

June 2004



—Marva Dawn, quoted in
*Being Church: Forming
Character*, Grand Rapids:
Eerdmans, 1995

We have all heard the plaintive cry from kids. “Why do I have to go to church?” Here are some answers that I give them:

1. We’re not going to church; *You* are the church—and we go to worship so that we learn how to be church.

2. We need you with us in worship because those who are old and tired need your smiles and vitality.

3. The congregation cannot get along without you. Just as your body needs every single part—like your eyes, your nose, your mouth, your hands and feet—so the church needs every single person to make it whole. Perhaps this Sunday some persons will need you to be eyes or hands for them.

4. You need the gifts of worship because you will learn things there that will make sense later. Almost every week I learn something that comes up in the days that follow.

Continued on next page...



UMC Monthly Bulletin



From Pastor Piehl

Charles Lowery has discovered that there are a lot of positive things about driving an old car. You can just pullout and not worry about dents and dings. In *Rev. Magazine* (September-October 2003), he tells the story of sitting at a traffic light and getting bumped from the rear. That would have really upset him in a new car, but it didn’t bother him a bit in an old car. He got out and asked the other guy if he was hurt. The guy said he wasn’t hurt. He was real sorry for what had happened, but he didn’t have any insurance. That also would have bothered Lowery if he were driving a new car. But Lowery looked at the guy’s car and realized he didn’t have much of anything. An old car and an even older car had bumped. No injuries, no real

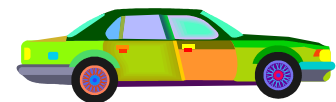
damage. The two got back in their cars and drove away.

The lesson learned, said Lowery, “The key to loving one another? Drive an old car.”

Most of us quickly begin to argue that, “My new car is safer.” Or “the technology of my new car gets better mileage.” or “I need a car I can trust to get me there.” Or “you don’t expect my wife to drive an old beater do you?” All questions that need to be answered and I think there is no correct answer. The question really is, “When or how am I putting material possessions ahead of people?”

Think about it!

Peace, Pastor Grant



Dakotas Annual Conference

The eleventh session of the Dakotas Annual Conference will be held in Pierre, SD at the Ramkota Inn June 2-5, 2004. Pre-Conference meetings of boards and committees will be scheduled on Wednesday, June 2. The Conference Banquet is planned for Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Opening worship is scheduled for Thursday June 3 at 8 AM. The Laity Session and the Clergy Session will be held at 10 AM on Thursday June 3rd. Memorial Service will be at

7:30 PM on Thursday. The Ordination Service will take place on Friday, June 4th at 7:30 PM

Rev. Grant Piehl, is the voting clergy member of the Annual Conference. Also attending will be Twila Ruden, lay member of the Groton-Conde Parish; Marva Gellhaus, lay member at large; Pat Siefken, Conference President of the UMW; and Betty Taylor, Chair of Conference Communications Committee.

[Next Page](#)

Borrowing a Church Table

Sometimes people have a need for an extra table or two or other items they find usually in the church. The church is willing to borrow the rectangle tables to our members when there is need. Just so we know where the church property is we ask a couple of things.

First, contact either the pastor, Rev. Piehl, or chair of trustees Sherwin Nyberg ahead of time. By doing this a week or more early will assure that what you want is available on the day you need it.

Second, there is a sign up sheet on the back of the storeroom door and another in the kitchen, sign and let us know what items you have

borrowed and when. Cross it off when the items are returned.

Most of the time, tables etc are needed only rarely and it is better to be able to borrow them than to have to buy for a one or two time use. The church is willing to borrow tables and other items to our members. We do need to know where our church property is when it is not in the church. Please do not borrow the round tables.

Thanks for your help in this matter. If we follow it, the church will know where its property is and you will know where tables can be borrowed.



General Conference in Pittsburg

Thank you for your prayers and support while I was at General Conference in Pittsburg. It was an amazing experience to see nearly 1000 delegates from all over the world working to make the United Methodist Church better. I wish each of you could have experienced the worship services. The most difficult part of the conference was balancing the needs of the world with the shrinking offerings from the church in the United States. We are the richest part of the church but our own needs obscure our sight of the needs of the world. The rising cost of health insurance and pensions are causing churches all over to find it difficult to meet their own needs, yet for example, the children orphaned in Africa make our needs seem trivial.

The golden age of church support seems to be over and now we have the hard work of deciding how to feed God's lambs. I believe if each of us listens to God's still small voice, we will hear how we can meet this challenge.

The next duty I will have is to work at Jurisdictional Conference in Davenport Iowa to help elect the new bishops. Since our bishop has served the normal 8 year term here, we may be receiving a new bishop. There has been talk of reducing the number of bishops but at General Conference that item was referred for further study. So, it looks like we will have a bishop assigned for at least the next four years.

Mary Hayenga

Continued from Front Page

5. If you pay close attention to the words of the songs and the scripture readings and the liturgy, you will learn all kinds of new things about God. Since God is infinitely incomprehensible, all of life is an adventure in getting to know him better, but worship is especially rich with his presence.

6. Attending worship will teach you skills for your Christian life—skills like how to pray, how to sing, how to sit quietly in God's presence, how to study the Bible.

7. I need you to come to worship because I have cancer and am taking chemotherapy, which makes me to sick to sing, so I need you to stand beside me and sing for both of us. (This is not an answer I give right now, but it was a very important answer for three-fourths of a year.)

8. The congregation needs the talents you bring to worship—your singing voice in the hymns, your ability to learn new songs quickly, your ability to read the Scripture lessons well, your help with the ushering, your warmth and friendliness in the "Passing of the Peace," the answers you give during the children's sermon, your modeling of reverence for the other children. (This point makes us realize how much more all our churches need to do to engage the children more practically in the actions of worship.)

9. When I preach, I need to watch you to see if what I am saying is understandable to people your age. I need you to give me critiques when the worship service is over.

10. Most important, God needs you there because he loves to be with you in his house.

[Next Page](#)



Groton Ad Council Minutes - May 12th

The Music & Worship Committee has located fabric in all necessary colors for new altar cloths. The cost of fabric and trimmings (approx. \$300) will be paid from Memorial Committee undesignated funds.

Because no acolytes are scheduled until Sunday School resumes, the ushers on duty each Sunday will be responsible to light and extinguish the altar candles. Bert Raap has volunteered to keep the candles filled with oil.

The recommendation of the Trustees Committee to install commercial grade front doors in the church was approved. The House of Glass will provide the 100" doors and complete installation at a cost of \$4,248. The bronze color was selected. Monies from the Robert Jensen memorial and Hazel Hite donation will be used for payment.

Finance Chairman Allen Walter shared notes from a recent committee meeting that was held to discuss ideas to remedy the declining offering receipts and increasing operating expenses. This will be an ongoing long-term effort.

Linda Thurston, UMW President, reported another successful May Breakfast event. The May meeting will be a Tea Party on Wheels, where visits are made to elderly members in their homes. She also noted that several persons attended a prayer vigil held for attendees to the General Conference.

Jolene Townsend announced that the special offering request by the Missions Committee to offset food expenses for serving a meal at The Banquet on June 7th amounted to \$502. The offering taken for The Tree of Life Ministries on Native American Sunday was \$194.

Mary Hayenga gave an overview of the General Conference meeting she attended in Pittsburgh. She was one of eight representatives attending from the Dakotas Conference.

Rev. Piehl announced that he will lead a study on the United Methodist Church Social Principles, starting sometime this Fall. The most satisfactory day and time for a study will be determined later.

Church members wishing to borrow church property will be directed to contact Tyke Nyberg, Chairman of the Trustees Committee. Further information regarding the correct procedure will be given in the Newsletter, and posted on the storage room door.

A request was made to have the Trustees check out the counter top burners in the kitchen as they cause the entire cook top to become excessively hot.

UMW May 15, 1991—13 Years Ago

Years Ago

Leaders for the program were Gloria Pharis & Edith Johnson who lead the program "Loving Creation." Guest speaker was Ben Prouse from the Adjustment Center in Aberdeen. They serve 9 NE counties in SD. They serve between 115-120 clients between the ages of 16 to 70. 26 people are on the waiting list. Edith read several Bible verses. "For the Beauty of the Earth" was sung with Susie Trapp at the piano.

The meeting was opened by President Audrey Padfield with the minutes of the last meeting approved as read. The treasurers report was given and approved.

Lorraine Bartz read a thank you from the Resource Center for the \$50 donation. A letter from Linda and Ben Sparkman was sent around to read. A thank you note from Bill Johnson for lunch served at his dad's funeral. A thank you from Gloria Pharis for everyone who worked at the May Breakfast.

Jean Lowary reported on the 80's luncheon. All UMW members are asked to bring a fruit or vegetable salad on May 22nd at 12:00 noon. Rev Dean & Susie Trapp are in charge of the Program.

Camping was discussed. UMW will pay the registration fee. The meeting adjourned. Lunch was served by Jean Walters & Doris Zoellner

—Sec. Marjory Townsend

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.

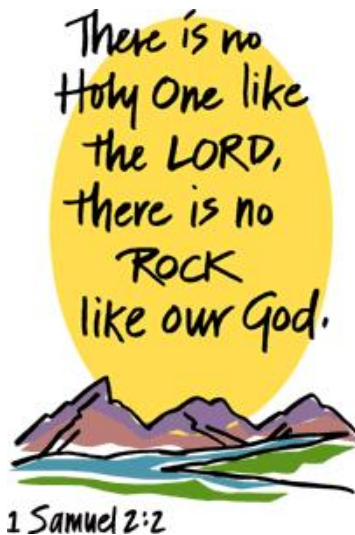
**Groton Ad Council
Meeting
June 9th
8:00 PM**

Groton Stewardship Report May 2004
Average Wkly Giving \$1,297
Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs \$1,765
Average Weekly Attendance 93
Total Building Fund Offerings \$80



Sewing Kits

- J 1 pair of sewing scissors
- J 1 package of needles
- J 1 spool of thread
- J 5-8 matching buttons
- J 3 yards of cotton or cotton-blend, solid color or print fabric (must be 3 yards of uncut fabric)
- J OR money for miscellaneous items



Sharing the load



Some time ago, at a Midwestern county fair, a contest was held to see which draft horse could pull the heaviest load. One horse pulled a sled with a load of 4,500 pounds. It was the champion. The second-place winner managed to drag 4,000 pounds.

When the contest was over, one horse owner suggested that it would be interesting to see how many pounds the top two horses could pull together. When the animals were harnessed together they were able to pull 12,000 pounds! Together they had pulled 3,500 pounds more.

Is there a message there? Church members working together can accomplish far more than they can alone.

Groton July Work Committee

- Mary & Cal Hayenga
- Marjorie & Russell Townsend
- Pam & Doug Bahr
- Brian Bahr
- Dion Bahr
- Meri & John Erickson & Seth
- Robert Hood
- Anita & John Lowary
- Hazel & Jim McKittrick
- Connie & Dave Nilsson & Logan
- Dick Oliver
- Darlene & Bert Raap
- Michelle & Bruce Schumacher
- Carolyn & Robert Snyder

- Linda & Gary Thurston
- Jolene & Alan Townsend & Zachary Barton
- William & Wanda Zoellner

Honorary Members

- Margarette & Don Clocksene
- Erwin Hite

July Extra Responsibilities

- J Beverly Healthcare Coffee July 11th
- J Mow lawn each week as needed
- J Clean Sunday School Supt Office and Restrooms
- J No Potluck

Sympathies to the family of Bob Wegner



"The Banquet" June 7th



Family of Robert L Jensen wishes to thank friends and family for the generous contributions in memory of Bob. It will be used for the new front doors at the Groton UMC and the installation of them.

Sincerely

Mary Alice and Family



June 14th

[Next Page](#)



UMW May Breakfast

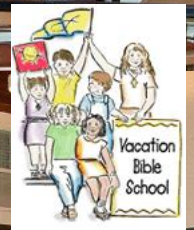




Entertainment was a humorous skit "Once Upon a Time" by Clare Brotherton, Groton, and Mary Hurlbert, Raymond.



UMW Roving Teaparties went to the homes of Clara Rix, Darlene Raap, ImoJeanne Oliver, and Ruby Fuller.





Fathers and Sons of the Bible

Proverbs 13:1 says,
 "A wise son heeds his father's instruction."

In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of these fathers and their sons from the Old Testament. Names may be forward, backward, diagonal, → ← ↓ ↑ ↘ ↙ up or down. Circle them.

- | | | | | |
|------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| ADAM | JAPHETH | ISHMAEL | JUDAH | JOSEPH |
| CAIN | ELKANAH | ISAAC | LEVI | MANASSEH |
| ABEL | SAMUEL | ESAU | GAD | EPHRAIM |
| SETH | AARON | JACOB | NAPHTALI | SAUL |
| NOAH | NADAB | REUBEN | SIMEON | JONATHAN |
| HAM | HUR | DAN | ISSACHAR | DAVID |
| SHEM | CALEB | ASHER | ZEBULUN | SOLOMON |
| | ABRAHAM | | BENJAMIN | |

M A N A S S E H E S A U A W
 I B I D O H S I S S A U L R
 A E A A L A E O N H E E E D
 R L C V O O T M I S U H V I
 H A M I M N H S L M S F I T
 P H R D O I M S A A R O N T
 E L K A N A H S T U U D A N
 C G A D H I O N H J U J D A
 I S S A C H A R P A H A A H
 T M R M C C K E A P A C B T
 O B E N J A M I N H D O E A
 A I S H M A E L R E U B E N
 N O E M I S S N O T J L S O
 C A L E B I T E O H E U K J
 J O S E P H E N U L U B E Z

The beginning of Father's Day

One Sunday in 1909, a young woman named Sonora Smart Dodd sat in a pew listening to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. She began to wonder why there wasn't a day to honor fathers.

Sonora decided to arrange for a tribute to be paid to her father at a church in her hometown of Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many believe that this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another view is that Dr. Robert Webb, pastor of Central Church, in Fairmont, West Virginia, held a service giving tribute to fathers in 1908. Regardless of which story is the correct one, it is certain that President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to choose a special day to honor fathers. He proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day in 1924.



**Heifer International
 Romania**

Project: Farmers Feed the Children

Project Summary:

Farmers Feed the Children targets children in five hospitals, 10 orphanages, and two boarding schools for disabled children in north-central Romania.

Heifer International and our project partners seek to distribute 170 cows, 50 flocks of poultry, and 25,000 chickens during the first two years of the program. Local farmers will receive the animals, as well as advanced training in their care. Funds are also being directed to developing a marketing co-op to help the farmers derive sustained economic benefits.

During the program, substantial portions of the yield will be directed to the children through their institutions. At full production, we anticipate that benefits to the orphans and students will include up to: 34,000 liters of milk per year, 25,000 kilograms of beef per year, 10,000 kilograms of chicken per year, and 250,000 eggs per year.

Older children will also receive training in the care of animals, giving them confidence and advancing their opportunities.



Groton UMW May Breakfast Thank You

A sincere thank you to all who helped in any way with the May Breakfast. This is a traditional fund raiser for the UMW missions, and takes many hours and people to pull it all together. So, if you decorated, prepared food, set tables, washed dishes, did the advertising, lined up the program or were the program, waitressed, or took the reservations your job was important; and without you the May Breakfast would have been incomplete. I also would like to recognize those women who took a personal day or a day without pay from their jobs to help with the May Breakfast, we surely needed each and everyone of you.

Thanks Again, Linda Thurston, UMW President

Conde UMW May 19 Minutes

Lyla Siebrecht led the lesson, SOUL KNITTING. It was suggested that we should relax and spend more time in prayer and meditation to relieve stress and to cultivate a sensitivity to the needs of others. She also told about the mission project of the UMW in the Velda Rose UMC they attended in Mesa, AZ.

Donna Hearnen opened the meeting with devotions taken from the devotional booklet. It was on Mothers' Day.

Reports were given on the May Fellowship Program, Senior Breakfast, Prayer Vigil Focus Day. It was also decided to serve lunch, as usual, during the school reunion, June 26th. Several volunteered to work.

Health kits are badly needed so we will be collecting the articles and put them together as soon as possible.

The next meeting will be June 16th. Joyce Haskell will lead the lesson Interfaith Study: Faith Communities Living Together. Cindy Smith will be hostess.

—Betty Jensen, Secretary

We are United Methodist Women celebrating 135 years.

This lace-covered ribbon is a United Methodist Women's "Love Ribbon". Woman or even men can purchase a ribbon for a \$1.00 to give it as a gift to someone who has a birthday, anniversary, special ceremonies, say thank-you, to someone who has done a special project or just to someone to say "I care".

Now, you may ask, "where does this money go or used for? It is to nurture and benefit children from birth to sixteen in the Dakotas. Women or units apply for grants to help with a project in their church or community. Women endorsed ministries in the areas of health, non-formal education, spiritual well being, care taking concerns, and young people in crisis. We have a committee, which makes decisions at the end of the year of how to give each project, which is based on how much money earned by the selling of the Love Ribbons. DON'T FORGET A LOVE RIBBON IS GIVEN WITH A HUG!

Thank you to all who helped with the May Breakfast. It was a success and well received by all who attended. A special thanks to the committee chairpersons for all their hard work: Ann Rix, Rose Tewskbury, Clare Brotherton, Jolene Townsend, Marj Overacker, Pam Bahr, and Twila Ruden. This would not even be possible without the effort from many. Thanks again! Anita Lowary and Elaine Wolken; General Chairpersons

Groton UMW June Meeting

UMW Meeting will be June 16th, Wednesday, at 2:00 PM. The Program will be "135th UMW Anniversary Party" and "Meeting Only". Hostesses are Ann Rix & Jean Lowary. Executive Meeting will be at 1:00. Officers and Program Resource Chair Meeting and the Nomination Committee Meeting is at 1:00. The Pledge Service is rescheduled to September.



Conde UMW will meet at the church at 2:00 PM on June 16th.

**PLEASE NOTE
CHANGE IN**

PROGRAM. Betty Jensen is leading the lesson about Exodus, with Cindy Smith as hostess for the day.

Please attend - we need your presence and support.. Thank you

The Conde UMC will be open from 3:30—6:00 PM on Saturday, June 26th, during the Conde All School Reunion. A light lunch will be served. Come to rest and visit with your friends for a short time before the evening festivities.



[Next Page](#)

Conde Ad Council Minutes for May

Chairman Darrell Haskell presided at the May meeting of the Ad Council. Opening prayer was given by Rev Piehl.

Treasurer's Report: Jane Worlie gave a report on expenses and income for the last month. She also had current balances on Checking, Savings, and CD's. Expenses were \$16,968.83 more than income.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Trustees: Norman Smith was present to report that he still has not found a safe that would work for storing the large church record books. It was suggested that there might be a possibility of renting a large safety deposit box at the bank. Cindy Smith and Pat Siefken reported that the door leading to the Sunday School Room would not close properly. It was decided to ask Jim Zeck to try to get it fixed before Bible School.

UMW: The General Meeting had been held in the afternoon. This group will be serving a light lunch during the Alumni Reunion on Saturday, June 26th. The May Fellowship Event had been successful, although the crowd was smaller than in 2003.

Education: May 9th, Mother's Day, was the last Sunday for Sunday School until next Fall. Bible School will be held May 24-28. There will be 4 young people going to various camps. The church paid 1/2 of the fee and the UMW paid the other 1/2. The total amount for the camp fees is \$771.

Missions Committee: Church World Service Blanket Sunday was held on Mother's Day. Donna Hearnen, Jane Worlie, and Betty Jensen gave information and demonstrations on how these blankets could be used. They were assisted by some of the Sunday School Children and this group also sang a song entitled, "Are you Sleeping in Blanket," \$5 will buy one blanket, and \$150 was collected. Donors could give their blanket "In Memory" of a deceased mother, or "In Honor" of a living mother. Cards were filled out and placed on the bulletin board.

Cindy Smith and Pat Siefken reported that 14 persons had tentatively signed up to go to Sioux Falls on June 7th to serve the Banquet. It appears that a total of \$625 will be required from the two churches to meet the expense of this project. Conde will be using the 2003 Christmas Eve Offering (\$225) and will also use the loose change offering from the fourth Sunday in May which usually goes to World Hunger.

Donna reported that the items for the Health Kits are not being purchased. If persons do not want to do the shopping, a donation can be given and someone on the Mission Committee will buy the required items. There is an immediate need for the Kits, but we can also take them to the Ingathering in September.

NEW BUSINESS

Landscaping North of Church - Cindy Smith asked about taking out some dead trees and planting a new tree. The Board approved her request. It was also mentioned that some spraying needed to be done. Darrel Haskell or Norb Hearnen will do this.

Hymnals for Sierre Leone - A VIM team from Milbank Central UMC recently returned from the Kissy Eye Clinic in Sierre Leone. They reported the need for hymnals and other books. The Milbank Church has initiated a project of collecting unused hymnals from other churches to send to this mission. They will pick these up at Annual Conference in June. A motion was made that the old red hymnals that are no longer used be donated.

Communion - There will be Communion on the last Sunday in June.

Persons Present: Norman and Cindy Smith, Darrel Haskell, Rev Grant Piehl, Marion and Betty Jensen, Jane Worlie, Pat Siefken, and Donna Hearnen.

By Secretary Donna Hearnen

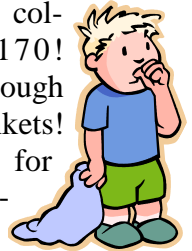


Conde UMC Mission Statement

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 Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday Offering held in May collected \$170! That is enough for 34 blankets! Thank you for all your contributions.



June 16th

7:00 PM

**Conde
Ad Council
Meeting**

**Ushers for May
Betty Jensen
Lois Trapp**

[Next Page](#)

Peace with Justice Sunday - June 6th

“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.” The first line of this familiar hymn challenges everyone who yearns for peace and justice as the world is embroiled in strife.

One Peace with Justice Sunday, celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost, United Methodists take seriously the invitation to “Let it begin with me.” Thanks to the generosity of caring, committed Christians, nearly \$50,000 in Peace with Justice Grants was awarded last year to 20 organizations across the United States and in such distant places as Croatia and the Philippines.

Along with the expected emphasis on peace and justice, the ministries benefiting from the offering focus on education, employment, family and youth out-reach, homelessness, landmine bans, mental health, and social action.

Your offerings on Peace with Justice Sunday reflects God’s faithful love throughout the earth: People of all ages learn alternatives to violence. New resources foster global justice. Violence is stopped, and peace is restored.

God loves honesty and justice, and God’s faithful love fills the earth. In turn, God calls each of us to respond lovingly to all of God’s children! With God’s guiding hand, we can help to bring peace and justice to a hurting world. Please give generously on Peace with Justice Sunday. Your gift makes a world of difference!

The Justice Ministries provide support for agencies that assist people who are facing a variety of problems, including, but not limited to, emotional, financial, nutritional, societal acceptance, racial & ethnic acceptance, and getting settled in a new country.

We support agencies and coalitions that work with our state and national legislators to correct the situations in our society in which people at risk have to seek assistance. We work for peace. We work against hunger and poverty.

Justice Ministries supported by Special Askings include the SD Peace and Justice, ND Peace Coalition, Rural Life Ministries, SD Prison Ministries, and the Lutheran Social Services of North and South Dakota.

Your support of Justice Ministries through Special Askings will help to share God’s love to people in need and will work to fulfill our conference vision; “justice included providing for those in need; mercy included treating others with the same compassion that God extends to all of us; hospitality includes welcoming the stranger in our midst, welcoming God’s presence, and helping everyone to be ‘at home’ with God.”

—Rev. Gail Arnold, Justice Ministries Chairperson

*“You love honesty and justice;
Your faithful love fills the earth.”
Psalm 33:5*

PEACE WITH JUSTICE



The lad meant well

As they parted, a father in Dallas gave his first-grader some change to “give to God.” Later, the dad discovered that his son still had the money.

“Why didn’t you give that money to God?” the dad asked.

“He wasn’t here today,” the lad answered.





Website Information

www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc

Check out all the information that is available on the website including the newsletter here in color! If anyone would like copies of any photos printed or emailed to them please let Kay know.

June Church Happenings

- June 2-6 Dakotas Annual Conference at the Ramkota in Pierre, SD**
- June 6 Peace with Justice Sunday
- June 7 "The Banquet" in Sioux Falls
- June 9 Groton Ad Council 8:00 PM
- June 13 Worship Service by Rev Piehl 3:30
No Potluck in Groton
- June 14 Flag Day
- June 16 Groton UMW 2:00; Exec Mtgs 1:00
Conde UMW 2:00
Conde Ad Council 7:00
- June 20 Father's Day
- June 26 Conde Church Open for Class Reunion from 3:30-6:00.
Light Lunch Served.

[Next Page](#)