

belong to You and to one another. Thank You for the mothers and spiritual families who have nurtured us in faith. Help us to become instruments of Your love—caring, guiding, and encouraging others. Through Your Holy Spirit, make us a true family in Christ, where no one is forgotten and all are embraced in Your grace. 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

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Generous God, we give You thanks for every gift You have first given us—life, love, faith, and community. As we offer these gifts today, we do so with grateful hearts, remembering Your unfailing care. Bless these offerings that they may become signs of Your love in the world. Use them to strengthen Your church, to serve those in need, and to build Your spiritual family. Teach us to give as You have given to us—with joy, trust, and compassion. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *Saranam, Saranam* UMH 523 (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)

**“Mother’s Day”
“6th 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

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Parish Office: 715-463-2624 St. Croix Falls Office: 715-483-9494

www.upperstcroixparish.org

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

MAY CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>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>Heifer International</p> <p>Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. For 80 years, Heifer has been working to empower impoverished families by providing them with the tools and resources they need to thrive. Your donation will help us provide small-scale farmers and communities worldwide with livestock, training, and related services to create sustainable solutions to poverty and hunger. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED. Please see the May newsletter or Mission bulletin board for more details. Thank you!</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>We will be collecting supplies and/or financial donations for CRA. Community Referral Agency (CRA) provides safe shelter, advocacy, and support to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children, helping them rebuild their lives. Current needs: Shelf stable milk, juice, coffee sugar, pickles, ketchup, hot dogs, Hamburger Helper or one box meals, size 6 & 7 diapers, Tampons, sanitary pads, bath towels, sweat pants L & XL, bleach, Lysol Wipes, Lysol spray, liquid laundry soap, deodorant (Men & Women's), dish soap, kitchen garbage bags, Mr. Erasers, postage stamps, 9-volt batteries.</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 support the St. Croix Falls Food Shelf.</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	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Mariah Gaffey
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Cheryl Olson



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

Prayers:

Please Pray For: Deb Hammer (peace over the world), Barbara Loomis (screen 5/6), Sandra Erickson (husband Jeff and son Mike), Lynn Hanson (daughter Sarah).



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

Sally Aldorfer (worship with Husband, daughter, and grand-daughter), Pastor Jenny Lee (wonderful vacation), Sue Olson (wonderful vacation), and Lynn Hanson (grandchildren).

New Guests: Annette Van Dongen and Julia Dongen (Sally and Ron Aldorfer's daughter and grand-daughter)

"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: Communion Sunday/Fifth Sunday of Easter

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

5/10:	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
5/11:	10:30 am -1:00 pm	Harmony Choir Rehearsal at Rice lake UMC
5/13:	5:00 pm	VBS Staff Meeting (G)
5/14:	4:00-5:00 pm	Go Fish (G)
5/14:	10:00 am-3:00 pm	New Ministry Strategy Board Meeting in Waukesha
5/15:	9:00 am	UMM Meeting (G)
5/17:	12: 15 pm	Ad Council Meeting (SCF)

THIS WEEK’S BIRTHDAY’S & ANNIVERSARIES

- Jim Sciacca 5/10
- Nathan Murtaugh 5/11
- Claire Mathson 5/12
- Peter Gionis 5/15
- Shayna Schmid 5/16



Next Sunday (May 17th):

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	Cheryl Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Summer Break

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

2026 Vacation Bible School: Theme is “Pool Party”

Registration open starting June 6th

VBS Dates: Five Wednesdays from July 15 to August 12

Pool party: August 16

Pentecost Sunday: May 24-Dress code red

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

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

2026 Wisconsin Annual Conference: June 4- 7 at Madison Marriott West in Madison, WI (Parish Delegates: Sue Olson and Sharon Asp)

May 10th, 2026

John 14:15-21

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



“The Spiritual Family of God”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: One early morning, a lady went in to wake up her son. “Wake up, son. It’s time to go to school!” The son said, “But why, Mom? I don’t want to go.” The mom said, “Give me two reasons you don’t want to go.”

The son said, “Well, the kids hate me, for one—and the teachers hate me, too!” The mom said, “Oh, that’s no reason not to go to school. Come on now and get ready.” The son said, “Give me two reasons why I *should* go to school.” The mom said, “Well, for one, you’re 52 years old. And for another—you’re the principal!”

That story makes us smile, but today also brings deeper memories.

Every year, when Mother’s Day comes, I find myself remembering my mother—and missing her deeply. My mother was a gifted woman. She ran a traditional Korean dress shop. Her sewing skills were excellent, and she was well known as a designer of beautiful traditional dresses. With her hands, she created not just clothing, but love you could see and wear.

She made my first dress when I graduated from high school. She made another when I graduated from seminary. Later, when I was running a preschool, she made me a new dress every year for the graduation ceremony. Each dress carried her care, her pride, and her love for me. She used to say, “When you become a pastor, I will make your robe.” But she passed away before I became a pastor.

Later, I experienced two separate house fires. In those fires, I lost many personal belongings—including all the dresses my mother had made for me. For a long time, it felt like I had lost not only the dresses, but something of her presence with me.

In 2016, when I graduated with my Ph.D., I missed my mother more than ever. I wanted to wear a traditional Korean dress in remembrance of her. I asked my younger sister if she had any dress our mother had made. At first, she said no. But then she found one dress, carefully kept in a precious box at my mother’s house. She sent it to me.

When I opened the box, I was surprised. It was the very first dress my mother had made for me—the one I wore when I graduated from high school. My mother had kept it all her life.

On the day I received my doctoral degree, I wore that dress again. It felt like my mother was there with me. I wonder, what reminds you of your mother’s love?

But God was not finished showing me what family means. When I thought I had lost that kind of love, God surprised me with another mother. While I was serving as an intern pastor at New Hope UMC in Waukegan in 2016, I met my American mom, Alberta Jackson. When I shared the story of my mother, she came to me and said that she would be my mom. Her care and prayers gave me confidence as I continued my journey in ministry.

When she heard about my appointment to Upper St. Croix Falls, she rejoiced with me. However, she passed away two months later. Whenever I go to Chicago, I stop by her grave in Waukegan, remembering her care and prayers for me. She taught me a new definition of family: Family is not only blood—but love.

In today’s Scripture, John 14:15-21 continues Jesus’ farewell speech. Jesus says something very important to His disciples: “I will not leave you orphaned.” The disciples were anxious. Jesus was preparing them for His

departure. They were afraid of being alone, of losing His presence. But Jesus assures them: “You are not alone. I will come to you. The Father will send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be with you.” Jesus is not only comforting His disciples—He is redefining what it means to belong. Through the Holy Spirit, we are brought into God’s own family. We are no longer alone. We are no longer without belonging. We are no longer orphaned.

On Mother’s Day, we often celebrate the love of mothers. But we also carry many different emotions. Some of us remember our mothers with gratitude. Some of us miss them deeply. Some carry complicated or painful memories. Some have longed to be mothers. Some have been spiritual mothers without ever having children. That is why this day can be both beautiful and tender. And into all of these experiences, Jesus speaks this promise: “I will not leave you orphaned.”

In the Bible, we see many different kinds of mothers. We remember **Hannah**, who prayed with all her heart for a child and then dedicated her son Samuel to God. We remember **Mary**, who said “yes” to God’s call and carried Jesus into the world with courage and faith.

We remember **Lois** and **Eunice**, who passed down faith from one generation to another. These women remind us that motherhood is not only about giving birth—it is about nurturing faith, offering love, and shaping lives.

And that brings us to something important: In Christ, we are all part of a spiritual family.

The church is not just a place we attend. It is a family we belong to. Here, we have spiritual mothers and fathers. Here, we are called to care for one another, to guide one another, to love one another. Some of you have been spiritual mothers to others—through your prayers, your encouragement, your quiet acts of kindness. Some of you have offered wisdom, comfort, and guidance in ways that reflect God’s love. That is holy work.

When I think about my mother’s dresses, I realize something. Even though I lost many of them, her love was never lost. Her love shaped me. Her love stayed with me. Her love still lives in me. And in a similar way, God’s love is not something we can lose. Jesus says, “Because I live, you also will live.” God’s love continues—through memory, through faith, through community, through the Spirit.

I also remember something from my childhood. In Korea, we celebrate Parents’ Day on May 8th. When I was a child, I learned how to make paper flowers at school. Every year, I made paper flowers for my parents. My mother made beautiful silk dresses for me. And I made simple paper flowers for her. They could not compare with her dresses—but they were the best gift I could give. And she received them with love.

Today, as I remember my parents and my American mom, I also think of all of you.

In many ways, you are like family to me. You are mothers and fathers in faith. You are sisters and brothers in Christ. So today, I honor you.

Dear family in Jesus Christ, this is the good news: In Christ, none of us are alone. In Christ, none of us are forgotten. In Christ, none of us are orphaned. We belong—to God and to one another. We are the spiritual family of God.

So today, let us give thanks: For the mothers who gave us life, For the mothers who nurtured our faith, For the love that continues to surround us, and For the God who never lets us go. We may lose what we can hold in our hands, but we never lose the love that shaped us—because that love is held in God.

Thanks be to God. Amen.