

PRAYER SONG

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

UMH 487

NO. 2024-12
March 24th, 2024

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND
OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

What you have done for us is marvelous in our eyes, gracious God. Our gifts can never match your goodness toward us. Your saving grace, your healing light, your personal sacrifice are so far beyond our imagining! We can only offer ourselves, all we have and all we are, in response to the coming of Christ Jesus. Hosanna in the highest! Receive, O God, our humble service. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN

Jesus is All the World to Me

UMH 469 (vs. 1 & 4)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE

Toni Koons (G)/ Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2024 Parish Ministry Theme:
“Let’s Replant It” (Galatians 6:7-10)

Membership Caring Month
Passion/Palm 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

Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snsnyder@gmail.com

Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com

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

www.upperstcroixparish.org

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

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
March 24th, 2024
**Membership Caring Month/
Passion/Palm Sunday**

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** **Toni Koons (G)/ Sharon Asp (A & SCF)**
(Waving the palm leaves)

***GREETING** **Responsive** *(Waving the palm leaves)*
Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS
“Peace be with You!”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **Responsive**
Blessed are those who delight in worship.
Blessed are the ones who come in God’s name.
Give thanks to God, all who assemble here.
God’s steadfast love endures forever.
Let all who follow Christ sing God’s praise.
Because of God’s help, we are not disgraced.
Open the gate of righteousness that we might enter.
The works of God are marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that our God has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Hosanna! Let every knee bend before Jesus!
Let every tongue welcome Christ’s reign! Hosanna! Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*
UMH 278 (vs. 1 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER **Unison** (The Book of Worship)
Almighty God, on this day your Son Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way. Let those branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name, may ever hail him as our Lord, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. In his name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME **UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON** **Mark 3:31-35**
31 Then his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you.” 33 And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” 34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

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

SERMON *“Who is Our Family?”* **Pastor Jenny Lee**

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER **Unison**
This is your day, holy God. Your gift of salvation in Jesus Christ is so often ridiculed and rejected. We are here to offer not only our coats and branches but also our minds and souls for the way of Jesus Christ. We will join in singing the songs of praise and will even dare to shout hosanna not only today but for our entire lives. We are a family in Jesus Christ by your grace who support one another and care for one another. Guide us to be a faithful family in your will. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

After each prayer request:
Pastor: Lord, in your mercy (Grace),
All: Hear our Prayer.

MARCH CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p>LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</p> <p>Requested items: cooking oil (smaller and larger), mayonnaise, sugar 4# size, bar soap, dish and laundry soap. Personal products for men and women.</p>	<p>Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project</p>  <p>We will be collecting garden seeds to support the Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project. Please see the bulletin board or March newsletter for more details. Thank you!</p>
--	--	--



GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!</p>  <p>Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p>	<p>Harbor House Crisis Shelter</p> <p>We will be collecting donations to support the Harbor House Crisis Shelter in Superior, WI. Please see the bulletin board or March newsletter for more details.</p> 
---	---

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Polk County Drug Court.</i></p> 
---	---

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

"Membership Caring Month"

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland
Fellowship **Volunteer Needed**
Counter **Volunteer Needed**
Cleaning Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek

Atlas

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Mariah Gaffey
Usher Sue Olson
Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**
Sunday School Josie Grimes

St. Croix Falls

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Karen Sciacca
Usher(s) Jim Andrews
Money Counter Karen Sciacca
Bell Ringer Jim Sciacca
Flowers Lynn Hanson



Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for those who are in need, the sick, those who have lost loved ones, and for God's peace for all over the world!

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 am at Central at 11:15 am by request.** 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIzZ09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>
- 4) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail and email. If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

This Week's Calendar:

Today: Membership Caring Month/
Passion/Palm Sunday,
God bless you!

Worship Service Schedule

- 3/24: 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
- 3/24: 12:15 pm Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
- 3/26: 7:00-8:00 pm Shepherding Meeting via Zoom
- 3/27: 5:30-8:00 pm Junior Youth Gathering (G)
- 3/28: 5:30 pm Soup Supper (SCF)
6:10 pm Lenten Bible Study #4 (SCF and via Zoom)
7:15 pm Maundy Thursday Service (SCF)
- 3/29: 5:30 pm Good Friday Service (G)

**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!**

The Week's Birthdays



Meryl Walsten 3/25
Mike Dennison 3/26
Majesty Rehbein 3/27

Next Sunday (March 31st)

VOLUNTEERS

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland
Fellowship *Volunteer Needed*
Counter *Volunteer Needed*
Cleaning Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek

Atlas

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Sue Olson
Usher Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*
Sunday School Cheryl Olson

St. Croix Falls

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Karen Sciacca
Usher(s) Jim Andrews
Money Counter Karen Sciacca
Bell Ringer Jim Sciacca
Flowers Lynn Hanson

Upcoming Events-Mark Your Calendar

- April 1-15 Pastor Jenny's Vacation
- April 19-21 Youth Retreat, at Wood Lake Camp
(Contact their Youth Director)
- April 27 UMW Spring Sale (G)
- August 6-8 2024 VBS



Youth Group Retreat Donation Needs

Youth group is going on a retreat to Wood Lake Bible Camp April 19th to 21st.

We are looking for donations for our weekend to save costs. Please reach out to Shayna with any questions 920-312-2857.

- Old T-shirts
- Fleece Scraps
- Empty Water Bottles
- Yarn
- Fabric Fill
- Socks (don't need to be pairs)
- Snack bags of Chips
- Individual wrapped snacks (No Nuts)

Donations can be left in the church office or given to Pastor Jenny. Thank you for your support!



Youth retreat benefits:

- Developing community with other believers who are dealing with similar circumstances in life
- Refocusing on and growing in relationship with God
- Intentional time for prayer and meditating on Scripture
- Learning from and being mentored by godly adults
- Spending time surrounded by God's creation
- Having fun

March 24th, 2024
Mark 3:31-35

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



“Who is Our Family?” (Membership Caring Month #4)

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: A boy asks his father, “Dad, are bugs good to eat?” “That’s disgusting. Don’t talk about things like that over dinner,” the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, “Now, son, what did you want to ask me?” “Oh, nothing,” the boy says. “There was a bug in your soup, but now it’s gone.”

Today, I want to talk about “family,” concluding my membership sermon series. What do you think a family is? Typically, family refers to a group of people who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. They often live together and share emotional bonds, responsibilities, and resources. A sociologist describes “family” as the smallest social group. From birth, humans belong to a family first, and as they grow, they learn about building relationships among family members. Before adolescence, individuals experience a range of positive and negative emotions, such as love, care, joy, confidence, sadness, hatred, suffering, powerlessness, weakness, and living habits within the family. There is a Korean saying, “The habits formed at three years old last until eighty,” meaning that family influences a person’s entire life. Who is your family? Who would be influenced by you, or whom would influence your life?

I believe I’ve mentioned before that in Korea, the concept of family literally translates to “a group who eats meals together.” Koreans hold the belief that sharing food is an expression of love and care, serving as a means to foster unity within a group. Although the definition of family has evolved in modern times, this mindset of sharing food persists in Korean society. Here are some examples: when someone lands a job, it’s customary for the company to host a dinner for the new employee and all their coworkers as a way to welcome them. Similarly, when forging friendships, Koreans often bond over shared meals, considering it almost obligatory to commemorate the occasion with food. Even in romantic relationships, sharing a meal together signifies the beginning of a couple’s journey; it’s not uncommon for a shared dinner to mark the official start of dating. Moreover, many Korean churches continue the tradition of communal meals, hosting fellowship gatherings after services. In essence, Koreans place great significance on the act of eating together, viewing it as a catalyst for fostering bonds of love and care among individuals.

In Jesus’ ministry, the act of feeding people and sharing meals together held significant importance. When Jesus dined with the poor and outcast, it provoked criticism from others who labeled him as “a friend with tax collectors and sinners.” Jesus himself emphasized the bond of friendship with his disciples, stating, “I call you my friends because I made known to you everything I learned from my Father” (John 15:15). In the Bible, those who come together to share meals, joys and concerns are often referred to as friends. However, what about the concept of family?

One day, Jesus taught the people and performed many healings, even casting out evil spirits. His teaching and healing power amazed many, but some began to speculate that he might be possessed by an evil spirit. This rumor spread throughout the region and reached Jesus’ family. His mother, Mary, and his brothers came to him, intending to bring him back home because they believed the rumor that he was possessed by an unclean spirit.

Someone informed Jesus, “Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” Then, Jesus asked, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, and he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” Jesus thus offered a new definition of family, emphasizing that those who fulfill God’s will are regarded as his family.

In summary, we understand that family comprises those who not only share meals but also joys and concerns, and work towards common goals. As a Christian family, our work should align with the will of God. Let’s reflect on ourselves as a church family! Do we share meals together? The answer may be both “Yes and No” if we consider meal fellowships like potlucks, soup suppers, or Easter and Christmas gatherings. However, in Christianity, food isn’t just physical sustenance, but also spiritual nourishment, the living word of God. Jesus emphasized this when he said, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Thus, we can affirm that we indeed partake in soul food together, rooted in our belief in One God. Of course, we definitely share the Lord’s Supper on Communion service. Additionally, we share joys and concerns every Sunday; celebrating together when someone shares their joys and offering empathic prayers when someone expresses their concerns. We come together in God’s house to collaborate on the will of God. Don’t you think it is a church family?

Since coming to the USA, I have found myself involved with two families. During my time as an intern Pastor at the Anglican church while studying at Garrett Seminary, I shared about losing both my mother and father during my initial ministry. After my first sermon, a congregant approached me, held my hands, and kindly invited me to her home for Christmas lunch. She introduced me to her family members, and we shared a Christmas meal together. She then affectionately declared herself my “American mommy,” and since then, she has been like a mother to me. I shared all my news with her, and she became a significant figure in my life. Her husband, a Korean War veteran, and her ministry leading the Craft Group, which made prayer shawls and quilt blankets to support the hospital, hold special meaning for me to be connected with our craft ministry. Her passing in October 2019 deeply affected me, and I had the opportunity to attend her funeral service.

My other familial connection is with my spiritual mentor, who graciously invited me to stay in her parsonage. After completing my Ph.D. program, I intended to continue my M.Div. program for ministerial education. However, as my Ph. D. scholarship’s housing arrangement ended, I needed a new place to stay. My mentor offered her home to support me financially. She is a single mother with a teenage daughter, and although we faced conflicts and challenges at times, we grew closer as a family through them. We celebrated each other’s joys, supported one another through tears and prayers during difficult times. I vividly remember their unwavering support when I had to visit the emergency room with a frozen shoulder; they stayed with me the entire night. Despite not being bound by blood or legal ties, we became a family in Jesus’ love.

I firmly believe that a Christian family should care for one another especially during moments of weakness, sadness, helplessness and powerlessness. It’s easy to make friends when one is in good standing, but true family sticks around during the toughest times. Church membership holds significant value in providing support and care, especially for the vulnerable and hopeless. We are called to fulfill God’s will, which includes being there for each other. So, I ask you again, who is your family when you are weak, sad, helpless, and powerless? Will you extend your love and support to the vulnerable, the weak, the sick, and the powerless, just as Jesus did? Thanks be to God! Amen!