



The United Methodist Messenger

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™



Christ at work in us

greatly impacted a country to deal with this disaster on many levels. We have a million homeless people who have no jobs, no food, water, shelters as of yet and all of their worldly goods are gone. This will devastate many families that will never be able to recover.

left us alone, nor is this in anyway a payment for things done in the past, it is a natural disaster. God will continue to meet needs and not desires. So let us open our hearts and minds to allowing God to begin a good work through us to show God's love out into the world.

We have a huge opportunity to be God's hands, feet, arms and eyes into a hurting world. Let others see Christ at work in us. As we enjoy all the many times a day we experience goodness, whether it is in a meal, a warm blanket and bed at night, a shower, toothpaste, or a drink of water, think of those who have nothing. Then and only then will God reveal God's plan to us to share the "Good News" of hope, mercy, love, compassion and salvation to a million people. In His name, Pastor Jan



**Groton/Conde
Parishes**

September 2005

**Charge Conference
October 12th
at 7 pm
In Conde**

This is a celebration of what each committee has done to help bring in the "harvest". Whatever your committee has done for the past year, we will need a report of at least a paragraph or two or more (larger committees) of your action work. Submit to the office whenever you are ready, we will compose a booklet to share with the entire church. We should be proud to serve the Lord.

Dear Friends

This is a time of reflection and thankfulness. We thank God that tens of thousands of people were spared from Hurricane Katrina's path and domination over the landmasses of Louisiana and all the other states surrounding and the inland areas. As our prayers surround those who have made it "through the valley of the shadow", we also pray for those families and lives that have been lost due to this storm. It has been a tragedy beyond our human scope of understanding and comprehension. Our thoughts are tossed over the magnitude and the test before us as a nation to sort out the needs for survival. We will be

els. We have a million homeless people who have no jobs, no food, water, shelters as of yet and all of their worldly goods are gone. This will devastate many families that will never be able to recover.

Your task is to be in prayer each day with your family, at meals, and as you are alone. To allow the Holy Spirit to touch your mind in a special way and reveal ways that we can all become involved and ease this huge loss, the pain and the separation they all feel from the world. May God activate each of us, as we wait for directions from our conference, for the best ways to move toward helping others. God has never

Worship Carriage

A new addition to the church sanctuary has been hung above the choir loft. Symbols in the center will be changed with the church seasons. The gentleman that creates these lives in MN. This is given in memory of Margarette Clocksene. Please stop by and take a closer look at this beautiful gift to our church.



With Deepest Sympathy

To the Family of Don
Clocksene who passed
away August 11th.



Thank You

Thank you to the Groton church for the gift certificate from Cokesbury. Thank you to the Conde Church for their gift of money. The farewell potluck dinners were enjoyed. Thank you all. We are getting settled and getting acquainted very quickly.

We wish you all the best in the days ahead and may you continue to grow in your Christian lives.

Love & Prayers,
Grant & Eileen Piehl
piehl@bektel.com

Missions Committee Meeting - Groton

Missions Committee Meeting on September 13th at 8:00 pm. Committee members are Jodi Sternhagen, Linda Thurston, Carol Strom, Joyce Walter, Crystal Sippel, Lars Hanson, and Committee Chairpersons Alan and Jolene

Townsend. Pastor Jan will assist us in the planning of the mission education and activities for the remainder of 2005. Please plan on attending!

Spiritual Gifts Workshop

Sept 11th

at 1:00 PM

An Opportunity for
you to discover your
spiritual gifts.

Please let Pastor Jan
know if you will be
attending. This is
also Potluck Sunday
in Groton so come
and join the
fellowship!

Groton - Anniversaries - September - Birthday's

1 - Perry & Laura Ptacek
 7 - Doug & Crystal Sippel
 7 - Jack & Barb Schmidt
 9 - Clint & Audrey Jacobson
 12 - Richard & Doris Zoellner
 14 - Gerald & Ann Rix
 17 - Alan & Vicki Strom
 18 - Vern & Jean Walter
 20 - Russell & Marjory Townsend



1 - TJ Johnson
 2 - Kylie Hawkins
 3 - Amanda Sippel
 7 - Alana Wolken
 7 - Sue Rock
 11 - Audrey Jacobson
 12 - Alexa Nilsson
 12 - Cliff Pray
 13 - Richard Krueger
 14 - Bob Wehde
 15 - Mason Madsen
 16 - Camille Sippel
 17 - Jackson Strom
 17 - Kyler Ell



20 - Marjory Townsend
 22 - Eunice Sperry
 22 - Madison McNickle
 23 - Carolyn Snyder
 24 - Jesse Overacker
 25 - Grant Rix
 25 - Jarrett Rix
 25 - Joey Padfield
 26 - Alan Strom
 29 - Adam Atherton
 29 - Ben Brandt
 29 - Bob Johnson
 29 - Ken Dinger
 30 - Dustin Dinger

Groton October Family Committee

Jane & Marc Johnson
Elaine & Fred Wolken, 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 Brotherton

October Extra Responsibilities

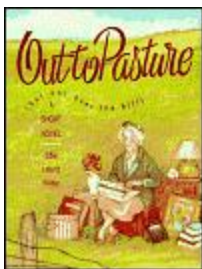
-) Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday
-) Care for Lawn as needed
-) Clean Storage Room off the Fellowship Hall
-) Potluck on 2nd Sunday



October 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					

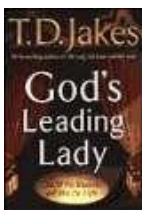
UMW Reading Program

Nurturing
for Community -
(Red) **"Out to
Pasture, over
the Hill? Older
but Wilder"**
(Large Print



2004) *Heartwarming and humorous* - Hattie's funny and down to earth descriptions of life at Fair Acres retirement home makes old age something to look forward to. At times I ★★★★★ laughed out loud. A very uplifting book.

Spiritual Growth -
(Green) **"God's
Leading Lady: Out
of the Shadows
and into the Light"**



(2005) Drawing on the stories of the women of the Bible, Bishop Jakes shows all women how they can move beyond their imperfections and lack of self-esteem, and step up to claim the success the Lord has promised them. Bishop Jakes gives contemporary relevance to the ageless truths and principles found in the Scriptures, and empowers every woman to break the bonds of her worldly limitations and stand strong in the light of who she is in God. He teaches that whether a woman is leading a family or a corporation, she has within her the ability to impact the world. By guiding them to

look inside themselves and toward the Lord, Bishop Jakes helps women find the power they need to.

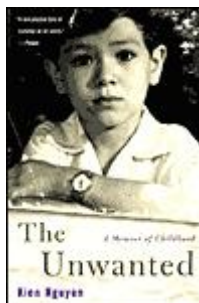
Social Action
- (Yellow)

**"Choosing Mercy:
A Mother of
Murder Victims
Pleads to the end
the Death Pen-
alty"** (2003) *FROM THE PUBLISHER*



When 18-year-old Shadow Clark shot and killed her son and daughter-in-law Toni Bosco's heart was crushed. In time her grief transformed into something else: forgiveness, and a conviction that to want one more unnatural death would be wrong. "I could say he must be punished for life, but I could not say, kill this killer." Toni chose mercy over vengeance -- and again, her life changed forever.

Education
for Mission -
(Blue) **"The Un-
wanted: A
Memoir of
Childhood"**



(2005) Book Review by Monique, a highschooler from South Dakota, April 22, 2005, ★★★★★

Mesmerizing Tale

When I first decided to read

this book, I was doing it only for credit in my accelerated english class, thinking it wouldn't take that long to read. (We are required to read two classic fictions and one nonfiction per semester in my english class.) I started this book on a Monday morning and finished it that same day. This story made me cry, which says something because I'm not a very emotional person. The story of Kien is mesmerizing and it opened my eyes to see that not everyone grows up in an ideal way. People



**UMW District
Annual Meeting in
Gettysburg, SD on
Sept 10th. Bring
quilts, any size,
and new teddy
bears.**



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
Doris Zoellner	397-
2417	



The United Methodist Church

is inviting all television viewers to join 'Journey' of Faith through national television commercials. Telling of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors", there will be various length ads through the month of September to help churches beginning their journey of faith for the coming church year. These ads will be aired on many channels as A&E, ABC Family Channel; Discovery; FOX News Channel; Hallmark; Home and Garden; History; Lifetime Movie; TNT; Weather channel, and WGN Superstation. Most of the airings will be on CNN and CNN Headline News, followed by the Weather Channel. Watch for them - they are very interesting. Be ready with an invitation. Your neighbors and friends are watching too!



Groton UMW Meeting - Sept 21

at 7:30 pm Wednesday evening. The Program is "Praying with the Bible" to be given by Chris Nyberg. Hostesses are Marjae Schinkel and Kim Weber. The Executive Committee will meet at 6:30 pm to discuss the 2006 date book, newsletter update, finalize the slate of officers, and the UMW Bazaar.

Other upcoming events include the Dakotas Conference Annual Meeting in Rapid City on October 8-9, UMW Bazaar on November 13th, School Kits/Reading Program, and the Ingathering in Mitchell on Sept 24th. Bring the world Thank Offering Boxes to the next meeting on October 19th.



Lefse Making

September 19 - 20

8:30 AM

Come and Help and
Learn

Join the Fun!



The "I'm So Busy" Epidemic

In theory most of us believe that life is all about love, but in practice, expressing love to our families and others close to us gets crowded out of our schedules. Responsibilities and activities steal time away from those who matter most.

A frustrated mom told me, "I want to spend more time with my kids, but how do I get it all done?" I answered, "You can't! None of us can 'get it all done.' You have to make tough choices." Almost everything else in your life will conspire against you when you're making these decisions. The key is to keep reminding yourself of the following three truths about love.

The Best Use of Life is Love

Love is not just a *good* part of your life; it's the *most important* part. God tells us, "Let love be your greatest aim." We talk about finding time for our children. But our time with our children is so precious and finite, we must make them our greatest priority. Relationships, not achievements, are what matter most in god's eyes. Life minus love

equals zero. In fact, the No. 1 destroyer of relationships is busyness.

The Best Expression of Love is Time

In today's economy, many mothers feel they must work outside the home, and I have many friends who do an amazing balancing act between family and work. But it's hard. There *are* ways to give kids the focused attention they crave, though.

If you work outside the home, take a day off to go on that school field trip with your child. Yes, it's tough to miss a workday if there's an important meeting or deadline--but find a way to do it. Your kids will feel special because Mom chose to come.

All mothers can do "just me and mom" days once - even twice - a month. And that doesn't mean just having your child in tow for errands, but making a conscious effort to choose an activity that's special.

Try a once-a-week family "fun night." For more than 25 years, every Monday night has been

fin night for our family. We take turns choosing what we'll do, like going to a bookstore together after dinner. It's a great weekly reconnection.

The Best Time to Love is Now

"Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action," God tells us. Don't just say you want to spend more quality time with your grandmother or your sister. *Do it.* Don't let the whisper of love be drowned out by the deafening drumbeat of responsibilities. Put your relationships high up on your "to do" list.

Why is now the best time to express love? Because you don't know how long you'll have the chance. Circumstances change. People die. Children grow up. The best use of life is love. The best expression of love is time. The best time to love is now.

Rick Warren is the best-selling author of "The Purpose Driven Life". For more ideas on making time for your family go to



Conde UMW Minutes

On August 17, the UMW met for a potluck noon salad luncheon. Our lesson was based on the largest public institution of our nation --- public education. A short history of the Methodist and UMW involvement in education was shared by Pat Siefken. Statistics about the nation's

children and the 195,426 children in South Dakota was also shared. Everyone agreed that every child needs and deserves a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start, and a moral start in life. This led to information about the 'No Child Left Behind' Act. Jodie Miles, 5

-6 grade teacher in the Conde School system, and Roger Youngman, CEO of the Conde Public School, told of the impact on the act for the students around the nation and in Conde. It was a very informative lesson!

Conde Ad Council August 17th Minutes

Met Wednesday, August 17 at 7:00 with six members present.

Treasurer's Report:

The income for July was \$4022.14 and expenses were \$3268.21, but \$1200 was drawn from the Savings Account in order to meet the expenses. This means that "Giving" is still behind. Every church member needs to assess the amount that they give to the Church and try to increase that amount. If we want a church in our community, we need to support it with gifts and presence.

Education Committee

Report: Sunday School will begin September 11th at 10:00. There are also plans being made for a Youth Group to meet once a month on a Wednesday evening. This will include grades 7-12. Marsha Murphy will be contacting parents of these students.

Mission Committee Re-

port: Money or items need to be collected for the School and Health Kits. The Ingathering is September 24th, and we do not have very many kits completed. Another project that Pastor Jan is encouraging and which also must be completed by this time is "Shoebox Christmas" (See Page 8 of this newsletter)

Health Kits Items are a hand towel (15X25 to 17X27), washcloth, comb, nail file or clip-

pers, soap, toothbrush, large toothpaste, and 6 Band-Aids.

School Kit Items - See Page 8 of this Newsletter.

NO used clothing will be collected at the Ingathering.

Trustees Report: At least two more tables need to be purchased, and the copy machine needs replacing. There is a possibility that some Memorial money can be used for these two items. Anyone wanting to donate something for these purchases should contact board chairman, Darrel Haskell or Board Secretary, Donna Hearnen.

The Fellowship Hall carpet needs cleaning. Trustees will get some estimates from Commercial Cleaners. Janitor Cindy Smith is also going to set up a Church Cleaning Day. Please be ready to participate in this project.

UMW Report: The District Meeting will be September 10th in Gettysburg. The ladies will be sewing the School Bags on Wednesday, Sept 7 at 7:00. This is also the regular meeting for Martha Circle. At this meeting, they will decide on a Study Book for the upcoming year.

Upcoming Events are: Sept 11 at 1 pm a Spiritual Gifts Workshop at Groton, Sept 18 Administrative council Meeting after church, and October 12th will be Charge Conference in

Conde News Notes



Saturday Sept 10
- UMW Central District Meeting at Gettysburg. There will be a car leaving from Conde. Please contact Donna Hearnen.

Sept 11 - Bibles for the third graders will be presented at our morning worship service. Sunday School also begins at 10:00 AM.

Sept 24 - at DWU in Mitchell, Ingathering for World Hunger. Are your kits ready? And how about the Shoebox Christmas boxes for the Spirit Lake Reservation? Also, your attendance is desired where you will see many lovely items auctioned with proceeds to be used for World Hunger, Heifer Project, among projects in the Dakotas.

There is a sign up sheet for ushers for the following year at Conde. We need your help. Thank you.

Thank you to all who have graced the altar of the Conde church with their floral offerings. They have been beautiful!

Preparing for Ingathering 2005

September 24th

Ingathering 2005 is already in the works. Mark your calendar now for this Sept. 24 event at Dakota Wesleyan University. Last year's event raised more than \$214,000 in cash and in-kind donations: 4,124 health kits, 3,326 school kits, 606 layettes, 505 sewing kits, 20 flood clean up kits.

Projects for this year's Ingathering:

-) Cash and auction receipts
-) Church World Service

Shoebox Christmas

You can help Children of the Harvest provide Christmas gifts for Children at Spirit Lake Nation Reservation in ND. The project is simple. Pack Christmas gifts that will fit into a shoebox for the following age groups: infant, toddler, ages 3-5; 6-8; 9-12; 13-17. Suggested items for inclusion are small toys, puzzles, school supplies, personal care items (tape lids onto containers), mittens, hats, socks, books, crayons, coloring books, etc...(items must be new).

School Kits are being Collected

August - September

-) 1 pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
-) 2 pads of spiral or loose-leaf 8 1/2 X 11 ruled paper
-) 1-30 cm ruler (12")
-) 1 hand held pencil sharpener
-) 6 new pencils unsharpened with erasers
-) 1 - 2 1/2" eraser
-) 12 sheets colored construction paper (varied colors)
-) 24 crayons in it's own box (Not a Box Split Up!)
-) 14 X 16 cloth bag with a Velcro closure - pattern can be found on our website or ask the office for a copy
-) Monetary Donations towards items to finish bags.

-) UMCOR Depot
-) Soup Labels.
-) Silent Auction.
-) Auction.
-) Shoebox Christmas 2005.

Donations may be dropped at DWU after noon Friday, Sept. 23.

Is this a project where you would like to be involved? Contact coordinators John and Cindy Srstka, 5604 Circle Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57106, 605-323-1315.



Wrap the bottom of the box separate from the top, then rubber band or tie the box together. Please mark the box for a girl or a boy and the age group, using a gift tag.

There are 3,000 children living on Spirit Lake Nation Reservation, with the vast majority 9 years old and younger. Many times, the Shoebox Christmas gift is the only holiday gift a child receives. Please bring your Shoebox Christmas donation to be taken to the Ingathering.



4th Sunday of each month Conde UMC are dedicating the lose change in the collection or specially marked checks or envelopes to the Advance for World Hunger.

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





Search for Wisdom

It's the start of a new school year! You'll learn many things and read many books. There's an important book in the Bible called the book of Proverbs. It tells us to learn about God and to search for wisdom.

Read Proverbs 2:1-5 (NIV) below, and then search the puzzle for the capital words. → ← ↓ ↑ ↘ ↗

"... if you **ACCEPT** my words and store up my **COMMANDS** within you, turning your **EAR** to **WISDOM** and applying your **HEART** to **UNDERSTANDING**, and if you call out for **INSIGHT** and cry aloud for understanding, and if you **LOOK** for it as for **SILVER** and **SEARCH** for it as for hidden **TREASURE**, then you will understand the fear of the **LORD** and find the **KNOWLEDGE** of **GOD**."

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

A long life assured

Do you ever feel like the person who exclaimed, "God put me on Earth to accomplish a certain number of things, and right now I'm so far behind, I'll live forever!"?



September 11th

First Day

of Sunday School

Potluck Sunday!

Join the Fun!



Contact Carna Atherton-Pray

Join Today!

Up to the task

When work — or life — gets difficult, we may think back to childhood. Things were a lot easier and our problems were much smaller when we were young. Or were they?

The challenges we faced back then may seem small and insignificant now, but they surely didn't feel that way at the time. Somehow we endured each challenge — and grew as a result.

The next time you face a difficulty, remember this: The task before us is no greater than the power behind us.

And there is power behind you. "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30).

One church on September 11, 2001



Dr. Jon Walton, pastor of New York City's First Presbyterian Church, wrote a brief account about September 11, 2001, and the effect that day's events had

on his church.

He recalled that the church had to be left open for the people who continually streamed in. Some came to escape the smoke that affected their lungs and their eyes. Some came hoping to find friends or relatives. Most came to pray, to seek solace and to try to sort out why the unspeakable death and destruction had happened.

Dr. Walton soon learned that the tragedy directly affected several families related to the church. The husband of the church secretary, a nephew of the receptionist, a church-school teacher, the father of a child in the nursery and a young mother of two children were all missing or known to be dead.

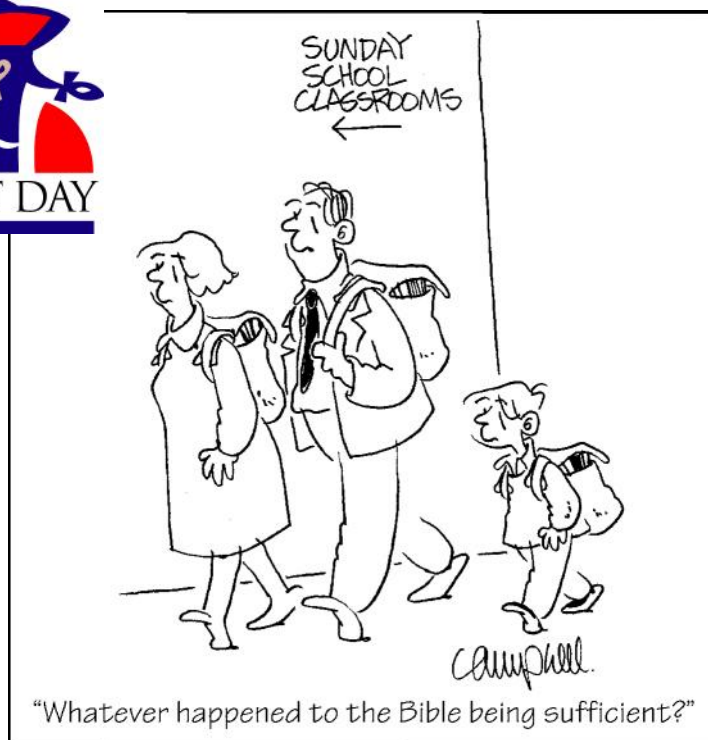
Dr. Walton said he now understands the opening words of the book of Lamentations, which refer to Jerusalem when the Babylonians invaded and destroyed the city: "How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations!" (Lamentations 1:1, NRSV).

—Adapted from Dr. Walton's brief statement titled "Lonely City"



Thank You to those who helped to clean and fix our church sign.

Marlys Rodman, Ben & Kay Brandt





Roof Update

Grote Bros are currently getting our new roof put on. If you haven't turned in the Roof Challenge Card please do so now.



Groton Ad Council Minutes - August 10th

Church School Superintendent: Availability of Sunday School rooms by Sept 11th was discussed. Some cleaning and moving of furniture will probably be necessary due to the roof project work.

Membership & Evangelism: It was reported that we have 248 members and also that the general council has outlined new methods for keeping membership records, which needs to be reviewed and discussed.

UMYF: Leaders for the group were discussed and it was still unclear as to why they would be for the coming year.

Music & Worship: There is a desire to activate the choir again. Also increasing the number of Sunday's to observe communion was discussed.

Trustees: Roof project work has begun and is progressing.

Cleaning & repair work at the parsonage has been completed.

Finance: Response to date to the roof project challenge cards was reviewed. Aug 15th was the deadline for cards to be returned. It was also mentioned that four months of apportionments has been paid.

Missions: Ladies are working on school kits. The idea of a Shoebox Christmas collection was also mentioned.

Men's Dinner: A replacement chairman for the fall Men's Dinner was discussed and will need to be found.

Administrative Report: Pastor Jan discussed how we might organize a visioning gathering as well as a spiritual gifts workshop.

Groton Stewardship Report August 2005

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,268

Needed Weekly to Meet
Church Needs
\$1,874

Average Weekly
Attendance
63

Total Building Fund
Offerings
\$65

Total Roof Fund
Offerings
\$42,877

Groton/Conde Parishes



September



Our Church Happenings

September 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	

Sept 5 - Labor Day - Church Office Closed

Sept 7 - Groton Nominations Committee Mtg 7 pm

Sept 7 - Martha Circle meets 7 pm

Sept 10 - UMW District Annual Meeting in Gettysburg

Sept 11 - Rally Sunday - Sunday School Begins!

Groton Potluck Sunday

Conde 3rd Graders Receive Bibles in Worship

Spiritual Gifts Workshop 1 pm

Patriot Day

Serve Lunch 2:30 at Beverly Healthcare

Sept 13 - Groton Missions Committee Mtg 8 pm

Sept 14 - Groton Ad Council 8 pm

Sept 18 - Conde Ad Council after Church

Sept 19 & 20th - Groton Lefse Making

Sept 21 - Groton UMW 7:30 pm

Groton UMW Executive Meeting 6:30 pm

Conde UMW Meeting 2:00 pm

Sept 24 - Ingathering at DWU

Oct 12 - Charge Conference at 7 pm in Conde.