

## 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 & OFFERINGS

## \*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

We set our hope in you, God of all ages, and seek to serve you through our offerings and our efforts to encourage and equip one another for ministry. Help us decide daily to live according to your will, preparing ourselves for the opportunities and challenges you give us. May your rule shape our lives in ways that introduce many to the joys of eternity in the midst of time. Amen.

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

## \*CLOSING HYMN *The Summons* TFWS 2130 (vs. 1, 2, & 5)

## \*BENEDICTION Responsive

God expects our complete loyalty and devotion.  
God's love frees us for joyous living.

**We will serve the God we have met here.**

**We know that God goes with us everywhere.**

May worship continue wherever we go.

May our service extend God's love to all we meet.

**We will consult God in our daily choices.**

**We will respond to others in the spirit of Christ.**

Let us go with God's love and peace,

Let us share God's love with our neighbors.

**We will share God's love with our neighbors.**

**We will listen for God's word of hope. Amen!**

## \*POSTLUDE

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

Worship Resources "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

NO. 2023-46  
November 12th, 2023

# Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

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

24th Sunday After Pentecost  
Veterans Sunday



Grantsburg-Central,  
Since 1897



Atlas, Since 1887



St. Croix Falls,  
Since 1859

## SUNDAY SERVICE:

9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service  
(9:15 AM, Sunday School)

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

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

## 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**  
**November 12th, 2023**  
**24th Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Veterans Sunday**

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\*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**

\* THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

**I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,  
and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,  
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP **Responsive**

Holy God, we give you thanks for our nation’s veterans!

**We honor them for their faithful service to our country,  
and for what they have done to defend and preserve our  
freedom.**

Generation after generation, your men and women have answered  
our country’s call, and their lives have been changed forever.

**We are grateful for all who have served, whether  
in peacetime or in conflict.**

But these days, we especially remember those who have been  
tempered by fire, those who continue to bear wounds of the body or  
the spirit as a result of what they have endured. They lie in our  
veterans’ hospitals or struggle for recovery in rehabilitation centers;  
they suffer from post-traumatic stress and survivor’s guilt.

**They yearn for peace in their souls.**

Loving God, we ask you to heal their wounds, to banish whatever  
inner demons may haunt them.

**Give them peace within so they may return fully to their  
families and to society.**

We thank you, O God, for all of our country’s veterans ... those of past  
generations and those who continue to earn this title today. May we never  
forget what our country has asked of them and what they have given in  
return.

**Help us to give them the respect and honor they are due.**

Strengthen our resolve to build a world molded on your realm, where war  
will be pursued no more.

**This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

\*DEDICATING HYMN

*Battle a Hymn of the Republic*

**UMH 717 (vs. 1, 2 and 3)**

**HONORING AND BLESSINGS TO THE VETERANS**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**MH 191 (vs.1)**

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

\*THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have  
died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe  
that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who  
have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive,  
who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.  
16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the  
sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17  
Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to  
meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage  
one another with these words.

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**SERMON**

**Barbara Loomis**

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison

**Reigning God, whose presence reassures us in times of uncertainty  
terror, we pray for wisdom and courage to discern your purposes  
in every time and place. Help us to stand firm by faith in all  
circumstances. Keep us from being led astray by competing voices  
that compromises your intentions for us and all people. May we  
who seek to be the church of Jesus Christ never become weary of  
doing what is right. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

# 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 11/12/23**



## 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 Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child  
Deadline is 11/12.



We will also be collecting winter clothing supplies for the "Sox Box"

## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



**Food Shelf**  
(Communion Sunday)



### Sailor Hat Offering:

The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Buying Thanksgiving Food Gift Cards for Families in Need!

Thank you for your support!

### Ministers

### All God's People

Pastor Jenny Lee (On Vacation)

### Central:

Preach  
Pianist  
Liturgist  
Acolyte(s)  
Fellowship  
Counter  
Cleaning  
Sunday School  
Snow Removal

Barbara Loomis  
Toni Koons  
Volunteer Needed  
Willow Nyland  
Volunteer Needed  
Volunteer Needed  
Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek  
Volunteer Needed  
Volunteer Needed

### Atlas:

Preach  
Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher  
Cleaning  
Sunday School

Barbara Loomis  
Sharon Asp  
Colleen Adams-Schween  
Sue Olson  
Volunteer Needed  
Josie Grimes

### St. Croix Falls:

Preach  
Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher(s)  
Money Counter  
Bell Ringer  
Flowers  
Fellowship

Barbara Loomis  
Sharon Asp  
Jim Andrews  
Kathy Gionis  
Peter Gionis  
Lynn Hanson  
Karen Sciacca  
Admin Council

**Breakthrough Prayers:** Please pray for those who have lost loved ones, and for God's peace in the middle east area and all over the world!



Your heart for ministry makes all the difference.

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00.** 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: 24th Sunday after Pentecost./ Veteran's Sunday  
God bless you all!

### Sunday Worship Services:

- |        |              |   |
|--------|--------------|---|
| 11/12: | 9:00 am      | Grantsburg with Zoom (at 9:15am, Sunday School)         |
|        | 10:00 am     | Atlas (at 10:15 am, Sunday School)                      |
|        | 11:15 am     | St. Croix Falls ( <b>No Zoom</b> )                      |
| 11/14: | 6:30 pm      | Ad Council Meeting (G)                                  |
| 11/15: | 6:30 pm      | Harmony Choir Concert-St. Paul UMC in Stevens Point, WI |
|        | 6:30-8:30 pm | Youth Worship Night at Wood Lake Camp                   |
| 11/17: | 2:00 pm      | SPRC Meeting at Atlas                                   |
| 11/19: |              | Thanksgiving Sunday                                     |
|        | 12:15 pm     | Ad Council Meeting (SCF)                                |
|        | 2:00 pm      | Pastor Jenny Leads Service at Continuing Care Center    |

**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

Janelle Zastrow 11/13

Pastor Jenny Lee 11/17



Next Sunday ( November 19th)

## VOLUNTEERS

### Central:

Preach	Barbara Loomis
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek
Sunday School	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Snow Removal	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

### Atlas:

Preach	Barbara Loomis
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Cheryl Olson

### St. Croix Falls:

Preach	Barbara Loomis
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Kathy Gionis
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Lynn Hanson
Flowers	Karen Sciacca
Fellowship	Admin Council



## Upcoming Events

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 10/26-11/12 | Pastor Jenny's Vacation   |
| 11/15       | 6:30 pm Harmony Choir Concert<br>5:30-8 pm Youth Worship Night at<br>Wood Lake Camp |
| 11/19       | Thanksgiving Sunday   |



# FAMILY.....!

1

*By Barabara Loomis*

There is an HBO series being aired on Netflix titled the "Band of Brothers". One of the directors is Tom Hanks. I have usually appreciated anything that Tom Hanks is a part of, so I suggested that my husband Jim and I should watch the program. It follows a large group of soldiers as they start their journey in Boot Camp and are plunged into the harsh realities of WWII. They have a treacherous journey across Europe. They are confronted with loss, both competent and incompetent leadership, and the atrocities of war. Throughout the series, the title "Band of Brothers" kept coming to the surface.

They made fun of each other. They cared about each other. If they were separated for days, it was almost like a family reunion, the joy of seeing each other. If word came that someone died, they quietly grieved. They had to move on.

At the beginning of each episode, where interviews with WWII Veterans that had made that treacherous journey. That sense of family seemed to ring throughout their interviews. I watch war movies with my husband, not because I like them, but because he does. Heads up, as the series progressed it became more and more difficult for me to watch. I still need to watch the last episode. Jim watched that one without me.

That sense of family made me think of our local American Legion. The American Legion Auxiliary meets before the Legion each month. I have watched as members gather.

They are a family. There is a need to gather. It is not just another meeting you are obligated to attend. Jim Sundquist's daughter is a member. I keep using the word "family" because our veterans are not just men. When I attended our American Legion District gathering I met some women that are active in the Legion. They are not Auxiliary.

This does not negate the fact that the "families" also serve.

When I was a junior in high school, during Physical Education, two soldiers in dress uniforms walked into the Gymnasium with the mother of one of the girls. This was my second high school, so I did not fully know what was happening or why. Girls started to wail and gather around one girl. She was six months pregnant. Her mother asked the soldiers to inform her daughter of her loss while she was surrounded by her friends. I shiver even now when I think back to that day.

That was the moment when I felt driven to protest the Vietnam war. I did respect our service people. Only around 25% of the army was drafted, however many joined because their number was up. By enlisting they were able to choose which branch of the military that they would serve. That is why my husband joined the Navy. There is a history of service in the Navy among his family and his birthday put him close to the top of the draft list.

Throughout history there has been war, someplace. War because of land, resources and even religion. In the Old Testament ancient wars were depicted as righteous. God himself killed the pharaoh's army at the Red Sea. Jericho was reduced by God. Let's not forget about David and Goliath. However, the Old Testament does have Moses on the mountaintop receiving the Ten Commandments. Even today the Ten Commandments did not turn us around.

Even after Jesus came and taught us to "Love one another" , that did not turn us around. Christians against Muslims is not new. Anti-Semitism always confuses me. Jesus was Jewish. Catholics have fought against Protestants. Look at history and what happened to the Incas, the

There have been wars without declaring war. The Inquisition, in which the only Christian church of the time basically declared war on its own people. The church dogma gave them permission.

I am not here to tell us to stay out of wars. What would have changed in history if the United States did not go to Europe? The Korean girl that asked me where are you from. said "Thank You, because of you we are free". South Korea is not fully free. The DMZ is a reality that has been addressed at the Wisconsin United Methodist Annual Conference.

I say "Thank You for your service" to our Veterans. Sometimes we need soldiers. Sometimes we need organizations like the Peace Corps.

A month ago, when I chose the Scripture 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16 from the lectionary, I thought this fits Veterans Day. As I delved into it and prayed , it seemed to be more of a Memorial Day Scripture. So, I prayed more.

The series I mentioned at the beginning "Band of Brothers " came to my attention at the perfect time. My brother-in-law's funeral also helped. The American Legion Post members coming forward to salute Mark and "send him on" brought it all together. That "Band of Brothers" or as I prefer Family , trust that they will see Mark again. Mark professed his faith and was never afraid to ask people if they believed in Jesus as their savior.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians was addressing what happens to Christians who die before the Lord Jesus returns. They believed that Jesus was coming back but were confused about some of the details surrounding His return. They believed what they were being taught. However, when one in their Band of believers passed away , how would they be with Jesus if they were not actually there for the Second coming. Death has always been so finite. The church of Thessalonians expected a much earlier return of the Lord. They were planning for their future.

Who here is a planner? I was more so when I was younger. People plan for weddings, holidays, and a new baby. Thanksgiving and let's not forget deer hunting.

Christmas is not far away. Now with Black Friday early shopping available, I know people that check the ads every week. Put Christ in your Christmas. Put in your heart that Jesus coming to us as a baby was just the beginning. The Lord's return is referred to over 300 times in Scripture! Might be important!

The Bible tells us in Matthew 24:7 NIV. "You will hear of wars and rumors of war, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, kingdom will rise against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes.". Our Veterans are part of the plan. And our plan should be to love each other.

What we can also be sure of is, because we believe There is a great future with the Lord waiting for us. And Paul tells us in verse 17 that we will be with the Lord forever. Amen.