

# UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

## A New Year

What can we do with a new year?

We can begin again, start over or continue on the same path we were on. Many people don't even notice that a new year has begun, it's all the same to them.

But we notice and re-form a plan to strive to be better on the pathway where we are going. In the world we live in, we are constantly bombarded with media hype about living the "good life", finding our youth, discovering the "new you". Those are things that many find end in ashes in your hands. We are not working to remain in this world, for it is only fleeting and short when compared to all time. All time is what God speaks to us about and God wants us to spend our time with God someday when we die. That is the ultimate goal- eternity with God. That is just the reason God sent a part of God's own self to us as a baby to live, grow, die, and redeem us through our repentance and the acceptance of Jesus Christ. All this gives witness that God has been with us all along. God remains with us everyday, and journeys as the guidance of the Holy Spirit among us.

In this new year, the expectation of the leaders of our church laity and clergy are:

- Spend time each day in prayer
- Be involved in regular worship
- Be in a small group for study and growth
- Tithe in your giving
- Be in hands on ministry regularly
- Read
- Work toward a healthier lifestyle.

When these things begin to happen with us we will see a noticeable change in attitude and atmosphere around our church family. We will be better equipped to reach out and minister to those around us. We have to have God in our hearts before we can confess and proclaim God with our lips.

Rick Warren tells us that the church is supposed to be the hands and arms of the body of Christ, yet we seem to be only the

lips. We tell others, but do not live out our ministry with authentication. We just speak about it.

My hope for the new year is that we as the body of Christ can do the following:

- Offer opportunities for Spiritual Growth
- Start one new Bible Study per year
- Study Stewardship as an outgrowth of personal discipleship
- Work towards a 10% growth in worship attendance each year
- Bring in at least one person on Profession of Faith each year.
- Study the demographics of our area or "neighborhood"
- Develop a plan for reaching those neighbors
- Engage in study of Native American History, culture and beliefs.
- Develop ways to partner with surrounding churches to strengthen our ministries.
- Encourage "out of the box" thinking even if it fails
- Intentionally develop lay ministry
- Actively involve youth in all areas of the local church.

These are the expectations of our Bishop Deborah Kiesey and your pastor if we want to enrich the spiritual lives of others through Jesus Christ as we claim we do.

May God continue to allow us to minister in new ways and speak to your heart as the leaders, congregation and members of our conference. New ways are just done in little bits to make life better and to be the obedient children God is calling us to be. Let us look for ways we can begin a new year with new plans. We are better together.

**Ephesians 4: 15**

**"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ."**

In Christ's love, Pastor Jan

## A New Year wish

May the New Year bring us:

Enough happiness to keep us sweet;  
 Enough trials to keep us strong;  
 Enough hope to keep us lively;  
 Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;  
 Enough failure to keep us humble;  
 Enough success to keep us eager;  
 Enough friends to give us comfort;  
 Enough wealth to meet our needs;  
 Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;  
 Enough faith to overcome despair;  
 And enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.





## Jaden Edwin Dobbins

Born on December 28, 2006 to Angela Brandt and Perryn Dobbins in Watertown, SD at 11:12 am. He was 6 lbs 13 ozs and 19 inches long.

Jaden's address is 1024 9th St NW B10, Watertown, SD 57201



## New births

Birth is God's dawn for each new life,  
Dawn is God's birth of each new day,  
Death is God's dawn of eternal life for us,  
As God's Love lights our way.

—Peggy Ferrell, Poems and Prayers



## Emily May Overacker

Born December 27, 2006 to Jessie & Jaymie Overacker in Aberdeen, SD at 7:23 pm. She was 8 lbs 10 ozs and 21 inches long.

Emily's address is 505 North 2nd Street, Groton, SD 57445



## Our Church Celebrations

### Conde Birthday's

- Jan 3 Bruce Herman
- Jan 8 Darrel Haskell
- Jan 10 Donna Hearnen
- Jan 11 Norman Smith
- Jan 27 Wava Thomas
- Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon

### Conde Anniversaries

- Jan 5 Marcene & Tony Bruckner
- Jan 27 Joyce & Darrell Haskell
- Jan 30 Patty & Mike Knoll

### Groton Birthday's

- Jan 2 Holly Walter

- Jan 3 Bob Walter  
Caroline Graf
- Jan 6 Zachary Townsend
- Jan 9 JoAnn Krueger  
Richard Oliver
- Jan 10 Anita Voss  
Neil Gilbert
- Jan 11 Norm Thurston  
Randy Padfield
- Jan 13 Lance Hawkins  
Monte McNickle
- Jan 15 Alissa Gellhaus  
Margaret Blader
- Jan 16 Hunter Bahr  
Marjorie Overacker

- Jan 18 Cheryl Graf
  - Jan 19 Tim Graf
  - Jan 20 David Nilsson
  - Jan 21 Pam Bahr
  - Jan 24 Curtis Furman
  - Jan 25 Russell Townsend
  - Jan 26 Doris Zoellner
  - Jan 27 Kristie Hawkins
  - Jan 28 Audrey Miller  
Ruby Luce
- ### Groton Anniversaries
- Jan 10 Melissa & Neil Gilbert
  - Jan 14 Jay & Linda Johnson
  - Jan 22 Bob & Marvel Johnson



Scenes from Dinner Theater at  
 Conde December 9 and  
 10 "Christmas Comes to  
 Detroit Louie"



## Epiphany of the Lord

The word epiphany comes from the Greek word epiphaneia, which means appearance or manifestation. It is an important word for liturgical churches. Epiphany is observed annually on January 6. It refers to the wise men, who were the first Gentiles to see the manifestation of God's appearance in the baby Jesus.

In the early church, January 6 was a day for baptism. The central significance of Epiphany is that Christ came as the Light of the World, not just for the Jews but for Gentiles as well.

Christ's light is for all.

In France, to celebrate Epiphany, children from Christian homes often put oats in their shoes on the evening before January 6. The oats are for the camels of the "Wise Men." When they awake the next morning, the children hope to find the oats gone and gifts left in their shoes.



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



## Conde UMW Minutes - Dec 13th

The Conde United Methodist Women met at the church at 11:00 am with Betty Taylor giving a short devotional. Patty Knoll read the devotion from the Conference booklet.

Christmas cards were sent to Joyce Haskell, Ivy Nogle, Darlene Meyer, and Joan Fahrenwald.

Six members and two guests answered roll call.

Our noon lunch was prepared by Donna Hearnen, Jane Worlie, and Patty Knoll. Following lunch, everyone adjourned to watch the video of Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" which concluded the December Bible Study.

Betty Taylor, Secretary

### Dakotas Conference UMW Spiritual Growth

**Retreat**

**Feb 2 & 3**

**Ramada Inn**

**Aberdeen, SD**

Bring photo of self that will not be returned. And must Pre-register.

Event will begin Friday evening at 6:30 pm and conclude Sat afternoon at 3:30 pm. The focus of the retreat is to enable us to grow in our understanding and commitment to God's mission to women, children, and youth.

## Conde UMW Meeting

11:00 AM

Pledge

Service led by Jane Worlie

Noon Lunch by Donna Walter and Betty Taylor

Business Meeting

## Groton UMW Minutes - December

The Groton United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon was held December 13th at the Latte Cafe in Groton at 1:00 p.m. Pres. Jolene Townsend welcomed the seventeen women in attendance. Pastor Jan Price gave the prayer. After a delicious lunch and fellowship, Vice Pres. Gloria Pharis shared the story of "The Tale Of Three Trees" and presented each member with 3 wrapped and decorated Christmas Tree cookies. Following dessert and coffee, the members packed homemade holiday cookies and candies in decorated Christmas containers in the church kitchen for delivery later that day. What a great mission outreach program to add to our holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Groton UMW Meeting

January 17th

2:00 PM

Pledge to Mission and  
Welcome New Members

Leader: Twila Ruden

Hostesses: Clare Brotherton &  
Jolene Townsend



## Groton UMW Prayer Vigil Jan 17

Each UMW Member is to be in prayer for two minutes according to the schedule in the UMW Booklet.

### Human Relations

**Day** calls us to recognize that all God's children can realize their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. The purpose of the day is to further the development of better human relations. Psalm 40:2b, "You set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure."

# Just for KIDS

## Unique Creations

It is the New Year and in many places it is cold enough to snow. God created snowflakes that are so unique that no two are alike! It is the same way with people – we are all one-of-a-kind. If God cares so much about how each snowflake is made, imagine how much God cares about you!

**Directions:** Draw lines to match the two halves of the snowflakes. Write the letters on the numbered blanks to form the words and to complete the verse.

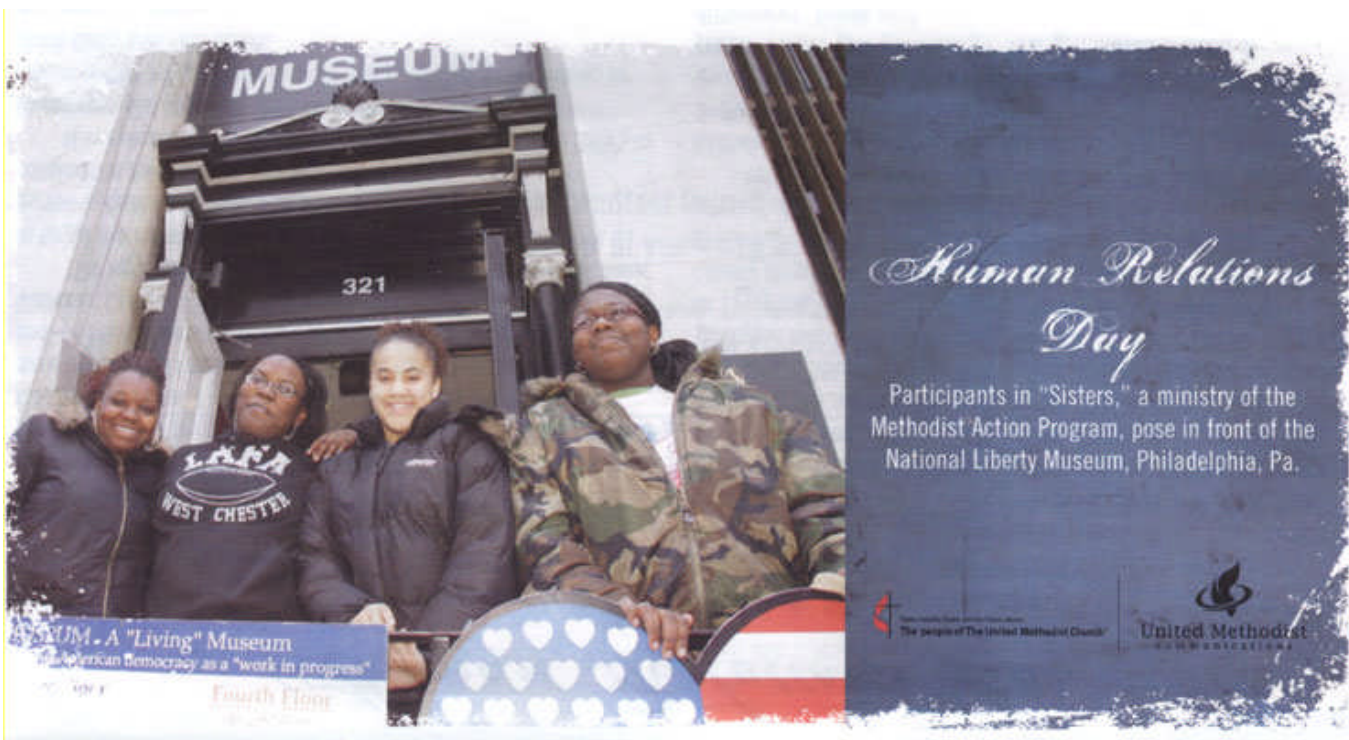
1			7		
2			8		
3			9		
4			10		
5			11		
6			12		

“I \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 10  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_ ....”  
 Psalm 139:14, NIV

Answer: “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful....”

### Groton Christmas Program





“When I tell the kids I grew up on welfare, when I tell them I had a single-parents family, they say, ‘It’s not possible.’ They ask, ‘What made the difference?’ I say, ‘Well, you know, I had a church. I had a community that believed in me. I heard sermons preached. I heard I could be transformed. And I realized I could do that, too.’ One day I looked back and – by God’s grace – I’ve done it. I’ve become an elder in The United Methodist Church. I was the first person in my family to go to college.

“For me, the issue is never to forget where I’ve come from, never to forget the transformation that happened in my life and to look a person in need in the eyes and realize he or she has the same possibilities for tomorrow as I do.”

Now executive director of the Methodist Action Program (MAP) in Wilmington, Del., the Rev. Bernard Keels knows firsthand what it means to find refuge in the church, and he makes it his mission to share God’s love with others.

“Our job is to make sure people in the

pews know that their Human Relations Day dollars mean something and that they can become involved actively in ministries of empowerment” like MAP, he says. “It’s a great challenge for the 21st-century church.”

One of MAP’s many ministries is “Sisters,” designed to provide guidance and a caring community for at-risk young women ages 12 to 17. Whether going on field trips to places like the National Liberty Museum or just relaxing together, participants focus on life skills such as improving school performance, finding a job, managing time and money, resolving conflict and setting goals.

Your offering on Human Relations Day, the Sunday before the birthday observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. Please give generously! Your gift makes a world of difference! Thank you!

*“How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.”*  
**Psalm 36:7, NRSV**

# Groton Church Families for February

**Francine & Marc Sippel**  
**Jeanne Wanous**

- Kelli & Lars Hanson, Cody
- Jane & Marc Johnson
- Elaine & Fred Wolken, Amber
- Jean Walter
- Vicki & Alan Strom
- Clarence & Ida Hannon
- Kevin Pharis
- Mary Jane Schott
- Anita & Gary Voss
- Lynette & Terry Furman, Derick & Sam
- Barb & Jack Schmidt, Taylor
- Josh & Merrie Atherton
- Diane Nissen

**Honorary Members**

- Audrey Padfield
- Marvel & Robert Johnson
- Norm & Audrey Thurston
- Clare Brotherton
- Vern Walter

**Extra Responsibilities**

- Feb 4 change altar cloths to white and hang Communion Banners for this day only
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Clean Coffee/Furnace Storage Room
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)
- Feb 11 change altar cloths to green
- Feb 18 change altar cloths to white
- Feb 25 change altar cloths to purple



**Groton Mission**

**Statement**

**“Enriching**

**Spiritual Lives**

**through**

**Christ.”**

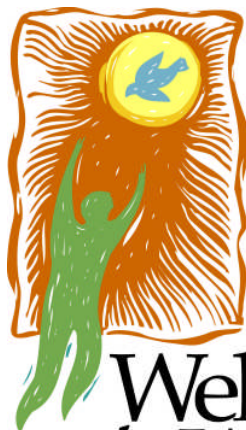


## Groton Prayer Chain

- Marlys Rodman 397-4570
- Jean Lowary 725-1232
- 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
- Marjorie Townsend 298-5221
- Darlys Kampa 395-6996
- Marvel/Bob Johnson 397-2425
- Mary Ann Whede 397-8330

\*Currently 47 on email prayer chain.

February 2007						
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			



**Welcome  
to Worship**

**Groton  
Stewardship  
Report  
December  
2006**

Average Wkly  
Giving  
\$1,109

Needed Weekly  
to Meet Church  
Needs  
\$1,706

Average Weekly  
Attendance  
84

Total Building  
Fund  
Offerings  
\$835



**Worship Time Changes**  
**Groton Worship is at 9 AM**  
**Conde Worship is at 11 AM**



## Our Church Happenings

- Jan 9 Groton Women's Bible Study 10 AM
- Jan 10 Groton Ad Council 8 pm
- Jan 14 Human Relations Sunday
- Jan 17 Conde UMW Meeting 11 AM  
 Groton UMW Meeting 2 PM  
 Conde UMYF 7 pm fellowship & meal  
 Groton Nurture Committee Meeting 7:30 pm  
 Groton UMYF 6-8 pm
- Jan 24 Conde Ad Council 7:30 pm
- Feb 2 UMW Retreat in Aberdeen
- Feb 4 Souper Bowl Sunday

Church Directory Photos will continue this month. Anita Lowary & Kay Brandt will be calling you for a time if you haven't taken your photo yet. We have had a great start so thank you all.

January 2007						
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			