

**PRAYER SONG**

*This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!*

**UMH 487**

NO. 2026-23  
June 7th, 2026

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH 95**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Gracious God, we thank You for Your abundant gifts and faithful provision in our lives. As we bring our offerings today we acknowledge that all we have comes from You. Bless these gifts and those who give them that they may be used to serve Your kingdom bring hope to the hurting and share the love of Christ with the world. Teach us generosity and trust. May lives be an offering of gratitude and joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Be Thou My Vision*

**UMH 451**

**\*COMMISSION & BLESSING Responsive**

Build wisely on the solid rock of faith,  
that wind and rain cannot destroy it.

**Our trust is in God, beyond our knowing,  
but revealed in the law and the prophets.**

God promises to be with you, to bless you,  
and make you a blessing to others.

**We will keep God's word in our hearts  
And share it with all who learn from us.**

Bear fruit befitting your commitment;  
live in love, joy, and peace.

**God grant us patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

The blessing of the Sovereign One, your God  
be upon you and remain with you. **Amen!**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**Toni Koons**

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)

**2nd 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](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)

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



## JUNE CHURCH MISSIONS

### ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

#### INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



### June Mission: Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

In June we will be collecting laundry detergent, spaghetti and macaroni for the food pantry in Luck. Donations can be left in the basket by the mission board at church.



Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting our many missions!



### 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".



#### June Mission: Supporting Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Our June mission will be to provide support to our VBS program. You can help by shopping for items requested or giving financial donations. There is a list of needed items at each church for you to reference.

### ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



#### Food Shelf

(Communion Sunday)



#### Sailor Hat Offering:

The Sailor Hat offering will go support the Polk County Drug Court.

Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

**Ministers:** All God's People  
Rev. Jenny Lee

### Central - Grantsburg

Preach	Barbara Loomis
Pianist	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Mary Lou and Charles Wright
Counter	Dave Huff
Mowing	Dave Huff
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson

### Atlas

Preach	Kathy Gionis
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Mariah Gaffey
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Summer Break

### St. Croix Falls

Preach	Kathy Gionis
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Lynn Hanson
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Women of the church

### Prayers:

**Please Pray For:** Lynn Hanson (grandson, Isaiah), Sharon Asp (son-in-law's trip to China), Sandy Heinz (lost Driver's ID), Cheryl Olson (cousins' healing), Pastor Jenny (God's peace for the world).



**Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude-Thank you, Lord For:** Barbara Loomis (diagnosis of no infection), Betty Doolittle (good to worship together with the parish), Karen Sciacca (good to see grandson's growing in good health).

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

## 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](http://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: 2nd Sunday After Pentecost! God bless you all!

## Worship Service and A Week Schedule

6/7:	9:00 am	Grantsburg-Central UMC
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC
6/4-6/7:		Wisconsin Annual Conference in Madison
6/10:	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting (G)
	5:00 pm	VBS Staff Meeting (G)
6/12:	10:00 am	Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom
	1:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (A)
6/13:	9:00 am	UMM Meeting (G)
	1:00 pm	Summer Music with Lunch at Trade Lake Swedish Mission Church (Lunch at 1:00 pm- Music starts at 2:00 pm)
6/14:		Communion Sunday

## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

Charlie Olson 6/7

Rod Dahl 6/9

Cindy Michaels 6/12

Jamie & Mike Steffen 6/16



## Next Sunday (June 14):

### Central - Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Reading Scripture	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	Dave Huff
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Communion	Barbara Loomis

### Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Summer Break
Communion	Sue Olson

### St. Croix Falls

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



## Upcoming Events & News

### 2026 Vacation Bible School: Theme is "Pool Party"

**Registration:** Opens June 6th

**VBS Dates:** Five Wednesdays from July 15<sup>th</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup>

**Pool Party:** August 16<sup>th</sup>

Donation and volunteer signup sheets are available at each church.

**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)

**Congratulations:** Sue Olson is the recipient of the #BeUMC Award and Sharon, is the recipient of the Perry Saito Award from the Conference.

## The Lord Said

I have a little story about Jim and me. When he proposed to me, he said don't answer yet. He wanted to tell me that when he was discharged from the Navy, he would return to Grantsburg, WI. If I want to be close to my family, don't marry him. My first thought was that I have lived in five different states, as well as different places in the same state. Wisconsin shouldn't be a problem. Flying is becoming more and more common. What I was not counting on was that his discharge was in January. There just happened to be an earthquake the day before his discharge date. We picked up his walking papers the next day and we were headed for Wisconsin. We moved back in one of the worst winters in the midwest. It would snow one day, drop below zero the next day, snow again, and drop below zero, over and over again. That June there was still snow in the woods. What had I agreed to? That was 51 years ago and now, I love Wisconsin. Before this message is over you hopefully understand why I shared this story.

I try to follow the Lectionary when I chose the scripture for a message.

Summertime is often a good time to choose an Old Testament Scripture listed in the Lectionary. Some are simple old familiar Bible Stories. This one is familiar but it raised several questions and controversies amongst theologians, scholars and readers, including myself.

We may be familiar with the story of Abram and Sarai later known as Abraham and Sarah. Abram was sent by God on a journey. Part of this journey is outlined in Genesis 12: 1-9. It seems that the Lord chose Abram for this Journey 25 years before what we read in verse 1, where Abram lived with his father and his family. They had a comfortable, wealthy life. Abram did as the Lord asked of him. He gathered his wife Sarai, nephew Lot, and the servants of the household. It seems that on the first leg of the journey he also brought his father Terah. They lived in Haran for 25 years, and the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you."

Why did God choose Abram? Why did God come to him again? Especially after he stopped in his journey. The scripture doesn't say that he was especially righteous, powerful, or deserving. The choices that God makes has been questioned by many.

Why did God choose Israel among nations?

Why did God choose David amongst his brothers?

Jesus chose ordinary men to follow him.

When God said to Abram go, the second time, Abram was 75 years old. Sometimes faith truly begins when you step out of your comfort zone. That is what Abram did. I try to keep things in my personal life as simple as possible. Even writing a message for church takes time and challenges me to take the information I find and bring it into a comfortable understanding. I try to listen for "God's Voice." If you should hear or sense the voice of God, would you "Go". The "Go" for me is the direction of this message. Not always my "comfort zone."

Now just because Abram was called by God it did not mean that the Journey was filled with Joy.

So often we remember the homogenized stories that are taught in Sunday School about our Bible heroes. I remember teaching the 5th and 6th graders about David and Goliath. When David beheaded Goliath the children became upset. Saying "That's not what we have been taught." The best that I could tell them was that they are older now and are able to understand the full story. They read it again from the Bible, not their Sunday School material. It was almost as if they did not believe what they had heard.

Abram believed what God said. He set out on the Journey with his household. They would be staying in tents. They would have to herd sheep along the way, and take care of pack animals. Gathering water was a necessity. I cannot even imagine what it took for this journey and I loved to camp. Abram had no idea of where he was going. There was no map to follow. All he had was God's word. Those traveling with him, including his wife, were likely believers in the Moon God of other idol type Gods of their life and times. Yet they stayed with him.

When they arrived in the land of Canaan, the scripture says "at that time the Canaanites were in the land" Imagine that!

God promised them this land. God led them to this land.

My husband has often asked why does God lead His people to land already occupied? I do not have an answer for that.

The occupation of the land confused even the people following Abram. Some theologians believe that the land is God's, so God can give it to them.

The promise of the land was real, but the fulfillment of the promise was not immediate.

How often has that happened to us in our own lives?

God promises his presence, but we still face loneliness.

God promises peace, but we still face anxiety.

God promises strength, but we face challenges.

Everything comes to us in God's time.

Abram teaches us that faith means trusting God's promise even when circumstances seem to contradict it.

One of the most beautiful parts of this passage is Abram's response. When God appeared to him, Abram built an altar. When Bethel was on the west and Ai was on the east, Abram built an altar. He built 5 altars on his journey, maybe more. Worship was important to him. By building the altars he acknowledges God's existence in this journey. This was a brand new faith, no idols to worship, traveling with people that most likely questioned "What is he doing?"

One of the things I did when I moved to Grantsburg was visit churches. I was raised an Episcopalian. Stillwater was not the closest, Hinkley had a very small Episcopalian church. Winter did not invite me to drive very far for church. There are many churches in our community. It took me over a year to walk into this church. But when I did I felt at home. I give thanks for that day.

Abraham received a remarkable promise from God: "I will make you a great nation." But when he arrived in Canaan, there was no nation. There was no city bearing his name. There was no visible evidence that God's promise had been fulfilled.

All Abram could do was keep walking, keep worshiping, and keep trusting.

We look around and remember a fuller sanctuary, many children running through because of Sunday School, a business. We can be tempted to think that God is finished with us because we are not what we once were. Yet Genesis 12 reminds us that God's work is not measured only by what we can count. Abram's first act in the promised land was not to build an empire. It was to build an altar.

He worshiped

Then he moved on and built another altar.

And again he worshiped.

The measure of faithfulness was not the size of the crowd around him, but the depth of his trust in God. We may not be the biggest congregation in town. But look at what God is doing through the people that are here. There are those that are active on the Food shelf. Some deliver Meals. Neighbors are being cared for. Prayers are being offered. Friendships are being formed. Needs are being met. The kingdom of God is still being built.

Abram did not stay where he was comfortable. He continued the journey God set before him.

We may not see all that God is preparing. We may not know what the future holds. But if we continue to worship, serve, pray, and love our community, we can trust that God is still writing the story.

The *God* who called Abram is still calling his people. The *God* who guided Abram steps, is still guiding the church. And the *God*, whose grace sustained the saints before us will sustain us still.

So let us keep walking

Let us keep worshiping.

Let us keep trusting.

Because the journey is not over, and *God's* grace is not finished with us yet.

Amen.