

THE LORD'S PRAYER
INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND
OFFERINGS

NO. 2026-15
April 12th, 2026

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Gracious and loving God, we bring before You these gifts as signs of our gratitude for Your boundless love and the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Bless these offerings and use them to extend Your kingdom, bring hope to the weary, and share Your healing with the world. May our lives, like these gifts, reflect Your mercy, generosity, and grace. Guide us to serve You faithfully, rejoicing in all that You have done for us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *He Lives* UMH 310 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION Rev. Jenny Lee

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

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

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

Church Appreciation Month
"Second Sunday of Easter"



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
April 12th, 2026
“Church Appreciation Month”
“Second Sunday of Easter”

*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

Peace be with you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
who has conquered death and shown us how to live.

**We need the gift of peace for our harried days;
and we need it for our troubled world.**

God gives us counsel and instruction
and is always available at our right hand.

**Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice;
we shall not be moved.**

In hope and confidence we come to praise God
for the heritage and opportunity given to us.

**We are full of gladness in the presence of Christ,
whose ways we seek to follow. Amen.**

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Thine Be the Glory* UMH 308 (vs. 1 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Risen Lord Jesus, on this Second Sunday of Easter, we gather with
hearts full of gratitude and joy. Open our eyes to Your presence
among us, and fill us with Your peace that casts out fear.

Transform our doubt into faith, our worry into hope, and our
hearts into vessels of Your love. Guide us by Your Spirit today,
that we may worship You with joy, proclaim Your resurrection,
and live boldly as Your beloved children. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 20:19-31

(NRSV, p. 115 in the New Testament,
and p. 922 in the Living Bible)

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

SERMON “Living With the Risen Christ” **Rev. Jenny Lee**

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Risen Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your wounds that bring us
healing and for Your love that conquers fear. Help us to live boldly,
filled with hope, courage, and faith in Your presence. May Your Spirit
guide us each day, turning our doubt into belief, our anxiety into
peace, and our despair into joy. Remind us that we are Your beloved
children, chosen and precious. Strengthen us to share Your love with
the world. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE 2026 LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (SCF)

Jim Andrews, Sharon Asp, Lynn Hanson,
Mike Koser, and Sara Koser

(They participated fully or attended at least four out of six sessions.)

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!

APRIL CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:
Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT



Suggested donation items: Spaghetti sauce, macaroni, peanut butter, pasta and rice. Please leave them in the basket at the front of the church!



Atlas' April Mission will be April Showers

We will shower the church with supplies!

- Suggested items:
- Styrofoam coffee cups
- Plastic drink cups
- Small luncheon paper plates
- Gallon plastic bags with twist ties
- Furnace filters 20x16
- Tall kitchen garbage bags
- Paper towels

GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER ... Every Sunday is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!
Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program".



APRIL SHOWERS

We are collecting supplies for the church in April. Please check the Mission Board at church for a list of needed supplies.

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

Food Shelf



(Communion Sunday)

Sailor Hat Offering:



The Sailor Hat offering will go support UMCOR & Harbor House.

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

Thank you Volunteers

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	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Women of the church

Prayers:

Please Pray For: Julie Branstad (Those whose duty it is to serve), Peter Gionis (brother Jay passed away on 4/3), Karen Sciacca (Wendy who is on hospice), Sue Olson (son Troy's therapy and recovery), Jim Andrews (brother Joe's recovery), and Deb Hammer (our Country).



Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude: Thank you, Lord!

New visitors at Central UMC (John and Crystal Shearen), Paulie Kratchmer (Granddaughter's Graduation), Betty Doolittle (joy with her niece, nephew, and their friend attending the church), Kate Murtaugh (joy in seeing her sons).

"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: Church Appreciation Month/ Second Sunday of Easter
Happy Easter!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

4/12:	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
4/15:	4:00-5:00 pm	Go Fish (G)
	6:00-8:30 pm	Youth Group Worship Night at Wood Lake Camp
4/17:	1:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (A)
	4:30-6:30 pm	Family Game Night (G)
4/19:	12:15 pm	Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
4/21:	6:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (G)

THIS WEEK’S BIRTHDAY’S

Peggy Frederickson	4/13
Olivia McNally	4/14
Judy Lien	4/16
Toni Koons	4/16
Allison Reid	4/17



Next Sunday (April 19th):

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	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Cheryl Olson

St. Croix Falls

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



Upcoming Events & News

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

Congratulations on completing the Lenten Bible Study: Jim Andrews, Sharon Asp, Lynn Hanson and Sara and Mike Koser. *(They will be recognized on 4/12)*

Pastor Jenny’s Vacation: 4/19- 5/2

Pulpit Supplies: April 19-Barbara Loomis (all the three churches)
April 26-Sharon Asp (G), Kathy Gionis (A & SCF)

Thank you for your ministry!

April 12th, 2026
John 20:19-31

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



“Living with the Risen Christ”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site. It says, “I was at the beach with my children when my four-year-old son ran up to me, grabbed my hand, and led me to the shore, where a seagull lay dead on the sand. ‘Mommy, what happened to him?’ the little boy asked. ‘He died and went to heaven,’ I replied. My son thought for a moment and then said, ‘And God threw him back down?’”

When I was not a Christian, I used to think that Christians were foolish. I had no interest in learning about God and didn’t want to hear what Christians had to say at all. But someone eventually made me curious about God.

While I was in the hospital with a broken spine from a car accident, I met a girl who was in the same room. She had also been in a car accident, and her injuries were more severe than mine—she had broken her spine as well as both legs. Yet, while I was depressed and losing hope of ever walking again, she was always positive and smiling. At first, I thought she might be out of her mind because of a serious brain injury.

One day, I realized that she was a Christian with strong faith. I told her, “If you are a Christian, you should complain to God because He did not protect you from that accident.” But she said, “I do not complain to God. God’s promise is not to protect me from every accident, but to be with me always. Even though I can’t walk, I am fine because God is with me.” At first, I could not understand how she could feel that way. After spending more than six months in the same hospital room with her, I began to grow curious about God. While I was filled with fear, anxiety, and hopelessness, she remained hopeful—without doubt or worry. How could God make her like that? She motivated me to think about God.

Can you inspire others to be curious about God through your actions in everyday life? That is real Christian living with the Risen Christ, isn’t it?

Do you know what the difference was between her and me? She was with the risen Jesus Christ—and I was not. If you are with the risen Christ, you have no fear, anxiety, or depression. One day, I met a pastor who came to visit her, and I asked him to pray for me because I wanted to meet the God she knew.

Many things have happened this past week. We went through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. In other words, we entered Jerusalem with Jesus, waving palm branches as if welcoming a humble king on Palm Sunday. We witnessed the washing of hands and imagined having our feet washed by our Lord Jesus on Maundy Thursday. We came to church to worship, pray, and be anointed so that we could remain close to Him. Then we lost our Lord Jesus, who was nailed to the cross on Good Friday.

But we also received the good news that Jesus Christ has risen for us, and we celebrated the risen Christ on Easter morning. Our joy on Easter morning was even greater than the excitement we felt on Palm Sunday.

And now, what comes next? Where does the risen Jesus go? Is the risen Jesus with you now, or has He gone away again?

On the evening of that first Easter day, the disciples were filled with fear. They were afraid that the Jews might accuse them of stealing Jesus’ body. So they gathered together and locked the doors. Even though

Mary Magdalene told them that Jesus had risen and that she had seen Him, they could not believe it. They were still wondering what had happened to His body, even after seeing the empty tomb. We often think of Thomas as the doubting disciple, but he was not the only one—none of the disciples fully believed yet. Without Christ—their Lord, Teacher, Master, and leader—they were like sheep without a shepherd. They were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews.

However, the risen Jesus came to them and said, “Peace be with you.” He came, bringing the Spirit of peace to His fearful disciples. Then He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” This reminds us of Genesis 2:7: “God formed the human from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living being.” The disciples, who had lost their Master and Lord, were like the dead. But through Jesus, they became living beings again. When Jesus came to them, their fear was gone.

The risen Christ came to them through the Holy Spirit. In other words, He gave them new life and made them living beings without fear, anxiety, or depression. Through the Holy Spirit, they were completely changed—from doubting disciples to believing disciples, from fearful disciples to fearless disciples. They had lost their Master and Lord, but they met Him again.

Jesus came again eight days later for Thomas. When Jesus first appeared, Thomas was not there, and he did not believe what the other disciples had said. So Jesus came again and showed Thomas His wounded hands and side. Thomas was transformed, confessing, “My Lord and my God.” Our Lord does not ignore even one person who is doubtful, curious, or fearful. Just as He did not miss Thomas, He will not miss you.

If you are struggling with doubt, Jesus may come to you—even in your dreams. If you are afraid for any reason, hold on to our Lord Jesus’ wounded hands and side in your heart, and pray, “O Lord, come to me and give me faith instead of fear.”

While working in a hospital as a chaplain, I met a patient who had been diagnosed with brain cancer. He was a Christian, but after receiving his diagnosis, he began to doubt whether God truly lived and loved him. No one else knew he was struggling, because he appeared to be a strong believer. He was a committee member, a Sunday school teacher, and a lay leader—someone who seemed to have faithfully served God his whole life. Yet he confessed to me that he doubted whether Jesus was real. He wondered, “If Jesus is real, why did this happen to me?”

I shared with him my own experience of meeting God in the hospital when I felt hopeless with a broken spine. That night, he met the risen Jesus Christ in a dream. The next day, he said to me with tears, “I met Jesus Christ in my dream. He came to me and showed me His wounded hands. I have no doubt anymore. I believe in Him. It is okay even if He does not heal me, because He is with me now.” Sometimes we misunderstand the Christian life. Some people think that if we believe in God, our lives will go smoothly without accidents or illness. But we do not find that promise in Scripture. Instead, we hear Jesus say, “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

At Good Friday, we touched the crown of thorns, the cross, and the nails, imagining Jesus’ wounds—wounds that healed us. As Isaiah says, “By His wounds, we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). Do not let His sacrifice be in vain. He died and rose again because of you—because He loves you.

So, are you with the risen Christ today? If you are, fear, anxiety, and despair have no hold on you. You can live boldly, with hope, with courage, with confidence—because you are God’s beloved child, chosen, precious, and filled with His Spirit. Go forth as a new living being, and let the world see the power of the risen Christ in you!

Thanks be to God. Amen.