



June 14, 2026

“Help Me  
to See Again”

Guest Preacher:  
Rev. Naomi Kirstein

## Gathering Music

**Prelude & Lantern Lighting** “We Are Not Alone”

*Sallade*

## Words of Welcome & Announcements

### **\*Call to Worship** (*responsive*)

Did you know 55 million birds have migrated across Washington County thus far in 2026.....!! 55 million just in Washington County!

**How could that be? How can that many birds fly over and I didn't know.**

Right? On May 20th alone, nearly one-half million migrated overnight.  
**No wonder I had more birds in my backyard than usual!**

This is why we come to worship.

**We come to the river this morning to see and be reminded that life is more abundant than we can even imagine. Praise be to God for the beauty of this day!**

**\*Opening Song (p. 5 of bulletin)** “Water, River, Spirit, Grace”

\* = Sitting or standing

**Prayer of Confession and Longing** *(responsive)*

Gracious Spirit – when distrust swirls among us, when fear echoes every step, when envy and remorse grip our hearts –

**We confess that we lose sight of our connection to your love. Restore our hope, that we might trust your presence.**

When every door seems locked tight, each thought weighted down –  
**Restore our hope, that we might trust your presence.**

When the ground feels unstable, when nourishing streams run dry –  
**Restore our hope, that we might trust your presence. 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*

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**Sung Invitation**      *...as young people come forward*

**This little light of mine...**

**Singing “Happy Birthday”**

**Delores Davis (6/17), Rolf Dittmann (6/17)**

**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...**

**“Rooted and Growing”** | Children (age 3+) and youth can join Eli’jah for an activity  
**Nursery** | Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to utilize the downstairs nursery  
*We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!*

**Reading from the Gospel** | *Common English Bible*

Luke 18:1-8 & 35-43

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

**Morning Message**

“Help Me to See Again”

**Prayer Song (p. 6 of bulletin)**

“Open My Eyes that I May See”

**Prayers of the People**

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

...God, in your love **Hear our prayer**

**Prayer of Jesus** (*unison*)

**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.**

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**Offering of Our Gifts**

**Offertory**

“Pass the Love”

*Ketner*

**Offering a Spark of Goodness**

Mary Horak Binger

**\*Song of Thanks (next page...)**

**\*Song of Thanks**

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.  
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.  
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.  
Halleluja! Halleluja

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Song**

*...forming a circle (not holding hands)*

Irish Blessing  
**sung twice**

May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
The rain fall soft upon your fields  
And until we meet again  
Till we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand

**\*Parting Music**

*...as we greet one another*

**Today Following Worship:**

**10:30 am** | All are welcome to linger for refreshments and good company!

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

***Blue electronic giving cards*** found in pew pockets.



**Strengthen the Church UCC Special Offering | June 1—30**

This special offering reflects our shared commitment to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Please use specially marked envelopes and/or memo: "OGHS"

# Water, River, Spirit, Grace

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*Unison*

Wa - ter, Riv - er, Spir - it,  
Grace, sweep o-ver me, sweep o-ver me! Re-carve the  
depths your fin-gers traced in sculpt-ing me  
in sculpt-ing me sculpt-ing me.

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in a treble clef and a bass line in a bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: 'Wa - ter, Riv - er, Spir - it, Grace, sweep o-ver me, sweep o-ver me! Re-carve the depths your fin-gers traced in sculpt-ing me in sculpt-ing me sculpt-ing me.' The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings.

WORDS: Thomas H. Troeger, 1987  
MUSIC: O. I. Cricket Harrison, 1994

TRES RIOS  
Irr.

Words © 1987, 1991, Oxford University Press; music © 1995 Chalice Press

♩=96-100

## A Thank You from Sharon Neuenfeldt...

To each and every member of St Croix United Church, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful cards and shockingly generous gifts!!! To say that I feel loved and appreciated is a deep understatement. There are no words to describe my gratitude, so you'll just have to allow my music to speak for me. God willing, here's to more musical years with you if you'll have me. Love, Sharon

# 454 Open My Eyes, That I May See

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou  
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou  
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth

hast for me; place in my hands the won-der - ful key  
 send - est clear; and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,  
 ev - ery-where; o - pen my heart and let me pre-pare

*Refrain*  
 that shall un-clasp and set me free.  
 ev - ery-thing false will dis - ap-pear. Si - lent - ly now I  
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes,  
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 O - pen my heart,

WORDS: Clara H. Scott, 1895  
 MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES  
 88.98 with Refrain

## PRAYER CORNER

\*For Lisa Culbertson's (former childcare provider for our church) granddaughter, **Alisea Rangel**, as she recovers from surgery to remove a (thankfully!) benign brain tumor shortly after her high school graduation in May.

\*For **Pastor Clare's sabbatical** – may it be a transformative and miraculous time of rest, renewal, and rejuvenation.

\*For **peace** throughout the world.

\*For **those struggling** to see the gifts they bring to the world around them and may they experience loving guidance in finding their way forward.



### Stillwater Pride Ice Cream Social

**Tuesday, June 16th | 5:30—8 pm**

@Green Space (115 N. 4th Street, Stillwater)

Our Social Justice Team will be sponsoring a bubbles table!

Stop by to join the fun!

Our congregation is an event sponsor!

We have donated \$1,095 so far...  
with members and friends contributing.

If you would like to contribute, please do so as soon as possible.

Cash or check to St. Croix United Church  
(memo: Pride Alliance ice cream social)

### Week at a Glance:

**Stillwater Pride Ice Cream Social | June 16, 5:30 pm**

@ Green Space (115 N. 4th Street, Stillwater)

**FREE Community Meal | June 17, 5:30 pm | @ Church**

**Fireside Friends | June 18, 9:30 am | @ Church**

**Worship | June 21, 9:30 am | @ Church**

## Sabbatical Support Team

**Mary Horak Binger** (out of town 6/19 - 7/4), **Nat Graf**, **Naomi Kirstein**,  
**Debbie Knox**, **Dan Warnes** (out of town 6/19 - 6/21), **Eli'jah Carroll**,  
and **Megan Adams**

This team is available to visit when you need a listening ear or a caring presence.

**Megan (651-439-5667, [office@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@stcroixunitedchurch.org))** and  
**Nat (651-470-0408, [ngraf11@gmail.com](mailto:ngraf11@gmail.com))**  
will serve as main lines of contact, yet we welcome you to reach out to any of us.



## Outdoor Worship This Summer

@ Lakeside Park Beach House (95 Central Ave, Bayport)

Join us in worshipping down by the river every  
other Sunday this summer!


Outdoor Worship Dates:

*June 28, July 12 & 26, August 9 & 23*

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist),  
Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), Lori Mildon (flutist), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist  
& altar flowers), David Kirstein & Gary Piasecki (ushers),  
St. Croix United Choir, Bob & Kathy Iverson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie &  
Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Kathleen Dennison  
(children's activity assistant)



## St. Croix United Church

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