

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Gracious God, as the early believers devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer, we bring our offerings with grateful hearts. Unite us in generosity, deepen our faith, and make us a community that shares freely with those in need. Let our gifts reflect Your love, multiply for Your purposes, and bear witness to Your goodness. May our lives, like theirs, overflow with joy, sincerity, and praise, drawing others into Your saving grace. Bless every giver and need. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN

I Know Whom I Have Believed

UMH 714 (vs. 1 & 2)

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING Responsive

In growing obedience to the One whom faith reveals, take your part in the ministry of Christ Jesus.

**We join with the whole church in prayer,
attention to the Word, and acts of charity.**

Listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit, who offers you wisdom and understanding.

**We rejoice in God's gift of the law,
praying for insight and courage to live by it.**

May the Spirit grant you life so abundant that you will experience new energy for every task.

**In covenant with the Creator of all worlds,
we devote ourselves to the best interests
of all people in this world, in Jesus' name. Amen!**

*POSTLUDE

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

Worship resource "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" by Lavon Bayler



Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

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

Church Appreciation Month
"4th 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 26th, 2026
“Church Appreciation Month”
“4th 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

Our shepherd invites us to this time of worship;
our God leads us by refreshing waters.

**As we share our lives with one another
our souls are restored.**

God leads us in paths of righteousness
and adds to our company day by day.

**We would devote ourselves to the gospel
And remember one another in our prayers.**

God supplies our daily bread
for both body and soul.

**We will partake of physical and spiritual food
with glad and generous hearts.**

Remember the One in whose name we worship,
Jesus Christ, who died amidst the world’s suffering.

**Christ came that all might have an abundant life;
we acknowledge and rejoice in this gift. Amen.**

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Blessed Assurance* UMH 369 (vs. 1 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Risen Lord, on this fourth Sunday of Easter, we gather in the light of Your victory over death. Open our hearts to recognize You in Word and sacrament, as Your disciples did. Rekindle our faith, renew our hope, and fill us with resurrection joy. As we worship,

draw us into deeper fellowship with You and one another. Send us forth as witnesses of Your love and life, to serve the world in Your name. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 5:1-12 (G)

(NRSV, p. 4 in the New Testament)

Acts 2:42-47 (A & SCF)

(NRSV, p. 120 in the New Testament,
and p.928 in the Living Bible)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“The Beatitudes: Sermon on the Mount”* (G)

Sharon Asp (Lay Servant)

“Life Among the Believers” (A & SCF)

Kathy Gionis (Lay Servant)

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Merciful God, You bless the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, and the peacemakers. Shape us into such people as we gather in devotion, fellowship, and prayer. Like the early church, unite us in love, sharing what we have and caring for every need. Form in us pure hearts, hunger for righteousness, and joy in Your presence. May our life together witness to Your kingdom, drawing others into Your grace and peace. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

After each prayer request:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our Prayer.

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	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Mariah Gaffey
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

Prayers: (From 4/12)



Please Pray For: Deb Hammer (Peace over the world), Kayleen Branstad (Giacomo's father Steve's health), Barbara Loomis (strength), Sandra Erickson (Husband Jeff and son Mike), Sally Aldorfer (continuing care), Karen Sciacca (Wendy passed away), Peter and Kathy Gionis (safe trip), Cheryl Olson (friend LuAnn lost loved one), Lynn Hanson (grandson A J and great-granddaughter Eliana), Betty Doolittle (three cousins passed away), Sharon Asp (friend Jen), Jim Andrews (brothers Joe and Jared).

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

Cheryl Olson (Darlyne Jorgensen's thank you card to Sunday School), Sharon Asp (new grandchildren).

"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/Fourth Sunday of Easter
Happy Easter!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

4/26:	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
4/29:	4:00-5:00 pm	Go Fish Youth (G)
5/1:		May Day

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

Dustin Kunze

4/26



Next Sunday (May 3rd):

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	Josie Grimes

St. Croix Falls

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

Upcoming Events & News

4/26: SPECIAL OFFERING: We encourage you to give a special offering for a safety doorbell for the pastor's parsonage and office. (Hardware: \$168.71; annual plan: \$105.48.)

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

Pastor Jenny's Vacation: 4/19- 5/2

Pulpit Supplies: April 26-Sharon Asp (G), Kathy Gionis (A & SCF)

5/4-5/5: Spring Provisional Elder workshop at Pine Lake Camp

May 10th: Mother's Day Sunday

May 31st: Joint Worship Service & Lunch at St. Croix Falls UMC

Thank you for your ministry!

4/26/2026

Sharon Asp
(Lay Servant)

MATTHEW 5:1-12

I want to start with something funny. An eight year old boy was doing a homework assignment to “explain God”. He said , “one of God’s main jobs is making people so there will be enough people to take care of things here on earth. He doesn’t make grownups, just babies. I think, because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn’t have to take up His valuable time teaching them to walk and talk, He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

THE BEATITUDES OR
SERMON ON THE MOUNT

When Jesus saw His ministry drawing huge crowds, He climbed a hillside. Those who were His disciples, the committed, climbed with Him, arriving at a quiet place, He sat down and began to teach them, saying,

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you. There is more of God and His rule.
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the one most dear to you.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are-no more-no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a

good appetite for God. He's food and drink and the best meal you've ever ate.

5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy. You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being "careful", you find yourselves being cared for.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. You're blessed when you get your inside world-your mind and heart-put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.
7. Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called the children of God. You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are and you're placed in God's family.
8. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.
9. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Not only that-count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.
10. Rejoice and be glad because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. You can be glad when that happens-give a cheer even! For they don't like it, I do. And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble..

From the lofty pulpit of a mountain contains the laws of His kingdom. After over 2000 years this sermon on the mount has lost none of its majesty or power. The teachings of this sermon overtops all the man teachings. The world has not yet caught up with its simplest ideals and requirements. Many a person who is not a Christian claims that the sermon on the mount is his religion. How little he understands the depths of its meaning. It is important that we do not simply praise this rule as a wonderful theory but that we actually practice it in our own lives.

If we let this rule operate in our own lives, it will change all of our personal relations, heal our social wounds, solve every dispute between nations, yes, set the whole world in order. The root of this law is kindness. It is true, if human society would have its standard as theirs, the world would be set in order. One day filled with it would be heaven.

Love would reign instead of lawlessness..

AMEN