

United Methodist Messenger



Spring Busy

The season of super-busy is upon us. Engagements and appointments end up being double and triple booked for the next few months.

Our teens are "chomping at the bit" to be set free into the real world. Have we prepared them enough? It is a struggle for families to relax the reins and let go of the monitoring systems that have been in place. But grow they must and that includes scraped noses, speed bumps of life and some failures. We all learned in that manner and it cannot be totally avoided.

Our organizations wait for the time when "snowbirds" migrate back into our lives and help us enjoy all the celebrations on our calendars. We are so glad to have them among us again. To renew those friendships and reconnect with the local news while they were gone is most refreshing.

The youngsters are looking toward schools end, picnics, swimming lessons, fun times ahead on their bikes and engaged with the joy of being a kid. We work for their safety and giggles for they keep us all young in some way.

The growth of the gardens that are and those that are being planted help to stretch our imaginations, stretch our bodies and put us in tune with our Creator. To work in a garden is as close to God as one might get (except for farming!)

Here is my prayer for us as we come into spring.

O Lord, I know that You are aware

and care about each problem I will face today. With Your guidance, I will do my best to resolve these problems. Amen.

Our purpose in life is not to be happy but to matter: to be productive, to be useful, to have it make a difference that you lived at all. God's purpose for us is to love each other, to seek God and to live in harmony with others.

To be at one with God each day, to be "plugged into God's presence with prayer it is such a help. To go into your day with a constant Christ companion is a great feeling. To have a walk with Jesus, to be able to give our concerns, fears and ask for help throughout the day is so good. My hope and trust is that you have found the source of strength among us in Christ. Today is the start to the rest of your life and mine, what a way to be able to shine for the Master with the message of the Good News of the Gospel for others.

So bring on the trials, short termed anxiety and take a deep breath and engage your Savior. Show kindness, gentleness, and love in the situations of life and others will ask "What is it about you that you act so differently?", and you have your opening. I have the Love of God in my heart and a friend who loves me to walk by my side. Journey into spring, jump for joy. In the sweetness of the moment, I join you.

Pastor Jan Price





Groton Seniors Honored May 7th

Angela Brandt
Dexten Frericks
Lucius Geffre
Jesse Morehouse
Lee Swenson
Tye Telkamp
Sam Zoellner



Apr 22 Bridal Shower for Kate Englin bride-to-be of Rick Thurston

Farmer's Family Blessing during Groton Worship



Groton Youth Heading to Camp this Summer

Kristi Peterson,
Shepherd for
Jocelyn Peterson
Danielle
Schinkel
Dayspring #2 June 16-18

Alexa Nilsson - MADD
June 20-25

Martha Miller - Guitar

Groton UMW Minutes - April

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women met at the church Wednesday, April 19. President Jolene Townsend presided and the PURPOSE was recited. Mary Hayenga read the devotions from the Dakotas Conference Devotional Guide based on Matthew 7.

Mary Hayenga for the social action committee shared the need for measuring cups and spoons for the Solar Oven project. Mary also brought attention to the opportunity for youth to accept a position on the Conference level and encouraged all to join her at the Timeless Fitness Center in Groton for a team exercise.

The May Breakfast plans were reviewed.



Groton UMW May Breakfast - Was May 3rd

Groton UMW Prayer Vigil

Wednesday, May 24th

9:00 - 9:45 AM

Pray for Our Service Persons & Peace

Please Find your Prayer Time on the
Prayer Vigil Schedule

Don't have a Schedule? Pick one up in the Office



The Focus Day meeting will be held at North Highland United Methodist Church in Aberdeen Saturday, April 29. The Groton unit will be responsible for a skit.



The Conde unit Friendship Night is May 10 at 6:30 p.m., no reservations needed. Several ladies will be attending.

Jolene reviewed the UMW projects and activities. The next meeting will be the Tea Party on Wheels on May 17. The Ingathering collections this month are for the Health kits.

DeLoris Knoll and Joy Walter served angel food cake and strawberries for lunch.

Groton UMW Meeting

May 17th at 2:00 PM

"Tea Party on Wheels"

Marj Townsend, Chair

Hostesses: All Members of Membership & Nurture Outreach
Pat Dahlquist, Gert Ruden, Kelli Hanson, and Christi Swenson



Keep Working on Health Kits, Reading Program

Sign up for School of Christian Mission!



Conde UMW Minutes - April

CONDE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN met at the church at 2:00 PM on April 12, 2006. Donna Hearnen presented the Easter Program "Seeking Solidarity and Reconciliation", which was the bringing together of friendship and the Ministry of Jesus. The foundation of Christian hope is "Christ Is Risen". The group was asked to share their memories of Easter. The suffering of the Holy Week prepares us for the beauty of Easter. Scriptures read told of Jesus and Lazarus; making fishers of men; the clearing of the temple and the Last Supper. The Good News is Peace Be With you. The Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada was read by all.

PEACE is a rich Biblical thought with all telling of what brings peace, and what actions rob us of peace. The program closed with the singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

President Donna Hearnen opened the business meeting by leading the reading of the Purpose of United Methodist Women. Cards were sent to those celebrating birthdays, and those needing encouragement. Roll call showed seven members present. The treasurer's report was given. It was noted that mission money will be sent to our sister church in Alabama when the collection has reached \$50.00.

Focus Day at Aberdeen North Highland will be April 29th. Friendship Night has been re-

scheduled for May 10th, with the regular meeting moved to May 17 in the afternoon. The Senior Breakfast will be that morning following consultation with the school.

Committees for Friendship Night were assigned: Decorations – Jane Worlie, Donna Walter and Pat Siefken; Food – Donna Hearnen; Advertising – Patty Knoll and Donna Hearnen. The play to be presented that evening was "Snow White and the Seven Deadly Sins" at a cost of \$6.00 per ticket.

The unit will pay half the cost of the \$75.00 the church will pay for Early Bird camperships for this year. Campers are to live in this community; and be members or constituents.

Each group in the church is to have a Wish List for items needed at the church by the time of the next Ad Council meeting. Needs for tables are to be assessed as they are used in the next few weeks, with more needing to be purchased.

Voting for Mission Recognition is taking place now, with the secretary keeping the ballots and envelopes. The results will be made at the June meeting.

Patty Knoll read the Conference devotions for the day. We were dismissed with the Mizpah Benediction. Lois Trapp was hostess for the afternoon.



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



Volunteer to go to the Banquet

Sign up by May 24th

Call Donna Hearnen at 382-5264

All Volunteers are Welcome!

Conde Prayer Vigil for UMW

May 25th 11:15 - 12:00 noon

Prayer On

Armed Forces Day and

People Around the World



Birthday's & Anniversaries

Conde May Birthday's

7 Jane Worlie

10 Marion Jensen

12 Diane Taylor

25 Greg Bonn

28 Jeanna McKenney

Conde May Anniversaries

7 Ann & Eric Menzia

17 Jeanna & Lee McKenney

25 Carol & Floyd Smith

27 Diane and Arvon Taylor

28 Janice & Grant Hanson

30 Cindy & Curtis Haskell

Groton May Birthday's

2 Gene Luce

Tom Sundling

3 Kim Weber

4 Evan Erickson

Marlee Jones

Tom Strom

5 Gary Thurston

6 Clint Jacobson

Richard ruden

7 Gabbie Kramer

8 Austin Jones

Dale Krmer

John Lowary

Rob Wanous

13 Doris Strom

14 Linda Johnson

Pam Rix

15 Charlotte Lange

18 Bill Tewksbury

Jean Walter

19 John Erickson

20 Robert Hood

21 Alex Brandt

Cody Hanson

25 Jon Voss

JR Johnson

29 Clare Brotherton

DeLoris Knoll

30 Hazel McKittrick

Kami Lipp

Groton May Anniversaries

2 Dale & Michelle

Kramer

5 Tony & Brenda Madsen

10 John & Anita Lowary

12 Jack & Maggie Oliver

27 Luverne & Carol Strom

29 Gary & Anita Voss



Conde UMW Friendship Evening Fairy Tales, Sins, & The Devil

The Conde United Methodist Women have begun preparations for the May Friendship Event scheduled for Wednesday, May 10th at 6:30 pm. The evening will begin with two plays based on the beloved fairy tales, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and "Little Red Riding Hood". Following the plays held in the Sanctuary, a salad lunch will be served in the Fellowship Room. The cost for the play and lunch will be \$6. Tickets will be sold at the door, but pre-registration would be appreciated. This will help the ladies know how many might be attending. This can be done by calling Donna Hearnen at 382-5264 or Cindy Smith at 382

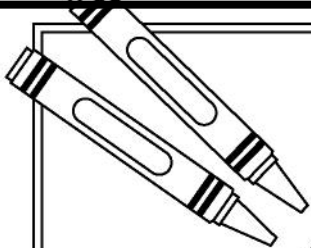


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The adaptation of these two childhood favorites, by Douglas H. Olsen, are produced by special arrangement with Contemporary Drama Service. Fairy tales derive from a Christian culture in the Middle Ages, and the elements of fairy tales are often mythically or symbolically Christian. Not only is there the conflict of good and evil, but kings, princes, and kingdoms echo and the imagery of the Bible. In the first play, the Dwarfs are given names to match seven deadly sins: Haughty, Angry, Greedy, Lazy, Lustful, Envious, and Hungry. The conflict of good and evil is evident in the characters of Snow White and the Queen.

The Wolf in the second play, "Little Red Riding Hood," is the Devil Figure.

The Conde UMW have had some type of May Friendship event for at least 35 years. At one time, it was held in the afternoon and was actually a "Tea". This title seemed to hang on for quite some time even after the event was moved to the evening. There have been a variety of programs throughout the years: sometimes being done by ladies of the church and other times a special speaker provided the entertainment. This year the local ladies will again display their acting ability. It must be remembered that this is amateur talent, and the "stars" only hope that the audience understands



Just for KIDS

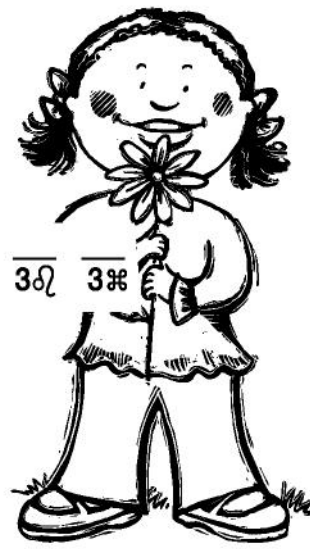
Mothers of the Bible

God wants us to love and honor our mothers – not just on Mother's Day, but every day. The Bible tells us about many mothers who loved God.

Use the code to discover each mother's name.

CODE					
	☞	✦	♂	⌘	⌚
1	A	E	I	O	U
2	R	C	L	Y	M
3	Z	B	S	H	T
4	D	N	V	K	G

4✦ 1☞ 1⌘ 2⌚ 1♂
 2☞ 1⌚ 3⌚ 3⌘
 1✦ 4♂ 1✦
 3♂ 1☞ 2☞ 1☞ 3⌘
 3⌘ 1☞ 4⌚ 1☞ 2☞
 3⌘ 1☞ 4✦ 4✦ 1☞ 3⌘
 2⌚ 1☞ 2☞ 2⌘
 1✦ 2♂ 1♂ 3☞ 1☞ 3✦ 1✦ 3⌚ 3⌘
 2♂ 1✦ 1☞ 3⌘
 2☞ 1☞ 2✦ 3⌘ 1✦ 2♂
 2☞ 1✦ 3✦ 1✦ 4⌘ 1☞ 3⌘




ANSWERS: NAOMI, RUTH, EVE, SARAH, HAGAR, HANNAH, MARY, ELIZABETH, LEAH, RACHEL, REBEKAH.





Goodwill Donation Trailer - One Day Only!

May 16 from 6 am - 3 pm in the Groton United Methodist Church Parking Lot. (Truck may arrive the evening before.) They will accept donations of usable clothing, small electrical items, clean shoes, books, housewares, toys, jewelry, records, tapes & sporting goods. Furniture and large appliances **will not** be accepted due to limited trailer space. Donations brought to the site should be put inside the trailer. With your donations, you are helping to support Goodwill's many programs and services. Thank you for your support.



May 25



- / 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)

Who's poor?

A wealthy man took his son to the country to teach the boy about poor people. They spent several days and nights on the farm of a poor family.

When they returned home, the father asked his son, "What do you think now that you've seen how poor people live?"

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden, but they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden, but they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, but they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

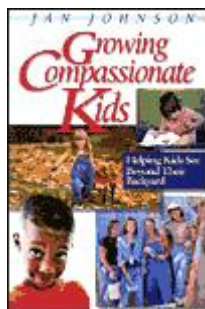
Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

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



UMW Reading Program

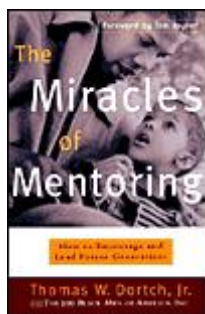


Growing Compassionate Kids: Helping Kids See Beyond (Nurturing for Community - 2004)

Jan Johnson, a well-known author who deals with Christian spirituality, helps moms and dads and grandparents learn to incorporate social outreach and mission into the often-hectic everyday realities of family life. When children see these living examples, they'll grow to be disciples of Christ and learn to consider others above self.

"A child growing in empathy is moving from isolation to connection, from self-centeredness to others-awareness, from hostility to hospitality," writes the author. Now couldn't the world use more people like that now?!

Questions for reflection plus personal and family devotions are included in each chapter.



The Miracles of Mentoring: How to Encourage and Lead Future Generations (Nurturing for Community - 2004)

"How many times have you said, 'I'd like to help a child, but I don't know what to do? I don't have the time, I don't have anything to offer, I can't afford it.' I promise you, by the time you finish reading this book, all of these questions will be answered.

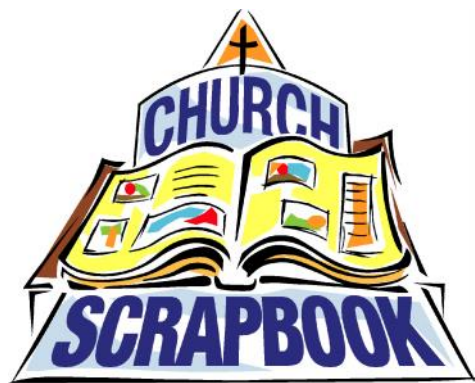
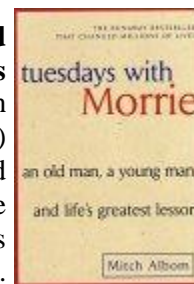
Tuesday's with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson (Education in Mission - 2003 - Large Print)

Mitch Albom had always promised to keep in touch with his favorite college professor, Morris Schwartz, after college was over. Of course, he didn't. Some years later, he saw Morrie on Nightline with Ted Koppel, where Mitch found out that his favorite teacher had contracted the painful disease ALS (Lou Gehrig's Syndrome). His body, but not spirit was slowly withering away.

Mitch gets in contact with Morrie and they start meeting on Tuesdays to talk about life, death and happiness. Mitch tries to gain Morrie's insight on numerous quagmires, not only for himself, but for his entire generation of thirty-somethings. Morrie has a great attitude about life, and yes, death. He doesn't strive to gain possessions that he doesn't need. Instead, he focuses on people he loves and the relationships he has.

Morrie's goal with Mitch Albom was always to loosen him up, to make him cry before his life was over. He succeeds not only to get Mitch to cry by the end of the book.

This is quite possibly one of the best books I've ever read. It is full of great mantras that you should always remember. Keep Kleenex handy, even if you are a tough guy.



WANTED!

Old Church related Photos!

Photos of all the past Pastor's.

Photos of all the Confirmation Classes!

If you can help, please let Kay Brandt or Margie Overacker know. We will scan and print your photos and the originals will be returned to you.

Thoughts for Memorial Day

The anthropologist and naturalist, Loren Eiseley, who died in 1977, wanted this epitaph for his wife and himself: "We loved the earth, but could not stay."

No one can stay, of course. We all are moving inexorably toward that final day when "the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done" (Book of Common Prayer).

This Memorial Day we particularly remember the men

and women who have perished in war, giving the ultimate sacrifice to make the world a better place. They too "loved the earth, but could not stay." May God hasten the day when we can solve our disputes peacefully.

We also remember all our loved ones whose stay on Earth is over. Christians believe that death does not end all. We trust that the God who made us will provide for us when our bodies can no longer sustain us.

A memorial stone on the campus of the College of Woos-

ter in Ohio, placed there by a class many years ago, reads:

United in time
Divided in time
To be reunited
When time shall be no more.



That is a hope we can have for our-

An Upside-Down World

The saintly nun of Calcutta, Mother Teresa, thought she knew why the world is upside-down. She thought it had to do with families that were out of sync, lacking togetherness, harmony and the extension of real love for one another. She said, "It is easier to offer food to the hungry than to answer the lonely suffering of someone who lacks love right in one's own family."

She went on to say, "The world today is upside down because there is so very little love in the home and in family life. We have no time for each other. Everybody is in such a terrible rush, and so anxious ... and in the home begins the disruption of the peace of the world."



Encourage
one another
and build up
each other....

I Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV



Groton
Sanctuary
on Easter
Morning!

Don't help a butterfly

There is a story about a man who kept watching a cocoon. The man knew a butterfly would emerge, but it seemed to take forever. Finally, being impatient and wanting to free the struggling insect, he took a knife and split the cocoon.

The butterfly was born, but it could not fly. The man had prevented a very necessary struggle that the butterfly needed. That struggle forces body juices into the insect's wings, giving it strength to fly.

Perhaps there is a lesson for us in the story. Those who have had some great strug-

gles in life are often better for enduring the difficulties. Losses, rejection, disabilities and disappointments can teach us patience, strengthen us spiritually, and make us better, more kindly humans.

Theologians sometimes use the phrase "No cross, No crown." It was victory over the Cross that made Christ King.



The nun who kidded God

The 16th century nun known as Teresa of Ávila (Spain) had a great sense of humor. Caught in a thunderstorm and getting soaked, she was heard to pray, "Lord, it's no wonder [you] have so many enemies, if this is the way you treat your friends."

Groton June Family Committee

Kim & Craig Weber

Sharon & Larry Wheeting

Brenda & Tony Madsen

Gloria & Harry Pharis

Ben & Kristi Peterson

Linda & Jay Johnson

Marjae & Dan Schinkel

Francine & Marc Sippel

Carol & Luverne Strom

Caralee & Gary Heitmann

Karla Pasteur, Ali

Don Bartz

Honorary Members

) Irene Breitrueetz

) Lila Bartz

) Charlotte & Art Lange

) Rita Washnok

Extra Responsibilities

) Mow the Lawn Weekly

) Clean Chapel and Library

) No Potluck

) June 4th Pentecost Sunday,
Change Banners and altar
cloths for this day

) June 11th Trinity Sunday,
Change Banners and altar
cloths for this day

) June 18th change altar cloths
to green



Groton Ad Council Minutes - April

Groton Admin. Council –Thirteen members were present on Apr. 12 to discuss the following agenda items:

Finance Report:

↓ We are current on apportionment payments.

Finance / Endowment / Memorial:

↓ One remaining bill of \$8437 for roofing project.

↓ A sum of memorial money has been received and requested to used toward the purchase of cordless microphones.

Trustees:

↓ Spring yard clean up is being done and windows in sanctuary are being looked at for leaks and potential repair.

Nurture:

↓ Plans for a May 21 graduate recognition are being made.

Outreach:

↓ Sixteen Easter baskets were delivered.

Witness:

↓ All member records have been transferred from written to electronic files.

UMYF:

↓ A mission trip to Lake Poinsett is planned to help with spring cleanup.

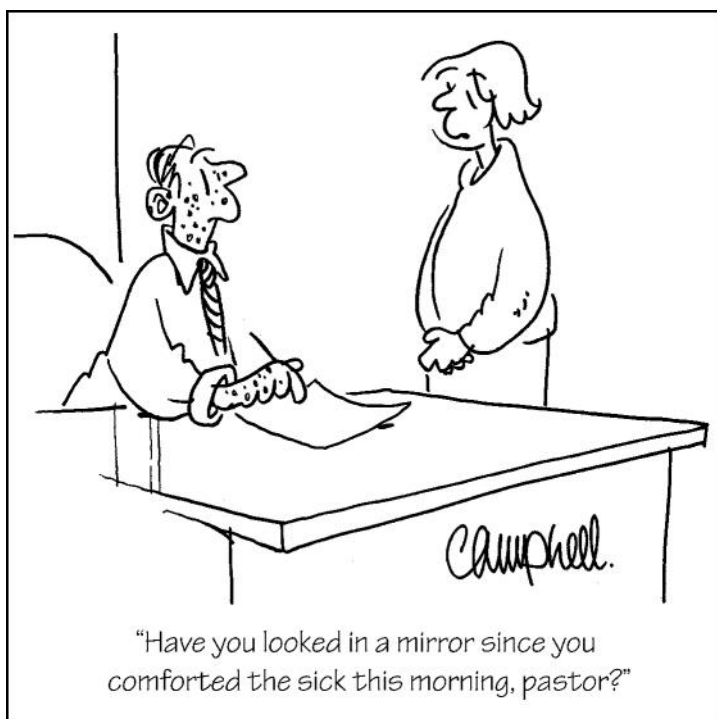
Camp Scholarships:

↓ It was agreed that 100% of the campers tuition would be paid for those applying to attend.



GROTON
MISSION
STATEMENT

*Enriching Spiritual
Lives through
Christ.*



"Have you looked in a mirror since you comforted the sick this morning, pastor?"

Groton Stewardship Report April 2006

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,666

Needed Weekly to Meet
Church Needs
\$1,706

Average Weekly
Attendance
99

Total Building Fund
Offerings
\$65

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			

Goodwill Truck

May 16

6 am - 3 pm

Our Church Happenings

May 7 Special Offering for Banquet on June 5th

Groton Honors Seniors

No Potluck in Groton

Pre-Annual Conference Gathering at Watertown

First 3 pm

May 9 PPR Meeting in Conde at 7:30 pm

May 10 Conde Breakfast honoring Conde High School Seniors

Conde Friendship Night Luncheon 6:30 PM

Groton Ad Council 8 pm

May 14 Mother's Day

Conde offering for Church World Service Blankets

May 16 Goodwill Truck in Groton Church Parking Lot

May 17 Groton UMW Tea Party on Wheels 2 pm

May 24 Conde Deadline for signing up to go to the Banquet in Sioux Falls June 5th

Groton UMW Prayer Vigil 9:00-9:45 am at home

Conde Ad Council at 8 pm

May 25 Conde UMW Prayer Vigil 11:15-12:00 noon

May 28 Newsletter Items Due

May 29 Memorial Day

June 4 New Members Membership Class

Pentecost Sunday - Wear Red to Church!

