

PRAYER SONG

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

UMH 487

NO. 2024-24

June 16th, 2024

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND
OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

All that we have is yours, O God. What we present for the church's use is no sacrifice. We are privileged to share good news in word and deed. May our common ministry be extended by the time and talents and treasure we invest. We would no longer live just for ourselves but for the realization of your reign among us. Let all things become new as we give our best. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *I am Thine, O Lord* UMH 419 (vs. 1 & 2)

*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)

4th Sunday After Pentecost
Father's Day



Grantsburg-Central
Since 1897



Atlas
Since 1887



St. Croix Falls
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICES:

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

10:00 AM at Atlas (No Sunday School-Summer break)

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

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>

Worship designed "Led By Love" by Lavon Bayler

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
June 16th, 2024
4th Sunday After Pentecost
Father's Day

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** **Toni Koons (G), Sharon Asp(A & SCF)**
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you”

(Waive your hands at one another)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **Responsive**

It is good to give thanks to God!

Come to make music to our Creator.

God knows our troubles and remembers our needs.

Our petitions are answered and our hearts' desires fulfilled.

Declare God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Seek God's help in the sanctuary.

We know that God will help the anointed ones.

Our pride is in God alone.

Listen for the voice of God, speaking to us again.

How great is our God, our rock and defender!

God will respond when we call.

We will bear fruit for God as long as life endures. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Faith of Our Fathers* **UMH 710**

OPENING PRAYER **Unison**

We turn to you, God of all worlds, knowing we can depend on you when earthly rulers stumble and fall, when other relationships are strained and broken, when we are faced with difficult challenges.

It is good to sing your praises, even when we do not feel like singing. It is good to give thanks, for when we do, we are reminded of the multitude of blessings we so often take for granted. Lead us in this time of worship. Amen!

BLESSING OUR FATHERS

Pastor Jenny Lee

CHILDREN'S TIME (G)

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 4:26-34

26 He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground 27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28 The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come.”

30 He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; 34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON

While You Are Sleeping

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER **Unison**

Righteous God, whose works are greater than our wildest imagination and most sophisticated study, plant the seed of your Word among us today, and let each of us welcome the good news you would plant within us. Inspire in us deeper thinking and more open receptiveness. May our lives be the fertile ground in which your love bursts into life to nourish all whom we meet, in Jesus' name. Amen!

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

After each prayer request:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our Prayer.

JUNE 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:</p> <p>cooking oil (smaller and larger), mayonnaise, sugar 4# size, bar soap, dish and laundry soap. Personal products for men and women.</p>	<p>HELP CLEAN THE CHURCH</p> <p>June 22nd we will be cleaning the Atlas Church starting at 9:00 am. Many hands make light work so please join us and help in any way you can!</p> <p>HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS</p> <p>In addition, we want to continue the spirit of helping other by helping our neighbors as part of our June mission! You can help in any way you can think of! Here are a few ideas, but the sky's the limit!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with Yardwork • Run an Errand • Drop off a Treat or a Meal • Help with Childcare
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GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>JUNE MISSION-FAITH HOUSE</p> <p>Again this month will be collecting financial donations, which will go to support Faith House, which is the Salvation Army's homeless shelter in Siren, WI. We appreciate your ongoing support of our monthly mission work.</p> 
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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 Harbor House!</i></p> 
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Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Rev. Jenny Lee

VOLUNTEERS

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland and John Ambeling
Fellowship	Kayleen Branstad
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Summer Break
Fellowship	Coffee & Donuts for Dad

St. Croix Falls

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



Breakthrough Prayers:

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

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday only at 9:00 am.**
- 2) 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
- 3) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 4) This Sunday's video may be uploaded next week!
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>
- 5) 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: 4th Sunday After Pentecost.
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

- | | | |
|-------|--------------|---|
| 6/16: | 9:00 am | Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday School) |
| | 10:00 am | Atlas (No Sunday School-Summer Break)
<i>Coffee & Donuts for Dad following Service</i> |
| | 11:15 am | St. Croix Falls |
| 6/16: | 2:00 pm | Pastor Jenny Leads CCC Worship |
| 6/18: | 6:30 pm | Ad Council Meeting (G) |
| 6/20: | 10 am-1pm | Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves & Fishes in Luck |
| | 6:30-8:00 pm | Senior Youth Gathering (G) |
| 6/21: | 1:30 pm | Ad Council Meeting (A) |

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jamie & Mike Steffen 6/16
Sally Aldorfer 6/17
Leland Snyder 6/18
Shane Tooze 6/19
Judith McCann 6/20



Next Sunday (June 23rd):

VOLUNTEERS:



Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland and John Ambeling
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
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St. Croix Falls

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Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis

Upcoming Events & News-Mark Your Calendar

- 6/22 **Atlas Church Cleaning Day-** All Atlas members are expected to join in and help.
- 6/27 **Ad Council Meeting (SCF)**
Future Development Strategy Meeting (SCF): SCF has a meeting to plan a future development ministry. All SCF members are invited.
- 8/4-8/8 **2024 VBS (except 8/6)** (We received a grant of \$1,000)
Donations and volunteer signup sheets are posted.
We can make VBS happen together!

June 16th, 2024

Mark 4:26-34

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



“Even While You are Sleeping”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: A little girl was sitting in her grandfather’s lap as he read her a story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. By and by, she was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally, she spoke, “Grandpa, did God make you?”

“Yes, sweetheart” he answered, “God made me a long time ago.”

“Oh,” she said, then, “grandpa, did God make me too?”

“Yes, indeed honey” he assured her, “God made you just a little while ago.”

“Oh,” she said. Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, “God is getting better at it now, isn’t he?”

Today, we observe Father’s Day. I miss my father this morning. My father was a weak son to my grandfather, an incapable husband to my mother, and a drunken father to my sibling and me. In my childhood, I rarely saw my father sober. I didn’t understand my father, and I was also ashamed of him when he was drunk in front of our neighbors and my friends. However, one day I learned my father’s painful inner wound: he lost his mother when he was six years old. He was not allowed to cry because he was a boy. My grandfather taught him that “a boy never cries.” My grandfather raised him under the strict discipline of Confucianism. My grandfather’s exacting expectations and discipline made my father weak, incapable, and discouraged.

After our family converted to Christianity, we began having family devotions and home services, and we prayed for our father. When I was a sophomore in a seminary, my father also converted to Christianity. He then removed the Confucian temple from his grandparents’ house, and proclaimed, “We will no longer have ancestor’s worship. Instead, we will worship God.” We didn’t know God had a plan for my father and my family’s future life.

My father who became a Christian, was totally changed through Jesus Christ. He became a strong believer and the head of household. He started his daily life with an early morning prayer service with my mother. He became diligent and stopped drinking, although my father only lived a short life. After our family converted to Christianity, we had time for family devotion and home service, and then we prayed for our father. When I was sophomore in a seminary, my father also converted to Christianity. Then, he knocked the Confucian temple down from his grandparents’ house, and proclaimed that ‘We will not have ancestor’s worship any longer. Instead, we will worship God.’ We didn’t know God had a plan for my father and my family’s future life. My father who became a Christian was totally changed through Jesus Christ. He became a strong believer and head of household. He started his daily life with early morning prayer service with my mother. He became diligent, and no more drink. Although my father only lived a short life after converting to Christianity due to having diabetes, he made a huge change in the lives of our family and relatives.

His decision and leadership were like those of Joshua, who led the Israelites. Joshua proclaimed, “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and Egypt, and serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:14). The kingdom of God was planted in our family through my mother when she was a child. It was through an American missionary, and finally, through my father who converted and destroyed ancestor’s temple and worship, that we could see the fruits of the gospel.

What if my mother had never met an American missionary? What if my father had never converted to Christianity? I am not sure if the rest of family would still keep the Confucian temple and worship the ancestors. I am not sure if I would have become a pastor. However, while we are sleeping, God still works. Even when we don't notice, the seeds of the gospel still grow, even if it is slow. Therefore, youth and children ministries are very important. If they learn about God in their childhood, the seeds of the gospel are never destroyed. Instead, they grow even though nobody notices. We plant the seed of gospel in our kids' hearts and minds. Who knows, they might become strong believers in God and Christian leaders who can change their homes, their neighbors, our county, and the future. Through them, God may make tomorrow different.

Today's scripture tells us about the kingdom of God through two parable stories: We learn that the kingdom of God may starts smaller than the seed of plant, and even though we don't notice, it grows day and night. Finally, it leads us to joyful harvest times. These parables give us precious lessons: even though a person scatters seeds of the Gospel, the one who makes them grow is God. Therefore, the one who scattered seeds, should wait for the harvest. In the second parable, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed, the smallest of seeds, which grows into the largest of garden plants. This illustrates the potential within small beginnings.

Fathers, your influence might sometimes seem small or insignificant, but never underestimate the power of your words and actions. Small acts of kindness, moments of guidance, and expressions of love can grow into strong, enduring virtues in your children.

The mustard seed reminds us that great things can come from humble beginnings. No matter the challenges you face, the love and care you provide have the potential to grow beyond your wildest expectations. Your efforts, though they may seem small, are the foundation upon which great things are built. Just as the farmer tends his field, be present in your children's lives. Spend time with them, listen to their concerns, and be a steady presence they can rely on. Remember that your every small act of love plants a seed. Whether it's a hug, a word of encouragement, or a helping hand, these actions grow into lasting memories and values.

And, we should understand that growth takes time. Be patient and trust that God is at work in your children's lives, even when progress seems slow. Encourage your children to grow in their faith. Share your own faith journey, pray with them, and guide them towards a relationship with God.

In conclusion, I want to share a story about a father crab and a baby crab. One sunny day, a father crab and her baby crab were happily strolling along the beach. The father crab, enjoying the rare walk, became flustered when he saw how the baby crab was walking and scolded him. "You shouldn't walk sideways like that. Try walking like me." The baby crab watched his father walk. However, he continued to walk sideways. The father crab scolded the baby crab again. "I told you not to walk like that! You should walk like me." Then the baby crab said, "Father, I'm doing my best to follow your instructions. Look, aren't my footprints exactly like yours?" The father crab was surprised when he looked at the footprints in the sand. Just as the baby crab had said, the footprints were identical. The father crab had also been walking sideways, just like the baby crab.

Fathers, your role is vital. How do you want walking in front of your children? The path you walk guides your children. Like the farmer in the parable, you may not always see the immediate results of your labor, but trust that God is at work. Your patience, faith, and love are the seeds that will grow into a bountiful harvest in your children's lives. May God bless all the fathers today, giving them strength, wisdom, and love as they nurture their families. Amen