

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Gracious and generous God, we thank you for all the blessings you have given us. Everything we have comes from your loving hands. Receive these gifts and use them to share your love, serve those in need, and build your kingdom. Teach us to give with grateful hearts and generous spirits. May our gifts become a blessing to our church, our community, and the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
UMH 400 (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)

20th 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

(10:15 AM., Sunday School)

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
October 11th, 2026
20th 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, people of God. Let us remember the God
who has led us this far.

We remember God’s faithfulness and give thanks.

When we forget God, God does not forget us.

When we are afraid, God is with us.

When we are impatient, God teaches us to wait.

When we cannot see the way, we will trust in God.

We will remember God’s grace and faithfulness.

We come not only to pray for ourselves, but to pray for one another.

Come, let us worship the God who never forgets us.

We come with grateful hearts to worship our faithful God.

Amen.

DEDICATING HYMN *Sweet Hour of Prayer

UMH 496 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for bringing us together today. You have guided us through every season of our lives, even when we have forgotten your grace and faithfulness. Open our hearts to remember your presence and trust your timing. Teach us to pray not only for ourselves, but also for those who need our prayers. Help us stand in the gap, share your love, and serve one another. May our worship honor you and strengthen our faith. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Exodus 32:1-14

(NRSV, p. in the Old Testament, G & SCF Pew Bible,
and p. 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 Power of Intercessory Prayer” Rev. Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious God, we thank you for your unfailing love and faithfulness. When we forget you, remind us of your grace. When we become impatient, teach us to wait and trust your timing. Help us remember the ways you have guided and carried us. Give us hearts that pray for others, especially those who are tired, afraid, or have lost hope. Teach us to stand in the gap and share your love. Make us faithful servants who build your kingdom together. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

NEW MEMBERS VOWS & WELCOME (G)

See Insert

Donald Erhardt & Pamela Erhardt

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

OCTOBER CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM: Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges 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 October Atlas will continue collecting funds for Moola for Milk-the Salvation Army Milk Voucher program.  This program provides milk vouchers to children and families in need.  We will also be collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Additional information is available at the church. Thank you for your support! 
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GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM: We will be collecting and recycles ink jet cartridges year-round. Thank you for your support! 	In October we will continue 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.
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

Food Shelf (Communion Sunday) 	Sailor Hat Offering:  The Sailor Hat offering will support the Butterfly House and World Communion Sunday-UMCOR.
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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	Russ Hammer
Mowing	Russ Hammer
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson

Atlas

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

Thank You
VOLUNTEERS



St. Croix Falls

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

Prayers: Please Pray for: Don Anderson (his brother Terry), Deb Hammer (our members, Charles, Barbara, Kay, and Sandra's son, Mike and her husband, Jeff), Sharon Asp (her sister-in-law passed away), Karen Sciacca (her grandson, Fitz), Colleen Norenberg (her cousin Rosie passed away) and Colleen Adams-Schween (Pastor Jenny's Safe trip).



Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude — Thank You, Lord, for: Kathy Gionis (reset her SSA), and Sharon Asp (Family reunion).

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

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **There is 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: 20th Sunday After Pentecost!
God bless you all!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

10/11 (Sun):	9:00 am	Central-Grantsburg UMC with Live Zoom Service
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC
	2:00 pm	Pastor Jenny leads worship at C.C.C.
10/12 (Mon):		Columbus Day
10/14 (Wed):	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting (G)
10/15 (Thur):	10:30 am-1:00 pm	Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves & Fishes in Luck
	4:00-5:00 pm	Go Fish (G)
10/16 (Fri):	1:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (A)
10/17 (Sat):	6:00 pm	Siren Rotary Club-German Music Concert
10/18 (Sun):	10:30 am	Joint Laity Service (G)

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES



Sue Olson 10/12

Barb Loomis 10/13

Amy Harmon 10/15

Briana Olson 10/16

Next Sunday (October 18):



Laity Sunday-Joint Service at Central-Grantsburg UMC

We celebrate Laity Sunday by sharing our ministry on October 18th at 10:30 a.m. (Ad Council Chair, UMW President, UMM President, and Youth Director). Central UMC will provide lunch.

Central - Grantsburg

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

Upcoming Events & News

Children & Youth Programs (G)

Children-Go Fish (K-4th Grade): 10/15

Youth (5th Grade and up): 10/8

Crex Carving: 10/28

Crex Pumpkin Walk: 10/30

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

Thrift and Bake, Craft Sale: At Central UMC on November 14th. Please be mindful to donate your good items to the sale, and after the sale, the items left over you should pick up and take back.



“The Power of Intercessory Prayer”

I want to start with something funny that I found on the internet. After dying in a car crash, three friends go to heaven for orientation. They are all asked the same question: “When you’re lying in your casket, and your friends and family are mourning over you, what would you like to hear them say about you?”

The first man immediately responds, “I would like to hear them say that I was one of the great doctors of my time and a great family man.”

The second man says, “I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and a schoolteacher who made a huge difference in the lives of children.” The last man thinks for a moment and then replies, “I guess I’d like to hear them say, ‘Look! He’s alive!’”

Let me ask you a more serious question: What would you like to hear people say about you at your celebration of life service?

When I was in Chicago, I led a young adult group, and one year we had a very unusual retreat experience. We called it “Experiencing a Funeral Service.” The young adults were mostly in their twenties and thirties. During the retreat, we had a very solemn—and honestly, somewhat frightening—experience. We wrote a last-wish letter to our loved ones. And then, one by one, we experienced what it was like to lie in a casket while the others gathered around us and held a celebration of life service. It was a powerful experience. We were young, but for a moment, we had to face the reality of the end of life. After that experience, many of us began to think differently about our lives.

How should I live? What kind of person do I want to become? What do I want people to remember about me? Most importantly, how does God want me to live as a child of God?

God has given each of us one life to live in this world. We cannot live it twice. So, since that retreat, I have often thought about the end of my life. And I try to remind myself: I want to live my life in the way God intends for me. But I also know something about myself. I am weak. Even when I know God's will, I do not always have the strength to follow it. Even when I want to live faithfully, I sometimes become tired, impatient, afraid, or distracted. That is why we need one another. We need one another's prayers. We need one another to help us grow in faith. We need one another to share God's love. And we need one another to build God's kingdom together. That's why God gives us family and friends, and sends us into the church, our communities, and the world to serve in love.

So let me ask you: Do you have someone who prays for you? And, is there someone you pray for?

I think about my mother. My mother was a faithful servant of God. She never stopped praying. Every morning, she began her day with early morning prayer. When we had my mother's celebration of life service, the pastor shared something that I will never forget. He said that my mother would come to church very early every morning to pray—whether it was raining or snowing.

She prayed for her family, her children and for people she loved. And I believe her prayers shaped my life. My mother passed away in 2000. But sometimes, even now, I feel as though she is still praying for me. I have never forgotten her last words to me: “Go to America and become a pastor.” Those words have stayed with me.

A parent's prayers—and a parent's life of faith—can continue to live in their children and grandchildren. Even after they are gone. Their prayers continue to speak. Their faith continues to guide us.

What will your children's lives look like after you are gone? What will you leave behind for your children and grandchildren? And perhaps one of the greatest gifts we can leave behind is this: a life of prayer for the people we love.

Prayer is a powerful way to draw closer to God. There are some things in our lives that we cannot overcome by our own strength, wisdom, or ability. Some things can only be brought before God through prayer. That is why we need to pray for one another. And that is why intercessory prayer is so powerful.

Today, we come to a person whose prayer made a difference in the lives of God's people. His name is Moses. Moses was the great leader of the Israelites. And in today's Scripture, the Israelites have forgotten God. They have become impatient. While they were waiting for Moses, who was with God on the top of Mount Sinai, they became fearful. Moses had been gone for a long time, and they began to wonder if they had lost their leader.

So, they asked Aaron, the brother of Moses and the priest of the Israelites, to make a golden calf for them—a visible god they could see and worship instead of the invisible God who had been leading them.

And God is angry with them. But Moses does something remarkable. Moses prays for his people. And his prayer changes the course of the story.

Today, I want us to think about the power of intercessory prayer. Because sometimes we forget God.

But God never forgets us. Think about the journey of the Israelites. Their story did not begin at Mount Sinai. Their story began when God called Abraham. God made a covenant with Abraham. Abraham was a person who walked with God and prayed for his children and his descendants.

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses—all of their lives were shaped, in some way, by God's covenant with Abraham and by the prayers of those who came before them. God is faithful to his promises. So God kept his promise to Abraham.

Remember how God patiently protected and guided the Israelites through the Red Sea and the wilderness, even though they forgot God's grace again and again. And in today's Scripture, they forgot again. They even made a golden calf. Isn't that sometimes our story, too? We may not make a golden calf. But sometimes we forget the prayers God has already answered. We forget the doors God has opened. We forget the people God has sent into our lives. We remember today's problem. But we forget yesterday's grace. Sometimes our greatest temptation is not unbelief, but perhaps, it is impatience.

The Israelites were waiting for Moses. But they were really being asked to wait for God. And they could not wait. They forgot. And their forgetting led them to idolatry. When God saw what they had done, God became angry. God says to Moses, "Go down at once! (32:7)" "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are"(32:9). God saw the people turning away from the covenant.

But then Moses does something amazing. Moses stands before God and prays for them. He reminds God of God's promises. He reminds God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. Exodus 32:13 says, "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And verse 14, says, "and the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people."

Moses reminds God that these are God's people. That is what intercessory prayer means. Intercessory prayer is praying for someone else. It is bringing another person's name before God. It is saying, "Lord, have mercy on this person." "Lord, guide this person."

It is like Jesus praying for the people who nailed him to the cross and mocked him: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Sometimes a person cannot pray for themselves. Sometimes they are too tired. Sometimes they are too afraid. Sometimes they have lost hope. So, we can pray for them.

Prayer is a powerful way to draw closer to God. Jesus himself prayed throughout his ministry. He often went away to quiet places to pray and spend time with God. And Jesus taught his disciples about the power of prayer. In Mark 9:29, after the disciples struggled to help a suffering child, Jesus told them, "This kind can come out only through prayer."

So, I want to leave you with two questions today: Who is someone you need to pray for? And, who is someone who needs you to help them remember God's faithfulness?

Let us be people who pray for one another, stand in the gap between God and the people we love, and help one another remember God's faithfulness. Thanks be to God. Amen!