

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Powerful God, whose voice penetrates the wilderness of our deceits, and whose transforming reality is symbolized in the act of baptism, take us now to the River Jordan, that we might share Jesus' moment of emptying self to receive your Spirit in all its power. Move us to remembrance that we have been baptized, that your grace was poured out on us, not because we earned it, but because of your amazing generosity. Amid the wonder of it all, we would replant all our ministry by your Spirit once more to be your holy church. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen!

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!

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Mighty God, you have given us everything we have. You have granted us life. You have poured out abiding love on our behalf. You have made us rich. We share this awareness, and because we care about people who do not know you, people who have not shared your abundance, people who have defied your commandments, people who need your love. Bless our gifts to do the work you intend. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN**

We Are Called

TFWS 2172

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Jenny Lee

***POSTLUDE**

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

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

The 2024 Parish Ministry Theme:
“Let's Replant it” (Galatians 6:7-10)

Baptism of the Lord/A Blessing Service



Grantsburg-Central
Since 1897



Atlas
Since 1887



St. Croix Falls
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICES:

*9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service
(9:15 AM, Sunday School)
10:00 AM at Atlas (No Sunday School)
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snsnyder@gmail.com

Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com

Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 **St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494

www.upperstcroixparish.org

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
January 7th, 2024
Baptism of the Lord/A Blessing Service

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** Toni Koons (G)/ Sharon Asp (A & SCF)
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING OF THE GREETINGS
“Happy New Year!”
(Waive your hands at one another)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive
The powerful voice of God created all worlds.
That same voice calls us to worship.
Ascribe to our God glory and strength.
Come before God’s glorious majesty.
God’s strength shakes the wilderness.
That same strength is offered to people of faith.
The flames of God penetrate our cold hearts.
May God bless all people with true peace.
Come together to remember your baptism.
Gather to celebrate the Spirit’s gifts.
The heavens open to us at the Word of God.
Surely God forgives and makes whole. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Spirit Song* UMH 347

BLESSING TO NEW LEADERSHIP & ALL CONGREGATION

OPENING PRAYER Unison (The Apostles’ Creed)
I believe in God, the father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he
descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he
ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in
the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen!

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION Pastor Jenny Lee
CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison
Merciful God,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against you love,
we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(prayers in Silence)
Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ,
We are forgiven! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH 13-14 (See insert)
THE LORD’S PRAYER
RECEIVING THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER Unison
Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you
have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the
strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the
name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON** Mark 1:4-11 (See insert)
This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“Let’s Replant it by the Holy Spirit!”* Pastor Jenny Lee

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his
disciples,

and said: “take, eat; this is my body which given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it
to his disciples, and said: “drink from this, all of you; this is my blood
of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice,

in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of
faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

**(Together) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on
these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and
blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.**

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,

and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

4 so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." 9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. 11 And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

2024 ATLAS LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

1. Administrative Council:

- Chairperson: Sue Olson
- Secretary: Cheryl Olson
- Treasurer: Colleen Adams-Schween
- Financial Secretary: Ashleigh Olson
- Lay Member to AC: Sue Olson
- All Committee Chairpersons

2. Wills/Memorials/Archives Committee

- Meryl Walsten
- Sue Olson

3. Christian Education:

- Coordinator: Jamie Steffen
- All Sunday School Teachers

4. Audit Committee:

- Members: Mariah Gaffey
BRIANA OLSON

5. Nominations & Lay Leadership Committee:

- Chairperson: Pastor
- Class of 2025: Josie Grimes
- Lay Members of AC: Sue Olson

6. Lead Money Counter:

- Sue Olson

7. Missions Committee:

- Chairperson: ASHLEIGH OLSON
- United Pioneer Home Rep: Sue Olson
- Food Shelf Rep: Pastor

8. Staff/Parish Relations Com (3 pt-Charge):

- Class of 26: Wendell Hauble(Co-Chair)
- Class of 24: Colleen Adam-Schween
- Lay Member of AC: Sue Olson

9. Stewardship & Finance Committee:

- Treasurer: Colleen Adams-Schween
- Financial Secretary: Ashleigh Olson
- Ad. Council Chair: Sue Olson
- Lay Member of AC: Sue Olson
- Rep from Trustees: Scott Olson
- Audit: Mariah Gaffey
- Pastor

10. Board of Trustees:

- Class of 24: Lee Frederickson
- Class of 25: Jared Olson
- Class of 26: SCOTT OLSON
- Legal Papers:
Treasurer: Colleen Adams-Schween
Ad Council Chair: Sue Olson

11. Worship Committee:

- Sue Olson (Candles, Communion, Altar Cloths)
- Sharon Asp (Music)
- Pastor

12. Funeral Contact

Any Atlas Church Member

2024 CENTRAL LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

1. Administrative Council:
 - Chairperson: BARBARA LOOMIS
 - Secretary:
 - Finance: Russ Hammer
 - Trustee: Dave Huff
 - Worship: TONI KOONS
 - Mission: Deb Hammer
 - Education: /Barbara Loomis
 - Youth Director: Shayna Schmid
 - UMW President: Mary McNally
 - UMM President: Charles Wright
 - Lay Mbr of AC: Barbara Loomis
 - All Committee Chairpersons’
2. Archives Committee:
 - Librarian: Kayleen Branstad
3. Children/Youth Ministry:
 - Youth Director: Shayna Schmid
 - Sunday School Teachers:
Barbara Loomis & JENNI STEADMEN
 - High School Youth Leaders:
BARBARA LOOMIS & JENNI TOBER-STEADMEN
4. Nominations & Lay Leadership Development:
 - Chairperson: Pastor
 - Class of 26: BOB BRANSTAD
 - Ex Officio: Barbara Loomis
5. Memorials & Wills:
 - Chairperson: Pastor
 - Pauline Bistram
 - Linda Hokanson
 - Judy Lien
6. Staff/Parish Relations Com. (3-pt Charge):
 - Lay Member of AC:
Barbara Loomis (SPRC Co-Chair)

- Class of 25: Kayleen Branstad
- Class of 26: PAULIE KRATCHMER

7. Finance:

- Chair: RUSS HAMMER
- Financial Secretary: Dave Huff
- Audit: DON ANDERSON
- Pastor

8. Board of Trustees:

- Chair: Dave Huff
- Class of 24: Stan Chute
- Class of 26: RUSS HAMMER
- Class of 26: SANDRA ERICKSON

9. Worship:

- Chair: TONI KOONS
- Pastor
- Candles: Charles Wright
- Paraments: SALLY ALDERFER/BOB BRANSTAD
- Pianist/Choir Dir: Toni Koons
- Communion: Barbara Loomis
- Communion Back-up: Mary Lou Wright

2024 St. Croix Falls Leadership Teams

1. Administrative Council

- Chairperson: Karen Sciacca
- Vice-Chair: LeAnn Sylvester
- Secretary: Kathleen Gionis
- Finance Committee Chair: Jim Andrews
- Treasurer: Peter Gionis
- Financial Secretary: Betty Doolittle
- Church School Superintendent: Kathleen Gionis
- Lay Servant: Kathleen Gionis
- Lay Member to AC: Karen Sciacca

- Board of Trustees Chair: Jim Sciacca
- Memorials: KAREN SCIACCA
- Missions: Kate Murtaugh
- Worship: Sharon Asp
- Upper St. Croix Parish Treasurer: Jim Andrews

2. Finance Committee

- Chair: Jim Andrews
- Treasurer: Peter Gionis
- Financial Secretary: Betty Doolittle
- Audit: KAREN SCIACCA

3. Church Historian

- LeAnn Sylvester

4. Staff/Parish Relations Committee (3 pt Charge)

- Class of 2024: Sharon Asp
- Lay Servant: Kathleen Gionis
- Lay Member to AC: Karen Sciacca

5. Nominations & Lay Leadership Committee

- Pastor
- Class of 2025: Karen Sciacca
- Class of 2026: LEANN SYLVESTER

6. Board of Trustees

- Chair: Jim Sciacca
- Class of 2025: Jim Andrews
- Class of 2026: STEVE SYLVESTER



7. Helping Hands & Worship Coordinators

- Peter Gionis
- LeAnn Sylvester
- LYNN HANSON
- Sharon Asp (Pianist)

JANUARY CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p>LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</p> <p>Requested items: cooking oil (smaller and larger), mayonnaise, sugar 4# size, bar soap, dish and laundry soap. Personal products for men and women.</p>	<p>In January we will be collecting hygiene kits for Polk County Foster Care. Deadline Sunday, January 28. There will be a sign-up sheet at church for people to sign up for items to donate.</p>  <p>Hygiene Kits Needed</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>We will be collecting financial donations for the Grantsburg Food Shelf.</p> 
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support The Salvation Army!</i></p> 
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Barbara Loomis
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek
Snow Removal	Volunteer Needed
Communion	Jim & Barbara Loomis

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Cheryl Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Colleen Adams-Schween
Communion	Sue Olson

St. Croix Falls

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



Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for those who are in need, the sick, those who have lost loved ones, and for God's peace for all over the world!

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 am at Central at 11:15 am by request.** 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
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>
- 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: Baptism of the Lord!
"A Blessing Sunday" to bless all of you!
Happy New Year!

Worship Service Schedule

- 1/7: 9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom (at 9:15 am, Sunday School)
10:00 am Atlas (at 10:15 am, Sunday School)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls
- 1/8: 5:00 pm Youth Leaders Meeting at (G)
- 1/10: 1:00 pm UMW Meeting (G)
6:30 pm Senior Youth Gathering (G)
- 1/12: 5:30-8:00 pm Youth Worship & Game Night at (G)
- 1/13: 8:00 am UM Men's Meeting (G)

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

Kenneth Olson 1/13



Next Sunday (January 14th)

VOLUNTEERS

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Paulie Kratchmer
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek
Snow Removal	Volunteer Needed

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Josie Grimes
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed

St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Peter Gionis & Karen Sciacca
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Lynn Hanson
Communion	Kathy & Peter Gionis
Potluck Fellowship	All Together

Upcoming Events-Mark Your Calendar

- 1/14 SCF Fellowship Meal / Atlas Fellowship Week
- 1/16 Ad Council Meeting Central-Grantsburg
- 1/19 Ad Council Meeting Atlas
- 1/21 Ad Council Meeting St. Croix Falls
- 1/23 SPRC Meeting





January 7th, 2024,
Mark 1:4-11

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

“Let’s Replant it Through the Holy Spirit!”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: Before performing a baptism, the Priest approached the young father and said solemnly, “Baptism is a serious step. Are you prepared for it?” “I think so,” the man replied. “My wife has made appetizers, and we have a caterer coming to provide plenty of cookies and cakes for all of our guests.” “I don’t mean that,” the Priest responded. “I mean, are you prepared spiritually?” “Oh, sure,” Came the reply. “I’ve got a keg of beer and a case of whiskey.”

Happy New Year, everyone! It is a time to make new resolutions for a new year. Did you make a list of resolutions? The Second Letter of Corinthians says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Yes, we are new creations in Jesus Christ. Whatever you have done last year, we have a second chance to do things differently this year. Let’s make a new plan to move forward!

Some of you may remember what I mentioned last Sunday, using Professor Lee’s lecture: Every group has stages of forming/reforming, storming, norming, performing, and adjourning. We have done many things in the last year, and some of them are adjourned, and some are still going on. It is time to reform our ministry plan. Let’s plan our ministry with new spirits, new minds, and a new theme. When I prayed and meditated about our church ministry for 2024, one theme came to my mind, “Replant it!” Here is the scripture our ministry theme came from: The Letter of Galatians says, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from the nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” In this scripture, a verse came to my mind strongly, “A man reaps what he sows.” God is sincere and faithful. God never forsakes us. God knows everything we plant. Let’s plant the seed of the good news, the seed of joy, the seed of hope, and the seed of peace in our ministry so that we shall reap good fruits.

Again, it is a time for reforming our ministry because, in Grantsburg’s case, we have additional children and a new youth ministry; with regards to Atlas, we have overcome financial difficulties with many supporters; and as far as St. Croix Falls goes, we should think of our next-generation ministry. Our individual churches have unique characteristics, and the characteristics would be our gifts given by God. According to the gifts, we should specialize in our ministry. Outreach should be required for all three churches. Let’s work together with hope and joy. Jesus used to say, “My Father is still working, and I also am working” (John 5:17). As long as God works for us, we can work together.

There is a “My Resolution (Wish) List for the church in 2024” form. Please take a form, fill it out, and put it on the offering plate. Remember, you are the children of God, the Beloved! Our church is a house of God that we build together. You are such an important part of the body of the church. Your dedication and commitment are the key to being able to extend and vitalize our church ministry. This year, we should focus on revitalizing the church ministry beyond just sustaining it. Jesus says, “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Mathew 18:20). We have more than three who gather together in Jesus’ name. Therefore, Jesus shall be there for us when we replant our ministry. Let’s work together again this year! What do you want to do for our church? Make a resolution on how you can dedicate yourself to the church this year! What do you expect of me, your pastor, this year? And lastly, what do you expect your church to be?

In the teachings of Jesus, there is the golden rule, “In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31). Let’s love others first even though they don’t react to our invitation to come to the church, and continue inviting them until they have a church to attend. Let’s open our minds and hearts to one another and love one another in Jesus Christ so that people may know we are faithful Christians.

Today’s Gospel talks about Baptism. John the Baptist proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. When we are baptized, we are asked to confess our sins and to live a new life in Jesus Christ. The water we used for Baptism is a symbol of life and death. That’s Baptism, which is a symbol of dying in Christ by sins and being born again in Christ by the grace of forgiveness. One tangible importance of Baptism is to unite with Christ and with one another in God’s household. In other words, the one who has been baptized is welcomed into God’s household and becomes a family member of the church, the body of Christ. God justifies another inner sign, “You are my beloved child!” As Jesus came out of the water after being baptized, “The heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the beloved; with you I am well pleased.” It symbolizes God is pleased with those who have been baptized and justifies that they are the children of God.

We, the children of God, can make things happen together if God is pleased with us. Remember, we are one family in Jesus Christ; we support one another and we build the church together. Although the process of building the church is made up of several parts, our church is also building through our unity in the love of God. Let us go together with love even though some of us are weak. Let’s replant the seed of the good news with hope and joy this year! Thanks be to God. Amen!