

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison

God of peace, by whose breath the Holy Spirit enters our lives and transforms our community of faith, come to us now, whether we have opened or locked our doors. Lead us to faith beyond sight, trust beyond doubt, deeds beyond words, that we may live as your forgiven and forgiving children, leading the way for realization of your peace among us and in all the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*After each prayer request:*

*Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,*

*All: Hear our Prayer.*

**PRAYER SONG**

**UMH 487**

*This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH 95**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

We rejoice in the inheritance you have given us, O God, and delight in sharing it with others. You have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You have touched our lives with eternity, with indescribable and glorious joy. We want others to experience what we have begun to realize in company with one another and with you. To that end, bless all the offerings of this day. Amen!

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *In the Garden* **UMH 314 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**\*BENEDICTION** **Pastor Jenny Lee**

**\*POSTLUDE** **Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)**

*Please take a plant home with you as a way of sharing life. If you want to share your seeds or plants, please bring them to the church and share them with others.*

Worship Resources "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

 **Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**United Methodist Church**

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:  
"Fill My House" (Luke 14:23)

**Second Sunday of Easter**



**Grantsburg-Central,**  
Since 1897



**Atlas, Since 1887**



**St. Croix Falls,**  
Since 1859

**SUNDAY SERVICE:**

*9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service*  
*10:00 AM at Atlas (10:15 AM, Sunday School)*  
*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:** [snssnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snssnyder@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 16th, 2023**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**\*PRELUDE** Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**

**Leader:** Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen!

**All people:** Jesus is risen. Hallelujah! Amen!

**Leader:** Peace be with you!

**All People:** Also with you!

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

We come again to celebrate resurrection.

God gives us a new birth into a living hope.

**Death has no power over us.**

**Christ goes before us in the new life God offers.**

Blessed be the God of our Savior Jesus Christ!

Our faith, tested by fire, is renewed.

**Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice.**

**God shows us the path of life.**

Again, Jesus says to us: Peace be with you.

Come to receive life in Christ's name.

**We rejoice in God's amazing good news.**

**In God's presence, we find fullness of joy. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN** *Christ Is Risen* UMH 307 (vs. 1 & 2)

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison

**Your Easter people gather to praise you, amazing God. Continue to make your ways known to us. Fill us with your presence. We cannot live apart from you. Your counsel and instruction are with us day and night. We have only to open ourselves to your direction. Inspire in us fullness of joy, we pray, as we respond in faith to the risen Christ and embrace the tasks you set before us.**

**Build up our sense of community that we may truly care for one another through all life's trials. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**UMH 191 (vs.1)**

**Recognition of the Lenten Gathering**

**Lenten Bible Study:** Jim Andrews (SCF), Sharon Asp (SCF), Kathy Gionis (SCF), Lynn Hanson (SCF), Barb Loomis(G), Jim Sciacca (SCF), and Karen Sciacca (SCF)

**Lenten Craft Group:** Pauli Kratchmer (G), Georgeann Koons (A), Judy Lien (G), and LuAnne Martell (G)

**Proclamation of God's Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**John 20:19-31**

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." 24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." 30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

***"Where is the Risen Christ?"***

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

# APRIL CHURCH MISSIONS

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

### INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



### LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

**April Collection:**

**Toothbrushes, toothpaste & paper towels.**



Easter Special offerings" 10% of the Easter offering went to support the Ukraine.



## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

### BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"



### APRIL SHOWERS

*Let's shower the church with needed supplies.*

Toilet bowl cleaner, Dusting spray, Multi-surface disinfectant spray, Bleach – 1 gal, Room deodorizer (solid, not spray), Hand soap - pump, Hand sanitizer - pump, Distilled water 1 gallon (for piano), 9V Batteries, D Batteries, Paper towels, Toilet paper, Kool-Aid or Crystal Light, Lysol Lime & Rust, Coffee-regular, Ziplock bags-sandwich, quart and gallon.

## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



**Food Shelf**  
(Communion Sunday)



**Sailor Hat Offering:**



*March's Sailor Hat offering will go to support UMCOR.*

Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

**Central:**

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Acolyte(s)  
Snow Removal  
Fellowship  
Counter  
Cleaning  
Sunday School

Toni Koons  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Willow Nyland  
Tom Goepfert  
*Volunteer Needed*  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson  
Younger/Older  
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis



**Atlas:**

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher(s)  
Acolyte(s)  
Cleaning  
Sunday School

Sharon Asp  
Colleen Adams-Schween  
Sue Olson  
Chase Steffen  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Younger/Older  
Josie Grimes/Jamie Steffen

**St. Croix Falls:**

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher(s)  
Money Counter  
Bell Ringer  
Flowers

Sharon Asp  
Jim Andrews  
Jasmine /Karen Sciacca  
Peter Gionis  
Jim Sciacca  
Ladies of the church



**Breakthrough Prayer:** Please pray for those staying in nursing homes: Joan & Charlie Ziegler (SCF), Naomi McLean (SCF), and Dorothy Miller (A)

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **Online Zoom Services are scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 and 11:15 am.** 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 may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

## This Week's Calendar:

Today: Second Sunday of Easter  
Christ is risen, Hallelujah, Amen!

### Sunday Worship Services:

- 4/16: Second Sunday of Easter  
9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom  
10:00 am Atlas (10:15 am Sunday School)  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom  
4/16 12:15 pm Ad Council Meeting (SCF)  
4/18-20 Pastor Jenny's Vacation  
4/20 6:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (G) via Zoom  
4/21 1:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (A)

**PLEASE NOTE: WHEN WRITING A CHECK PLEASE MAKE IT PAYABLE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH. WHEN THE OFFERING IS MAILED IN WE ARE THEN ABLE CREDIT THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH. THANK YOU!**

Important Dates  
and INFORMATION

Pastor Jenny's vacation will be April 18th-20th, and April 25th -27th. She will have no office hours the third and fourth weeks of April.

## Next Sunday (April 23rd) Volunteers:

### Central:

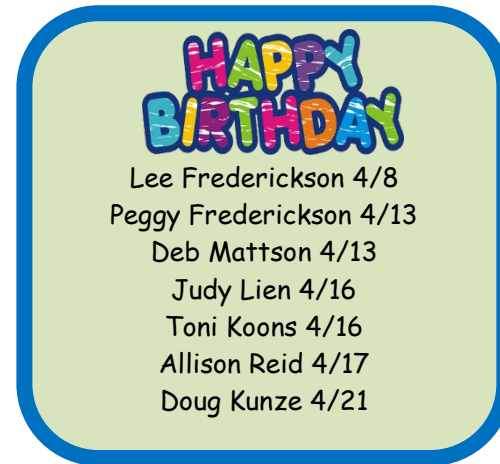
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Snow Removal	Tom Goepfert
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

### Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Jamie Steffen
Acolyte(s)	Copelan Grimes
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Younger/Older Cheryl Olson/ Colleen Adams-Schween

### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Jasmine/Karen Sciacca
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Ladies of the church



*If you know anyone's birthday or anniversary is missing please let Pastor Jenny know. Thank you!*

April 16th, 2023  
John 20:19-31

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



## Where is the Risen Christ?

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: It says, “I was at the beach with my children when my four-year-old son ran up to me, grabbed my hand, and led me to the shore, where a seagull lay dead on the sand. “Mommy, what happened to him?” the little boy asked. “He died and went to heaven,” I replied. My son thought a moment and then said, “And God threw him back down?”

When I was not a Christian, I used to think of Christians as being foolish. I did not try to learn about God and did not want to hear what Christians had to say at all. When I was in the hospital with a broken spine from a car accident, I met a girl in the same room as me in the hospital. She was also involved in a car accident. Her injuries were more severe than mine. She had broken her spine as well as both legs. However, while I was depressed and losing hope in being able to walk again, she was always positive and smiled. I thought she might be out of her mind because of a serious brain injury.

One day I realized that she was a Christian with strong faith. I told her, “If you are a Christian, you must complain to God because He did not protect you from that accident.” But, she told me, “I do not complain to God because I got into an accident because God’s promise is to be with me always, not to protect me from any accident. Even though I can’t walk, I am fine because God is with me.” I could not understand her feeling this way at first. After spending more than six months in the same hospital room with her, I began to be curious about God. While I was feeling fear, anxiety, and hopelessness, she was hopeful, without doubt and worry. How could God make her like that? Do you know what is different between her and I was? She was with the risen Jesus Christ, and I, of course, was not. If you are with the risen Christ, you have no fear, anxiety, or depression. One day I met a pastor who visited her, and asked him to pray for me because I wanted to meet the God who she met.

Many things happened in this last week. We went through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. In other words, we entered Jerusalem with Jesus likely in the same manner as a king, waiving palm leaves on Palm Sunday; we experienced washing our hands, imagined having our feet washed by our Lord Jesus on Maundy Thursday; and then, we lost our Lord Jesus who was nailed to the cross on good Friday; however, we knew Jesus Christ has risen for us, and we celebrated the risen Christ on the Easter morning; We were more excited on Easter morning than Palm Sunday, and now what? Where does the risen Jesus go? Is the risen Jesus with you now, or is he gone again?

On the evening of the first Easter, in which Jesus was resurrected, the disciples were full of fear for the Jews if they hid Jesus’ body and accused them of taking his body. So, they gathered together and locked the door. Even though Mary Magdalene told them that Jesus had been resurrected and that she had seen him, they couldn’t believe it. They thought about where his body was because they saw his empty tomb. We think of Thomas, a doubting disciple. He wasn’t the only one who was questioning the resurrection, but all the disciples didn’t believe it yet. Without Christ, their Lord, teacher, Master, and leader, physically and spiritually being there, they were like sheep without a shepherd.

However, the risen Jesus came to them again and said, “Peace be with you.” Jesus came, giving the Spirit of Peace to his fearful disciples. He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” It is like “God formed humans from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living being” (Genesis 2:7). The disciples who lost their Master and Lord were like the dead. Such as the deceased, the disciples were changed to “the living being.” When Jesus was back, their fear was gone.

The risen Christ came to them again with the Holy Spirit. In other words, he returned to them as “a living being” and gave his disciples the living spirit to be living beings without fear, anxiety, or depression. Through the Holy Spirit, they were totally changed: Doubting disciples to believing disciples; fearful disciples to fearless disciples. They lost their Master and Lord, but met him again.

Jesus came back to his disciples after eight days again for Thomas. As you know, when Jesus came to his disciples at first, Thomas was not there, and he didn’t believe what the other disciples witnessed. And, he came back to them for Thomas, showing him his wounded hands and side. Thomas was also changed, confessing, “My Lord and my God.” Our Lord didn’t ignore and miss even one person. If you doubt faith, Jesus may come to you even in your dreams. If you fear for any reason, please hold our Lord Jesus’ wounded hands and side, and pray, “O Lord, come to me and give me faith instead of fear.”

While working in a hospital as a chaplain, I met a patient diagnosed with brain cancer. He was a Christian, but he doubted if God was the Living God and if Jesus had risen after hearing his doctor’s notification regarding brain cancer. Nobody knew he was doubting his faith because he seemed to be a strong believer. He was a committee member, a Sunday school teacher, and a choir member, which means he looked to the community like he followed God’s ministry in his whole life. However, he confessed to me he doubted if Jesus was real. Otherwise, why did this bad thing happen to him? I shared with him my experience of how I met God in a hospital when I was hopeless with a broken spine. That night, he met the risen Jesus Christ in his dream. He cried to me, “I met Jesus Christ in my dream. He came to me. He showed me his wounded hands. I have no doubt any longer. I believe him. It’s okay even if he doesn’t heal me because he is with me now.”

Sometimes we misunderstand a Christian life. Some may think that if we believe in God, our life goes well without accidents or illnesses. However, we can’t find those words in the scriptures. Instead, we can see, “I will be with you by the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20). “These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name, they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will place their hands on sick people; and they will get well” (Mark 16:17-18).

We had time to meditate, touching the thorn crown, cross, and nails at the Good Friday service. You might have thought about Jesus’ wounded hands and side at that time. Jesus’ wounded hands and his side are the symbols of our healing. The prophet Isaiah says, “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds, we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

Are you with the risen Christ now? If you are with him, you may have no fear, anxiety, or depression. Instead, you may have confidence, hope, and a desire to go forth because you are the person who met the risen Christ and received the Holy Spirit, and now you are a new living being. Thanks be to God. Amen!