

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

NO. 2024-25
June 23rd, 2024

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Thank you, God, for meeting us in our need. We give that others in even greater need might not be forgotten. We are grateful for the trust you place in us. We hope that others might respond to the good news of your love. We are hearing the word Jesus spoke in the midst of a storm: "Peace! Be Still!" With fresh calm and confidence, we give ourselves that others might live. Thank you, God, for your steadfast love endures forever. 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 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)

5th Sunday After Pentecost



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>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
June 23rd, 2024
5th Sunday After Pentecost

*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

Gather in awe before God, who laid the foundations of the earth.

Open your hearts to the steadfast love God offers.

The deeds of God are beyond our knowing.

Yet we catch glimpses of God’s mercy and care.

God does not forsake us when we are dismayed and afraid.

Our Creator is with us in all times and places.

God is a stronghold for the oppressed and troubled.

The needy and the poor are not forgotten.

God is ready to listen to us in these moments together.

See, now is the acceptable time, the day of salvation.

Surely God will meet us here in our faith community!

How good it is when we sense our unity in Christ! Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *God will Take Care of You*
UMH 130 (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

We sing praises to you, O God, for you have been gracious to us amid the storms of life. We do battle with many enemies within and among us, but you give us confidence and courage to face them. Out of the whirlwind, you answer when we call. We have gathered to listen for the voice we sometimes cannot hear in the daily clamor of our lives. Help us to discard the excess baggage and unnecessary armor that keeps us from the fullness of life you intend for us. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME (G)

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 4:35-41

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39 And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Be silent! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON

“Don’t You Care?”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

O Lord, whose word rebuked the wind and stilled the sea, whose trust in all that is eternal transcended the betrayal of friends and the cruelty of enemies, speak to us here in the midst of our own particular needs, and let that word abide in us with a transforming sense of peace, of hope, and of courage that we can share with others. 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

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>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Harbor House!</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	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland and John Ambeling
Fellowship	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Summer Break

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) The Sunday's video may be uploaded late Sundays.
<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: 5th Sunday After Pentecost.
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

6/23:	9:00 am	Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday School)
	10:00 am	Atlas (No Sunday School-Summer Break)
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls
6/25:	10:00 am	Deadline to submit July Newsletter & Calendar info
6/26:	4:00 pm	Rotary club of Grantsburg's fish fry Day at C.C.C.
6/27:	1:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
		Special Meeting for Future Development (SCF)
	4:30-5:30 pm	Youth Guitar Lesson (G)
	6:30-8:00 pm	Senior Youth Gathering (G)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mary McNally 6/27
Emily Rahkola 6/28
Maxine Hauble 6/28
Steve & LeAnn Sylvester 6/29
Taryn Gaffey 6/29



Next Sunday (June 30th):

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	Dave Huff
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
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St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
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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

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|----------|---|
| 6/30 | Pool Party at Grantsburg Pool |
| 7/8-7/11 | North Central Jurisdiction Conference of Korean Caucus in Chicago. |
| 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 23rd, 2024

Mark 4:35-41

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



“Don’t You Care?”

I want to start with something funny I found on an internet site: Jesus decides to come back to earth. He gets his friend Moses to come with him, and Moses tells him he should warm up doing miracles before he shows anyone. They rent a cabin on a lake out in the middle of nowhere. The first day, Jesus takes a wine glass, fills it with water and turns it into wine! Moses is suitably impressed. The second day, they go out on the lake and catch two fish, and Jesus multiplies them so they’ll have plenty. Moses is, again, impressed. The third day, Jesus decides to walk across the lake. He walks out, but pretty soon the water is up to his knees and he heads back.

“Why can’t I walk on water, Moses?” he asked.

“I have no idea. Let’s take a break and try again tomorrow.”

The next day, Jesus wades out, and again he sinks. “I just can’t understand it!” he cried.

“I still can’t figure it out,” said Moses. “We’ll give it one more try tomorrow.”

The next day, Jesus walked out into the lake again. “Why can’t I walk on water anymore?”

Moses thinks for a moment, then asks, “Well...did you have the holes in your feet last time?”

Good morning, everyone! Today, we read a powerful passage from the Gospel of Mark that reveals not only the authority of Jesus over nature, but also speaks directly to our hearts about faith and fear. In today’s scripture, we witness Jesus calming the storm, a miraculous event that holds profound spiritual lessons for us. When you read or heard this passage, what first came to mind? You may have thought that Jesus performed another miraculous event. Or you may have wondered, “Why were the disciples always lacking in faith?” Whatever came to your mind it might be Jesus wanting to speak to us through this passage.

Let’s imagine what happened with Jesus and his disciples. After teaching the people, Jesus asked his disciples to go over to the other side of the Lake. I sometimes wonder how Jesus spoke to the large groups of people who gathered, sometimes more than five thousand, without a microphone. Can you imagine that? According to the Gospels, Jesus mostly taught the crowds on a mount (Matthew 5:1), or from a boat (Luke 5:3). In the case of teaching from a boat, Jesus got on the boat and pushed out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. Yes, on that day, Jesus taught the people from the boat and asked his disciples, “Let us go across to the other side.” The disciples took him with them in the boat just as he was, and other boats followed them. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. However, Jesus was sleeping on a cushion in the stern. Can you envision everyone else shouting in fear of the windstorm while Jesus was still sleeping in the corner of the boat?

Some people interpreted that Jesus slept because he was tired from teaching the people while others believe that he slept because he has the authority and power to control everything. He has nothing to be afraid of, so he could sleep anywhere. What do you think? Above all, we have a question here: even though both interpretations might be right, how could Jesus sleep while his disciples were struggling through the storms? Can you picture that? The disciples, who were raised and worked at the lake as fishermen, were in fear of the storm, but he fell into a deep

sleep. So, the disciples woke him up, saying, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” “Don’t you care whether we are dying?”

Psalms 44:23 also say that “Awake, O Lord! Why do you sleep? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!” This is not only Psalmist or the disciples’ prayers, but also ours. When we faced the storms of the life, we also cry to God, “O Lord, are you there? Why do you hide your face from me? Don’t you care that I am struggling or dying?” Psalm 121:3 says, “He will not let your foot slip; he who watches over you will not slumber.”

However, Jesus was sleeping while his disciples were struggling. God didn’t answer to me when I faced many challenges. We often misstep and fall, but it is not the end of the world! The disciples woke him up to get help. They woke up the king of kings; the Creator who has most control when they faced danger. This is the power of prayers. Prayers can wake God up. Jeremiah 33:2-3 says, “This is what the Lord says, he who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it—the Lord is his name: call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

Yes, then, the disciples woke him up, and Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Be silent! Be Still!” The wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. Wow, that is so cool, right? Psalmist also confessed, “They cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed” (Psalms 107:28-29).

We also experience what the disciples and the Psalmist did. We sometimes face the storms of life. We often set out with good intentions, navigating through our daily routines when suddenly, without warning, storms arise. These storms can be in the form of financial crisis, health issues, relationship problems, or emotional turmoil. The disciples’ boat was nearly swamped, and they were filled with fear. How often do we find ourselves in similar situations, overwhelmed by the storms of life?

In the midst of the chaos, where was Jesus? He was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. This image of Jesus sleeping during the storm can be confusing. It might seem like he is indifferent to the plight of his disciples. But his sleep symbolizes something profound: the perfect peace and trust he had in God the Father. Don’t forget that while you are struggling in the storm of life, he is there nearby. The famous passage we know says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalms 46:10). Don’t be afraid of life’s storms when you face them; just reach out to God and cry out to him. He is there for you!

After scolding the wind and sea, Jesus said to his disciples, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” This question cuts to the heart of the matter. Fear and faith are often at odds. In other words, the opposite of faith is fear. The lack of faith brings us to fear. Jesus challenges us to trust him fully, even when the storms of life rage around us. Trust in God, who is the Creator, and has everything under control. Faith does not eliminate the storms, but it allows us to find peace with them. It is a trust that goes beyond our understanding, a trust that Jesus is in control and that he cares deeply for us.

I would like to challenge you: Why don’t you care that Jesus is sleeping while we face the storm of life? Do you want to die without asking for God’s help? Why don’t you care that many people are dying without knowing Jesus? Why don’t you care that our church is downsizing? Don’t forget, Jesus is there nearby. Trust his power and caring love! He is always ready for us. I would like to conclude with the passage from Philippians 4:6-7, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Thanks be to God. Amen!