

# United Methodist Messenger

[www.grotonsdchurches.com](http://www.grotonsdchurches.com)



## AN ORDINARY DONKEY

### In gratitude of God's love

Dear God,  
Jesus taught us the depth of  
your love, a love that he dem-  
onstrated:

A love that accepts others, all  
others, not just some;  
A love that respects others,  
all others, not just some;  
A love that helps others, all  
others, not just some;  
A love that forgives others,  
not just some.

Thank you, God,  
For letting us see love in ac-  
tion,  
Feel the presence of love in  
the depths of our being,  
Experience love in real time,  
Hear love spoken in words  
that resonate sincerity  
And provide comfort, love  
being lived,  
Love at its lovingest, the  
Cross.

Thank you, God, for Jesus, in  
whose name we pray.  
Amen.

—Dr. Mahlon Miller

I don't have an origi-  
nal source for this little par-  
able, but it is interesting espe-  
cially during the soon coming  
Holy Week and it illustrates well the  
concept of being a "Christ-bearer."

The donkey awakened, his  
mind still savoring the afterglow of  
the most exciting day of his life.  
Never before had he felt such a rush  
of pleasure and pride.

He walked into town and  
found a group of people by the well.  
"I'll show myself to them," he  
thought.

But they didn't notice him.  
They went on drawing their water  
and paid him no mind.

"Throw your garments  
down," he said crossly. "Don't you  
know who I am?"

They just looked at him in  
amazement. Someone slapped him  
across the tail and ordered him to  
move on.

"Miserable heathens!" he  
muttered to himself. "I'll just go to  
the market where the good people  
are. They will remember me."

But the same thing happened  
again. No one paid any attention to  
the donkey as he strutted down the  
main street in front of the market-  
place.

"The palm branches! Where  
are the palm branches!" he shouted.  
"Yesterday, you threw palm  
branches!"

Hurt and confused, the don-  
key returned home to his mother.

"Foolish child," she said gen-  
tly. "Don't you realize that without  
him, you are just an ordinary don-  
key?"

Just like the donkey who car-  
ried Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm  
Sunday, we are most fulfilled when  
we are in the service of Jesus Christ.  
Without him all our best efforts are  
like "a filthy cloth" (Isaiah 64:6) and  
amount to nothing. When we lift up  
Christ, however, we are no longer  
ordinary people but key players in  
God's plan to redeem the world.

Have a Blessed Palm Sunday  
and Easter!

Peace



## CONGRATULATIONS

Ashley Faith, was born on Sat., Feb. 12 at 11:44 a.m. in Sioux Falls at Sioux Valley Hospital to the parents of Perry and Laura Ptacek. She weighed 5 lbs. 5 oz. and was 18 1/2" long.



## RECIPE SHARING - PAT DAHLQUIST

### Swedish Pineapple Cake

2 Cups White Sugar  
1-20 oz can crushed pineapple with juice  
1 tsp soda  
1 tsp vanilla  
2 eggs (optional)  
2 cups flour  
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Mix by hand and pour into 9X13 ungreased pan. Bake in 350 degree oven for 30-35 minutes - test for doneness.

### Icing

3/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 stick oleo  
1-8 oz pkg cream cheese  
Cream sugar, oleo, and cream cheese - add 1/2 cup chopped pecans. Spread on cake as soon as it comes out of the oven. Cool. Cover and refrigerate.

## History's darkest day and brightest day

A professor once asked a young man studying for the ministry what the cross of Christ meant to him. The student said, "Well, the cruel death of God's Son, Jesus, was the most soul-shocking event imaginable. What could have been more heartless and evil than the crucifixion of Christ, the most holy person who ever lived? That had to be the darkest day in human history.

"On the other hand, one has to consider what happened on the Sunday after his death on Friday. It is quite clear from eye-witness accounts that he arose from the dead and was recognized by his friends as the one they had called Lord. The Resurrection was such a soul-stirring and momentous event that the first Easter Sunday had to be the brightest and most joyous day in the history of the world."

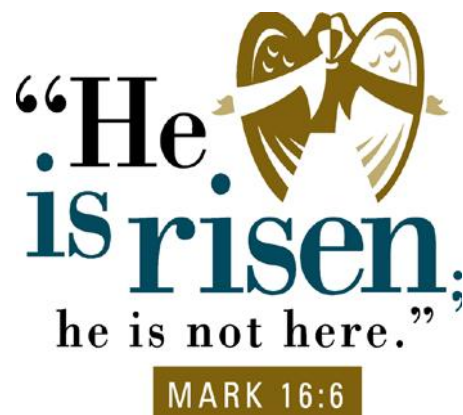
When he had finished, the professor said to him, "That is an excellent interpretation of the meaning of the cross. It was indeed a dark and hideous day when Christ was crucified. Yet that cross took on the symbol of salvation and hope when God raised Christ from the dead. Yes, Christians could say it was the brightest day in history."

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES

Barbara Wegner, who passed away Feb 5th in Sioux Falls. Her funeral was at the Groton Church on Feb 9th.

Dick Washnok, who passed away Feb 8th in Loveland, CO. His memorial service was at the Groton Church on Feb 19th.

Jim McKittrick, who passed away Feb 23 in Aberdeen. His funeral was at the Groton Church on Feb 28th.



## GROTON MAY BREAKFAST PLANNING

The annual May Breakfast is being planned for Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> with serving times of 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. The cost of the meal will be \$7.00. Gloria Pharis and Twila Ruden are general chairpersons. Other committee members are Jolene Townsend and Rose Tewksbury, kitchen; Anita Lowary, Elaine Wolken and Carna Atherton-Pray,

dining room; Ann Rix, program; and Twila Ruden and Kay Brandt, advertising. Clare Brotherton, 397-8177, and Jean Lowary, 397-8228, will take reservations. Arlis Doeden of Paints and More will give the program. If anyone is interested in helping please call anyone of the above listed to offer.

## Groton UMW Meeting

March 16  
2:00 PM

At the Groton Youth Center with program by Christi Swenson

Hostesses  
Mary Hayenga &  
Gert Ruden

## GROTON UMW MINUTES - FEB 16TH

Jolene Townsend, president, opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. on February 16, 2005. The PURPOSE was recited in unison. Mary Swisher read "The Memory Cup" from the book, "The Cup of Our Life" by Joyce Rupp for devotions.

The secretary read the minutes and the treasurer's financial report. The minutes were approved and the financial report accepted. The balance on hand is \$1202.86. Bills were allowed to Gert Ruden, \$37 for stamps and to Jolene Townsend, \$23.50 for membership pins and booklet.

### Committee Reports

Spiritual Growth—Doris Zoellner reported the World Day of Prayer is being planned for our church on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Gert Ruden and Twila Ruden volunteered to bring cookies and Mary volunteered to be a reader. On Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a practice and set-up time for the event. Mary Jane Schott is having therapy after surgery; Joyce Song has a broken hip and is in the Brookings Hospital; Alan's platelet count is up; Randy Padfield is scheduled for surgery February 23<sup>rd</sup>; the Washnok family will be kept in prayer as Dick died and his memorial service will be held at the church February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Sharon Alonzo, a district UMW officer died very suddenly. The Prayer Chain telephone list needs to be divided as the calls are not getting all the way through. Kay will change it.

Membership and Nurture Outreach—The membership number now stands at 92.

Social Action—Tobacco free kids

and helping women prisoners with justice are some of the conference issues. Applications for the Action Alert Network were available.

Education and Interpretation—Sewing kits are being worked on for the In-gathering. The Love Ribbon collection on UMW Sunday amounted to \$49. Grocery receipts, pop tabs and soup labels are still being collected.

Program Resources—Mary Swisher reported on the book "Forced to Grow" by Sindue Magona, saying it is a bonus book and is easy reading.

Nominations—None

Executive—Amy Krueger who was scheduled for the program, had to cancel due to other scheduling at Safe Harbor.

### OLD BUSINESS

The president thanked all who participated in the UMW Sunday service.

The soup and sandwich supper on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> will be served by UMW with Gloria Pharis and Sharon Wheeting chairpersons.

The Dakota Wesleyan Highlanders and Woodwind Ensemble will be in Groton for a concert on February 27<sup>th</sup>. A potluck supper needs to be planned for them and other church members, probably for about 50. Linda Thurston was appointed chairperson.

April 9<sup>th</sup> will be Focus Day and we need to plan and send an invitation to our shepherdess who is Deb Green from Redfield.

### NEW BUSINESS

The May Breakfast will be May 4<sup>th</sup>.



UMW Focus Days  
Saturday  
April 9th  
Redfield UMW



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**World Day of Prayer** is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- ) It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- ) It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome.
- ) It is a movement which brings together women of various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

Through **World Day of Prayer**, women around the world

☞ affirm their faith in Jesus Christ

☞ share their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs.

Through **World Day of Prayer**, women are encouraged

☞ to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation

☞ to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures

☞ to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them

☞ to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society.

Through **World Day of Prayer**, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.



### World Day of Prayer Services

#### Groton Service

March 4th - 2:00 pm

At Groton UMC

Written by the women of Poland

“Let Our Light Shine”

#### Conde Service

March 4th - 2:00 pm

At Conde UMC

## GROTON PHONE PRAYER CHAIN

Marlys Rodman  
4570

Jean Lowary  
397-8228

Audrey Thurston  
8493

Gert Ruden  
397-8211

Pat Dahlquist  
397-2616

Florann Norris  
397-2638

Mary Swisher  
397-8259

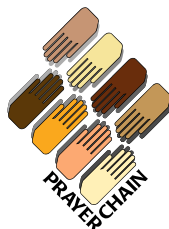
Gloria Pharis  
397-2375

Mary Jane Schott  
8588

397-

397-

397-



### \*Reminder\*

Bring your grocery receipts, Big G box tops, soup labels, and pop tabs to the next Groton UMW Meeting or leave them in the church kitchen

## Groton UMW Reading Program

### Book Suggestions

WITH FACES TO THE EVENING SUN by Richard L. Mogan. A pastor sensitively portrays daily thoughts, feelings and actions of the nursing home residents whom he visits regularly. Fifty-four reflections each include passages from the Bible, arresting commentary, and closing prayer thoughts.

MY ROSE by Geneva E. Bell. This is a mother's moving story of her gay son, Jeffery, as he lived with and eventually died of AIDS. It is a personal account of a mother's devastation and anger at God, but also of the deep faith that enabled her to come to terms with her loss.

Check these and many more books out from the church library.



## GROTON MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement is being looked at by the administrative council and it has been decided we need to shorten it. Please help us out by submitting a shortened mission statement suggestion to Kay Brandt for consideration at the next Ad Board Meeting.

"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 Stewardship Report Feb 2005

Average  
Wkly Giving  
\$1,648

Needed Weekly to  
Meet Church  
Needs  
\$1,874

Average Weekly  
Attendance  
80

Total Building  
Fund Offerings  
\$25

## GROTON AD BOARD MINUTES - FEB 2ND

Fifteen members were present on Feb. 2 to consider the following agenda items:

It was reported that two members have transferred their membership from our church making a total of 239 members.

Amy Krueger from Safe Harbor will be a guest speaker at the Feb. 16 UMW meeting.

The finance committee will meet on Feb. 17 at 7:30 pm to consider the fact that January giving was down and will not be sufficient to meet budget.

Lon Gellhaus reported that a new endowment fund has been set up and that

only the interest may be used on the church building.


New candelabras will be purchased through memorial monies received.

J Times, dates, and sponsors for Lenten Services were decided. We will also hold a Maundy Thursday service, March 24 in our church at 7:00 pm.

J Approval for locating a Good Will trailer in our parking lot the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May was given.

The next committee will be March 9, at 7:30 pm





**Just for KIDS**  
**God's Plan**

Jesus was resurrected from the dead. He appeared to his disciples, and he told them about the plan of God.

On the blanks in the first section, write the words that fit the definitions. Transfer those letters to the numbered lines in the second section. Read the Scripture verse. Unscramble the circled letters to finish the sentence at the bottom of the page.

- Water that falls from the sky
- Birds lay them in nests
- A newly hatched hen
- Bloom in the spring
- A caterpillar transformed
- Dirt mixed with water

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 32

"J \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , 'I \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ,  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
19 5 23 31 26 4 11 4 6  
24 16 30 29 F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
2 4 32 29 16 22 1 2 24 10 25 19  
23 16 30 29 G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
29 16 31 1 G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
(taken from John 20:17, NIV)

**Jesus has \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ !**

Jesus has risen!

"Jesus said, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Answer: rain, eggs, chick, flowers, butterfly, mud

**Conde Confirmation Class**  
**Each Sunday at 1:00 pm**



**Early Bird Camping Deadline!**

April 24th

Please let Kay Brandt or Rev Piehl know if you wish to Attend a Camp in the Groton Church



## Confirmation Schedule Groton

March 2  
March 16  
7:15

March 9  
No Confirmation

March 23  
March 30  
6:00  
Lunch Provided



## Groton UMYF Schedule

March 9 - 7:30  
Plan Easter Sunrise Service

March 26  
Setup for Sunrise Service and  
Breakfast - Hide Easter Eggs

March 27  
Easter Sunrise Service and  
Breakfast @ 7:30  
am. Please be at  
church by 7 am



## EASTER LILIES - CONDE

For Easter Sunday, March 27, we would like to grace the altar with Easter lilies. If you would like to contribute, and remember someone very important to you; please leave your contributions with Donna Walter or Betty Taylor, along with your name or names. These will be printed in the bulletin or newsletter. If you would make your contribution by Palm Sunday, this would be appreciated. Thank you for your help in this living memorial.

## CONDE UMW MEETING

March 16: United Methodist Women will meet in their general meeting at 11:00 AM in the church. Betty Taylor will present the Easter lesson "In God We Are One". Noon lunch will be served by Jane Worlie and Donna Hearnen, followed by the business meeting. There are noteworthy occasions to be coming this Spring - please come to help us.

## Lenten Bible Study

Sunday Mornings  
9:30-10:30 am

Starting February  
13th

Ending

Palm Sunday

Study is written by Rick  
Warren, author of  
"Purpose Driven Life"  
based on the movie "The  
Passion of Christ"

## CONDE UMW MINUTES - FEB 9TH

The Conde UMW met on February 9th at 9:00 after Ash Wednesday services. Patty Knoll gave the Call to Prayer & Self-Denial lesson on solidarity with justice which centered on the poverty and poor in our communities. It stressed the inequality for women and children, the differences in wages and jobs.

The business meeting was called to order by Vice-President, Betty Taylor. Thinking of You cards were sent to Bill Morton, Alice Van Hatten, and Alan Townsend. A sympathy card to Darlene Meyer.

Patty Knoll will be in charge of the World Day of Prayer service on March 4th at 2:00. The Altar Society will be our guests.

There will be a potluck dinner after church on February 27th when the Dakota Wesleyan Choir will be

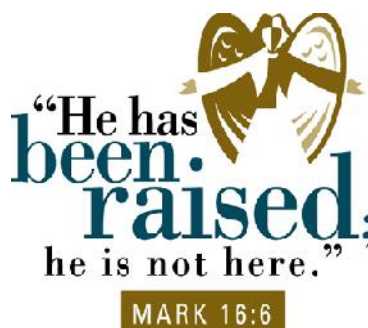
in church.

Pat received a thank you from the Conde School Teachers for the gift baskets Pat had delivered to them.

There will be a Lenten Study on Sunday mornings at 9:30.

The next meeting will be March 16th at 11:00. Betty Taylor will give the Easter lesson. Donna Hearnen and Jane Worlie will be in charge of the noon luncheon.

The meeting was adjourned



**The Conde United  
Methodist Church**

**is seeking to  
satisfy the  
spiritual and  
physical needs of  
all.**



## DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY HIGHLANDERS AND WESLEYAN WOODLANDS CONCERT



DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



Performed in our church on the evening of Feb 26 and then again as part of our worship service on Feb 27th. We thank them for sharing their wonderful talents. A new piece, "Psalm 103" was part of the program. The work is composed by Paul Almjeld, DWU music professor and conductor. Fourteen students performed for us.

## GROTON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION LEADERS HONORED ON MARCH 20TH

The Groton United Methodist Women will be honoring the 2004-225 Christian Education Leaders of all ages and their assistants on Palm Sunday, March 20 during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. The UMW Unit will make a \$100.00 donation to Missions in their honor and will be given a thank-you note from the unit. Those being honored are:

Sunday School Superintendent; Gloria Pharis & Sharon Wheeting

Music: Fran Sippel, Carna Atherton- Pray, & Kami Lipp

Pre-School & Kindergarten; Mendy Jones & Samantha Zoellner

1st, 2nd, & 3rd; Marjae Schinkel & Fran Sippel

4th, 5th, & 6th; Brenda Madsen & Jody Sternhagen

Substitute Teachers; Melissa Gilbert, Christie Swenson, & Jolene Townsend

Acolyte Leader; Twila Ruden

Confirmation Leaders; Meri Erickson & Rev. Grant Piehl

UMYF Leaders; Kellie & Lars Hanson and Meri & John Erickson

Adult Education; Carna Atherton-Pray, Lorraine Bartz & Mary Hayenga

Bible School Coordinator; Brenda Madsen  
Christmas Program Coordinator; Kelli Hanson, Brenda Madsen & Fran Sippel

Education Committee Members; Meri Erickson, Sharon Wheeting, Gloria

Pharis, Lance Hawkins, Kami Lipp, Jane Johnson, Brenda Madsen,

Marjae Schinkel Kelli Hanson & Mendy Jones

The Groton United Methodists Women along with the Groton Church Congregation wish to express to all these dedicated leaders a big "Thank You", We are a body of believers, seeking to strengthen and build a church family that provides all



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

UMCOR brings relief when a catastrophe strikes. We rush to disaster areas all over the world with aid. But, along with food, clothing, shelter and medical help, we stay to assist survivors rebuild lives. That's what United Methodists do in response to God's love. From re-educating soldiers to feeding schoolchildren to establishing medical clinics in remote villages, we are hope for millions in nearly 100 of the poorest countries in the world. Once a year, during One Great Hour of Sharing, you can join

United Methodists worldwide by making a special offering to support this humanitarian aid. Please do your part by giving generously. Now, more than ever, the world needs you.

Every gift helps, but when you give all you can, your generosity is more meaningful. It is multiplied. It is a miracle. And it becomes enough. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

<http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor>



*"You are with me; your rod and your staff--they comfort me."  
Psalm 23:4b NRSV*

## GROTON CHURCH FAMILY COMMITTEE - APRIL

**Jane & Marc Johnson**  
**Elaine & Fred Wolken,**  
**Alana & Amber**

Jean & Vern Walter  
Vicki & Alan Strom  
Carolyn & Robert Snyder  
Clarence & Ida Hannon  
Kelli & Lars Hanson  
John Padfield  
Kevin Pharis  
Mary Jane Schott  
Anita & Gary Voss  
Lynette & Terry Furman, & Derick  
Barb & Jack Schmidt & Halley  
Diane Nissen  
Audrey & Clint Jacobson  
Loel Schott

**Honorary Members**  
Art & Audrey Padfield  
Marvel & Robert Johnson  
Norm & Audrey Thurston  
Clare & Bill Brotherton

**April Extra Responsibilities**  
J Clean the Fellowship Hall  
J Potluck 2nd Sunday  
J April 3, Hang Communion Banners for this Sunday only.



Check the Current  
Phone Prayer Chain  
Inside!

March 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		



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Groton/Conde Parishes

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## OUR CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- March 4 - World Day of Prayer 2:00 in both Groton and Conde  
March 6 - One Great Hour of Sharing  
March 8 - Conde Ad Board 7:00 pm  
March 9 - Groton Soup & Sand Supper at 6:00 short service at 7 pm  
**Groton Ad Board 7:30 pm**  
**UMYF Sunrise Service Planning - No Confirmation!**  
March 13 - Potluck in Conde and Groton  
March 16 - Conde UMW 11:00  
Groton UMW 2:00 at the Youth Center  
Groton Soup & Sand Supper at 6:00 a short service at 7 pm  
March 20 - Groton UMW Honor Christian Ed Leaders  
Palm Sunday  
March 24 - Groton Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm  
March 25 - Groton Community Good Friday Service  
at Catholic Church 12:00 noon  
Conde Good Friday Service 7:00 pm  
March 27 - Easter Sunday  
Groton Sunrise Service 7:30 and Church at 9:00  
Conde Sunrise Service 8:00 and Church at 11:00

