



March 8, 2026

“Leaning In”

3rd Sunday in Lent

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

Gathering Music

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “The Holy Wings”

Swedish Tune

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

please observe silence as we settle into sacred time and space

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Singing Bowl & Opening Words from a Neighbor

Tibetan singing bowls took form in the 6th and 5th centuries BCE.
In some Buddhist traditions, they accompany meditation and chanting.
They now contribute to spiritual practices and well-being in many spaces.

***Call to Worship** *(responsive)*

Come, people of God. Return again to the One who gives you life.
We come as children of God, longing for a closer walk with our Creator.

Come thirsty for living water and open to the One who supplies it.
Let's drink from spiritual depths, seeking to experience life's meaning.

Let's embrace renewal in God and healing among humankind.
May we hear the good news Christ brings to all people.

God meets and accepts us where we are.
Let's worship in hope, anticipating salvation in our lives and relationships.
Amen.

***Opening Song (SPP #16)** **“Come to the Water”**
verses 1–4

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(unison)*

Holy God, our souls are thirsty. We have filled ourselves with things that increase our thirst. We choose arrogance over humility, dishonesty over justice, aggression over mercy, fear over love. Our lives are left dry and cracked from our sin.

Forgive us, O God. Wash us again in the healing waters of your love. Refresh us and empower us to live as your people—with justice, mercy, and humility; embodying the good news of Jesus Christ. Through your Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Musical Interlude *... to accompany our quiet prayers*

Assurance of Grace *(responsive)*

The peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!

Passing the Peace *(seated)*

...smiles and gestures of peace — to those online and seated near us

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

This little light of mine...

Singing “Happy Birthday”

**Marianne Warnes (3/11), Stan Hilliard (3/12),
Cindy Baker (3/14), Kim Klisch (3/14)**

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another

...with arms wide open

Young Ones: God be with you

All: And also with you

Sung Affirmation

...as young people depart or return to families

Ev'rywhere I go...

*Children's Activity (age 3 - grade 4) | Children can go downstairs with Carol
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!*

Reading from the Gospels | NRSV, p. 94

John 4:1-42

Contemporary Reading | Matt Laney, UCC Lent Devotional: Outgrow

“Love Is Not Blind”

One: Here ends the readings. All: Thanks be to God!

Morning Message

“Leaning In”

Prayer Song (SPP #107)

“Your Grace Is Enough”

Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world
Please tell Pastor Clare if you prefer yours not be printed in our Prayer Corner*

...God, in your love Hear our prayer

As reparations for use of Black spirituals, we support Walker West (St. Paul):
a music learning community rooted in the African-American cultural experience,
where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather, explore, and grow through music.

Prayer of Jesus

O Great Spirit, our Parent from above, your name is sacred and holy.
Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways
in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below.
Provide for us day by day — the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.
All the things we need for each day.
Release us from the things we have done wrong,
in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.
Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road.
Amen.

Invitation to Offering

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)

Blue electronic giving cards found in pew pockets.



Offertory

“A Promise is a Promise”

Ylvisaker

*Song of Thanks

Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.
Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.

*Prayer of Dedication *(unison)*

Holy One, your heart abounds with gifts. Receive this offering as a sign of our intention – to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

*Closing Hymn (NCH #76) “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

*Benediction

***Sending Song**

...forming a circle (not holding hands)

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

**Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.**

With God as creator, family all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With ev’ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;

To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

***Parting Music**

...as we greet one another

Today Following Worship:

10:30 am | All are welcome downstairs for refreshments and good company!

11 am | Adult Forum



Adult Forum | Sundays, 11 am

Embracing Our Questions: Black History Month

For Black History Month, we are offering a conversational discussion on selected sections of the PBS Video:

The Black Church: This is Our Story. This is Our Song.

Hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

March 15th: Sharing about Palm Sunday at the Capital

March 22nd: The spiritual stories of Women’s History Month

March 29 and April 5: No Adult Forum

April 12: Learning a theology of love, hope, and liberation from Palestinian Christians



Wednesday Community Suppers... Now a weekly offering!

Invite friends! Pick up flyers and spread the word!

Want to help or support these meals?

Contact Sue Favilla (wicompound@gmail.com, 612-381-4996)

Holy Week



March 29th, Palm Sunday

- 9:30 am **Worship** - *with Jesus, confronting empire*
- 2 - 4 pm **Gathering of Christians at the State Capitol** - *called to love the neighbor, heal the sick, feed the hungry, and welcome the stranger in this critical moment in our nation's history*



April 3rd, Good Friday: a service of lament & healing

- 6:30 pm **Worship** - *amid oppression and violence, we offer music, story, silence, and an impulse to heal*



April 5th, Easter Sunday

- 8:00 am | **Early Easter Service at Lakeside Park**
- 9:00 am | **Easter Breakfast & Indoor Easter Egg Hunt**
- 10:00 am | **Worship** - *a joyful celebration of renewed life*

PRAYER CORNER

*For **Zoey Hintze-Graf** and **Pat Mazzitello**, as they travel home a Youth Faith Formation Retreat at Daycholah Center in Ripon, WI. We pray that it has been a great experience!

*For **Lyle Wood** and **Helen Stoltz-Wood** who are doing amazing! Lyle turns 100 in June and is still riding his 3-wheel bike around.

*As many cope with fear and loss amidst ICE crackdowns - may we continue to see our neighbors and reach out in love to provide safety and care.

*For **people grappling with affordability** especially in regards to housing.

*For **the people of Iran**.

*With Bob & Cheri Schwartz, we give thanks for granddaughter **Bea's** wellbeing.

One Great Hour of Sharing | **March 1—31**

Our United Church of Christ promotes 4 quarterly special offerings as a part of Our Church's Wider Mission. One Great Hour of Sharing carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis; by supporting domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Please use specially marked envelopes and/or memo: "OGHS"



Lenten Vespers: Stories of Struggle & Growth

Feb. 25 - Mar. 25 | 6:30pm

During Lent, we make time to reflect on our journey in faith – seeking to follow Jesus in the ways of love and justice amidst life's challenges. We recognize that through every struggle (be it painful, rigorous, or both), we can grow and rise.

Join us as we hear stories from friends:

Sharri Kinkead (March 11) – Struggles of the heart

Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (March 18) – Navigating post traumatic stress disorder

Mary Horak Binger (March 25) – Communication in personal relationships



Community Collective | **Thursday, March 12th | 7 pm**

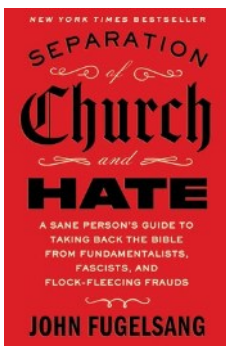
This month, we will:

Honor: Women's History Month

Discuss: creating awareness of our work and sharing information with one another

Share: invite each other into social justice work where we are already passionately involved

Please RSVP: <https://community-collective-3-12-2026.eventbrite.com>



Faith & Spirit Book Club | **Thursday, March 19th**

Expanding our perspectives...

Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-fleecing Frauds

You're welcome to join the discussion, even if you missed the first gathering!

In-person and on Zoom.

Please let Pastor Clare know if you plan to attend.

*Books are available at Valley Bookseller for 15% off
—just mention St. Croix United Book Club!*



Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | **March 9, 7 pm** | @ Church

Megan out of the office | **March 10—12**

Office Hours | **March 11th & 12th, 9 am—12 pm**

Gentle Tai Chi | **March 11, 10 am** | @ Church

Finance Committee | **March 11, 4 pm** | @ Church

Connecting with the Word | **March 11, 4:30 pm** | @ Church

Free Community Meal | **March 11, 5:30 pm** | @ Church

Lenten Vespers | **March 11, 6:30 pm** | @ Church


Leadership Council | **March 11, 7:15 pm** | @ Church & Zoom

Community Collective | **March 12, 7 pm** | @ Church

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), Lori Mildon (flute), Carol Dusbabek (usher), Kathy Iverson (greeter), Maya Klisch-Solano (acolyte), Cheri Schwartz (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir (cantors), Mary & Gary Piasecki (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Carol Dusbabek & Roger Klisch (children's activity)



St. Croix United Church

www.stcroixunitedchurch.org  @SCUCBayport

Pastor Clare Gromoll

pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 600-6409

Megan Adams | Office Coordinator

office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 439-5667

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Call to Worship** Adapted by permission of the publisher from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit* by Lavon Bayler Copyright © 1986 The Pilgrim Press. **Prayer of Confession & Longing** reprinted or adapted by permission of the publisher from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, ed. Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I Tirabassi. Copyright © 2007 The Pilgrim Press. **Scripture Readings** from *The NRSV*. **Prayer of Jesus, First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament**. **Offertory Response** written by John Mueller. **Prayer of Dedication** reprinted or adapted by permission of the publishers from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.

Come to the Water

♩=88

D G Asus A D G

1. All who are thirst-y__ for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y__ for
 2. All who are thirst-y__ for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y__ for
 3. All who are thirst-y__ for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y__ for
 4. All who are thirst-y__ for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y__ for

Asus A D G Em7 D/F#

peace. All who are thirst - y__ for peace, for jus - tice,
 love. All who are thirst - y__ for love, for mer - cy,
 touch. All who are thirst - y__ for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth. All who are thirst - y__ for truth, for beau - ty

G Em7 G Asus A

come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____

E A Bsus B E A Bsus B

5. All who are thirst-y__ for free-dom, all who are thirst-y__ for hope.
 6. All who are thirst-y__ for laugh-ter, all who are thirst-y__ for joy.

E A F#7 E/G# A

All who are thirst - y__ for hope, for free - dom, come,
 All who are thirst - y__ for joy, for laugh - ter, come,

F#m7 A Bsus B E

come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____

Your Grace Is Enough

♩=116

F F/A B^b B^b/D C/E F

1. Great is your faith-
2. Great is your love.

F/A B^b B^badd⁹ F

- ful-ness, O God of Ja-cob; you wres-tle with-
 — and jus-tice, God of Ja-cob; you use the weak

F/A B^b F

— the sin-ner's rest - less heart. You lead us by-
 — to lead the strong. You lead us in-

F/A B^b B^badd⁹ Dm

— still wa-ters in - to mer-cy where noth-ing can
 — the song of heav - en's vic-t'ry, and all your peo-

F/A B^b B^badd⁹ Gm F/A

— keep us a - part. So re - mem - ber your peo - ple, re -
 - ple sing a - long.

B^bmaj⁷ C Dm

- mem - ber your chil - dren, re - mem - ber your

C F/A B^badd⁹

prom - ise, O God. For your

grace is e-nough, yeah, your grace is e-nough, yeah, your grace

is e-nough, yeah, your grace is e-nough for me.

for me.

Words and Music: Matt Maher, Copyright ©2003.

Published by spiritandsong.com®, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

All rights reserved. Used by permission. (Words revised by the Praise Song Advisory Team, 2009.)

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Descant

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess-ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in *People's Mass Book, 1964*, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.
Welsh folk melody
Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972
Descant, *The New Century Hymnal, 1993*

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
 cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
 God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.
 nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.