

UMC Newsletter



One Great Hour Of Sharing

The second of six special Sundays is will be March 21st. During "One Great Hour of Sharing" you will have the opportunity to help the National Council of churches relief agency. The purpose—to think of lent as a season of repentance, self examination, and awareness of the hurts of the peoples in the world. One Great Hour of Sharing calls the Church to share the goodness of life with those that hurt.



**ONE
GREAT
HOUR OF
SHARING**

Pastor's Lesson

We can't verify the accuracy of this report, but it has been alleged that there was an article in NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC several years ago that provided a penetrating picture of God's awesome presence.

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage.

One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, several chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings.

The loving mother hen keenly aware of impending disaster had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings. Instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had singed her small body the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those chicks under the cover of her wings had lived. (HOMILETICS/ February 2004, p56)

"He shall cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you shall trust" (Psalm 91:4).

I have heard of similar instances with plain old free ranging

farm hens with their brood, but never been able to verify it. It does give new meaning to a hen gathering her chicks.

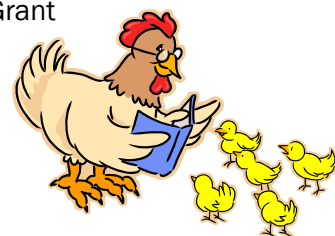
Most of the time, we think of a hen as just a chicken – not willing to fight, unable to do much but become dinner for humans or wild predator. Not a hen with chicks. If you ever experienced one, you remember it. They are not large or fierce but they are protective. They will fight with everything they have, even their life to protect those defenseless fluff balls called chicks.

We have a tendency to think of Jesus as weak, not much of a fighter, but at one point we hear him say, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to it. How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (Luke 13:34).

Only the chicks willing to come to their mother's call, only those willing to trust themselves to their mother's protection lived.

A thought in this season of Lent.

Peace,
Pastor Grant



Lent Services Schedule

Groton

A Soup and Sandwich Supper is at 6:30 each Wednesday followed by a short worship service at 7:00 p.m. A different committee is responsible for the Soup and Sandwich Supper each week and the free will offering will go towards the project of their choice.

- March 3rd—UMYF
- March 10th—Administrative Board
- March 17th—UMW
- March 24th—Music and Worship
- March 31st—Sunday School
- April 4th—Palm Sunday
- April 8th—Maundy Thursday Service
- April 11th—Easter Sunday

Easter Memorials - Groton

Members of the Groton United Methodist Church will again be given the opportunity to Honor their Loved Ones with an Easter Lily on the Altar on Easter Sunday.

A 4-6 blossom Lily can be ordered for the cost of \$9.50 including tax.

There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall at the church or you may call Doris 397-8367 or Jean 397-8228 to order your memorial.

Make checks payable to the Groton United Methodist Church.

The deadline to order is April 4th.

Easter Memorials - Conde Lenten Devotions

IMPORTANT! Anyone wishing to contribute funds for the purchase of lilies on Easter Sunday, please contact Donna Walter as soon as possible. Your check should be made payable to Conde United Methodist Church; also, for whom you are honoring and remembering with the lilies. Any amount is welcome. And thank you for being a part of keeping our church in touch with the seasons of the year.

Worship Committee

Conde

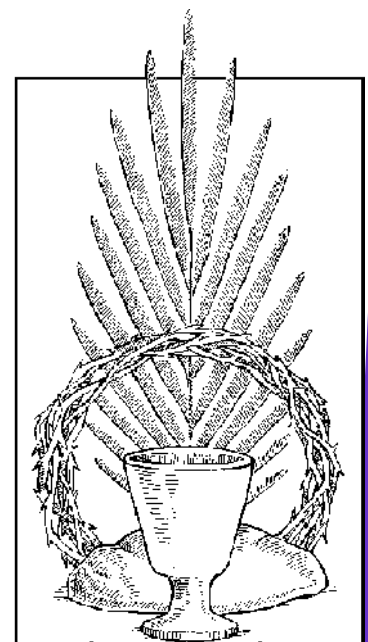
Each Sunday through Lent we are having an Adult Lenten Study at 10:00 a.m.

- March 7th—Brunch will be served after Church
- March 21—One Great Hour of Sharing Collection
- April 8—Maundy Thursday Service
- April 11th—Easter Sunday



A four-year-old boy was watching the movie "The Terminator" on TV and heard Arnold Schwarzenegger deliver his trademark line, "Hasta la vista, baby."

He climbed into his mother's lap and said, "Mom, I know what the Terminator says. He says, 'I still love Easter, baby.'"



UMW January Minutes - Groton

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women held its January meeting on the 21st at 2:00 p.m. Vice-president Jolene Townsend presided.

Executive meeting held at 1:00 p.m. The UMW worship service set for Feb. 8th was planned. Other activities and goals discussed. Mary Hayenga led devotions and the PURPOSE was repeated in unison.

Business meeting:

2004 officers were installed by Marjory Townsend using the "I Have a Dream" theme. At a beautifully decorated table with candles and appointments depicting the UMW program officers

lit a candle as they came forward for installation. Officers for 2004 are: Linda Thurston, president; Jolene Townsend, vice-president; Twila Ruden, secretary; Clare Brotherton, treasurer; Mary Hayenga, chair of spiritual growth; Gloria Pharis, chair of membership and nurture outreach; Elaine Wolken, chair of social action; Diann Morehouse, chair of education and interpretation; Mary Swisher, chair of program resources; and Ann Rix, chair of nominations. The outgoing officers, Ruby Luce, Eunice Sperry, Carna Atherton-Pray and Carolyn Snyder, were recognized. New members will be given a membership pin.

Minutes, correspondence, financial reports and bills were handled.

Committee reports were given. The balance on hand at the end of the year was \$1786.35 and the World Thank offering totaled \$95.

UMW will be in charge of the "Soup and Sandwich" supper on March 17th which will also be the March meeting date. The meeting will follow the Lenten message.

Gert Ruden and Audrey Padfield served tasty sandwiches and coffee following the meeting.

The next meeting will be held February 18th at 2:00 p.m. Donations for Safe Harbor will be received. Gloria Pharis and Kay Brandt will be hostesses.

UMW February Minutes - Groton

The Groton UMW met at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18th. Members brought paper products and food items for Safe Harbor in Aberdeen. There was discussion of the Safe Harbor program and the service it provides for the area.

President Linda Thurston presided at the business meeting. The PURPOSE was recited, minutes read and treasurer's reports given. Items addressed in the business meeting included:

Units encouraged to research their history and celebrate the 135 years of organized ladies' groups in the church.

Report of UMW Sunday. Mary Hayenga gave the morning sermon; Carna Atherton-Pray led the worship detail and Mary, Carna, Linda Thurston and Jolene Townsend presented a skit. Kelli Hanson and Ali Pasteur were ushers. A special collection to note the 135 years of history amounted to \$55.95 as each lady was asked to donate \$1.35.

The president noted facts about the unit's giving for 2003 as recorded in the Directory.

Containers for receiving the collections of pop tabs, soup labels, education labels and grocery receipts were on the counter.

Plans for participation in the World Day of Prayer service were made. It will be March 5th at the Presbyterian Church.

New books will be ordered for the UMW shelf in the library. Contact Mary Swisher for Reading program rules.

Membership pins will be presented to new members soon.

UMW will be in charge of the soup and sandwich supper on March 17th. The March business meeting will follow the worship service and baby quilts will be tied.

Gloria Pharis and Kay Brandt served cherry cheesecake and coffee following the meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- J World Day of Prayer-March 5th, Presbyterian Church
- J North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial, March 26-28, 2004, Chicago, IL
- J Health kit items continue to be collected

Next meeting—March 17th, 7:30 p.m. Jolene Townsend will direct the tying of baby quilts. Jane Johnson and Brenda Madsen will be hostesses.

UMW February Minutes - Conde



The Conde Methodist Women met on February 18 at 11:00 AM. The Quiet Day Service for a CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF-DENIAL. "MY HEALING, MY SISTER'S HEALING" was given by Marjorie Wright. The offering taken goes to help various homes in the United States as North Carolina & Iowa and in foreign countries such as India, Kenya, and the Philippines with the health and healing of women.

A delicious luncheon was prepared by Pat Siefken and Joyce Haskell at noon after which Donna Hearnen called the regular meeting to order. Those remembered with cards were Irene Pfaff, Darlene Meyer, and Ivy Nogle. Activity chair persons were filled for the year. Betty Jensen assisted by Pat Siefken will be chairpersons for January, February, and March.

Leap Day Delight, a soup, sandwich and dessert meal on February 29th was discussed, the Pals, Barbershop quartet will begin the entertainment at 4:00, the meal begins at 4:30. There will be a silent auction on an Afghan and other articles for sale. Marjorie Wright gave information on the World Day of Prayer. It will be March 5th at 2:00 with the Catholic women at Methodist Church.

Joyce Haskell gave a report on a local mission project and encouraged others to visit these shut-ins. It was also decided to continue the Mission Recognition project, nominations can be made anytime the next 3 months. Give nominating ballots to Betty Jensen.

Health Kits

- J 1 hand towel (15x25 up to 17x27)
- J 1 washcloth
- J 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket size)
- J 1 nail file or fingernail clipper (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- J 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz and up)
- J 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper)
- J 1 large tube toothpaste (4-7 ounces and check expiration date must be 6 months or longer in advance of the date of shipment to UMCOR)
- J 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

Conde UMW
 March 10th
 11:00 a.m.
"Sisters on PURPOSE"
 Leader Pat Siefken
 Shepherdess Guest

Lunch Hostesses
 Donna Walter
 Jane Worlie

UMW FOCUS DAYS
 April 17th
 Britton
 Registration
 9:00-9:30 a.m.
 Dismiss
 Mid-Afternoon
 Please Plan to Attend
 Everyone Welcome



"I just have one question before we hire you. Are you accessible?"

from The Jovial Noiselet

UMW Minutes 14 Years Ago

Excerpts from March 21, 1990 Meeting

Pledge Services leaders were Myrle Trask and Ann Rix with help from Gloria Pharis, Jean Lowary, Dawn Gullickson, Joyce Sundling, and DeLoris Krueger.

The meeting was opened by Vice President Mary Alice Jensen. The Treasurer report was given by Carolyn Snyder. A report from the Breitreutz Sale was given.

Focus Day March 31st at Claremont Methodist Church (\$3.00)

This is the 50th year of One Great Hour of Sharing which will be celebrated in Pierre on March 24th.

There will be an Open House Tea for Gloria Pharis and her family April 8th, Palm Sunday from 2:20-4. (Merit Mother-of-the-Year) Jean Lowary and Audrey Thurston will be on the committee to plan it.

The Confirmation Class will be honored April 29th. Deborah Circle will present them a flower. Carolyn Snyder will buy the cake.

Marjory Townsend, Sec



1941 Sunday School

Years Ago

Rev Moore Confirmation Class



UMW Minutes 9 Years Ago

Excerpts from March 15, 1995 Meeting

The meeting was opened by Marjory Townsend, President. Lorraine Bartz and Carol Strom presented the program on "Lent - Is Life a Unicycle?" Joyce Sundling, Marjory Townsend, and Carolyn Snyder participated in the program. Hostesses for fellowship were Charlotte Lang and Hazel Peterson.

UMW Focus Days is April 1st at Conde Methodist Church (\$4.00). Groton UMW is responsible for a skit on Africa.

Betty Hawthorne, Watertown, is our new UMW Shepherdess.

Linda Thurston asked if UMW would be interested in organizing or sponsoring a Church Women United Program the first Friday in November, similar to World Day of Prayer. No action taken.

Six Confirmands will be confirmed April 23rd. It was moved and seconded to order a sheet cake to honor them.

Next Meeting: April 19th. Mary Hayenga and Marvel Washnok will present the program. Mary Jane Schott and Arlene Boehmer will be hostesses.

-Carolyn Snyder, Sec.

Ad Council February Minutes - Conde

Chairman Darrel Haskell presided at the February meeting of the Administrative Council. The opening prayer was given by Rev. Piehl.

OLD BUSINESS

Church Treasurer—Because of her health, JoEllen Herman asked to be replaced. Board Chairman Darrel Haskell had contacted several church members and Jane Worlie consented to fill the position. This change was approved by the Council.

Souper Bowl Sunday Collection—\$76 was collected and this will be sent to the Salvation Army in Aberdeen. 14 food items were brought and these will go to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Redfield. Donna Hearnen called the Souper Bowl Hdq. And gave a report of our collection.

Lenten Activities

- February 22—Bible Study begins (continues through Lent)
One Great Hour of Sharing calendars will be distributed
- February 25—Ash Wednesday service at 8:00 p.m.
- February 29—Leap Day Delight—UMW Soup, Sandwich, & Bar Supper
- March 7—Brunch after Church
- March 21—One Great Hour of Sharing Collection
- April 8—Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Holy Week Services—Rev Piehl informed the Council that the service could be held on Friday evening if the time didn't conflict with the Groton Service. It appeared that the consensus of the group was to stay with the Thursday night.

REPORTS

UMW—The ladies had met earlier in the day for a Prayer & Self Denial Program, noon luncheon, and business meeting. Plans for Leap Day Delight event were finalized. Activities Chairman were appointed for the coming year.

Jan, Feb, March	Betty Jensen	Co-Chairman—Pat Siefken
April, May, June	Pat Siefken	Co-Chairman—Donna Hearnen
July, August, Sept	Donna Hearnen	Co-Chairman—Joyce Haskell
Oct, Nov, Dec	Joyce Haskell	Co-Chairman—Donna Walter
2005		
Jan, Feb, March	Donna Walter	Co-Chairman—Betty Taylor

These persons are in charge of Funeral Lunches & Wedding Receptions.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE—This group had a short meeting in the afternoon. Some of the plans for the next month include: 1) Calendars for One Great Hour of Sharing (will start February 22). 2) Have a once a month offering for Habitat for Humanity. Persons can give in the month that they have a Birthday or Anniversary. 3) Collection of Health Kit Items. 4) One Great Hour of Sharing offering on March 21st.

TRUSTEES—Norman and Cindy Smith are still looking at safes for the church records. Because of the large size of some of the books, it is difficult to find an inexpensive safe.

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
Ad Council
March 17th
7:00 p.m.**

**Conde Ushers
March
Bud Bruckner
Family**

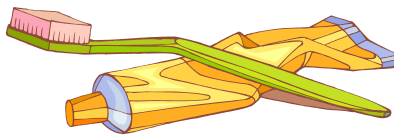
Missions Committee

Groton Missions Committee says Thank You for attending our Ash Wednesday Soup and Sandwich Supper and supporting Heifer International. Our goal was to raise \$120 and purchase one sheep. You helped us to buy that one sheep and around 60 people attended. Thanks a million!



Health Kits Update

Groton UMW has 4 complete health kits and we need your help to fill some more this month. We are in need of large individually wrapped combs that you can find at Wal-Mart, finger-nail clippers (cannot be toenail clippers), and toothpaste and toothbrushes. Thank you to Joyce Walter for the health kit display.



Trailer coming to Groton United Methodist Church parking lot in May. Start Spring Cleaning!

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.

Safe Harbor

A special thanks to all those who brought food/paper products for Safe Harbor. We collected 4 big boxes! Thanks—Groton UMW









Groton UMW
March 17th
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

“Baby Quilts Made Tonight”
Bring Scissors & Yardstick
Leader Jolene Townsend

Hostesses
Jane Johnson
Brenda Madsen

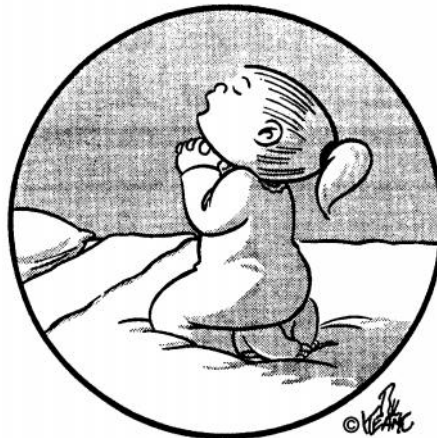








THE FAMILY CIRCUS



“...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from e-mail.”

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

BEVERLY

March 14th 2:30 p.m.
Groton Work Committee
Serves Coffee Hour
And
Pastor Piehl leading
Worship Service



Board Meeting

Groton Administrative
Meeting
March 10th
7:30 p.m.

April Work Committee

Marjorie & Roger Overacker	397-8562
Laurel & Monte McNickle and Murdock	397-0070
Jeanne Wanous	397-2664
Kay & Ben Brandt, Alex & Angela	397-8389
Marva & Lon Gellhaus	397-4505
Mendy & James Jones	397-8614
Diann & Brad Morehouse,	298-5622
Brent, Jessie, & Desiree	
Florrann Norris	397-2638
Christine & Sherwin Nyberg	397-8530
Jack Oliver	397-8206
Ann & Gerald Rix	397-8478
Betty & Charlie Strom	397-8360
Dwight Strom	397-8529
Ruth Thompson	397-8457
Richard Voss	298-5656
Marsha & Wayne Wienk	397-8105

Honorary Members

- J Clara Rix
- J Margaret Blader
- J Dick & Gert Ruden
- J Eunice Sperry

Extra Responsibilities

- J April 4th Palm Sunday—purple altar cloths and change banners before service
- J April 9th—Good Friday and no color if we have a mid-week service. Get further instructions from Pastor.
- J April 11th—Easter Sunday, white altar cloths and change banners to Easter.
- J Water the Easter Lilies.
- J Clean the Fellowship Hall.
- J No Potluck with 2nd Sunday being Easter.

Have a Great Church Photo from the Past that we would all enjoy?

Have Kay Scan it into the Computer for future use in newsletters!



from The Joyful Noiseletter
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Secretary Hours

Have had questions about when I do the bulletin. Typically I do the bulletin on Thursday and leave it for Rev Piehl to look over before printing it on Friday or Saturday (depending on my schedule). So most of the time, you can make a late announcement and it can be added before I print it. If you should ever like to meet me at the office for something, please feel free to call me at home and check what time I'll be going over.

The newsletter? I start typing on Monday or Tuesday after items are due then print and assemble the next day and mail the day after that. Call anytime I can help.

Kay Brandt 397-8389



To the family of Hilda Lundman who passed away February 16th.

To the Schott Family and the loss of Mary Jane's Mother, Genevieve Davis.

The New Groton UMC Prayer Chain is up and running. If you would like to be added to the phone or e-mail chain please contact Mary Hayenga or the office.

Worship Items for Kids

Children Bulletins are available each worship service in both churches and some coloring sheets. In Groton, if they are not in the pew please help yourself to the items on the cart at the back of the sanctuary. The books can be enjoyed during worship service or checked out for one week.

Coloring book on the internet website for you to enjoy at home. You will find it on-line at www.grotonsdchurches.com

Devozine is available at the Groton Church on the table at the back of the sanctuary for our teens.



Lost and Found

This pin was found in the Groton Church. If it is yours, you can claim it by talking to Pastor Piehl or Kay Brandt.

Groton UMYF
Meets April 7th
6:30 p.m.
Supper Provided
Join Us!



You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this? "Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America." "No, not that; read further." "One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!"

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful!

And, God is patient....

World Day of Prayer
Friday
March 5th 2:00 p.m.

Groton Service
Presbyterian Church

Conde Service
United Methodist Church



March Church Happenings



-) **March 5**—World Day of Prayer
-) **March 7**—10:00 Adult Lenten Study and Brunch in Conde
-) **March 10**—6:30 Soup and Sandwich served in Groton by the Ad Council followed at 7:00 by a short worship service
-) **March 10**—11:00 a.m. Conde UMW Shepherdess Guest
-) **March 10**—7:30 Groton Ad Council
-) **March 14**—10:00 Adult Lenten Study in Conde
-) **March 14**—Potluck Sunday in Groton
-) **March 14**—Beverly Healthcare Coffee & Service provided by Groton Work Committee
-) **March 17**—6:30 Soup and Sandwich served in Groton by UMW followed at 7:00 by a short worship service
-) **March 17**—7:00 Conde Ad Council
-) **March 17**—7:30 Groton UMW
-) **March 21**—10:00 Adult Lent Study in Conde
-) **March 21**—One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
-) **March 24**—6:30 Soup and Sandwich served in Groton by the Music and Worship Committee followed at 7:00 by a short worship service
-) **March 28**—10:00 Adult Lenten Study in Conde
-) **March 28**—Newsletter Items Due
-) **March 31**—6:30 Soup and Sandwich served in Groton by the Sunday School followed at 7:00 by a short worship service