

**Vow of New Members & Welcoming to the Body of Christ (A)**

(See Insert)

NO. 2024-32  
August 11th, 2024

Howard and Cindy Berenschot  
Ruth Blackburn

**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 AND OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH 95**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

Thank you, God, for your continuing providence, even when we complain. Thank you for the living bread, Jesus Christ, who feeds our spirits. In gratitude for undeserved grace and unlimited opportunity, we dedicate our offering and ourselves. Let our talk and our resources build up the body of Christ for greater service. May the needs of many be addressed in ways that bring hope, grace, and love to your children. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Shall We Gather at the River*

**UMH 723 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**\*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)

**12th Sunday After Pentecost**



**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-Summer break )  
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Pastor Jenny Lee:** [jennlee1732@gmail.com](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)

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**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**  
**August 11th, 2024**  
**12th Sunday After Pentecost**

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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”*

*(Waive your hands at one another)*

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Wait for God, who deals gently with us.

Watch for God’s appearance among us.

**Out of the depths we cry out to God.**

**Will God hear the voice of our supplications?**

In all times and places, we can rely on God.

We can know steadfast love, here and now.

**We keep our morning watch together.**

**We will support one another as we seek to know God.**

Find hope in God’s power to redeem us.

Give thanks for the new day God promises to us.

**Life’s battles cannot destroy us.**

**The losses we suffer are not the last word. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN** *Wonderful Words of Life*  
UMH 600 (vs. 1 & 2)

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison

We come to you, holy God, with our many needs. Some of us are people in authority with weighty decisions to make. Some of us are fighting battles we cannot win. Some have faced unexpected losses that tear at the very fabric of life. There are broken relationships among us, feelings we do not want to admit, realities we do not want to face. There are also joys we have not really celebrated, reasons to give thanks to which we have never given voice. We come, O God, to be lifted out of our ruts and routines, seeking instead to find fullness of life with you. Amen!

**CHILDREN’S TIME (G)**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**John 6:35, 41-51**

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

41 Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42 They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” 43 Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise that person up on the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47 Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**SERMON** “The Love of God for Everyone” **Pastor Jenny Lee**

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison

**Bread of heaven, feed us. Word of truth, teach us. Author of life, fit us for eternity amid our days on this earth, that our deeds may honor you. Help us to be kind and tenderhearted to one another as you love us, and to forgive one another as, in Christ, you have forgiven us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!**

# NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP VOW(A)

## INTRODUCTION

## PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Howard and Cindy Berenschot (*Renewal Membership*)

Ruth Blackburn (*Transferring from Old Miakka UMC, Florida*)

## CONFIRMATION & MEMBERSHIP VOW

1. Do you here, in the presence of God, and of this congregation, renew the solemn promise and vow that you made, or that was made in your name at your Baptism? If so, answer, **“I DO.”**
2. Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and pledge your allegiance to His Kingdom? If so, say, **“YES.”**
3. Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as found in the Old and New Testament? If so, say, **“I DO.”**
4. Do you promise to continue to read God’s Word and to allow His teachings to live in you? If so, answer, **“I PROMISE WITH GOD’S HELP.”**
5. Do you promise according to the grace given you, to live a Christian life and always remain a faithful member of Christ’s Holy Church? If so, say, **“I DO”.**
6. As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? If so, answer, **“I WILL”.**
7. As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness? If so, answer, **“I WILL”.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CONFIRMANDS**

### **COMMENDATION AND WELCOME**

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**People: We Do.**

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

**People : With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, and pray for them that they may grow in their trust in God and in service to others, and be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Pastor: As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?

**People: We will**

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

## **THE APOSTLE'S 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, 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!**

### **PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS**

### **BLESSING**

# AUGUST CHURCH MISSIONS



## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b></p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p><b>LOAVES &amp; FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Requested items: eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies. Personal Products for men &amp; women.</p>	<p><b>LAUNDRY DETERGENT</b></p> <p>We will be collecting laundry detergent for Loaves &amp; Fishes Food Shelf.</p> 
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## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p><b>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</b></p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p><b>DISCRETIONARY FUND COLLECTION</b></p> <p>This month will be collecting financial donations for CUMC's discretionary fund. This fund is used by the pastor to assist individuals who reach out to the church for help. This can be money for gas, food or other essential needs. Thank you for your support!</p> 
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## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p><b>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</b></p> 	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p> <p><i>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Interfaith Caregivers!</i></p> 
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Thank you for your support!

# TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

**Ministers All God's People**  
Rev. Jenny Lee

## VOLUNTEERS

### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Mary Lou & Charles Wright
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Russ Hammer
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman



### Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Summer Break

### St. Croix Falls

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



## **Breakthrough Prayers:**

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

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday only at 9:00 am.**
- 2) 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>  
BlycytTRzVxMFIIZz09  
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,  
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 3) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at [upperstcroixparish.org](http://upperstcroixparish.org) under Sermons!
- 4) Sunday's video may be uploaded on late Sundays!  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>
- 5) 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: 12th Sunday After Pentecost. Communion Sunday  
*God Bless you all!*

### Worship Service Schedule

- |       |              |  |
|-------|--------------|--|
| 8/11: | 9:00 am      | Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday School)            |
|       | 10:00 am     | Atlas (No Sunday School-Summer Break)                    |
|       | 11:15 am     | St. Croix Falls  |
| 8/11: | 10:45 am     | Coffee Fellowship (A)<br>Celebration for New Members     |
| 8/13  | 5:00-6:00 pm | Participatory Theater Ministry Board Meeting via<br>Zoom |
| 8/16  | 1:30 pm      | Ad Council Meeting (A)                                   |

## This Week's Birthdays

Charles Wright  
8/15



## Next Sunday (August 18th):

### VOLUNTEERS:

#### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Toni & Georgeanne Koons
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

#### Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Mariah Gaffey
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Summer Break

#### St. Croix Falls

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



## Upcoming Events & News-Mark Your Calendar

### Ad Council Meetings:

*Atlas: 8/16, SCF: 8/18 and G: 8/20*

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 8/21    | <b>Open House-Grantsburg Parsonage:</b><br><i>Pastor Jenny's Ordination Celebration</i>   |
| 8/22-25 | <b>Burnett County Fair (G)</b>  |
| 8/24    | <b>Pie &amp; Ice Cream Social (G)</b>   |
| 8/25    | <b>Joint Service at Atlas Park-Blessing of the<br/>Backpacks, our Teachers and our Pets.</b><br><i>(Atlas church will provide lunch; please bring a lawn<br/>chair if you have one)</i> |

August 11th, 2024

John 6:35, 41-51

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



## **“The Love of God for Everyone!”**

I want to start something funny that I found on an internet site: A ninety-five year old lady at the nursing home received a visit from one of her fellow church members. “How are you feeling, Mary?” the visitor asked. “Oh,” said the lady, “I’m just worried sick!” “What are you worried about, dear?” her friend asked. “You look like you’re in good health. They are taking care of you, aren’t they?” “Yes, they are taking very good care of me.” “Are you in any pain?” she asked. “No, I have never had a pain in my life.” “Well, what are you worried about?” her friend asked again. The lady leaned back in her rocking chair and slowly explained her major worry. “Every close friend I ever had has already died and gone on to heaven. I’m afraid they’re all wondering where I went.”

What is your main concern about? I noticed there is one main concern of most elderly people I have met through my visits to different nursing homes. Can you guess what it is? Maybe being alone, loneliness, being sick, pain, or dying? Nope, that’s not their main concern. They can endure pain, sickness, or even being alone. But what holds their concern is their adult children. Even though their children are in their fifties, sixties, or even their seventies, they still worry about them. It’s because they still think of them as babies who need to be cared for by them, especially if they are unmarried or single. Is that true?

I still remember my mother’s last words. She was so worried about me, saying, “I am sorry I offered you to God. I worry that you will live alone on your ministry journey. Please go to America, study more, and become a pastor there.” For my mother, I was her greatest concern. She seemed to know it was time to go back to God. However, she didn’t worry about death, but about my siblings and me, and whether we would keep our faith in God. Most Christians don’t fear death because they believe in eternal life, but they worry about their current worldly life. This is because they know that it is not easy for Christians to keep their faith in God in this world.

On the other hand, non-Christians have more fear about death. Some people say, “Human life is a picnic. After finishing a picnic, everyone should go back home.” Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) said that “Humans, from the moment of birth, carry the embryo of death within their bodies, slowly nurturing it as they walk towards death.” In other words, from their birth, all human beings grow in death. The scripture says, “for dust you are and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). This is very familiar to us, right? We often hear these words on Ash Wednesday. It seems so sad if you believe our lives in this world is all there is. At least for Christians, who believe in eternal life, it sounds sad.

However, the scripture says, even if our physical bodies perish, our spirits shall not perish but have eternal life. The Gospel of John 3:16 states this clearly: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” As I meditated on this verse, I felt full of God’s grace and love. It says, “Whoever believe in Jesus Christ, shall not perish but have eternal life.” This means regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, or any social and class status-all will have eternal life.

Some of you may remember that I shared my story. I grew up in a patriarchal family, which means it was a male-centered family. When I was born, my grandfather ordered the heater in the delivery room to be turned off because my mother had delivered a girl. So, I grew up in the strength of cold weather. When I was a teenager, my grandfather didn’t allow me to go to high school, so I could only attend a boarding school through a full scholarship. When I attended a Korean Methodist Church, they rejected my father and me from Communion because we were not baptized yet. I planted two new Korean Congregation churches, but they didn’t allow me to

be a lead pastor because I am a woman. But God sent me to the United Methodist Church, which is open-minded, open-hearted, and open-doored to everyone. Yes, I have experienced many discriminations. However, whenever I struggled with discrimination, God didn't remove that situation for me, but delivered me to another safe place. Is this something that only happened to me? You know yourself how God has protected you. God is the author of our lives. God writes our life's story in a better way than we could possibly plan or dream.

Today's scripture shows an example that you should never follow. It's funny to comment not to follow scripture, right? In today's scripture, Jesus preaches a serious sermon. He begins with this: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." After hearing this, how does that make you feel? For me, I would say, "Please give me the bread so that I am never hungry or thirsty." Or "How can we have the bread that ensures we are never hungry?" However, some people in the scripture missed the point, saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" The matter is not the tangible environment, but the invisible truth. There is the invisible seed of eternal life in the visible Jesus. Don't follow visible and changeable things. Don't look for the environment; look for the truth and the life.

Do you know why many Israelites died in the wilderness even though they left from Egypt for the Promised Land? It was because they complained about their visible circumstances. They complained about hunger, thirst, tiredness, sickness, and so on, but they couldn't perceive how God walked with them, feeding them manna, turning bitter water sweet, shading them with a cloud under the sun, and protecting them with fire at night. The scripture says, "During the forty years that I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet. I did this so that you might know that I am the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 29:5-6) However, they couldn't grasp the true issue. For God so loved all people who pursue visible things that He sent the visible God, Jesus Christ, but people still didn't realize He is the bread of life. Our confession of faith is to receive the bread and wine (grape juice) at Communion. The elements of Communion, the bread and grape juice, are not the actual body and blood of Christ. However, as we believe them to be symbols of the body and blood of Christ given to us, they become signs that we receive eternal life through Jesus Christ.

When the Israelites were afflicted by poisonous snakes, God, in His love, provided a remedy. He instructed them that if anyone looked up at the bronze snake on a pole, they would be cured. Some believed in God, looked up, and were healed, but others complained, asking, "What is the purpose of that bronze snake?" and died in the wilderness without reaching the Promised Land.

Please keep your faith in God. We are saved through faith in Jesus Christ by the grace of God. God's love is extended to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ. God loves you! God sent Jesus Christ for you. God is writing your life story in this world, but He hasn't finished it yet. Be patient and trust in God. And, let's see how God works for us! God bless you! Thanks be to God. Amen!