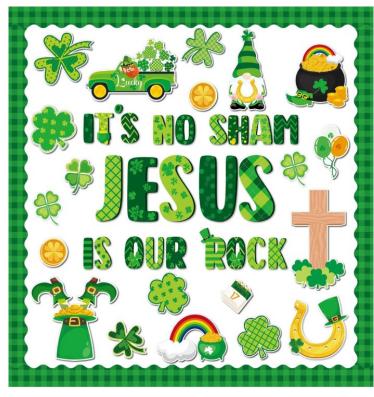
Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church Grantsburg, St. Croix Falls, Atlas P.O. Box 128 Grantsburg, WI 54840

MARCH 2025



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A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Love That Moves Us March 2025

One of the things I love most about the Good News is its message that God loves us just as we are, right where we are. That is the most fundamental message of grace — that "God loved us while we were yet sinners" (Romans 5:8). God sent His Son into the midst of a world that would ultimately put Him to death. And God continues to reach out to those who are the least, the last, and the lost. Without that message of Good News, it wouldn't be the Gospel.

But there is another part. Yes, God loves us just as we are, but He also loves us too much to let us stay where we are. God's desire for us is to grow in all ways to become more like Jesus.

So, how do we become more like Jesus? By growing as disciples —through devotion, prayer, generosity, following Jesus' teachings, and being open to where God might lead us. Grace is free, but holiness and godliness require discipline — the spiritual work to which we are called as disciples. In fact, the word "disciple" shares its root with "discipline." Those who seek to grow in faith and spiritual maturity respond to the Good News of God's love by committing to prayer, study, worship, and service.

This Lenten season, let's renew our commitment to make room in our lives for God through all the means at our disposal.

~ 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
March 2025



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Creating a New Culture of Stewardship

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

(1 Peter 4:10)

Have you ever found it difficult to embrace something new because of preconceived notions or past misconceptions? If so, one of those notions might be the word *stewardship*. We often associate stewardship with finances, especially in the church, where it is frequently linked to offerings. Such associations can create hesitation or even reluctance toward the term. I, too, had similar experiences in my early faith journey.

For new believers seeking God or those cautiously renewing their faith after past hurts, offerings can be a beautiful sign of gratitude. However, I have come to realize that they can also become an obstacle if misunderstood. That is why I want to clarify the true meaning of stewardship and help cultivate a renewed culture of stewardship within our church and faith communities.

While praying about this, I received a proposal last year from the Wisconsin Foundation to create a **Stewardship Task Force Team**. I shared this idea with the church council, along with the Wisconsin Foundation's recommendation, and as a result, each of our parish's individual churches formed their own **Ministry Task Force Teams**, or **T.F. Teams**.

Some may wonder what these teams are and what their role is. The Wisconsin Conference Foundation recommended their formation, particularly since we received the **Equitable Compensation Grant (ECG)** for two years—\$4,636 in 2023 and \$3,200 in 2024. By God's grace, these grants, along with support from two churches, helped Atlas Church overcome a financial crisis. Given this, our Administrative Council decided to apply for the **Stewardship Challenge Grant (SCG)** this year, establishing T.F. Teams in individual churches as part of that process.

However, as I shared during our Stewardship Sermon Series in February, stewardship is not just about financial giving. Stewardship is about growing in the core faith that God is the owner of our very lives. Everything we have—our bodies, time, ideas, wisdom, imagination, energy, health, compassion, senses, talents, loved ones, and resources—is a gift from God. Recognizing that these gifts come from Him and using them for His glory is the true essence of stewardship. Stewardship is about care, justice, and love.

1 Peter 4:10 reminds us of this responsibility: "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 passage teaches that stewardship extends beyond finances. It involves managing all of God's grace—our talents, time, and resources—in ways that serve others.

FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

Let's think How We Could Live Out Stewardship. Here are my suggestions:

- **Identify Your Gifts** Reflect on what you have received from God. What talents, skills, or abilities do you have? How can you use them to serve the church, your loved ones, and your community?
- Commit to Giving Beyond Finances Consider tithing not just money, but also your time, energy, talents, and resources to God's work. This could mean volunteering in your community, reading the Bible, worshiping, praying, shoveling snow for a neighbor, offering a helping hand, or caring for wildlife.
- Embrace Generosity as a Way of Life True tithing isn't just about Sunday offerings; it's about how we live daily. It supports God's kingdom—feeding the hungry, sustaining ministries, and extending grace to those in need.

Each **T.F. Team** within our parish has applied for the **SCG** and been approved. Now, their mission is to create a new culture of stewardship in both the church and the community. However, this cannot happen without your involvement and support.

Let us walk together with the T.F. Teams, remembering that we are all called by God to be faithful stewards of His grace.

Blessings!

Pastor Jenny



St. Croix Falls UMC's T. F. Team, 2-6-2025



Central UMC's T. F. Team, 2-7-2025



Atlas UMC's T. F. Team, 1-26-2025

A Little St. Patrick's Day Humor!







GRANTSBURG: CENTRAL NEWS





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.





Micah Belland 3/8
Peter & Kayleen Branstad 3/14
Paulie Kratchmer 3/18
Pam Clausen 3/20
Rene Wright 3/20
Kayleen Branstad 3/23
Majesty Rehbein 3/27
Emma Rahkola 3/31





Offering Income through

January 2024

Funds	January		Year-to-date	
Description	2025		2025	
General Fund Gifts	\$	3,577.00		3,577.00
Loose Offering	\$	18.10		18.10
Total General Funds Special Offering Missions Memorials Pastor's Youth Fund	\$	3,595.10 120.00	\$	3,595.10 120.00
All Funds Total	\$	3,715.10	\$	3,715.10

GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS & MISC.



Next Meeting:

March 8th—8:00 am Central UMC

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



Ad Council Meeting

March 18, 2025 6:30 pm Central UMC Grantsburg

BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

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



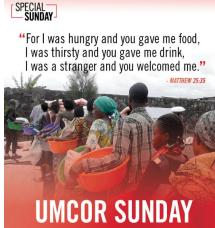
UMW met on February 12th where discussions continued regarding upcoming monthly activities.

- March-Bloodmobile March 20th-T-Dawgs
- · April-Spring Sale April 26th
 - Coffee/Cookie station in the AM
 - Sloppy Joes Lunch at 11 AM
 - Looking for donations for the saleplease note that anything not sold will have to be pick up by whomever donated it.
- May-CCC Birthday Treats May 15th 2PM

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

Missions Giving

March 2025



We will be collecting financial donations to support UMCOR SUNDAY. Gifts given on UMCOR Sunday strengthen the church's global humanitarian response by underwriting UMCOR's administrative costs. This allows UMCOR to use 100% of additional funds for specific programs like U.S.

disaster

response, international disaster response, and global migration.

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

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!





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



Chaz Norenberg 3/3 Mariah Gaffey 3/8

Colleen Adams-Schween 3/10

Dorothy Miller 3/11
Wren Rae Grimes 3/12
Barry Norenberg 3/16
Chase Steffen 3/23
Meryl Walsten 3/25
Mike Dennison 3/26



INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

Offering:

\$ 2,275.00 Feb. Offerings

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



ASH SERVICE

Sunday, March 9th









MARCH MISSION

We will be collecting garden seeds for Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project for our March Mission. Thank you for your support!

Here are the suggested seed donations:

Beans (pole and bush), beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, turnips, watermelon.





SOUPER BOWL OF CARING RESULTS

We collected 10 cans of soup and \$18 for Souper Bowl of Caring to support the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

Thank you for your generous support!

LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY

Monthly Report ~ January 2025

Households Served 32
New Families 2
Total People 86

USDA Food Received 3,540#

Food Going Out 2,146#

NON-USDA (Donations) \$4,611.00

Volunteer Hours 51.25

LUCKY YOU

Needs for next month: Fresh produce, eggs, sugar, mayonnaise. Personal products and toothbrushes for both men and women.

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: 3/2/25

HELPING HANDS

Volunteers for the month

Liturgist Karen Sciacca
Money Counter Peter Gionis
Usher Kathy Gionis
Bell Ringer Jim Andrews
Fellowship Admin Members
Flowers Kathy Gionis

Communion Jim & Karen Sciacca

n Sciacca
r Gionis
y Gionis
Andrews
n Members
y Gionis

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!



Steve Sylvester

3/8

Jameson Koser 3/18



St. Croix Falls
UMC

March 16th

12:15 pm



March Mission



The Sailor Hat
Offering will go to
support Harbor
House. 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





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



March 21st 5:30-7:30 pm Central UMC

Grantsburg

GO FISH K-UP GATHERING

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

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



JUNIOR YOUTH March Gatherings

3/12 & 3/26 5:30-7:30pm

Central UMC-Grantsburg

Junior Youth†Group

Calm Psalms

(Senior Youth)

Bible Study

6:30-8:30 pm

Thursday's in March 3/6, 3/13, 3/20 & 3/27

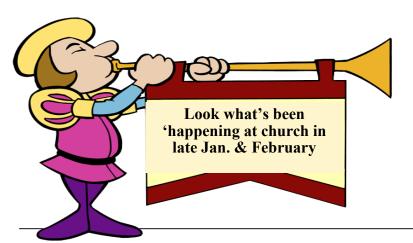


ACTIVITY FUN PAGE

I SPYST. PATRICKS









charleswright

1-21-2025, Central Ad Council Meeting via Zoom, (G: Upper Row: Shayna Schmid, Pastor Jenny Lee, Barbara Loomis, the Middle Row: Russ Hammer, Deb Hammer, Toni Koons, and the bottom Row: Charles Wright)

1-19-2025, Online Sunday Service



1-22-2025, Go Fish for K-Up, (G: Walden Erickson, **Anneliese Snyder, Indie Tooze, Youth Director-**Shayna Schmid, and Willow Nyland)



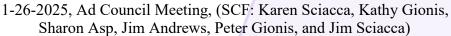
1-23-2025, Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves and Fishes in Luck

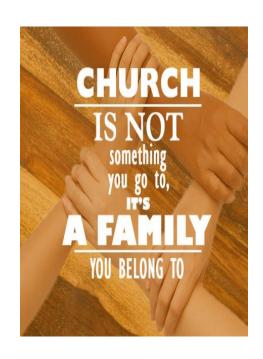


1-23-2025, Visiting the Police Department in St. Croix Falls, (SCF: Pastor Jenny Lee, Jim Sciacca, Karen Sciacca, Police Officer Josh Tyler, and Peter Gionis)













1-26-2025, Ministry Task Force Team, (A: Pastor Jenny Lee, Bob Determan, Cheryl Olson, Sue Olson, and Colleen Adams-Schween)



1-29-2025, Junior Youth Gathering, (G: Blake Reid, Leland Snyder, Youth Director Shayna Schmid, Anneliese Snyder, Willow Nyland, Sandra Erickson and Mage Harmon)





1-29-2025, Pastor Jenny attended the Harmony Choir Board Meeting via Zoom.



2-5-2025, Clergy Bible Study with Bishop Dan Schwerin at Onalaska UMC



2-2-2025, Pastor Jenny led worship at Continuing Care Center



2-6-2025, Ministry Task Force Team Meeting, (SCF: Pastor Jenny Lee, Jim Sciacca, Kathy Gionis and Karen Sciacca)







2-7-2025, Ministry Task Force Team, (G: Pastor Jenny Lee, Toni Koons, Deb Hammer, and Russ Hammer)



2-12-2025, Junior Youth Gathering, (G: Sammie Wilson, Mage Harmon, Anneliese Snyder, Willow Nyland, and Leland Snyder)



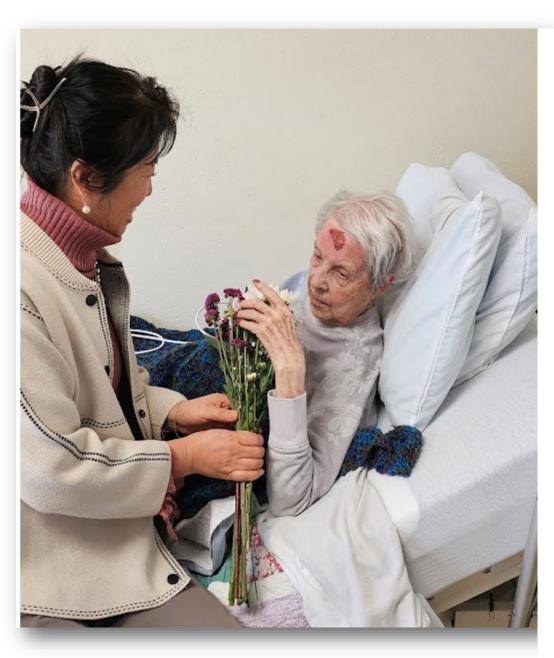
2-12-2025, UMW Valentine Party, (G: Kayleen Branstad, Barbara Loomis, Paulie Kratchmer, Valetta Walton, Allison Reid, Mary McNally)



2-13-2025, Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves and Fishes in Luck



Visi ation Ministry







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



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, Thurs-

day 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 appone in recommendations.

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.



2025

Calendar of the Upper St. Croix Parish

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Pastor Jenny's Office Hours Tuesday: 9am - 5pm at Grantsburg Wednesday: Mornings by appointment & 3pm - 7pm at Grantsburg Thursday: 11am - 4pm at SCF Friday: by appointment only	Colleen's Office Hours (Times are approximate) Remotely: Tuesday's 8 am-4 pm Friday's 8 am-12 pm		But my God shall supply all your needs PHILIPPIANS 4:19	BLESSINGS O		1
Communion Sunday Transfiguration Sunday 9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G) 10:00 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship (SCF) 12:15 pm Ad Council Meeting (SCF)	3	4 5:30 pm Fat Tuesday (G) 6:30 pm Ash Worship Service (G)	5 3:00-5:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (G) 5:00-6:00 pm K-up Kids Gathering (G)	5:00-7:30 pm Soup Supper and Lenten Bible Study (SCF) 6:30-8:30 pm Calm Psalms Group Bible Study (G)	7	8 8:00 am UM Men's Meeting (G)
9 Daylight Saving Time Starts 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G) 10:00 Ash Service (A) 11:15 Ash Service (SCF)	10	11 3:30-4:30 pm Provisional Mentoring Meeting via Zoom	3:00-5:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (G) 5:30-7:30 Youth Gathering (G)	13 8:00 am-12:00 pm New Ministry Strategy Board Meeting in Madison 5:00-7:30 pm Soup Supper and Lenten Bible Study (SCF) 6:30-8:30 pm Calm Psalms Group Bible Study (G)	14	15



2025

Calendar of the Upper St. Croix Parish

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G)		10:00 am Deadline to submit	11:00 am Korean Caucus	10:30-am 1:00 pm Pastor	1:30 pm Ad Council	
		Newsletter and Calendar	Board Meeting via Zoom	Jenny Volunteers at Loaves	Meeting (A)	
10:00 Worship (A)		information		and Fishes in Luck		
		-	3:00-5:00 pm Lenten Bible		5:30-7:30 pm Family	
11:15 Worship (SCF)		Jetter	Study (G)	5:00-7:30 pm Soup Supper	Game Night (G)	
		TADITOR		and Lenten Bible Study (SCF)		
12:15 Ad Council/TF Team Meeting		DEADLINE	5:00-6:00 pm K-up Kids		GAME A	
(SCF)			Gathering (G)	6:30-8:30 pm Calm Psalms	NIGHT	
		6:30 Ad Council Meeting (G)		Group Bible Study (G)	89	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G)		6:30 pm SPRC Meeting via	3:00-5:00 pm Lenten Bible	5:00-7:30 pm Soup Supper		8:30 am-12:00 pm VBS Staff
		Zoom	Study (G)	and Lenten Bible Study (SCF)		Training at Woodbury Lutheran
10:00 Worship (A)						Church in MN
			5:30-7:30 pm Youth	6:30-8:30 pm Calm Psalms		
11:15 Worship (SCF)			Gathering (G)	Group Bible Study (G)		
30	31	41	Iness Peace Love		7	
UMCOR Sunday-Special Offering	10:00 am-12:00 pm	Kind	ness			
	Harmony Choir Rehearsal at		(h)		Spring is	
9:00 Worship & Zoom Service (G)	Rice Lake UMC		Peace a			
			Pour		God's way	
10:00 Worship (A)			Lave		of saying,	
		M	ay they never stop		"One more	
11:15 Worship (SCF)						
			blooming		time!"	
UMCOR SUNDAY GIVE NOW			in you.		Robert Orben	
			Jude 2:1		Car 28 Was 1 - 1/2 1	
						4