

he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** "The Wisdom to Choose the Good" **Pastor Jenny Lee**

**We Respond to God's Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison

**O Lord, here we are with troubled hearts and wounded souls. May your word heal our broken spirits and contrite hearts, empowering us to follow Jesus and live as your servant people. Speak now to our troubled souls through your living spirit and guide us to grow in wisdom to choose the good, but protect us from temptation of evil. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH 95**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

**Our hearts would not withhold our devotion, or our hands grasp for ourselves what you summon us to give. May these gifts signify our commitment to follow Jesus. Receive these offerings and instruct us in their use, to your honor and glory. Amen!**

**We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *O How I Love Jesus* **UMH 170 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Worship Resources "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

# Upper St. Croix Parish

**ONE Parish THREE Churches:**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**April 3rd, 2022**  
**"5th Sunday in Lent"**



**The United Methodist Church**

**8:30 AM at Central-Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service**

**9:45 AM at Atlas**

**11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Pastor Jenny Lee:** [jennlee1732@gmail.com](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)

**Youth Director Shayna Schmid:** [snsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snsnyder@gmail.com)

**Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg:** [centralumc2016@gmail.com](mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com)

**Parish Office:** 715-463-2624 **St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494

[www.upperstcroixparish.org](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**April 3rd, 2022**  
**“5th Sunday in Lent”**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**\*PRELUDE**  
**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**  
*“Peace be with you”*

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive  
We have come for this hour to glorify God,  
to sing the praises of the Most High.

**We gather for the cleansing of our hearts  
and the awakening of our spirits.**

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy

**The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

**Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the  
Negeb; then it was said among the nations, “the Lord has  
done great things for us.” Praise the Lord! Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *More Love to Thee, O Christ*  
UMH 453 (vs.1 & 2)

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison  
**O God, whose love is over all the children of your grace and whose  
judgment lifts up rather than destroys, hear our cries. Meet us now  
for we would see Jesus and, through that obedient life, know you.  
Restore us to a covenant relationship in which we can find the  
fullness of life you intend, and offer it to a needy world. We pray in  
Jesus’ name. Amen!**

**CHILDREN’S TIME** UMH 191 (vs. 1)

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**INVITATION FOR COMMUNION**  
**CONFESSION AND PARDON** Unison

Pastor Jenny Lee

Merciful God,  
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(All pray in silence)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God’s love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** UMH 13-14 (See insert)  
**THE LORD’S PRAYER**  
**GIVING (TAKING) THE HOLY COMMUNION**  
**COMMUNION PRAYER** Unison

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you  
have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the  
strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the  
name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON** John 12:1-8

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of  
Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner  
for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with  
him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed  
Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the  
fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the  
one who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this perfume not  
sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” 6 (He  
said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief;

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his  
disciples,

and said: "take, eat; this is my body which given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it  
to his disciples, and said: "drink from this, all of you; this is my blood  
of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the  
forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living  
sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of  
faith.

**(Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.)**

*(You may hold the communion elements with your two hands.)*

**(Together) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on  
these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and  
blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.**

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,

and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly  
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy  
Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

# ATLAS UMC

## EASTER CRAFT & BAKE SALE



**Saturday, April 9th 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Atlas United Methodist Church**

**Downtown Atlas ~ 2110 295th Avenue ~ County Road B**

Spring is almost here! Stop by and shop a variety of  
wonderful homemade treats and crafts-they will make great  
Easter basket stuffers and gifts!

**Goodies of All Kinds!**

**Breads \* Bars \* Cookies \* Candies \* Cupcakes \* Jellies**  
**Homemade Crafts**



# Upper St. Croix Parish's Holy Week Events



## Palm Sunday-April 10, 2022

**Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches.**



## Maundy Thursday-April 14, 2022

**Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Service at 5:30 pm followed by a Soup Supper at Central-Grantsburg UMC**



## Good Friday-April 15, 2022

**Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. There will be no service for Good Friday.**



## Holy Saturday-April 16, 2022

**Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. We will be holding a Holy Saturday Event at Atlas Park at 1:00 pm. There will be an Egg Hunt, celebration of the Lenten Bible Study, Crafts, Outdoor Games and Burning of Prayer Cards.**



## Easter Sunday-April 17, 2022

**Hallelujah! Christ Has Risen! This is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!**

**9:20 am Easter Breakfast at Central-Grantsburg UMC.**

*Services: 8:30 am Grantsburg (with Zoom), 9:45 am Atlas, 11:15 am St. Croix Falls (with Zoom)*

# APRIL CHURCH MISSIONS

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b></p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p><b>Support Loaves &amp; Fishes Food Pantry</b></p> 	<p><b>SUPPORT UKRAINE</b></p>  <p>Funds collected will be sent to UMCOR to help Ukraine.</p>
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## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p><b>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</b></p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>Donations will be sent to UMCOR to support the people of Ukraine.</p> 
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## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p><b>Food Shelf</b></p> <p>(Communion Sunday)</p>	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p> <p>April's Sailor hat offering will go to support UKRAINE.</p> 
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Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

### Today's Service

**Central:**

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Snow Removal	Stan Chute
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Communion	Barb Loomis
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis

**Atlas:**

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher(s)	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Communion	Sue Olson
Sunday school	Younger/Older Cheryl Olson/Jamie Steffen

**St. Croix Falls:**

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



### BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:

“This kind can come out only by prayer” (Mark 9:29)  
Please pray every morning at 8:30, if you are able!

*“Please pray for Ukraine, and its people and its leaders!”*

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am and 11:15am.** The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.

Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>**

Phone: +1 312 626 6799,

Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271

- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at [upperstcroixparish.org](http://upperstcroixparish.org) under Sermons!
- 3) You can hear “the service by Phone,” whenever you are able by calling 1-715-298-0854.
- 4) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

### This Week’s Calendar:

Today: Fifth Sunday in Lent! Let us come closer to God in Lent!

*\*We have 2022 signup sheets for volunteers. Please find a spot where you can be a part of the church. We are the church, which is growing in faith together.*

### Sunday Worship Service:

- 4/3: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom  
9:45 am Atlas  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 4/5: 6:30 pm, Lenten Bible Study-Session 5 via Zoom
- 4/6: 1:00 pm, Lenten Craft Group Gathering-Session 5 (G)  
6:30 pm, Youth Gathering (G)
- 4/7: Bishop’s Day Apart at Holy Trinity UMC in Centuria  
9:00 am to noon, Clergy Session; 6:00-8:00 pm, Laity Session
- 4/9: 8:00 am, UM Men’s Meeting (G)  
9:00 am-1:00 pm, Easter Craft & Bake Sale

### This Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries:



### Next Sunday (April 10th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God’s People  
**Pastor Jenny Lee**

#### Central:

Pianist Toni Koons  
Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**  
Snow Removal Stan Chute  
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland  
Fellowship Paulie Kratchmer  
Counter **Volunteer Needed**  
Cleaning Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson  
Sunday School Younger/Older  
LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis

#### Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**  
Usher(s) **Volunteer Needed**  
Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**  
Sunday School Younger/Older  
**Volunteer Needed**

#### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist Kathy Gionis  
Usher(s) Karen Sciacca  
Money Counter Peter Gionis  
Bell Ringer Jim Sciacca  
Flowers Kathy Gionis  
Fellowship Ad Council Members (3rd Sunday)



### UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH’S HOLY WEEK’S EVENTS

- 4/10 PALM SUNDAY  
4/13 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AND SOUP SUPPER (5:30 PM, G)  
4/15 NO GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE  
4/16 HOLY SATURDAY EVENT (1PM, ATLAS PARK)  
4/17 EASTER SUNDAY (EASTER BREAKFAST, AT 9:20 AM, G)



April 3rd, 2022  
John 12:1-8

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

### **“The Wisdom to Choose the Good”**

I want to start with something funny. I learned about this story from an internet site. A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson and said, “If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.’” Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, “Ryan, you be Jesus!”

Today, I want to talk about “The wisdom to choose the good.” We face several moments everyday where we have to make choices. Sometimes it might be a little thing, such as what we are going to eat for breakfast, lunch, and supper; or which clothes we will wear. Sometimes it might be a big deal, something like which school we would like to go to; which job we would like to choose; which house we would buy, etc. Furthermore, there are things we choose unconsciously. For example, we unconsciously take a seat at the same pew every Sunday. When you come to the sanctuary every Sunday morning, you likely do not hesitate about which pew you would like to sit in. It is because you are used to sitting in that the same spot. The “unconscious choices” we choose in everyday life might not have been very important to begin with, but eventually they become a center of our lives, attitude, and characters. In other words, our unconscious choices somehow show who we are. Here is an example. Depending on where you sit in the sanctuary or in the restaurant, we can consider your character. If you are an extrovert, you may choose it at the front or close to the altar or in an open space in a restaurant. If you are an introvert, you may select it in the corner or the seat in the back. I don’t mean which pew you should sit. My point is that it is essential wisdom to choose the good in daily life. At first, try to choose the good intentionally, as if you were choosing fresh fruits in the grocery store. It eventually guides you into wise lives in both spirit and physics.

The Founder of Methodism, John Wesley, emphasized “the Holy Habit” in daily life. He tried to make a schedule of praying, reading the scripture, studying the Bible, receiving communion, joining small groups, fasting regularly, and visiting the poor and the sick. He was a very scheduled person. For that reason, he was called “A Methodist.” We may call his habit “the Holy Discipline.” As Christians, we need “the Holy Disciplines.” The Apostle Paul says, “Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come” (1 Timothy 4:7-8). Some of you already have some kinds of “holy disciplines” like “family disciplines.” I hope you may share your holy disciplines with your friends, children, and grandchildren, including the benefits.

Let’s see how our unconscious choice affects our spiritual lives through today’s scripture. The story in the scripture happens six days before the Passover. The Passover is the big Holiday for Jews to celebrate their exodus from Egypt. It is a celebration of their salvation from the life of slavery and death by the grace of God. Ironically, six days later, at the Passover, they killed the Son of God on the Cross without knowing who Jesus was. Anyway, today’s story is about a party for Jesus Christ. They might plan a party for Jesus because he had raised Lazarus from the dead. In today’s scripture, there are four people: Martha, Mary, Lazarus, and Judas Iscariot. Some images about Martha and Mary come to your mind as soon as you hear their names. The

characteristics we know of these two are that Mary likes to listen to Jesus' teaching or preaching in front of him, and Martha likes to work in the kitchen. But is it true Martha wanted to work and chose to work instead of listening to Jesus' words?

You may remember the story about when Martha worked hard; Mary was listening to Jesus sitting in front of his feet in the Gospel Luke 10:40-42. "Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is a need for only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'" According to the scripture, Mary had already chosen to listen to Jesus' words, but Martha couldn't choose to do that yet. She was distracted because she couldn't make a choice on which one she would do first. She couldn't understand Mary's concentration on the choice she had already made. Jesus saying helps us to understand that situation. Jesus called her name two times, "Martha, Martha." It helped her calm down. And Jesus said, "You are worried and distracted by many things; there is a need for only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." Before we choose something, we are confused or worried, but after we make a choice, we may feel comfortable.

Mary has chosen what her priority would be in her daily life. Her priority was to listen to Jesus' words. It might become her holy discipline. Her disciplines guided her into her wise life. Therefore, in today's scripture, she comes to Jesus first, according to her holy disciplines. She "took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wipe them with her hair" (12:3). According to the Israelite's custom, the perfume Mary used is what women prepare for their wedding, which means that it is costly and very precious for their wedding. However, Mary chose to use it for Jesus, not her wedding. She had the wisdom to choose the good. What about Martha? Martha was distracted by the many things she had to do, but she was also growing in the wisdom to choose the good. Without bother or worry, she chose to serve Jesus' table. The better part for her was "which will not be taken away from her." Her serving table became the meaningful servanthood and a good model for lay leadership.

And the scripture says, "Lazarus was one of those at the table with him." Lazarus chose to have meals with Jesus like one of the guests. His choice was that he not do anything, but enjoy the food and event that were provided by someone who worked hard. Now, let's see Judas Iscariot, the last person among the four people in today's scripture. His role in the disciples of Jesus was the treasurer. He unconsciously or consciously thought of the perfume's cost first. However, as the scripture says, his care was not about the poor, but because he was a thief. As keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. He was like a person who was looking for benefits from the community and friends by pretending to do good. What kinds of characters do you prefer? I hope that you stand on the way of growing in wisdom to choose the good.

In conclusion, I want to share the wisdom of an indigenous American chief: There are two wolves in the human heart. One is a white wolf; the other is a black wolf. Two wolves keep fighting in our hearts. Black wolves are evil, full of anger, jealousy, sadness, regret, arrogance, lies, vain pride, and represent our false selves that arise in our hearts. The white wolf is good, like joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, generosity, truth, and faith. The same fight is happening to everyone. The chief informed his grandson. His grandson asked, "which wolf wins? Who do you think will win?" The chief answered his grandson. "whichever you feed, that one will win."

So, I wonder which wolf are you feeding? The choice will lead you in your present life and the future ahead. Thanks be to God. Amen.