

open hearts
open minds
open doors



UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

Groton/Conde Parishes

December 2005

Come, Lord Jesus
O come, O come, Emmanuel

The beauty of Christmas is somehow lost as a blizzard rages outside. The mailbox has ice fingers hanging down and the pines are covered with frost. We are tucked inside with the quiet joy of waiting for the Christ Child to come once again into our hearts. The gentle warmth of our Savior, born for a mission, to die for us all, to redeem us to God's side and share eternity with humankind. What a message we have to share.

It is joyous to see the bustle of the church prepare it's "decorated self" for the world to see, but that is only one portion of all there is. We have to prepare our hearts and minds too to welcome Christ into our lives.

Your pastor is a valuable player in the life of the church. A pastor is to have leadership stamina, be a giver, supporter, who is faithful, loyal, a gifted person, a worker, but THE most valuable players are those who have learned to use prayer. In prayer we not only acknowledge the blessings we have received, but the grace that comes from God into our lives. In prayer we find each other as well as God's presence. "When we pray—we pray, & when we pray God works!" C. H. Spurgeon "God sets his people to pray, something good will happen." Godly lead-

ers cannot win the battle alone. That is why I am asking us to find prayer partners amongst each other.

For to be in prayer with each other, can change the atmosphere of the entire church.

This Sunday we will be putting our names together and finding our prayer partners. When lay people come alongside of their pastor and leaders we find:

Godly leaders + prayer partners = Victory.

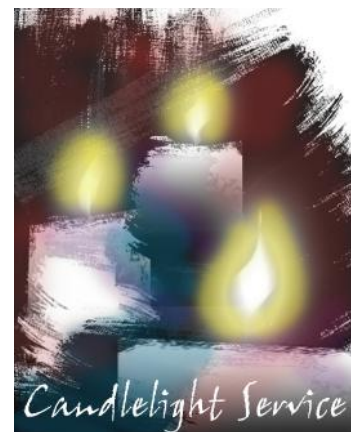
Prayer partners; share experiences, give love and support, keep up moral and Christian values, help with spiritual renewal, are a renewable resource, increase vision, and help to value another person. **ASK GOD TO GIVE YOU A PRAYER PARTNER.** Who is responsible for success of your pastor? All of us, read below.

"For I know that as you pray for me and as the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will all turn out for my deliverance." Daniel 1:19

May the joy of the Christ Child find you in exceedingly good heart, full of the goodness of God spilling out into the hearts of man. Peace and Joy, Pastor Jan



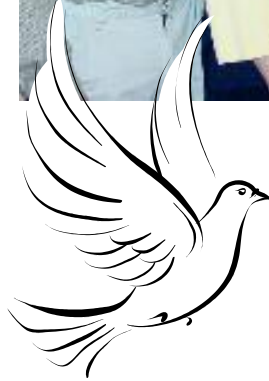
Conde 5:00 PM
Groton 7:00 PM





Baptism Blessings

Kaycee Mae Schulte
Daughter of
John and Donna Schulte
Granddaughter of
Russell and Marjorie Townsend



**The Worship Carriage has
changed for the
Advent Season.**

Empty Printer Cartridges Help Mission Program

Pierre Area Community Ministries is requesting church congregations to save used printer cartridges (any brand) to benefit Southeast Community Center. They will receive \$2 per cartridge when turned in to Caboodle Cartridge in Pierre. Each Cartridge needs

to be placed in a small plastic Ziploc (sealed) bag as soon as it is removed from the printer. A collection container will be marked in the fellowship hall.



Thank You

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who brought baked goods, crafts, and gift baskets for the Fall Men's Dinner. It was once again a success! With Sincere Thanks. Committee Co-Chairs, Kelli Hanson and Jolene Townsend



Help us Ketchup!

What are Apportionments?

-) Provides salary support when needed to assist ministers with special needs in our conference.
-) Funding to move pastors to new appointments.
-) Provides campus ministries to all North and South Dakota Universities and DWU.
-) Salaries and expenses of District Superintendents.
-) Helps churches to unify and find support to recruit and educate future pastors and bishops.
-) Provides camping and Christian growth for all ages.
-) To give United Methodists a presence in ecumenical organizations.
-) Leadership resources for laity and pastors through the conference library.
-) Publication of Dakotas connection, Living Waters, and Conference Websites, and all other communication links.
-) Pensions, healthcare, and benefits for active and all retired clergy and spouses of the Dakotas conference.
-) Support World Service fund to strengthen and grow the church with spiritual commitment in Bible studies and through evangelism.
-) Administrative work of conference and general church.



December Celebrations!

Conde

Birthday's

Dec 1	Joyce Haskell
Dec 9	Millie Buising Tony
Bruckner	
Dec 10	Skyler Bonn
Dec 20	Rex Taylor
Dec 26	Kari Smith Darlene
Meyer	
Dec 28	Dolores Grimes
Dec 31	Jan Price

Anniversaries

Dec 3	Mr & Mrs Greg
Bonn	

Groton

Birthday's

1st	Art Padfield Charles Strom
2nd	Andrea Snoozy-Bahr Meri Erickson
3rd	Anthony Sippel
4th	Darlys Kampa
6th	Mary Swisher
7th	Morgan McNickle
9th	Ann Rix Brooklyn Gilbert
13th	Gene Cassels

Melissa Gilbert

14th	Ben Peterson
15th	Marjae Schinkel

Melissa Gilbert

16th	Dan Schinkel
17th	Alan Townsend
18th	Dylan Hanson Jasper Pray

19th	Cal Hayenga
22nd	John Padfield
23rd	Perry Ptacek
26th	Misty Furman
27th	Jane Johnson
31st	Pastor Jan Price

Anniversaries

11th	David & Connie Nilsson
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January 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Groton January Family Committee

Groton UMW Christmas Luncheon

Twila Ruden

Joyce & Allen Walter

Kay & Ben Brandt, Angela

Crystal & Doug Sippel

JoAnn & Richard Krueger

Ruby & Eugene Luce

Michelle & Chuck Padfield

Marjorie & Russell Townsend

Darlys Kampa

Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt

Pat Dahlquist

Rodney Boehmer

Gene Cassels

Todd Thurston

Sue Kubal

Extra Responsibilities

-) January 1st - white altar cloths and communion banners for this day only
-) January 15th - green altar cloths
-) Shovel snow from doorways before church
-) Take down Christmas Decorations with all church helping
-) Clean Sanctuary
-) Potluck on 2nd Sunday (organize & provide hot dishes)

Honorary Members

-) Earl & Jean Lowary
-) Ruby Fuller
-) Emery Sippel
-) Lorraine Bartz
-) Herron Smith
-) Doris Strom



December 21

12:30 pm Luncheon



Christmas Baskets

Bring 3 dozen cookies or candy to assemble Christmas Cookie Gifts for delivery in afternoon.

Hostesses: Jolene Townsend, Gloria Pharis, Twila Ruden, and Clare Brotherton

Program: "Christmas Coffee Celebrations" & "Delivering Gift Boxes of Treats"

Upcoming Events: Baby Layettes, Reading Program & Happy New Year!



Layette Kits

- 6 cloth diapers
- 2 t-shirts or onesies
- 2 baby washcloths
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 2 diaper pins

1 sweater or sweatshirt (must have a front opening with buttons or snaps to close OR a tie at the top)

2 receiving blankets

Articles of clothing preferred 6-9 months in size.

Knit and Crochet sweater patterns available from the Church Office or on the web site.

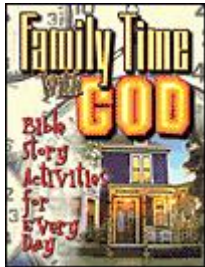








UMW Reading Program



Family Time with God! Bible Activities for Every Day (Nurturing for Community 2005 - Red) If you are looking for a way to share your faith with your children, Family Time With God can help. Each day a simple activity underlines the lessons learned from reading about God's people. Larger than average print.



Queen Anne's Lace Blooms Again (Spiritual Growth 2004 - Green) Mary Jane Hartman continues to delight and inspire readers in her second book Queen Anne's Lace Blooms Again. In her own unique way, Hartman shares the beauty of nature and everyday

life through thoughtful reflections and Christian insight. Each short devotional is an opportunity for readers to stop and reflect on the presence of God in the most unlikely places—even a weed. Individuals will find the book an excellent source for daily devotions, and leaders of church groups, garden clubs, and other organizations will enjoy its timeless simplicity.

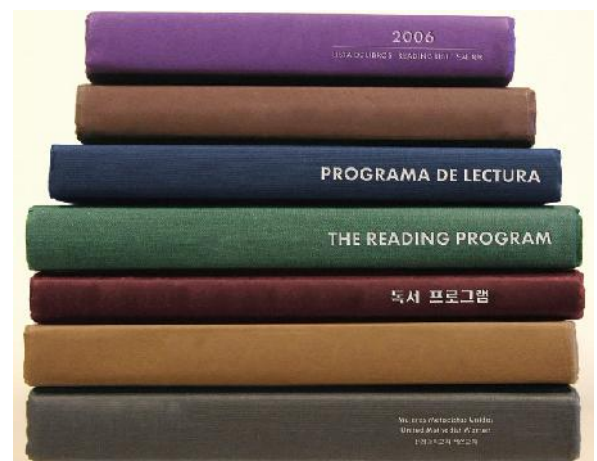


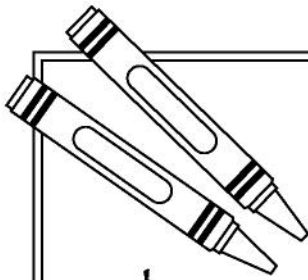
A Country of Strangers (Social Action 2001 - Yellow) This man obviously put so much work and research into this book that it covers every subject you could think of in regards to the racial issues. The book is a little long with personal accounts, but I read them all. I bought several of copies of this book after I read it, so I could

give it to some people I knew would get much out of it. This is a thorough and often melancholy description of race relations in the United States....Most important, Shipler tells us what blacks think about whites, and how they are struggling to define their position.



Dancing in Winter: Reflections of a Missionary to the United States (Education in Mission 2003 - Blue) Essays by a Burmese missionary to the U.S. relate stories of the women of Burma (Myanmar) and their struggle for identity. While the book opens windows on the spirit moving in these women, it also speaks to the need of Western Christians to experience the Holy Spirit.



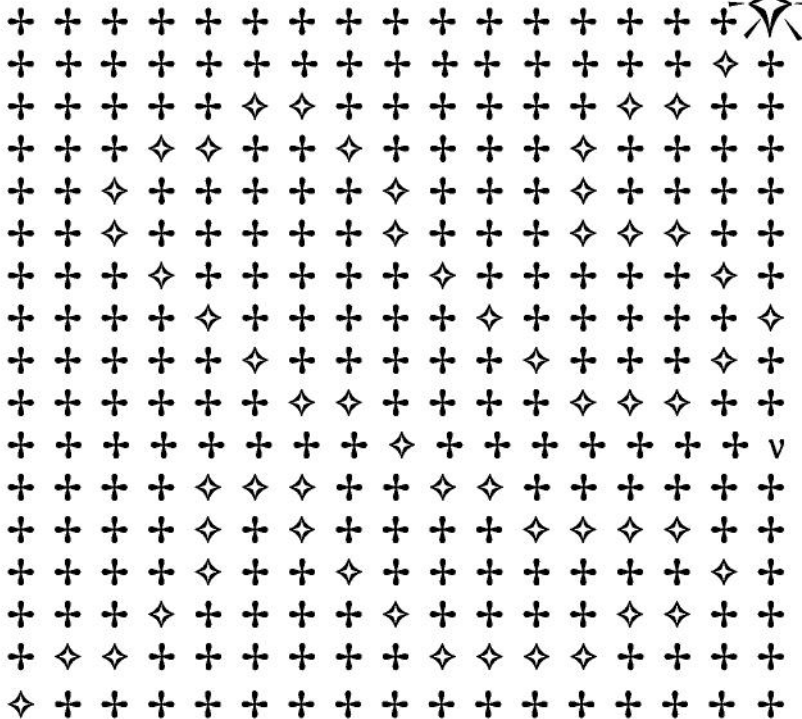


Just for KIDS

The Star that Led to the King

The wise men from the East saw a bright star. They followed it to the place where the child who would be King of the Jews was born. When they went inside, they saw baby Jesus with His mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him. (Read Matthew 2:1-11.)

Help the wise men follow the star ✧ path that leads to baby Jesus.



START

Use the code to fill in the blanks and find out what gifts the wise men brought.

♥ = A ♣ = E † = I ☉ = O * = Y

G _ LD FR _ NK _ NC _ NS _ M _ RRH

Answers: GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, MYRRH



December 7th
Conde UMYF 7pm
supper and discussion



Children's
Christmas Program

Sunday School Programs
December 18th

Conde
During 11 am
Worship Service

Groton
5pm with UMYF Supper



Happy Birthday,
Jesus!



Xmas?

Every year during Advent, we generally see a sign reading "Merry Xmas!" Some Christians have been offended by the word Xmas. They say the letter X should not be substituted for Christ as though it were a modern insult to our Lord.

However, it really isn't. Xmas has ancient origins. The letter X in Greek — the original language of the New Testament — is the first letter of the word Xristos, which translated into English is the word Christ.

So X is simply an abbreviation for the word Christ. And the letters mas are an abbreviation of the word mass. Therefore, Xmas really means Christ mass or Christ worship.

President Jolene Townsend welcomed 15 members to the November meeting of the Groton unit of United Methodist Women Wednesday afternoon at the church.

An Advent litany was presented by the officers, Jolene, Gloria Pharis, Twila Ruden and Clare Brotherton. The four purple Advent candles and Christmas Eve/Day white candle were lit as meanings for each one were given and hymns were sung. Yvonne Lange accompanied the hymn singing on the piano.

The treasurer gave the financial report and the Nov. 13 Bazaar report. A goody box was sent to Garrett Heitmann whose birthday was November 19. The money realized from the sale of the theme baskets will be used toward the improvements (carpet etc.) in the Sunday School rooms. Seventeen aprons were purchased for workers to wear at the dinner. Kay Brandt embroidered the United Methodist

logo and church name on each of the aprons.

The prayer vigil for children of the world will be on November 23 from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. Each member was assigned two minutes for prayer during that time.

A monetary donation was made to the Youth Center. The 2006 proposed budget was accepted.

Officers for 2006 were elected. They will be installed during a Sunday morning worship service in January.

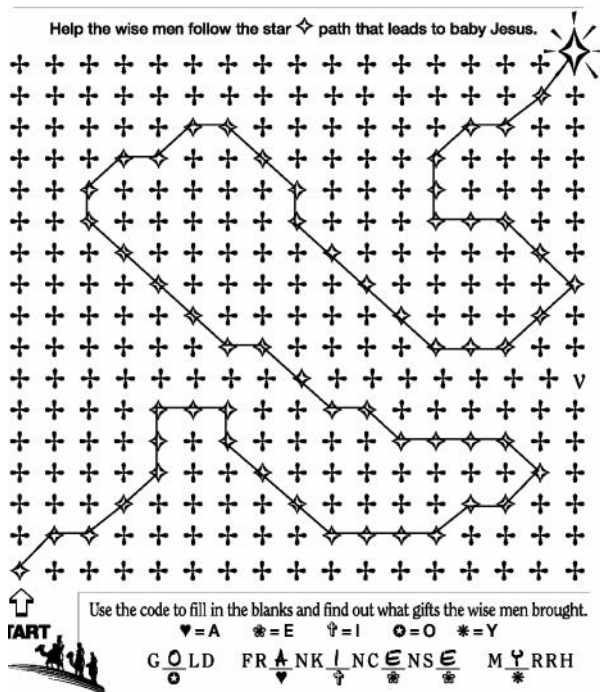
Officers will prepare and serve the luncheon at the December meeting of the group on Dec. 21. Members are asked to bring cookies or candy wrapped or placed in a snack bag for placing in cans to be delivered that afternoon to special people.

Caralee Hetimann and Doris Zoellner served pumpkin pie and coffee for lunch.

Groton UMW Minutes - Nov

Groton Prayer Chain

Marlys Rodman
397-4570
Jean Lowary
397-8228
Audrey Thurston
397-8493
Gert Ruden
397-8211
Pat Dahlquist
397-2616
Florann Norris
397-2638
Mary Swisher
397-8259
Gloria Pharis
397-2375
Mary Jane Schott
397-8588





Christmas prayer

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!



The church with the low door

The Church of the Nativity is traditionally considered the site of Christ's birth. Christian pilgrims who have visited it can tell you that the door into the church is quite low. It is so low that only short people can enter standing up; tall people have to duck their heads and shoulders to enter. The reason? Well, the old church has had to withstand many insults over hundreds of years. For example, invading soldiers carrying swords and spears sometimes rode their horses into the sanctuary.

The original doorway was made lower and smaller to keep the horses out and to remind the soldiers that they were treading on holy ground. The low place of entry prompts one to remember that humility and reverence should be the stance of everyone who is in the presence of the holy.



What's in a name?

Jesus is such a special name that it's found some 909 times in the books of the New Testament. What does the name Jesus mean?

It means Jehovah saves. Jehovah is an ancient Jewish name that refers to God. Christians believe that God saves us

through Christ.

It's important to know that Jesus' last name was not Christ. He was Jesus, son of Joseph, whom we believe was the Christ (the Greek word for the Hebrew word Messiah). He was Jesus the Christ.





Groton Ad Council Minutes - Nov

Nine members were present on Nov 9th to discuss the following agenda items:

UMYF: Have had two supper meetings with 22 in attendance at the first meeting and 15 at the second meeting. Members have been rehearsing for our contemporary service.

FINANCE: We should be able to pay the June & July apportionments.

MEMORIAL: A book of memorial ideas will be put together and made available to families wishing to make memorial donations.

WELCOME BROCHURES: A sample of a brochure was shown and approved by the board and will be printed at the church as needed.

WELCOME COMMITTEE: Pastor Jan suggested that we form such a committee as statistics show that unless people are personally greeted seven times they don't feel welcome in a

**Enriching Spiritual
Lives through Christ.**

Groton Stewardship Report November 2005

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,691

Needed Weekly to Meet
Church Needs
\$1,874

Average Weekly
Attendance
88

Total Building Fund
Offerings
\$40

Total Roof Fund
Offerings for Month
\$870



**Christian Radio Station
with great praise music for
the whole family.**

**K-LOVE 94.9 FM
Commercial FREE music
for everyone!**

The blessedness of receiving

St. Paul reminded some visiting friends from Ephesus that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35, NRSV). Apparently, Jesus did not say that receiving was not blessed. He just said the greater blessing comes from giving. Jesus was one who both gave and received.

Jesus was often the recipient of gifts, invitations and acts of kindness. He enjoyed attending weddings, being an overnight guest in someone's home or being a guest for a meal. He allowed Mary to anoint his feet with costly perfume, and did not object when she wiped his feet with her hair (John 12:2-3, NRSV). He even asked for and received a drink of water from the Samaritan woman, although Jews and Samaritans usually had nothing to do with one another (John 4:7, NRSV).

The bottom line is this: Be a giver, but also be a grateful and happy receiver. Giving and receiving both bring blessings. We have a good example of both in the One whom we follow and serve.



Conde UMW Meeting Minutes

The November 16th meeting of the Conde UMW convened at 2:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

Pat Siefken gave the last lesson, of three, on prayer.

Betty Taylor conducted the meeting in the absence of Pres. Donna Hearnen. Five members and one visitor answered roll call. Devotions were given by Patty Knoll. A get-well card was sent to Richard Worlie.

We will be getting informa-

tion from the Good Samaritan Center, Redfield, so that gifts for a needy family will be bought and wrapped for their Christmas.

There is a program planning meetings scheduled for Nov 30 at 12:30.

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Sat., Nov 26 at 9:30.

Gifts of caps, gloves, mittens, and sweat suits will be bought for the Conde School for

kids to use if they get wet during play. The teachers will also be remembered.

Our next meeting will be Dec 7th at 11:00 Donna Walter will give the Christmas lesson and hostesses for the noon luncheon are Lois Trapp, Betty Taylor, and Donna Hearnen.

The meeting was closed with everyone joining in the Mizpah Benediction. Patty Knoll served a delicious lunch. - Betty

Conde UMW December Meeting

December 7th at 11:00 am at the church is our next UMW meeting. The lesson leads the meeting for Advent/Christmas "We are not Alone" led by Betty Taylor. A noon lunch will be served by Lois Trapp, Donna Hearnen, and Betty Taylor. This will be followed by the business meeting with Donna Hearnen presiding. All are invited to come,

even if you are not considered a member. This is a special meeting for you.

At the November meeting it was decided to bring winter gloves, mittens, winter clothing for the school children. As they are outside at recess time, they need clean dry clothing to replace the wet clothes. These are for the local school children in Conde.

Baskets for Redfield Center

Gifts may include paper articles or items of canned and packaged food. Please bring these as soon as possible. The basket is near the door as you enter the church

Christmas Happenings

December 18 - The Sunday School will present their program during the 11:00 worship service. Please be sure to be with us on this special morning.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at 5:00 pm. Join Us!

December 25 - Christmas Day there will be worship at 11:00 as usual with a special Christmas presentation. We will also be joining in the



Poinsettias

For those who would like to purchase poinsettias for the church for this Christmas season, please give your money to Donna Walter, who is in charge of this purchase. If you would like to buy flowers as a memorial, please tell Donna. They may also be purchased by your family if you would like that noted. Also, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall that you may use. Donna will use that as a guideline for the purchases.



Conde Ad Council Minutes - Nov

The Conde Administrative Council met after church services on Sunday, November 20. The following persons were present: Norm & Cindy Smith, Loren & Pat Siefken, Marion & Betty Jensen, Darrel & Joyce Haskell, Betty Taylor, Jane Worlie, Donna Hearnen, and Pastor Jan Price.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES: There is still a need for a general church cleaning, but it was decided to proceed with the carpet cleaning. Marian Jensen has a safe that will possibly work to store the record books.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The Sunday School children are working on a Christmas program which will be held on Sunday morning, December 18. The UMYF has met once, and there were six young people who attended. Marsha Murphy and Betty Geist were pleased with the interest and enthusiasm that was shown. The Sunday School children are still collecting aluminum cans. The tabs can be removed, and these are returned to McDonalds to fund maintenance of a Ronald McDonald House. Money from the sale of the cans will be used for various mission projects. Two that will receive attention right now are Shoe Box Christmas for Spirit Lake Reservation and gifts for the Angel Christmas Tree. The children will be lighting candles for Sunday morning worship and also the Advent Candles.

MISSION COMMITTEE: During December, collection of items or cash for the UMCOR Layette Kits will continue. Hopefully the second month of collections will be more productive than November. Rich Jost who was here on October 30 to explain the solar oven made a request for measuring cups and spoons. Each quantity should be separate container: example - a cup measure, 1/2 cup, etc. Do not buy a cup with markings for 1/2 & 1/4.

UMW: There was a meeting on Wednesday, November 16 and the next meeting will be at 11:00 December 7 (first Wed). Following the program, there will be a noon lunch. All church women are invited to attend this special Christmas fellowship. The unit will buy gifts for a family in the Spink county area. The Good Samaritan Center in Redfield will supply sizes

and wants for 4-6 people. The ladies are also going to purchase some items like mittens, caps, and socks for the Conde Elementary students. These things go in a box to be used when a child forgets or loses these essentials which are needed to go outside for recess.

STEWARDSHIP: Letters will be sent out along with pledge cards. This can be a time of commitment for 2006 and a time to catch up on your "giving" for 2005.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, Nov 26 9:30 am - Putting up Christmas Tree and other decorating. Poinsettias will be part of the decorations, and anyone wishing to pay for one or more should contact Donna Walter as she will be buying them.

Sunday, Nov 27, after church services - Advent Study (to continue each Sunday during Advent)

Sunday, Dec 4 - receiving new members into the church.

Sunday, Dec 11, 2:00-3:00 in Groton - "Blue Christmas" is a special service for persons who have lost a loved one in the past two years. This is for both Groton and Conde Congregations.

Sunday, Dec 18 - 11:00 Sunday School Program (There will be sacks of candy for the children compliments of an anonymous donor.)

Sat, Dec 24, 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service.

No December Administrative Council meeting. January meeting on 18th at 7:00 pm.

**The Conde United
Methodist Church
is seeking to
satisfy the
spiritual and
physical needs of
all.**



December 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



New Year - 2006
Service Times Change!
 Conde Church Service
 will be at 9 am.
 Groton Church Service
 will be at 11 am.

Our Church Happenings

- Dec 4 Groton Receiving New Member*
- Dec 6 PPR in Conde 7:30 pm (bring forms that were mailed to you)*
- Dec 7 Conde UMW Meeting 11 am*
- Dec 7 Conde UMYF 7pm supper and discussion*
- Dec 11 Groton Potluck Sunday*
"Blue Christmas" 2:00-3:00 in Groton for both parishes -
special ser vice for those who have lost loved ones
- Dec 14 Groton Finance Meeting 7 pm*
Groton Ad Council 8 pm
- Dec 18 Conde Sunday School Program during church*
Groton Sunday School Program 5:00 pm with UMYF Supper
- Dec 21 Groton UMW Christmas Luncheon 12:30pm (bring goodies)*
- Dec 24 Service Conde-5:00pm & Groton - 7:00 pm*
- Dec 25 Church Services at normal time. Join Us!*
- Advent Exploration Bible Study** each Sunday at Conde starting at 12:45 following the potluck dinner (bring a dish to pass).
- Women's Bible Study** each Tuesday 10 am in Groton with an Advent Series followed by **Prayer Group** at 11:00 am.