

our minds, hearts, and doors to those who are different from us as you show and teach us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

NO. 2023-01
January 1st, 2023

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

We bring our wealth to praise you, God. All the riches of our abundance you have provided. The land has yielded prosperity for us so that even the poorest among us have something to give. Above all, we are thankful for your revelation in Jesus Christ that gives us good news to share. May this offering accomplish among us, and far beyond us, the mission you give to each one of your people. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *How Great Thou Art* UMH 77 (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
“Epiphany Sunday”



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 (No Sunday School this Week)
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
January 1st, 2023
“Epiphany Sunday”

*Please stand if you are able.

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

*** OPENING HYMN** *This is the Day* **UMH 657**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you.”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **Responsive**

Have you seen the star? Have you heard the good news?

God, who created all things, has come to earth.

We have heard of a baby born in Bethlehem.

We have seen evidence that God is with us.

Have you allowed God to reign in your life?

Have you laid your gifts before the Holy Child?

We have noticed the generous travelers from the east.

They inspire in us a willingness to share.

God’s call to us is for justice, beyond generosity.

Are you ready for God’s eternal purpose in Christ?

We have been afraid to trust God completely.

Yet we want to respond to God’s dreams for us. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

UMH 240 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Arise upon us, holy God, and let your glory appear over us today.

Come in the brightness of your dawn to bring light to all the

nations of earth. Gather us together in such harmony that we may

discern your will for us and be led in your ways. Fill us with that

radiant joy that allows us to reflect your goodness. Let all people

praise you, O God. Let our praise resound throughout the world.

We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME (G)

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 who 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 brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who 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 *“Holy Covenant, Transformed Love”* **Bishop Hee-Soo Jung**
(Wisconsin Conference of the UMC)

(We will watch a prerecorded video)

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of mystery and grace, whose revelation comes to those willing to hear and see and feel, send your word, your star, your dreams, to confront us with the gospel of salvation, that we might respond with love you and love our neighbors in daily lives. Help us open

JANUARY CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

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



We will collect donations for the Luck Food Pantry.



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"



Grantsburg will support the following in January:

- Mittens for the Food Pantry
- Middle School Supplies
- Salvation Army

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf
(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:

January's Sailor Hat offering will go to support the Salvation Army

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/Indie Tooze
Tom Goepfert
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
Colleen Adams-Schween
Chase Steffen
Volunteer Needed
Younger/Older
No Sunday School

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Money Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers

Sharon Asp
Kathy Gionis
Karen Sciacca
Peter Gionis
Jim Andrews
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) **Online Zoom Services are scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 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: Sunday of Epiphany
Happy new year!

Sunday Worship Service:

- 1/1: Epiphany Sunday
8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas (no Sunday School)
11:15am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 1/1: 4:00 pm Youth & Kids Santa Play Practice (G)
- 1/4 7:00 pm Santa Play Performance (G)
- 1/5: 9:00 am NW Clergy Meeting

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 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Josie Grimes 1/1
Mike & Terry Giles 1/6

If you know anyone's birthday or anniversary is missing, please let pastor Jenny know.



Next Sunday (January 8th) Volunteers:

Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Indie Tooze
Snow Removal	Tom Goepfert
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Communion	Barb Loomis
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis



Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher	Sue Olson
Acolyte(s)	Copelan Grimes
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Communion	Sue Olson
Sunday School	Younger/Older Volunteer Needed

St. Croix Falls:

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

mark  your **Calendar**

January 11th, Confirmation Class

January 14, UM Men's Meeting

Weekly Devotion for December 5, 2022

By Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



A Devotional for Advent: Matthew 11:2-11

At the end of the year businesses want to know their inventory. Why? They can reckon gain and loss, and the difference that has been made. How do we prepare for the Advent of the Messiah by taking inventory?

In this text the disciples of John want to identify whether Jesus is the Messiah, and they also need to prepare their hearts to receive this discernment.

Jesus began with an inventory of gospel transformation: the blind receive sight, the unable now walk, the lepers are cleansed, hearing replaces silence, new life is asserted in resurrection, and good news is proclaimed to the poor.

Are John's disciples ready to receive Jesus as Messiah—are we ready to follow with an open heart? What transformation is occurring in and through your church? We give thanks for the ways our connectional church is making known Jesus in Ukraine, in storm recovery, credentialing new leaders, and equipping saints for ministry.

We live in joyful anticipation of the Savior's birth, and knowledge that the child will threaten the empire's ideology of status, power, and extraction. Jesus says, 'I am sending my messenger.' Who has been a messenger for you today? We know Jesus was not the Messiah anyone anticipated. Inventory your heart for what work of God is occurring there. Inventory your church. Watch, Siblings, each day holds messengers calling us to join what God is doing in the world.

Know that I am praying for you.

Peace,

Hee-Soo Jung, PhD

Bishop

Wisconsin Conference