

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

Gracious God, whose creative energy has filled all heaven and earth with good things for us to enjoy and share, we would honor you with our offerings. May the programs we initiate and the outreach we support bear fruits of justice and peace. We look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, as our model in facing all circumstances and giving ourselves for others. Amen!

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

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*  
UMH 514 (vs. 1 & 2)

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

\*POSTLUDE

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

NO. 2022-33  
August 14th, 2022

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

**ONE Parish THREE Churches**  
**“10th 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](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)

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

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**August 14th, 2022**  
**“10th Sunday After Pentecost”**

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\*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  
Return, beloved of God, to the fold.  
God welcomes you to this hour of prayer.  
**God calls us by name and awaits our coming**  
**God summons us out of hiding.**  
God is like a shepherd, caring for her flocks.  
God is like a gardener, carefully tending his vines.  
**Surely God has provided richly for us.**  
**Our lives are sustained by God’s good gifts.**  
Worship the one who longs for our coming.  
Sing praise to the one who expects our faithfulness.  
**We call on God, who gives us life.**  
**May God’s face shine on us to save us. Amen!**

**\*OPENING HYMN**    *Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom*  
**UMH 508 (vs. 1, 2 & 5)**

**OPENING PRAYER**    Unison  
Surrounded by a rich heritage of faith, we seek to know you, God, in this time of worship. Thankful for our spiritual ancestors, we return to our roots to find our true identity. We lay aside all that weighs us down and fills us with doubts so we can give attention to your call and your message. Meet us here, we pray. Amen.

**CHILDREN’S TIME**    **UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**                      **Hebrews 11:29-12:2**  
29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. 31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

32 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

**SERMON**                                      **“Faith in Action”**                      **Pastor Jenny Lee**

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER**    Unison  
God of abundant grace, whose judgment is a part of your love for humankind, bring the fire of the Holy Spirit among us that we may be united in faithfulness and bear many fruits of our faith, which love God and our neighbors in action. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

# AUGUST 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><b>Support Loaves &amp; Fishes Food Pantry</b></p> 	<p><b>We will CONTINUE supporting the food shelf!</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><i>Our August mission focuses on school, supporting the Grantsburg Backpack Program.</i></p>
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## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p><b>Food Shelf</b> (Communion Sunday)</p>	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p> <p>August's Sailor Hat offering will go to support INTERFAITH CARE-GIVERS</p> 
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Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers	All God's People <i>Pastor Jenny Lee</i>
<b>Central:</b>	
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	LuAnne Martell
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Lawn Mowing	Russ Hammer
Fellowship	Mary Lou & Charlie Wright
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis
<b>Atlas:</b>	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adam-Schween
Usher(s)	Don Schween
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	<b>Summer Break</b>
<b>St. Croix Falls:</b>	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Jim Sciacca
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Steve & LeAnn Sylvester



### 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 the Parsonage Open House-it is the 3rd Anniversary for Pastor Jenny at the Upper St. Croix Parish, pray for her."*

## 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>  
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 may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

### This Week's Calendar:

Today: 10th Sunday after Pentecost. God bless you all!

### Sunday Worship Service:

8/14: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom  
9:45 am Atlas  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom

8/16: 11am-1pm, Volunteer Training @ Loaves & Fishes in Luck (Pastor Jenny)

4pm, District New Ministry Strategy Team Meeting via Zoom

6:30pm, Ad Council Meeting (G)

8/17: 6:30pm, Confirmand Gathering (G)

8/18: 9am, Clergy Meeting via Zoom

1-7pm, Youth & Kids Summer Activity (Wild Mountain)

8/19: 1:30pm, Ad Council Meeting (A)

8/20: 5-7pm, Grantsburg Food Shelf Volunteers Picnic

### This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Charles Wright 8/15  
Charlie Zeigler 8/17  
Valetta Walton 8/20



### Next Sunday (August 21st) Volunteers:

Ministers All God's People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

#### Central:

Pianist Toni Koons  
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*  
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder  
Lawn Mowing Dave Huff  
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 Karen Sciacca  
Usher(s) Jim Andrews  
Money Counter Peter Gionis  
Bell Ringer Jim Andrews  
Flowers Kathy Gionis / Steve Sylvester  
Fellowship Ad Council Members



**August 21:**  
**Confirmation & Baptism Service (G)**  
**Ad Council Meeting (SCF)**

**August 28: Joint Service at Atlas Park**  
**(10:30am- Blessing of the Backpacks & Animals)**

August 14th, 2022  
Hebrew 11:29-12:2



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

## **“Faith in Action”**

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

Last Sunday, I talked about “the meaning of faith.” Faith is what we trust; God makes things happen as we pray. Faith comes only by the grace of God. Therefore, we believe that we are saved in the faith of Jesus Christ by the grace of God. It is like the Bible says, “everyone who believes in Jesus Christ may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16). But, at this point, a question arises. Do we deserve eternal life by only believing in Jesus? Yes, indeed! That is the good news for us. If it was only by our good works without any sin that we would be guaranteed eternal life, no one would be guaranteed it. But, the good news is that we deserve eternal life because we believe in Jesus Christ, “the eternal life insurance.” He is all we need to save us from our sins.

You may remember the two criminals who were crucified with Jesus; one was on his left and the other on his right. The two criminals hung there at the same time. One insulted Jesus, and the other confessed his belief, saying, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:33-43). They both had an opportunity, but one got it, and the other lost it. The one who got the promise of Jesus was a criminal also, but at the last moment, he caught the chance of grace. God's grace is open to everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, barriers, and it's even for criminals. Methodist Christians believe that even if one doesn't know about God yet, God's grace is still on the person. Remember “The Proclaim of Pardon” at every communion time: “Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.” While we were yet sinners, we are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ by God's grace. We were forgiven not because of our good works but because of our faith in Jesus Christ by God's grace.

So, we are curious if doing good work as Christians is necessary. Some may say, “I believe in Jesus, and I am saved in faith by the grace of God. That's enough. I don't need to attend Sunday service, support mission work, or join in fellowship. Right?” Well, that's a different story.

I want to share a gardening story. I planted cucumber plants. They grew well at first, but gophers ate them. I planted them again and I planted all the seeds I had, hoping if gophers eat some of them, some would still remain for me. I gave them good nutritious soil and watered them every morning and evening if we didn't have rain. Later on, they grew, and some of them bore cucumbers, but some of them didn't bear any cucumbers. Guess what I did with them! I pulled out the barren ones to give the others which bore fruit enough space. If they don't bear

any fruit, I don't need them because my purpose in planting them is to get the fruit. However, we may call the barren cucumber plants "cucumber plants."

Likewise, Christians are expected to bear fruit by helping the Holy Spirit, such as the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This kind of fruit naturally comes along with being a Christian. As the cucumber plant grew and bore fruit, we are expected to grow in faith to Christlikeness, bearing fruit. Among these fruits, love is the best fruit Christians can bear. The love is that God gave us his only Son, Jesus Christ, and the love is that Jesus gave himself up for us. Furthermore, the love is that Jesus taught us and commanded us to love God and love our neighbors. Remember, even though we don't bear fruit, we can still be Christians if we believe in Jesus Christ. However, watch out if you have barren faith or dead faith.

The Letter of James says, "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:14-17).

Today's scripture, as we read the last Sunday, is also about the "faith of our ancestors" in the Bible. The believers have experienced many miracles of God, such as "passing through the Red Sea," "the Wall of Jericho Falling," and "victory in wars." On the other hand, they also have experienced much suffering to keep in their faith, such as being persecuted, wandering in the mountain, imprisoned, mistreated, and so on. They, by faith, have experienced both blessings and suffering. At the same time, by grace, they could overcome all their difficult circumstances. These believers are examples to us in our faith journey, showing Christians may experience blessings and suffering as Jesus has experienced death and resurrection. We shouldn't forget that our ancestors in faith kept the living faith, not a dead faith, even though their faith wavered sometimes. Moses and the people have passed through the Red Sea by "action." Joshua and the people have marched around the wall of Jericho by "action." Abraham and Sarah left their hometown by "action." They acted in their faith and moved forward, keeping God's promise.

When Israelites reached the wilderness, they felt exhausted after a long journey, and they complained to Moses, "if Moses didn't bring them out of Egypt, they would stay in a comfortable place." It was not true. They prayed and cried out to God to save them from Egypt. However, they felt they were suffering facing the current situation, just walking and walking in the wilderness. God sent them poisonous snakes. Anyone who they bit died. Moses prayed to God for the forgiveness of the people, and God answered him. God told him, "Make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who was bitten can look at it and live." Moses, according to God's direction, made a bronze snake, put it on the pole, and said to the people, "When a snake bit anyone, look at it and live" (Numbers 21:4-9). Some who looked at it lived, but some who didn't look at it died. Looking at it is to act in faith to be healed. It is the living faith. The living faith is to act on faith.

We are Christians whether we act in faith or not, whether we grow in faith or not, whether we bear fruit or not, like if a cucumber plant doesn't bear cucumber, it is still a cucumber plant. However, if we are Christians following Jesus Christ, we should love one another. Jesus says, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" (John 13:34b-35). Some may say, "you have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do" (James 2:18). As our ancestors of faith did, let us look at Jesus everyday life, and keep the living faith as those who looked at the bronze snake, and lived. The living faith is to act on faith. Thanks be to God. Amen!