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

NOVEMBER



Inside this issue:

| Stewardship Message | 2 |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Letter from Pastor Jenny | 3 |
| Central News | 5 |
| Atlas News | 7 |
| St. Croix Falls News | 9 |
| Miscellaneous | 10 |
| Soul Food | 11 |
| Activity Fun Page | 12 |
| Church Happenings in Photos | 13 |
| Polk County Food Shelf Info. | 19 |
| Burnette County Food Shelf Info | 20 |
| | |

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Don't Keep Silent November 2023

I started preaching when I was just 18 years old. I was invited by my home pastor to preach, despite my age, because he knew I had a call to the ordained ministry. By the time I was 20, I had preached a whopping three sermons. With my call and this vast amount of experience behind me, I was invited to serve a small, rural congregation in Southeastern Wisconsin as their supply pastor — which basically meant I would visit the members in their homes and preach every Sunday. And so, in November of my junior year of college, I began to preach every Sunday for a congregation of 52 people. As I remember my first year there, I have fond memories of a group of faithful people who had to listen to, probably the worst sermons ever given.

Despite my inexperience, the congregation was very supportive — often offering a tip or an encouraging word. Particularly, I remember one gentleman who came up to me to give me a pat on the back one Sunday morning. After a particularly difficult sermon he said that he truly enjoyed my messages. A little surprised, I responded by simply saying, "Really?" He continued by saying, "Oh yes. You know, you stand up every Sunday and try to tell us about God's love and grace. But what I really like is the fact that, in the whole year you've been preaching, you've never mentioned money once."

Considering that comment, I suppose it could be seen as a bit ironic that my ministry as a part of the Foundation is helping congregations and pastors learn how to comfortably talk about money in relation to our faith (maybe even excitedly). What I've discovered, however, is that talking about stewardship is about focusing love and grace. It is about helping people realize all the ways we are blessed by God, that God has given to us abundantly. God has given us so much, in fact, that we have enough to give generously in love for others.

I encourage you to speak about stewardship boldly. Talk about how you have experienced God's love, grace, and abundance. Share how generosity has transformed your life. Talk about the blessings others have experienced in your church that are made possible by your community's generosity.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at www.wumf.org or Facebook/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 November 2023



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

"The Joy of Harvest"

"Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him." (Psalms 126:5-6)

Last Sunday, we had Laity Sunday, celebrating our ministry in 2023. What an incredible moment! What a grateful moment! I am proud of all of you, faithful servants of God, Wonderful minsters of God! When I heard all of our excellent speakers on Sunday, I praised God in tears, "O Lord, you made things happen. Thank you, Lord, you did it for us." And, these scripture verses came to my mind, "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him" (Psalms 126:5-6).

We came through many difficult situations, such as Atlas' financial crisis, a VBS plan without money and people, and nominating new committees. However, we also experienced every single moment God was there for us. God guided us to support Atlas as one of the three churches in one parish; God provided VBS with a grant, volunteers, and kids who showed up; and God gave us the wisdom to see potential committees for God's church ministry in 2024. We sowed seeds in tears together and got a joyful harvest in God's ministry. Thanks be to God and all of you!

I compare my ministry to gardening. Every year, when I start gardening, I joyfully plant or sow seeds, expecting a good harvest. The expectation of a good harvest always makes me overcome hard work, such as cultivating soil, pulling out wild weeds, and watering the garden every day. Meanwhile, there were moments when I saw wild weeds grow faster than the vegetables I planted, when wild animals attacked the garden, and when I found all the plants were taken or destroyed by anonymous animals. However, I never gave up. I sowed seeds again, putting up a new fence around the garden, expecting a good harvest again. However, if it happened again and again, one may want to give up. "Okay, no more gardening." Do you agree? Can you give the ministry up?

I had a moment when I was almost disappointed. I couldn't get the seeds that I wanted last year because we had an early snow. Before seeds were produced, snow covered the plants and they froze. But I had some remaining seeds from the previous year. This year, I sowed the remaining seeds with worry, thinking they may not make any harvest for me. So, I experienced that we may sow seeds with worry as well as with a joyful expectation of a good harvest. This is similar to how we handle our ministry, with joys and concerns. However, we move forward, expecting God to help us.

FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

The Psalmist might experience sowing the last remaining seeds, with worry wondering if these seeds would work out because if not, he might have no food for a year. However, there was nothing he could do except sow the seeds, especially on the Israelite's dry land, where he couldn't get water for the plants. After sowing the seeds, he, perhaps, just prayed to God while weeping. Except for praying, he didn't have anything he could do for the seeds. However, prayers are the most powerful workers among the things we can get. The Psalmist also had experienced that the seeds, which he has sowed through tearing and weeping made good harvest. Finally, he praised God, "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him." He knew God made things happen for him; even though he couldn't make it, if he prays, God makes things happen.

Like this, we may face a moment we can't do anything except pray. However, remember praying is the most powerful worker. Through our prayers, God makes things happen for us as long as we don't give up. Let's move forward, sowing seeds of joy with prayers for all generations!

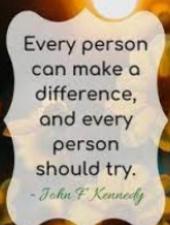
Blessings!

Pastor Jenny



10-22-2023, Fellowship after the Joint Worship Service on Laity Sunday

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.





Offering Income through September 2023

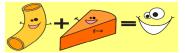
| Funds | September | | Year-to-date | |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Description | | 2023 | 2023 | |
| | | | | |
| General Fund Gifts | \$ | 5,690.00 | \$ | 32 <mark>,</mark> 513.00 |
| Loose Offering | \$ | 57.00 | \$ | 434.78 |
| Easter | \$ | - | \$ | 595.00 |
| Pie & Ice Cream Social | \$ | 20.00 | \$ | 330.00 |
| Total General Funds | \$ | 5,767.00 | \$ | 33,872.78 |
| | | | | |
| Special Offering | \$ | - | \$ | 440.00 |
| Missions | \$ | 220.00 | \$ | 1,239.00 |
| Pastor's Youth Fund | | | \$ | 110.00 |
| | | | | |
| All Funds Total | \$ | 5,987.00 | \$ | 35 , 661.78 |
| | | | | |
| *UMCOR Hawaii Relief | | \$220 | | |



Thanks & Giving!

GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS & MISC.

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 backpacks full of food to help feed families over the weekends throughout the school year. Thanks for caring for those in need in our own community.

MISSIONS GIVING

<u>November Missions:</u> Operation Christmas Child Deadline 11/12





SOX BOX We will be collecting winter clothing supplies

for the "Sox Box".

Thank you for your support!

Next Meeting: Nov.11th

8:00 am at Central UMC

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





In October the UMW 2024 Officers were elected:

President: Mary McNally Vice President: Judy Lien Secretary: Pauli Kratchmer Treasurer: Kayleen Branstad Devotion: Barbara Loomis College Student Care: Valetta Walton We appreciate their dedication!

Our goal for the church shoebox mission is to fill 20 shoeboxes -10 for girls and 10 for boys ages 5 to 9. This is a fun project. A list of needed items will be posted at the church. Items can be dropped off at church or you can fill a box with them. We will be meeting at church on November 8th to put boxes together. Final due date is November 12th.

UMW is excited to have a Christmas dinner at 1:00 pm on December 13th! We are inviting all the women in the three churches to join us. The food will be plentiful and we have fun activities planned like exchanging gifts!

> All are welcome . -Mary McNally



<u>Ad Council Meeting</u> November 14, 2023 6:30 pm Central UMC Grantsburg



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!

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





Cheryl Olson 11/2 Margie Mattson 11/3 Mike Steffen 11/4 Pastor Jenny Lee 11/17 Beau Gaffey 11/20 Olivia Brock 11/24 Tanner Gaffey 11/30

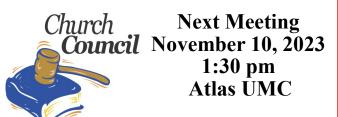


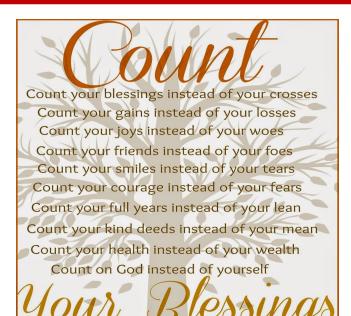
INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

Offering: \$2010

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING













We are currently operating with two interim food shelf coordinators. We would like to get a full time coordinator. We will train people who are interested. We can always use more volunteer workers as well. If interested please contact Pam Girtz 320-232-7541 Email: girtzp@gmail.com

NOVEMBER MISSION OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

In November we will continue collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the



Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way. Please see information available at church or at Samaritan's Purse International Disaster Relief — International Relief (samaritanspurse.org).

Thank you for your generosity!

MARK YOUR

CALENDAR

Important Upcoming Dates for Atlas UMC

- 10/26-11/10 Pastor Jenny on Vacation
- Nov. 12 Veteran's Day
- Nov. 15 Pastor Jenny Harmony Choir at Steven's Point
- Nov. 17 SPRC Meeting at Atlas UMC at 2:00 pm
- Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent





Households Served41Adults81Children9Total People90USDA Food Received2,907NON-USDA (Donations)\$94.96Volunteer Hours61

- that you Thank you to Luck Lions for donating a new Refrigerator and new flooring in the entry.

Needs for next month: cooking oil (smaller and larger), mayonnaise, sugar 4# size, bar soap, dish and laundry soap. Personal products for men and women.



HELPING HANDS

LiturgistJim AndrewsMoney CounterPeter GionisUsherKathy GionisBell RingerLynn HansonFellowshipAdmin members Karen 1st Sun.FlowersKaren SciaccaCommunionKaren Sciacca & Jim Sciacca

In-person/Zoom services will be held Sunday's at 11:15 am. There will be no Zoom services on 11/5 & 11/12. We hope to see you there! Check out our website and Facebook page for details. We hope you can join us!

November Mission



The Sailor Hat Offering will go to support buying Thanksgiving Food Cards for Families in Need!

Thank you for your support!



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: 11/5/23



count blessings... not calories!



Pastor Jenny Lee 11/17

Marjorie Broker 11/26



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.



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

Don't forget to set your scale back 10 lbs this week.

ADVENT CRAFT GROUP GATHERINGS

This Advent season we will gather to make quilted lap blankets.



Paulie Kratchmer will lead us, and we will send all blankets to the nursing home as they need them.

If you have any sleeping fabrics at home, please donate to the Craft group for quilt blankets.

The Advent Craft Group will meet every Wednesday at 1pm from November 29th to December 20th.

Come and join us to have fun in a meaningful way during Advent!





"And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love."

-1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Traditionally, October marks the observance of Clergy Appreciation Month, an invitation to pause and give thanks. Our clergy serve as a source of guidance, support, and inspiration, assisting us in navigating through challenging times and striving towards self-improvement. Their steadfast faith and devotion to their calling are genuinely inspiring.

As followers of the Christian faith, our call is to love and serve one another, and pastors embody this calling through their tireless efforts to minister to their congregations and communities. They selflessly give their time, talents, and resources to assist others, and their contributions are highly valued. As we honor our pastors this month, let us take a moment to contemplate the many ways they have impacted our lives. We express gratitude and appreciation for their diligent work, devotion, and unwavering faith. And let us continue to offer prayers for them, that they may be strengthened and encouraged in their calling and continue to inspire us all.

As we express our deep gratitude, I also invite us to honor those who serve during the National Hispanic Heritage Month as it comes to a close. I am grateful for the leadership of Hispanic leaders who have enriched the lives of the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church through the tapestry of music, dance, food, and traditions. Our Hispanic

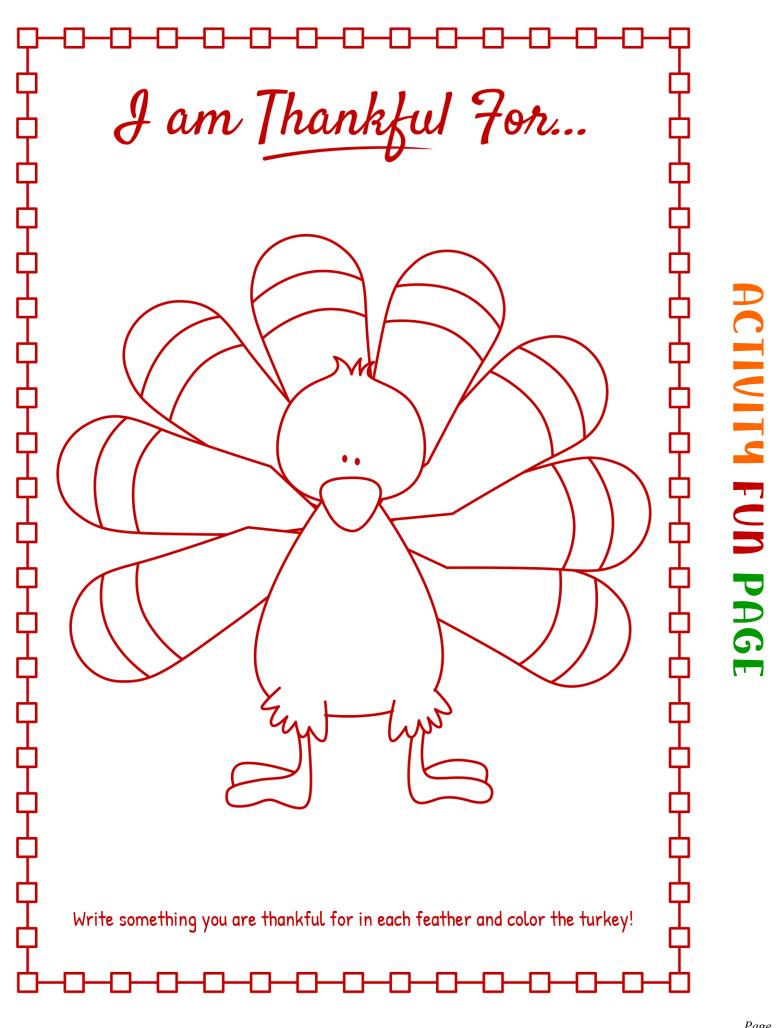
leaders are open to sharing their culture from many places, such as Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Ecuador, and Brazil. We are blessed to learn and grow in our faith together for God's glory.

May God bless our pastors and all those who serve in ministry, and may their work continue to produce fruit for God's kingdom.

May the Lord bless you.



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung







10-1-2023, World Communion, (Atlas)



10-1-2023, World Communion, (SCF)



10-1-2023, World Communion, (Atlas)



10-7-2023, UM Men's Meeting, (G: Charles Wright, Don Anderson, and Dave Huff)

10-8-2023, (A: Fellowship, Sue Olson, Colleen Adams-Schween, Jamie Steffen, Mariah Gaffey, Maxine Hauble, Wendell Hauble, Cindy Olsen Berenscot, and Scott Olson)







10-11-2023, UMW Meeting, (G: Judy Lien, Mary McNally, Valletta Walton, and Barbara Loomis)



10-15-2023, Pastors Appreciation Day, (SCF: Pastor Jenny Lee, Jim Andrews, LeAnn Sylvester, Steve Sylvester, Jim Sciacca, Sharon Asp, Peter Gionis, Lynn Hanson, Karen Sciacca, and Jenny Everson)

Laity Sunday (A Joint Service), 10-22-2023 at Central-Grantsburg



Acolytes, (G: Willow Nyland and Leland Snyder)



Review of Church Ministry, (A: Sue Olson, AD Council Chair)





Review of Church Ministry, (SCF: Karen Sciacca, AD Council Chair)



Liturgist, (G: Barbara Loomis, Lay Servant)



United Methodist Women's ministry, (G: Mary McNally, UMW President)





United Methodist Men's Ministry, (G: Charles Wright, UMM President)



Food Shelf Ministry in SCF area, (Sharon Asp, Director)



Youth/Children Ministry, (Shayna Schmid, Youth Director)



Joint Worship Service

Presentation of gift to new visitors, (Pastor Jenny Lee)



Benediction, (District Superintendent Rev. Peace Kim)



Fellowship, (A: Colleen Adam-Schween, Lee Frederickson, Peggy Frederickson, Mariah Gaffey, Ashleigh Olson, and Cheryl Olson)





Fellowship, (A: Maxine & Wendell Hauble, Sharon Asp (SCF), Lois Morrison, and Sue Olson)



Joint fellowship at Central-Grantsburg



Fellowship, (G: Don Anderson, Charles Wright, Mary Lou Wright, Leland Snyder and DS Rev. Peace Kim)



Fellowship, (G: Sandra Erickson, Paulie Bistram, Willow Nyland, Anneliese Snyder, and Kayleen Branstad)





Fellowship, (SCF: Karen Sciacca, Jim Sciacca, Jim Andrews, Kathy Gionis, and Peter Gionis)



10-18-2023, (SCF: Joan Zeigler)

10-10-2023, (A: Dorothy Miller and Pastor Jenny Lee)

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.



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

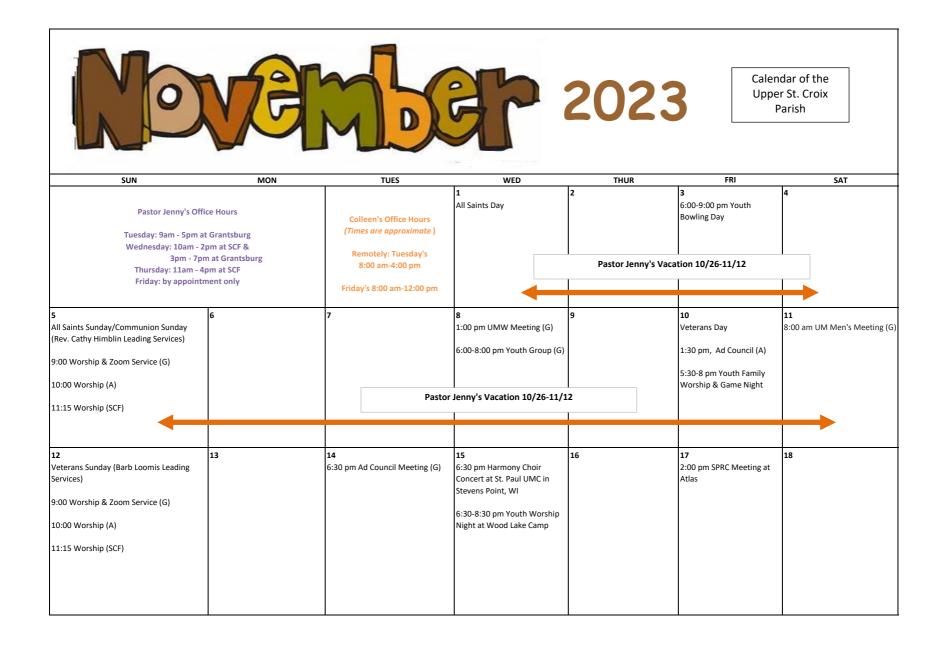
"If you love me, feed my sheep." 24663 Angeline Ave., Webster 349-2195, Becky Reynolds Food distribution: Monday to Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm (Native American Income Eligible Only)

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.





John 21:15-19



| | | | | 2023 | Calendar of the Upper St. Croix Parish |
|--|-----|--|---|---------------------------|--|
| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI SAT |
| 19 Thanksgiving Sunday | 20 | 10:00 am Deadline to submit Newsletter and Calendar | 22 | 23 Thanksgiving | 24 25 |
| 9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G) | | information | | | |
| 10:00 Worship (A) | | 6:00-8:00 pm Youth Gathering (G) | | | |
| 11:15 Worship & Zoom Service (SCF) | | e | | *** | |
| 12:15 pm Ad Council Meeting (SCF) | | intensietter | | Happy | |
| 2:00 pm, Pastor Jenny Leads Service at Continuing Care Center | | DEADPILLO | | Thanks giving | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| 9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G) | | | 1:00 pm Advent Craft Group Gathering | | Happy Thanksgiving |
| 10:00 Worship (A) | | | | | Happy Thanksylving |
| 11:00 Decorate the Church for Christmas (A) | | | | | |
| 11:15 Worship & Zoom Service (SCF) | | | | | Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136.1 |