

we may know we are your people, and that we may humbly serve you and your people as you called us as your servants and ministers. Use us as a means of your grace so that we extend your grace to all we meet, imitating Christ and extolling you in all our words and deeds. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

**\*DOXOLOGY** UMH 95

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

O God, we sense that you are calling us to manage well all the things that belong to you. The empires of this world have no claim on the resources you have provided except as they are used for the common good. The offerings we receive as a church are not for our private benefit. Thus, we here dedicate the gifts you have provided in our money and our abilities and our time to extend a helping hand and joyous welcome to every person on the face of the earth. May our efforts find favor with you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *We Are Called* TFWS 2172

**\*BENEDICTION** DS Rev. Peace Kim

**\*POSTLUDE** Toni Koons

 **Upper St. Croix Parish  
United Methodist Church**

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:  
"Fill My House" (Luke 14:23)

**21st Sunday After Pentecost  
Laity Sunday**



**Grantsburg-Central,  
Since 1897**



**Atlas, Since 1887**



**St. Croix Falls,  
Since 1859**

**SUNDAY SERVICE:**

*Joint Service  
10:30 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Pastor Jenny Lee:** [jennlee1732@gmail.com](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)  
**Youth Director Shayna Schmid:** [snsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snsnyder@gmail.com)  
**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**  
**October 22nd, 2023**  
**21st Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Laity Sunday**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**\*PRELUDE**

**Toni Koons**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*This is The Day*

**UMH 657**

**\*MISSION STATEMENT**    **Responsive**

Let us shout our mission statement together.

**Let us make the disciples of Jesus Christ all generations with open hearts, open minds, and open doors for the transformation of the world. Amen.**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**

*“Peace be with you”*

***We Celebrate New Life in Christ***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**    **Responsive**    **(The Book of Worship)**

From the beginning, God entered into covenant with the human family: with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Deborah, Ruth, and Jeremiah.

**Through baptism, Jesus Christ calls us into the covenant and makes us ministers of Christ’s righteousness.**

All Christian ministry is Christ’s work of outreaching love. It demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship.

**All Christians are called to Christ’s servanthood in the world, to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.**

The Church, as the community of the new covenant, participates in Christ’s ministry of grace.

**It stretches out to human needs wherever service may convey God’s love and ours.**

In our ministry of servanthood is this ultimate concern:

**that all may be renewed in the image of their Creator, and that all Christians are called to minister in deeds and words that heal and free. Amen!**

**\*DEDICATE HYMN**

*We Are the Church*

**UMH 558 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER**    **Unison**

**To you, O God, shall our vows be performed. To you we sing our praise and utter our prayers. Come among us to celebrate our ministry in 2023, and renew your covenant and offer your signs to move forward. Pour out your Spirit on your people gathered here, that we may dream and prophecy and follow the vision you set before us. Amen.**

**PRESENTATION OUR MINISTRY**

*“Let us Celebrate Our Ministry”*

Church Ministry Review

Sue Olson (Ad Chair of Atlas)

Church Ministry Review

Karen Sciacca (Ad Chair of SCF)

UMW Ministry Review

Mary McNally (UMW President)

UMM Ministry Review

Charles Wright (UMM President)

Food Shelf of St. Croix Falls Area Ministry

Sharon Asp (Director)

Children/Youth Ministry Review

Shayna Schmid (Youth Director)

*“We appreciate your faithful ministry!”*

***Proclamation of God’s Word***

**\*THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**    **1 Peter 2:4-10 (See Insert)**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**VIDEO CLIP**    *“Review of our 2023 Ministry”*    **by Pastor Jenny Lee**

(If you can’t join the service in person, you may use Pastor Jenny’s article.)

***We Respond to God’s Word***

**RESPONDING PRAYER**    **Unison**

**Great and awesome God, we give you thanks for all you did for us. You are the source of and motivation for our ministry. You are just and righteous beyond all our prejudices, valuing all people without partiality. Allow us to sense your presence within and among us, that**

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

7 This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

8 and

“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,[c] in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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

**TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS**

**LET'S CELEBRATE OUR MINISTRY!**



**Laity Sunday: You all are Wonderful Ministers of God!**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Pianist    | Toni Koons                                 |
| Liturgist  | Barbara Loomis (Lay Servant)               |
| Acolyte(s) | Willow Nyland                              |
| Mowing     | Russ Hammer                                |
| Fellowship | Central-Grantsburg members                 |
| Counter    | Deb Hammer, Sue Olson, and Peter Gionis    |
| Cleaning   | Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek           |
| Speakers   | Sue Olson (Atlas: Ad Council Chair)        |
|            | Karen Sciacca (SCF: Ad Council Chair)      |
|            | Mary McNally (President of UMW)            |
|            | Charles Wright (President of UMM)          |
|            | Sharon Asp (Director of Food Shelf of SCF) |
|            | Shayna Schmid (Youth Director)             |



***Breakthrough Prayers:***

Please pray for those who have lost their loved ones, and pray for God's peace in the Middle East and all over the world!

**OCTOBER CHURCH MISSIONS**

**ATLAS**

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

**INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:**

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



**LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT**

Requested items: Bread, eggs, milk, cheese, fresh vegetables (carrots, potatoes), fresh fruit (apples, oranges), canned meat, dish soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels. They appreciate any and all donations.

We will be collecting Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes.

**Deadline 11/23/23**



**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"

We will be collecting loose change for Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.



**ST. CROIX FALLS**

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



**Food Shelf**  
(Communion Sunday)



**Sailor Hat Offering:**

The Sailor Hat offering will go to support UMCOR

**Thank you for your support!**

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 10:30am.** 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIzZ09>  
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>
- 4) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail and email. If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today: 21th Sunday after Pentecost; Laity Sunday.  
God bless all God's ministers!

### Sunday Worship Services:

- 10/22: Laity Sunday-Joint Worship Service  
10:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom (no Sunday School)  
(Followed by lunch and Charge Conference at 1:00 pm)
- 10/24: 10:00 am November Newsletter Information Due  
11 am-1 pm Pastor Jenny volunteers at Loaves & Fishes in Luck  
4-5:30 pm District New Ministry District Team Meeting via Zoom
- 10/25 6-8 pm Youth Gathering-All parish youth are welcome! (G)
- 10/26-11/12 Pastor Jenny's vacation

**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

Georgeanne Koons 10/23

*Wendell & Maxine Hauble 10/26*

Bob Popham 10/26

Jim Mattson 10/29



## Nest Sunday (October 29th) VOLUNTEERS

### Central:

Preach: Barbara Loomis  
Pianist: Toni Koons  
Liturgist: Bob Branstad  
Acolyte(s): Willow Nyland  
Fellowship: **Volunteer Needed**  
Counter: **Volunteer Needed**  
Cleaning: Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek  
Sunday School: **Volunteer Needed**



### Atlas:

Preach: Sharon Asp  
Pianist: Sharon Asp  
Liturgist: Sue Olson  
Usher: Colleen Adams-Schween  
Cleaning: **Volunteer Needed**  
Sunday School: **Volunteer Needed**

### St. Croix Falls:

Preach: Kathy Gionis  
Pianist: Sharon Asp  
Liturgist: Karen Sciacca  
Usher(s): Lynn Hanson  
Money Counter: Peter Gionis  
Bell Ringer: Jim Sciacca  
Flowers: Church Gardeners  
Fellowship: Ad Council Members

## Upcoming Events

10/26-11/12 Pastor Jenny's Vacation

11/5 All Saints /Communion Sunday  
Rev. Cathay Hamblin(UMC Retired Pastor)

11/12 Veterans Sunday





October 22nd, 2023

**1 Peter 2:4-10**

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



### **“Let Us Celebrate Our Ministry, which God entrusted to Us.”**

Every October comes, I am excited and a little nervous to have a Laity Sunday. We show God what we did in His ministry for a year on Laity Sunday. We present what we did and see how God blessed us in our ministry. We keep Laity Sunday on October 22<sup>nd</sup> this year. Please come and join us to celebrate our ministry, which is God entrusted to us! Remember, “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

Laity Sunday calls for the church “to celebrate the ministry of Christians of all ages in the home, workplace, congregation, community, and world” (*the Book of Worship*). The United Methodist Church was begun by lay ministers, especially for North America’s Methodism. John Wesley, Founder of Methodism, sent lay ministers to America. Lay ministers, often called “circuit riders,” were sent to preach wherever people gathered. Some of our parishioners’ ancestors might have been circuit riders. With lay ministers, today’s Methodists could exist.

We do appreciate all people’s ministry. We build the church together and work on God’s mission together. Mainly, I appreciate our church leadership for your wonderful ministry. What a wonderful day to celebrate the UMM and UMW ministries and recognize lay servants in our parish and what we work for mission locally and globally!

If you can’t make it this Sunday in person, use the following article, which was published in the Sentinel on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **“Take Heart, and See God is There!”**

You may know a famous story about Jesus walking on water. Can you imagine? While they were struggling with the wind in the middle of the lake, they saw someone approaching them on the water. They were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” and crying out in fear. But Jesus immediately spoke to them, saying, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” And among the twelve disciples, Peter said, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water,” while others feared (Matthew 14:22-33).

Peter might believe that Jesus is the Lord who made all creatures and rules all universes. Peter might think that if it was Jesus, he could also walk on water by Jesus, who could calm winds and waves.

Does anyone have faith like Peter? While the other disciples still stayed in the boat with fear, he asked Jesus, “Say to me to come out of the boat and walk on the water.” Jesus said, “Come.” So, Peter exited the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. Some people are, perhaps, still suspicious of how someone could walk on water, while others believe we can do it with God’s help. The disciples’ situation was challenging: it was midnight, the wind

and waves were coming, and what appeared to be a ghost walked on water toward them. But, remember, Jesus was there with them.

It is not just a story from the Bible but our story. In our life journey, we often face winds and waves, whether it is a big or small deal. Sometimes, in the middle of the night, when we can't find a way to go forward, we somehow face the winds and waves, which are the burdens we have to deal with; somehow, we face the ghost. We may experience the loss of a loved one unexpectedly. If that happens, what do we do? Are we going to stay in the middle of grief, scared, heartbroken, and fearful? Remember, when we face difficulties, God is there whether we realize it or not. It is likely that when the disciples faced difficulties on the lake, Jesus came to them like a ghost. However, a few people realized it was Jesus, while others feared it was a ghost. When you feel lost in the middle of the night in your life journey, take heart and see God is there with you and for you.

God sometimes makes us wait for a long time and sometimes answers us immediately. We don't know when it will be. But the good thing is that God is with us always. Whenever you have turmoil, take heart and see God is there. Amen!