

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

# JANUARY 2025



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# A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

New Year, New Opportunities:  
Practicing Faithful Stewardship in 2025  
January 2025

As we turn the page on the calendar and step into a new year, January offers us a wonderful opportunity to reflect, reset, and recommit ourselves to living as faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is about more than finances—it encompasses every aspect of our lives: our time, talents, treasures, and the care we show for God’s creation.

## The Biblical Basis for Stewardship

Scripture reminds us that everything we have belongs to God. Genesis 2:15 shows us that even from the beginning, humanity was called to care for creation: “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” Similarly, 1 Peter 4:10 encourages us to use our gifts to serve others: “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 year, let us take these words to heart and seek to be intentional in how we manage the resources, relationships, and responsibilities entrusted to us.



## Personal Goal-Setting for Stewardship

The start of a new year is a natural time to set goals. Consider these questions as you prayerfully plan your year: • Time: How can you dedicate more time to prayer, worship, and service this year? Can you set aside a regular time for volunteering or participating in church activities? • Talents: What gifts and skills has God given you? Are there ways you can use them to bless your church, your community, or those in need? • Treasures: Reflect on your financial stewardship. Is this the year to begin tithing, increase your giving, or support a specific ministry or mission project?

## Financial Stewardship and Budgeting



January is also an ideal time to review your budget and ensure it aligns with your values. Here are a few tips for financial stewardship: 1. Create a Giving Plan: Start by determining what percentage of your income you can give back to God’s work. Even small, consistent contributions can make a big impact over time. 2. Build an Emergency Fund: Responsible stewardship includes planning for unexpected expenses. 3. Reduce Debt: If you’re carrying debt, consider making a plan to reduce it this year. Financial freedom allows for more generous giving.

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at  
[www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org) or [Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/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

January 2025



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.



## The New 2025 Parish Ministry Theme

*“Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Hebrews 13:16)*

What is your resolution for 2025? As we step into a new year, it's natural to look back at where we've been and forward to where we're headed. It is also time to reflect on our church and parish ministry theme for 2025 as we make our New Year's resolutions.

One of the questions I often ask our parishioners is, “What do you want our church to become?” I also frequently ask myself, “What kind of church do you dream of?” I dream of a church like the early Christian community, where believers shared their possessions with those in need, gathered frequently to worship and pray, and saw the number of the saved increase (Acts 2:43-47).

During the Central-Grantsburg Administrative Council meeting in December, we discussed the church's vision and pastoral direction for the upcoming year. Then as I have done in the past, I asked the committee members, what would be a good vision for our church in 2025? Naturally, this led us to reflect on the 2024 pastoral theme, “Replant It.” Then, someone said, “As we replant this year, we may share the abundance next year.” What a wonderful idea is!

After that, I prayed holding it, and asking God what would be good for our ministerial vision. And a scripture verse came to mind, “Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” (Hebrews 13:16). This verse is more than a simple reminder; it is an invitation to embody the love of Christ in practical, transformative ways. It challenges us to shape our lives and ministry around selflessness, generosity, and a commitment to the well-being of others.

Our pastoral theme for 2025 is “Do Good and Share with Others.” This theme draws inspiration from Hebrews 13:16, encouraging us to live out our faith through actionable love. As living sacrifices (Romans 12:1), we are called to continually align our lives with God's will, making space for others in our time, resources, and hearts. Let me share with you my ideas for a vision for ministry in 2025.

### A Vision for Ministry in 2025

#### 1. Fostering a Culture of Generosity

We envision a church where generosity is not merely a seasonal effort but a year-round culture. Hebrews 13:16 reminds us that doing good and sharing are sacrifices that please God. In 2025, we will:

- *Encourage tithing not just as a financial act but as a spiritual discipline.*
- *Community outreach to serve local needs through monthly mission projects.*

*Develop a “Generosity Stories” segment in our gatherings, where members share testimonies of giving and its impact.*

#### 2. Strengthening Community Bonds

The call to share with others emphasizes relationships. True sharing requires connection, empathy, and trust. This year, we aim to:

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

## FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

- *Launch a task force team focused on mutual support, prayer, and acts of kindness.*
- *Partner with local organizations to serve underprivileged families, emphasizing on collaboration.*
- *Build intergenerational bridges through programs that bring together younger kids, youth, adults, and seniors for shared learning and fellowship*

### 3. Empowering the Next Generation

To sustain this vision, we must equip the next generation to lead lives of sacrificial service. Our 2025 initiatives include:

- *A “Faith in Action” program for youth, involving them in community service projects.*
- *Leadership workshops for young adults to develop skills for ministry and outreach.*
- *Opportunities for children to engage in giving through simple acts like preparing care packages or writing encouragement cards.*

### 4. Deepening Spiritual Formation

Sharing and doing good stems from a heart transformed by Christ. This year, we commit to:

- *A sermon series on biblical generosity and service.*
- *Offering spiritual retreats focused on discernment and aligning personal values with God’s calling.*
- *Creating prayer groups that intercede for the needs of our community and beyond.*

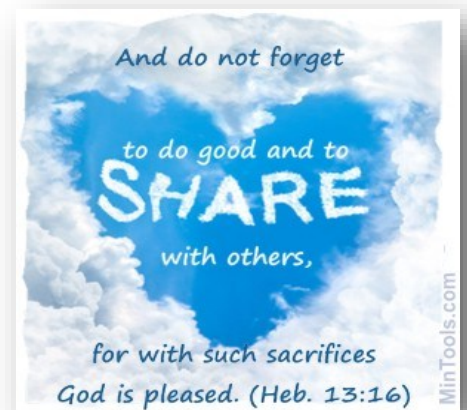
### 5. The Fruit of Sharing and Sacrifice

Hebrews 13:16 reminds us that such sacrifices please God. This pleasure is not about earning favor but reflecting God’s heart. When we do good and share, we:

- *Strengthen the bonds of community.*
- *Witness to the world the transformative power of Christ’s love.*
- *Experience the joy of aligning our lives with God’s purposes.*

As we journey through 2025, let us hold tightly to the words of Hebrews 13:16. May our church be a beacon of God’s love, a place where doing good and sharing with others is not just a command, but a joyful lifestyle. Together, as living sacrifices, we will glorify God, transform lives, and build His kingdom.

Blessings!  
Pastor Jenny



## A Little New Year’s Humor!

Where can you go to practice Math on New Year’s Eve? – Times Square.

What food should you avoid on New Year’s? – Firecrackers.

Why did the man sprinkle sugar on his pillow on New Year’s Eve? – He wanted to start the year with sweet dreams.

What do snowmen like to do on New Year’s Eve? – Chill out.

Why do you need a jeweler on New Year’s Eve? – To ring in the new year.

What do cows say on January 1st? – “Happy Moo Year!”

Why should you put your new calendar in the freezer? – To start the new year off cool.

What is corn’s favorite holiday? – New Ears Eve.



# GRANTSBURG: CENTRAL NEWS



**WHAT YOU DO**  
MAKES A DIFFERENCE.  
AND YOU HAVE TO DECIDE  
**WHAT KIND OF**  
**DIFFERENCE**  
YOU WANT TO MAKE.  
- JANE GOODALL -

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.



- Jim Loomis 1/14
- Pauline Bistram 1/15
- Vanessa Harmon 1/16
- Briella Reid 1/21
- Renee Tooze 1/26
- Max Dauer 1/27
- Charlie Glonek 1/28
- Russ Hammer 1/29



## Offering Income through November 2024

Funds Description	November 2024	Year-to-date 2024
General Fund Gifts	\$ 4,439.00	\$ 40,822.99
Loose Offering	\$ 19.00	\$ 656.35
Fat Tuesday		\$ 38.00
VBS	\$ -	\$ 20.00
Pie & Ice Cream Social		\$ 454.00
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>\$ 4,458.00</b>	<b>\$ 41,991.34</b>
Special Offering	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,995.00
Missions	\$ 11.75	\$ 821.75
Memorials	\$ 20.00	\$ 645.00
Pastor's Youth Fund	\$ -	\$ 594.00
<b>All Funds Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,589.75</b>	<b>\$ 46,047.09</b>



Daily devotions are better than  
New Year's Resolutions

# GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS & MISC.

BE A  
"BACK-PACK BACKER"!

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



## Ad Council Meeting

January 21, 2025

6:30 pm Central UMC Grantsburg



**Next Meeting:**

**January 11  
8:00 am  
Central UMC**

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



## MISSIONS GIVING

**JANUARY 2025**

We will be collecting financial donations to support the Grantsburg Senior Care Center.



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

**uow**  
Women with a heart for service

Thank you to all who participated in our gathering on December 11th. We had a nice soup and sandwich lunch and gift exchange followed by fellowship of stories shared of our Christmas memories.

**Next Meeting: January 8th at 1:00 pm  
Central UMC-Grantsburg  
Please Join Us! All are welcome!**

# ATLAS NEWS

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!



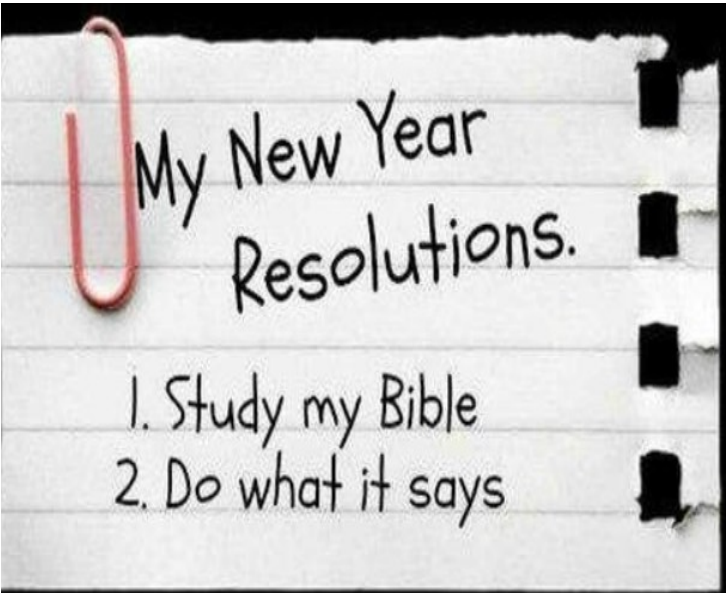
- Josie Grimes 1/1**
- Kenneth Olson 1/13**
- Cindy Berenschot 1/14**

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

**Church Council**



**Next Meeting:**  
**January 17, 2025**  
**1:30 pm**  
**Atlas UMC**



## INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

**Offering:**

**\$ 3,044.00** December Offerings

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



# JANUARY & FEBRUARY MISSION

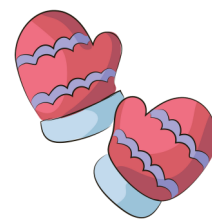


We will be collecting financial donations for Heifer International. Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. Heifer International is working to end world hunger in 19 countries across four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



## DECEMBER MISSION UPDATE

*Thank you to everyone who donated hats, scarves, mittens and gloves to the Mitten Tree Mission. They were donated to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry and will keep our neighbors warm this year and for years to come!*



&



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

Households Served	59
Adults	102
Children	29
Total People	118
USDA Food Received	3,823#
Food Going Out	3,280#
NON-USDA (Donations)	\$1,468.98
Volunteer Hours	66.5



*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.*

*We are currently operating with two interim food shelf coordinators. We would like to get a Full time coordinator. We will train people who are interested. We can always use more volunteer workers. If interested, 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!







## HELPING HANDS

Volunteers for the month

Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Usher	Lynn Hanson
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Fellowship	Admin Members
Flowers	Kathy Gionis
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!



*January*  
Anniversaries

**Peter & Kathy  
Gionis**

**1/16**



### 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.



FEED THE HUNGRY

**COMMUNION SUNDAY: 1/5/25**

## January Mission



The Sailor Hat Offering will go to support the Salvation Army. Thank you for your continued support!



**St. Croix Falls UMC**  
**January 19th**  
**12:15 pm**



# MISCELLANEOUS

*chosen*  
 JOHN 15:16

*a child of God*  
 ROMANS 8:17

*redeemed*  
 GALATIANS 3:13

*a new creation*  
 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

*You*

*loved*  
 JEREMIAH 31:3

*forgiven*  
 1 JOHN 1:9

*accepted*  
 ROMANS 15:7

*are who GOD*

*precious*  
 ISAIAH 43:4

*strong*  
 ISAIAH 40:31

*unique*  
 PSALM 139:13

*says you*

*created for a purpose*  
 JEREMIAH 29:11

*treasured*  
 DEUTERONOMY 14:2

*special*  
 EPHESIANS 2:10

*are*

*important*  
 1 PETER 2:9

*empowered*  
 PHILIPPIANS 4:13

*not alone*  
 MATTHEW 28:20

*protected*  
 PSALM 121:3

## ZOOM VIDEO WORSHIP SERVICE

**9:00 am Sunday's**

There will be a parish-wide ZOOM video service at 9:00 am at Central-Grantsburg .

The worship materials will be mailed out to those without email, emailed out to everyone in the parish we have email addresses for and posted on our website.

The sermon and ZOOM login information will also be sent with the service material and posted on our website.

The video of the worship service will be posted on the parish Facebook page after the service.

## Family Game Night



January 3rd  
5:30-7:30 pm

Central UMC  
Grantsburg

## GO FISH K-UP GATHERING

December 8th & 22nd  
5:30-6:30 pm  
Central UMC Grantsburg

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



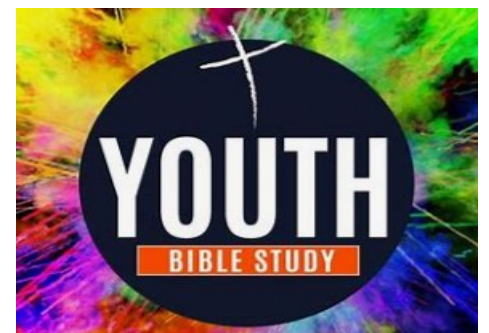
## JUNIOR YOUTH January Gatherings

1/1, 1/15 & 1/29  
5:30-7:30pm  
Central UMC-Grantsburg



## Calm Psalms (Senior Youth) Bible Study

6:30-8:30 pm  
Thursday's in January  
1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23 & 1/30



# FRESH STARTS IN CHRIST

## *Bible Reading Plan*

# January

### Fresh Starts in Christ

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: Isaiah 43:18-19      | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 17: Titus 3:5            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: Colossians 3:9-10    | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 18: Lamentations 3:22-23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: Psalm 139:23-24      | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 19: Psalm 40:3           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: 1 Peter 1:3          | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 20: 1 John 1:9           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: Romans 12:1-2        | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 21: Isaiah 26:3          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6: Galatians 2:20       | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 22: John 3:3             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 7: John 15:5            | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 23: Ephesians 2:4-5      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 8: 2 Corinthians 5:17   | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 24: Philippians 4:13     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 9: Isaiah 65:17         | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 25: Romans 8:31-32       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 10: Romans 6:4          | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 26: 1 Corinthians 15:57  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 11: Ezekiel 36:26       | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 27: Isaiah 40:31         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 12: Hebrews 10:23       | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 28: Colossians 3:1-2     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 13: Philippians 3:13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 29: Ephesians 4:22-24    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 14: Matthew 11:28-30    | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 30: 1 Corinthians 6:11   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 15: Revelation 21:5     | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 31: Psalm 145:18-19      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 16: Psalm 51:10         |   |



# 31 Holidays

## To Celebrate In January

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1/1  | Polar Bear Plunge Day and New Year's Day |
| 1/2  | Random Acts of Kindness Day              |
| 1/3  | Fruitcake Toss Day                       |
| 1/4  | National Spaghetti Day                   |
| 1/5  | National Bird Day                        |
| 1/6  | Cuddle Up Day                            |
| 1/7  | National Bobblehead Day                  |
| 1/8  | National Argyle Day                      |
| 1/9  | National Bagel Day                       |
| 1/10 | Houseplant Appreciation Day              |
| 1/11 | Step in a Puddle and Splash a Friend Day |
| 1/12 | National Pharmacist Day                  |
| 1/13 | Make Your Dreams Come True Day           |
| 1/14 | Dress Up Your Pet Day                    |
| 1/15 | Hat Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day   |
| 1/16 | Appreciate a Dragon Day                  |
| 1/17 | New Year's Resolution Ditch Day          |
| 1/18 | Thesaurus Day                            |
| 1/19 | National Popcorn                         |
| 1/20 | National Cheese Lover's Day              |
| 1/21 | Squirrel Appreciation Day                |
| 1/22 | Hot Sauce Day                            |
| 1/23 | National Handwriting Day                 |
| 1/24 | Say Something Nice/Compliment Day        |
| 1/25 | Opposite Day                             |
| 1/26 | Peanut Brittle Day                       |
| 1/27 | Chocolate Cake Day                       |
| 1/28 | National Kazoo Day                       |
| 1/29 | National Puzzle Day                      |
| 1/30 | National Croissant Day                   |
| 1/31 | Inspire Your Heart with Art Day          |





## PREVENT COLDS & FLU

Because of the increased risk for flu, gastrointestinal and respiratory illness at this time of the year, we ask that you take precautions to prevent the spread of germs.

- 1

### WASH

Wash your hands for at least 30 seconds (sing Happy Birthday twice) with soap and warm water.


- 2

### COVER

Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze with your elbow or tissue.


- 3

### DON'T TOUCH

Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth! These are the areas where a virus can enter your body.


- 4

### AVOID

Avoid close contact with those who are sick. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after.





# Winter Weather

## Checklist



Insulate your home by installing Storm Windows or adding Plastic covering



Maintain heating equipment with annual cleanings



Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing

Wear waterproof boots to keep warm and dry and maintain your footing



Bring pets indoors during winter



Avoid black ice on the roads by looking for a slight sheen on the surface of the road



Listen to the news or the national weather service for critical info

# ACTIVITY FUN PAGE



## MY YEAR IN REVIEW

Picture of me



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!

I tried: \_\_\_\_\_

I learned: \_\_\_\_\_

I loved: \_\_\_\_\_

## MY GOALS FOR THE YEAR

My goal for 2021: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to learn: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to go: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to try: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE BEST OF THIS YEAR

Movie: \_\_\_\_\_

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Toy: \_\_\_\_\_

Food: \_\_\_\_\_

## Can 2025 Be a Year of Grace?

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”— 2 Corinthians 12:9*

When I was a teenager, a United Methodist pastor explained grace to me. It changed my life. That same grace continues to change my life. How has grace shaped your life? How do you continue to struggle with grace? Grace is the unmerited, upbuilding, unconditional love God extends to all people and to the whole creation. United Methodists have an expansive view of grace. We know that grace is always among us, working in love.

United Methodists are a Baskin-Robbins of grace. We proclaim the grace that God gives us before we even know we need it or know how to ask; this is prevenient grace. We proclaim the grace of God for us and for our healing with God; this is justifying grace. The upbuilding grace that attends to growth in love within us is sanctifying grace. Ephesians 2:8 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” Our whole lives are a response to grace. I write today to invite you to observe 2025 as a year of grace.

It is a basic truth of ministry that what you pay attention to grows. If we pay attention to mission, mission grows. Attend to Christian formation and knowledge grows. How might we be changed if we focused our lives more and more on grace? What if we used grace sightings in our devotionals and sermons? Or how might we be renewed if we sing about grace?

What if we practiced a grace that allows us to demonstrate our unity in Christ as a faith community? Currently, we live in a moment when powerful moneyed forces have divided this country. I believe this is an opportunity to make grace greater than our differences. I would want us to be clear that we are not proffering cheap grace for bullying, manipulation, or accommodating bad behavior that is harmful or abusive. Grace and repentance are sisters and should travel together, for grace without authentic repentance is abuse.

What if our personal anti-racism work featured grace-grounded reflection and honest conversations about blind spots and grace for others, and grace for deeper conversations and then action? What if grace called us all to grow in cultural competency so that we might grow in faith together?

What would happen to us if we framed mission by showing grace in our communities and world? Instead of focusing only on business at our council meetings, we might ask, where did we see grace today? How might we practice grace and extend grace to more and more in our community? Or where is grace leading our congregation now? I will be keeping a grace journal just to see what God will do.

For the days ahead, I will remind us that grace is also for the stranger and sojourner in our land. Leviticus 19:33-34 reminds us, “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

Next year we will enjoy a year of experimentation for mission as we try new forms of ministry for impact. Some 54% percent of Northern Illinois United Methodist congregations and 60% of Wisconsin United Methodist churches have a weekly worship attendance of 35 people or fewer. Next year we will need grace for experimentation as churches yield to God’s call forward in new ways.

Every day the ministry holds risk and learning from experiments. We will need to experiment with new forms of ministry and offer support to local churches for their ministry as they try to respond to their post-COVID context. We need to turn our systems toward learning and sharing so that we can support local church vitality as fully as possible. What will be the impact of having two conferences—the whole episcopal area—attend to a focus on grace? Our annual conferences will celebrate the theme “Grace is Sufficient” and continue it through the end of 2025.

My life was changed by grace and it continues to be changed. I believe people are looking for grace and bearers of a God working in love. I pray that a year of grace will deepen and strengthen us. Let’s try it!

Know that I am praying for you.

Thank you.  
Peace,

Dan Schwerin, Bishop





11-20-2024,  
Youth Gathering  
(G)



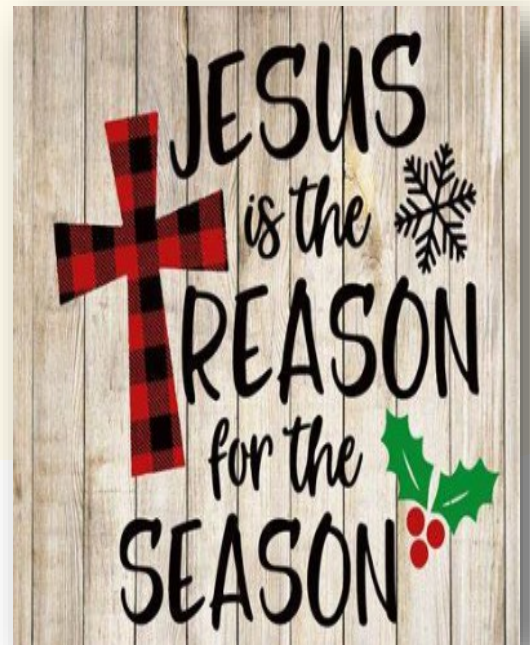
11-22-2024, Setting Christmas Decorations up in Memorial Park, Calm Psalm Group (G)



11-22-2024, Setting Christmas Decorations up in Memorial Park, Calm Psalm Group (G)



11-22-2024, Korean Clergy and Family's Thanksgiving Party

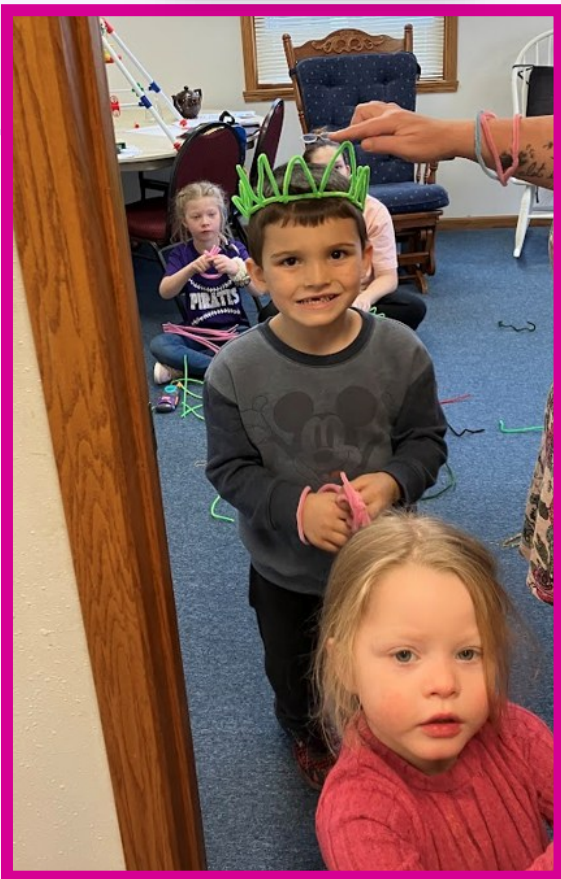




11-24-2024, Thanksgiving Service (SCF)



11-27-2024, Go Fish for K-Up (G)



12-1-2024, Sunday School (G: Lila Tooze, Walden Erickson, and in back Indie Tooze and Anneliese Snyder)



12-1-2024, Setting Christmas Tree Up at St. Croix Falls UMC, (SCF: Sharon Asp, Kathy Gionis, Jim Andrews, Peter Gionis, Lynn Hanson, Karen and Jim Sciacca)



12-1-2024, Setting Christmas Tree Up at Central UMC, (G: Russ Hammer, Willow Nyland, Anneliese Snyder, and Lila Tooze)





12-1-2024, Christmas Decorating, (G: Derek Stedman and Charles Glonek, and Indie Tooze and Walden Erickson)



12-3-2024, Advent Bible Study 1 at Central UMC, (Wendell Hauble (A), Barbara Loomis (G), and Pastor Jenny Lee)



12-4-2024, Youth Gathering, (Leland Snyder, Asher, Barbara Loomis, Kelly Erickson, Willow Nyland, Anneliese Snyder, Emma Anderson, Mage Harmon, and Youth Director Shayna Schmid) (G)



12-5-2024, New Membership Class at St. Croix Falls UMC, (SCF: Mike, Sara, Harley and Jameson Koser, and Pastor Jenny Lee)



12-5-2024, Advent Soup Supper at St. Croix Falls UMC, (Jim Andrews (SCF), Bob Determan (A), Sharon Asp (SCF), Peter Gionis (SCF), Kathy Gionis (SCF), Karen and Jim Sciacca (SCF))



12-5-2024, Advent Bible Study 1 at St. Croix Falls UMC, (Jim Andrews (SCF), Bob Determan (A), Sharon Asp (SCF), Sue Olson (A), Peter Gionis (SCF), Kathy Gionis (SCF), Karen and Jim Sciacca (SCF))



12-5-2024, Calm Psalm Group-Advent Bible Study, (Jessi Wilson, Cameron Smallwood, Micah Belland, Sean Ludnia, Eli Zeller)



12-7-2024, Sharon Asp's 80th Birthday party at the American Legion



12-8-2024, Mitten Tree Sunday at Atlas UMC, (A: Eli Olson, Wren Grimes, Lendon Olson, and Noah Dennison)



12-8-2024, Recognition of New Members, (SCF: Sara, Mike, Jameson and Harley Koser, and Pastor Jenny Lee)





12-8-2024, Fellowship at St. Croix Falls UMC



12-10-2024, Advent Bible Study 2 at Central UMC, (Wendell Hauble (A), Barbara Loomis (G), and Pastor Jenny Lee)



12-11-2024, UMW Christmas Luncheon, (G: Valetta Walton, Mary McNally, Georgeanne Koons (A), Paulie Kratchmer, Kayleen Branstad, Barbara Loomis, Cheryl (Barbara's Friend))



12-11-2024, UMW Christmas Luncheon, (G: Mary McNally, Kayleen Branstad, and Paulie Kratchmer)



12-11-2024, Go Fish for K-Up, (Front Row: Indie Tooze, Walden Erickson, Leland Snyder, Liker Erickson; Back Row: Anneliese Snyder, Kelly Erickson, Mage Harmon, Willow Nyland, and Youth Director Shayna Schmid)





12-12-2024, Advent Soup Supper at St. Croix Falls UMC, (Jim Sciacca (SCF), Karen Sciacca (SCF), Bob Determan (A), Lynn Hanson (SCF), Kathy Gionis (SCF), Stroker (Kathy's grandson), Peter Gionis (SCF))



12-12-2024, Advent Bible Study at St. Croix Falls UMC, (Peter Gionis (SCF), Jim Sciacca (SCF), Bob Determan (A), Jim Andrews (SCF), Sue Olson (A), Karen Sciacca (SCF), Kathy Gionis (SCF), and Lynn Hanson (SCF))



12-14-2024, UM Men's Meeting, (G: Don Anderson, Charles Wright, Russ Hammer, and Pastor Jenny Lee)



12-14-2024, Ping-pong, (Don Anderson and Pastor Jenny Lee)

11-  
boxe  
P



12-17-2024, Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves and Fishes in Luck



12-17-2024, Advent Bible Study at Central UMC, (Barbara Loomis (G), Sue Olson (A), and Pastor Jenny Lee)



12-17-2024, Ad Council Meeting, (G: Toni Koons, Deb Hammer, Russ Hammer, and Barbara Loomis)



11-13-2024, Val

12-18-2024, Youth Gathering, (Willow Nyland, Anneliese Snyder, Emma Anderson, Mage Harmon, and Leland Snyder)





**12-19-2024, Advent Bible Study 3 via Zoom, (SCF: Karen and Jim Sciacca, Pastor Jenny Lee, Jim Andrews, and Sara Koser)**

**+**  
*Visitation Ministry*



**11-20-2024, Dorothy Miller (A) and Pastor Jenny Lee**



**11-21-2024, Mike, Sarah, Harley and Jameson Koser**



**12-13-2024, 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



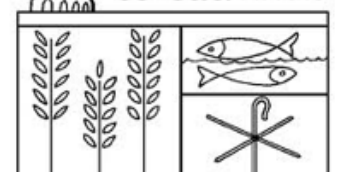
### **FEED MY NEIGHBOR Community Food Pantry**

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.

**YOU give them  
something  
to eat. Mt 14:16**



# 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

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.

*"If you love me, feed my sheep."*



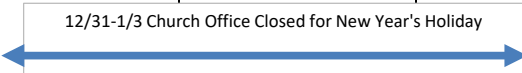
John 21:15-19



# JANUARY

# 2025

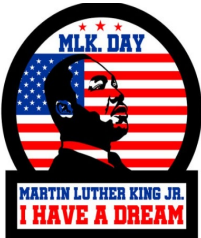

Calendar of the  
Upper St. Croix  
Parish

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p><b>Pastor Jenny's Office Hours</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday: 9am - 5pm at Grantsburg</b>  <b>Wednesday: Mornings by appointment &amp; 3pm - 7pm at Grantsburg</b>  <b>Thursday: 11am - 4pm at SCF</b>  <b>Friday: by appointment only</b></p>		<p><b>Colleen's Office Hours</b> (Times are approximate)</p> <p>Remotely: Tuesday's 8:00 am-4:00 pm</p> <p>Friday's 8:00 am-12:00 pm</p>	<p><b>1</b> New Year's Day</p> <p>5:30-7:30 pm Junior Youth (G)</p> 	<p><b>2</b> 9:00 am Northwest Clergy Meeting via Zoom</p> <p>6:30-8:30 pm Calm Psalms (G)</p>	<p><b>3</b> 5:30-8:00 pm family Game Night (G)</p> 	<b>4</b>
<p>12/31-1/3 Church Office Closed for New Year's Holiday</p> 						
<p><b>5</b> Renewal Covenant Sunday Communion Sunday</p> <p>9:00 Worship &amp; Zoom Service (G)</p> <p>10:00 Worship (A) No Sunday School (A)</p> <p>11:15 Worship (SCF)</p>	<b>6</b>	<p><b>7</b> 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p><b>8</b> 1:00 pm UMW Meeting (G)</p> <p>5:30-6:30 pm Go Fish for K-Up (G)</p>	<p><b>9</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Calm Psalms (G)</p>	<b>10</b>	<p><b>11</b> 8:00 am UM Men's Meeting (G)</p>
<p><b>12</b> 9:00 Worship &amp; Zoom Service (G)</p> <p>10:00 Worship (A)</p> <p>11:15 Worship (SCF)</p>	<b>13</b>	<p><b>14</b> 3:30-4:30 pm Provisional Elder Mentoring via Zoom</p>	<p><b>15</b> 5:30-7:30 pm Junior Youth Gathering (G)</p>	<p><b>16</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Calm Psalms (G)</p>	<p><b>17</b> 1:30 pm Ad Council (A)</p>	<b>18</b>

# JANUARY

# 2025

Calendar of the  
Upper St. Croix  
Parish

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p><b>19</b> 9:00 Worship &amp; Zoom Service (G) 10:00 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship (SCF) 12:15 pm Ad Council (SCF)</p>	<p><b>20</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> 	<p><b>21</b> 10:00 am Deadline to submit Newsletter and Calendar information</p>  <p>6:30 pm Ad Council (G)</p>	<p><b>22</b> 5:30-6:30 pm Go Fish for K-Up (G)</p>	<p><b>23</b> 10:30 am-1:00 pm Pastor Jenny Volunteera at Loaves and Fishes in Luck 6:30-8:30 pm Calm Psalms (G)</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 9:00 Worship &amp; Zoom Service (G) 10:00 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship (SCF)</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 5:30-7:30 pm Junior Youth (G)</p>	<p><b>30</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Calm Psalms (G)</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<div style="border: 2px solid gold; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>“</p> <p>New year — a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it. The choice is ours.</p> <p>ALEX MORRITT</p> </div>