

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious and loving God, thank You for meeting us in the midst of our struggles and calling us by a new name. Through Jesus Christ, You have made us Your beloved children and given us a new identity. Help us to leave behind fear, guilt, and the labels of our past. Strengthen us to live each day as Your faithful sons and daughters, trusting in Your grace and walking in Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. 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!

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Gracious God, every good and perfect gift comes from You. With grateful hearts, we offer these gifts as a sign of our love and trust in You. Just as You transformed Jacob and gave him a new identity, continue to shape us into faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Bless these offerings and use them to proclaim Your love, serve those in need, and build Your kingdom. May our giving reflect joyful hearts devoted to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN**

Here I Am, Lord

UMH 593 (vs. 1 & 2)

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Jenny Lee

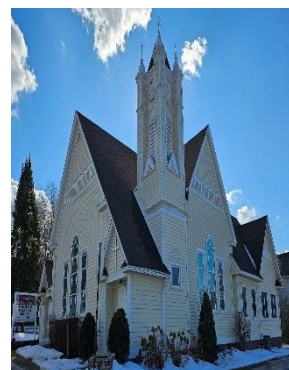
***POSTLUDE**

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)

"10th 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
August 2nd, 2026
“10th 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, all who seek the presence of the living God.
Come with open hearts to receive His love and grace.

We come to worship the One who knows us by name.

We come with gratitude and joy before our faithful God.

God meets us in our struggles and walks with us through every challenge.
He never leaves us alone or abandons His children.

In His love, He gives us strength and hope.

He leads us into a new beginning through His unfailing grace.

Through Jesus Christ, God calls us His beloved children.

He gives us a new identity and a renewed purpose.

We rejoice in who we are in Christ.

We give thanks for His amazing grace and endless love.

Let us worship the Lord with thankful hearts and faithful spirits.

Let us offer our lives as a joyful response to His goodness.

We come to praise God, who renews our lives each day.

We walk in His love and trust His guidance forever. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* **UMH 382**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Gracious and loving God, we come into Your presence with thankful hearts. You know our fears, our struggles, and our hopes, yet You call us Your beloved children. As You met Jacob in the darkness and gave him a new name, meet us in this time of worship. Renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and remind us of our identity in Christ. May Your Holy Spirit lead us into truth, fill us with peace, and send us forth to live for Your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION
CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

Rev. Jenny Lee

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(prayers in Silence)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ,

We are forgiven!

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13-14 (or See insert)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

TFWS 2260

COMMUNION PRAYER Unison

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Genesis 32:22-31

(NRSV, p. 30 in the Old Testament; G & SCF Pew Bible
and p. 29-30 in the Living Bible; Atlas Pew Bible)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his
disciples, and said: “take, eat; this is my body which given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it
to his disciples, and said: “drink from this, all of you; this is my blood
of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the
mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

**(Together) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on
these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and
blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.**

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy
Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

AUGUST 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



Suggested donation items: diced tomatoes, green beans, Chinese foods, saltine crackers, tuna without soy, spices, personal needs. Please leave them in the basket at the front of the church!

August Mission

Community Referral Agency
In August we will be collecting supplies for Community Referral Agency. They are especially in need of the following items:

- ✓ Stamps
- ✓ Bug spray
- ✓ Sun screen
- ✓ Pack N Play size sheets and mattress covers



Their general wish list will be posted on the mission board at church as well.

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".



August Mission: Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Our August Mission Focus is the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Throughout the month, we invite you to make a financial contribution to this special fund, which Pastor Jenny uses to assist individuals and families facing unexpected financial challenges. Your generous gifts provide help when it is needed most and allow our church to extend Christ's love and compassion to those in our community.



ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf

(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:

The Sailor Hat offering will support Pastor Jenny's discretionary funds.

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers: All God's People
Rev. Jenny Lee

Central - Grantsburg

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

Toni Koons
Toni Koons
Willow Nyland
Volunteer Needed
Russ Hammer
Russ Hammer
Sandra Erickson
Mary Lou Wright

Atlas

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher
Cleaning
Sunday School
Communion

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

St. Croix Falls

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers
Communion

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

Guests Last Sunday: Rev. Lynn Tricker (G), Heather Gaylord (SCF), and Sandy Heinz.

Prayers: Please Pray For: Toni Koons (friend Emily and her son, Lucas), Rev. Lynn Tricker (friend, Catherine's healing), Barbara Loomis (healing), Sandra Erickson (healing for her son, Mike, her husband, Jeff, and her grandson, Dauntay), Kay Lamphere (healing) and Lois Morrison (recovery).

Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude — Thank You, Lord, for:

Sally Aldorfer (God's answer to our prayer), Karen Sciacca (enjoying Polk County Faire with two grandsons), Sharon Asp (spending time with family and friends), Steve Sylvester (class reunion), Kathy Gionis (class reunion), and Kate Murtaugh (thankful for two sons).

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



Thank you for your support!

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.
- 4) 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: 10th Sunday After Pentecost. God bless you all!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

8/2:	9:00 am	Grantsburg-Central UMC (with zoom)
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC
8/3:	3:30 pm	Pastor Jenny's One on One meeting with DS Rev. Peace
8/4:	5:00-8:00 pm	National Night Out (G: Fire Department)
8/5:	4:00-5:00 pm	Summer Special Activities for the Children (K and up)
8/7:	5:30-7:30 pm	Family Game Night (G)
8/9:	9:00 am	UMM Meeting (G)

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

Reed Olson 8/1

Noah Dennison 8/2

Peter Branstad 8/3

Corey Smestad 8/7



Next Sunday (August 9th):

Central-Grantsburg

Pianist
Reading Scripture
Acolyte(s)
Fellowship
Counter
Mowing
Cleaning

Toni Koons
Toni Koons
Willow Nyland
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Sandra Erickson



Atlas

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher
Cleaning
Sunday School

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

St. Croix Falls

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers

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

Upcoming Events & News

2026 Summer Special Program for Children (Semi-VBS)

Due to low VBS registration we now have a special summer program for children instead of VBS: July 15, 22, 29, Aug. 5, 7, 16, 23 and 28. (contact: Shayna Schmid).

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

Summer Joint Worship at Atlas: Joint Service will be at 10:30 am on August 30 at Polk County Park next to Atlas UMC.

August 2nd, 2026

Genesis 32:22-31

Pastor Rev. Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



“When God Changes Your Name”

I want to start with something funny that I found an internet site: Mr. Smith was brought to St. Mary’s Hospital, a Catholic hospital, for emergency heart surgery. The operation went well and, as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was reassured by a Sister of Mercy, who was waiting by his bed. “Mr. Smith, you’re going to be just fine,” said the nun, gently patting his hand. “We do need to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?”

“No, I’m not,” the man whispered hoarsely. “Then can you pay in cash?” persisted the nun. “I’m afraid I cannot, Sister.” “Well, do you have any close relatives?” the nun questioned sternly.

“Just my sister in New Mexico, but she’s a humble, spinster nun.” “Oh, Mr. Smith, I must correct you. Nuns are not spinsters—they are married to God,” the nun said. “Wonderful,” said Mr. Smith. “In that case, please send the bill to my brother-in-law.”

Have you ever heard how your parents came to name you? And do you know what your name means?

Most people’s names may have meanings. Most parents consider what name they choose for their children. My Korean name is Eun Ae, which means “grace and Love.” So, some people thought that I grew up in a Christian Family because my name seems to be a Christian name. But One night, on his way home, my father looked up and saw a beautiful galaxy shining in the sky. He thought it looked so graceful and lovely. When he arrived home, I had just been born. Remembering that beautiful sight, he named me Eun Ae, meaning “grace and love.”

Some people believe that a person's name shapes his or her destiny. Whether or not that is true, names carried great significance in biblical times. The Israelites believed that a name reflected a person’s character and calling. Throughout Scripture, God often gave people new names to mark a new calling or a new beginning. For example, Abram to Abraham (father of nations); Sarai to Sarah;(mother of nations) Saul (a little one) to the Apostle Paul (a big one); Simon to the disciple Peter (rock) and more.

But above all these names, there is one name every believer shares. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are called “children of God.” That is our new identity. The gospel John 1:12 says, “Yet to all who did receive him [Jesus Christ], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” Also, the first Letter of John 3:1 says, “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” Galatians 3:26 also says, “So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.”

God gives us a new name being the child of God. God’s promise is true: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17). If you have given your life to Christ, you are **a new creation**. In other words, we aren’t only called to **become** Christians; we are also called to **be** Christians. The Christian life **is a new journey** – one that will take us the rest of our lives. Our name, the children of God, might lead to our destiny, which is eternal life. Do you believe it?

Israelites seemed to be mindful of their names. As we study about Jacob, the name “Jacob” means “a supplanter,” “a cheater,” and “heel-catcher.” That name was given to him when he was born because he was grasping Esau’s heel with his hands. Jacob spent much of his life living up to his name. He deceived his brother Esau out of his birthright, tricked his father Isaac into giving him the blessing, and later found himself deceiving—and being deceived by—his uncle Laban.

After Jacob married Rachel, he tried to leave Laban. But, Laban dealt with Jacob again for his compensation he wanted Jacob to take every speckled, spotted, or dark-colored lamb and goat among all new sheep and goats. And then, Laban removed all speckled, spotted, dark-colored sheep and goats from the flocks Jacob takes care of. Laban put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob while Jacob continued to tend the rest of Laban's flocks. And Jacob cheated Laban of all healthy sheep and goats to bear new speckled, spotted, dark-colored sheep and goats. Finally, Jacob prospered with lots of sheep and goats. And he was afraid of Laban knowing of his cheating. Again, he ran away from Laban. He decided to go back to his father's house.

Now Jacob is in the wilderness again. But this time is different from when he fled from his brother Esau. Back then, he was alone and had nothing. Now he has four wives, eleven sons, one daughter, countless servants, and large flocks. Yet despite all he has gained, he is more afraid than ever because Esau is waiting for him.

Jacob develops a careful strategy before meeting Esau. Filled with fear and distress, he divides his people and flocks into two groups. He thinks, "If Esau comes and attacks one group, the other group may escape" (Genesis 32:7–8). Then he sends the first group and the second group ahead with his servants, instructing them to present all the livestock as gifts for Esau. Even so, Jacob's fear and anxiety do not disappear. He sends his wives and children ahead of him as well. His fear keeps him from moving toward Esau himself. Finally, Jacob is left alone.

In the darkness, Jacob is alone. He may have recalled the past twenty-one years of his life—his deception, his flight from Esau, sleeping alone in the wilderness, and now once again finding himself alone in the desert. Shame, fear, and loneliness may have opened Jacob's heart to God as never before. Perhaps, since his encounter with God at Bethel, this was the first time he truly cried out to God with all his heart in earnest prayer.

Genesis 32: 24 says, "Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak." The text simply tells us that "a man wrestled with him until daybreak." Many scholars understand this mysterious figure to be an angel or a manifestation of God's presence. What matters most, however, is that Jacob encountered God in the midst of his struggle.

Jacob's struggle reminds us of Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Jesus knew the Father's plan, yet He still wrestled in prayer. Likewise, the Apostle Paul pleaded three times for God to remove his "thorn in the flesh." God did not remove it, but instead assured Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you." Sometimes God changes our circumstances; other times He changes us within our circumstances.

Jacob knew he became a fugitive from brother Esau and Uncle Laban as the result of his cheating. He was alone in fear. Jacob said, I will not let you go, unless you bless me." (Genesis 32:26).

Do you remember what we talked about last Sunday? We looked at Jacob's conditional vow at Bethel: "If you will give me food to eat and clothes to wear, and bring me safely back to my father's house, then you will be my God." Jacob had forgotten God's promises and God's blessings. But now, once again a fugitive in the wilderness, he finally cried out to God.

Isn't that true of us as well? Don't we often turn to God most earnestly when we face difficulties, fear, or uncertainty in our lives? In His grace and patience, God gave Jacob a new name: Israel. It was a visible sign that his life had been changed. No longer would he be known simply as the deceiver. God gave him a new identity and a new beginning. Jacob walked away with a limp, but he also walked away with God's blessing. Though physically weaker, he was spiritually stronger.

What about your life? Has a new sunrise dawned in your life since you became a Christian? Perhaps some of you are still wrestling through a long night. Don't lose heart. The same God who met Jacob in the darkness still meets His children today. And when the sun rises, you may discover that God has not only changed your circumstances—He has changed you. You will walk into a new day with a new name, a new identity, and a new hope in Jesus Christ. So let us live each day as the people God says we are—not merely people with a new name, but people with a new life.

Thanks be to God. Amen!