

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison  
Abiding God, you are the owner of life. You gave us life through our father and mother, and do not leave us orphaned. Honoring mothers, we might renew our spirit and commitment, and be empowered for faithful service. Use our hands to do the work you have called us to do. Use our caring to build a faith community. Use our witness to overcome ignorance of your way of love for all people. 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

May all that we give today be used to express your love among us and beyond us, God of all people. We are thankful for your gift to us in Jesus Christ, who was so committed to sharing your love that he risked rejection and death. We are grateful that even though his suffering resulted in death in the flesh you made him alive in the spirit. May Christ live today in us, in our caring, in our giving, in our speaking, and in our doing. We rededicate ourselves to your service. Amen!

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *The Gift of Love* UMH 408 (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)

**Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day Sunday**



Grantsburg-Central,  
Since 1897



Atlas, Since 1887



St. Croix Falls,  
Since 1859

**SUNDAY SERVICE:**

**9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service**  
**(9:15 AM, Sunday School)**

**10:00 AM at Atlas (10:15 AM, Sunday School)**

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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[www.upperstcroixparish.org](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**May 14th, 2023**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter/ Mother's Day Sunday**

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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:** And, also with you!

*We Celebrate New Life in Christ*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

The God of heaven and earth calls us together.

We come to explore matters of the Spirit.

**There is so much we do not know or understand.**

**So much of God is unknown to us.**

Let us look carefully at the objects of our worship.

Our attention is easily diverted from God.

**We want to worship the One who gives us breath.**

**We reach for the Reality beyond our knowing.**

In God we live and move and have our being.

All that we have and are comes from God.

**God is not limited to shrines made by us.**

**God is everywhere present in the whole universe. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN** *Happy the Home When God is There*

UMH 445 (vs. 1 & 2)

**PRAYER OF BLESSINGS TO MOTHERS** Responsive

For our mothers, who have given us life and love,  
that we may show them reverence and love,

**We pray to the Lord...(silence)**

For mothers who have lost a child through death,  
that their faith may give them hope,  
and their family and friends support and console them,

**We pray to the Lord...(silence)**

For women, thou without children of their own,  
who like mothers have nurtured and cared for us,

**We pray to the Lord...(silence)**

For mothers, who have been unable to be a source of strength,  
who have not responded to their children  
and have not sustained their families,

**We pray to the Lord...(silence)**

For mothers, who have children in illness physically, emotionally, and  
spiritually, and who are under the struggle to raise their children in any  
cases,

**We pray to the Lord...(silence)**

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so  
you watch over your church. Bless these women, that they may be  
strengthened as Christian mothers.

**Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant  
that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always  
with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ  
our Lord. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

UMH 191 (vs.1)

*Proclamation of God's Word*

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 14:15-21

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the  
Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17  
This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither  
sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he  
will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In  
a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I  
live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father,  
and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep  
them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my  
Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*"The Greatest Name, Mother"*

Pastor Jenny Lee

*We Respond to God's Word*

# MAY 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

Requested items: Bread, eggs, milk, cheese, fresh vegetables (carrots, potatoes), fresh fruit (apples, oranges), canned meat, dish soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels. They appreciate any and all donations.

We will be supporting Native American students through UMCOR



## 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"



In May we will support Grantsburg elementary school kids. Financial donations are requested and will

be used at the discretion of the school's social worker to help meet the needs of the students.

## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



**Food Shelf**  
(Communion Sunday)



### Sailor Hat Offering:

The Sailor Hat offering will go to support the St. Croix Falls Food Shelf

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  
Charles & Mary Lou Wright  
Volunteer Needed  
Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson  
Younger/Older  
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis



### Atlas:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher  
Acolyte(s)  
Cleaning  
Sunday School

Toni Koons  
Sue Olson  
Jamie Steffen  
Chase Steffen  
Volunteer Needed  
Younger/Older  
Cheryl Olson/Colleen Adams-Schween

### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher(s)  
Money Counter  
Bell Ringer  
Flowers

Toni Koons  
Karen Sciacca  
Jim Andrews  
Karen Sciacca  
Jim Sciacca  
Ladies of the Church



### Break through Prayer:

- 1) *Baby Lila (Second surgery (5/2))*
- 2) *Baby Harley (Upcoming surgery)*
- 3) *Joan Zeigler (Husband Charlie Zeigler passed away)*

## 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFlIZz09>  
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: Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Christ is risen, Hallelujah, Amen!

### Sunday Worship Services:

- 5/14: Fifth Sunday of Easter  
9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday school)  
10:00 am Atlas (10:15 am Sunday School)  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 5/16 11 am-1 pm Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves and Fishes  
6:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (G)
- 5/18 9:00 am Pastor Jenny North West Clergy Meeting via Zoom  
10 am-12 pm Pastor Jenny New Ministry Board Meeting  
2:00 pm UMW Leads CCC Birthday Party
- 5/19 6:00-8:00 pm Youth Family Night at Central UMC Grantsburg
- 5/20 10 am-12 pm DS Barb Certa-Werner's Farewell Service Rice Lake UMC  
11:00 am Celebration of Life Service for Don Schween (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!**



- 5/21 Graduation/Confirmation Sunday  
5/23 SPRC Meeting  
5/28 Pentecost Sunday  
6/4 Joint Service at St. Croix Falls UMC

## Next Sunday (May 21st) Volunteers:

### Central:

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



### Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Chase Steffen & Copelan Grimes
Usher	Chase Steffen & Copelan Grimes
Acolyte(s)	Copelan Grimes
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Younger/Older <b>Summer Break-No Sunday School</b>

### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Karen Sciacca
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Ladies of the Church

## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Peter Gionis	5/15
Shayna Schmid	5/16
Mary Lou Wright	5/17



May 14th, 2023  
John 14:15-21

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



## **“The Greatest Name, Mother”**

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: One early morning, a lady went in to wake up her son. “Wake up, son. It’s time to go to school!” The son said, “But why, Mom? I don’t want to go.” The mom said, “Give me two reasons you don’t want to go.” The son said, “Well, the kids hate me for one, and the teachers hate me, too!” The mom said, “Oh, that’s no reason not to go to school. Come on now and get ready.” The son said, “Give me two reasons why I should go to school.” The mom said, “Well, for one, you’re 52 years old. And for another, you’re the principal!”

For a mother, who is eighty years old, her fifty-two years old son is still like a baby to her. Today is Mother’s Day Sunday, and is observed the second Sunday in May; this day honors all mothers. According to the Book of Worship, “It began in its present form with a special service in May 1907 at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Crafton, West Virginia. The service was organized by a Methodist laywoman, Anna Jarvis, to honor her mother, who had died on May 9th, 1905. By 1908 Anna Jarvis advocated that all mothers be honored on the second Sunday in May. In 1912 the Methodist Episcopal Church recognized the day and raised it to the national agenda.”

Every year, when Mother’s Day comes, I remember my mother and miss her so much. She ran a traditional Korean dress shop. Her sewing skills were excellent, and she was a very famous traditional dress designer. She made my first dress for me when I graduated from high school and the second one for me was when I graduated from the seminary. When I ran a preschool, she made my new dresses every year when the preschool had a graduation ceremony. My mother used to say, “When you become a pastor, I will make your robe.” However, she passed away before I became a pastor. I also experienced two separate house fires in which I lost many personal items, which included the dresses my mother made for me. So I do not have anything that my mother made for me. When I graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 2016, I missed my mother so much. I wanted to wear a traditional Korean dress, in remembrance of my mother. I asked my younger sister to send me a dress to wear at my graduation if she had any traditional Korean dresses my mother had made, expecting she had at least one. But, she said, she didn’t have any of hers because after giving birth, they didn’t fit her any longer and so she gave them away.

However, she found one at my mother’s house after my mother passed away. My younger sister thought it must be valuable to my mother because it was founded in a precious box, and she kept it. So, I asked her to send it to me so I could wear it at my graduation. As soon as I saw it, I was surprised by the dress because it was the one I wore when I graduated high school, which was the first dress she made. She kept it until she died. I wore the dress when I received my Ph. D. degree.

Every Mother’s Day, I remember my mother through the dress she made for me; and through the paper flowers I used to make for my mother and father. My mother made a silk dress for me, and I made paper flowers for her. It couldn’t compare with her dress, but it was the best

idea I had as a child, to make paper flowers for her on Mother's Day. Since I learned how to make paper flowers at school when I was nine years old, I made flowers for my parents every Parent's Day. Korea has a Parent Day on May 8<sup>th</sup>, no Mother's Day or Father's Day. Remembering my parents, who have passed away, I respect and honor all of you like my parents. So, I will give you the paper flowers I made. For fathers, I will provide you one on Father's Day.

Today's scripture continues Jesus' farewell speech. Even though he knew he would die soon, he was deeply concerned about his disciples who would be left behind him. "Believe in God and me. Don't trouble in your hearts, but stay in love. If you love me, keep my commandments, and then I will ask the Father to give you another Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you." Jesus, who was to die soon, just worried about his disciples, who would be full of fear and disappointment. And he promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to them and be with them forever, protecting and guiding them. And, he said, "I will not leave you orphaned." When I read these words, I felt Jesus' deep love toward his disciples, like that of a mothers' love. A mothers' love would never leave their children like orphans. Mothers may have babysitters to watch over their children if they are busy but they don't take the place of a mother's love.

I want to introduce a part of a "Mother's Love" story written for Good Housekeeping Magazine in 1933 by Temple Bailey (<https://www.inspirational-short-stories.com/mothers-love.html>). "A mother is more than a memory. She is a living presence. Your mother is always with you. She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street; she's the smell of certain foods you remember, flowers you pick, and perfume that she wore; she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well; she's your breath in the air on a cold winter's day. She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep, the colors of a rainbow; she is your birthday morning. Your mother lives inside your laughter. And she's crystallized in every tear drop."

"A mother shows through in every emotion-happiness, sadness, fear, jealousy, love, hate, anger, helplessness, excitement, joy, sorrow, all the while hoping and praying you will only know the good feelings in life. She's the place you came from, your first home, and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love, your first friend, even your first enemy, but nothing on earth can separate you-not time, not space, not even death!" Mother is the greatest name in the world.

In that case, it is very similar to God's love for us. God is our first and final. We learn God's love partly from our mother's and father's love. Yes, I know, some parents abuse their children without knowing what "love" is. I pray for the mothers and fathers who couldn't take care of their children, that they may learn 'love' through God's love and grace because they also are beloved by God. God bless all mothers! Thanks be to God. Amen!