: do this.” By your grace and peace, build us as your church, guide us to grow in Christlikeness, and lead us to serve your kingdom and your people. Empower our witness, that the world may embrace good health and abundant life. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**




**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER**

# FEBRUARY CHURCH MISSIONS



## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b></p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	 <p>We will be collecting soup and monetary donations to support Souper Bowl of Caring.</p>	<p><b>Help Support the Food Shelf in Luck</b></p> 
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## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p><b>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</b></p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 		<p>Collecting soup and cash donation to support Grantsburg Food Shelf</p>
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## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p><b>Food Shelf</b></p> <p>(Communion Sunday)</p>	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p> <p>Supporting the UMCOR Human Relations Mission</p> 
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Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

### Today's Service

**Central:**

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Peyton Smallwood
Snow Removal	Stan Chute
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Younger/Older
	LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis



**Atlas:**

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher(s)	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday school	Younger/Older
	Cheryl Olson/no class

**St. Croix Falls:**

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
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 every morning at 8:30, if you are able!

"For our church and congregation, especially those who are not back to church yet after the pandemic."

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am and 11:15am.** 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=SDZlZFNumEvaDlE1cytTRzVxMFIIZz09>**  
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,  
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at [upperstcroixparish.org](http://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: Transfiguration Sunday! We keep the Stewardship Month in February. May God inspire us with a special stewardship mind!

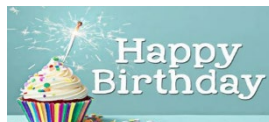
*\*We have 2022 signup sheets for volunteers. Please find a spot where you can be a part of the church. We are the church, which is growing in faith together.*

### Sunday Worship Service:

- 2/27: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom Service  
9:45 am Atlas  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom Service
- 3/1: 5:30 pm, Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper (G)  
(All parishioners are invited, our youth will serve)  
7:15 pm, Ash Service (G)
- 3/2: 6:30 pm, Youth Gathering (G)
- 3/3 9:00 am, North West Clergy Meeting via Zoom  
10:00am – Noon, New Ministry Board Meeting via Zoom
- 3/4-3/5: Confirmation Retreat at Lake Lucerne

### This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Dauntay Erickson 2/27  
Chaz Norenberg 3/3  
Megan Branstad 3/5



### Next Sunday (March 2nd) Volunteers:

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



### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Kathy Gionis
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Flowers	Kathy Gionis
Fellowship	Ad Council Members (3rd Sunday)



### LENTEN SEASON SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS:

- LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (THURSDAYS)
- CRAFT GROUP GATHERING (WEDNESDAYS)

### ASH SERVICES:

- GRANTSBURG-CENTRAL AT 7:15 PM ON MARCH 1 (TUESDAY)
- ATLAS & ST. CROIX FALLS DURING SERVICE ON MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> (SUNDAY)

3/6: 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT



February 27th, 2022  
Matthew 25: 31-46

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

## **“Build, Grow, and Serve” (Stewardship Sermon # 4)**

I want to start with a story we shall think about. One Sunday morning, a pastor preached about “loving our neighbors.” Then he said, “let us practice loving our neighbors, especially loving people in need by our acts.” He used the scripture verses, The Letter of James 2:15-17, “If a 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? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” The congregation was inspired by his message. After service, while they had coffee fellowship, a homeless man came into the church and asked for food and gas money. People tried to collect money to help him out, but the pastor said to the man, “We are sorry, we cannot help you.” and he sent him out and said to the people, “Don’t give him money. It’s not a good way to help. If you help him, he comes again and again. Furthermore, he may bring another homeless man. This is the church, not a homeless shelter.”

We often face many circumstances, where there are conflicts between words and acts. And, we have seen some people who were getting hurt by them. We know we can’t judge every situation with the same ruler. So, we need wisdom, especially in God’s ministry. Unexpectedly, some people may harm others with a very little thing. Therefore, the Apostle Paul says, “If food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall” (1 Corinthians 8:13). Jesus also said, “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea” (Mark 9:42). Therefore, when it comes to loving our neighbors, we are aware that it is more important not to harm others than it is to share food, money, and clothes with them.

Today, as the last session of the stewardship sermon series, I want to talk about God’s stewardship in serving people and serving the church. We talked about the definition of steward/stewardship on the first Sunday. God’s stewards are the managers of God’s property. God’s property includes abilities, opportunities (time), ideas, skills, money, family members, friends, loved ones, and all creations because God is the owner of everything. On the second Sunday of February, we talked about the stewardship of money through the parable story of the dishonest steward. Also, I quoted John Wesley’s suggestion regarding God’s steward. God’s stewardship is to give all you can to the poor. Wesley’s purpose was to give all to the poor by making and saving money. And then, last Sunday, we talked about making space in our hearts and prayers for our lost ones, who haven’t come back to God’s house yet.

Remember, all three sessions concluded that someday the master may come and ask his stewards to count their stewardship. There is no exception. No matter what God entrusted to us, God will ask us someday to measure it. It could be abilities, talents, properties, people, gifts, etc. If we don’t care about them even though God entrusted us to, it is like the steward who received one talent, dug the ground, and put it under it. Finally, we may lose even the one talent. The rule of stewardship is “the more we use abilities, talents, gifts, and properties, the more we gain God’s property.” It is like we use our talents and abilities, and gifts. They would be

improved and more developed. Otherwise, our abilities and skills may disappear. For example, if I hadn't had the opportunity to learn how to knit, I never would have known I have the talent to knit. I discerned I have a talent to knit, and the more I practice knitting, the more my skills develop. Plus, the more I share prayer shawls I knit, the happier I feel, which means I will double it. I want to confess that I am a blessed pastor having good people in our parish. I can learn from you and grow into Christlikeness with you day by day.

Today's scripture is a famous parable story of the last judgment. The parable story of talent follows this story. This story goes like this: The Son of Man comes in his glory with angels and will sit on the throne of his glory and gather all nations before him. He will separate all people as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He put the sheep in his right hand and goats in his left hands. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that my Father blesses, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you gave me clothing, I was sick, and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." And the king says to those who are his left hand. As they didn't care for one of the least, the king judged them not to care for the king. This parable story of the last judgment implies that Jesus will come to us to count our stewardship. Jesus' point to count our stewardship is to love our neighbors, especially those in need. Jesus says that the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and imprisoned are like Jesus himself. Therefore, to love God is to love our neighbors.

When I was in Chicago, I have served youth groups in the Northern Illinois Conference. In the summer, we took the youth group to a retreat to New York, and the theme was "social justice." We joined several workshops and had a tour in the city of New York. One day, after we finished the schedule for the day, we were about to get back to the hotel. At the end of the day we got a piece of pizza and a beverage at a restaurant nearby the hotel and then returned to the hotel. There were five chaperons and 17 youths. We lined up in front of the restaurant to get our meals. At that time, there was a homeless man at the restaurant's corner. But nobody cared about him, and each of us in the groups took our own food and passed by him. There was lots of noise and loud music. But, out of 22 people, one youth who was about 15<sup>th</sup> in line took her meal, gave it all to him and then walked to the hotel. Everyone around her saw them and what she did, and suddenly it became calm around us and was silent for a while. We didn't talk about her behavior or our behavior that night. But after we ate, we had prayer time. Her simple behavior taught us more than many tours and workshops.

Remember, God calls us to be the church. The purpose God calls us to be a part of the church for is to build in unity together, to grow together into Christlikeness, and to serve people and serve the community/world together. It is God's purpose to call us to a place as a part of the body of Christ. The Letter of Ecclesiastes says, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Also, Jesus says, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20). Even though we are experiencing difficulties due to the pandemic and losing members, God can make things happen for us if we are faithful with the little things. Let's share things, God entrusted us. If the church focuses on the mission, the church will gain more things to share. Let us be the faithful stewards of God in everyday life. Thanks be to God. Amen.



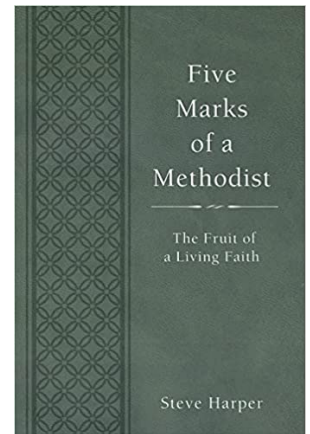
## Lenten Small Group Gatherings

We will be starting two new small group gatherings during Lent. The purpose of these gatherings is to continue to help us build good relationships with God and with one another. We are working to 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 meet (gather) regularly (once a week) via Zoom. 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! Details for each group are below. We hope to see you there!

### 1. Lenten Bible Study

- Bible Study is open to everyone
- We will be learning about the faith of Methodist Christians
- Books are \$11 each
- Register with Pastor Jenny by February 27th
- Class Schedule: Thursdays during Lent at 6:30 pm via Zoom (3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, and 4/14)



### 2. Craft Group Gatherings

- The Craft Group is open to everyone
- We will be making Rice Heating Pads/Bags (We will be sending the Rice Pads to people in need in nursing homes and the Food Pantry)
- NO COST
- Register with Pastor Jenny by February 27th
- Class Schedule: Wednesdays during Lent at 1:00 pm at Central-G (3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, and 4/13)
- Questions to Pastor Jenny or Paulie Kratchmer (715-520-2397)



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.*