

THANKSGIVING OVER ASHES Unison
Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and
repentance, so that we may remember that only by your gracious
gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Please come to the front as directed, and receive the ashes on your
forehead or back of your hand.*

Pastor: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Receiver: Amen, I believe it.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

After each prayer request:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our Prayer.

PRAYER SONG

UMH 487

This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

By your surprising grace, O God, our eyes are opened, our ears
unstopped, our hearts attuned to the needs of others. We give so
more people may know your acceptance and forgiveness. We
support the ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing among us
and through the outreach of the church. Expand our horizons, we
pray, and tear down the limits of our caring. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *Marching to Zion* UMH 733 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION **Pastor Jenny Lee**

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

Worship Resources "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

NO. 2023-09
February 26th, 2023

Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Fill My House" (Luke 14:23)
First Sunday in Lent/Stewardship Month



Grantsburg-Central,
Since 1897



Atlas, Since 1887



St. Croix Falls,
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICE:

9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service

10:00 AM at Atlas (10:15 AM, Sunday School)

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
February 26th, 2023
First Sunday in Lent/Stewardship Month

*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
We have entered into the season of Lent.
Sundays, however, are not a part of Lent.
We have entered a wilderness time.
Yet this day of worship is an oasis in the desert.
We are here to worship the God of all creation.
We gather to remember God’s revelation in Jesus.
Today we revisit the garden of Eden.
We remember God’s overflowing generosity.
We worship God, who gives us choices and limits.
Are we open to God’s counsel and instruction?
Today we remember the temptations Jesus faced.
We want to learn to make good choices. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *The Gift of Love* UMH 408 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison
We listen for your voice, holy God, amid the clamor of a world that scarcely notices this season of self-examination and instruction. Lead us, faithful Spirit, though the wilderness of our own creation, that we may once more find our way to you. Instruct us in the way we should go, and counsel us day by day. Help us rediscover your steadfast love. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** 1 Peter 4:7-11
7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaining. 10 Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 11 Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

SERMON *“Good Stewards of the Manifold Grace”*
Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison
Life-sustaining God, with us through all our trials and temptations, bear us up through this season of self-examination, that we might feed on the bread of your word. Open ourselves to your presence without demanding proof and signs, and let go of all the idols that surround us to worship and serve you with joy and delight, in uprightness of heart, through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE GOOD STEWARDS

Ash Service (A & SCF)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Pastor Jenny Lee
In steadfast love, God welcomes and forgives us, restoring to us the joy of salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Amen.

FEBRUARY CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

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



Souper Bowl of Caring:
We will collect canned soup and donations to support 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"



The missions for Grantsburg in February are:

- Souper Bowl of Caring: We will be collecting cans of soup and monetary donations for the Food Pantry in Grantsburg by 2/12
- Financial support of the church

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf
(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:

February's Sailor Hat offering will go to UMCOR Human Relations

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers	All God's People Pastor Jenny Lee
Central:	
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Indie Tooze
Snow Removal	Tom Goepfert
Fellowship	Kayleen Branstad
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

Volunteering is a work of heart



Atlas:

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

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Kathy Gionis
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!

Please pray for a person who you want to invite to God's house.

Thank you for your support!

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **Online Zoom Services are scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFllZz09>
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: First Sunday in Lent/Stewardship Month
God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Services:

- 2/26: 9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom
10:00 am Atlas (10:15 am Sunday School)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 2/28: 6:30 pm, Lenten Bible Study (G)
- 3/1: 1:00 pm, Craft Group Gathering (G)
- 3/2: 9:00 am, North West Clergy Meeting via Zoom
5:00 pm, Soup Supper (SCF)
6:00 pm, Lenten Bible Study (SCF)

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

Dauntay Glonck 2/27

Chaz Norenberg 3/3



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

Next Sunday (March 5th) 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	Volunteer Needed
Usher	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Chase Steffen
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Communion	Sue Olson
Sunday School	Younger/Older Volunteer Needed

St. Croix Falls:

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



mark your **Calendar**

March is Membership Caring Month

Lenten Bible Study & Craft Group

Every Tuesday (6:30 pm)-Bible Study (G) &
Thursday (5:00 pm)-Bible Study with Soup Supper (SCF)
Every Wednesday at 1:00 pm, Craft Gathering (G)



“The Good Steward of Manifold Grace of God” (Stewardship Month #4)

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: Mrs. Smith was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle. The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, “Do you always carry your TV remote to church?” “No,” she replied, “but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally.”

I wonder how many of you struggle to bring your family to church with you on Sunday mornings. How many of you keep praying for your family members or loved ones who don't come to church? When I read this funny story, it reminded me of how my mother struggled to bring our whole family to the church. As I told you before, my family members were not Christians. Only my mother was baptized when she was a child by a missionary from the USA, and she received an education from a tent church the missionary sponsored. However, she forgot all Christian life and lessons after getting married to my father, and following the Confucian rules of her family-in-law.

Once my education became an issue, as my grandparents wouldn't allow me to go to a high school because I was a girl, she decided to leave and move out of her family-in-law's house. Finally, our family left my grandfather's house, agreeing that we didn't expect any support from my grandparents. Her decision made many changes in our family life. I could attend a high school, and my mother could attend church with my siblings. At that time, my father and I didn't go to church. I lived in another town because of school, and my father went against Christianity because of his Confucian family tradition. My mother ran a traditional Korean dress shop, and she usually closed her shop on Sundays to attend church service. You may know that most Korean churches hold many programs on Sundays, taking up the whole day. While my mother and siblings were in the church on Sundays, my father stayed home alone, drinking all day.

My mother had the wisdom and a plan to bring my father to the church. She intentionally set appointments with her clients on Sundays. When they came to her shop to meet with her my father was the one they contacted. My father then had to come to the church to bring my mother back to her shop to see her clients because they didn't have cell phones back then. Sometimes it went well when he was not drunk, but if he was drunk, it went badly. If he came to the church drunk, he tried to fight with a pastor. He also interrupted the church service, shouting and yelling in the sanctuary for my mother to come out. Sometimes, he came up to the pulpit to fight with the pastor. Many people in town gossiped about my father. My younger siblings hated that my father came to the church drunk and felt ashamed, but my mother thought it was the only way my father would come to the church, and God may get hold of him this way.

She believed that once a person came into the church for any reason, God may hold them for the rest of their life. She believed this because of her experience. She felt that once she was

baptized as a child, God called her again to bring her family to God. Because of my mother and her pastor's patience and love, my father was finally baptized by the pastor, who my father had gone up against and tried to fight, and became a faithful Christian.

Today's scripture tells us how good stewards live in their daily lives. They believed that Jesus would return soon to judge all nations and all people. If the end of the world comes soon, what would you do? A famous saying is, "Even if the end of the world comes tomorrow, I will plant an apple tree today" (Baruch Spinoza, 1632-1677, A Dutch Philosopher). What a crazy plan that is! If the end of the world comes tomorrow, what did he expect from an apple tree? As you may know, if you plant an apple tree now, you can expect apples from the tree years later. So, what did he benefit by planting the tree? He might think of things as being normal, even though the end of the world comes tomorrow. Some may stock up on groceries if they hear that the end of the world is coming soon; some may gather with their loved ones; some may find a safer place to be. However, the end of the world is not like war. It ends completely and totally and there is nothing we can do to sustain our lives.

We kept February as the stewardship month. We have discussed, "We are God's stewards, who were made in God's image, and God entrusted all things, including the church, to us." Then, "We should live out God's will in everyday life as the stewards of God." As stewardship month concludes, I am talking about the life of the good steward. In the scripture, the disciple Peter said this about the life of the good steward, "The end of all things is near; therefore, be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

The life of good stewards is like how we are still consistent with our prayers and caring and loving one another even though the end of the world comes soon. Jesus said, "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34). Proverbs also says that "Do not boast about tomorrow for you don't know what a day may bring forth" (Proverbs 27:1). The good steward of God doesn't need to boast or worry for tomorrow because it is held by God, not by our hands. Only we can love one another through prayers. Love covers all kinds of sins as God removed all types of our sins away through Jesus' love. The good stewards of God live their daily lives with prayers, caring love, and serving God and one another with good hospitality. And then, "whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ." Thanks be to God. Amen!