

# United Methodist Messenger



JULY 2007

NEWSLETTER IN  
COLOR ONLINE

GROTON/CONDE PARISHES  
WWW.GROTONSDCHURCHES.COM/UMC

## Normal is Just a Setting on the Washing Machine!



WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT  
SERVICES

### Meet Me in the Middle

### Weekly Themes

*(wear the appropriate clothing!)*

**See you at 7 PM!**

**July 4th - No Service**

**July 11th - Golfers**

**July 18th - Soccer**

**July 25th - Fishermen**

Bring your boats!

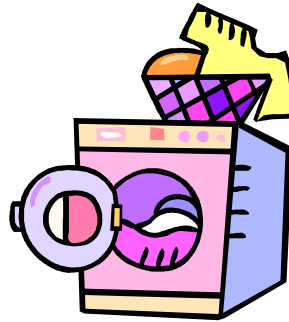
**August 1st - Camping**

Church Camps  
or Family Camping

Join Us for a different  
kind of Church on  
Wednesday evening!



OK, there I was having an ordinary day, sort of. Most pastors' days are full of many throttle shifts and changes to try and stay on track, but this was an ordinary day. I headed to see some folks in a care facility and as I entered a woman was sitting near the door half holding her head. I smiled and she looked up and asked me, "are you someone who prays?" [I hope so, I thought!] And so, I sat down beside her and asked her a few questions about her desire for prayer. She just did not feel her usual self and some medication changes might have precipitated this feeling. After hearing that she just wanted someone to pray with her so I did. We prayed about several things and that she was not alone in this world, God's presence was there as the Holy Spirit. As my prayer ended, I squeezed her hand and she looked up. "O, thank you, she said, I feel better already since you prayed for me." I have no idea whether this woman asked every other person that came through the door the same thing everyday or not. I trusted. I have no idea that my prayer made a difference in her life or not, God does. I believe. I have no idea if I will ever cross paths with her again, but God knows. I rest assured. I only know for me, I was in the right place at the right time to be used for God's glory on that day. It was a great feeling of joy is sharing such a simple gift as prayer together. It impacted my life and week.



I hope someone will be there when I feel the need for prayer. That happens everyday, so you know I am open to sharing prayer with anyone. God works in such mysterious ways his wonders to perform. Thank you Jesus, for allowing me to be that person for that day. This

small woman changed the rest of my week. When Christ puts people in our pathway do we hear His call? Do we really listen to His voice? Do we do His will? God knows. God only has us to do God's work here, are we ready?

I am so full of gratitude for those who have traveled again to serve at the Salvation Army for a meal time experience. We sent six people and will do so again this summer once again. Is God calling you? We have sent a team to work in another flood home. Are you willing to serve in this manner?

God calls us each to NORMAL, ordinary things. Here God, take us and use us.

Pastor Jan



**Serve a Meal!**

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Our Church Celebrations

### Groton Birthday's

July 4 Seth Erickson  
 July 5 Cassandra Olson  
     Jasmine Schinkel  
 July 7 Ida Hannon  
 July 8 David Tewksbury  
     Kelby Hawkins  
     Ruby Fuller  
 July 9 Jocelyn Peterson  
     Jordan Voss  
 July 12 Ashtyn Bahr  
 July 13 Jeff Voss  
     Jolene Townsend  
 July 14 Ava Kramer  
     Christine Nyberg  
 July 16 Linda Thurston  
     Richard Voss

July 18 Kaitlin O'Neil  
     Kevin Pray  
 July 19 Carol Strom  
 July 22 Gabrielle Furman  
     Jean Lowary  
 July 23 Joyce Walter  
 July 24 Christi Swenson  
     Maggie Oliver  
 July 25 Jessica Pasteur  
 July 26 Lucius Geffre  
 July 27 Ryland Strom  
     Tony Madsen  
 July 28 Craig Weber  
 July 29 Curtis Krueger  
 July 31 Amanda Swenson  
     Lynette Furman

### Groton Anniversaries

July 5 Allen & Joyce Walter  
 July 10 Pernell & Noella Graf  
 July 11 Roger & Marjorie Overacker  
 July 12 Brent & Christi Swenson  
 July 18 Josh & Merrie Atherton  
 July 21 Melissa & Jeremy Smith  
 July 24 Roger & Pam Rix  
 July 28 Bob & Carolyn Snyder

### Groton UMC



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 70 on email prayer chain.

### Baptism Blessings June 3rd Jaden Edwin Dobbins



God's LOVE has  
 been poured  
 into our  
**HEARTS**  
 through  
 the  
**HOLY SPIRIT**  
 that has been  
 given to us.

Romans 5:5, NRSV

### Storm warning

Stop telling God how big your storm is; instead, tell the storm how big your God is!

## Groton UMW Minutes - June

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women gathered Wednesday evening following the Wednesday night worship service.

Members heard about Love Ribbons as Carolyn Snyder led the program. Love ribbons adorned the table. Carolyn was assisted by Twila Ruden, Gloria Pharis, and Marlys Rodman in a Love Ribbon skit and Susan Odland led a Love Ribbon Rap. Love ribbons were purchased as the "green stuff" in the jar grew. The money will be sent to the Love Ribbon grant program. Units may apply for grants for UMW endorsed ministries in the areas of health, non-formal education, spiritual well-being, care-taking concerns, and young people in crisis.

The business meeting was conducted by Jolene Townsend, president. The PURPOSE was repeated in unison. The minutes of the April 18th meeting were read and approved and the notes of the May 16 "Tea Party on Wheels" were read. Thank you notes were read from Clarence and Ida Hannon and Imo Jeanne Oliver. Twila Ruden stated that Mary Alice Jensen wished to thank the unit for a plate of goodies that had been brought to her.

The treasurer gave the Financial report showing a balance of \$2948.54. She also gave a May Breakfast report. Two hundred one plates had been served and the net income was larger than ever. Focus Day facts etc. were also reviewed.

There were many good reports of the May Breakfast and the Tea Party. Pastor Jan conveyed thanks for the Tea Party. Four ladies had attended the luncheon at North Highland Church on May 6th.

Linda Thurston reported on the Long-Term Recovery Workshop she attended. The program is a UMCOR project. Mary Hayenga is supervisor of the project. A case worker is to come. The project will deal with the needs of the flood victims that have not been assessed. There will be another training session on July 2nd at Faith United Methodist Church.

On motion by Linda Thurston and a second, \$200 will be donated to the camping fund and \$200 after the Fall Bazaar. Also \$250 will be donated to the Sidewalk Sunday School. to be used by the workers for meals and snacks while they are here July 23-27. They will be staying at the Parsonage.

Jolene had learned about some throws that can be purchased and sold. Susan Odland will be in charge of the project which was generally agreed that should be done.

Other items discussed included the Ingathering kits, the unit Pledge, and the district meeting, which will be in Huron September 15th.

The unit will recess during July and August and meet next on September 19th at 7:30 p.m. Linda Thurston will discuss the 2008 Reading Program. Karla Pasteur and Kami Lipp will be hostesses. There will be an Executive Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Preceding the meeting Kelli Hanson and Carna Atherton-Pray served waffle ice cream sundaes for lunch.

## Groton UMW No July Meeting



## Emily's letter

Poet Emily Dickinson wrote a letter to a friend. She wrote of her sense that God was sitting near her, "looking into my soul to see if I think right thoughts." She went on to write, "Yet I am not afraid, for I try to be right and good; and He knows every one of my struggles."

And God is ready to see us through them all.





## THE LORD IS MY ROCK

Skipping stones, rock climbing and hiking are all fun summer activities. What do they all have in common? Rocks! Look at Psalm 18:2 to see the strength in the ONE rock we can depend upon.

Search the puzzle for the **BOLD** words from Psalm 18:2, and circle them. The words **MY** and **ROCK** only need to be found once.

**"The LORD is MY ROCK, MY FORTRESS and MY DELIVERER; MY GOD is MY ROCK, in whom I TAKE REFUGE. HE is MY SHIELD and the HORN of MY SALVATION, MY STRONGHOLD."**

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

**GOD ROCKS.**

### School Kits

- 1 pair of blunt scissors (round tip)
- 2 pads of spiral or looseleaf 8 1/2 X11 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
- 24 crayons in it's own box (Not a box split up!)
- 12X14 Cloth Bag with Velcro Closure

We always need volunteers to sew these school bags. If you would like to do so, the pattern can be found in the office or on our website.

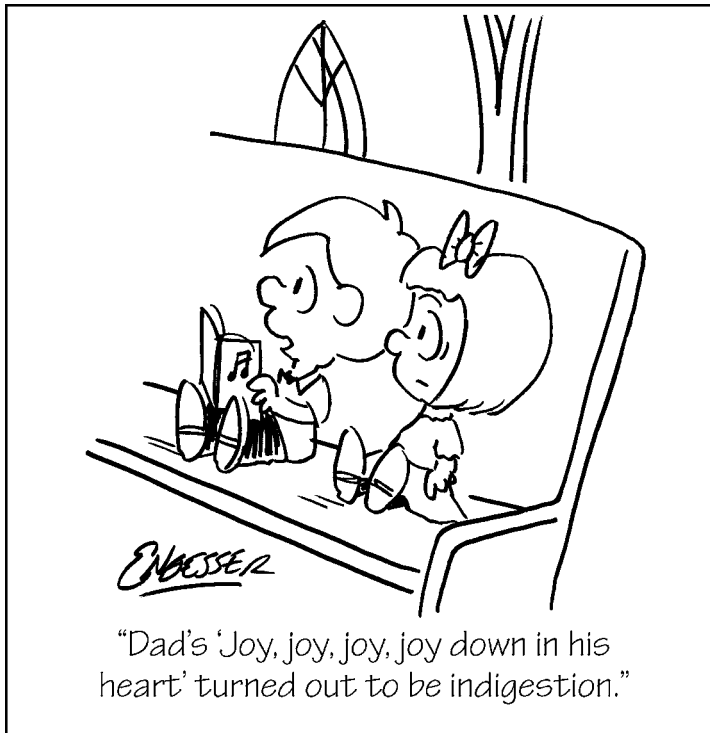


July 23-27  
 Groton VBS  
 Sidewalk Sunday  
 School  
 9 AM - Noon  
 Register Today!

## The buried Bible

In a small Texas town, a homebuilder places a Bible in each home's frame just before completing it. What? That's right, a Bible is buried, usually near the master bedroom. The homeowners, for the most part, seem pleased with the addition.

That's one way to build a strong foundation, but a better way is to read the Bible.



## A prayer for July 4

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly praise you for the nation in which you have allowed us to live. We cherish its wonder and its beauty. We are thankful for its fruitful lands, its bountiful waters, its great resources and its unlimited opportunities.

We thank you for our founding fathers and mothers, and for their foresight, special wisdom, and steadfast courage in establishing freedom and a lasting document of fairness.

Stir up within each of us the will to be good stewards of all the blessings of the land we love. Amen.

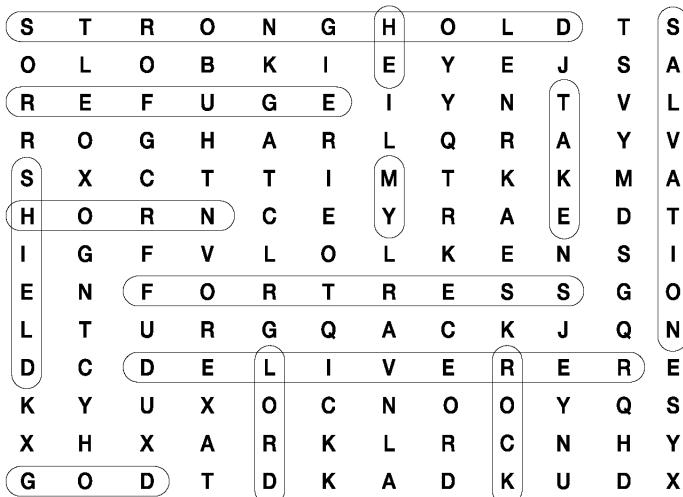


## Pastoral appreciation

A pastor was near a group of his church members when he overheard them talking about various ministers who had served the congregation. His ears perked up when he heard an older man say, "Whenever someone asks me, 'Which of our pastors did you like best?' my answer is always, 'The pastor we have at any given time is my favorite.'"

The pastor who was listening in breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

God sends each pastor to us with his or her own set of spiritual gifts, and God works through each pastor's gifts to bring us God's blessings.



**GOD ROCKS.**

**Wedding Invitation:** God has led two lives to take one path Linda Winckles and Joel Piehl together with their parents invite you to witness their vows as they begin their joyful journey on Saturday, July 21, 2007 at 4:00 pm. Free Methodist Church, 3928 East Dunbar Road, Monroe, Michigan 48161. Dinner Reception to be held following ceremony in fellowship Hall. Address is 432 South Harefoote Street, Holland, Ohio 43528

## Terry Mach Benefit

Thursday, July 19th at 5 PM

at the Eagles in Aberdeen

**Pork Feed & Silent Auction & Regular Auction**

**Raffle Tickets for a Gas Golf Car are being sold at the Olive Grove Golf Course**

**If wish to donate items, contact Kim Weber at 380-7148**

Terry owns the Cutting Edge in Aberdeen and has had cancer. She now has congestive heart failure as a complication from the chemo. She is a member of the Aberdeen First UMC. Terry's parents are Tony & Marcene Bruckner from Conde. Help Support Terry!

**“I am  
the  
true  
vine ...”**



**John 15:1**

### WANTED!

Volunteers to help with the  
New Sound System!

We need people for weddings, funerals, and the mid-week services. Training is Easy! Need to help play CD's and control the volume. Talk to Pastor Jan!

## Low pressure zone

Several studies reported in the magazine Religion and Health have shown that men who attend worship regularly have lower blood pressure than non-attendees. Of the 407 men examined, regular churchgoers had significantly lower blood pressure numbers.

Just one more good reason to attend church.

*Conde MISSION  
STATEMENT*

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

## Her "sermon"

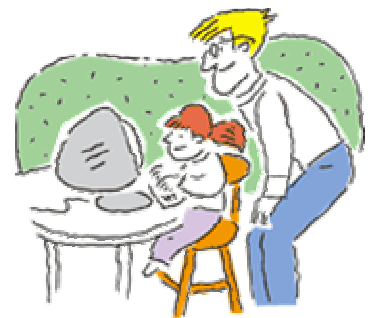
A small child was picking away at the keyboard of her preacher father's computer.

“What are you doing?” he asked.

“Writing a sermon,” she replied.

“What's it about?” he inquired. “What have you written so far?”

“I don't know,” she answered. “I can't read yet.”



## Groton Ad Council Minutes - June

**Finance:** The bill for the new sound system was received and will be paid in full thanks to money donated specifically for this cause and the use of some memorial money.

**Parsonage Water Damage:** The council felt that it was prudent to complete a FEMA application regarding water damage to the parsonage.

**July 11 Admin Council Meeting:** The council will meet at approximately 7:45 p.m. following the new Wednesday evening church service.



*Groton Mission Statement*  
"Enriching Spiritual Lives through Christ."

The Church Directory is completed! If you turned in a photo, then



there is a printed copy for you in the church office to pick up (local ones will NOT be mailed). Others that did not turn in a photo may print their own from the Internet. Please let me know of any errors. So far, Jolene Townsend phone number should be 395 and not 397. To print from the internet:

[www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc/07directory.pdf](http://www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc/07directory.pdf) and the password to open the file is church.

Kay Brandt



### Groton Stewardship Report June 2007

Average Wkly Giving  
\$5,810

*Offering increase due to extra contributions by some members - more is needed to sustain our church since we are behind financially.*

Needed Weekly to Meet  
Church Needs  
\$1,742

Average Weekly  
Attendance  
55

*We are offering Weds Evening Services to meet your weekly spiritual needs when weekends are busy.*

Total Building Fund  
Offerings  
\$890

## August Family Committee

**Francine & Marc Sippel**

**Jeanne Wanous**

Carolyn & Robert Snyder

Kelli & Lars Hanson, Cody

Elaine & Fred Wolken

Jean Walter

Jessie & Jaymie Overacker

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

- Mow the lawn as necessary
- Aug 5th change altar cloths to white and hang the Communion Banners for this Sunday only
- Aug 12th change altar cloths to green and hang monthly banners
- Clean the three NW Rooms
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)





July 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				

**July 23-27**  
**Groton VBS**  
**Sidewalk Sunday**  
**School**  
**9 AM - Noon**  
**Register Today!**

## Our Church Happenings

- July 4 No Groton Mid-Week Service
- July 11 Groton Mid-Week Service at 7 PM  
honoring Golfers (wear your golf clothes!)
- July 11 Ad Council 7:45 PM
- July 18 Groton Mid-Week Service at 7 PM  
honoring Soccer (wear your team shirts!)
- July 25 Groton Mid-Week Service at 7 PM  
honoring Fishermen (bring boats to the parking lot  
and receive a blessing of the boats...no guarantees  
on limits!)
- Aug 1 Groton Mid-Week Service at 7 PM  
honoring those who love to go camping, Church  
camps, or family camps. Wear your camp clothes  
and hats!

**Come to Church on**  
**Wednesday Evenings!**

