Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church Grantsburg, St. Croix Falls, Atlas P.O. Box 128 Grantsburg, WI 54840



## Inside this issue:

Stewardship Message	2
Letter from Pastor Jenny	3-4
Central News	5-6
Atlas News	7-8
St. Croix Falls News	9
Miscellaneous	10
Activity Fun Pages	11-12
Church Happenings in Photos	13-20
Polk County Food Shelf Info.	21
Burnett County Food Shelf Info	22

# A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Stewardship Ideas for February February 2025

Valentine's Day is just around the corner — a time to celebrate love. We often think of lines like "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways," or picture roses, cupids, and hearts filling store shelves. But amidst the romance, have we lost sight of love's deeper meaning?

Romantic love is everywhere, yet even that is often reduced to fleeting infatuation. More significantly, many have forgotten the love that Jesus calls us to live out: "Love your enemies" (Luke 6:27), "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39), and "The one who loves another has fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:8).

This love isn't about warm, fuzzy feelings. Christian love is about action. It's choosing to act kindly, even when our feelings fall short. When someone cuts us off in traffic, we can respond with patience rather than anger. When dealing with a difficult coworker, we can show genuine interest in their life rather than just tolerating their presence.



Often, loving actions lead to loving feelings, not the other way around. Romantic love, for instance, grows deeper through small gestures like holding hands. Similarly, in other relationships, choosing to act with love can foster understanding and compassion over time.

This Valentine's Day, cherish romantic love but also take every opportunity to practice Christian love — through your actions toward neighbors, enemies, and everyone you encounter. It's in these moments that we reflect God's greatest commandment: "Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14).

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at www.wumf.org or Facebook/wumf.org Or call 1-888-903-9863

# UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

THE UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH 715-463-2624 Parish Office (in Grantsburg) 715-483-9494 St. Croix Falls Church Church Email: centralumc2016@gmail.com, Pastor Jenny Lee: JENNLEE1732@GMAIL.COM Website: www.upperstcroixparish.org Facebook: Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Churches February 2025



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

## "A Time for Reflection and Renewal"

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1)

As we enter Stewardship Month, I invite you to pause and reflect on what it means to be faithful stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is not merely a matter of finances or resources; it is an expression of our faith and an act of worship.

Every morning, I follow a simple habit. After waking up, I make a cup of coffee and look out the window at the bird feeders. I enjoy watching the birds as I sip my coffee. It's a calm and peaceful way to begin a new day. When there are no birds, I check the feeders to see if they're empty and refill them if needed. I never know if the birds visiting my feeders are the same or different, but when they're absent, I find myself wondering—do they have enough food? Is it too cold, too windy, or is snow covering the ground?

Despite not knowing who they are, I take joy in watching them eat from the feeders I've prepared. This simple act often brings to mind how God watches over us in our daily lives. Perhaps, when we don't "eat," God worries about whether we have enough. If we don't go out to work or play, maybe He's concerned that something is troubling us, or that we're unwell.

Over time, this quiet morning ritual has become a reflection on God's care for all creation, including you and me. Psalm 24:1 reminds us, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." This verse underscores that everything we have—our time, talents, treasures, and even the earth itself—belongs to God. As stewards, we are called to manage these resources wisely, not for personal gain but for His glory.

In 1 Peter 4:10, we are encouraged: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." This verse reminds us that all we have—our time, talents, and treasures—are gifts from God, meant to be used for His glory and the benefit of others.

During this season, I encourage you to reflect on three areas of stewardship: Time, Talents, and Treasures.

- Time: How are you dedicating your time to deepen your relationship with God and serve others? Perhaps it's through prayer, volunteering, or simply being present for someone in need.
- Talents: Each of us has unique abilities that can be used to build God's kingdom. Whether it's teaching, singing, organizing, or crafting, your gifts are valuable and needed in the body of Christ.
- Treasures: Giving financially is a tangible way to express gratitude and trust in God. It's not about the amount, but the heart behind the giving. Remember how Jesus praised the widow who gave two small coins, recognizing her profound faith and devotion (Mark 12:41-44).

### FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

Stewardship is also an invitation to gratitude. When we acknowledge that all we have comes from God, our hearts overflow with thankfulness, inspiring us to give generously. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Let this month be a time of reflection and action. How can you be a more faithful steward of the blessings God has given you? How can you contribute to the work of the church and the well-being of your community? As we journey through Stewardship Month, may we do so with open hearts and a willingness to serve. Let us honor God with all we are and all we have, trusting in His promise to provide for us abundantly. Let's embrace the joy of stewardship!

**Blessings!** 

Pastor Jenny







12-20-2024



1-22-2025

### A Little Valentine's Humor!















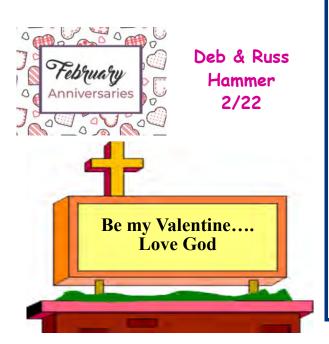
Central UMC is holding church services with a Zoom service at 9:00 am on Sundays. We are looking for volunteers to help out at each service. Sign up sheets are available at the church. We appreciate your willingness to help out!

We have started Sunday School after Children's Time every Sunday. We welcome all the kids to attend Sunday School!

We welcome everyone to join us for Coffee Fellowship after service each Sunday.



Peyton Smallwood 2/17 Hannah Smestad 2/23 Dauntay Erickson 2/27





# Offering Income through

# December 2024

Funds Description	December 2024	Y	ear-to-date 2024
General Fund Gifts	\$ 2,897.00	\$	43,719.99
Loose Offering	\$ 56.25	\$	712.60
Fat Tuesday		\$	38.00
VBS	\$ -	\$	20.00
Pie & Ice Cream Social		\$	454.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 10.00	\$	10.00
Christmas	\$ 181.00	\$	181.00
Worship	\$ 10.00	\$	10.00
Total General Funds	\$ 3,154.25	\$	45,145.59
Special Offering		\$	1,995.00
Missions	\$ 110.00	\$	931.75
Memorials		\$	645.00
Pastor's Youth Fund	\$ 558.00	\$	1,152.00
All Funds Total	\$ 3,822.25	\$	49,869.34

# GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS & MISC.



UMW met on January 8th where discussions were had regarding the new church photo album and the schedule of UMW events for 2025.

Plans for monthly activities in 2025 were reviewed and laid out. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- March-Bloodmobile
- April-Spring Sale
- May-CCC Birthday Treats
- July-UMW Members' B-Day Celebration
- November-Thank Banks for Youth Group

Next Meeting: February 12th at 1:00 pm Central UMC-Grantsburg Please Join Us! All are welcome!



## February 2025

We will be collecting financial donations and canned soup to support Souper Bowl of Caring. All donations will be given to the local foodshelf.



Thank you for your continued support of the Backpack Program and our monthly missions.



REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!



Ad Council Meeting

February 18, 2025 6:30 pm Central UMC Grantsburg





Next Meeting:

February 8th 8:00 am Central UMC

The United Methodist Men typically meet the 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00 am.



In-person (indoor) worship services held Sundays at 10:00 am. We will have Coffee Fellowship the 2nd Sunday of every month following the service. Sunday School is at 10:15 am every Sunday morning. Bring your kids along-they'll grow in faith, following your example!

We will be needing volunteers so please check the sign up sheets if you are able to help. Thank you!



# INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

**Offering:** 

Ţ

# \$ 1,265.00 Jan. Offerings

Thank you for your faithful financial support of the ministry of Atlas church!



## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING



Next Meeting: February 21, 2025 1:30 pm Atlas UMC



Betty Wilson 2/18

- Dani Tooze 2/19
- Debra Kunze 2/19
- Mark Nelson 2/19
- Landon Olson 2/20
  - Lila Tooze 2/22









# **FEBRUARY MISSION**



We will continue collecting financial donations for Heifer **International. Heifer International's mission is** to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. Heifer International is working to end world hunger in 19 countries across four continents. Thank you for your generosity

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

We will be collecting soup and financial donations for Souper Bowl of Caring to support the Fishes Food Shelf.



## LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY Monthly Report ~ December 2024

Households Served New Families Total People	47 $-4$ $118$	
USDA Food Received	l	3,162#
Food Going Out		2,537#
NON-USDA (Donatio	ons)	\$3,977.
Volunteer Hours		63.25



Needs for next month: fresh produce, eggs, milk, mayonnaise, crackers, cookies and personal products, men & women. We are always in need of plastic grocery bags and smaller boxes for food.

If interested in working at the food shelf, please contact Pam Girtz 320-232-7541 email: girtzp@gmail.com; or Gena Bugno nobug115@yahoo.com

### PLANET GREEN INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM

Do you have used ink jet cartridges or old cell phones? Every one that you donate to the church provides extra money to fund Atlas Church's Ministry and outreach. Thank you for your continued support of this program!





# **ST. CROIX FALLS NEWS**

# **REMEMBER THE FOOD SHELF**

On Communion Sundays, you are invited to bring in donations for the SCF Food Pantry... just be sure your food items have not expired.



**COMMUNION SUNDAY: 2/2/25** 

# HELPING HANDS

Volunteers for the month

Liturgist	Jim Andrews
<b>Money Counter</b>	Karen Sciacca
Usher	Lynn Hanson
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Fellowship	Admin Members
Flowers	Karen Sciacca
Communion	Jim & Karen Sciacca

In-person services will be held Sunday's at 11:15 am.

Check out our website and Facebook page for details. We hope you can join us!



Joseph Murtaugh 2/2

Kathleen Gionis 2/12

Scott Andrews 2/22



The Sailor Hat Offering will go to support families in need. Thank you for your continued support!

## UMCOR SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Special Sundays are designated Sundays each year that deepen the connection between the local church and ministries on a global scale. On each unique Sunday, individuals and congregations are encouraged to give to support the church's collective work with a special offering. This includes efforts to:

Alleviate human suffering - Engage in social justice -Strengthen Native American ministries - Provide scholarships for higher education Below is a list of Special Sundays that support the work of Global Ministries and UMCOR. While each Sunday has a designated date of celebration, you can donate to support these special Sundays any time.

UMCOR Sunday: March 30, 2025

United Methodist Student Day: Any Sunday in May Native American Ministries Sunday: May 4, 2025 Peace with Justice Sunday: June 15, 2025 World Communion Sunday: October 5, 2025



# GO FISH K-UP GATHERING

February 5th & 19th 5:00-6:00 pm Central UMC Grantsburg

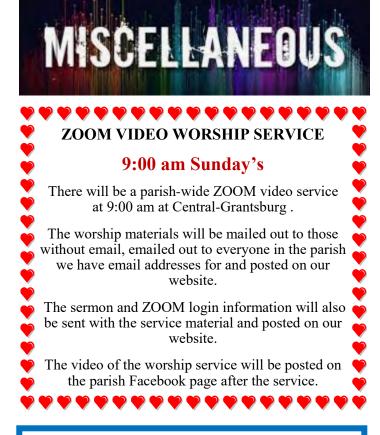
Ages Kindergarten and up please join us for an evening of fun!



JUNIOR YOUTH January Gatherings

2/12 & 2/26 5:30-7:30pm Central UMC-Grantsburg





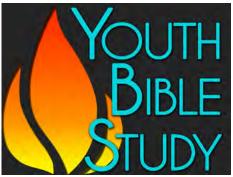
# Family Game Night



February 21st 5:30-7:30 pm Central UMC Grantsburg

Calm Psalms (Senior Youth) Bible Study

6:30-8:30 pm Thursday's in February 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 4 2/27



# ACTIVITY FUN PAGE

# VALENTINE'S DAY I SPY GAME

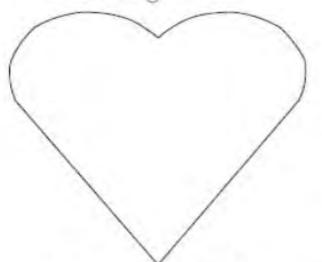
Name:



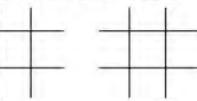
# ACTIVITY FUN PAGE

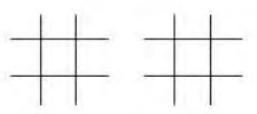
HAPPY VALENTINE'S D

Decorate your heart!



## TIG-TAG-TOR





### WORD SEARCH

С	A	G	s	D	N	Е	.1	R	F
A	w	s	F	C	R	w	т	Ε	L
N	Q	E	G	н	A	L	к	D	J
D	А	D	z	0	V	R	в	м	P
Y	w	G	N	С	a	τ	D	P	к
R	s	U	R	0	J	W	A	s	P
Y	F	С	0	L	0	V	Е	z	A
0	P	C	s	A	м	M	1	0	R
s	w	Е	E	т	н	Е	А	R	Ŧ
E	J	D	s	Е	M	G	Y	Q	Y

PARTY
SWEETHEART
LOVE
RED
ROSES

How many worde can you make from

# VALENTINES DAY





(G: Leland Snyder, Willow Nyland and Emma Anderson)



**Anneliese Snyder and Emma Anderson** 

Go Fish, K-Up to Youth-Decoration Christmas Cookies, 12-21-2025



Indie Tooze



Walden Erickson



Leland Snyder



12-21-2024, Youth Leaders' Christmas Luncheon, (G: Left side: Barbara Loomis and Pastor Jenny Lee, Right side: Samie Wilson, Sandra Erickson, and Youth Director Shayna Schmid)



12-22-2024, Christmas Program of Sunday School at Atlas, (Angel: Eli Olson, Joshep: Lendon Olson, Mary: Wren Grimes, Narrators: Chase Steffen, Copelan Grimes, and Noah Dennison)





12-22-2024, Special Music at Atlas, (A: Wendell Hauble)

#### Christmas Potluck Dinner at Atlas UMC, 12-22-2024













12-23-2024, Jim Andrews (SCF), preparing for Advent Soup Supper



12-23-2024, The Last Session of the Advent Bible Study at St. Croix Falls UMC, (Jim Andrews (SCF), Bob Determan (A), Jim Sciacca (SCF), Karen Sciacca (SCF), Sharon Asp (SCF), Wendell Hauble (A), Peter Gionis (SCF), and Kathy Gionis (SCF))





12-24-2024, Christmas Eve Services



St. Croix Falls

### **<u>12-24-2024, Christmas Eve Services Continued</u>**







Atlas UMC





Central UMC-Grantsburg











12-25-2024 to 12-27-2024, Korean Caucus Family Winter Retreat at Wisconsin Dells



12-29-2024, Youth Christmas Program at Central UMC



12-29-2024, Recognition of the 2024 Advent Bible Study at St. Croix Falls UMC, (SCF: Mike and Sara Koser (Harley and Jameson), Kathy Gionis, Sharon Asp, Karen Sciacca, Jim Sciacca, Peter Gionis, and Jim Andrews)



12-29-2024, Youth Christmas Program at Central UMC, (G: Walden Erickson, Aneliese Snyder, Willow Nyland, Leland Snyder, Mage Harmon, Emma Rahkola, Youth Director Shayna Schmid and Pastor Jenny Lee)



12-29-2024, Recognition of the 2024 Advent Bible Study at Atlas UMC, (A: Sue Olson and Wendell Hauble, and Pastor Jenny Lee)



1-5-2025, Recognition of the 2024 Advent Bible Study, (A: Bob Determan and Pastor Jenny Lee)



12-29-2024, Recognition of the 2024 Advent Bible Study at Central UMC, (G: Barbara Loomis and Pastor Jenny Lee)



1-4-2025, Belated Birthday Party of Ruth Blackburn (A) with her family and Pastor Jenny Lee



1-5-2025, New Year's Blessing Service at St. Croix Falls UMC, (SCF: Kathy Gionis, Mike Koser, Sara Koser with baby Jameson, Lynn Hanson with baby Herley, Jim Sciacca, Karen Sciacca, Sharon Asp, and Peter Gionis)



1-7-2025, SPRC Meeting via Zoom, (Upper row: Karen Sciacca (SCF), Pastor Jenny Lee, Kathy Gionis (SCF), Middle row: Sue Olson (A), Paulie Kratchmer (G), Colleen Adams-Schween (A), and Lower row: Barbara Loomis (G))



1-8-2025, UMW Meeting at Central UMC, (Judy Lien, Mary McNally, Kayleen Branstad, Valetta Walton, Paulie Kratchmer, Barbara Loomis, Donna Norman and her daughter Shasa Chute)





1-9-2025, Law Enforcement Appreciation Day-Visit Grantsburg Police Department

1-11-2025, UM Men's Meeting, (G: Russ Hammer, Charles Wright, and Pastor Jenny Lee)





1-12-2025, Coffee Fellowship at Atlas UMC, (A: Colleen Adams-Schween, Cheryl Olson, Josie Grimes, Mariah Gaffey, Wren Grimes, and Scott Olson)



1-12-2025, Children's Time at Central UMC, (G: Indie Tooze, Pastor Jenny Lee, Lila Tooze and Willow Nyland)



1-16-2025, Calm Psalms Group, (G: Barbara Loomis, Sean Ludnia, Micah Belland, Cameron Smallwood, Jenni Stedman, and Eli Zeller)





1-17-2025, Ad Council Meeting of Atlas UMC, (Pastor Jenny Lee, Cheryl Olson, Colleen Adam-Schween, and Sue Olson)





1-11-2025, Ruth Blackburn (A) and Pastor Jenny Lee

# **Polk County Food Shelves**

### Amery

Amery Food Shelf—230 Deronda Street, Amery Food Shelf is located in the old Amery Regional Medical Center Building. Call (715) 268- 5999 before 12:00 noon on Wednesday. Leave name and number on voice mail. Open Thursday 2-6 pm. Area of service: Amery school district only

**The Congregational Church—201 Harriman Ave. North, Amery** Food distribution: 9-10:30 am every 2nd Saturday of the month . Registration is 7 am to 9:30 am. **715-268-7390 Special note:** No economic restrictions; however, a \$20.00 donation is asked to help cover the cost of the truck.

**Ruby's Pantry –www.amery.ucc.org** or office.ameryucc@gmail.com Area of service: County wide

### Dresser

**People Loving People --- 103 E. Main Street, Dresser** Monday and Saturday 11 am – 1 pm Wednesday 2 pm – 5 pm Phone: 715-501-4657

### Frederic

**Family Pathways Food Shelf—1100 Wisconsin Ave South, Frederic** Phone **715-327-4425** Open Tuesday 9 am—6 pm, Thursday 9 am—6 pm, Saturday 9 am—12pm **For best service please call for appointment.** 

### Luck

Loaves and Fishes Interfaith Food Pantry—300 North 1st Street, Luck Pantry is located in the back of the DBS Hall Open Tuesday & Thursday 11 am—1 pm Phone (715) 472-2003 Area of service: Luck & Unity School Districts

### Osceola

**The Open Cupboard Food Shelf—402 2nd Avenue, Osceola** Call for appointment: **715-294-4357** Open Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm (The Open Cupboard also has used furniture & clothing) Area of service: Osceola & Dresser school district

### **St. Croix Falls**

### St Croix Falls Food Shelf—809 Pine Street, St Croix Falls Phone: 715-557-1653

Open Monday 9 am—11 am Wednesday 3 pm—6 pm Friday 9 am – 10 am Area of service: SCF school district, Dresser elementary, Centuria, Cushing & portions of Balsam Lake & Taylors Falls

### Family Pathways Food Shelf—2000 US Hwy 8, St Croix Falls Phone: 715-483-2920

Open Monday 9–5 pm, Tuesday 9-5 pm, Wednesday 12 pm– 6 pm, Thursday 9-5 pm, Friday 9–5 pm, & Saturday 9-Noon





### FEED MY NEIGHBOR Community Food Pantry

316 Wisconsin Ave. - Centuria, WI Open to Polk County Residents

Open: Monday 2 to 5pm Tuesday 5:30-7:30pm Thursday 10am to 20pm Saturday 9-11am

People can visit this pantry twice a month.



## **Burnett County Emergency Food Shelves and Distributions**

### Grantsburg Area Food Shelf *No cost*

Serving residents of the Grantsburg School District Open: Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am Thursdays 9:30-11:30,

Emergency food is always available through the emergency window. Allowed to come 2 times a month Located between the Library and the Village Hall Office, 320 Brad St., Grantsburg, WI 54840.

### Indianhead Community Action Agency- "Connections" No cost

Serving all Burnett County residents Open 10am-3pm Monday, Tuesday & Friday Located in Webster next to the Holiday Gas Station (715) 866-8151

### Ruby`s Food Shelf- Siren No cost

Serving residents of the Siren & Webster School Districts Open 10:00am-2pm Monday & Friday 10:00am-4pm Wednesday Closed Thursday

\*\*You`re asked to be there at least 30 minutes before close Located at 24534 State Hwy 35/70 (Ruby's Secondhand) (715)349-RUBY (7829)

**Ruby`s Monthly Food Distributions** Bring own boxes or baskets Donation: \$25 For dates, times, and locations (no location restrictions at this time), visit http:// www.rubyspantry.org/distribution/distschedule.htm

### Second Harvest Food Distribution No cost

First and Third Thursday of every month Starts at 11:00am until food is gone Located at Connections in Webster (next to the Holiday Gas Station) This distribution is offered to anyone in need of food; please help get the word out

### St. Croix Chippewa Commodities Distribution

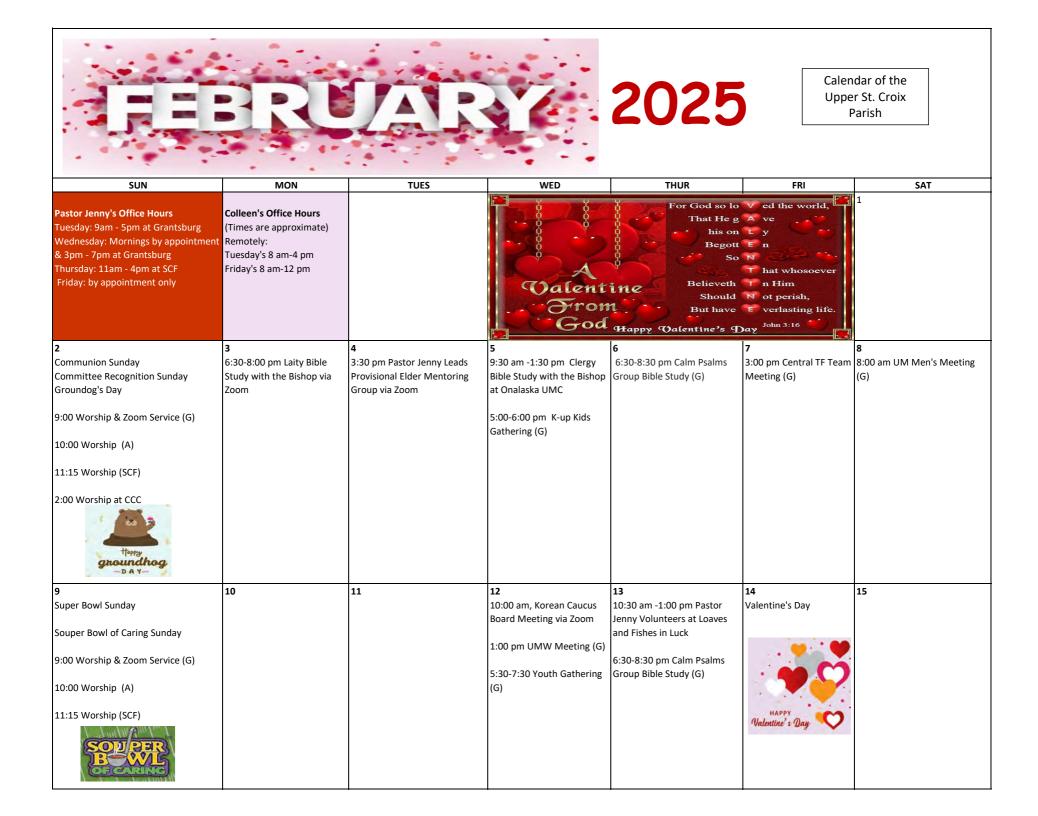
"If you love me, feed my sheep." 24663 Angeline Ave., Webster 349-2195, Becky Reynolds Food distribution: Monday to Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm (Native American Income Eligible Only)

Closed first week of each month for inventory. Can only receive one time per month. A variety of items are available each month and may include canned meats; juice; canned foods; dry goods; frozen meats; cheese; rice and pasta; fresh produce.





John 21:15-19



<b>EBRUARIO 2025</b> Calendar of the Upper St. Croix Parish							
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	
16 9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G) 10:00 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship (SCF) 12:15 Ad Council Meeting (SCF)	17 President's Day	<ul> <li>18</li> <li>10:00 am Deadline to submit Newsletter and Calendar information</li> <li>DEADLINE</li> <li>6:30 Ad Council Meeting (G)</li> </ul>	<b>19</b> 5:00-6:00 pm K-up Kids Gathering (G)	<b>20</b> 6:30-8:30 pm, Calm Psalms Group Bible Study (G)	21 1:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (A) 5:30-7:30 pm Family Game Night (G)	22	
23 9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G) 10:00 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship (SCF)	24	25	<b>26</b> 5:30-7:30 pm Youth Gathering (G)	<b>27</b> 6:30-8:30 pm, Calm Psalms Group Bible Study (G)	28		