



United Methodist Messenger

Groton / Conde Parishes

April 2006



Lent into Light

This month we move toward the culmination of the Christian year, for without Easter, without being “Easter People” as we are, we would have NO HOPE!

If Christ had not gone to the cross out of love for humankind and allowed to die for all of our sin, we would not have a way to find a life in eternity with our Creator, God.

“For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16 NIV

Some believe that hell is the absence of God. I cannot imagine a world where there is no forgiveness, no kindness, no second or third or fourth chances to begin again and to feel without doubt the love of “something or someone” beyond ourselves. Without a place to emit our human outpourings of our hearts through prayer, to ask for God to intercede for others, to ask for directions, guidance and patience while we learn our lessons is unimaginable. Without God, we would be at the push and pull of the world, ending in a life that would have no continuation or meaning. The hope of this world, is that we will have a place to do God’s work in heaven, whatever that will be. To be in the presence of the Most Holy and to know some of God’s knowledge finding answers to those unsettling, “head-scratching” things on earth that have always caused us to wonder. God makes perfect sense to look around our created world and know that it never could have happened without a plan, a design, and beyond our knowledge. I am convinced that God is real, available and

ready to have a daily relationship in each life that actively seeks God.

This pastor came from the pews, as did most pastors. My feet have been down some winding roads with dark, foreboding consequences, and if I had not been shielded and guided my entire life by an unseen “hand” led carefully, slowly to the feet of the One who controls my life I would never have found this wonderful God in God’s fullness.

I am grateful for many chances, to be nurtured, loved, cared for by many Christian people from all over the world who helped me to find the way to my Savior. I had to go to Christ in tears when my life would not allow me to move forward one more inch, without hurting those around me. I had to give up myself so that God could begin to make me clean from the inside out. [It was a messy place] and give me a new walk, a new smile, a new assurance that God is with me. I no longer fear death, for it will bring me to that joyful existence with God. How can life be any better than with hope, joy, assurance and a future full of light and love. Christ is all I think about, all I want to share and all that we celebrate more at this time of year.

My hope is that you too will be able to place your hand into the one that wants to hold yours for eternity. A God who is patiently waiting for us and once we give God our full hearts open wide—God’s love will begin a new life in you. This is the time to seek and you will find . . .

Pastor Jan

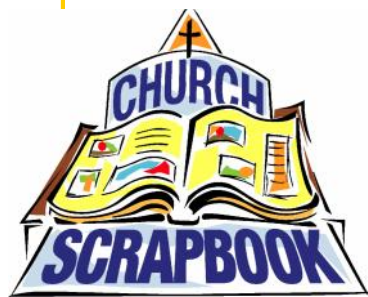


Schedule for Week

-) Maundy Thursday
Service at 7 PM in
Conde
-) Good Friday Prayer
Vigil from 8 AM - 8
PM in Conde
-) Ecumenical Good
Friday Service at noon
at the Groton UMC
-) Good Friday Service
at 7 PM in Groton
-) 7:30 Easter Sunrise
Service with Brunch in
both churches followed
by the regular morning
services.



The Light
of Christ



We need all Scrapbookers and Church History People to get together and organize our church history to be used for the 125th City Celebration this summer. An organizing meeting will be April 5th at 7:30 PM following Lenten Service. If interested and unable to attend, please contact Kay Brandt.

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	

Camp Sign Up!

It's time to think about camping! Registrations must be turned into the office by April 23rd! So, if you haven't picked up a camping book, do so today! I have heard already one person is going to guitar camp. If this interests you it is a great opportunity to car pool! Scholarships are available in both churches.

"There are few experiences that are more formational to one's faith development than attending Camp. I remember fondly my many times at camp - gathering around a camp fire; making new friends; worshiping and singing together; and experiencing the deepening of my own faith. I would hope that all children could have such an experience." says

Bishop Deb Kiesey

There are camps available for adults as well as families. Maybe this could be your summer vacation!

Need more information? Or need to turn in a camp form? In Groton you may contact Kay Brandt. I went as a counselor for MADD camp for 6 years and it is just wonderful to watch kids grow in faith and have fun at the same time!

Groton Scholarships are made available from the Mamie Johnson Endowment Fund. This was set up to use a small portion of the interest each year to send youth to camp. And it continues to grow every year to support this mission.

SIGN UP FOR CAMP TODAY!!



Groton April Birthday's

Apr 3	Marc Johnson
Apr 4	Mitchell Madsen
Apr 5	Irene Breitreutz
Apr 7	Reilly Ell
Apr 8	Lon Gellhaus
Apr 9	Margarett Hubbard
Apr 10	Martha Miller
	Pauline Luce
Apr 11	Mitchel Thurston
Apr 14	Reta Washnok
Apr 15	Wayne Wienk
Apr 16	Ralph Breitreutz
	Kristi Peterson

	Rodney Boehmer
Apr 18	Dylan Vogel
	Merrie Atherton
	Vern Walter
Apr 20	Ali Pasteur
Apr 28	Kevin Pharis
Apr 30	Melissa Furman

Anniversaries

Apr 16 Terry & Lynette Furman

Please Notify the Office if you find omissions or errors. Thank you. Kay





Native American Ministries Sunday April 30th

"I want to be the best minister I can be. The best way to do this is through theological education."

When lifelong United Methodist Chebon Kernell graduated from college, he decided to go to law school "to get into the political arena. I thought that would be my calling."

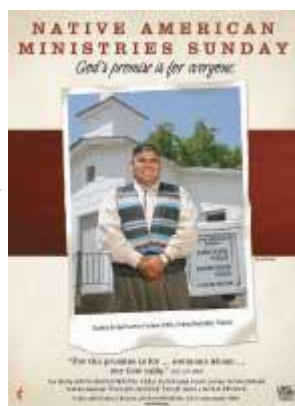
But apparently God had other ideas for the young man whose heritage is Seminole. At a church retreat in 2001, Chebon remembers, "I heard the calling to ordained ministry."

So he responded. Now a third-year student at Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Okla., and director of interpretation and programs for the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, Chebon has a clear life plan—"to serve the local church. Spiritually, it is such a blessing."

Of his student appointment, Pawnee Indian UMC, Chebon says, "It's fun to see the church grow, to see the opportunities for worship and hospitality. These are at the heart of the gospel of Christ."

Your offering on Native American Ministries Sunday enriches The United Methodist Church in many ways. Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved seminaries receive scholarships. Across the United States, urban ministries reach out to Native Americans and others. Mission with Native Americans in your annual conference and across the connection is developed and nurtured.

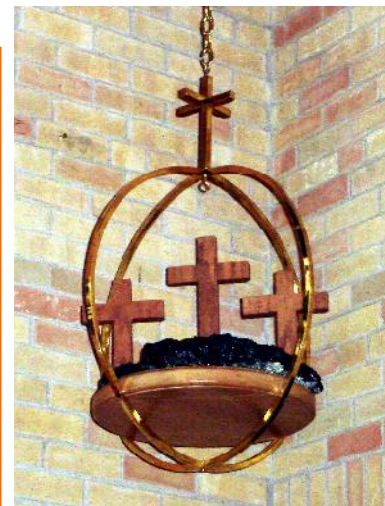
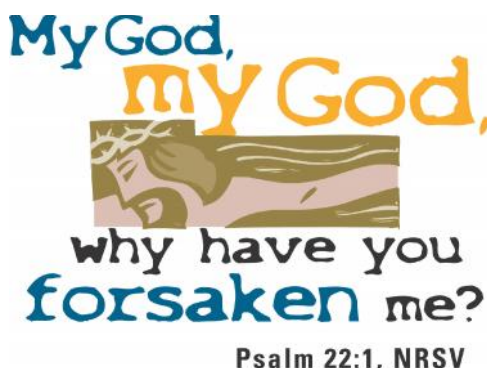
"For the promise...is for everyone whom...our God calls" (Acts 2:39). Help promising Native Americans like Chebon Kernell to answer God's call to ministry. Please give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, the third Sunday of Easter. Your gift makes a world of difference!



For the Love of Us

As Christ drew near to death, He Himself trembled. It was an experience of all His creation, but He had never felt it. To His humanity, His assumed flesh, it seemed terrible - Gethsemane bears witness [to] how terrible it seemed; but He passed into it for love of us.

-Phillips Brooks



*Groton Worship Carriage
is changed for Lent.*



Sympathies
to the families of
Joyce Sundling/Sogn
Who passed away
March 9th

*Goodwill Truck
May 16 -19
Start Cleaning!*



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



Once again, Lord, we are astounded by the incomparable and glorious event of Easter.

To remember how you conquered sin and evil through the resurrection of Jesus stirs up joy and hope within us.

It comforts us greatly to know that because Christ was raised from the dead, we who are "in Christ" have the assurance of eternal life.

Furthermore, to have the living Christ as our Savior and the undergirding Holy Spirit as our daily Companion assures us of grace that never fails us.

Finally, it is a certainty that all things good and desirable are possible for those who love you, because Christ lives and reigns as King of our lives.

All praise and glory to you, loving Creator, now and forever! Amen.

The Banquet - Conde

Monday, June 5th is the day that has been set for the Conde church to go to Sioux Falls and serve at the Banquet. The dollars that were put in the big soup pot on "Souper Bowl" Sunday will be used for this mission project, but more money will be needed to meet the amount that has been pledged. There will be a Sunday designated for a special offering, but feel free to send a donation at any time to the Financial Secretary, Cindy Smith. A few people are needed to go down and prepare the food, and then a much larger group to serve the evening meal. If you have never participated in this worthwhile activity, try to fit it into your schedule this June. It is truly a rewarding experience. As the hosts, we have a chance to dine with the guests and listen to their many interest-

ing stories. The gratitude that they show is very emotional, and I'm sure that everyone that is on the serving side receives more in the form of spiritual nourishment than those that have come for the physical nourishment. A note to the Groton congregation: Any volunteers will be appreciated. The "word" is that many are still interested in participating.

The Mission Committee will be making arrangements for rides, so if you think you might be able to go, please contact Donna Hearnen or Pat Siefken. Anyone willing to drive, also specify this. Those that "ride" can possibly help the "drivers" with gas expenses.

"LOVE IS EATING WITH THE BANQUET FAMILY"

Conde UMW Minutes - Feb 8

Conde United Methodist Women met February 8 at 11:00 at the church. Patty Knoll opened the meeting by leading the Call to Prayer and Self Denial for this year. Members had taken part in the program by learning of gifts that would benefit others here and around the world. They were given the opportunity to make their donations of money before the meeting. Patty used the Response Mission Map to show the projects at home and abroad that are funded and sponsored by the Women's Division. We need to give of ourselves in money and time to help others around the world.

Pat Siefken chaired the meeting in the absence of our president, Donna Hearnen.

Valentines and Thinking of You cards were sent to members and friends who were not able to be present at our meeting.

Tabs from soup cans and others may be sent in addition to pop cans to the Ronald MacDonald House. Sewing kits are to be made during this time to be used

for the In-Gathering.

Our church is hosting World Day of Prayer on March 3 at 2:00 PM. Others from the community are invited and a light lunch will be served following the worship.

We will observe the Conference Prayer Vigil on March 5 at 11:15 - 12:00, with the topics of Social Justice and Environment.

Friendship Night is April 27th. Our shepherdess for this year is Jolene Townsend.

We will be furnishing lunch for the Bible School students again this year.

Seven members were present with Judy Dirksen and Janet Rossow as guests.

A bountiful lunch was served by Betty Jensen and Pat Siefken before the business meeting.

Our small group will meet March 1 at the church at 8:00 PM with Cindy Smith as lesson leader.

The General Meeting will be March 8 at 11:00 AM at the church. Pat Siefken will lead the lesson Children of



Groton UMW March 26 Meeting

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women met Wednesday, March 15, at 2:00 p.m. at the church. Amy Krueger of Safe Harbor, Aberdeen, spoke about the program and donations needed for the facility. Members brought items for Safe Harbor to the meeting.

Dessert and coffee was served by Kay Brandt and Pat Dahlquist following the talk.

The business meeting was called to order by President Jolene Townsend with 13 members present. Doris Zoellner led devotions and the **PURPOSE** was recited.

The Education and Interpretation Committee reported that thirteen sewing kits have been completed. Health kits will be assembled in April and May.

The Spiritual Growth Committee reported that the World Day of Prayer service at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church went well. About 40 were present. The president thanked those who participated in any way.

The Love Ribbon collection on UMW Sunday totaled \$91.05.

UMW served the Lenten supper on the 15th, chaired by JoAnn Krueger. The free will collection proceeds will go to the Youth Center.

The Focus Day activity will be held at the North Highland Church in Aberdeen on April 29th, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Groton unit will provide one of the skits to illustrate one of the aspects of the conference prescribed studies for the year.

The kitchen equipment committee reported that the rearrangement had been completed.

Groton's shepherdess, Deb Green of Redfield, will be invited to come to the June 21st meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The reading program books have been sorted and rearranged by Caralee Heitmann and Jolene Townsend. The expired books have been placed in the church li-

brary.

There will be a potluck dinner on Palm Sunday, April 9. The April work committee chairmen asked that notices be sent home with the Sunday School children to encourage families to stay.

Gloria Pharis and Mary Swisher, general chairmen of the May Breakfast, said the committee would be meeting Thursday morning, March 16. The May Breakfast will be held Wednesday, May 3 at 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.

A miscellaneous shower will be held for Kate Englund on April 22nd at the church. She will be the bride of Rick Thurston in June.

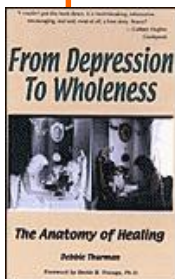
The next meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on April 19th with Christie Swenson in charge of the program. The executive committee will meet at 1:00 p.m. Joy Walter and DeLoris Knoll will be hostesses.

The president closed the meeting by reading "Spring Cleaning Thoughts."

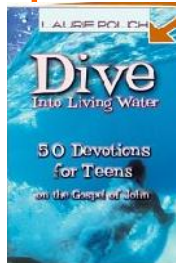
*UMW Focus Day
is scheduled for
Saturday April 29
at Aberdeen North
Highland Church
from 9:00 am to
3:00 pm.
\$ 6.00 includes
registration and
lunch. UMW
Education,
program
resources, skits
and music, please
join the fun!!!*



UMW Reading Program



From Depression to Wholeness: The Anatomy of Healing by Debbie Thurman (Nurturing for Community) As someone who has lived with a spouse suffering from debilitating depression, I can say without equivocation that this book offers real advice that hits us where we live. I have read other books, but none with the sensitivity of this book. It validates all the pain, from guilt to isolation to despair unto death — but the author goes even further to write about post-recovery issues, something few of us think about because we want out of the jungle so desperately. This isn't just one woman's, one family's isolated story.

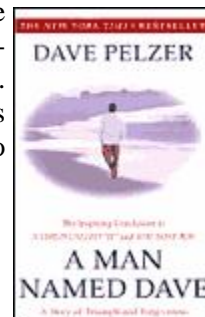
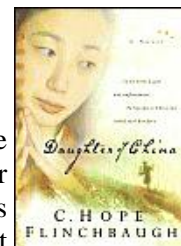


Dive into Living Water: 50 Devotions for Teens on the Gospel of John by Laurie Polich (Spiritual Growth - 2005 Youth)

Daughter of China (Education in Mission - 2004) Tapping into her vast reservoir

of knowledge about the persecuted church, author Hope Flinchbaugh has crafted a spellbinding first novel set in modern China. Nineteen-year-old Mai Lin has two serious handicaps in Chinese society—being born a girl, and worse, choosing to become a Christian. But she dreams of attending Shanghai University....The poignant, uplifting story that follows is a triumph of love and courage and a tribute to all who stand for their faith in the face of great odds.

A Man Named Dave: A Story of Triumph and Forgiveness (2003 Large Print) All of Dave Pelzers books are sad and inspiring and make me want to cry....but mostly in the Child Called it. But really the message is about saving a child's life and all the steps it took to becoming what Dave is today. All three of these books are the best I've read so far of all books.



Groton UMW Meeting

April 19th - 2:00 PM
Christy Swenson Leader

Hostesses

Joy Walter
DeLores Knoll

Executive Meeting


1:00 PM
Newsletter Updates
May Breakfast Updates

Upcoming Events

May Breakfast, May 3rd
Tea Party
on Wheels May 17th
Health Kits
Reading Program



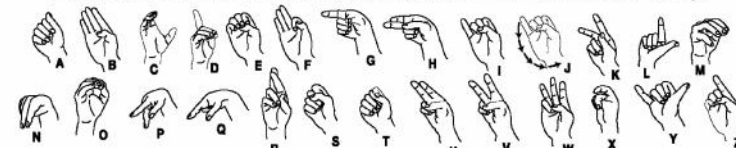
-) 1 hand towel (15X25 up to 17X27 and no kitchen towels)
-) 1 washcloth
-) 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket size)
-) 1 nail file or fingernail clipper (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
-) 1 bar of soap (3 oz and up)
-) 6 band-aids
-) 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper and no child size brushes)
-) 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)



Just for KIDS

"Behold my hands and my feet ..." Luke 24:39 (KJV)

Hands play an important role in the story of Jesus' death and Resurrection. Use this hand alphabet to retell the Easter story.



Jesus' _____ were _____ to the tree.

Two criminals were also crucified, one on the _____ and the other on the _____ of Jesus.

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, " _____ , into your _____ , I commit my spirit."

The _____ of Jesus' friends _____ Him from the cross to the tomb.

Jesus showed _____ His _____ to prove He was Christ.

Bring your _____ together in _____ and thank God for His Son Jesus.


ANSWER: HANDS, NAILED, RIGHT, HAND, LEFT, FATHER, HANDS, HANDS, CARRIED, THOMAS, HANDS, HANDS, PRAYER.

HOSANNA!
HOSANNA!
HOSANNA!



Honored the
Christian
Education Leaders
in Groton Church
March 19th

Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here,
but has risen.
Luke 24:5






*Enriching Spiritual
Lives through
Christ.*

**Tuesday AM Bible Study
In Groton**

*Starting a study on the book
of Revelations on April 18th.*

All are welcome to join us!

Please let Kay know if you

can join us

so we have

enough

materials.



Groton May Family Committee

Anita & John Lowary

Linda & Gary Thurston

Jolene & Alan Townsend & Zachary

Meri & John Erickson, Seth & Evan

Mary & Cal Hayenga

Pam & Doug Bahr

Brian & Andrea Bahr

Dion Bahr

Connie & Dave Nilsson & Alexa

Bert Raap

William & Wanda Zoellner

Dick Oliver

Michelle & Bruce Schumacher

Honorary Members

J DeLoris Knoll

J Robert Hood

J Hazel McKittrick

Extra Responsibilities

J May 7th change altar cloths to white
for the whole month and Communion
banners for this Sunday only.

J Mow Lawn as
needed.

J Clean Nursery
& Kindergarten
Rooms.

J No Potluck.

May 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 Sound System Feasibility Study

The trustees are requesting a feasibility study to garner response to a proposed upgrade on our sound system.

The upgrade proposal would include the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and Chapel areas. A fully suggested

proposal has been given to the trustees with two layers of cost to choose from.

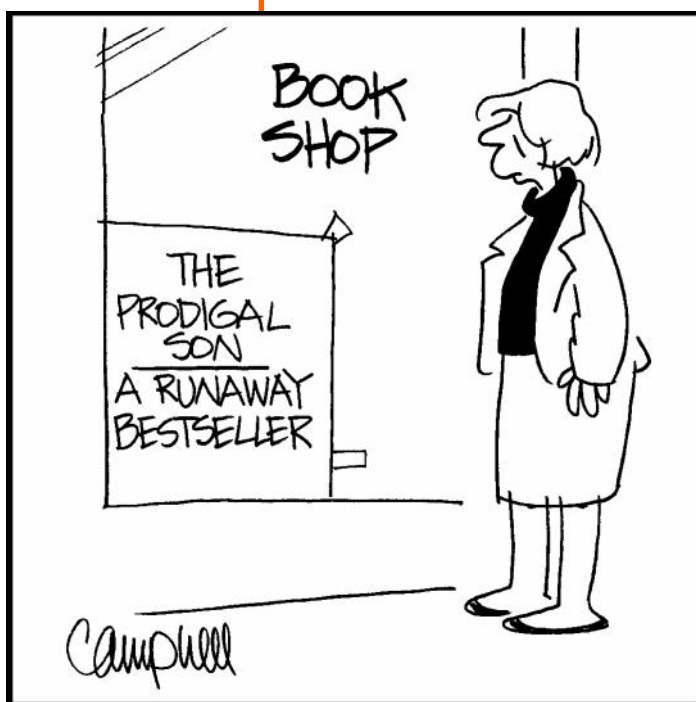
Several persons have indicated their willingness to assist with this project. The plan will benefit all of us to have more clarity and definition in sound as well as adding wireless systems to our existing in-house system.

Those desiring to help by adding to this Sound System Fund should contact Anita Lowary by giving their confidential donation amount. We will know if there is enough basis to proceed with the proposal and move forward from there. Several groups have already contributed to the base amount in this fund.

The contractor will be willing to come and present for an "all church meeting to explain the proposal plans and integrations prior to any decisions regarding this upgrade.

If there is enough response to this proposal in the near future we will schedule a meeting date.

The Trustee Committee
and Pastor Jan





Groton Ad Council - March

Fifteen members were present on Mar. 8 to discuss the following agenda items:

Finance Report:

-) Jan. & Feb. apportionments have been paid.
-) Bills for carpet & labor were approved.

Trustees:

-) All painting & ceiling work has been completed
-) Will be looking into leaks around sanctuary windows

Outreach:

-) This committee hosted the first Lenten supper.
-) Seven volunteers served at the Aberdeen Salvation Army on Feb. 27 and

voted to plan to do it again.

-) In the process of planning Easter ham baskets
-) One Great Hour of Sharing being planned for Sunday, March 26

UMW:

-) Next meeting topic will be about Safe Harbor
-) Will encourage participation for single mothers with children ages 3-12 in the "Mommies Take 5" camp scheduled for Memorial Day weekend.

UMYF:

-) Plan to attend youth rally at DWU in late March.
-) The youth group will participate in the Lenten services as well as serve food.

Groton Stewardship Report March 2006

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,210

Needed Weekly to Meet
Church Needs
\$1,706

Average Weekly
Attendance
74

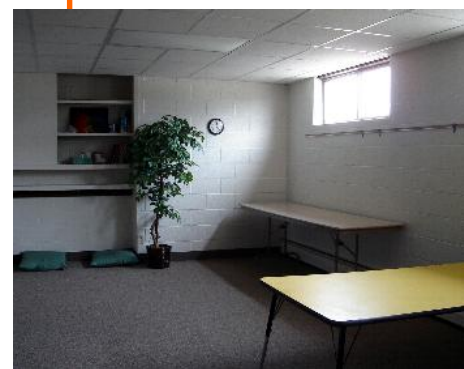
Total Building Fund
Offerings
\$65

Roof Project Update

Our Sunday School Rooms are completed and in use. Thank you to all who helped put on a fresh coat of paint and assist with the Roof Project in any way making this project a success. The



new ceiling tiles are in place, fresh paint on the walls, and new carpet on the floor. It all looks great! If you haven't been by to have a look, please do so!





Our Church Happenings

April 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						

Apr 4 Conde Lenten Supper 6:30 & Study 7:00 PM
 Apr 5 Groton Soup/Sand 6:00 PM/ Lesson 7 PM
 Groton History Scrapbook Meeting 7:30 PM

Apr 9 Groton Potluck Sunday
 Palm Sunday

Apr 11 Conde Ad Council 8 PM

Apr 12 Conde UMYF 7:00 pm Meeting. Supper will be served. Then fun & fellowship.
 Groton Ad Council 8 PM

Apr 13 Conde Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM

Apr 14 Conde Prayer Vigil from 8 AM - 8 PM for Good Friday
 Groton Noon Ecumenical Good Friday Service in the UMC
 Groton Good Friday Service at 7 PM

Apr 16 Easter Sunday Sunrise Services 7:30 AM
 Conde 9 AM Worship & Groton 11 AM Worship

Apr 19 Groton UMW 2:00 PM, Exec Mtg 1:00 PM

Apr 22 Groton Bridal Shower for Kate Englund (Rick Thurston)

Apr 23 Camping Sign-up Deadline
 Groton clear Fellowship Hall of tables for carpet

cleaning

Apr 27 Conde Friendship Night

Apr 29 UMW Focus Days at North Highland Church, Aberdeen

Apr 30 Newsletter Items Due

May 3 Groton UMW May Breakfast

