United Methodist Messenger

How To...





LENTEN CHOCOLAT STUDY

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME AND JOIN IN!

- Sunday Evenings at 7pm at the Groton Church
- Sunday following church and meal at the Conde Church

Our journey for Lent is one that is confusing to many people. What am I to do, what is expected of me? How can I go through six weeks of trying to live a repentant life worthy of Christ at the end?

A journey is just that, a journey, a trip. A time of small steps that make the actual time one of reflection, introspection and deliberate thinking. This is not what our world wants us to do. The world wants us to go faster and faster. Earn and do more and more until we reach our goal. Whatever the goal the world has for us is hardly worth that journey for it has nothing to offer in the end. The ultimate end. The ultimate end is of course, eternal life with God. What goal can top that achievement or be worth spinning our wheels, wasting our time or trying to match our neighbors race to no where?

We are on our journey to experience what Christ did for us and is doing for us in this life. We reflect about that heavenly destination someday where we might meet those who have gone ahead of us. [We always assume we will go there] We must do things to achieve that assurance for ourselves. "Knock and the door will be opened to you, seek and you will find." Matt 7:7 or in Luke 11: 9 are two places where we can find answers.

Christ came to offer us hope, for if we believe in Christ's ministry, life, death and resurrection we can "knock" and the same will be offered to us. Eternal life. Such a simple gift, people are afraid it isn't real. But it is. Ask and you will receive....eternal life.

There are many on this earth who are observers of our lives. What we do, where we spend our money, our time, or devotion to our family, can all make a difference in our world.

We forget that because we love Christ for the gift of eternal life Christ gave up for us, we want to do things to show our love in return. We are able to love our family, beginning with our spouse, then our children. Even those difficult relatives that seem to try ones patience, yes, they too need our love, understanding and acceptance.

We can be the neighbor who shovels, sweeps,

shares produce, shops for, includes and gives joy just through our living close to others.

Others at work might indulge in cheating, lying, covering up untruths for their own satisfaction. We should be the one to do a bit more, work a little longer and go the extra mile to build trust and the sheer joy of loving our tasks and work. We can be the example for the type of employee others can count on.

We can give back change when we discover a mistake from a clerk. We can return bills fallen on the street. We can open doors with a smile. We can be the first to do a friendly thing out of love for our fellow human beings.

We can be the ears that listen to the hardships in life from others. Bearing their pain and sorrow with them, not offering anything else but understanding and time. We can listen to kids whose voices are frequently asked not to speak. We can offer them a place to be heard and meet them at eye level as real people too.

We can give God our first check from our paycheck and not worry about how the rest will be handled. . . it will. We can pay each bill and find extra there to reach out to others. We can. We should.

We areGod's people. The fruit of God's labor, the best that the world has to offer. We are God's and we are here to make a difference by making a different world. We can. We should. We will. . . walk on our Lenten journey with joy in our hearts, purpose in our step and remember what Christ has done for us. Christ went first so we can be last. But the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

Now where did I hear that before?

Journey on fellow walkers, just as we have hope for the journey.

In Christ's Great Love, Pastor Jan

OUR CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

Conde Birthday's						
Mar 1	Pat Murphy					
Mar 6	Stacey Bonn					
Mar 11	Jared Murphy					
Mar 14	Katie Lyren					
Mar 20	Dale Buising					
Mar 22	Mike Knoll					
Mar 23	Greg Stark					
Mar 25	Chelsea Murphy					
Mar 26	Clayton Kurtz					
	Samantha Menzia					
Mar 31	Renee Hanlon					

Groton Birthday's							
Mar 1	Mary Hayenga						
	Mary Jane Schott						
Mar 3	Christine Zoellner						
Mar 4	Kale Pharis						
	Kay Brandt						
	Richard Zoellner						
Mar 5	Chance Strom						
Mar 7	Brian Bahr						
	Dale Strom						
Mar 9	Betty Strom						
Mar 14	Mendy Jones						
	Sydney Erickson						
Mar 21	Michelle Sundling						

Mar 22 Don Walter Mar 25 Brent Wienk Laurel McNickle Murdock McNickle Mar 26 Clare Davidson Justin Morehouse Mar 27 Dwight Strom Michelle Walter Mar 28 Riley Thurston Mar 29 Sharon Wheeting Mar 30 Taylor Schmidt Lori Seelye Mar 31 Caralee Heitmann



Mar 7

Groton Anniversaries Mar 3 Cal & Mary Hayenga

	Krueger				
Mar 10	Art & Charlotte Lange				
	Jay & Mary Swisher				
Mar 17	Jan & Don Price				
Prayer Works					

Richard & JoAnn



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 62 on email prayer chain.

Prayer Requests Can be called or

Can be called or emailed to Pastor Jan at 397-8270 or grotnumc@nvc.net or Kay Brandt at 397-8389 or computer@nvc.net

World Day of Prayer March 2nd "United Under God's Tent" By the Women of Paraguay

> Conde UMC at 2 pm Patty Knoll Leader

Groton meets at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 2 pm To the family of Earl Lowary who passed away February 6th.



To the family of Russell Buising who passed away February 7th

GROTON UMW FEB MINUTES

The Groton United Methodist Women met Wednesday afternoon at the church. President Jolene Townsend called the meeting to order. Mary Hayenga gave the program on "Various Social Issues of Interest to Women".

The PURPOSE was recited and Doris Zoellner read a poem, "Count Your Gains", and followed with prayer for devotions.

A clarification of how the Ingathering responsibilities are divided with the Mission Committee of the church was given. Members were reminded to continue collecting pop tabs, grocery receipts etc.

The president attended the Dakotas Conference Retreat in Aberdeen February 2nd and 3rd.

May Breakfast plans were announced. Rose Tewksbury will chair the kitchen. Doris Zoellner will be in charge of making the coffee; Twila Ruden the advertising; and Clare Brotherton and DeLoris Knoll will take reservations. The theme is "A Pleasing Palette"; program to be given by Renee McKiver.

The World Day of Prayer service in

Groton will

be at the <u>Rive!</u> Shine! Emmanuel

Lutheran

Church at

2:00 p.m. March 2nd. Five volunteers are needed for the program and five dozen cookies will be furnished by Doris Zoellner and Marj Townsend.

Glorify God!

Groton will host one of the Focus Days on April 21st. The April work committee will be in charge of serving the coffee times and lunch. Muffins for the morning coffee, salads for a salad luncheon and bars for the afternoon coffee will be donated.

The Sunday School teachers will be honored at the Sunday morning worship service on March 4th.

Lunch following the meeting was served by Doris Zoellner and Marj Townsend. UMW served the "Soup and Sandwich" supper before the Lenten Service at the Church Wednesday evening. Each Wednesday during Lent a committee will be in charge of the suppers.

UMW Focus Days Workshop Hosted by UMW Groton - April 21st

March 4th - Groton Honoring Christian Education Leaders

Meri Erickson Melissa Gilbert Marjae Schinkel Dale Kramer Kelli Hanson Brenda Madsen Mendy Jones Kami Lipp Kristi Peterson Karla Davidson Kristie Hawkins Sydney Erickson

Groton UMW March Meeting

2:00 pm on March 21st Wednesday Program: Lent - Easter Leader: JoAnn Krueger Hostesses: Mary Swisher & Marlys Rodman



Good St. Patrick

On March 17, many churches, especially those with a large Irish population, will celebrate the life of St. Patrick. He grew up in a Christian home in Britain, but wasn't very religious until a major event changed his life. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, but escaped to Gaul (France) after six years. The years of enslavement strengthened his faith. He later wrote, "In that strange land [Ireland], the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes." He was led by God's voice to return to Ireland where he converted people to Christianity tribe by tribe.

Because Ireland is called the Emerald Isle, those who celebrate St. Patrick's Day will wear something green. Some Christians will even color food or drink green. Many Christians will also eat corned beef and cabbage and decorate tables with shamrocks. Shamrocks are actually three-leaf (not four-leaf) clover plants. Legend has it that St. Patrick used the three leaves to teach about the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

CONDE UMW FEB MINUTES

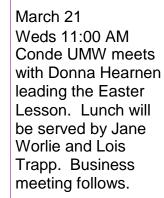
The Conde Unit of UMW met immediately following the Ash Wednesday Distribution of Ashes.

President Donna Hearnen opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of the UMW.

- Roll Call showed six members present in addition to Pastor Jan being with us.
- Minutes of the previous meeting • were read.
- Treasurer's report showed our Conference Pledge had been paid in full for the year 2007.
- Cards remembering birthdays and those who are ill were prepared to be sent. Johanna Swain, a former resident, is 100 years young this vear.
- Our shepherdess, Kaye Harr of Rockham, will be invited to a meeting.
- April 21 is Focus Day in Groton,

which we will attend.

- We were reminded of the One Great Hour of Sharing calendar which will be returned March 18; also, UMW Sunday under the direction of Pat Siefken.
- Lunch for Vacation Bible School will be furnished by the unit.
- Pat Siefken briefed us on the Conference Retreat recently held in Aberdeen.
- Brunch was served by Pat Siefken and Betty Jensen.
- Patty Knoll showed two videos on the work of the Deaconesses of our church, which is the object of the Call to Prayer and Self Denial for this year.
- Next meeting is March 21 at 11:00 AM with Donna Hearnen presenting the Easter Lesson. Hostesses are Lois Trapp and Jane Worlie.



Conde UMW Sunday March 18

The local unit of UMW will host the program for this Sunday morning. The worship is in the care of Pat Siefken, Program Chair of the unit. One Great Hour of Sharing will also be observed. Be sure to have your calendars (with your pennies saved) with you at this time.

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



SEWING KITS ARE **BEING COLLECTED**

- 3 yards of uncut cotton or cotton blend, solid color or print fabric
- 1 package of needles
- 1 spool of thread
- 5-8 matching buttons
- 1 pair of sewing scissors

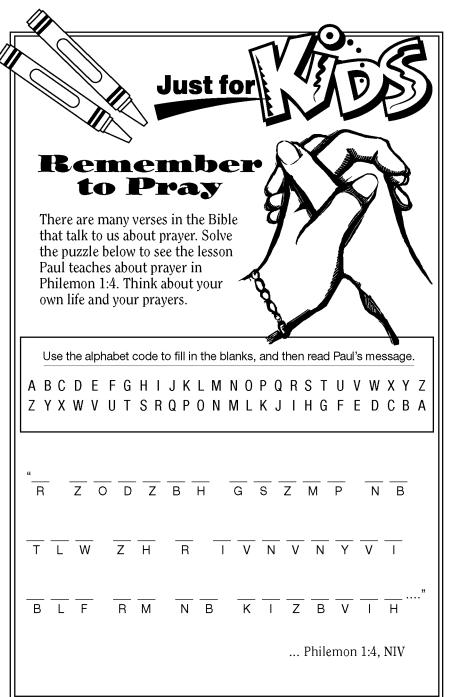


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Bible: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

Recall the old story of the grandmother who was reading the Bible. When her grandson asked her why, she said, "I'm getting ready for my final exam."





COUT

Groton Youth Fellowship will meet at 6 pm March 7th to provide the Lenten Supper with a meeting to follow

March 21st we will attend the Lenten Service with a meeting to follow.

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers



March 11th

A little encouragement goes a long way

A young girl in the children's choir was given a solo to sing. When the time came for her solo, she hesitated. A boy stepped forward to give her support. Then a woman whispered to her, "Come on, little sister, you can do it. You can do it." With that boost the child calmed down, remem-bered the words, and successfully finished her song.

Just a little encouragement can make a big difference to someone. Have you offered some today?

March 2007











<u>Dinn</u>er

The Groton UMYF group hosted an "Italian Fine Dining Experience" Valentine dinner on February 12th at beautifully decorated tables. The twelve items comprising the meal were listed in Italian, and each diner chose the order in which they wished their meal courses served. To say the least, there were many surprises if one knew little Italian—such as the first course ordered may have been a glass of water and a toothpick, or a dish of ice cream and a knife. The evening was fun, fun, fun. Great job kids!





GROTON CHURCH DIRECTORY STATUS

We are done taking photos at the church. But you can still get a photo in the directory instead of having a blank space beside your name. One, you can take the photo on a digital camera yourself and email it to Kay at computer@nvc.net OR you can arrange to have Anita or Kay take the photo for you on our camera.

We will be calling to fill in our sheets to update the church records

even if you do not have a photo put in. Thank you all that have contributed even from afar.

We hope to get the directory published before Mother's Day!





The Wednesday evening Lenten Services Offering in Groton has partially been designated to Sidewalk Sunday School.

REMEMBER WHO MADE US

We have forgotten the gracious hand which has preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving Grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. —Abraham Lincoln



In your heart

If there is peace in your heart, you will find it impossible to hate. If there is honesty in your heart, you will find it impossible to judge another. If there is love in your heart, then that is all there is. Fear is gone, as is judgment And the desire for violence. —Kim Hauenstein United Protestant Campus Ministries, Cleveland, Ohio

IRENE BREITKREUTZ TURNING 99 APRIL 5TH

Help Irene Celebrate by sending off a Birthday Card! Address is C/O Mary Jane Loll, 4736 South 177th Street, Omaha, NE 68135-3413.

Greetings have been received from Irene this past month. She wants to greet each one from the church and says that she is doing well at Mary Jane's and still doing some housekeeping and baking muffins and brownies. She promised to be back to work or supervise in the kitchen for Dick Ruden's 90th birthday party in 2009! She enjoys seeing her 6 great grandchildren and the new greatgreat grandson. She is always working on a baby afghan and thanks God every day for the use of her hands and eyesight.

Irene is currently recuperating from pneumonia and am sure she will be back at all the things she loves soon!



UMW RETREAT - MEDITATION ROOM REFERENCES

Praise be, as well as thanks be to God, for a wonderful Resurrection Women's Retreat in Aberdeen. The weather outdoors was cold, but the hearts of the participants were warm and motivated. Thanks to all 96 of you who attended and worked hard to make the Retreat a wonderful experience.

The following are the Scriptures and Hymns that were used in the three meditation rooms. Several people asked me for them, so I thought it would be best to make them available to everyone via the District and Conference Newsletters. Here are the references listed by rooms:

THE CROSS: Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:16-41; Luke 23:18-43; John 19:16-37. Hymns from the UM Hymnal were #282, "Tis Finished! The Messiah Dies; #286, "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"; #288, "Were You There"; #295, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"; and #297, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus". The pictures are "Christ on Calvary" by Monkacsy and "Christ on the Cross" by Rubens.

THE RESURRECTION: Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-11, Luke 24:1-12;

John 10:1-18. Hymns were #302, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"; #303, "The Day of Resurrection"; #305, "Camina Pueblo de Dios"; #308, "Thine Be the Glory"; #310, "He Lives"; #314, "In the Garden". Pictures are "Women at the Sepulcher" by Bouguereau, "Holy Women at the Tomb" by Ender, and "Peter and John Running to the Tomb" by Burnand.

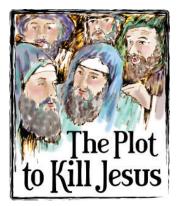
PENTECOST: Acts 2. Hymns are #537, "Filled with the Spirit's Power"; #538, "Wind Who Makes All Wind that Blows"; #541, "See How Great a Flame Aspires"; #543, "O Breath of Life"; #544, "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song".

I hope this is helpful. If you have other questions that you would like answered about the Retreat, please contact me at: Audrey McElmury, PO Box 74, Bowman, ND 58623. Email: ramcelmury@gmail.com. YOU ARE A BLESSED CHILD OF GOD!!

Audrey McElmury



Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. —Leo Buscaglia



CHILDLIKE FAITH

To observe what it means to have childlike faith, simply observe a scared child grow quiet in the arms of a comforting parent.

For a more dramatic lesson, visit the CN (Canadian National) Tower in Toronto, Ontario. Up at the 1,122 foot level you'll find a glass floor. You can walk out onto that floor and look down between your feet to the ground many stories below. You'll notice that many adults hesitate at the edge of the floor and refuse to venture out onto it. Some poke at the floor

with the toe of a shoe as if testing the water before committing themselves. Meanwhile, youngsters of all ages scamper across the floor without a care. The children sense the presence of the floor holding them up and trust it completely. Many adults see only the vast emptiness below. They don't trust that the floor exists and that it will hold them.

As children of God, we can trust the Presence who always upholds us any time we have doubts, or face adversity.

UMCOR - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Turning hopelessness into hope.

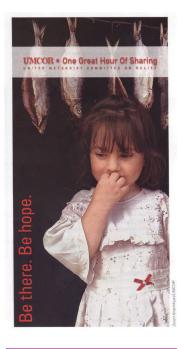
Goharik Gevorgyan lives in rural Yerevan, a marze or province of Armenia. Interlacing mountain ranges surround her homes, and through haze she can see distant, snow-covered Mount Ararat.

Today Goharik attends school regularly because her mother can afford her school fees, once a constant worry. Thanks to a small-business loan from a micro-credit program called "Aregak," Mrs. Gevorgyan operates a fish-smoking business that provides a decent living for her family.

Aregak, which means "sunshine" in Armenian, is also an acronym for a women's ministry operated by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Established in 1997, Aregak aims to raise the living stands of poor women throughout Armenia and a neighboring republic. Aregak provides small loans backed by groups of women selected by the applicants themselves. Before a loan is granted, the applicant and her financial support group attend training sessions the ensure success. More than 15,000 clients have built home businesses, expanded existing enterprises and, most importantly, transformed hopelessness into hope.

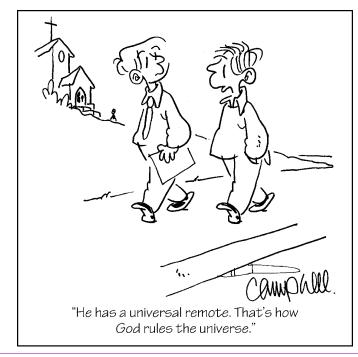
UMCOR has worked in Armenia since 1994 in response to chronic war, extreme poverty and devastating natural disasters. Because of UMCOR's outreach, Goharik and other children live with hope.

When the One Great Hour of Sharing offering plate comes to you, please give generously so UMCOR can continue to be there and to be hope in Armenia and 80 other countries. Thank you!



"See, everything has become new!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17b, NRSV





Pointers on gardening?

There's the story of the minister who was making a wooden trellis to support a climbing vine.

As he was pounding away, he noticed that a little boy was watching him. The youngster didn't say a word, so the preacher kept on working, thinking the lad would leave. But he didn't.

Pleased at the thought that his work was being admired, the pastor finally said, "Well, son, trying to pick up some pointers on gardening?"

"No," he replied. "I'm just waiting to hear what a preacher says when he hits his thumb with a hammer."

SHEDDING TEARS BEFORE GOD

When Philip Johnson, renowned architect and designer of the Crystal

Cathedral in California, was just 13, his family took him to France. When they entered the cathedral at Chartres, Philip was so moved by the majesty and beauty of the building dedicated to God that he burst into tears.

I have also shed tears in a church. I wept when I felt the nudging presence of God pointing me toward the ministry. I wept when I was ordained. I wept when I retired after serving as a pastor for 38 years.

I have seen people weep at the altar rail. I have seen brides cry during the marriage ceremony. I have observed people weeping at funerals and sometimes at the baptism of a child. I recall a man saying to me, "I cried during the sermon. Do you know that what you preach can sometimes make a person cry?" To weep before God is to be in good company. Job said, "My eye pours out tears to God" (Job 16:20, NRSV). A psalmist prayed, "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not hold your peace at my tears" (Psalm 39:12, NRSV). Read Jeremiah 9 and you will understand why he is called "the weeping prophet."

Jesus wept over the wretched status of Jerusalem where he was spurned (Luke 19:41). He also wept when his friend Lazarus died (John 11:35). St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "I wrote you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears" (2 Corinthians 2:4, NRSV).

The point is this: When you are moved to cry before God, cry. People with caring hearts do that. This is something to remember, especially during Lent.

-Charles Ferrell

Truthful answer

A Sunday school teacher was telling the story of the Good Samaritan. In graphic detail she described how the assaulted man was left helpless beside the road. Then she asked the class, "If you came upon a wounded man lying by the road and he had blood all over him, what would you do?"

A dainty girl spoke first, "I think," she said with a wince, "that I'd probably throw up."





I believe in the church

I believe more profoundly in the church every hour that I live. We can make our money and our witness go further through the church than through any independent movement. We can do more constructive work through the church than any other way in the world. That is my deepest conviction. I have watched all kinds of independent movements, and my conviction steadily deepens that Christians are doing the wisest thing possible when we link our lives with the church.

-George W. Truett (1867-1944)

GROTON AD COUNCIL MINUTES

Annual Audit: Anita Lowary reported that all books have been audited for 2006 and found to be correct.

Outreach: Crystal Sippel reported that their committee has decided on six special offering Sundays. They have also designated who will be in charge of those special Sunday offerings

Pastor/Parish: Lon Gellhaus reported that Pastor Jan has been asked to return to serve both churches for another year.

Sound System: It was decided that a second bid will be sought and then the council would like to meet with those

making bids to have clear explanations of their proposals.

Admin. Council Meeting Time: It was decided that beginning in March, the AD Council will change their meeting time from 8pm to 7pm.

Jr. Kindergarten Screening: The council approved the use of our church for the screening and testing for Jr. Kindergarten.

Mobil Bible School: The Mobil Bible School sponsored by Children of the Harvest is being planned for early August.

Good Show

When the family returned from Sunday morning service, father criticized the sermon; daughter thought the choir's singing was off key, and mother found fault with the organist's playing. The subject had to be dropped when the small boy of the family said, "But it was a good show for a dollar, don't you think, Dad?"

Groton Mission Statement "Enriching Spiritual Lives through Christ."



GROTON APRIL FAMILY COMMITTEE

Connie & Dave Nilsson & Alexa Pam & Doug Bahr Anita & John Lowary Linda & Gary Thurston Jolene & Alan Townsend & Zachary Meri & John Erickson & Seth & Evan Mary & Cal Hayenga Brian & Andrea Bahr Dion Bahr Bert Raap William & Wanda Zoellner Dick Oliver Audrey & Dling Jacobson Joy & Don Walter

Honorary Members DeLoris Knoll

Robert Hood

Hazel McKittrick

April Extra Responsibilities

- Clean the Fellowship Hall
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)
- Arrange and water the Easter Lilies
- April 1st, Palm Sunday, change the altar cloths to purple and put up the Palm Sunday Banners
- April 8th, Easter Sunday, change the altar cloths to white and change the banners for Easter and arrange the Lilies

Groton Stewardship Report February 2007

Average Wkly Giving \$1,414

Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs \$1,742

> Average Weekly Attendance 65

Total Building Fund Offerings \$127

April 2007									
s	М	Т	W	Т	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								



OUR CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Mar 2 World Day of Prayer Conde 2 pm at UMC - Patty Knoll Leader Groton at Emmanuel Lutheran Church 2 pm
- Mar 4 Groton Honors Christian Ed Leaders
- Mar 6 PPRC in Groton at 7:30
- Mar 7 Groton Lenten Supper by UMYF at 6 pm; Service at 7 pm Groton UMYF Meeting after Lenten Service Choir Rehearsal following the Lenten Service
- Mar 11 Conde UMC Potluck Dinner at noon

Daylight Savings Time Begins/Girl Scout Sunday

Mar 14 Groton Lenten Supper by Outreach at 6 pm; Service at 7 pm Groton Ad Council 7:30 pm

Mar 18 UMW Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

No Sunday School in Groton - Spring Break

Mar 21 Conde UMW Meeting 11 am Groton UMW Meeting at 2 pm

- Stoton Lonton Sugnar hy Nurture at 6 and Sa
- Groton Lenten Supper by Nurture at 6 pm; Service at 7 pm
- Groton UMYF Meet after attending the Lenten Supper & Service
- Mar 25 Newsletter Items are due!
- Mar 28 Groton Lenten Supper by PPR at 6 pm; Service at 7pm Conde Ad Council 8:00 pm

