



United Methodist Church
Groton - Conde - Andover Parish
906 North First Street
Groton, SD 57445-2192

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
GROTON, SD 57445-2192
PERMIT #31

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April/May 2003
SUNDAY WORSHIP

Groton	9:00 am
Sunday School	10:00 am
Conde	11:00 am

Pastor: Grant Piehl

[email:grotonumc@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumc@nvc.net)

home page: www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc

Office, Groton 605 397-8270

Home 397-4538

Kitchen, Groton 397-2670

Andover Church 298-5265

Conde Church 382-5261

FROM THE PASTOR:

At this Easter Season, we think more about resurrection and eternal life than we do during other seasons of the Christian year. The Easter symbols are all around us - Easter lilies, chicks, rabbits of various kinds from real to candy. Here is one of the stories of hope that I like. [From Devry Nix in HOMILETICS April 99 p53]

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with cancer, and had been given three months to live. Her doctor told her to start making preparations to die, so she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like him to read and what she wanted to be wearing. The woman also told her pastor that she wanted to be buried with her favorite Bible. Everything was in order, and the pastor was preparing to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly. "What's that?" came the pastor's reply. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The pastor stood looking at the woman, not knowing quite what to say.

"That shocks you, doesn't it?" the woman asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor.

The woman explained, "In all my years of attending church socials and functions where food was involved, my favorite part was when whoever was clearing away the dishes of the main course would lean over and say, 'You can keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming. When they told me to keep my fork, I knew that something great was about to be given to me. It wasn't Jell-o or pudding. It was cake or pie. Something with substance. So I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand, and I want them to wonder, 'What's with the fork?' Then I want

you to tell them: 'Something better is coming, so keep your fork, too.'"

The pastor's eyes were filled with tears as he hugged the woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She knew that something better was coming.

At the funeral, people were walking by the woman's casket, and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and her favorite Bible and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled. During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork, and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it, either. He was right.

So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you that there is something better coming.

I have seen and heard of a lot of symbols for resurrection and eternal life, but this is one of the more unusual, and likely will stick in our minds, today and at the next church pot-luck meal.

Something better is coming - at the church supper and in the life to come. Praise be to Christ who gives us our just desserts.

Peace.

Pastor Grant

* * * * *

Talking about heaven can be confusing. "How's your wife?" the man asked his neighbor, whom he hadn't seen in years. "She's in heaven," replied the friend. "Oh, I'm sorry." Then he realized that was not the thing to say, so he added, "I mean I'm glad." And that was even worse. He finally came out with, "Well, I'm surprised."

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Groton UMC Mission Statement

The Groton United Methodist Church is a body of believers seeking to strengthen and build a church family that provides all individuals with the opportunity to grow in their faith and lead an enriched spiritual life in Jesus Christ through worship, study, fellowship, working together and reaching out to others.

Mar. Groton Admin. Council

Agenda items on March 12th included the following:

The Trustees reported that remodeling of the bathrooms to make them handicapped accessible should be completed and ready for use by March 23rd. Some minor work remains to replace previous storage and coffee-making areas. Volunteers who assisted with preparation work and painting the new areas were thanked by Tyke Nyberg.

The Finance Committee has received several donations toward the bathroom project, and will send a fund-raising letter to all church members asking for pledges to assist in paying off these expenses. A preliminary estimate set the cost at approximately \$20,000. Discovery of the poor condition of existing sewer lines has now expanded the scope of the project. The Trustees are evaluating what additional work is necessary.

Items for Health Kits (Ingathering) are now being collected. A display of items needed and boxes to receive them are located at the back of the sanctuary, or contact JoAnn Krueger for information.

The UMYF will conduct the Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am.

The Good Friday service will be a community non-denominational service at the UCC church. Rev. Piehl will deliver the message.

Proceeds from the 2002 Men's Dinner (\$1,278.13) will be used for the bathroom project.

The recommendation of the Charge Conference to base shared expenses with Conde on membership was approved.

A paper drive for the benefit of Safe Harbor in Aberdeen will be ongoing during the month of April. Marked containers are in the foyer.

Apr. Groton Admin. Council

The following items were on the April 9th agenda:

Three UMW members attended Focus Days at Northwestern. Linda Thurston and Jolene Townsend presented a skit. Studies addressed were on James, Mexico, and Restorative Justice. May Breakfast plans are well underway.

Lay Leader Carna Atherton-Pray announced plans to attend Annual Conference June 4-8. She will preach on one of the two Sundays. Rev. Piehl will be gone in June.

The Music & Worship Committee is asking for volunteers to read Scripture and to lead music at Sunday worship services. A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the fellowship hall.

The Trustees arranged to have the mower checked over in readiness for summer. The fellowship hall carpet will be cleaned prior to the May Breakfast.

A status report on the Bathroom Project was presented. As of April 9th the total of the bills for the project was \$17,097.19. (The bill for electrical services had not been received). Monies received to date for greeting card will be sent to several members the project were \$9,093.13.

The Missions Committee will distribute approximately 40 Easter baskets. Proceeds from the Christmas Eve collection are used for this project. An Easter greeting card will be sent to several members who could not use a food basket. A donation to missions will be made in their names.

Sign-ups will be needed for volunteers to serve at The Banquet on June 2nd. Publicity on this will begin soon.

UMW WANTS YOU!!!

To the Woman:

who finds meaning in her church and is drawn to its fellowship,
whose life is packed full of activity and obligation,
who struggles with loneliness or a sense of failure,
who juggles jobs and family, and tries to be faithful to both,
who wants to combine classroom study with significant fellowship and outreach opportunities,
who seems overburdened with the traditional woman's role of care giver,
who feels she has gifts which are wasted or undeveloped,
who wants to be accepted for who she is, who needs a supportive community to affirm her own sense of purpose and commitment to God... We invite you to attend United Methodist Women.

Groton Women Host May Breakfast on May 7

The Annual May Breakfast will be held at the Groton United Methodist Church on Wednesday, May 7th with serving times of 11:30am and 1:15pm. "Express Yourself" will be the theme of the decorations and program. The Cost of the meal will be \$6.00.

General Chairpersons are Clare Brotherton and Jean Lowary. Program, Hostess, and Seating Chairpersons are Linda Thurston and Jolene Townsend. Kitchen Chairpersons are Rose Tewksbury and Gloria Pharis. Dining Room Chairpersons are Marj Overacker and Connie Nilsson. Decorations will be made by the Church Craft Club. Elaine Wolken and Twila Ruden are in charge of advertising. If anyone would care to volunteer, please contact the person in charge of the area you are interested in.

Door prizes will be given at each of the seatings. The program will be by Kathy Stuck from Kathleen's. For reservations, please call Jean Lowary, 397-8228 or Clare Brotherton.

MARCH UMW MEETING

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women met Wednesday afternoon, March 19.

Executive Board met at 1:00 p.m. for planning.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. The PURPOSE recited in unison. Gloria Pharis led devotions on the 23rd Psalm and read "It Is Well with My Soul."

Anita Lowary gave the program on "Mexico Garment Industry Workers; Jesus' Sisters" taken from the program book with supplemental material from the Internet

Minutes and financial report were read and accepted.

Boxes are now available for grocery receipts, soup labels and pop tabs. Offering boxes for World Thank Offering, love ribbons, mission cards and gift in memory cards are also available.

Mary Swisher gave a mini book report on "With Faces to the Evening Sun"(faith stories from the Nursing Home) by Richard L. Morgan.

The May Breakfast plans are coming along well.

About 55 people attended the World Day of Prayer service at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, March 7th.

A monetary gift was received and it will be used for decorations etc. in the new Women's rest room.

The two storage rooms have been cleaned and rearranged. New cupboards will be built to accommodate more storage.

Focus Day meeting will be April 5th starting at 9:00 a.m. at Northwestern United Methodist Church at Mellette. The Groton ladies have been asked to do a skit.

There will be a paper product drive going on for Safe Harbor and health kit items for the Ingathering may be brought to the church.

The next meeting will be April 16th at 7:30 p.m. Karen Wolter will be the guest speaker, telling about her experiences as a missionary nurse in Mexico.

Mary Swisher and Sharon Wheeting served lunch.

APRIL UMW MEETING

The Groton United Methodist Women met Wednesday evening at the church. Karen Wolter was the guest speaker for the program. She told about her experiences as a missionary nurse in Mexico and Africa.

The PURPOSE was recited and the business meeting held following the program.

Business included a report on the bathroom project and Focus Day report.

Honoring of the Christian Education leaders was planned. A gift to Mission will be made in honor of the leaders and thank you notes will be written to each leader. Recognition will take place during the worship service on Mothers' Day, May 11th. A monetary donation was also voted for the Vacation Church School which will be held in the United Methodist Church this year with students and teachers also from the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Monetary assistance will also be given to any camper during the season.

The Ingathering item collection for the kits is continuing and a monetary donation will be given for the Banquet to be served by Groton people.

The Good Friday service at the CMA Church, Easter Sunday services and breakfast and the May 7th May Breakfast were announced. The next meeting is May 21 at 2:00 p.m. the program is the Pledge Service—God's Mission in the History of Korean Women: Faith in Action." The leaders are Clare

Brotherton and Carolyn Snyder. Hostesses are Marj Townsend and Jean Lowary.

Lunch was served by Carol Strom and Diann Morehouse.

GROTON UMW TO HONOR CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

The Groton United Methodist Church School teachers will be honored by the Groton United Methodist Women during the worship service on Mothers' Day, May 11th. A gift to Missions in the amount of \$100 will be sent through channels in their honor.

Kelli Hanson has been church school superintendent and along with Fran Sippel and Yvonne Lange has led the students in music. Teachers in the pre-school class have been Fran Sippel and Marjae Schinkel; in the first and second grade class were Jodi Sternhagen and Brenda Madsen; in the third and fourth grade class were Jane Johnson and Meri Erickson; and in the fifth and sixth grade class were Lance Hawkins and Connie Nilsson. Substitutes were Jolene Townsend, Linda Thurston, Gloria Pharis and Melissa Mortenson. Michelle Schumacher with assistance from her husband, Bruce, and Rev. Grant Piehl, were leaders for the UMYF; Rev. Piehl and Diann Morehouse are teaching the confirmation class and Twila Ruden supervised the acolytes.

The combined Vacation Bible School dates are May 21st-23rd at the United Methodist Church. Teachers and students will be from the United Methodist and St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic Churches. Brenda Madsen will chair the planning.

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women along with the Groton Church Congregation wish to express a great big "thank you" to these dedicated people who have given their time and effort to make a successful church school year.

Groton Community Good Friday Service

Rev. Piehl presented the message at the Groton Community Good Friday Service at the Groton Christian Mission and Alliance at noon. A collection of \$282.00 was presented to the Groton Youth Center.

Groton Mission Projects

Safe Harbor Collection: The Administrative Board has authorized a collection of paper products for Safe Harbor in Aberdeen. Safe Harbor is a place anyone (especially women & children) can go if they are in an abusive situation. They are protected, consoled, and are started on a new life. Safe Harbor operates with the help of federal, state, and local grants and donations. Products that they are most in need of is toilet paper and diapers. Please drop off your donations at the church anytime during April or May. Collection baskets will be located under the coat racks.

Easter Hams & Baskets: JoAnn Krueger & the Mission Committee report that approximately 40 Easter baskets were delivered April 12th. Thanks to Anita Lowary for her initial help, and a big thank you to Jean & Earl Lowary, Jeanne Wanous, Linda & Gary Thurston and Doris Strom for help making deliveries.

Banquet Update: Monday, June 2 the church will serve the evening meal at the Banquet in Sioux Falls. Approximately 32 or 33 volunteers are needed to help prepare the meal in the afternoon and to serve that evening. More information will be available soon.

NEW INTERNET SITE

Check out the new web site for the church at grotonsdchurches.com/umc
Lots of new photos & information. It is very interesting for the world to see. (Thanks Kay)

Groton Birthday & Anniversary Calendar

Kay is updating the list of birthdays and anniversaries from the 1997 list. Please notify her or Clare or Anita with new or corrected dates. The new calendar will be distributed available on the WEB site.

Groton Bathroom Project

The Groton bathroom remodeling project is complete inside the church. Photos are available on the WEB site. (There is a section of sewer pipe outside the building that still needs to be replaced.) Although the project came in under the original estimate, the collapsing sewer line raised the price back up to almost the same amount (approx. \$18,000). A special thank you to all who have responded with donations for this project. We have received \$11,275 by May 1. More donations are still needed to finishing paying for all the improvements. Please send your contributions as soon as possible.

Groton Finance Committee

Upper Room Available

The May-June Upper Rooms are ready to be picked up at the back of the church sanctuary.

ANDOVER UMC CLOSES

The Andover United Methodist Church met for their Charge Conference a while ago with District Superintendent Rev. Gene Kroger of the Central District to discuss their continuation as a congregation. After serious and prayerful discussion, they voted to close the church. There will be a final Worship Service at the church on June 22, 2003 at 2:00pm. Bishop Michael J. Coyner and Rev. Gene Kroger will join Pastor Piehl to conduct the worship as we praise God for the ministry of the church over more than one hundred and fifteen years. We

invite all persons who have been a part of the church over the years to be part of this worship. We have invited all former pastors to also participate. We want this closing worship to be a time of praise for past ministry and a looking ahead to how the good ministry started by this church will continue. There will be time for history and personal remembrances as well as worship and music.

June Work Committee

Chairpersons:

Audrey Thurston 397-8493
 Kelli & Lars Hanson 397-2751
 Stephanie & Kevin Pharis 397-2396

Committee Members:

Nathan Atherton 397-4419
 Clare & Bill Brotherton 397-8177
 Lynette & Terry Furman & Derick 397-8443
 Audrey & Clint Jacobson 397-2714
 Jane & Marc Johnson 397-8615
 Marvel Johnson 397-2425
 Audrey Padfield 397-8166
 John Padfield 397-8166
 Carna & Cliff Pray 397-4419
 Barb & Jack Schmidt & Halley 229-4966
 Mary Jane Schott 397-8588
 Vicki & Alan Strom & Jackson 397-2674
 Elaine & Fred Wolken 397-8280
 Alana & Amber Wolken 397-8280
 Anita & Gary Voss 298-5230

Honorary Members:

Lila Bartz 397-2794
 Robert Johnson 397-2425
 Art Padfield 397-8166
 Norm Thurston 397-8493

Extra Responsibilities:

Clean 2 NW Sunday School rooms

Prayers for Our Troops

With our troops in and near Iraq as well as stationed throughout the world we are more aware of the need for support for our armed forces. As faithful Christian people we want to

offer special prayers for any military person you know. Here is our list so far. Please feel free to add any name to the list.

Josh Bachman	John Schulte
Dave Weipert	Matt Wegner
Tom Sundling	Gab Bruns
Davin Johnson	Jaela Johnson
John Carrico	Tom Jaskulka
Neil Clemens	Dan Swartos
Brookes Johnson	Greg Milbrandt
Todd Oliver	David Onnen
Barry Norris	Chris Bonini
Steven Massey	Shane Shilhanek
John Gibbs	Garret Heitmann
Dennis Furman	Matt Swisher
Ryan Aselesen	Rich Dasche
Elliot Quam	Troy Warren
Missy Thenissen	Keefe Pritchard
Matt Trower	Mike Becker
Matt Burns	Mike Sundling
Scott Ellingson	Brett Weink
Danny McPartland	Tate Walter
Linda Walter	Rob Zastrow

Volunteers Needed

The following letter was received from Beverly Health Care of Groton:

Looking for an excellent way to give of yourself and get instant gratification at the same time? Think about volunteering because it is fun, rewarding and good for the soul. Our residents love to have someone different to visit with and enjoy special talents and/or interests that others can share.

Many people often say, "What can I do?" Well, the activity department has come up with a list of potential volunteer activities. Where do you fit in?

- Assisting with serving Sunday coffee time.
- Reading the Sunday Aberdeen American News
- Playing piano
- Room available for groups and/or individuals to practice music
- Crafts to share
- Bring pets to share

- Helping activities with summer outings
TBD
- Holiday decorations
- Regular visiting
- Assisting residents with walks outdoors during the summer months
- Gardening
- Hobbies to share
- Telling stories and/or reminiscing about the past
- Current event discussion groups
- Bringing in any collections to share
- Other talents
- Any ideas you may have to share

One comment we often hear when searching for volunteers is "That takes up too much of my time." Well, it doesn't have to. Volunteering can be as little as one hour per month, one hour a week or just one time per year, whatever works the best for you.

If you or someone you know is interested in spending some time volunteering, the staff and residents at Beverly Healthcare would be eternally grateful for your special time and commitment. For more information, please contact Deb or Kay in Activities. We welcome any and all new ideas so please give us a call or stop in. Thank you for your time and consideration. Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Deb Hink, Recreation Services Coordinator

Conde UMC Mission Statement

The Conde United Methodist Church is a body of believers seeking to worship God; to proclaim the salvation of Christ the Lord; to increase the knowledge of the teachings of the Bible to all ages of people; to satisfy the spiritual and physical needs of all; and to instill in the people a sense of concern and obligation to the church, the community, and the world, through our church build on God the Rock.

Conde Board Meeting 3/22

A Bible study will be held after church each Sunday until Easter.

A new fire extinguisher will be purchased and all other extinguishers will be filled.

Health kits are being prepared. Some will be needed by Annual Conference in June. Money or items needed can be brought to the church.

A donation was made to CMT Appreciation Supper.

Good Friday services will be held at 7:30pm.

Conde UMW March Meeting

The Conde UMW met on March 19th with six members and one visitor. Due to illness we did not have a lesson.

President Joyce Haskell opened the meeting, reading an article on the reason for praying. Cards were sent to Dolores Grimes, who is now in the hospital in Sioux Falls and the Barry Imsland family.

Marjorie Wright read from the Prayer Calendar.

May 21st was selected as the time to ask our Shepherdess to visit our unit. Our Shepherdess is Penny Culver from Iroquois.

Focus Day will be held at the Northwestern Church in Mellette on April 5th. Hopefully there will be four going.

The May Tea was discussed and chairpersons were named: Lunch – Donna Hearnen; Program – Parry Knoll; Decorations – Jane Worlie; Publicity – Betty Taylor.

Nominations for the SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD will be made by each person putting their nomination in a sealed envelope and these will be opened at the July meeting. The one with the most votes will receive the award.

The Unit will be going to Rosewood Court for their April meeting on April 16th. Please meet at the church at 1:15pm.

A delicious lunch was furnished by Joyce Haskell.