

## 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

## \*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Faithful God, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts, remembering Your faithfulness through every generation. Bless these offerings and use them to continue Your ministry in our church and community. May our gifts help nurture the next generation, welcome our neighbors, and share the love of Jesus Christ. As we give, help us trust Your promises and faithfully plant seeds of hope for the future. In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen.

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

## \*CLOSING HYMN *Forward Through the Ages*

UMH 555 (vs. 1 & 2)

## \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Jenny Lee

## \*POSTLUDE

Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

Worship resource "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" by Lavon Bayler

NO. 2026-43  
October 25th, 2026

# Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2026 Parish Ministry Theme:  
***"Sent to Serve, Sent in Love"*** (Micah 6:8)

## Reformation Sunday



**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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Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 St. Croix Falls Office: 715-483-9494

[www.upperstcroixparish.org](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)

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

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**October 25th, 2026**  
**Reformation Sunday**

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\*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**

God called Abraham and promised to make him  
a blessing to all nations.

**Through every generation,**

**God has remained faithful to His promises.**

God guided Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses through journeys of faith,  
struggle, and hope.

**Even when the way was uncertain,**

**God never abandoned His people.**

Moses saw the Promised Land, but the journey continued through  
Joshua and the next generation.

**The work of God continues beyond our lifetime,  
and His promises endure forever.**

We gather today, grateful for those who came before us  
and hopeful for those who will follow.

**Together, we will serve God, share Christ's love,  
and prepare the way for the next generation.**

Come, let us worship the God who was faithful yesterday,  
is with us today, and will guide us tomorrow!

**We worship the Lord, whose faithfulness endures  
from generation to generation. Amen!**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN**    *Be Thou My Vision*

**UMH 451 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER    Unison**

Gracious and Faithful God, we gather today on Reformation Sunday,  
giving thanks for those who faithfully followed Your call and  
prepared the way for future generations. As You guided Moses to the  
mountaintop and continued Your promises through Joshua, remind  
us that Your work never ends with one generation. Reform our  
hearts, renew our faith, and strengthen our commitment to serve You.  
Help us trust Your promises, embrace new possibilities, and share  
Christ's love with those who come after us. In Jesus' name, we pray.  
Amen.

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Proclamation of God's Word**

**\*THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Deuteronomy 34:1-12**

(NRSV, p.191-192 in the Old Testament, G & SCF Pew Bible,  
and p.188-189 in the Living Bible; Atlas Pew Bible)

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

***Thanks be to God. Amen!***

**SERMON    “We May Not See the Promise, but God Is Faithful”**

**Rev. Jenny Lee**

**We Respond to God's Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER    Unison**

Faithful and Loving God, thank You for guiding Your people through  
every generation. When we cannot see the fulfillment of Your  
promises, help us trust Your faithfulness. We thank You for those  
who came before us, for their prayers, sacrifices, and faithful service.  
Bless our congregation as we continue building not only our church  
building but also a future of faith and love. Give us courage to  
nurture the next generation and share Your grace with our neighbors.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*After each prayer request:*

*Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,*

***All: Hear our Prayer.***

## OCTOBER CHURCH MISSIONS

### ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

|                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b></p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges year-round.</p>  | <p><b>LOAVES &amp; FISHES</b></p>  <p>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!</p> | <p>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.</p>  <p>We will also be collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Additional information is available at the church. Thank you for your support!</p>  |
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### GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b></p> <p>We will be collecting and recycles ink jet cartridges year-round. Thank you for your support!</p>  | <p>In October we will continue to support Operation Christmas Child.</p>  <p>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.</p> |
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### ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Food Shelf</b></p> <p><i>(Communion Sunday)</i></p>  | <p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p>  <p>The Sailor Hat offering will support the Butterfly House and World Communion Sunday-UMCOR.</p> |
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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  
Cleaning

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

### Atlas

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher  
Cleaning  
Sunday School

Sharon Asp  
Sue Olson  
Colleen Adams-Schween  
**Volunteer Needed**  
Josie Grimes



### St. Croix Falls

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher(s)  
Counter  
Bell Ringer  
Flowers

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

*Prayer Requests*



**Prayers: Please Pray for:** Deb Hammer (for church families: Barb Loomis, Sandra and her husband, Jeff Erickson and son Mike, and Kay Lamphere).

**Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude — Thank You, Lord, for:** Welcoming a new family to our parish: Don and Pam Erhardt (G), Kathy Gionis (joy with grandchildren), and Pastor Jenny (thanks for all lay leaders and our Laity Ministry).

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

### PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) There is **Zoom Live Service this Sunday at 9:00 am.**
- 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.
- 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: Reformation Sunday. God bless you all!

### Worship Service and A Week Schedule

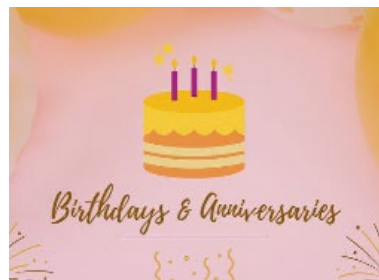
|              |             |                                                                              |
|--------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10/25 (Sun): | 9:00 am     | Grantsburg-Central UMC (with Zoom service)                                   |
|              | 10:00 am    | Atlas UMC                                                                    |
|              | 11:15 am    | St. Croix Fall UMC                                                           |
|              | 12:15 am    | Ad Council Meeting (SCF)                                                     |
| 10/28 (Wed): | 9:00am      | Volunteer appreciation and Training Day at Luck Lutheran Church              |
|              | 5:00-8:00pm | All Kids Carving Day at Crex Meadow                                          |
| 10/30 (Fri): | 6:00-7:00pm | Crex Pumpkin Walk with all kids                                              |
| 11/1 (Sun):  |             | Daylight Saving Time Ends-Fall Forward<br>All Saints Sunday/Communion Sunday |

### THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

Bob Popham 10/26

Wendell & Maxine Hauble 10/26

Kate Murtaugh 10/26



### Next Sunday (November 1):

#### Central -Grantsburg

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Pianist           | Toni Koons              |
| Scripture Reading | Toni Koons              |
| Acolyte(s)        | Willow Nyland           |
| Fellowship        | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| Counter           | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| Cleaning          | Sandra Erickson         |

#### Atlas

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

#### St. Croix Falls

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Pianist     | Sharon Asp          |
| Liturgist   | Kathy Gionis        |
| Usher(s)    | Lynn Hanson         |
| Counter     | Peter Gionis        |
| Bell Ringer | Jim Sciacca         |
| Flowers     | Women of the church |



### Upcoming Events & News

**All Saints Sunday on November 1:** Please sign up to honor the saints you would like to remember and light a candle for during the service.

#### **Children & Youth Programs (G)**

Crex Carving: 10/28 & Crex Pumpkin Walk: 10/30

**Veterans Sunday: November 8-** We honor all veterans!

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

**Thrift, Bake and Craft Sale (G):** At Central UMC on November 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.

#### **Advent Bible Study: Thursday from November 3**

"Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas" by Adam Hamilton. Contact Pastor Jenny for the registration.



### **“We May Not See the Promise, but God Is Faithful”**

I want to start with something funny. There were three sons who had left home at a young age and eventually become very wealthy. One day, they got together and began talking about the gifts they wanted to give their elderly mother.

The first son said, “I will buy Mom a big, beautiful house.” The second son said, “I will buy her a fancy car.”

Then the youngest son said, “You know, Mom loves to read the Bible, but her eyesight is not very good anymore, and she can barely read. So, I will buy her a specially trained parrot that can recite the entire Bible for her.”

A few weeks later, the sons received a letter from their mother. To the first son, she wrote, “Thank you for the beautiful house, but it is much too big for me.” To the second son, she wrote, “Thank you for the fancy car. It looks wonderful, but I cannot drive anymore.” And then she wrote to her youngest son, “Thank you for your gift. It was small and simple, but it was my favorite. The chicken you sent me was absolutely delicious!”

When I heard this story, I laughed. But it also made me think about how often we misunderstand the people we love—even our own parents. When I was growing up, I sometimes felt that my parents treated their children differently. I have four siblings, and I am right in the middle. I have an older sister, an older brother, a younger sister, and a younger brother. In my adolescent mind, my older sister was special because she was my parents' first child. My older brother was special because he was their first son. My younger sister was special because she was the youngest daughter, and my younger brother was special because he was the youngest son.

And what about me? Sometimes, I felt as though I was the one who was left out! I would complain to my parents, asking, “Why do you treat me differently? Why don't you love me the same way you love the others?” And my parents would tell me, “When you become a parent yourself, you will understand how much we love you.” Well, I have become an adult, and I have learned many things about life. But I still wonder whether I have ever fully understood what my parents meant.

Likewise, our faith journey is similar. Sometimes, we may also struggle to understand God. Perhaps, we never fully understand our God's steadfast love. However, one thing we know and believe that we are saved in faith through Jesus Christ by the grace of God.

Last Sunday, I truly enjoyed listening to our lay leaders share their ministries and testimonies. They were wonderful witnesses to God's grace. As I listened, I was reminded that ministry is not limited to the pastor. God works through every one of us—in our leadership, our service, our prayers, our generosity, and our love for our neighbors. One of our leaders said something that touched my heart: “When we come together, nothing is impossible through God's grace.” Yes, indeed!

Thank you for your faithful ministry. And I want to thank not only those who spoke last Sunday, but every one of you who continues to serve God through this congregation. Because you are here, because you pray, because you serve, and because you care for one another, the ministry of this church continues.

And that leads me to a question I want us to think about today. Have you ever worked hard on something that you knew you might not live to see completed?

Perhaps you planted a tree in your yard, knowing that it would take many years to grow tall enough to provide shade. Perhaps you saved money for your children or grandchildren, hoping they would have opportunities you never had. Or perhaps you have given many years of your life to this church, praying that it would continue to be a place where people could encounter God's love.

We do these things because we believe that life is about more than what we can accomplish today. We plant seeds because we hope someone will enjoy the fruit tomorrow. There is a saying often attributed to Martin Luther: “Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”

I love that saying because it reminds me that although we do not know what tomorrow will bring, we can still have hope. We can still plant. We can still build. We can still dream about the future God holds.

That is especially meaningful to me as I think about our churches. I remember one of our members at St. Croix Falls who dreamed of having a new church building. She had a vision for the future of her congregation and wanted to see that dream

come true. A few years ago, when I visited her in the nursing home, she shared her dream with me. She said, “I wish I could see our church build a new church before I die.” She knew that she might not live long enough to see her dream fulfilled, but she continued to hold on to her hope for the church.

Later, I shared her story with our church leaders. They also had a dream for the future, although they may have wondered whether it was possible, especially considering the congregation's aging membership and current circumstances. Perhaps they continued to carry that dream in their hearts and prayers. And now, St. Croix Falls has begun remodeling its church building! Her dream has become part of the story that continues to unfold among us today. Although she did not live to see this moment, her hope was not meaningless. Her vision helped remind us to look toward the future.

And that is what makes me think of Moses. Moses also had a journey, a calling, and a promise that extended beyond his own lifetime. Our Scripture today takes us to the final chapter of his life. After leading the Israelites through the wilderness for forty years, Moses climbs Mount Nebo. There, God shows him the Promised Land. Moses can see the land, but he will not enter it.

Imagine that moment. After all those years of leading the people, after all the struggles, prayers, disappointments, and miracles, Moses stands on the mountain and looks at the Promised Land. He can see it. But he cannot go there. What a powerful and perhaps painful moment that must have been.

If we read only this part of the story, we might wonder, “Was all of Moses' work worth it? If he could not enter the Promised Land, did his journey end in disappointment?” “Why did he work hard for God's people?”

But, my beloved family in Jesus Christ, we must remember that Moses' story did not begin on Mount Nebo. And God's story did not begin with Moses. To understand what was happening on that mountain, we need to remember the long journey of faith that brought the Israelites there.

As we have followed the Israelites' journey through the books of Genesis and Exodus, we have seen that many generations before Moses stood on Mount Nebo, God called Abraham. God promised Abraham that He would make him into a great nation and bless him so that he could become a blessing to others. Abraham left his homeland and his father's household, trusting God's guidance and following God's call. That was the beginning of the Israelites' journey of faith.

God's promise to make Abraham and his descendants into a great nation and a blessing to others continued through Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. Each generation had its own journey, struggles, and challenges, but throughout it all, God remained faithful to His promise.

Moses had an extraordinary journey. God called him from the burning bush. God sent him to confront Pharaoh. God led the Israelites through the Red Sea. God provided food in the wilderness and guided the people through forty years of wandering. And now, at the end of his life, Moses stands on Mount Nebo.

The Bible tells us that God showed him the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then Moses died. His life ended, but God's promise did not end.

Listen to what happens next in verse 9: “Now Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him.” Moses was gone, but Joshua was ready to lead. Joshua would lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, but he would not be starting from nothing. He would be continuing the work that God had begun long before him. And God was still there.

Moses stands on the mountain. He looks across the land. He knows that his journey is coming to an end.

When we look back at our lives, we may see prayers that have not yet been answered, ministries that remain unfinished, and hopes that have not yet been fulfilled. But we can also see evidence of God's grace: the people who have loved us, the strength that carried us through difficult days, and the opportunities God has given us to serve.

And when we look toward the future, we may not know what lies ahead. But we can continue to pray. We can continue to love. We can continue to serve. We can continue to prepare a place where the next generation will encounter God's grace.

Therefore, let us not lose heart. Let us honor those who came before us, faithfully serve in the present, and prepare the way for those who will come after us. May the next generation look back on our congregation and say, “They trusted God. They loved their neighbors. They made room for us. And because of their faithfulness, we learned to follow Jesus.” And may we continue to be a church with open hearts, open minds, and open doors—a church that is sent to serve and sent in love. Because our story is not over. God is still at work through us.

Thanks be to God. Amen!