

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Gracious Lord, we bring our gifts with hearts full of gratitude, laying before You the fruits of our labor and the love You have placed within us. May these offerings become instruments of Your peace, hope, and in our church family and beyond. Teach us to give not only from abundance, but from generosity and grace. Bless these gifts, and care bless our lives, that all we do may honor You. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

UMH 371 (vs. 1 & 4)

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE

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

NO. 2026-13
March 29th, 2026

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

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

**Membership Caring Month
“Palm 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
March 29th, 2026
“Membership Caring Month”
“Palm 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

Hosanna, Child of David!

Blessed is the One who comes in the Sovereign’s name!

What is this strange procession?

Why are people so excited?

The prophet has come!

The One who speaks with sense and listens.

But good clothes are being trampled,

and they’re getting dirty underfoot.

Jesus has no concern about possessions;

But people have been healed by a touch.

Why would a prophet come here?

We like things quiet and predictable.

This is the One who saves us,

who teaches us how to live.

Will salvation bring change I’ll regret?

What will it cost to take this One seriously? Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

UMH 278 (vs. 1 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Lord Jesus, King of kings and humble Savior, we gather today with hearts full of praise and gratitude. As we wave our palms and shout “Hosanna,” help us to welcome You not only in our worship,

but in our lives. Teach us to follow Your humble path, to love our neighbors, and to care for one another as a true family of faith. Fill this place with Your presence and peace. Hosanna in the highest! Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 21:1-11

(NRSV, p. 23 in the Old Testament,
and p. 820 in the Living Bible)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON

“Welcoming the Right King”

(Membership Caring Month #5)

Rev. Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious and loving King, we welcome you into our hearts and our church family. Teach us to follow your humble way, to love without condition, and to care for one another with grace. Shape us into a community that reflects your peace and compassion. Help us to see each person as a beloved member of your family. Strengthen our faith, renew our commitment, and guide us to walk together in your love. Hosanna in the highest. 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

MARCH 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>March mission at Atlas is Garden Seeds for Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project.</p> <p>Suggested seeds are: beans (pole and bush), beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, turnips, watermelon.</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>Central UMC's March mission will be collecting financial donations to help cover the funeral expenses for the Shellito family.</p> <p>Three members of the Shellito family tragically passed away in a house fire on Feb. 3rd. We would like to show our love and support by helping the family during this difficult time.</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 toward helping the homeless through the SCF Police Department with vouchers.</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

Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Women of the church

Prayers:

Please Pray For: Sue Olson (self-care), Shellito Family (celebration of Life service, 3/28), Dawn Bergstrom (Passed away, 3/15), Sharon Asp (son-in-law and daughter), Karen Sciacca (Wendy is on hospice), Sue Olson (son Troy's therapy and recovery), and Jim Andrews (brother Joe's recovery).

Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude: Thank you, Lord! Paulie Kratchmer (brother Tom back home), Julie Branstad (thoughtful neighbors), Toni Koons (Chris' surgery went well, for recovery), and Lynn Hanson (Jameson, Grandson's birthday Party).

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



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: Membership Caring Month/Palm Sunday
May God bless you!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

3/29:	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
	12:15 pm	Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
3/31:	10:00 -11:30 am	NCJ ARC/CRC Training via Zoom
4/1:	4:00-5:00 pm	Go Fish (G)
4/2:	5:30-6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper (SCF)
	6:00-7:10 pm	Lenten Bible Study at SCF and via Zoom
	7:15 pm	Maundy Thursday Service at SCF
4/3:	5:30 pm	Good Friday Service at Central-Grantsburg
4/5:		Easter Sunday

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S

Emma Rahkola
3/31



Next Sunday (April 5th):

Central -Grantsburg

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



Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Women of the church

Upcoming Events & News

“Congratulations to St. Croix Falls and Central-Grantsburg UMC for receiving an Award Grant from the Challenge Stewardship!”

Bible Reading Challenge: Please pick the Bible Reading Planner card!

2026 Lenten Bible Study: *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross* by Susan Robb, Thursdays beginning at 5:30 pm with Soup Supper (3/26 and 4/2) at St. Croix Falls UMC and via Zoom.

3/29: Palm/ Passion Sunday

4/2: Maundy Thursday Service at St. Croix falls UMC (at 7:15pm)

4/3: Good Friday Service at Grantsburg-Central UMC (at 5:30pm)



“Welcoming the Right King” (Membership Caring Month #5)

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.”

Sometimes, family is like that. We don’t always say what needs to be said. We miss things. We laugh, we struggle, we misunderstand one another—and yet, we still belong together.

Today, I invite you to think about “**family**,” as we conclude our membership sermon series.

What is a family? Typically, we think of family as people related by blood, marriage, or adoption. A family shares life—emotions, responsibilities, and daily habits. From the very beginning of life, we learn what it means to love, to trust, to struggle, and to grow—within a family.

There is a Korean saying: “**The habits formed at three years old last until eighty.**” Family shapes who we become. So, let me ask you: **Who is your family?** And just as important—**Whose life is being shaped by you?**

I believe the **church family** also has a deep and lasting influence. Children grow in faith here. They learn character, compassion, and confidence at church. We experience care, encouragement, and sometimes even healing from one another.

In my own life, I have seen broken family relationships because I grew in a strong patriarchal family, but I began to heal through the love of a church family. In Christ, I have experienced something beautiful—people respecting one another without boundaries, without bias, without discrimination. It’s a new kind of family.

So, who is our church family? One day, Jesus says, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother” (Mark 3:33-35).

Yes, you are my family. Yes, all who believe in Jesus Christ belong to this family. No matter who you are. No matter where you come from. If you seek to love God and love your neighbor, you are part of this family of faith. And a true church family is one that **welcomes**—welcomes all who come in the name of Jesus.

This brings us to today’s Scripture. On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem. “A huge crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him [Jesus] and that followed were shouting, Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven! When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil” (Matthew. 21:8-11a).

People gather. They shout, “Hosanna!” They lay down their cloaks and wave palm branches.

It looks like a joyful family celebration. But then the question arises: “**Who is this?**”

The crowd answers, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth.” Not wrong—but not complete.

They welcomed Jesus...but not fully for who He truly was.

They expected a certain kind of king—powerful, strong, and victorious. But Jesus came riding on a donkey. Jesus came as a humble king, a gentle king, and a king of peace. He was not the One they expected.

And here is the connection for us today: **The kind of King we welcome shapes the kind of family we become.** If we welcome a king of power, we may become a family that values strength and success. If we welcome a king of status, we may become a family that includes some—and excludes others. But if we welcome **this King—Jesus**—the humble and loving King, then we become a different kind of family. A family that welcomes everyone. A family that forgives. A family that cares. We are open our hearts, minds, and doors to everyone.

Look again at the road on Palm Sunday. People laid down their cloaks. They offered what they had. They made space for Jesus. No one had everything—but everyone had something to give.

Isn't that what a church family does?

We make room. We notice one another. We care. Sometimes it's a meal. Sometimes it's a call. Sometimes it's simply being present. This is how we live as a family of faith. But we also remember this: The same crowd that shouted “Hosanna” did not all stay. Because Jesus was not the king they expected.

So today, we are invited to go deeper—not just to welcome Jesus with our words, but to welcome Him as He truly is. To follow the right King, we must truly know who Jesus is. And when we do, we become the kind of church family that reflects Him: a family where people are seen, a family where people are loved, a family where healing begins, and a family where Christ is present.

So today, let us ask again: **Who is this? Who is Jesus?** May our answer be clear—not only in what we say, but in how we live: This is our King. The humble King. The loving King. And because we welcome Him, we welcome one another—as a true family in Christ.

And if this is our King, then this is who we are called to be: a church that welcomes as He welcomes, a community that cares as He cares, a people who make room—not just on the road, but in our hearts and in our lives. So may we welcome the right King today. And as we do, may others come to know Him—through the way we love, the way we care, and the way we walk together in His grace.

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 all is well, 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 one another.

So, I ask you again: **Who is your family when you are weak, sad, helpless, or 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.