

September 2003



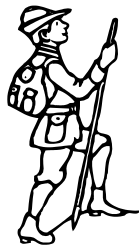
Upcoming Events

-] Confirmation resumes
Sept 3rd
-] Potluck in Groton
Sept 7th
-] Ingathering Sept 27
-] UMW Central District
Meeting Signup dead-
line is Sept 4th call
Linda in Groton
-] Groton UMW Sept 17
at 7:30
-] Conde UMW Sept 17
at 2:00
-] Food Pantry Month in
Conde

Persons wishing to become members of the Groton Church and take part in a membership class, we will be starting one soon on a short term basis. Please contact Pastor Piehl



Pastor Piehl's Message



An un-
known author
writes about an
interesting ex-
perience.

We were hiking in the mountains out West when I saw the stone – a small one, about the size of a half-dollar, with smooth rounded edges.

Ordinarily I would have passed it by, not being a rock hound. It would have remained there for another thousand years perhaps, a mere pebble among the larger stones on the trail.

But this one instantly caught my eye. It was special. Glinting in the sunlight, it seemed to reflect all the surrounding colors, as though trying to mirror nature. Into my pocket went the rare find. [not recommended, park rangers frown on picking up anything in national parks].

All the way home to the East Coast I thought about where I should display it so its beauty could be most enjoyed. I finally placed it in a curio cabinet, next to some jade and other beauti-

ful stones. I forgot about it for a while.

Then one day, while dusting, I was surprised to see that the stone had completely lost its luster. It sat on the shelf among the other lovely objects, a hard, gray chunk of nothing, downright ugly. I was shocked. What had happened to the prize I had so carefully brought back with me across the continent? Where were the sparkle and the colors that had attracted me so much?

Disgusted, I snatched it up and started for the trash can in the garage.

Then, just as I opened the kitchen door, a beam of light struck the stone. As though by magic, it began to shimmer, to glow again. In an instant the beautiful jewel tones shone brilliantly.

Had they returned? Or had they always been there, dormant, waiting to be released?

Wondering, I glanced up at the sky. Sunlight? That was the answer. The rays from the sun were all my stone needed to come

alive.

A lesson for us who are trying to live as Christian people? The Sonlight, son of God, even Christ is what gives us any beauty. Christ is the light of the world and the light of our lives.

Of course, whether we are reflecting divine light, or transmitting it, we are not much good if we are in storage. We are not much good hidden away in a dark closet, or even a nice curio cabinet. We're not much good with a Light Source, even Christ the Light of the world. We're not much good if dirt, grime and dust are allowed to accumulate in our souls.

Most likely all of us need Christ to dust us off or polish us to be beautiful for his cause.

May He in grace and mercy make us beautiful for him.

Peace. Pastor Grant.



October Work Committee

Committee Chairs:

JoAnn & Richard Krueger
Michelle & Chuck Padfield
Herron Smith

Committee Members:

Arlene Boehmer
Rodney Boehmer
Adeline & Gene Cassels
Darlys Kampa
DeLoris Knoll

Jean Lowary
Rudy & Eugene Luce
Marie McClinitic & Larry Schnaidt
Vicki & William Podoll, Chris & Jennifer
Twila Ruden
Crystal & Doug Sippel
Doris Strom
Deb & Todd Thurston
Joyce & Al Walter & Holly

Honorary Members:

Earl Lowary
Ruby Fuller
Emery Sippel
Lorraine Bartz

Extra Responsibilities:

Clean Kitchen
Serve Beverly Healthcare Coffee on the 19th



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.

News from Gene & Ruby Luce

As a number of you know our Grandson, Christopher Podoll, is a member of the Army National Guards and has spent the majority of his summer in Ft. Sill, OK at Basic Training. The following is an update on his progress: He was appointed Assistant Platoon Guide which makes him the second in command of this Platoon of 64 guys. He also qualified as an expert marksman. He had to achieve a minimum score in two phases to earn this title. In the first phase, he had to shoot two groups of six shots in a 4cm area in order to move on to the second phase—it took him 12 shots. In the second phase, he had to shoot at targets that popped up here and there and stayed up for different lengths of time. He got a perfect score—40/40—he only needed 36/40 to qualify as an expert. He was the only one in the Battery (256 guys) who had a perfect score. He is in the last phase of Basic Training at this point and will be graduating with honors on September 11th. He will also be part of a select group that takes part in a shooting exhibition during the graduation ceremony. After Basic Training he will move on to Advanced Individual Training (AIT) where he will be learning to fire a Multiple Launch Rocket System. He should graduate from AIT sometime in mid October. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have frequently asked about him. We really appreciate it. Thank you very much.

Fall Bazaar

The annual UMW Fall Bazaar will again be held in conjunction with the Men's Dinner, tentatively set for November 9th. Emphasis will be placed on the bake sale, and craft items are welcome. There will not be a country store or "white elephant" com-

ponent this year. Lefse for the bake sale will be made at the church at a yet to be determined date in October. Anyone wishing to learn how to make lefse is welcome, and volunteers are needed. Watch for further announcements.

School Kits

- J 1 blunt scissors
- J 2 pads of 8X11 ruled paper (Not spiral notebooks)
- J 1 - 30 cm. ruler
- J 1 pencil sharpener
- J 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- J 1 - 2 1/2 inch eraser
- J 12 sheets construction paper
- J 1 box of 8 crayons

UMW Central District Meeting

The Central District Meeting will be held at Watertown First on Sept. 13th. Registration will be from 9 to 10 am, which includes a coffee time. The registration fee of \$5, paid by UMW, will include a noon lunch served by the Watertown unit. Please let Linda

know by Sept. 4th if you plan on going. Day care will be provided.

There will be a drawing for a scholarship to the School of Missions in 2004, awards will be given for the reading program, missions today, and 5 star units. A memorial service for the de-

ceased members will be held.

We will have the opportunity to purchase reading program books, sign up to host a spring focus or district meeting.

Remember to call Linda by Sept. 4th if you plan on going, 397-2371.

UMW Meeting

September 17th at 7:30

Preserve Wellness;
Women's Stress
Relaxation
Techniques

featuring Vicki
Danbug of Avera St.
Luke's Hospital





Conde UMW Minutes

Conde United Methodist Women met at the church on Wednesday, August 20th at 2:00 p.m.

Betty Jensen led the lesson on Deed in Faith, Faith in Deeds. Women, children, and youth around the world, including members of the United Methodist Women, have many needs, spiritual, physical, educational, and emotional. Membership in United Methodist Women affords many opportunities through mission involvement to address these needs. Every member present participated in the lesson, as we discussed ways to strengthen our faith.

Report on the meeting of

the Executive Committee held at 1:00.

Meeting opened by reciting the purpose of United Methodist Women.

Pat Siefken reported on the meeting held in Claremont August 8th which was attended by her and Dolores Grimes.

Betty Jensen was voted to receive the Mission Recognition Pin for this year.

Kits for the in-gathering are to be put together as September 27th is the in-gathering.

Sharon Lasley has given us an afghan in memory of her mother, Irene Ragels. It is to be used to support a

mission project.

Esther Circle has lost several members and there was a discussion as to continue or not. No decision was made.

There will be a report from the nominating committee next month.

Marjorie Wright gave a quiz—"So you want to be a United Methodist." It was very informative.

Betty Taylor served a delicious dessert for lunch.

The next meeting will be September 17th. Betty Taylor will lead the lesson on "Peace on Earth"; Lois Trapp will be the hostess. Committee on Nominations will report on the new slate of officers.

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.

September Birthdays to Remember



September 27th - Edwin Cunningham will be 96 years young. He can be reached at his apartment at 320 Broadway St. NE in Conde, 57434. Edwin always likes to have visitors at any time

September 24th - Elma Buising will celebrate her 95th birthday. Her address is Wesleyan Care Center, 2000 Wesleyan Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702. Elma enjoys hearing from Conde friends.

September 8th - Marjorie Wright will be 91. Her address 15956 409th Ave. Turton, SD 57477.

September 24th - Ivy Nogle will be 94 years young and lives at 220 2nd St. SW, Conde, 57434.

Food Pantry Month



Dear Friends,

September has been designated as your Food Pantry Month. We hope that you will be able to make a contribution to the Food Pantry so that we can assist individuals and families who are facing a difficult time.

We appreciate any contri-

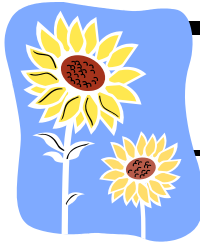
buton that you are able to make. From time to time we have special needs, and we would be grateful if you would consider donating items to help meet those needs. Our current special needs include: corn, beans, peas, pork 'n' beans, cake mixes, muffin mixes, cereal, soups, soda crackers, tuna, peanut butter,

jello, pudding, and cash to buy frozen meat.

Last month we were able to assist 59 families and 172 individuals. We gave away \$3,426 worth of groceries to our area needy. Thank you for supporting this home mission. God Bless you all. Sherry Wurtz & Penny Ihmen; Good Samaritan Food Pantry Co-Directors.

Measuring cups are needed for the Solar Oven Project in Haiti. They may be taken to the church to go to the District Meeting at Watertown First Church; or the Annual Meeting in Aberdeen.

Health kits and layettes are needed most urgently by Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana. But you may make kits or contribute items by bringing them to church for Ingathering in Mitchell on September 27th. For those of you in Conde, kit instructions will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex, so look for instructions there. Copies may be made if you like.



Ingathering For World Hunger

Saturday, September 27, 2003

Christen Wellness Center

Dakota Wesleyan University Campus

Secretary Hours

Most of you know that I have been doing the newsletter and bulletin for several months now to help Joellen. (Probably noticed my errors!) Thanks to Amber Wolken who made it all possible by doing the photocopying and folding. I just did not have enough time with working two other jobs.

My computer business has been keeping me so busy that I have now given notice at Beverly Healthcare and will be changing to an "as needed" status on their work schedule. This will give me a more flexible schedule and a chance to work in the church office on a regular basis.

I am going to try and have

regular hours in the office at the church in case anyone should need anything or wish to call when I am working on the Sunday bulletin. Thinking about a couple hours on Thursday mornings one week and then late afternoon's the next week to coincide with Ben's work schedule. I will be posting the schedule in the bulletin and hope to have it figured out more for next month's newsletter.

Thank you Joellen for all the wonderful work and time you have given to the church. I hope I can fill the void.

Kay Brandt; 397-8389
umc@grotonsdchurches.com

-) *Music by the Sioux Falls Hilltop United Methodist Group "Down the Road" will begin at 8:30.*
-) *Reverend Brook McBride will bring the keynote address at 9:00.*
-) *AUCTION OF QUILTS, CARVINGS, STAINED GLASS, AND OTHER CREATIONS BEGINS AT 10:30.*
-) *Hundreds of items will be on a silent auction throughout the day.*
-) *Coffee and rolls will be sold in the morning by the Mitchell United Methodist Youth.*
-) *They will also sell lunch during the day.*
-) *Have a yummy treat of coffee, pie, and ice cream during the day.*

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN

AND HELP COMBAT WORLD HUNGER.

