

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

With joy and gladness we dedicate our gifts to the service of Jesus Christ. May the abused find solace and courage; abusers be led to new awareness, sensitivity, and change; prisoners know release from bondage; and all humankind be led to accept the saving grace of Jesus Christ. To this end, we offer ourselves with these gifts. use us as ambassadors of your love. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

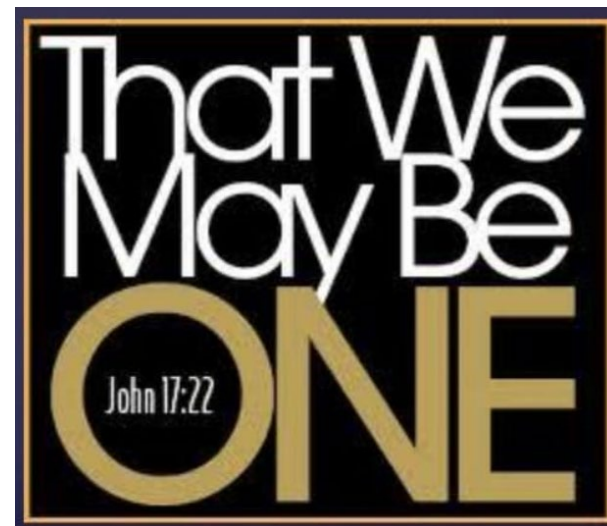
***CLOSING HYMN** *The Gift of Love* UMH 408 (vs. 1 & 3)

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Jenny Lee

***POSTLUDE**

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
May 29th, 2022
“Seventh Sunday of Easter”



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

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Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snsnyder@gmail.com

Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com

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

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
May 29th, 2022

“Seventh Sunday of Easter”

*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

The grace of Jesus Christ be with all the saints!

We have gathered in that grace to worship God.

Rejoice in God and give thanks to God’s holy name.

Let all heaven and earth behold God’s glory.

God is alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

All creation is subject to God’s rule and reign.

We bring our prayers and praise to God most high,

We lift our voices in hymns of celebration.

Come, all who hunger, all who thirst;

Be nourished and renewed in this time of worship.

We bring joys and sorrows, fullness and needs.

We come with successes and failures; we come seeking. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN** *Jesus, United by Thy Grace*

UMH 561 (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

We come seeking a presence that shakes foundations and helps us build new ones. We come with all our wounds, asking for healing.

We come, remembering our baptism and wanting to claim the difference that makes in our lives. We come through the shadowy clouds of our unbelief, seeking the brightness of your glory, O God. We want a faith to sustain us through times of trial and testing. Be powerfully present with us, gracious Spirit. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 17:20-26

20 “I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Live in Love”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

As Jesus prayed that believers might be one, we ask, O righteous God, that our church may know a unity of spirit amid our diversity. Let us abide in you together as you are in us, and among us. Make your ways known to us, fill us with your love, and send us out in your name so that we live in your love. We seek to bring others to the tree of life and to salvation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND

OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

MAY CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p>Support Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry</p> 	<p>May Mission We will be supporting the food shelf!</p> 
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GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>MAY MISSION: CHURCH SUPPLIES</p> <p><i>Please see list in the newsletter or at church for requested items.</i></p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf</p> <p>(Communion Sunday)</p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>May's Sailor hat offering will go to support the SCF Food Shelf.</i></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:

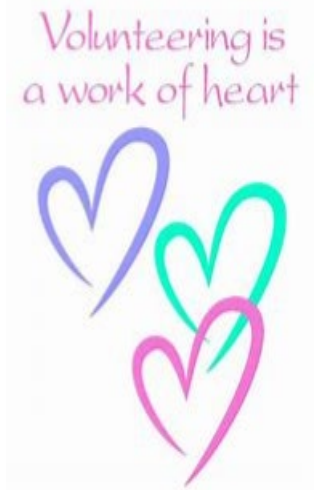
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Lawn Mowing	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Dave & Sharon Huff
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher(s)	Don Schween
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday school	Younger/Older Summer Break

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis



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!

"Please pray for those who have not come back to the church yet for whatever reason."

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=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 may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

This Week's Calendar:

Today: Seventh Sunday of Easter. God bless you and your family!

Sunday Worship Service:

- 5/29: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
5/31: 4:00 pm, District New Ministry Team Meeting
6/3-6/4: Heritage Rummage Sale (G)
➤ Friday: 9:00 am -5:00 pm
➤ Saturday: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Joint Worship Service

June 5th - St Croix Falls UMC - 10:30 am

Invitational Service Celebration of the
163th Anniversary since the church
was founded in 1859.

Fellowship and light lunch following service.

We hope you can join us! All are welcome!



Next Sunday (June 5th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Joint Service at St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Kathy Gionis
Usher(s) Jim Andrews
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Money Counter Peter Gionis & Dave Huff
Bell Ringer Jim Sciacca
Flowers Kathy Gionis
Fellowship Ad Council Members (3rd Sunday)



6/7: **WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UMC: CLERGY AND LAITY SESSION VIA ONLINE**

6/8: **SPAGHETTI DINNER (G) FUNDRAISE FOR YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

6/10-6/13: **WISCONSIN CONFERENCE OF THE UMC IN GREEN BAY**

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

DAVE HUFF 5/30

COLLEEN & BARRY NORENBURG 5/31





May 29th, 2022
John 17:20-26

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

“Live in Love”

I want to start with something funny. I found it on an internet site: Two men are standing on a bridge, one is about to jump off, and the other is trying to talk him out of it. The man asks the jumper, “So are you a Christian or a Hindu or a Jew, or what?” The jumper replies, “A Christian.” The man says, “Small world, me too! Protestant, Catholic, or Orthodox?” The jumper answers, “Protestant.” The man says, “Me too! What denomination?” The jumper says, “Baptist.” The man says, “Me too! Southern Baptist or Northern Baptist?” The jumper answers, “Northern Baptist.” The man says, “Me too! Northern Conservative Baptist, or Northern Liberal Baptist?” The jumper answers, “Northern Conservative Baptist.” The man says, “Me too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lake Region, or Northern Conservative Baptist Eastern Region?” The jumper answers, “Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lake Region.” The man says, “Me too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?” The Jumper answers, “Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912.” The man then pushes the jumper off the bridge and screams, “Die Heretic!”

Mark Twain (11/30/1835-4/21/1910), who was a famous writer, said, “If you put a dog and a cat in a cage, they would unexpectedly get along; if you put a bird, a pig, and a goat in pen together, they might fight first, but eventually they would get along. However, if you put a Presbyterian, a Baptist, and a Methodist in a house, they would never do well together. How could Christians be worse than dogs, pigs, birds, or goats are? I know it is a parable story, but I felt shame as a Christian. The history of the church is a history of division. We face the church’s division in every era, and then we feel hurt. We then meet our denomination’s division, which is sad. The Apostle Paul says, “I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose” (1 Corinthians 1:10). Even though Christians are in different denominations, they believe in One God. If we cannot change the system, we should find the essential values of being a Christian and keep them. The essential value is that we should dwell in the love of God because God is love.

I want to talk about “Living in Love.” We believe in eternal life in God through Jesus Christ. What is the eternal life in God? The Disciple John says, “This is the eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3). The eternal life is that we know about only one true God and Jesus Christ, who God sent to us. What we know about God and Jesus Christ is that God is love and God loves us so much. John says, “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:7-8). Therefore, if we love God and love others, we can dwell with God. John says, “If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is made complete in us” (John 4:12).

Today’s scripture says that Jesus prayed for us more than 2000 years ago. It is like Jesus’ last wish for us before he died on the cross. Verses 20 and 21 say, “I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word that they may all be

one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” Jesus prayed for his disciples (these) and us (those) much more than 2000 years ago so that we would be one in God.

We respect our loved one’s last wishes and try to honor them in our lifetime. If we love Jesus, we should respect his last wish and honor it in our lifetime as well. My mother’s last wish was that I would go to America to receive a higher education and be a pastor. It was very challenging for me, but I tried to honor that wish. That’s why I am here today. How about you? What were your parent’s or loved ones’ last wishes for you? Are you trying to honor those wishes during your lifetime?

What is the essence of Jesus’ prayer for us? Notice verse 24, “Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, maybe with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” What Jesus expects of those who believe in him is to “abide with him where he is.” Here, Jesus is, perhaps, not referring to a place like Galilee or Jerusalem, or a temple or a lake. Jesus talked about how you have in mind the living environment you are living in and how he lived.

What kind of living environment did he live in? There are several ways to answer this question. “He lived in poverty.” “He lived with those who suffered.” “He was with those who were cast away and turned away.” “He lived with the disciples who followed him.” “He lived by bringing in opposition, hatred, and persecution.” But all of these answers are about outward appearances. These are important too, but Jesus is talking about something more essential here. He lived first and foremost in the love of God the Father. The love of God the Father was the place he lived and his living environment.

Even in today’s scripture, Verse 26 also says, “I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” What is clearly seen here is Jesus’ confidence in God’s love. This conviction can be found very easily in the Gospel of John as well as in the four Gospels.

Jesus kept the voice of God that Jesus heard at his baptism during his public ministry all the time; “You are my beloved Son. I love you” (Mark 1:11). It is like this voice was always ringing in his heart. It was here that he had the power to overcome all temptation and go his way. The strength that allowed him to go to the deepest point of suffering as a human being came from the fact that “he lived by the love of God.”

These days, it is challenging to experience perfect love. Between a couple, love is no longer the essential value. Love has long lost its most important place, even between parents and children. In many cases, the modern home is no longer a loving community. There is competition instead of love, and there are selfish demands and conflicts. Even among friends, competition rather than love is taught as a virtue. We are well accustomed to competition, but we are unfamiliar and clumsy in loving. If you live in a home where true love is shared, if you work in a place of true friendship and fellowship, and if you have a friend who truly understands you and will always be with you, then you are very blessed. But, it has become very rare.

That is why it is more urgent to experience God’s love and to abide by it. God’s love is so perfect that no other love can compare, so once you experience that love, the lack of other love is not a big deal. We are no longer lonely when God’s love is with us because God always stays in our hearts. Hopefully, you can find God’s love even through sunshine on the green leaves in spring, the sound like the singing of birds, the hands sharing with beggars on the street, the joyful noise of children because God’s love is everywhere, and then let you dwell in his love. Rejoice in the life God gives you, and live in the love of God. Thanks be to God. Amen!