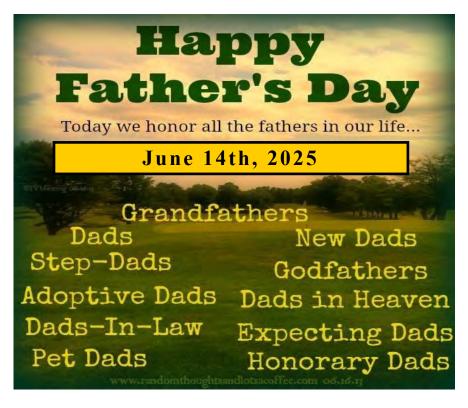
Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church Grantsburg, St. Croix Falls, Atlas P.O. Box 128 Grantsburg, WI 54840

## June 2025



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#### A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

## A Little Jiggle June 2025

David tells the story of a time he saw a car stalled at an intersection. The hood was up, and a young man waved him down for help. "I can't get it started," he said, "but if you jiggle the wire on the battery, I think it'll work."

David grabbed the positive battery cable—and it came off in his hand. The cable was clearly too loose." The terminal needs to be tightened," David told him. "I can fix it if you have some tools."

"My dad says to just jiggle the wire," the young man replied. "It always works. Why don't you just try that?"

David paused, sarcastically wondering why the young man's dad didn't ride around town with him, ready to jiggle the wire whenever needed. Then he said, "If I jiggle the wire, you're going to need someone to do it every time you shut the engine off. But if you give me two minutes and a wrench, we can solve the problem—and you can forget about it."

Reluctantly, the young man fumbled under the front seat, then handed David a crescent wrench through the window of the old car.

As David tightened the terminal, he thought about how many times he'd asked God for a "quick fix" in his own life. "I have this problem, Lord, and if you'll just jiggle the wire, things will be okay. I'm in a hurry—just get me going again as fast as possible."

But God doesn't want to just jiggle wires, does He?

God wants to take the time to deal with the real issue—to actually fix the problem. A lasting solution to the struggles in our lives requires full surrender and a willingness to move forward on God's terms. We must cooperate with God—whatever it takes, for as long as it takes.

As the young man drove away with his tightened terminal, David paused and asked the Lord to say "No" the next time he was tempted to ask for a quick fix.

~ 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
June 2025



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

#### "Planting Seeds in the Next Generation"

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16(NRSV)

You may be wondering if spring is really here. Well, not quite yet—it's still cold! Maybe we'll skip straight to summer, with June already around the corner.

What do you expect in June? As the month unfolds with longer days, warmer air, and the hum of summer beginning, many of us turn our attention to outdoor projects—planting gardens, mowing lawns, soaking in the sunshine. It's a season when growth becomes visible. The earth reminds us that new life needs intention: seeds must be planted, watered, and nurtured before any fruit can be seen.

A few weeks ago, I was surprised to see something new in my garden. Plants I had forgotten about began to sprout and even blossom—despite the lingering cold. I was in awe. They were beautiful! I tried to remember what they were and when I had planted them. Then it came to me: I planted them two years ago, after getting them at Atlas UMC's Easter sale. They had come in a small pot, and I transplanted them into my garden. I expected them to bloom the following spring—but they didn't. I was disappointed and gave up on them.

But even though I gave up, God didn't. Those little seeds endured underground, quietly surviving. God's grace was still at work, even when I couldn't see it. And now, finally, they have sprouted and blossomed.

In the same way, this season invites us to tend to something even more precious than tomatoes or tulips: the faith of the next generation.

This summer, as Vacation Bible School and special youth activities begin to appear on our calendars, we're given a holy opportunity—to pass on the stories of our faith to our children and youth.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

#### FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

Some may wonder why we offer Vacation Bible School or youth programs. It might seem like a lot of effort and expense without much visible fruit. But like my garden, the seeds of faith we plant in children and youth may not show growth right away. Still, God's grace is there, working beneath the surface.

Remember, Jesus loves when children come to Him. In the Gospel of Mark, we read: "People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." (Mark 10:13–14)

Please don't be like the disciples who tried to block the children. Instead, be part of welcoming them. You can join in the children and youth ministry by volunteering at VBS or helping with the youth summer program.

This will be our third year offering Vacation Bible School. From past experience, we know how God works through it. Whether you volunteer during activities, donate supplies, offer your encouraging presence, or keep the event in prayer—your support matters.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, mentor, neighbor, or simply someone willing to smile and say a kind word to a child on Sunday morning—you are part of this sacred task. A seed planted through a story shared at VBS, a whispered prayer, or a conversation while volunteering might not bear fruit overnight, but God is faithful. God brings the growth.

So, this June, I invite you to pray for our children and youth. Support their ministries. Show up when you can. Encourage those who work with them. And trust that even small seeds of kindness, scripture, and love can grow into strong, fruit-bearing trees of faith.

May this season be one of joy, hope, and planting—with eyes fixed on what God can do through every little seed we offer.

Blessings,

Pastor Jenny



4-23-2025, the flowers in my garden

## 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 welcome all children to 'Children's Time' during the service, and we are looking for volunteers to assist with nursery attendance.

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





Leland Snyder	6/8
Rod Dahl	6/9
Cindy Michaels	6/12
Deb Hammer	6/15
Sally Aldorfer	6/17
Leland Snyder	6/18
Judith McCann	6/20
Mary McNally	6/27
Emily Rahkola	6/28





## Offering Income through April 2025

		_		
Funds Description		April 2025	Year-to-date 2025	
General Fund Gifts Loose Offering Easter Offering	\$ \$ \$	3,100.00 41.00 270.00	\$ \$ \$	14,649.00 174.10 270.00
Total General Funds Special Offering Missions Memorials Pastor's Youth Fund	\$	3,411.00 5.00	\$	15,093.10 540.00
All Funds Total	\$	3,416.00	\$	15,633.10

#### GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS & MISC.





## Ad Council Meeting June 17, 2025 6:15 pm Central UMC Grantsburg



Thank you to those who supported the Spring Sale & Lunch in April. There was no gathering in May.

Upcoming Schedule:

- Regular meeting on June 11th at 1 pm
- July 9th birthday party and gift exchange with a \$10.00 limit. Also in July we are hoping to help with VBS.
- ♣ August: Social outing to The Garage in Pine City for lunch.
  All are welcome!

## Missions Giving

In May we will be collecting financial donations for CUMC's discretionary fund.

This fund is used by the pastor to assist individual who reach out to the church for help.



This can be money for gas, food or other essential needs.

#### **April Mission Update:**

Thank you to all who helped shower the church with much needed supplies in April. Your generosity is much appreciated!





#### Next Meeting: June 14th—8:00 am Central UMC

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

## BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

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

### 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 on break for the Summer.

Jared Olson 6/5
Troy Olson 6/5
Charlie Olson 6/7
Shane Tooze 6/19
Maxine Hauble 6/28
Taryn Gaffey 6/29





Jamie & Mike Steffen 6/16

### 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!



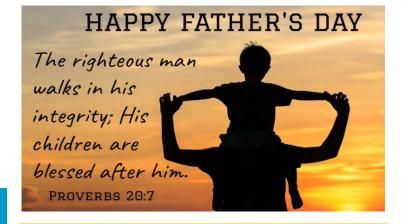


## INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

#### Offering:

\$1,635 May Offerings <u>\$1,000 Memorial</u> <u>\$2,635 Total</u>

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



## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING



THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JUNE.









#### **JUNE MISSION**

For June we will continue collecting items for Community Referral Agency (CRA) in Milltown that provides shelter and services for survivors of domestic violence and assault. *Items should be new or in good to very good condition* 

#### Household Items:

- Twin XL sheet sets & Twin XL mattress pads
- · Batteries-all sizes
- Cleaning supplies, Clorox wipes, Mr. Clean, Spray disinfectant, cleaning sponges
- · Laundry soap
- Ziplock bags, aluminum foil, plastic wrap
- Paper towels, toilet paper & garbage bags
- Shampoo & conditioner
- · Women's underwear, all sizes
- Sports Bras large, extra large or XX Large
- · Body was for men or women
- All gift cards: Visa, Walmart, Gas cards etc.

#### Children's Items:

- · Pull ups all sizes
- Diapers- all sizes
- Wipes

#### Groceries:

- Canned soups
- Cereals- all kinds
- 100% juice
- Granulated sugar
- Flour
- Ketchup/mustard
- · Coffee, coffee creamer, filters
- Hamburger helper
- · Mac n Cheese
- Salad Dressings
- Mayo-Miracle Whip
- Seasonings/ salt, garlic salt, seasoning salt

#### Children & teens:

Tennis shoes



## LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY

Monthly Report ~ April 2025

60

Households Served	41	
New Families	0	
Total People	89	
USDA Food Received	l	2,524#
Food Going Out		2,568#
NON-USDA (Donatio	ons)	\$2,845

Volunteer Hours



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

We can always use volunteers! 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



#### HELPING HANDS

#### Volunteers for the month

Liturgist Karen Sciacca (6/1)

Jim Andrews (6/8, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29)

Money Counter Peter Gionis
Usher Lynn Hanson

Bell Ringer Kathy Gionis & Jim Andrews (6/8)

Fellowship Admin Members
Flowers Women of the Church
Communion Kathy & Peter 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!

#### JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

June 1, 2025

10:30 am

St. Croix Falls UMC

Please join us for a joint worship service at St. Croix Falls UMC.
Brunch will be served following service at 11:30 am

All are welcome!

#### 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: 6/1/25** 





Steve & LeAnn

Sylvester

6/29

St. Croix Falls

The next meeting will be June 15th at 12:15 pm.

#### June Mission



The Sailor Hat
Offering will go to
support Polk County
Drug Court! 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.

Peace with Justice Sunday: June 15, 2025 World Communion Sunday: October 5, 2025



## MISCELLANEOUS

#### 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 **EXCEPT on 6/1/25.** 

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

June 6th 5:30-7:30

Central UMC Grantsburg

#### GO FISH K-UP END OF YEAR PARTY

June 4th
5:30-7:30 pm
Central UMC Grantsburg

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



#### **FAMILY SWIN DAY**

June 14th, 2025

1:00-3:00 pm

Grantsburg Community Pool



#### 5-up to Youth

Gathering

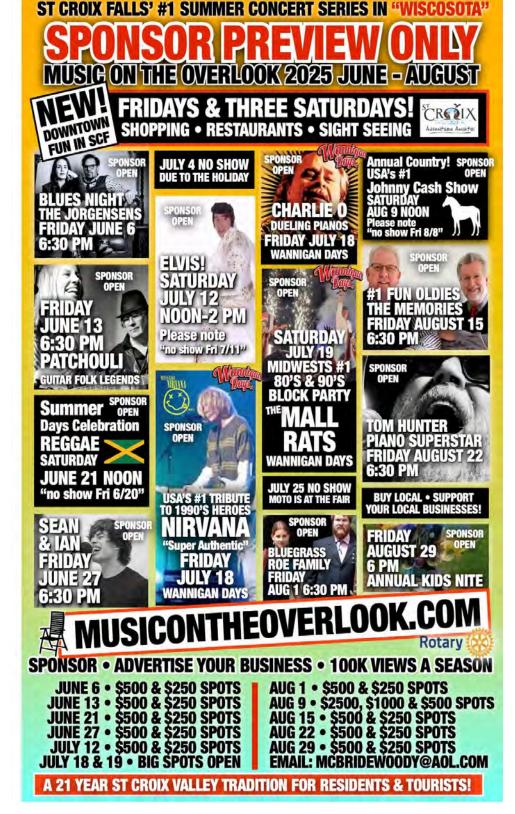
June 25th

5:30-7:00 pm

Central UMC Grantsburg

**GATHERING** 





Music on the Overlook (MOTO)

FREE outdoor concert series at the St. Croix River overlook in St. Croix Falls, WI.

210 North Washington Street St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

Friday nights at 6:30 pm June through August

FOR EVENT INFORMATION IN BURNETT
COUNTY GO TO: Events for June 2025 –
Burnett County, Wisconsin
(burnettcountyfun.com)

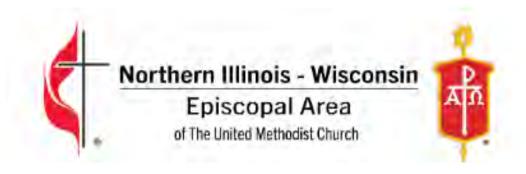
FOR EVENT INFORMATION IN POLK COUNTY GO TO: Events for June 2024-Polk County, Wisconsin (discoverpolkcountywis.com)



June 21, 2025



Big Gust Days 6/7
WI Annual Conference 6/5-6/8
Pastor Jenny's Vacation 6/9-6/13
Burnett Dairy Days 6/14
Fathers Day 6/15



May 9, 2025

Dear Siblings in Christ of the Wisconsin Conference,

Greetings in the name and love of the Risen Christ!

On May 1, 2025, the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table proudly unveiled a new vision for The United Methodist Church—a vision that reflects our deep commitment to embodying God's dream for the world. A world where every person encounters the transformative grace of Jesus Christ, where communities flourish, and where all creation is made whole.

"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ, who are empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly**, **serve joyfully**, and **lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections."

This renewed vision is more than words—it is an invitation to embrace joy and hope as we live God's mission. It also provides a clear, Christ-centered framework for missional unity and collaboration across the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area and our worldwide connection.

Now, more than ever, the world needs to experience God's boundless love. We may soon see the most vulnerable struggle even more—how might this vision remind us how we can love practically? How might we demonstrate love greater than our differences?

What a wonderful statement to use as a mirror for decisions made at an administrative council, or as a budget is made. What a great tool for teaching: how is God calling your congregation to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously? Perhaps this is a moment you could be personally challenged by this vision. How might you live in this vision prayerfully?

We still have a mission to 'make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.' This new vision offers direction and challenge. I am grateful to be reminded that vision takes us into our communities and world to live the vision of Jesus with those God has given us to love.

Thank you for your faithfulness.

Peace,

Bishop Daniel W. Schwerin Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area

## ACTIVITY FUN PAGE

## Summer Fun

Go to the Library Go on a date with Mom Go on a date with Dad Wash the car Play in the rain Dessert before dinner Movie night Take photos of nature Pajama day Make lemonade Breakfast in bed Play Hopscotch Hula Hoop Go to the park Have a sleepover Eat watermelon Make popsicles Build a sand castle Go mini golfing Go bowling Family bike ride Picnic in the park Visit Mom/Dad at work Go to the movies Play night games Blow bubbles Inside camping

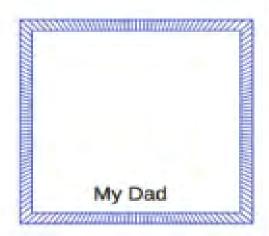
Climb a tree Go to a farmers market Go to the mall Water gun fight Play in the sprinklers Go swimming Read a book Bake cupcakes Paint rocks Fly a kite Go on a hike Meet a new friend Look at the clouds Help cook dinner Visit a relative Get a shaved ice Look for stars Go on a treasure hunt Jump on a trampoline Draw with chalk Try a new sport Go to a water park Make a summer craft Do the monkey bars Play jump rope Play hide and seek Go to a fair Have a pillow fight Find a lady bug Go on a road trip Go camping Pick wildflowers Go to a lake/beach Watch a sunrise

Make smores Feed the ducks Go to the zoo Make a fort Write a story Homemade pizza night Make ice cream Watch a sunset Stay up all night Go to a national park Have a relay race Go for a walk No internet day Play a card game Get a slurpee Watch lightning Go fishing Find cool rocks Paint a picture Watch fireworks Have a BBQ Make a sandcastle Go birdwatching Learn a magic trick Paper airplane contest Play Tennis Write a journal Take swim lessons Plant a garden Learn a dance

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY, DAD!

My Dad is years old.	
His favorite thing to do is	
At work, my Dad does	
He loves to eat	
My Dad doesn't like to	
He is really good at	
I love it when my Dad	









5-5-2025, Pastor Jenny Lee and her Mentee group at Pine Lake Camp

#### The 2025 Spring Youth Retreat at Wood Lake Camp, 5/2/2025-5/4/2025











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5-7-2025, Youth Activity

(G: Gabe Little, Shannan Little, Anneliese Snyder, Adalyn Snyder, Willow Nyland, and Mage Harmon)



5-7-2025, Youth Bible Study

(G: Front Table: Willow Nyland, Shannan Little, Mage Harmon, Youth Director Shayna Schmid, Adalyn Snyder; Back table: Gabe Little, John Little, Anneliese Snyder, Sandra Erickson, Barbara Loomis, Samie Wilson)





5-10-2025, The 2025 VBS Staff Meeting,

(G: Samie Wilson, Youth Director Shayna Schmid, Sandra Erickson, and Pastor Jenny Lee)

#### Mother's Day Service, 5-11-2025



Children's offering flowers to Mother, Atlas UMC



Mother's Day, (A: Sharon Asp, Peggy Frederickson, Sheryl Simons, Maxine Hauble, Cheryl Olson, Elli Olson, Jamie Staffen, Josie Grimes, Wren Grimes, Briana Olson, Mariah Gaffey, Landon Olson, Colleen Adams-Schween, and Pastor Jenny Lee)



Mother's Day, (SCF: Pastor Jenny Lee, Harley Koser, Sharon Asp, Sara Koser, and Lynn Hanson, Karen Sciacca, and LeAnn Sylvester)



Mother's Day, (G: Deb Hammer, Valetta Walton, Paulie Kratchmer, Toni Koons, Julie Branstad, Georgeann Koons, Sandra Erickson, and Pastor Jenny Lee)



Blessing our Mothers, Central-Grantsburg UMC





5-11-2025, The Belated Recognition of the 2025 Lenten Bible Study, (SCF: Mike and Sara Koser (Harley and Jameson), Bob Determan (A), and Pastor Jenny Lee)

5-12-2025, Pastor Jenny Lee and North Harmony Choir at First UMC in Rice Lake





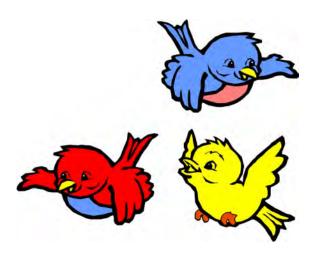
5-14-2025, Administrative Council Meeting, (G: Paulie Kratchmer, Barbara Loomis, Shayna Schmid, Deb and Russ Hammer)

5-17-2025, District Learning Day at Menomonie UMC, (Sharon Asp, Linda (Merrillan UMC), and Pastor Jenny Lee)





5-18-2025, Blessing a Newborn Baby, (SCF: Pastor Jenny Lee and Baby Elliana)





5-18-2025, Administrative Council Meeting, (SCF: Karen Sciacca, Jim Sciacca, Peter Gionis, Kathy Gionis, Sharon Asp, Steve Sylvester, and LeAnn Sylvester)





5-14-2025, (G: Pastor Jenny Lee and Pam Clausen)

#### **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



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.



**Loaves and Fishes Interfaith Food Pantry**—300 North 1st Street, Luck Pantry is located in the back of the Lion's Club-please use the back door. 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 Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am Open:

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

#### **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.

