

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Gracious God, all that we have comes from You, and with thankful hearts we bring these gifts before You. Receive our offerings as signs of our gratitude, trust, and love. Bless these gifts and use them to share Your hope, serve those in need, and further Your work in this church and community. Bless also the hands and hearts that give. May all that we offer today bring glory to You and help build Your kingdom on earth. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN**

Standing on the Promises

UMH 374 (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)

5th Sunday After Pentecost



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

(Sunday School-Summer Break)

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.upperstcroixparish.org

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

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
June 28th, 2026
5th Sunday After Pentecost

*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**

Come together, disciples of Jesus,
who dwell in the shadow of the Most High.

God is our refuge and fortress.

We will not fear daytime threats or nighttime terror.

God promises to keep you wherever you go.

There is nowhere you can go that God is not.

Surely God is in this place;

this is the house of God and the gate of heaven.

God continues to value your uniqueness
and offers salvation for your faithful endurance.

We have known God’s grace as a free gift;

God’s love surrounds us and supports us.

Let Christ be your teacher and example

And the Holy Spirit, your inspiration and guide.

When God calls we will answer;

with our whole lives we will serve our God. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Grace Greater than Our Sin*
UMH 365 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Gracious and loving God, we gather this day with grateful hearts
to worship You. Thank You for Your faithfulness, Your mercy,
and Your daily provision in our lives. Open our hearts to Your
presence and our minds to Your Word. Strengthen our faith,
renew our hope, and fill us with Your peace. As we worship, may

our prayers, songs, and praise bring glory to Your name. Lead us
closer to You and to one another through Your love. We pray in
Jesus’ name. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Genesis 22:1-14

(NRSV, p. 17-18 in the New Testament, SCF Pew Bible,
and p.17 in the Living Bible; Atlas Pew Bible)

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

SERMON

“The God who Provides”

Rev. Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious God, we thank You for being Jehovah-Jireh, the God who
provides. Like Abraham, we sometimes struggle with doubt and try to
rely on our own understanding. Forgive us and help us grow in faith.
Teach us to trust Your promises, even when we cannot see the way
ahead. Remind us that we are Your beloved and blessed children. Use
us to be a blessing to others through our words and actions. May we
walk forward in faith, trusting in Your loving provision. We pray in
Jesus’ name, 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**

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **There is a Zoom Live Service at 9:00 am this Sunday.**
- 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: 5th Sunday After Pentecost. God bless you all!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

6/28:	9:00 am	Grantsburg-Central UMC
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC
	2:00 pm	Pastor Jenny leads worship at Continuing Care Center
	5:00-7:00 pm	VBS Volunteer Training Day
7/3:	5:00-7:00 pm	VBS Volunteer Training Day
7/8:	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting-Birthday Party (G)

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

Emily Rahkola 6/28
Maxine Hauble 6/28
Taryn Gaffey 6/29
Steve & LeAnn Sylvester 6/29
Sharon Huff 7/3
Scott Olson 7/2
Elli Olson 7/3



Next Sunday (July 5th):

Central-Grantsburg

Pianist
Reading Scripture
Acolyte(s)
Fellowship
Counter
Mowing
Cleaning
Communion

Toni Koons
Toni Koons
Willow Nyland
Volunteer Needed
Dave Huff
Dave Huff
Sandra Erickson
Barbara Loomis



Atlas

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher
Cleaning
Sunday School
Communion

Sharon Asp
Colleen Adams-Schween
Sue Olson
Volunteer Needed
Summer Break
Sue Olson

St. Croix Falls

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers
Communion

Sharon Asp
Kathy Gionis
Lynn Hanson
Peter Gionis
Jim Andrews
Women of the church
Karen and Jim Sciacca

Upcoming Events & News

2026 Vacation Bible School: Theme is "Pool Party"

Registration is now available.

VBS Dates: Five Wednesdays from July 15th to August 12th

Pool Party: August 16th

Donation and volunteer signup sheets are available at each church.

VBS Volunteers Training Days: 6/28, 7/3, and 7/12 (5 to 7 pm) at Central- Grantsburg UMC.

Bible Reading Challenge: Please pick up the Bible Reading Planner card! We encourage you to read the Bible using the reading card.



“The God who Provides: Jehovah-Jireh”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: A man was caught in a terrible flood. Water was rising quickly around his house, and he climbed onto the roof to wait for rescue. A neighbor came by in a boat and shouted, “Jump in! I can take you to safety!” But the man waved him away and said, “No, no, I’m waiting for God to save me. I have faith!”

A little later, another rescue team came by in a motorboat and called out, “Sir, this is your last chance!” But again he said, “No thank you, God will save me!” Eventually, a helicopter came, lowering a rope ladder. The rescuers shouted, “Grab on!” But the man refused once more: “It’s okay! I’m trusting God!” Finally, the water rose so high that the man drowned.

When he arrived in heaven, he asked God, “Lord, I trusted You! Why didn’t You save me?”

God replied, “I sent you a boat, a motorboat, and a helicopter. What more were you waiting for?”

Faith is not waiting for God to act only in dramatic ways—it is recognizing God’s provision when it comes, sometimes in unexpected forms. Unless you respond to God, you may not grow in faith.

The prophet Isaiah says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9). Yes, because we don’t know how God works in our life, we have to sense in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Today, I would like to talk about Abraham’s faith journey and how God worked in his life. Through Abraham’s faith and God’s provision, we can come a little closer to God.

In today’s Scripture, we see Abraham’s remarkable faith. God commanded him to offer his beloved son Isaac as a sacrifice. Isaac was the son Abraham had waited for nearly one hundred years to receive. He had already sent away his other son, Ishmael. Isaac was precious beyond words.

God knew Abraham’s love for Isaac. Therefore, God tested Abraham’s faith through the person he loved most. God said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will show you.”

What is astonishing is Abraham’s response. The next morning, he rose early, prepared for the journey, and set out with Isaac. There is no argument, no complaint, no hesitation.

If we were in Abraham’s place, many of us might have said, “God, how can You ask this of me? You told me to send Ishmael away, and now You are asking me to sacrifice Isaac. You promised that Isaac would be my heir. Why are You making life so difficult?”

Yet Abraham obeyed. How could he do that?

We find the answer in his words. In verse 5, Abraham tells his servants: “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” Notice that Abraham says, **“We will come back.”** He believed that God would remain faithful to His promise. Somehow, even if he could not understand how, God would keep His word.

The Letter of Hebrews explains Abraham’s faith this way: “By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice... Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.” (Hebrews 11:17-19). In other words, Abraham offered his only son to God as a burnt offering, but by faith God gave him back, as if raised from the dead.

We see the same faith in the conversation between Abraham and Isaac. Isaac asked, “Father, the fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham replied, **“God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”**

What confidence! What trust! Abraham believed that God would provide, and God did.

When Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, the angel of the Lord stopped him. Looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught in a thicket. God had already provided the sacrifice. That is why Abraham called that place “Jehovah-Jireh,” which means “The Lord will provide.”

But what if Abraham had not obeyed God and had only complained? What if Abraham had told Isaac, “You are the sacrifice”? We do not know what would have happened. One thing we do know is that because Abraham obeyed and immediately followed God, he was able to experience God’s grace and provision—Jehovah-Jireh.

Let us remember something important. Abraham did not always have this kind of faith.

There were times when Abraham doubted God and struggled to trust His promises. Instead of waiting for God’s timing, he tried to fulfill God’s promise in his own way. That led to the birth of Ishmael and brought pain and conflict into his family. Yet God did not give up on Abraham.

Through failure, disappointment, and heartache, Abraham matured. He learned to wait. He learned to trust. He learned to depend on God rather than on himself. The faith we see in Genesis 22 did not appear overnight. It was shaped through years of failures, lessons, and God’s grace.

The same is true for us. Everyone fails. Everyone has doubts. Sometimes doubt itself becomes a pathway to deeper faith. The real problem is not that we fail. The real problem is when we refuse to grow from our failures. It is when doubt never develops into faith. It is when we continue blaming others and remain stuck in the same place, hurting ourselves and those around us.

God calls us to grow. God calls us to move from the path of failure to the path of faith. The disciples of Jesus also experienced failure, but they did not stay there. Peter denied Jesus, yet he became a bold witness for Christ. John often misunderstood Jesus, yet he became known as the apostle of love. Paul persecuted the church, yet God transformed him into one of the greatest missionaries in history.

Their stories remind us that failure does not have to be the end of the story. By God’s grace, failure can become the beginning of a deeper faith and a stronger walk with the Lord. We must also change the way we think about ourselves.

First, we need to bless ourselves. When we truly believe that we are God’s beloved and blessed children, we are able to bless others, especially those closest to us.

When God first called Abraham, He said: “I will bless those who bless you... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:3) What an amazing promise! God not only blesses us; He calls us to become a blessing.

As people of faith, we have inherited Abraham’s blessing. God desires to bless the world through us. God desires to bring healing, restoration, and hope through His people. But there is something important we must do. We must speak blessings. If we only think good thoughts but never express them, little changes. Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” It reminds us that “the tongue has the power of life and death.”

The Apostle Paul says, “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “yes” in Christ. And so through him, the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God” (2 Corinthians 1:20). When the Word of God was read and preached, you may say, “Amen” or “yes” to receive the blessing of the Word. By faith, we may say, “Amen.” By faith, we may speak up to bless yourself and others so that God bless you and those who you bless.

Believe in the God who provides. “He [God] who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6). Thanks be to God, Amen.