

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious God, thank you for reminding us that you are still our Deliverer. Like the Israelites, we have things we need to leave behind—fear, worry, bitterness, and whatever keeps us from trusting you. Give us courage to take the next step in faith. When we do not know what lies ahead, help us remember that you go before us. Lord, this is our exodus. Lead us from bondage into freedom, from fear into faith, and from the past into your new beginning. 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!

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Gracious and generous God, you delivered your people from slavery and led them into freedom. Today, we offer these gifts as a response to your saving grace. Receive our money, our time, our talents, and our whole lives. Use them to bring hope to those who are hurting, freedom to those who are bound, and love to those who feel forgotten. Teach us to trust you and follow where you lead. May everything we give glorify your name. 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)

“15th 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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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
September 6th, 2026
“15h 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

This is the day the Lord has made
—a new beginning for God’s people.

We come to worship the God
who leads us from bondage into freedom.

God told the Israelites, “This month shall mark
for you at the beginning of the month.”

Lord, make a new beginning in our lives and renew our faith.

God provided a way of protection and deliverance for His people.

We trust in the God who watches
over us and leads us safely forward.

The Passover reminds us to remember what God has done.

We will remember God’s faithfulness
and tell the story of His saving grace.

Let us worship the Lord, our Deliverer, with grateful hearts.

We worship the God who sets us free
and walks with us into a new future. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* UMH 133

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Gracious God, you are the God who hears the cries of your people
and leads us from bondage into freedom. As the Israelites gathered
for the Passover meal, they remembered your saving grace. Today,
as we gather around Christ’s table, help us remember your love and
the sacrifice of Jesus. Free us from fear, worry, and sin, and give us
courage to begin anew. As we receive the bread and cup, renew our
faith and fill us with hope. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION
CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison
Merciful God,

Rev. Jenny Lee

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**

Exodus 12:1-14

(NRSV, p. 58 in the Old Testament; G & SCF Pew Bible
and p. 59 in the Living Bible; Atlas Pew Bible)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON

“This is Our Exodus”

Rev. Jenny Lee

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13-14

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.**

SEPTEMBER CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

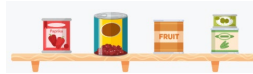
Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

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!

For the month of September Atlas will be collecting funds for Moola for Milk-the Salvation Army Milk Voucher program.

This program provides milk vouchers to children and families in need.

Thank you
for your
ongoing
support!



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".



Our September and October Mission will be to support Operation Christmas Child.

Throughout the month, we will invite financial contributions to this special fund, and collect items for the shoeboxes. (UMW take care of the monetary donations to buy the items for shoeboxes.) Additional information will be available at church and on the Mission Board.

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

Food Shelf

(Communion
Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:



The Sailor Hat offering will support the school backpack program at SCF.

Thank you for your support!

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
Dave Huff & Russ Hammer
Dave Huff
Sandra Erickson
Barbara Loomis

Atlas

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher
Cleaning
Sunday School
Communion

Sharon Asp
Colleen Adams-Schween
Sue Olson
Volunteer Needed
Resuming on 9/13
Sue Olson

St. Croix Falls

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers
Communion

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

Guests last Sunday: We welcome Don & Pam Erhardt (G)

Prayers: Please Pray for: Sunday school children, teachers and parents, and our pets!

Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude — Thank You, Lord, for: a wonderful outdoor blessing service, thanks for Atlas UMC for hosting the joint service.

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



PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) There is **NO Zoom Live Service 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: 15th Sunday After Pentecost. God bless you all!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

9/6 (Sun):	9:00 am	Central-Grantsburg UMC with Live Zoom Service
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC
9/9 (Wed):	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting (G)
9/10 (Thur):		Pastor Jenny will be out of town for a medical appointment
9/11 (Fri):	10:00 am	Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom
9/13 (Sun):		Rally Sunday (A)

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

Briana & Jared Olson 9/10

Troy & Kristie Olson 9/10

Sasha Chute 9/11

Don Anderson 9/12



Next Sunday (September 13):

Central - Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Dave Huff & Russ Hammer
Mowing	Dave Huff
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Cheryl 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



Upcoming Events & News

Rally Sunday (A)

Rally Sunday is September 13th! Our children are back to Sunday School!

Rotary Club's 33th Anniversary Roses Sale:

A dozen roses are \$18. Contact Dave Huff or Pastor Jenny.

Children & Youth Programs (G)

Children-Go Fish (K-4th Grade):

Youth (5th Grade and up): 9/10 & 9/24

Game Night: 9/18

Worship Night at Wood Lake Camp: 9/30

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



“This Is Our Exodus: The Passover”

I want to begin with a little story that I found on the internet. A Sunday school teacher asked the children in the class, “If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?” “No!” the children answered.

“If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?” Again, they answered, “No!” “Well,” she continued, “then how can I get to heaven?” A five-year-old boy shouted, “You gotta be dead!”

Last Sunday, we stood with Moses at the burning bush. Moses had been living in the wilderness for many years. He had left Egypt and started a completely different life. Then, one ordinary day, God appeared to him in a bush that was burning but was not consumed. God called his name: “Moses! Moses!” Then God said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” That was where we began last Sunday: “The God of Our Parents, Now Our God.”

Many of us first learned about God through somebody else. Perhaps it was our parents. Perhaps a grandparent. Perhaps a Sunday school teacher. Perhaps a pastor. Perhaps someone who prayed for us when we didn't even know how to pray. We first heard: “God is good.” We first heard:

“God loves you.” Yes, we first heard Bible stories from somebody else. We have to say: “The God who was my parents' God is now my God.” That was Moses' moment, and also ours.

And now, in Exodus 12, we come to the moment when God is about to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. This is their Exodus—the story of the Passover. And I believe that somewhere in this story, we can find our own story, too. I believe that everyone has their own exodus, and we all need the grace of the Passover.

The Israelites had been in Egypt for generations. It had become their life. But they had suffered and cried out to God. And finally, God heard their cries. And now God was saying: “You are leaving from Egypt.” You know, it is not easy to step out of our comfort zone. It is not easy to change our lifestyle all at once. It can be scary to leave behind what is familiar and step into the unknown.

But we know someone who left his comfort zone immediately when God called him. God said to him, “Leave your country, your hometown, and your father's household, and go to the land that I will show you.” And he went. He left what was familiar and trusted God with what was ahead. And God told him, “You will be a blessing.” Do you remember who that was? Yes! That was Abraham.

And I think we all have an “Egypt” that we need to leave behind. Your Egypt may not look like someone else's Egypt. Maybe your Egypt is fear, anger, resentment, guilt, grief or an old wound. Maybe it is something someone said to you years ago that you are still carrying today. Maybe it is the belief: “This is just who I am.” But Exodus tells us something important: Your Egypt is not your destiny. Israel had been in Egypt for generations. But God said, “It is time to go.”

I want to share my personal story. I am a person who likes to have a schedule and a long to-do list for each day. I feel secure when I know what needs to be done and when I can organize everything according to my plan. But sometimes, my schedule and my long to-do list become a burden rather than a help. Instead of helping me move forward, they can make me feel overwhelmed, anxious, and even stuck, especially when something unexpected happens.

I usually try to finish my Sunday sermon, bulletin, and other worship materials by Tuesday. But last Monday, I was invited to my friend's open house party in Phillips, who was newly appointed to Phillips United Methodist Church. I wanted to go to welcome them and bless their new church and new ministry. I also had a meeting scheduled in Barron on Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. So, I thought, “If I have a meeting all day Tuesday, I need to finish everything by Monday!”

That meant I had to make a choice. If I went to my friend's open house on Monday, I would need to finish my sermon and bulletin before I left. Or, I could come home early from the open house and work on everything Monday night before going to the meeting on Tuesday. As you can imagine, I started feeling overwhelmed just thinking about my schedule! Anyway, I couldn't refuse my friend's invitation. So, I went.

I enjoyed the time together, and I was grateful to be there. Then, on my way home that evening, a deer suddenly jumped in front of my car. I had an accident, and my car was damaged. Suddenly, I had to stop everything. I had to deal with the insurance company, the police, and my friends.

But my phone didn't work because there was no good cell reception. No phone. No navigation. No connection with the insurance company. No connection with my friends. I felt completely cut off and stuck there. I tried to keep moving, praying as I went, until I found a place where my phone would work. Finally, my friend came. Some people who were passing by also stopped to help—and, wonderfully, they were parishioners from Phillips UMC. They stayed with me and helped me call the police and file a report.

Eventually, I returned to my friend's house and had to wait for a tow truck the next day because it was a long distance from Phillips to Grantsburg. And while I was waiting, I was still stuck in my worries: "How am I going to get to the meeting?" "How am I going to finish my sermon?" "How am I going to finish everything on my list?"

My friend said to me, "I think God gave you a day off because you haven't had a day off for a while. Please take a rest today. God will be working while you are resting." But honestly, I couldn't let go of my worries. So I prayed, "O Lord, help me let go of my worries and become aware of what you are trying to show me through this situation."

I knew that worrying would not change anything. I couldn't do anything about the situation. So, I missed the meeting, and I couldn't work on my sermon. All my plans were broken. Can you imagine how messed up my schedule was? Maybe I needed an Exodus from my strict scheduling life, right? Now, let's go back to the Scripture one more time. The Israelites were still in Egypt, but something had changed. They were about to move. God told them to prepare for the journey. Their bread was ready. Their sandals were on their feet. Their staffs were in their hands.

I imagine that scene: a family sitting together, eating their last meal in Egypt, but nobody is getting too comfortable. They are ready to leave when God says, "Go." They did not know exactly what would happen the next morning. They did not know how they would cross the sea. They did not know where the journey would take them.

But they knew one thing: God was leading them. And maybe that is what faith looks like for us. Sometimes we want God to show us the whole road map before we take the first step. We want to know what will happen, when it will happen, and how everything will work out. But God does not always give us the whole map. Sometimes God simply says, "Be ready. Trust me. Take the next step."

I think about my own story. I had my schedule. I had my plans. I knew what I was supposed to do on Monday and Tuesday. And then, in just a moment, everything changed. I couldn't control the situation. I couldn't fix my car. I couldn't make my phone work. I couldn't make it to my meeting. I couldn't even work on my sermon when I wanted to. All I could do was pray and take the next step. And perhaps that was my little Exodus.

Not from Egypt to the wilderness, but from my need to control everything to learning to trust God. Maybe some of us need that kind of Exodus, too. Maybe God is inviting us to loosen our grip on the things we cannot control. Maybe God is asking us to stop worrying about tomorrow and trust Him with today. Maybe God is saying, "You don't have to have everything figured out. Just walk with me."

The Israelites had their sandals on because they were ready to move. So, as we leave this place today, I want you to remember two simple things: Open your hand. Release what you cannot control. Put your shoes on. Be ready for whatever God is going to do next.

You may not know what is ahead. But you can trust the One who goes ahead of you. You can trust the God who was with Moses, the God who delivered Israel, and the God who is with us today. So, perhaps this is our prayer: "Lord, help us let go of what we are holding too tightly. And give us faith to take the next step with you."

Thanks be to God. Amen!