

Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church
Grantsburg, St. Croix Falls, Atlas
P.O. Box 128
Grantsburg, WI 54840



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A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

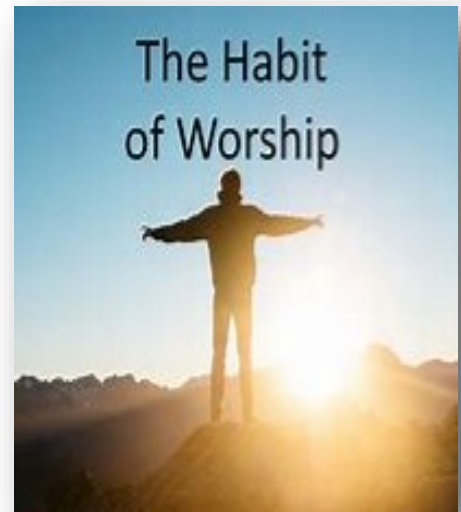
Practice Makes Perfect
September 2023

In the last six minutes of the University of Kentucky's 1996 national semifinal men's basketball victory over the top-ranked University of Massachusetts, Mark Pope – Rhodes scholar candidate and senior – calmly sank all six of his free throws. Twice he stepped to the line with Kentucky clinging to a three-point lead. Pope did not miss.

Putting to rest the speculation that Kentucky would wilt in the national spotlight, Pope remarked after the game, "We go through those exact situations every day in practice. That gives us all confidence in ourselves because we have confidence in our preparation."

Just as Pope recognized that practice is the key to playing a good basketball game, we understand that the same is true in every aspect of our lives. Children are reminded to do their homework so they can do well on their tests. Youth learning to drive can practice for up to 12 months with a permit before they get their own driver's licenses and set out on their own. Speeches and presentations are reviewed and practiced, giving the deliverer the familiarity needed to speak confidently and clearly.

Christian discipleship is no different. Routine and practice are needed to give us the foundation we need to face the dilemmas we encounter in life. The habitats of worship, generosity, daily prayer, study, and the sacraments help us develop our relationship with God so that we don't find ourselves scrambling when hard times hit. While it is true that God will never abandon us in difficult times whether we have this foundation or not, it is easier to rely on our faith while the seas of life are calm instead of trying to anchor ourselves amid a storm.



Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at
www.wumf.org or [Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org)
Or call 1-888-903-9863

UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

THE UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH

715-463-2624 Parish Office (in Grantsburg)

715-483-9494 St. Croix Falls Church

Church Email: centralumc2016@gmail.com,

Pastor Jenny Lee: JENNLEE1732@GMAIL.COM

Website: www.upperstcroixparish.org

Facebook: Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Churches

September 2023



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

What A Wonderful God He Is!

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.” The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”
(Psalms 46:10-11)

God is a God who gives us hope when everyone else says, “No, you can’t make it happen.” God is a God who gives us strength and wisdom to move forward when everyone else says, “You are facing a dead end.” We have experienced again “how wonderful God is” through our Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Having VBS and extending our children’s ministry has been a significant prayer of mine since I was appointed to the Upper St. Croix Parish: Central-Grantsburg, Atlas, and St. Croix Falls United Methodist Churches. Our three churches have such great histories, with a period of great ministry. Many still remember that era; some attended Sunday school with many peers; some confirmed with many youths; some married at the church. Yes, our churches have your memories and histories. As our life journey does, our churches have also faced several crises. However, God was there every moment with your prayers. Our churches survive as long as your prayers and commitments are there. The church grows through your prayers and obligations even though the church is the body of Christ.

I want to share what happened at VBS this year and how it worked for us. I heard several negative comments and faced several challenges preparing for VBS this year. However, we kept going forward with prayers. Our first challenge was to get funds to administrate VBS. Our Youth Director, Shayna Schmid, joyfully accepted my suggestion to work together for VBS. She and I applied for a grant, and God provided us a grant for VBS through the Wisconsin Foundation.

After receiving the grant, our second challenge was for many volunteers to work together; some negative comments were: “I think we can’t make it because we don’t have enough people to work on it.” However, I said, “Who knows. The God who sent us money may send us the people of God who will work together.” Then, three church members signed up to work together and God even sent us a worship team and young adult volunteers from Wood Lake Camp. We had more than twenty volunteers!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

Then, we faced another challenge with the space: as per our plan, we needed more than six rooms for each group's bible study and activities. One day, Barbara Loomis and I walked through the sanctuary, Wesleyan Hall, kitchen Hall, nursery room, and many other rooms used by Sunday school and the youth group a long time ago, but now looked like storage rooms. I said, "I wish we could use these all rooms for children and youth ministry again." The next day, when I went to the church, I saw all the rooms were cleaned and ready to use. I called Barbara Loomis to ask what happened. She said she talked with some church members, and they came and joyfully cleaned and made the rooms ready for the VBS. Wow, we were really ready for VBS!

However, another challenge followed: We had just six kids registered for VBS. Our grant was for twenty kids and twenty volunteers. However, we had just six kids. We were a little worried that we wouldn't receive the grant because we had fewer kids. We prayed God would send fifteen kids at least to ensure we received the grant. And then, when it was the first day, we had twelve younger kids and five youth kids. Wow, God is such a perfect God!

VBS was held from August 7th to 10th; the church was full of crowds with joyful noise. As my wish, all rooms were used by the children and youth during VBS. What a wonderful God He is! We know God is terrific; prayer is powerful. However, whenever we face challenges, we hold the challenges and our worries, instead of hope and prayers. I hope you may see God's grace is greater than our worries. Praise the Lord, who is always at our side and listening to our prayers!

In the love of Jesus Christ, we worked together! By the grace of God, we made VBS happen! Praise the Lord, what a wonderful God He is! Thank you to all the volunteers! You made it happen!

Blessings,

Pastor Jenny



8-10-2023, VBS Group

GRANTSBURG: CENTRAL NEWS



Central UMC is holding church services with a Zoom service at 9:00 am on Sundays. We are looking for volunteers to help out at each service. Sign up sheets are available at the church. We appreciate your willingness to help out!

Most all of us are vaccinated, but we respect everyone whether masks are on or off. As we are still living with the Coronavirus we are encouraging people to avoid hugging or shaking hands with each other.

We welcome everyone to join us for Coffee Fellowship after service each Sunday.




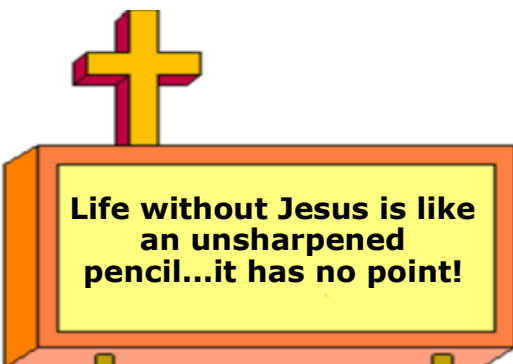
Sasha Chute 9/11

Don Anderson 9/12

Linda Hokanson 9/18

Anneliese Snyder 9/22

<div>  Offering Income through July 2023 </div>		
Funds Description	July 2023	Year-to-date 2023
General Fund Gifts	\$ 3,286.00	\$ 24,541.00
Loose Offering	\$ 74.00	\$ 342.78
Easter	\$ -	\$ 595.00
Total General Funds	\$ 3,360.00	\$ 25,478.78
Special Offering	\$ -	\$ 440.00
Missions	\$ 250.00	\$ 899.00
Pastor's Youth Fund		\$ 110.00
All Funds Total	\$ 3,610.00	\$ 26,927.78



GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS & MISC.



The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 13th at 1:00 pm at Central UMC in Grantsburg. We will be having a book and puzzle exchange. I will check out the church library for some books we have not read. Come and join us for a fun afternoon. Coffee and treats will be served. Questions-please contact Mary McNally.



Ad Council Meeting

September 19, 2023

6:30 pm Central UMC Grantsburg



Megan & Giacomo's

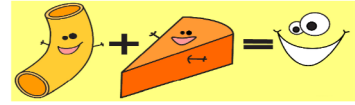
Wedding

September 30th

4:00 pm

Central UMC

**BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"! REMEMBER ...
Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!**



Can you donate a box or two (or more) of Macaroni and Cheese in support of the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"? This program provides back-packs full of food to help feed families over the week-ends throughout the school year. Thanks for caring for those in need in our own community.



**Next Meeting:
September 9th**

8:00 am at Central UMC

The United Methodist Men
will meet the 2nd Saturday
of every month at 8:00 am.

MISSIONS GIVING

September Mission:

**We will support the survivors and
victims of the Hawaiian wildfires.**

**Please check out the church
bulletin board for more
information.**

Thank you!

ATLAS NEWS

In-person (indoor) worship services Sundays at 10:00 am.

We will be needing volunteers so please check the sign up sheets if you are able to help. Thank you!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING



Next Meeting
September 15, 2023
1:30 pm
Atlas UMC

PLANET GREEN INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM



Do you have used ink jet cartridges or old cell phones? Every one that you donate to the church provides extra money to fund Atlas Church's Ministry and outreach. Thank you for your continued support of this program!



INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

Offering: \$ 2027.00
Thrift Sale: \$1743.00

Thank you for your faithful financial support of the ministry of Atlas church!



Kristie Olson
9/28



Troy & Kristie Olson 9/10

Briana & Jared Olson 9/10

ATLAS THRIFT & BAKE SALE THANK YOU

Sept



&



Thank you for all the support we received for the annual Atlas Thrift & Bake Sale. Because of your generosity we raised over \$1,700!

Whether you donated sale items, shopped the sale, made baked goods, helped with set-up or tear-down, or volunteered at the actual sale, the sale would not have been as successful without the support of so many!

We donated the left over items—they are sure to find good homes!



SEPTEMBER MISSION MOOLAH FOR MILK

In September the children will collect loose change to support the Moolah For Milk program. Thank you for your generosity!



LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY

Monthly Report ~ July 2023

Households Served	38
Adults	60
Children	12
Total People	72
USDA Food Received	1,635
NON-USDA (Donations)	\$920.10
Volunteer Hours	68.5



Needs for next month: Fresh Vegetables, Fruit. Eggs. Dish Soap. Personal items for Men and Women. Spices. Paper Products.



HELPING HANDS

Volunteers for the month

Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Usher	Karen Sciacca
Bell Ringer	Jim Andrews
Fellowship	3rd Sun. of the month-Ad Council
Flowers	Church Gardeners
Communion	Karen Sciacca

In-person/Zoom services will be held
Sunday's at 11:15 am.

We hope to see you there!

Check out our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#)
for details. We hope you can join us!



St. Croix Falls

9/17/23

1:30 pm



ST. CROIX FALLS NEWS

REMEMBER THE FOOD SHELF

On Communion Sundays, you are invited to bring in donations for the SCF Food Pantry... just be sure your food items have not expired.

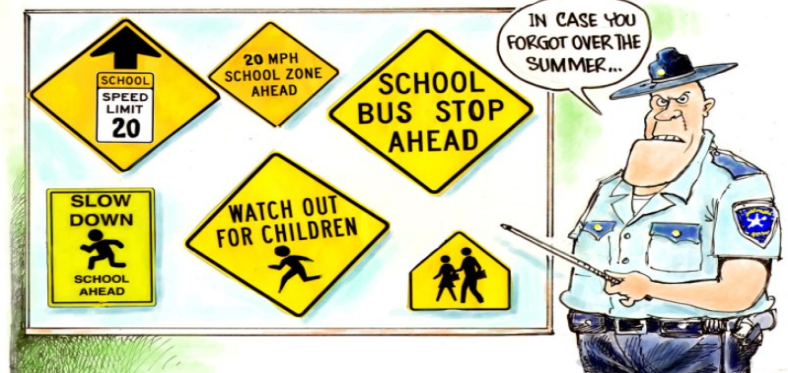
COMMUNION SUNDAY: 9/3/23



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**LeAnn
Sylvester
9/29**

Back to School refresher course ... for drivers ...



September Mission



The Sailor Hat
Offering will go to
support the St. Croix
Falls School Backpack
Program!

Thank you for your
support!

ZOOM VIDEO WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 & 11:15 am Sunday's

There will be a parish-wide ZOOM video service at 9:00 am at Central-Grantsburg and 11:15 am at St. Croix Falls every Sunday until further notice. The worship materials will be mailed out to those without email, emailed out to everyone in the parish we have email addresses for and posted on our website. The sermon and ZOOM login information will also be sent with the service material and posted on our website. The video of the worship service will be posted on the parish Facebook page after the service.

MISCELLANEOUS

MINISTRY TABLETS AVAILABLE

Just a reminder we have ministry tablets available for all churches to use for their members, please let Pastor Jenny know if you would like to use one. Our experiences are that users really appreciate them, they are able to hear and see other members during the service. -Karen Sciacca



**SPRC
MEETING
9/20/23
6:30 PM
PARSONAGE**

HOW LABOR DAY CAME TO BE

1882

The unions of New York City held a parade to celebrate their members and show support for all unions. At least 20,000 people were there, and workers had to give up a day's pay to attend.

1885-1886

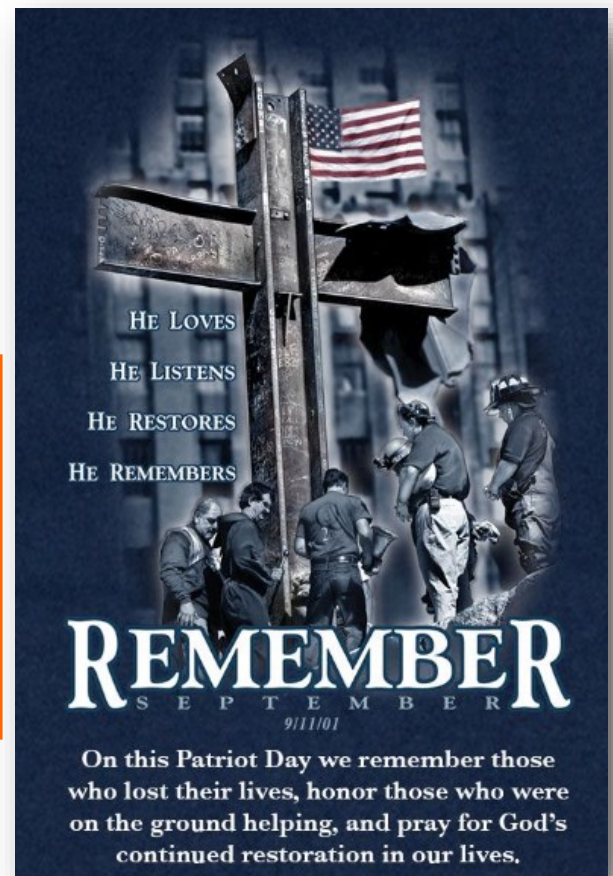
Labor Day received its first governmental recognition through municipal ordinances.

1887

Parades similar to the first in NYC took place in different regions of the country. Five states — Oregon, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York — created a state Labor Day holiday, and Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Nebraska follow suit by the end of the decade.

1894

A South Dakota senator introduced a bill to make Labor Day a federal legal holiday taking place on the first Monday of September, which passed on June 28, 1894.





Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas, and God saw that it was good (Genesis 1:9-10).

Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice (Psalm 96:12).

“The pure of heart see all things full of God. They see him in the firmament of heaven, in the moon walking in brightness, in the sun when he rejoiceth as a giant to run his course. ... They see him ‘preparing rain for the earth,’ ‘and blessing the increase of it’” (John Wesley).

Starting this spring, a heat wave has affected North America. Almost every day we have heard new records being set for high temperatures. At the same time, many of us have had poor air quality due to the wildfires in Alberta, Canada. Additionally, we have had record-breaking rain causing tornadoes, flooding, and widespread damage.

The weather extremes have impacted us in tangible ways – damage to homes and businesses; destruction of roads, bridges, dams, and other infrastructures; and hospitalizations and/or death due to heat stroke/exhaustion. When we see and feel the effects in our daily lives, as humans, we tend to then act.

While I encourage this call to action, our call is to a much deeper and longer-term one. It is an invitation to explore what it means to be a Christian, and specifically, a United Methodist as caretakers of this beautiful planet.

As all our spiritual explorations begin, let us refer to Scripture. In Genesis 1, we are introduced to creation – and in verses 9-10, God has created the heavens and the earth and declares, “it is good.” It is good – this earth which sustains all of life – the air in which we breathe, the water in which we drink, and the soil which provides for the nourishment of all.

It is good – the beauty of this earth that gives such delight to our eyes in mountains, trees, valleys, flowers, and flowing streams. It is good – the wonders of all the sounds that sing to our souls in the song of the bird, the splash of waterfalls, and the chirping of crickets. It is good – the smells that refresh us in newly cut grass, the sweetness of roses, and after a rain shower.

It is good to be grateful and, in our appreciation, find ways to honor God’s creation through individual and communal responsibility in the care of the earth. Let us rejoice in all that is good.

I recommend to you the Discipleship Ministries, which has a library of resources for our use. In the Creation Cares link, there is a statement to guide our thoughts and actions, “As Christians we have a responsibility to care for God's creation and ensure a safe climate for future generations. Decisions like what we eat, how often we drive and how we run our homes all impact the environment. Here are some ways you can be responsible and environmentally conscious in your daily practices: [United Methodist Videos](#)

May we find ways to live responsibly, be joyful and grateful for the beauty of the earth and be in harmony with God’s creation.

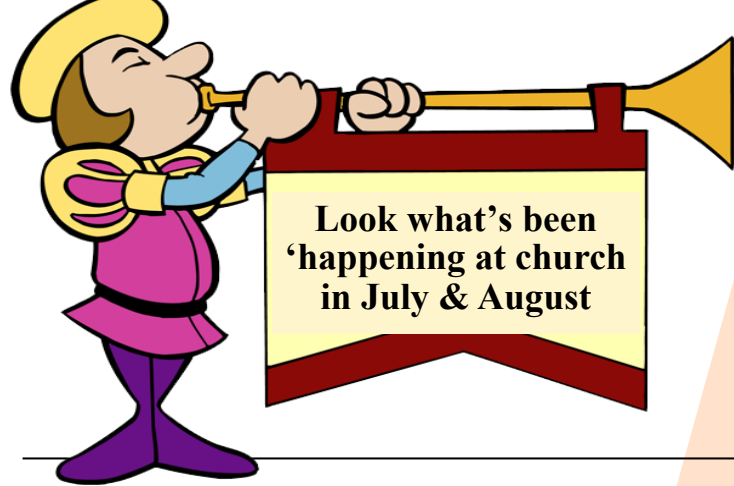
I Spy Autumn



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7-26-2023, SPRC Meeting via Zoom, (Upper row: Barbara Loomis, Pastor Jenny Lee, and Colleen Adams-Schween; Middle row: Sue Olson, Jim Andrews and Sharon Asp; Bottom row: Karen Sciacca)



7-27-2023, VBS Volunteers Meeting, (Sharon Asp (SCF), Karen Sciacca (SCF), Jim Sciacca (SCF), Dan Hartke (Wood Lake Camp), Shayna Schmid (Youth Director), Barbara Loomis (G), Sam Wilson (G))



7-27-2023, Youth Volunteers for VBS, (Emma, Mage, and Anneliese, and Pastor Jenny)



8-5-2023, Thrift and Bake Sale, (A: Sue Olson, Jamie Steffen, Colleen Adams-Schween, and Cheryl Olson)



VBS: The Minecraft World- Armor of God, Aug. 7-10 at Central-Grantsburg



8-7-2023, Village Leaders (Class Teachers)



8-7-2023, Kitchen Helpers



8-7-2023, Worship Team



8-8-2023, VBS Group



Vacation Bible School



8-8-2023, Activity-Stem



8-8-2023, Activity-Game



8-9-2023, Older Group



8-9-2023, Middle Group



8-9-2023, Younger Group



8-9-2023, Activity-Craft



8-10-2023, Worship



8-10-2023, Village Build-Younger Group



8-10-2023, Village Build-Middle Group



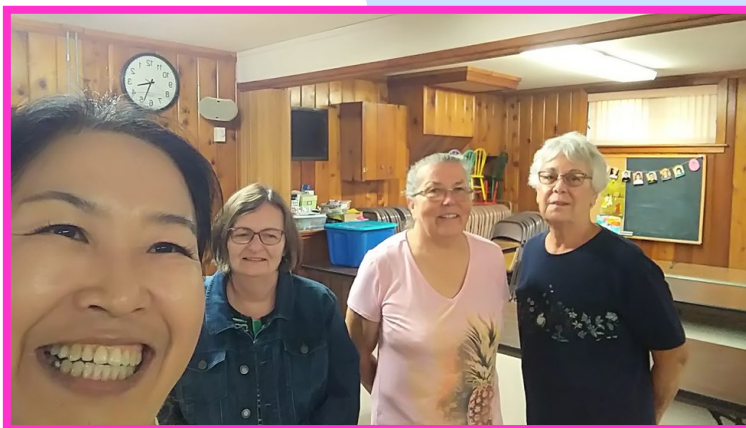
8-10-2023, Dinner Time



8-10-2023, VBS Group



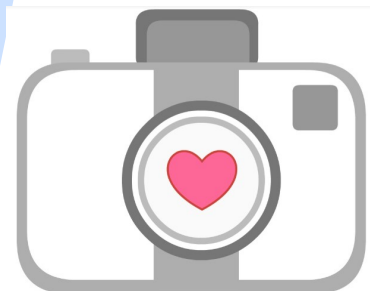
8-12-2023, UM Men's Meeting, (G: Don Anderson, Charles Wright, and Dave Huff)



8-18-2023, Ad Council Meeting, (A: Cheryl Olson, Sue Olson, Colleen Adams-Schween, and Pastor Jenny Lee)



8-15-2023, Ad Council Meeting, (G: Russ Hammer, Deb Hammer, Dave Huff, and Pastor Jenny Lee)





8-2-2023, Joan Zeigler (SCF) and Pastor Jenny Lee



8-16-2023, Dorothy Miller (A) and Pastor Jenny Lee



8-16-2023, Naomi McLean (SCF) and Pastor Jenny

SAY CHEESE!



Polk County Food Shelves

Amery

Amery Food Shelf—230 Deronda Street, Amery

Food Shelf is located in the old Amery Regional Medical Center Building.
Call (715) 268- 5999 before 12:00 noon on Wednesday. Leave name and number on voice mail. Open Thursday 2-6 pm.

Area of service: Amery school district only

The Congregational Church—201 Harriman Ave. North, Amery

Food distribution: 9-10:30 am every 2nd Saturday of the month . Registration is 7 am to 9:30 am. **715-268-7390 Special note:** No economic restrictions; however, a \$20.00 donation is asked to help cover the cost of the truck.

Ruby's Pantry —www.amery.ucc.org or office.ameryucc@gmail.com

Area of service: County wide

Dresser

People Loving People --- 103 E. Main Street, Dresser

Monday and Saturday 11 am – 1 pm Wednesday 2 pm – 5 pm

Phone: 715-501-4657

Frederic

Family Pathways Food Shelf—1100 Wisconsin Ave South, Frederic

Phone **715-327-4425**

Open Tuesday 9 am—6 pm, Thursday 9 am—6 pm, Saturday 9 am—12pm

For best service please call for appointment.

Luck

Loaves and Fishes Interfaith Food Pantry—300 North 1st Street, Luck

Pantry is located in the back of the DBS Hall

Open Tuesday & Thursday 11 am—1 pm

Phone **(715) 472-2003**

Area of service: Luck & Unity School Districts

Osceola

The Open Cupboard Food Shelf—402 2nd Avenue, Osceola

Call for appointment: **715-294-4357**

Open Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm

(The Open Cupboard also has used furniture & clothing)

Area of service: Osceola & Dresser school district

St. Croix Falls

St Croix Falls Food Shelf—809 Pine Street, St Croix Falls

Phone: **715-557-1653**

Open Monday 9 am—11 am Wednesday 3 pm—6 pm Friday 9 am – 10 am

Area of service: SCF school district, Dresser elementary, Centuria, Cushing & portions of Balsam Lake & Taylors Falls

Family Pathways Food Shelf—2000 US Hwy 8, St Croix Falls

Phone: **715-483-2920**

Open Monday 9–5 pm, Tuesday 9-5 pm, Wednesday 12 pm– 6 pm, Thursday 9-5 pm, Friday 9–5 pm, & Saturday 9-Noon



NEW

FEED MY NEIGHBOR Community Food Pantry

316 Wisconsin Ave. - Centuria, WI
Open to Polk County Residents

Open:

Monday 2 to 5pm

Tuesday 5:30-7:30pm

Thursday 10am to 20pm

Saturday 9-11am

People can visit this pantry twice a month.

**YOU give them
something
to eat. Mt 14:16**



Burnett County Emergency Food Shelves and Distributions

Grantsburg Area Food Shelf *No cost*

Serving residents of the Grantsburg School District

Open: Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am

Thursdays 9:30-11:30,

Third Thursdays 4:00-6:00 pm

Emergency food is always available through the emergency window. Allowed to come 2 times a month
Located between the Library and the Village Hall Office,
320 Brad St., Grantsburg, WI 54840.



Indianhead Community Action Agency- "Connections" *No cost*

Serving all Burnett County residents

Open 10am-3pm Monday, Tuesday & Friday

Located in Webster next to the Holiday Gas Station

(715) 866-8151

Ruby`s Food Shelf- Siren *No cost*

Serving residents of the Siren & Webster School Districts

Open 10:00am-2pm Monday & Friday

10:00am-4pm Wednesday

Closed Thursday

****You`re asked to be there at least 30 minutes before close**

Located at 24534 State Hwy 35/70 (Ruby`s Secondhand)

(715)349-RUBY (7829)



Ruby`s Monthly Food Distributions *Bring own boxes or baskets Donation: \$25*

For dates, times, and locations (no location restrictions at this time), visit <http://www.rubyspantry.org/distribution/distschedule.htm>

Second Harvest Food Distribution *No cost*

First and Third Thursday of every month

Starts at 11:00am until food is gone

Located at Connections in Webster

(next to the Holiday Gas Station)

This distribution is offered to anyone in need of food; please help get the word out

St. Croix Chippewa Commodities Distribution

24663 Angeline Ave., Webster

349-2195, Becky Reynolds

Food distribution: Monday to Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm

(Native American Income Eligible Only)

Closed first week of each month for inventory. Can only receive one time per month. A variety of items are available each month and may include canned meats; juice; canned foods; dry goods; frozen meats; cheese; rice and pasta; fresh produce.





2023

Calendar of the
Upper St. Croix
Parish

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Pastor Jenny's Office Hours Tuesday: 9am - 5pm at Grantsburg Wednesday: 10am - 2pm at SCF & 3pm - 7pm at Grantsburg Thursday: 11am - 4pm at SCF Friday: by appointment only		Colleen's Office Hours <i>(Times are approximate)</i> Remotely: Tuesday's 8:00 am-4:00 pm Friday's 8:00 am-12:00 pm			1	2
3 Communion Sunday 9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G) 10:00 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship & Zoom Service (SCF)	4 Labor Day 	5 Grantsburg First Day of School	6	7	8	9 8:00 am UM Men's Meeting (G)
10 9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G) 10:00 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship & Zoom Service (SCF) 2:00 Pastor Jenny Leads Worship at CCC	11	12	13 1:00 UMW Meeting (G)	14 7:00-8:30 pm Provisional Elder Mentoring Meeting via Zoom	15 1:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (A)	16 10:00 am New District Superintendent Rev. Peace Kim's Installation Service at Barron UMC

