

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Generous God, all that we offer today first comes from your hand. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use our offerings of money, time, and lives to serve your purposes and bless your world. Teach us to give not from obligation, but from joy rooted in your grace. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *Here I Am, Lord* UMH 593 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION Rev. Jenny Lee

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

NO. 2026-06
February 8th, 2026

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

The 2026 Parish Ministry Theme:
“Sent to Serve, Sent in Love” (Micah 6:8)

**Stewardship Month
“Leadership Dedication Sunday”**



Grantsburg-Central
Since 1897



Atlas
Since 1887



St. Croix Falls
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICES:

9:00 AM at Grantsburg (with Zoom Service)

(9:10 AM, Children's Time)

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

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
February 8th, 2026
“Stewardship Month”
“Leadership Dedication Sunday”

*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

No eye has seen nor ear heard nor heart conceived
what God has prepared for those who love God.

**We are drawn to worship by love beyond our knowing,
by the secret and hidden wisdom of God.**

God comes among us and within each one,
inviting us to be salty Christians.

**We are each important to the good work
God seeks to accomplish with and through us.**

We are called to be lights in the world
and to let our lights shine brightly.

**God expects us to reflect eternal truth
and lead others to Christ’s way.**

With the humility of the apostle Paul,
we offer our weakness and limited insight.

**In our worship and in our service,
we seek to demonstrate the Spirit of Christ. Amen.**

***DEDICATING HYMN** *We Are the Church* UMH 558 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Gracious and loving God, you call us together as your people and
welcome us by your grace. As we gather in worship, open our
hearts to receive your presence and our lives to reflect your love.

Center us in Christ, shape us by your Spirit, and remind us that all we
have and all we are belong to you. May our worship be faithful and
pleasing in your sight. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

(NRSV, p.168 in the New Testament, and p. 984 in the Living Bible)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON

Rev. Jenny Lee

“Stewards of God’s Grace #2-Entrusted for the Sake of Others”

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious God, You have entrusted us with the gift of your grace.
Make us faithful stewards of all you place in our care. Bless those who
lead among us with humility, wisdom, and love. Teach us to serve—
not as owners, but as caretakers of your mysteries.

Shape our time, gifts, and voices for the sake of others, that your
grace may be shared through us. We pray in Christ’s name, Amen.

BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF OUR CHURCH LEADERS
(2026)

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

FEBRUARY CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM: Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p>LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</p> <p>Suggested donation items: Spaghetti sauce, macaroni, peanut butter, pasta and rice. Please leave them in the basket at the front of the church!</p> 	<p>SOUPER BOWL OF CARING</p> <p>The idea is simple but powerful: SMALL GIFTS, BIG IMPACT. We will be collecting cans of soup and financial donations in February to support our local food shelf.</p>  <p>Thank you for your kindness and generosity!</p>
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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>Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on February 8th, coinciding with Super Bowl Sunday, and aims to support local food charities through community involvement.</p> <p>We will be collecting cans of soup and financial donations that will go to our local food shelf in February. Thank you for your support!</p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p>Food Shelf</p> <p>(Communion Sunday)</p> 	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p>The Sailor Hat offering will go to help a local church family with medical expenses.</p> 
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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	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Russ Hammer
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Snow Removal	Leland Snyder



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
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Lynn Hanson

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Lee & Peggy Frederickson 2/8

Kathleen Gionis 2/12



PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **Live Zoom service will be at 9:00 am through the Grantsburg-Central Service.**
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail (if requested) and email.
Please note that we send you the weekly **USCP Weekly E-News with Photos & Sunday Worship Materials through email.** If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

This Week's Calendar:

Today: Stewardship Month/Leadership Dedication Sunday!
May God bless our church leaders!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

2/8:	9:00 am	Central UMC - Grantsburg (with Live Zoom)
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC (10:15 am-Sunday School)
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC
2/9:	9:00 am -3:00pm	Bishop's Day Apart at Wausau UMC, WI
2/11:	12:30 pm	UMW Meeting at Judy's Home
	6:00-8:00 pm	SPRC Training via Zoom
	6:00-8:30 pm	Youth Group Worship Night at Wood Lake Camp
2/12:	10:00 am	Korean Caucus Mtg. with Rev. Barb Certa-Werner
2/13-2/15:	7:00-9:00 pm	Musical Performance at Grantsburg Highschool Auditorium
2/13:	1:00 pm	Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom
2/14:	2:00 pm	Protestant Training (SCF)

Upcoming Events & News

February: Stewardship Month
2/15: Transfiguration Sunday (White)
Ad Council Meeting (SCF)

2026 Lenten Bible Study: Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross by Susan Robb, on Thursdays at 5:30pm with soup supper (2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26 and 4/2) at St. Croix Falls UMC and via Zoom.
Register with Pastor Jenny by February 15th.

Next Sunday (February 15th):

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Paulie Kratchmer
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Snow Removal	Volunteer Needed

Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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

Breakthrough Prayers:

Please Pray For: Deb Hammer (sister and her husband's safe trip, and peace over the world), Shayna Schmid (High school student's musical performance, especially for Anneliese and Mage), Barbara Loomis (Jim's surgery, 2/2), Karen Sciacca (Wendy's healing and recovery), Julie Branstad (Sally Aldorfer's healing and recovery). Jamie Steffen (neighbor, Dave Anderson, passed away), Sharon Asp (daughter, Shea's healing).

Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude: Julie Branstad (Sally Aldorfer's diagnosis of no cancer), Kay Lamphere (Thanks for prayers-Getting much better), Sue Olson (granddaughter, a licensed nurse practitioner), Kathy Gionis (grandchildren's birthday).

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



February 8th, 2026
1 Corinthians 4:1-2

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



Stewards of God's Grace #2: "Entrusted for the Sake of Others"

I want to start with something funny I found on the internet.

A man died and went to heaven. At the Pearly Gates, St. Peter led him down the golden streets. They walked past mansion after beautiful mansion until they reached the very end of the road, where they stopped in front of a small shack. The man asked St. Peter, "Why do I get a little hut when there are so many mansions where I would be more comfortable?"

St. Peter replied, "I did the best I could with the money you sent us."

Funny as it is, this joke teaches a serious lesson: stewardship is not about what we get, but about how faithfully we use what God entrusts to us. Our church leaders—like all of us—are called to be stewards of God's gifts for the sake of others, not for our own comfort or glory. As we observe Leadership Dedication Sunday today, we are reminded again of who we are.

Today's scripture says, "Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

We don't often use the words *steward* or *servant* in everyday conversation. We talk about leaders, committees, managers, decision-makers, people "in charge." But the Apostle Paul chooses a very different word here. Not owners. Not bosses. Not controllers. Paul says: *stewards*. And that one word changes everything.

In Paul's time, a steward was someone entrusted with a household that did not belong to them. They didn't create it. They didn't own it. They didn't get to use it for personal gain. Their role was simple—but not easy: to care for what belonged to someone else, for the good of the whole household. So, when Paul says, "Think of us this way," he is resetting expectations—both for leaders and for the church. Leadership in the church is not about possession; it is about entrustment.

Paul says leaders are "stewards of God's mysteries." That is a beautiful phrase.

God's mysteries include the gospel of grace, the good news of Jesus Christ, the sacred stories of faith, and the lives and hopes of God's people. Beyond that, leaders are entrusted with time—hours given in service; gifts—skills shaped by God; authority—influence that can heal or harm; and relationships—sacred trust with people's lives. None of this originates with us. All of it comes from God.

Paul does not say, "It is required of stewards that they be successful." Or impressive. Or popular. He says, "It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."

Trustworthy when no one is watching. Trustworthy when decisions are hard. Trustworthy when the work is unseen and the results are slow. Faithfulness, not flash, is the measure of Christian leadership.

This is where stewardship becomes more than administration—it becomes love.

Like many of you, I often share my concerns and joys with friends when I meet them. Most of the questions they ask me are about how difficult it must be to serve three churches, or how lonely it might feel to live in a rural town without family nearby. But my answers usually surprise them. Serving three churches and communities does not feel like *work* to me; it feels like living in love.

I tell them, “If you think of it as hard work, it will feel difficult to manage. But if you think of it as a life rooted in love, you will discover abundant blessings.” So, my motto for life and ministry is this: Do ministry the way you play, and play the way you do ministry.

I once watched a scene in a romantic family movie where a man worked hard for his family, sacrificing his whole life for them. Yet he said to his wife and the family he loved, “Did I work hard for you? No—I loved you.”

In the same way, Jesus loved us so deeply that we may love our communities. The work of Jesus is love. And the role of church leaders is to love God and love others at the front lines of the church, so that the rest of the community may follow.

Leaders are entrusted not for themselves, but for the sake of others: for children and youth who need safety; for elderly members and beloved families who need extra love and care; for youth leaders and Sunday school teachers who give their time to Safe Sanctuaries training and to preparing meaningful Bible studies; for finance and trustee committee members who faithfully steward the church’s resources; for lay servants who continue to grow through renewal and learning; and for all church leaders who gather month after month to cooperate in God’s work. All of this—and so much more—is done for the sake of others, our family within God’s beloved community.

Stewardship always moves outward. Just as Christ poured himself out for the world, leaders are called to pour themselves out—not to be emptied, but to be faithful.

To those we dedicate today: you did not volunteer to *own* the church; you said yes to *care* for it. You are not expected to be perfect. You are called to be faithful. Your leadership is a gift—not only in what you do, but in who you are. And God sees your quiet prayers, your late-night worries, your patient listening, and your unseen faithfulness.

And to the rest of us: stewardship is not only for those with titles. It belongs to the whole body of Christ. We steward how we support our leaders, speak with grace, share responsibility, and pray for one another. When leaders are stewards, the congregation is not an audience—it is a community.

Last Sunday at the Communion table, we remembered that stewardship begins with receiving. Today we remember that we lead and serve because we have already been trusted by grace. Everything we offer—our time, our gifts, our leadership—is a response to the God who first entrusted us with love.

So may we be found—not powerful, not perfect—but faithful stewards of God’s grace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.