

serve you. Help us dare to believe and trust and live our days
returning your love through the neighbors near and far who need
to know your care. Amen!

NO. 2024-42
October 20th, 2024

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

We give with joy, loving God, in thanks for all you have allowed us
to experience. By your love, we have survived and learned and
grown. We dedicate these gifts so that more people may be
brought to the feet of Jesus, who is the eternal source of salvation.
Equip us to be an inviting, caring community in which all your
ignorant and wayward people find a genuine welcome and are
lifted up to new understanding and joy. We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *Where He Leads Me* UMH 338 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

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

Worship designed "Led By Love" by Lavon Bayler

Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2024 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Let's Replant It" (Galatians 6:7-10)

22nd 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 (10:15 AM, 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
October 20th, 2024
22nd Sunday After Pentecost

*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

Let your minds ponder the manifold works of God.

Let your spirits soar amid the wonders of creation.

There is pulsating life all around us.

The earth is full of God’s creatures.

Sun and rain proclaim God’s infinite imagination.

Moon and stars sing the glory of the Eternal One.

It is God who shares with us wisdom and understanding.

We depend on God for the gift of life.

We gather to worship and praise the God of all people.

We come to learn from the God we only dimly perceive.

We reach out for answers to our questions.

We long to find meaning and purpose for our days. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

UMH 430 (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Source of all things, how can we approach glory so vast that all space and time is surrounded by you? we cannot comprehend the marvels of the earth. How shall we honor your majesty? You are so unknowable, yet evidence of your work is on every hand. The mystery of life in all its many forms, the discoveries we are allowed to make, the sweep of knowledge entrusted to our use, the amazing resources of this planet—all speak of a God who cares, who honors us, who provides for our salvation. Let this time of meeting honor you and equip us to do your will. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 10:35-45

35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” 36 And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” 37 And they said to him, “Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” 38 But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” 39 They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

41 When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. 42 So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43 But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“What Do Disciples of Jesus Look Like?”*

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

In the name of Jesus Christ who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give life itself for us, we approach your Word with gratitude. We live in different times but in the same world in which Jesus ate and drank, lived, and died. We share the same baptism and have the same opportunity to know your love and

OCTOBER 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: eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies. Personal Products for men & women.</p>	<p>OPERATIONS CHRISTMAS CHILD</p> <p>We will be collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child through Sunday, Nov. 10th.</p> <p>Information is available on the table at church.</p> <p>Pack-Donate-Pray...Thank You!</p> 
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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>This month will be collecting financial donations to support Trick or Treat for UNICEF.</p> 
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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 UMCOR</i></p> 
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Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Rev. Jenny Lee

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Barbara Loomis
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman



Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Mariah Gaffey
Usher	Cheryl Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Josie Grimes

St. Croix Falls

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

Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for those who are sick or scheduled for surgery: Kay Lampher, Ron Alderfer, Shane Tooze, Virginia Hill, Herarly Koser, Lynn Hanson, Jameson Koser, Briana, Sally Schmitt, Trinity, Suzie, Sancy Olson, and those who you know.

Please pray for those who are stay homebound: Dorothy Miller and Ken Olson

"This kind can come out only by prayer"(Mark 9:29)



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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFllZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 3) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at 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: 22nd Sunday After Pentecost.
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

10/20:	9:00 am	Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am-Sunday School)
	10:00 am	Atlas (10:15 am-Sunday School)
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls
10/20:	12:15 pm	Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
10/20-21:		Provisional Elder Workshop at Pine Lake (Pastor Jenny)
10/22:	10:00 am	November Newsletter & Calendar Info Due
	10:30 am -1:30 pm	Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves and Fishes in Luck
10/23:	5:30-7:30pm	Junior Youth Gathering (G)
10/24:	5:00-6:00 pm	Youth Band (G)
	6:30-8:30 pm	Senior Youth Bible Study (G)
10/25-27:		Junior Youth Fall-Out Camp at Wood Lake Camp

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jim & Karen Sciacca 10/20
Derek Stedman 10/23
Georgeanne Koons 10/23
Wendell & Maxine Hauble 10/26
Bob Popham 10/26
Kate Murtaugh 10/26



Next Sunday (October 27th):

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Judy Lien
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman



Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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

Upcoming Events & News

- 10/30: **Halloween Party for K-up all the Kids**
Blessing Service (Harmony Choir Concert) at Stevens Point
- 11/3: **All Saints Sunday**
(Please list all saints whom you want to lift up during service on the clipboard at church)
- 11/10: **Veterans Sunday**

October 20th, 2024

Mark 10:35-45

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



What Do Disciples of Jesus Look Like?

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: There was once a strongman at a circus sideshow who demonstrated his incredible strength before a crowd. Toward the end of his performance, he squeezed the juice from a lemon with his bare hands and said, “I’ll give \$200 to anyone who can squeeze another drop out of this lemon.” A frail older woman hobbled up to the stage, picked up the lemon, and squeezed out a teaspoon of juice. Amazed, the strongman paid her the \$200 and privately asked, “What’s the secret of your strength?” She replied, “Practice. I’ve been the treasurer of my church for 42 years!”

This funny story reminds me of how much we rely on the dedication and service of our lay leaders, especially after celebrating Laity Sunday. It was such a wonderful day as we shared and honored the work of lay ministry. Without all of you, church ministries wouldn’t happen. I deeply appreciate your faithful and sincere service. Even though we didn’t hear directly from our treasurers on Laity Sunday, they shared their contributions during our meeting about the 2025 budget. Their work reminds me of squeezing a lemon that’s already been squeezed dry! Despite the challenges of managing a tight budget, they handle it well, keeping our administrative life running smoothly. I truly appreciate all our church leaders and everyone who follows their example.

Reflecting on Laity Sunday, I couldn’t help but think about the disciples of Jesus. What do they look like? Today’s Scripture shows us what Jesus wanted His disciples to be, and it’s still relevant to us. I sometimes wonder how lonely Jesus must have felt, even with the twelve disciples around Him. They often misunderstood Him, looked in different directions, or dreamed of things far removed from Jesus’ mission.

Let’s take a closer look at today’s Scripture. After Jesus shared His final mission with the disciples — that He would suffer, be betrayed, die, and rise again — they were still preoccupied with thoughts of power and status. Right after Jesus talked about His death, they asked Him, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.” Jesus responded, “What is it you want me to do for you?” They replied, “Grant us to sit, one at Your right hand and one at Your left, in Your glory” (Mark 10:35-37). Can you imagine how Jesus must have felt? Here He was, speaking of His imminent suffering, and they were concerned about their positions in what they believed would be a glorious earthly kingdom.

However, instead of reprimanding them, Jesus patiently explained, “You don’t know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” (Mark 10:38). They confidently replied, “We are able.” But they didn’t realize what they were agreeing to. The “cup” Jesus spoke of referred to His suffering and death, and the “baptism” referred to His persecution. When Jesus prayed at Gethsemane, He asked God to take this cup from Him, yet He surrendered to God’s will. Jesus prayed, “Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will” (Mark 14:36). The cup symbolized the death He would endure on the cross.

James and John, like the other disciples, eventually took up the challenge. James became the first apostle to be martyred, as we read in Acts 12:2, while John was exiled to the island of Patmos under Roman Emperor Domitian (81–96 AD), where he lived out his days. In a sense, they did become Jesus’ “right and left hands,” playing pivotal roles in the early church after Jesus ascended (Acts 1:9).

Returning to the Scripture, Jesus gives us a profound message while His disciples were busy arguing about who would be the greatest. Jesus said, “You know that among the Gentiles, those whom they recognize as their

rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you. Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:42-45).

This is the core message of Mark’s Gospel: We are to be different from the world’s idea of greatness. Jesus came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a sacrifice for many. This is what He taught His disciples then, and what He continues to teach us today. Being a disciple of Jesus means living a life of service, just as He did.

In today’s world, we sometimes face challenges in following Jesus and fulfilling our church’s mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” But have you ever thought about what a disciple of Jesus looks like today? When we think of disciples, we often imagine the twelve apostles from the Bible. But in truth, we are the disciples of Jesus. We are called to be His faithful followers in our everyday lives.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus gives us a new commandment: “Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another.” So, if you love others, you are a disciple of Jesus. Even if you never declare, “I am a disciple of Jesus,” people will know by your love.

Of course, love isn’t just a feeling; it’s an action. It’s something people notice. There’s a saying: “There are two things people can’t hide — a cough and love.” We all know it’s impossible to hide a cough, but why love? Because when you love someone, it shows in your actions. You smile more, forgive easily, and become more generous. Love transforms people.

Let me share a personal story. My mother was baptized at age 10 by an American missionary in a tent church. She learned to read and write in both English and Korean through Sunday school because, as a girl, she wasn’t allowed formal education. Later, when my grandfather refused to let me attend high school because I was a girl, my mother took a bold step. She moved us out of his house, and I had to live independently as a teenager.

I watched my mother struggle as a daughter-in-law, wife, and mother in a patriarchal society, and I questioned why she suffered even though she believed in God. For a long time, I had a negative view of Christianity. But then I met a Christian friend in high school. She often invited me to her house, shared her food, and gave me school supplies. She even took me to church, where she played Christian songs on the piano. She never pressured me to go to church, but her love and care made a difference in my life.

Years later, after I became a minister and planted a church, I invited her and her husband to visit. Her husband said, “Since we started dating, my wife always prayed for you. It’s incredible to see you as a minister now.” My friend told me, “I prayed for you for 17 years. God answered my prayers.” Her love and prayers made a lasting impact, even when I didn’t realize it.

Love cannot be hidden. Even if the person you love doesn’t recognize it, God sees it. Our prayers may take longer than we expect, but God never forgets them. Love makes God real to us and others.

So, let’s love in action. Serve others with your hands and feet. The loose change in your pocket can feed hundreds. The clothes and blankets in your closet can help those in need. When faced with challenges, ask, “Lord, what should I do as Your disciple?” God will guide you. Thanks be to God. Amen!