

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Faithful God, grant food and drink to all your children as we share from your bounty. Nourish the spirits of all who give and all who receive, and extend to us the healing we most need. In your name we dare to face oppressors with your truth, on behalf of your afflicted people. Accept and sustain these offerings, we pray, Amen.

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *We've a Story to tell to the Nations*  
UMH 569 (vs. 1 & 2)

**\*BENEDICTION** Rev. Jenny Lee

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

NO. 2025-11  
March 16th, 2025

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

The 2025 Parish Ministry Theme:  
***"Do Good and Share with Others"*** (Hebrews 13:16)

**Membership Caring Month**  
**2nd Sunday in Lent**



**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 (10:15 AM, Sunday School)**  
**11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Rev. Jenny Lee: [jennlee1732@gmail.com](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)  
Youth Director Shayna Schmid: [snsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snsnyder@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**  
**March 16th, 2025**  
**Membership Caring Month**  
**2nd Sunday in Lent**

---

\*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

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name!

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all God’s benefits.**

As the heaven are high above the earth,  
so great is God’s steadfast love to all who fear God.

**God satisfies us with good as long as we live,  
so our youth is renewed like the eagle’s.**

Turn aside and see a great sight;  
attune your ears to the voice of God.

**The place where we are standing is holy ground.  
In awe, we seek the One who heals the penitent. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN** *God of Grace and God of Glory*  
**UMH 577 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison

**Place your hands on us, gracious Redeemer, for we need your healing touch. Loose us from our bondage to fear and temptation. Silence our grumbling and complaining. Turn us away from criticism of others whose good works do not conform to our design. Free us all to worship in God’s holy name. Amen!**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

***Proclamation of God’s Word***

**\*THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

*(NRSV, p. 174 in the NT, and p. 993-994 in the Living Bible)*

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

**SERMON** *“Many Parts in One Body: A Call to Care”* **Rev. Jenny Lee**  
(Membership Caring Month #3)

***We Respond to God’s Word***

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison

**Gracious God, You have called us to be one body in Christ, each with a role, each with a purpose. In this season of Lent, help us to examine our hearts and serve one another with love. Where there is suffering, may we bring comfort; where there is loneliness, may we bring connection. Teach us to care as You care, to love as You love. Strengthen our church to be a place of healing, unity, and grace. May we walk humbly, bearing one another’s burdens, and glorify You in all we do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

**PRAYER SONG**

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

**UMH 487**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH 95**

# MARCH CHURCH MISSIONS

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b> Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p><b>LOAVES &amp; FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Requested items: eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies. Personal Products for men &amp; women.</p>	<p>We will be collecting garden seeds for Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project for our March Mission. Thank you for your support! Here are the suggested seed donations: Beans (pole and bush), beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, turnips, watermelon.</p>  <p><b>February Mission Update:</b> \$360 was raised for Heifer International last month. Heifer International is doing a 3x match right now, so our donation will have 3 times the impact. Details will be available in the April newsletter.</p>
--	---	--



## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p><b>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</b></p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>We will be collecting financial donations to support UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery. The fund allows UMCOR to respond quickly to meet the emergency needs in the United States.</p> 
--	--

## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p><b>Food Shelf</b>  (Communion Sunday)</p> 	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p>  <p>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support the Harbor House as they renovate their shelter.</p>
---	---

Thank you for your support!

# TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People / Rev. Jenny Lee

## Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Paulie Kratchmer
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>



## Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Mariah Gaffey
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Cheryl Olson

## St. Croix Falls

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

## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S

Barry Norenberg	3/16
Jameson Koser	3/18
Paulie Kratchmer	3/18
Pam Clausen	3/20
Rene Wright	3/20



## 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](http://upperstcroixparish.org) under Sermons!
- 4) Sunday's video may be uploaded on 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: Membership Caring Month (March), 2nd Sunday in Lent.  
Let's love one another in action!

## Worship Service Schedule

3/16:	9:00 am	Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday School)
	10:00 am	Atlas - Ash Service (10:15 am, Sunday School)
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls - Ash Service
3/16:	12:15 pm	Ad Council/TF Team Meeting (SCF)
3/18	6:30 pm	Ad Council/TF Team Meeting (G)
3/19:	11:00 am	Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom
	3:00-5:00 pm	Lenten Bible Study (G)
	5:00-6:00 pm	Go Fish for K-Up (G)
3/20	10:30 am-1:00 pm	Pastor Jenny volunteers at Loaves and Fishes in Luck
	5:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper (SCF)
	5:40 pm	Lenten Bible Study (SCF)
3/21	1:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (A)
	5:30-7:30 pm	Family Game Night (G)

## Upcoming Events & News

\***March: Membership Caring Month**

*(Take care of one another.)*

\***Lenten Bible Study every Wednesday at Central; every Thursday at St. Croix Falls**

*(Questions? Contact Pastor Jenny)*



3/25: SPRC Meeting via Zoom; 3/29: VBS Staff Training

## Next Sunday (March 23rd):

### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

### Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Josie Grimes

### St. Croix Falls

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

## Breakthrough Prayers:

**Please pray for:** Sanci and Rifle Harshman (healing), Ron Aldorfer (strength), Jim Loomis (strength), Isaiah and Megan Hanson (protection for baby), A. J. Hanson (God's peace and guidance), those struggling with illness and/or addiction, undocumented immigrants, and for the U.S.A and the world.



**Praise the Lord in gratitude and joy:** Kay Lamphere(recovered), Julie Branstad (health for moving), Shea Wojtowicz (recovered), Cavin Mcuay (surgery went well, and recovered), Mary Kuyawa (passed away in peace).

***"This kind can come out only by prayer." (Mark 9:29)***



March 16th, 2025

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

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



### **“Many Parts in One Body: A Call to Care”**

*(Membership Caring Month #3)*

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: A few minutes before the church service started, the congregants were sitting in their pews, talking. Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the exit, trampling over each other in a frantic effort to escape from evil incarnate.

Soon, everyone had exited the church—except for one elderly gentleman, who remained calmly seated in his pew, seemingly oblivious to the fact that God’s ultimate enemy was in his presence.

Satan walked up to the old man and said, “Don’t you know who I am?”

The man replied, “Yep, sure do.”

“Aren’t you afraid of me?” Satan asked.

“Nope, sure ain’t,” the man replied.

“Don’t you realize I can kill you with a word?” asked Satan.

“I don’t doubt it,” the old man said, unfazed.

“Did you know I could cause you profound, horrifying, physical agony for all eternity?” Satan continued.

“Yep,” the man replied calmly.

“And you’re still not afraid?” asked Satan.

“Nope.”

Satan, frustrated, asked, “Well, why aren’t you afraid of me?”

The man smiled and said, “I’ve been married to your sister for over 48 years.”

From the imposition of ashes, we began our Lenten journey—a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. During Lent, we reflect not only on Christ’s sacrifice but also on what it means to be us, His disciples. Today, as we observe Membership Caring Month, let’s reflect on 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, where the Apostle Paul describes the Church as the body of Christ.

This passage beautifully illustrates membership care, reminding us that we are called not only to belong but also to care for one another in love.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that the Church is like a body. Each of us has a role—Some are hands, some are feet, some are eyes— but all are necessary. He warns against two dangers: feeling insignificant and feeling superior. “Feeling insignificant” means thinking that we don’t matter, while “feeling superior” means thinking that others don’t matter.

Have you ever thought about whether any part of your body is unnecessary? Simply look at your hands! Whether you’re right-handed or left-handed, you still need both. If you had only one hand, you

would face difficulties because your hands work together more often than you realize. Imagine saying, “I am right-handed, so I don’t need my left hand.” That would be absurd! Likewise, in the body of Christ, every member is important. During membership Caring Month, we remember that no one is insignificant; no one is unnecessary. If one member suffers, all suffer. If one rejoices, all rejoice (v. 26) Caring for one another is not optional; it’s essential.

In 2016, after finishing my Ph.D. program, I left campus housing. My spiritual mentor invited me to stay at her house until I could find a place to live. One night, I became extremely ill with unbearable pain in my right shoulder. I couldn’t move. Though it was just my shoulder, my entire body felt the pain. My mentor and her daughter rushed me to the ER and stayed with me overnight. The diagnosis was a frozen shoulder. During my suffering, they suffered too. They didn’t just drop me off at the hospital; they stayed. They prayed. They showed me what true Christian care looks like. Since that night, we have shared a bond like family.

Now, think about your own family:

- If a loved one were in the hospital, could you be at peace staying home?
- If one of us in the body of Christ is hurting, can we ignore them?

The Apostle Paul emphasizes that the weaker parts of the body are indispensable (v. 22). In the church, this means that we must care for those who are struggling—the sick, the lonely, the discouraged. True membership care goes beyond Sunday greetings; it means walking alongside those in need, offering support, and ensuring that no one feels unseen or forgotten.

I appreciate the time we take during the service to share our joys and concerns. Not only do we share our own, but we also lift up those in need of our care. This practice strengthens our connection and demonstrates our love and support for one another. Additionally, I share prayer requests with parishioners through the weekly bulletin insert and the Weekly E-News via email. I wonder how many of you have noticed that we send out the Parish’s Weekly E-News. It includes my weekly sermon, the bulletin, church news, and prayer requests. If you have email, but haven’t received it, please let me know. The Weekly E-News is a valuable tool that keeps us connected throughout the week.

As we journey through Lent, we remember that Christ cared deeply for the outcast, the poor, and the brokenhearted. If we are the body of Christ, we must do the same. Who in our congregation needs encouragement? Who is suffering in silence? How can we be Christ’s hands and feet to them?

The Apostle Paul concludes by pointing to “the most excellent way”—love (v. 31), leading into 1 Corinthians 13, the well-known on love. The best way to be the body of Christ is through love in action. Love is patient, love is kind; love does not say, “That’s not my job.” Membership care is not just about duty—it is about love. It is not just about feeling connected but about serving one another as Christ served us. When one part of body suffers, we all suffer. When one rejoices, we all rejoice. True Christian love binds us together.

During Lent, our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to love sacrificially. Lent is a time to repent not only of our personal sins but also of our communal shortcomings. Have we neglected to care for one another? Have we dismissed the contributions of certain members? Have we allowed divisions to weaken our witness? This is a time to renew our commitment to unity and love.

As we continue in this Lenten season, let us examine how we embody care and unity. Let us be a church where every member is valued, every gift is honored, and every need is met with love. May we walk in Christ’s example, carrying one another’s burdens and strengthening the body of Christ together. Thanks be to God. Amen!"