



Groton/Conde Parishes

open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



# United Methodist Messenger

March 2006

## LENT



Lent is an experience that the Christian world goes through to mirror Jesus' walk in the desert, the temptations of the devil, and the final week before the illegal arrest, conviction and crucifixion. It all sounds heavy to handle, to experience, but as we do, we gain new insights and can focus not only on the gift of salvation through Jesus' death, but the day that Christ comes to **take us** home.

Imagine yourself in the circle of all those who have gone on ahead to heaven before. . .the redeemed. Perhaps Christ will tell them words of praise by allowing Christ to use us! By the actions of what people shared on earth, others are now in heaven. The mind bender would be, we could be able to learn from them just what portion we were able to give Christ through our actions, words, and witness.

most difficult for us to deal with here on earth could be the very people who noticed our actions and were finally convinced and became Christ followers themselves. What a joy to experience that! Friends, neighbors, and others who knew of our family dynamics, church attendance, prayer groups, study groups, mission trips, outreach programs for our world could let us know they had been watching us all the time.

Would Christ be proud of the faith we showed others, the help we offered those who needed us in many ways? The witness of our lives will be left behind when Christ comes to claim the very ones Christ died for. Be on the journey with us to share the joy of

EASTER MORNING

like no other.

Pastor Jan

Some of the people who are

## World Day of Prayer - March 3rd

All are invited to attend the World Day of Prayer Service at the Conde UMW at 2:00 PM.

Groton World Day of Prayer will be at the SEAS Catholic Church at 2:00 PM.

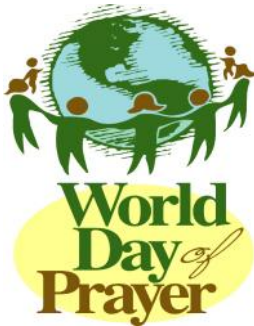
Program this year is "Signs of the Times" written by the women of Africa. This is an ecumenical service for all the people of the community. Coffee will be served following the worship.

**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. Through **World Day of Prayer**, women affirm that prayer and action are

inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

In 1928 this statement came from the World Day of Prayer Committee:

*It is with deep gratitude that we recognize the growing power inherent in our World Day of Prayer. The circle of prayer has expanded literally around the world. We have learned the great lesson of praying with, rather than for, our sisters of other races and nations, thus enriching our experience and releasing the power which must be ours if we are to accomplish tasks entrusted to us.*



## What is prayer?

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,  
The falling of a tear,  
The upward glancing of an eye  
When none but God is near.

—James Montgomery



## Outreach Committee Thank You

The Outreach Committee would like to thank those volunteers who prepared and served the noon meal at the Aberdeen Salvation Army on Monday Feb. 29, Pastor Jan, Dave Nilsson, Connie Nilsson, Doris Strom, Marvel Johnson, Pat Siefken and Jolene Townsend. This is a new outreach program for our church and we hope to continue on a regular schedule. If this

is a project you would like to consider being a part of, please contact Pastor Jan. Thank you, Alan & Jolene



**Goodwill Truck  
May 16 -19**

**Start Cleaning!**

## March Celebrations

### Conde Birthday's

March 1 - Pat Murphy

March 6 - Stacy Bonn

March 11-Jared Murphy

March 20-Dale Buising

March 22-Mike Knoll

March 23-Greg Stark

March 25-Chelsea Murphy

March 26 - Samantha Menzia

March 31-Renee Hanlon

### Groton Birthday's

Mar 1 Mary Jane Schott

Mar 3 Christina Zoellner

Mar 4 Kay Brandt

Richard Zoellner

Mar 5 Chance Strom

Mar 7 Brian Bahr

Dale Strom

Mar 9 Betty Strom

Mar 14 Earl Lowary

Mendy Jones

Sydney

Erickson

Mar 16 Darrell Knudsen

Mar 20 Don Walter

Mar 21 Michelle Sundling

Mar 22 Don Walter

Mar 23 Lila Bartz

Mar 25 Brent Wienk

Laurel McNickle

Murdock McNickle

Mar 27 Dwight Strom

Michelle Walter

Mar 28 Riley Thurston

Sharon Wheeting

Mar 30 Taylor Schmidt

Mar 31 Caralee Heitmann

### Groton Anniversaries

Mar 3 Cal & Mary Hayenga

Mar 5 Earl & Jean Lowary

Mar 7 Richard & JoAnn Krueger

Mar 10 Art & Charlotte Lange

Jay & Mary Swisher

Mar 17 Jan & Don Price



**March 30 7-9:00 PM Bread for the World Meeting in Aberdeen at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church on N Hwy 281. The registration fee is a donation to Bread for the World. Learn how you can help ease hunger for others.**

## One Great Hour of Sharing - March 26

"The One Great Hour of Sharing offering on March 26, 2006, is absolutely essential to UMCOR," says the Rev. Paul Dirdak, the agency's chief executive. "UMCOR receives no World Service funds or any other apportionments. Through their gifts to the offering, United Methodists can assure that when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion, will be in the lead to ease the pain."

Gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business," so that 100 percent of every dollar you donate to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project and not on home office administrative costs.

UMCOR is a good steward of God's gifts. Offering gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they're most needed—to assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest. Donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering also assist UMCOR programs that have not been fully funded through designated Advance gifts.

United Methodists' donations often become the springboard for additional funding. Jesus promised to be with us always, "to the very end of the age." And Jesus extends this call to us to "be there" as well—to be the hands and heart of the church wherever people are suffering. Your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing, channeled through



Multiplying Hope





## Groton UMW Minutes - Feb

The Groton unit of the Glacial Lakes District United Methodist Women met at the church Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 15. Fifteen members were present. President Jolene Townsend presided. The **PURPOSE** was recited. Doris Zoellner read II Corinthians 5:1-10 followed by prayer for devotions.

Greetings were received from Lorraine Bartz and Clarence and Ida Hannon.

The Spiritual Growth Committee reported on the World Day of Prayer plans. The service will be held at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Friday, March 3, at 2:00 p.m. The service this year has been prepared by the Women of South Africa. The membership committee met for a training session. New members will be given pins and recognized at the UMW Sunday service on February 19.

The Education and Interpretation Committee asked all to bring sewing items for the sewing kits being prepared for the Ingathering. Members are also asked to save coffee cans to be used for the Christmas goody boxes and continue collecting pop tabs, soup labels etc.

Old business included an overview of the UMW Sunday morning worship service for Feb. 19.

The Groton Church will assist with the serving of the noon meal on February 27 at the Salvation Army in Aberdeen. Three helpers are needed at 9:00 a.m. and three more at 11:15 a.m.

The first Prayer Vigil will be March 4 from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. A schedule of names and times has been printed.

Wednesday evening services during Lent will begin with a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. and conclude with a ten-minute meditation. The UMW serving time will be March 15. Jo Ann Krueger and Marlys Rodman will chair the supper committee.

The Christian Education leaders will be honored on March 19. Gloria Pharis and Carna Atherton-Pray will notify the leaders and send them a message. The amount designated will be given to the Groton Youth Center.

Focus Day will be April 29 at North Highland United Methodist Church in Aberdeen from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost of the noon meal will be \$6.00.

The May Breakfast committees were discussed. The program has been chosen. A meeting will be held before March 15 to finalize plans. Gloria Pharis is general chairman.

Kitchen equipment and supplies will be updated and new items added as need is determined.

Amy Krueger of Safe Harbor will speak at the next meeting and Kay Brandt and Audrey Miller will be hostesses.

Doris Zoellner and Marj Townsend served a tasty dessert following the meeting.

### UMW Thank You!!

My sincere thank you to all the UMW women who took part in the UMW Sunday morning service. I have heard wonderful comments about the music (Yvonne and Alexa) the presentation, and the theme of the day, "Building Peace, piece by piece." The Love Ribbon offering surpassed our goal. Thank you for the adornment of quilts that "warmed" the sanctuary for the past few weeks, we enjoyed each and every one.  
Peace to You,  
UMW President,  
Jolene

### Groton UMW

#### Prayer Vigil Sat. March 4

9 to 9:45 am

#### Social Justice & Environmental Issues

(2 minutes in your own home, following the schedule from Jolene)

## Safe Harbor Collection - Groton UMW Meeting the 15th

Amy Krueger, Executive Director of Safe Harbor, will be our guest speaker at the 2:00 UMW Meeting March 15th. We would like to fill up her vehicle to take items back to Safe Harbor. So, clean out your kitchens, closets, or go shopping to help us fill Amy's Vehicle with new or like-new items and bring them to the UMW Meeting. It will be an afternoon of learning and education. Join Us!

### For Food Pantry

- ] Boxed Dinners
- ] Canned Meat
- ] Canned Vegetables
- ] Crackers
- ] Jell-O & Pudding
- ] Juice (canned or frozen)
- ] Macaroni & Cheese
- ] Milk (canned or powdered)
- ] Pasta
- ] Rice or Dry Beans
- ] Canned Tomatoes

### Shelter & Resident Needs

- ] Canned Fruit
- ] Toilet Paper
- ] Bleach
- ] Cleansers
- ] Coffee
- ] Cooking oil
- ] Deodorant
- ] Dish Soap
- ] Laundry detergent
- ] Trash bags
- ] Alarm Clocks
- ] Used Furniture
- ] Small Kitchen Appliances
- ] Dishes, Glasses, & Silverware
- ] New women's underwear
- ] New children's underwear
- ] Pre-paid Calling Cards

Kay Brandt & Audrey Miller



**Safe  
Harbor**

assisting women, children & men

<http://www.safeharbor.ws/index.htm>

## Repent – a worthy word for Lent


What pops into your mind when you hear the word “repent”? Is it a dark and somber word for you, perhaps reminding you of John the Baptist's shouting for people to repent and be baptized?

What does the word “repent” mean anyway? Literally, it means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and shallow living and to begin walking through life following God's direction.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1, 2006), is an opportunity to check our spiritual condition, to repent (if needed) and to walk more faithfully with our Lord.

If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life - a more joyous way to live. Lent can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the Christian life passionately.

**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!!!**



# Pray Today!

The first Friday in March is World Day of Prayer. God wants us to pray to Him everyday. So start today and never stop!

Write the words from the scrambled jigsaw pieces onto the blank puzzle to discover when Psalm 55:17 (KJV) says we should pray.

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Psalm 55:17

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Honor the Christian  
Education Leaders  
in Groton Church  
March 19th



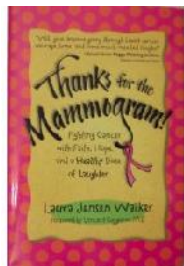
The UMYF's Valentine Dinner was enjoyed by all. Entertainment included singing as well as the "Oldywed Game" played by Kim & Craig Weber, Marc & Jane Johnson, Jolene & Alan Townsend, and Connie & Dave Nilsson. With MC Lucius Geffre

Answer: Evening, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.



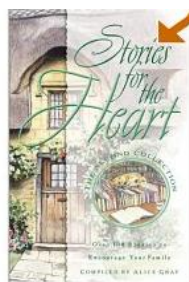


## UMW Reading Program



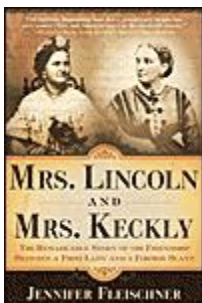
**Thanks for the Mammogram: Fighting Cancer with Faith, Hope, and a Healthy Dose of Laughter** (2003) Nurturing for Community

At Last—A Mammogram Men & Women Can Enjoy Together! I've never read a funny book that was so touching-or a touching book that was so funny. Ms. Walker pours out her heart, her guts, and her trademark humor on the page for one to sift through and find the place of compassion where the author and reader become one. Then, just when you think you've walked away with all you can glean from Walker, her husband steps in and steals the show with a masterful chapter. I strongly recommend this wonderful, easy read.



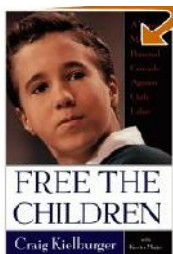
**Stories for the Heart: The Second Collection** (2004) Spiritual Growth

Stories for the Heart: The Second Collection offers up over one hundred stories that hug readers' hearts and encourage their souls. This treasury of timeless tales written by some of today's best-known communicators offers a wealth of compassion and love certain to reach multiple generations. Readers will find themselves sharing these uplifting stories in conversation and relating the nuggets of wisdom they've discovered. The impact of these true-to-life tales will flavor the reader's views and inspire their hearts. Whether read during peaceful moments cuddled up by the fire, basking in the sunshine of the beach, or as a part of family times, this second collection in the Stories for the Heart series is guaranteed to stir the soul.



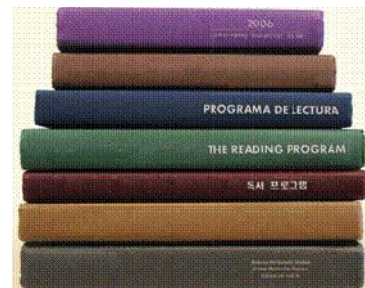
**Mrs. Lincoln & Mrs. Keckly: The Remarkable Story of the Friendship between a First Lady and a Former Slave** (2005 Bonus 2) Social Action

This is a great book on the unique relationship between Mrs. Lincoln and her dressmaker, a freed slave. I had not know about the existence of Lizzie Keckly, and found the book thoroughly engrossing. The author does a nice job of covering the lives of both women, and the book is well-written and easy to read. (The depth of research is very good, too.) I promise you will learn many things you never knew about the 'Lincoln story'. Don't hesitate to get this book if you have an interest in the Lincolns, slavery, women, the Civil War, or just the 19th century in general.



**Free the Children: A Young Man Fights Against Child Labor** (2001) Education in Mission

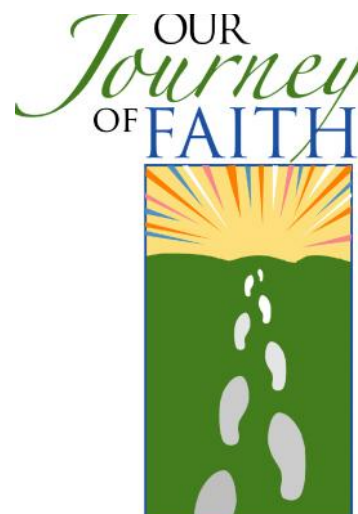
"Free the Children" is an excellent book on the issue of child labor. In order to learn more about this issue, Craig traveled to South Asian countries like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and to Thailand, hoping to meet the children himself. His detailed explanation of his trip was quite horrifying. Craig saw that the children were working as much as 10-12 hours a day for a mere US \$1-2. Children were beaten if they do not work. The most disturbing part of the book was his investigations in Bangkok where sex trade was rampant. Children were used as sex tools to lure tourists. The emotional, mental and physical scars that these children bore were immeasurable.



## Limited Fishing

A boy was asked by his Sunday school teacher if he thought Noah did much fishing off the ark?

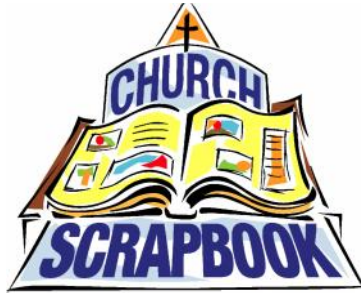
"How could he?" replied the lad. "He only had two worms and there were only two fish."



## The family tree

Many people have worked on their family trees gathering data about the generations that went before them. This can yield some helpful information about health issues in a family and reveal connections with other families that were unexpected.

Have you tried charting a spiritual family tree? Who were the people who have helped you grow in faith? Perhaps you had a Sunday school teacher who was especially important to your faith development. Interview that person. Find out who was important in their growing up as a disciple of Jesus. Ask about books as well as people. You will be amazed at the number of folks who are in your "tree." What a wonderful gift God has given us in those who have passed the faith to us.



## Scrapbooker's Wanted!

With City of Groton Celebrating 125 years, there is a need for us to look at our church history as well. The Groton UMC is celebrating 120 years. A lot of History with no real permanent home. If you like to scrapbook, we need you to help us get our church history in order. If you just like our church history, we need your help also.

Several years of photos are on my computer that should be documented. If you can help us out and get organized, please call Kay Brandt, 397-8389.

## April Family Committee - Groton - Meet March 19th

Meeting March 19th during Coffee Hour

Marlys Rodman

Rose & Bill Tewksbury

Brent & Christi Swenson, Lee & Amanda

Carna & Cliff Pray, Kevin

Yvonne Lange

Leslie & Ken Dinger

Kristi & Lance Hawkins

Dale & Michelle Kramer

Kami & Tom Lipp

Pam & Roger Rix

Gayleen & Jon Voss, Jordan

Doris & Richard Zoellner

Sue Rock

Michelle Sundling

### Honorary Members

)/ Margaret Hubbard

)/ ImoJeanne Oliver

)/ Mary & Jay Swisher

)/ Mary Alice Jensen

### Extra Responsibilities

)/ Clean the Fellowship Hall

)/ Potluck 2nd Sunday

)/ Arrange and Water Easter Lilies

)/ April 2nd Communion Banners and White Altar Cloths

)/ April 9th Purple Altar Cloths and Palm Sunday Banners

)/ April 16th White Altar Cloths, Arrange Easter Lilies, and Easter Banners



### April 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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						





## Lenten Soup & Sandwich in Groton

Various Committees will prepare a Soup & Sandwich meal during the Lenten Season again this year. Join us for a meal at 6 pm followed by a 10 minute Lesson at 7 pm. The supper free-will offering will be donated to various places chosen by the Committee serving.

Ash Wednesday. Soup/ Sandwich will be provided by the Outreach Committee.

March 8 Soup/Sandwich will be provided by the Ad Council.

March 15th Soup/Sandwich will be provided by UMW to benefit the Groton Youth Center.

We need committees to volunteer for March 22, 29, and April 5th.



## Building Peace



Piece by Piece

## 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-



Quilts adorned the sanctuary for UMW Sunday's Theme.

Gert Ruden welcomes new UMW Members Marlys Rodman, Jan Price, and Pat Dahlquist during UMW Sunday.



## Conde Ad Council

Met Feb. 22

Reports from trustees, UMW, Sunday School, Mission, UMYF, VBS,

Items discussed:

- ) Land rent -- 3-year contract
- ) Gift certificates for Mark Grimes who lost his home due to fire
- ) Sister church in Coden, Alabama (note the similarities: Name has same letters as Conde and plan to build a steel building)
- ) Serving the Banquet in Sioux Falls on June 5



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



**March Ushers  
Tim Geist Family**

## Lenten Study in Conde

March 7 6:30 PM Light supper followed by a Lenten Bible Study at the church. Please join us.

Tuesday March 14 - 6:30 PM Light meal followed by Lenten Study

Tuesday March 21 - 6:30 PM Light meal followed by Lenten Study.

March 28 : 6:30 PM Light snack followed by Lenten Study at the church

Conde Church will observe a

Prayer Vigil from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Good Friday April 14th. Watch for further details; let Pastor Jan know if you would like to sign for a time to come to be in prayer.



March 5

United Methodist Women of the Dakotas Conference are praying for the Environment and Social Justice Issues.

Conde women will worship especially from 11:15 TO 12 noon.



## Girl Scout Sunday - March 12

Conde UMC will celebrate Girl Scout Sunday with a brunch following morning worship.

Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls—all girls—where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities that will serve them all



their lives, like leadership, strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own potential and self-worth.

Founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low, Girl Scouts' membership has grown from 18 members in Savannah, Georgia, to 3.6 million members throughout the United States, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and in more than 80 countries through USA Girl Scouts Overseas.

## Conde UMW

Wednesday March 8 11:00 AM

Pat Siefken will present the lesson "Children of the Bible".

Donna Hearn and Jane Worlie are hostesses for a light lunch before the afternoon business meeting.

## Groton Ad Council Minutes - Feb

**Groton Admin. Council** –Sixteen members were present on Feb. 8 to discuss the following agenda items:

### Finance Report:

January apportionments have been paid

### Trustees:

Sunday school rooms have been painted with carpet installation planned within a week or so.

### Outreach:

Monday, Feb. 27 has been set as the date to serve at Aberdeen's Salvation Army.

This committee volunteered to serve soup & sandwiches at the Ash Wednesday service.

### Witness:

It was reported that we currently

have 233 members on our rolls.

Membership records are being transferred to computer records.

### UMYF:

The "Left Behind" movie series has been viewed at recent meetings, which created good discussion among the youth.

### Katrina Church Recovery:

Discussed partnering with a sister church in the Katrina disaster area to help provide some type of relief and support.

### Groton's 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration:

It was noted that our church would be celebrating 120 years this year.

Gloria Pharis was appointed as committee chairman to plan for some special activity during Groton's 125<sup>th</sup> celebration.

### Groton Stewardship Report February 2006

Average Wkly Giving  
\$1,307

Needed Weekly to Meet  
Church Needs  
\$1,706

Average Weekly  
Attendance  
72

Total Building Fund  
Offerings  
\$65



**Enriching Spiritual Lives through Christ.**





## Groton/Conde Parishes

March 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	



- ) Apr 14 Conde Prayer Vigil from 8 AM - 8 PM for Good Friday
- ) Apr 29 UMW Focus Days at North Highland Church, Aberdeen
- ) May 2 Groton UMW May Breakfast
- ) May 9 PPR Meeting in Conde at 7:30 PM
- ) May 16-19 Goodwill Truck Coming

## Our Church Happenings

- Mar 1 Conde Worship at Church 8 AM  
Groton Soup/Sand 6:00 PM/ Lesson 7 PM  
Conde Study Group 8 PM
- Mar 3 World Day of Prayer
- Mar 4 Groton UMW Prayer Vigil at home 9-9:45
- Mar 5 Conde UMW Prayer Vigil 11:15 - 12 noon
- Mar 7 Conde Lenten Supper/Study at 6:30
- Mar 8 Conde UMW Meeting 11 AM  
Groton Soup/Sand 6:00 PM/ Lesson 7 PM  
Groton Ad Council Meeting 8 PM
- Mar 12 Girl Scout Sunday with Brunch Following Worship in Conde
- Mar 14 Conde Lenten Supper/Study at 6:30
- Mar 15 Groton UMW 2:00 with Safe Harbor  
Groton Soup/Sand 6:00 PM/ Lesson 7 PM
- Mar 19 Groton April Family Committee Mtg during Coffee Hour  
Groton UMW Honoring Christian Ed Leaders in Church
- Mar 21 Conde Lenten Supper/Study at 6:30
- Mar 22 Groton Soup/Sand 6:00 PM/ Lesson 7 PM
- Mar 26 One Great Hour of Sharing
- Mar 28 Conde Lenten Supper/Study at 6:30
- Mar 29 Groton Soup/Sand 6:00 PM/ Lesson 7 PM
- Mar 30 Bread for the World Meeting from 7-9 PM in Aberdeen
- Apr 5 Groton Soup/Sand 6:00 PM/ Lesson 7 PM