

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

NO. 2022-29
July 17th, 2022

*CLOSING HYMN *I Am Thine, O Lord* UMH 419 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE Toni Koons (G) / Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

 **Upper St. Croix Parish
United Methodist Church**

**ONE Parish THREE Churches
“6th Sunday After Pentecost”**



**Grantsburg-Central,
Since 1897**



Atlas, Since 1887



**St. Croix Falls,
Since 1859**

SUNDAY SERVICE:

8:30 AM at 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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www.upperstcroixparish.org

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

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
July 17th, 2022

“6th Sunday After Pentecost”

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** **Toni Koons (G) /Sharon Asp (A & SCF)**
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING OF THE GREETINGS
“Peace be with you”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive
Come, people of faith, trusting God’s steadfast love.
Take refuge in the eternal presence.

We want to acknowledge God first in our lives.

We seek to rely on a power beyond ourselves.

Gather in silent awe before the source of all things.

Climb God’s holy hill, giving thanks.

It is not easy to have faith in one we do not know.

It is frightening to realize God’s sovereign power.

Know that Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the one in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

We are the church, gathered in Christ’s name.

We are the body of Christ, seeking to live faithfully. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN** *Thy Word is A Lamp* UMH 601 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Awesome God, we thirst for your Word. We long to make sense of so much we do not understand. We want our worship to be more than a quick diversion from tasks that seem more pressing. We want to believe there is more to life than seeking personal gain. We bring to you today our troubles and anxieties, our estrangements and hostilities, our boasting and deceptions. Meet us here with truth we cannot avoid. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON** **Luke 10:38-42**

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” 41 But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, 42 but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON **“Choose it Wisely!”** **Pastor Jenny Lee**

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

We are gathered at the feet of Jesus to learn what you expect of us, O God. We are here seeking a word of hope amid all the bad news, the senseless suffering, and the evil deceit that surround our lives. We want to become mature in faith and responsible in action so you can work through us to bring changes that are needed in our world. 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**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

Through our offerings, loving God, we proclaim Christ to the world. We dedicate all we are giving to preaching, teaching, and outreach that move people toward Christian maturity. We offer ourselves as advocates for the poor and needy, as seekers for justice, as stewards of hope. We turn from false securities to put our confidence in you, that the mystery of your glorious Word may be opened up among all your people. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen!

JULY 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>We will CONTINUE 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>SCHOOL SUPPLIES</p>  <p>We collect school supplies to support schools in Grantsburg.</p>
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p>  <p>JULY's Sailor hat offering will go to support HARBOR HOUSE.</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 **Volunteer Needed**
 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 **Summer Break**

St. Croix Falls:
 Pianist Sharon Asp
 Liturgist Jim Andrews
 Usher(s) Jim Andrews
 Money Counter Peter Gionis
 Bell Ringer Jim Andrews
 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!

"Pray for those who are traveling around safely."

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am and 11:15 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIz09>
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: 6th Sunday after Pentecost. God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Service:

7/10: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom

7/17-19: Pastor Jenny will be attending the provisional Elder Retreat at Pine Lake

7/20: 6:30pm, Ad Council Meeting (G)

7/21: 4pm, Ad Council Meeting (SCF)

7/23: 1-4pm, A Gathering for the Celebration of Alan Roelfs' Life/Open House at the Visitor Center at Crex Meadows

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Mark Harmon 7/20

Chelsie Kunze 7/21

Marguerite Walsten 7/23



Next Sunday (July 24th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

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

Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**
Usher(s) Don Schween
Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**
Sunday School Summer Break

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Karen Sciacca
Usher(s) Kathy Gionis
Money Counter Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer Jim Andrews
Flowers Kathy Gionis
Fellowship Ad Council Members



July 24-30, Youth Mission Trip to Ashland (G)

July 24-29, Youth Bible Camp (A)

July 17th, 2022
Luke 10:38-42



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

“Choose Wisely!”

I want to start with something funny. I found this story on an internet site: A human-resources director found herself at the Pearly Gates. “We’ve never had a human-resources director here before,” said St. Peter. “So we’re going to let you spend one day in heaven and one day in hell, and you can choose where to spend eternity.” “I’ll go to hell first and get it over with,” said the HR director. To her surprise, she spent a wonderful day playing golf on a beautiful course with her former fellow executives. A sumptuous meal at the clubhouse followed the game. When she returned to heaven, she spent her day sitting in a cloud, playing the harp. “Have you decided where you’d like to spend eternity?” St. Peter asked. “Yes,” she said, “heaven was great but too boring. I choose hell.” “Okay,” said St. Peter, “off you go.” When she arrived in hell, she found everything barren and desolate. Confused, she confronted Satan. “Where’s the golf course?” she asked, “And where are my friends?” Satan smiled. “Yesterday, we were recruiting you; today, you’re staff!”

It’s a joke, but if we could choose whether we go to heaven or hell, which one would you choose? When I was in Chicago, a young adult member came to me after hearing about how we may worship God for eternity in heaven during a Sunday service and asked, “I wonder if we worship God all the time in heaven, it must be boring there. Why should we go to heaven?” I’m curious to know if you think that worshiping God is boring. With our experiences, perhaps, we assume that heaven’s worship might also be boring. Since that time, one of my prayers has been that all people of God may experience a joyful Sunday service. A few days ago, I had a chance to share my prayers with a friend. She said, “If one falls in love, the one may see their loved one every moment of every day and want to spend time with them. Like this, Christians’ worshiping God should be like dating Jesus, who loves us so much, and we love him. If we fall in love with Jesus, no matter what, we should love worshiping God all the time.” It is true. It made sense to me. And, I pray that all people of God fall in love with Jesus, and naturally, they may enjoy worship and all that ministry of God, like they were dating Jesus. I sometimes think that if all people fell in love with Jesus, this world would become like heaven: it is like the Lord’s Prayer, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” May we all taste heaven, even partly in everyday life!

We face many cases to choose from in everyday life. Today, I want to talk about why we should “choose wisely.” We have a “to-do list” in daily life. Some things might be needed in a hurry; others we can take our time. When we make a “to-do list,” we may consider what is urgent or what the priority is. Sometimes, we feel that the “to-do list” never ends because we have to add things again and again even though we remove some things from the list after we are done with them. Furthermore, how do you feel when you face an unexpected task to add to your to-do list, when you have a full schedule? So, we need the wisdom to make a to-do list. Let us get some ideas from scripture.

In today’s scripture, we see Martha and Mary. Through their experiences, let us get some wisdom about how we can choose wisely. Jesus, with his disciples, continues their mission journey, healing the sick, teaching the Word of God, and proclaiming the kingdom of God. One

day, he enters a certain village. Today's scripture doesn't say the name of the village, but we may guess that the village's name is Bethany (John 11:1). Later on, Jesus used to visit their house very often, and he loved to visit them. And we remember that their brother Lazarus was dead and alive again by Jesus (John 11). However, today's encounter with them is the first time by Martha's invitation. They seem to have no parents, meaning Martha is the head of the household. Unusually, a woman is the head of the family in the Israelite society. According to their custom, only the head of the household could invite people and make a plan for a house event. As we see that Martha asks Jesus and his disciples to her home, she must be the head of the household.

She hoped to hear about Jesus and his disciples and get a chance to see them. She wanted to treat them well. However, as she was the head of the household, being a woman, her life was tough. She had a lot of "to-do lists" every day. On top of all of that, an urgent matter unexpectedly came up. With the invitation of Jesus and his disciples, and all her tasks that needed to be completed, her mind and body were flying here and there. Guess how many people were there and how many different foods she prepared for them. As we know there was Jesus and twelve disciples, at least there were thirteen male adults. Perhaps more than thirteen people because right before Jesus' seventy people returned from their mission work, many people always followed him. Can you imagine how distressed Martha felt about what was happening? While she jumps up here and there to prepare food for them, Jesus teaches people who followed him to her house. Martha thought she should prepare food before Jesus was done with his teaching and often caught a glimpse of them. And then she found her sister Mary sitting at the Lord's feet and listening to him. Suddenly, Martha felt angry with Mary. While distracted by her many tasks, Mary was sitting idle there. So, Martha came to Jesus and asked him, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me."

You might have experienced similar situations to this one with Martha. If you were in her shoes, what do you want to do? Well, we may understand how Martha felt at that moment, but you may want to call Mary quietly without interrupting Jesus. Think about Martha's act. She was upset with Mary. However, she rebuked Jesus, not Mary. She came to Jesus while he was teaching people. She interrupted Jesus and made him stop teaching, and then she received the attention of all the people. Guess her bossy acts, "Lord, do you know who the head of this household is? I am the head of household, but I am the only one working, while anybody else just sat before you. Do you think it is fair?"

What do you think about it? Is it fair? Let's see how Jesus reacts to her. Verse 41 says, "But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." It sounds like attending worship service or listening to the Words is a better part than preparing food or working on other things. If it does so, questions are there. If everybody just sits in the pew, who can prepare fellowship and work in church mission work which is needed? Furthermore, some people think that Jesus scolded her, but he didn't. Instead, he made her comfortable, "Martha, Martha, I know you are upset because you have many things to do. But, you don't need to do many things at once; it is enough if you prepare only one thing." Mary chose only one thing, which was listening to Jesus. Mary was sitting at the teacher's feet as a woman. It was not usual. That means to become a disciple of Jesus. Mary didn't lose a chance to be his disciple because that's her house. No one blocks her from sitting at the Lord's feet. Mary chose wisely, and she never got another chance. When Martha was preparing food for them, she could choose only one thing, like tea or cookies, and she may then want to sit there with Jesus. Choose wisely as Jesus says, "there is need of only one thing." A to-do list is a plan we can do one by one. May God give you the wisdom to make it easy and enjoy dating Jesus! Thanks be to God! Amen!