

peaceful, loving community, which is the body of Christ. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

NO. 2022-48  
November 27th, 2022

## SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*After each prayer request:*

*Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,*

*All: Hear our Prayer.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Thank you, God, for the privilege of sharing your bounty with those in need. Thank you for prospering our work and witnesses. We seek to walk in your light and follow the pathways where you lead. We want to share the good news of salvation through these gifts and by the way we live. May all your people be made ready for Christ's coming. Amen.

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

\*CLOSING HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* UMH 196

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

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

# Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

**ONE Parish THREE Churches**  
"1st Sunday of Advent" / "Mitten Tree Sunday (A)"



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 (10:00 AM, Sunday School)*  
*11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**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>

# Upper St. Croix Parish

Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls

November 27th, 2022

“1st Sunday of Advent” / “Mitten Tree Sunday (A)”

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\*Please stand if you are able.

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

\*ADVANT SONG TFWS 2090 (vs. 1)

\*LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE

\*BLESSING OF ADVENT CANDLE, WREATH AND CHRISTMAS TREE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

*“Peace be with you”*

## *We Celebrate New Life in Christ*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

Awaken to a season of hope.

God is offering peace within and among us.

**How good it is to gather in God’s house!**

**God draws us together for this time of worship.**

God calls us to celebrate our diversity.

Differences shall no longer divide us.

**We want to see one another through God’s eyes.**

**We will look for the good in our neighbors.**

See the highest and best for each other.

Come to the mountain of God’s love.

**We will follow in the paths where God leads.**

**Our ears are open to hear God’s instructions. Amen.**

\*DEDICATING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UMH 211 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

You have woken us from sleep and led us to this place, wondrous God. Now let us feel your presence with us as we encounter your Word. Surely you have blessed us. You have drawn us together

and bound us firmly to one another. We give you thanks for giving us an identity as families, relatives and friends through Jesus Christ. In this season we remember your unexpected appearance among us in the birth of a child. You make yourself known to us again and again. May we know you now. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs.1)

## *Proclamation of God’s Word*

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 24:36-44

36 “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. 42 Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*The Glasses of Hope*

Pastor Jenny Lee

## *We Respond to God’s Word*

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of hope, we cannot predict your coming, as if we don’t know tomorrow. But, we dare to welcome your surprise, seeking to be awake and alert to fully embrace the unexpected, that we might see you through the glasses of hope. We might see you through one another who builds the hopeful community and lives in the

# NOVEMBER CHURCH MISSIONS

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

### INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.



### Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Collection



### Mitten Tree

Nov. 27th

We will collect mittens, scarves, hats, gloves, etc. They will go to Loaves & Fishes to help our neighbors in need keep warm this winter.



## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

### BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"



- 1) Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection -Deadline November 13th



See the bulletin board for details.

## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



**Food Shelf**  
(Communion Sunday)



### Sailor Hat Offering:

November's Sailor Hat offering will go to buy Thanksgiving Food Gift Cards for families in need!

Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

### Central:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Acolyte(s)  
Snow Removal  
Fellowship  
Counter  
Cleaning  
Sunday School

Toni Koons  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder  
*Volunteer Needed*  
*Volunteer Needed*  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson  
Younger/Older  
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis



### Atlas:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher(s)  
Acolyte(s)  
Cleaning  
Sunday School

Sharon Asp  
Sue Olson  
Don Schween  
Chase Steffen and Copelan Grimes  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Younger/Older  
*Christmas Program Rehearsal*

### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher(s)  
Money Counter  
Bell Ringer  
Flowers

Sharon Asp  
Jim Andrews  
Karen Sciacca  
Peter Gionis  
Jim Sciacca  
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 our neighbors in need!*

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 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: 1st Sunday of Advent. Mitten Tree Sunday (A)  
God bless you all who are waiting for the coming Jesus!  
Pastor Jenny had a good vacation. Thank you for your prayers, and support, especially for preachers, volunteers, and all ministers of God!

### Sunday Worship Service:

11/27: 1st Sunday of Advent Service  
8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom  
9:45 am Atlas (Sunday School at 10:00 am) -Mitten Tree Sunday  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls

11/27 2:00 pm, Pastor Jenny leads Worship at Continuing Care Center in the Burnett Medical Center

11/29 6:30 pm, 1st Class of Advent Bible Study at Grantsburg-We may offer zoom if anyone signs it up.

11/30: 6:30 pm, Confirmation Class (A)

12/1: 9am, North West Clergy Meeting via Zoom  
SCF 1<sup>st</sup> Class of Advent Bible Study, 5:00 pm Soup Supper and 6:00 pm Bible Study -We may offer zoom if anyone signs it up.

**PLEASE NOTE: WHEN WRITING A CHECK PLEASE MAKE IT PAYABLE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH. WHEN THE OFFERING IS MAILED IN WE ARE THEN ABLE CREDIT THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH. THANK YOU!**

### THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

Donna Norman 11/28  
Blake Reid 11/29  
Tanner Gaffey 11/30



### Next Sunday (December 4th) Volunteers:

#### Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Snow Removal	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

#### Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher(s)	Sue Olson
Acolyte(s)	Chase Steffen and Copelan Grimes
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Younger/Older <b>Christmas Program Rehearsal</b>

#### St. Croix Falls:

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



**Dec. 11: Christmas Program and Potluck (A & SCF)**

**Dec. 21: Youth & Kids Christmas Program and Potluck at G**



November 27, 2022.  
Matthew 24:36-44

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

## **“The Glasses of Hope”**

I want to start with something funny. I heard about this couple who moved to a new neighborhood. While having breakfast one morning, the wife looked out the window and noticed their neighbor was washing their clothes. The wife said to her husband, “I think they don’t know how to wash. The clothes they washed are so dirty. I am sure they didn’t use detergent.” Week after week, it was the same. She looked out the window, saw the clothes, and made the same comments about how dirty their laundry was. One morning she looked out the windows in the same way. She was surprised that their clothes were so clean. She said to her husband, “Honey! Look at them. Finally, they learned how to wash.” Her husband smiled and said, “I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.”

We can all relate to this story in some ways. Each of us has a window we look through to see the world, see people, and see things. However, sometimes we need to notice what we look at things through. The window is our mindset, such as bias and prejudice. The window might be the principle of our lives, which is formed by what we have learned and by what we have experienced. No doubt that the principle might be great when we first made it. But, my point is that it is time to take another look at our window, or maybe it is time to clean and renew it again. Our window should be God’s Word. In other words, we should wear glasses of God’s Words. It is as if we wear yellow glasses, we can see the yellow-colored world; if we wear black-colored glasses, we can see a black world.

Similarly, we may see a hopeful world if we wear glasses of hope. However, we wonder where such glasses are. Here is the good news: God gave us the glasses of hope, Jesus Christ. If those who believe in him wear them, they see the world, people, and things differently. In other words, let’s wear glasses of Christ so we may see the world, people, and things through Christlikeness. It is like wearing Christlikeness. It is like growing up to Christlikeness in everyday life. Like the Apostle Paul says, “Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:14). It is time to renew our faith, like cleaning our windows.

I want to share with you a story of a gentleman I met him in a hospital where I served as a chaplain. He wore glasses of strong Christian faith his whole life. In other words, he was born and grew up in a Christian family. He attended Sunday School during his childhood and was confirmed in faith. He served as a Sunday School teacher, a member of the choir, and a committee member. He memorized many scripture verses including the Sermon of Mount. What a perfect Christian! He also never doubted he was a perfect Christian. However, when he heard his diagnosis of cancer, he suspected his faith, thinking about what he did wrong in God’s eyes. He thought God was punishing him because he did something wrong. He punished himself by not eating, speaking, or taking any medical treatment. The reason I visited him was because his nurse made that request of me. Of course, he rejected several chaplains who tried to visit him. His nurse asked me if I could do anything for him, and to please help him.

When I visited him, he didn't look at me at all. When I greeted him I said, "Hello, I am a Chaplain Jenny," without looking at me, he said, "I am one hundred percent Christian" with an angry voice. I knew it was his way of rejecting me, like he was saying, "I don't need you." However, I challenged him, "I don't think you are a one hundred percent Christian. You may be fifty percent Christian or a little more. Suddenly, he looked at me angrily and asked, "Where are you from, India or the Philippines?" I said, "I am from Korea. What about you? Where are you from?" He was Caucasian, so it wasn't necessary to ask the question, but I asked him automatically without thinking. However, that was a key to opening his mind. He was a second-generation German immigrant. Beginning with the words, "I am a German American," he shared his story with me. He was wearing glasses of a strict upbringing in a Christian family. It gave him a heavy burden. He believed if he couldn't be a perfect Christian, he would be punished. He believed in the God of judgment, without forgiveness and love. I shared with him about the God of forgiveness and love and the God of healing that I have experienced. After hearing my story, he cried at the good news of forgiveness and love. I led him in prayers that he may meet the God of forgiveness and love. That night, he confessed, crying, "I met God. I met Jesus Christ, who loves me. I am born again in Jesus Christ. So whether he heals me or not, I am fine in God, but I will receive the treatment." He changed the glasses of his faith, to now wearing glasses of hope, which was expecting God's healing. Finally, he renewed his faith in God, and later on, he became cancer free.

Today is the first Sunday of "Advent." Advent is the first day in a new year of the Christian calendar. If you look at November 27 (today) in the Lectionary Calendar, you will find a note "Beginning Lectionary year A" on it. It means the first day of a new year for Christians. It is very important for Christians because it implies the profound meaning and confession of the Christian faith. The word "Advent" is from "*Adventus*" in Latin, and it is translated to "*Parousia*" in Greek, which means "coming" or "arriving at." Advent in the Christian calendar means "the season that is waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, Christians begin the first day of a new year with "hope," Christ comes back to us, and Christ brings a new world filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. As we may have new wishes and decisions in the New Year, let us renew our faith in Jesus Christ. As a symbol, we lit the candle of hope. May the light of hope we lit today make your new year bright, hopeful, and peaceful.

Beginning with the candle of hope, we light unique candles each Sunday in the season of Advent; three purples, one pink or red, and one white. On Christmas Day, we light them one by one. Each candle has a special meaning. The first candle is the symbol of hope; the second is peace; the third is joy; the fourth is love, and the fifth white candle is the symbol of the light of Christ. It symbolizes that Jesus Christ comes to the dark world as the light with hope, peace, joy, and love. As Jesus comes into the world, we pray that Jesus brings us hope, peace, joy, love, and light in the world. Therefore, we begin the season of Advent, waiting for the hope that Jesus Christ brings us. It is time to renew our faith in God as we begin a new year.

We don't know when Jesus will come to us. As today's scripture says, "no one knows that time and the day, only God knows." Please be ready at every moment for God, wearing glasses of hope. If you see despair and hopelessness, it is time to clean your glasses of faith. Let us check our glasses of faith so that we may see the world, people, and things as God sees them. May you find hope in your family, relatives, and friends in this advent season. Thanks be to God. Amen!