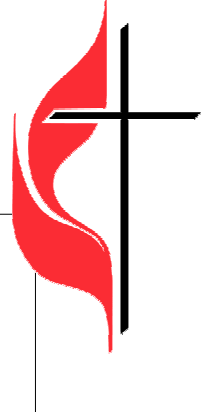


UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

April 2008

www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc



EYES ON THE PRIZE

We have a journey on earth to accomplish. We walk through life with our eyes open or shut based on our choices. Life can be really great, or really sour depending on the glasses with which we view things. We can go back through our past history and blame those things, many out of our own hands, and use that to give excuse to our current behaviors.

Fact is, we make our life's journey with the choices we have all made. I know in my own life earlier choices taught me many things, not all good., but I learned. Since I have come to know Christ as my Savior and choose to follow those footprints, I am a much more content and happier person. Not only do I have someone to walk with me, but I am able to receive counsel at all times and places. This gives great comfort to a person who functions mostly alone at times of decisions and choices.

I wish to remain true to the calling in life to do God's plan instead of my own. So I try to remain open to that leading and focus on the greater distance ahead of my life.

We all have many challenges and opportunities to be the loving, open person to show God's love to others. It is not always easy to do so in light of the current world we live in, but with God's help we will keep God's order in our hearts and move with God's leading.

Since coming through a beautiful Lenten season and through to once again, a glorious celebration of a RISEN Christ, we see anew the ways of the cross.

If God could send God's own Son to redeem us through his sacrificial life, what can we do to return such a love? We cannot! God calls us to share in that love in our lives contact with others as witnesses of that love given to us.

So we can keep our eyes on the prize of heaven by our constant contact with our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer God and work for the good in life. We might have to let some of the old things fall away in order to keep our eyes focused on the prize. We all need Christ in our lives. If we cannot make room in our lives for Christ to be included or replace Christ for other things, then we must take the responsibility for our choices.

We reach out to others, to welcome them to come be among us, to walk with us, to extend the hand of fellowship and love as they walk on their journey. Who are you thinking about today that you can share the message of Christ's love with them? Perhaps Christ is calling you to share in this great, great love with others. If you have never asked for Christ to come into your life, to offer your sins to Christ to heal and forgive, then you must know Christ asks us to keep our eyes on the prize and walk with Christ as one who shares the journey with us.

Be open to Christ's leading, listen to the voice of strength and guidance, be ready to move when you can and match your intentions with your actions. Christ calls us all, are we listening?

So we are Christ's FOCUS GROUP here on earth. In the spirit of peace and love, Pastor Jan

When the stars are gone

The stars shine over the earth,
The stars shine over the sea;

The stars have existed for millions of years,
Millions of years and a day,

But God and I shall love and live
When the stars have exploded away.

—Anonymous

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



Sympathies to the family of Mary Alice Jensen Who passed away March 29th Funeral is at 11 AM April 5th

Evangelism Course

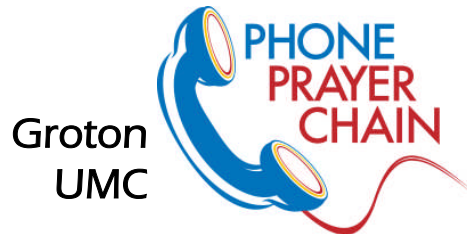
Aberdeen First UMC is sponsoring a one-day evangelism crash course on April 12th. It is on Sat from 9-3pm in their Community Life Center Gym. Free Class, Lunch provided, & Fee-will offering.

Blessings Shower And Baptism April 20 Skyler Andrew Kramer Born February 12th Son of Dale & Michelle Kramer April 27 Gage Carl Sippel Born February 8th Son of Doug & Crystal Sippel



Irene Breitreutz turns 100!

April 5th Irene Breitreutz celebrates her 100th Birthday. 4736 South 177th Street, Omaha, NE, 68135-3413 - Send a card! Celebration Invitation for all members to join Irene at the Waterford Clubhouse from 11:30am - 2:30 pm.



- Groton UMC Marlys Rodman 397-4570 Jean Lowary 731-5256 Audrey Thurston 397-8493 Gert Ruden 397-8211 Pat Dahlquist 397-2616 Florann Norris 397-2638 Mary Swisher 397-8337 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 72 on email prayer chain.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OUR CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

Groton Birthday's

- Apr 3 Marc Johnson
- Apr 4 Mitchell Madsen
- Apr 5 Irene Breitreutz (100th!)
- Apr 7 Reilly Ell
- Apr 8 Lon Gellhaus
- Apr 10 Martha Miller
Pauline Luce
- Apr 14 Reta Washnok
- Apr 15 Brady Graf
- Apr 16 Kristi Peterson
Rodney Boehmer
- Apr 18 Dylan Vogel
Merrie Atherton
Vern Walter
- Apr 20 Marlys Rodman

- Apr 22 Ali Pasteur
- Apr 28 Kevin Pharis
- Groton Anniversaries**
- Apr 16 Terry & Lynette Furman
- Apr 18 Dick & Sandy Oliver
- Conde Birthday's**
- Apr 3 Drake Patterson
- Apr 5 Wyatt Kurtz
- Apr 14 Dylan Stark
- Apr 18 Loren Siefken
- Apr 22 Brandon Schlosser
Curtis Haskell
Mary Ann Watts
- Apr 27 Mal Knoll
- Apr 28 Jim Baldrige



“The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions.”

—Calvin Coolidge



Emerlee Darlene Jones

Was born to Jim and Mendy Jones on March 24th at 1:25 PM. She weighed 8 lbs 7 ozs and was 21 inches long.

FUNDRAISER FOR JEROME OSSNESS

Sunday, April 13 from 2-4 pm at the Langford School Gym. Jerome was diagnosed with Eshesioneuroblastoma (a very aggressive, malignant sinus cancer) in July 2007 and has gone through surgery, 6 weeks of radiation therapy and 4 cycles of chemotherapy.

The fundraiser consists of a community wide Bake Sale with supplemental funds by the Brown

County Thrivent chapter and a silent Baskete Auction with supplemental funds by the Marshall County Thrivent chapter. There will also be a variety of entertainment to enjoy.

Donations of baked goods and theme baskets (sports, hunting, fishing, movie, spa, shopping, etc) can be dropped off prior to the event or we can arrange to pick them up.

Monetary donations can be sent to Wells Fargo of Groton, PO Box 228, Jerome Osness Benefit account, and also Dakota Electronics of Aberdeen, 424 Brown Co 19s. Contacts are Tammy Darling at 493-6647, Bill Stolle at 397-4562, Alan Darline at 493-2699, Vera Osness at 397-2699, and Darlene Finnesand Chair of Bake Sale at 397-2649.

Thank you for your support.

GROTON UMW MINUTES - MARCH

Giving Our Hearts



Sue Foster, Groton Elementary School principal, gave an interesting and entertaining program for the Groton unit of United Methodist Women at its regular March meeting at the church Wednesday afternoon, March 19th. Mrs. Foster explained some of the ways the unit could help our young people in the community and school.

President Jolene Townsend opened the business meeting; the UMW PURPOSE was recited; and Doris Zoellner led devotions.

Doris Zoellner, Spiritual Growth Committee chairman, reported on the World Day of Prayer and suggested the unit recognize Yvonne Lange for her special music and accompaniment at the prayer service. Yvonne will be given a monetary gift and a bouquet of flowers, delivered by Susan Odland and Marvel Johnson.

Irene Breitrueztz will celebrate her 100th birthday on April 5th at the Waterford Clubhouse, Omaha, Neb., from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Greetings may be sent to her at 4736 S. 177th St., Omaha, Neb. 68135-3413. Thank you notes were

read from several people.

New business included a decision to use the UMW Lenten supper offering for a project at the Elementary school. Pat Dahlquist, Clare Brotherton and Susan Odland will be a committee to honor the teachers during Appreciation Week at the school.

The president read some reports and letters from conference officers and an invitation to Focus Days to be held April 19th, at Aberdeen North Highland Church. A monetary donation was voted for the post-prom party. Volunteers are needed at the Golden Living Center to serve cookies and coffee one Sunday a month after church services at 3:00 p.m. Plans for the May Breakfast on May 7th were discussed.

The next meeting will be April 16th at 7:30 p.m. Twila Ruden and JoAnn Krueger will be in charge of the program and Joy Walter and DeLoris Knoll will be hostesses.

Gloria Pharis and Pat Dahlquist served lunch following the meeting.

Groton UMW Meeting

April 16th at 7:30 PM

Twila Ruden & JoAnn Krueger, program

Joy Walter & DeLoris Knoll, hostesses

Shepherdess Shirley Boltz from Big Stone City will be here.



SEWING KITS

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

Monetary Donations may also be given.

GROTON MAY BREAKFAST

"Love your Healthy Heart" is this year's theme for the Groton UMW May Breakfast on May 7th. Reservations will be taken by Clare Brotherton and DeLoris Knoll. Cost will be \$7 serving at 11:30 and 1:15. Watch the bulletin and poster's for additional information. Get your reservation in early.

CONDE MOMENTS

Thank you to the Watts family for the beautiful Easter lilies in memory of Al Watts and Donna Walter's brother.

United Methodist Men celebrate 100 years together by meeting in Nashville in July of 2009. You need not be a member of an organized group to attend, but enjoy the association. Look for more information.

UMCOR PROJECTS that need aid - ask your mission chair. Sudan Emergency, Power of a Penny - especially for youth, UMCOR Flood Response

April 30 - Friendship Night at Conde - watch for further information, and plan to be with us.

UMW FOCUS DAYS

April 19 - Focus Day at North Highland UMC in Aberdeen. There are rides available - call Donna Hearnen in Conde if you are interested. Call Jolene Townsend for a ride from Groton. This is a special day for United Methodist Women. It is from 9 AM - 3 PM and cost is \$7 which includes lunch.

CONDE UMW MEETING

April 16 - 2:00 PM the Conde United Methodist Women will meet.. The Lesson, "Introduction to General Conference", will be by Donna Hearnen. Cindy Smith is hostess.

All are welcome to attend.

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

The 10-foot rule

Some churches follow the 10-foot rule: When anyone is within 10 feet of another person on church grounds, he or she offers a warm welcome and cheerful greeting.

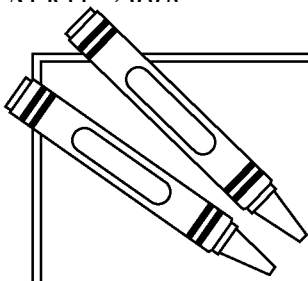
This rule originated with Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton, who encouraged store employees to look customers in the eye, greet them and ask if they needed help.

As an ambitious college student in Missouri, Walton discovered that "one of the secrets to campus leadership was the simplest thing of all: Speak to people coming down the sidewalk before they speak to you."

Walton used the person's name if he knew it. "But even if I didn't, I would still speak to them," he said. "Before long, I probably knew more students than anybody in the university, and they recognized me and considered me their friend."

No sincere welcome is unimportant, even if necessity requires brevity.





Just for **KIDS**

★ **EXTRA! EXTRA!** ★ READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Many people read their local newspapers, but Jesus says we should read and share God's Word daily! Below, hidden among the words READ YOUR BIBLE, is a message from Jesus recorded in Mark 1:15, NIV. Circle those words and write them on the lines below. (For extra fun, count how many times the word "Bible" appears in the article!)

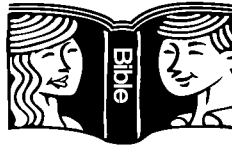
LOCAL EDITION

BIBLE TIMES

TODAY

GOOD NEWS!

READ YOUR BIBLE THE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR
 BIBLE TIME HAS READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE
 READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE COME READ
 YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ
 YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE THE
 READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE
 KINGDOM READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE OF READ YOUR
 BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE GOD READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE IS READ YOUR
 BIBLE NEAR READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR
 BIBLE REPENT READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE AND READ YOUR BIBLE READ
 YOUR BIBLE BELIEVE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ
 YOUR BIBLE THE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ
 YOUR BIBLE GOOD READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ
 YOUR BIBLE NEWS READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE.



“ _____

 _____ !”

MARK 1:15, NIV

Answers:
 “The time has come The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”
 Bible: 48 times

Groton UMYF will meet April 11th for an overnight pool/party in Aberdeen.



Groton

April

6-SS

13-SS

20-SS & Sing in Church

27-SS

May

4-SS

11-SS & Sing in Church

(Mother's Day)

Last Day of Sunday School

VBS Tentative Schedule is May 19-23 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Watch for definite times & dates.

Job Openings at Lake Poinsett Camp

If you'd like to spend your summer on the beach, here's your chance. Lake Poinsett Camp is currently taking applications for full-time and part-time summer openings. Cooks, support staff, and lifeguards are needed. For more details, call (605) 983-5547 or e-mail

LPC@dakcamps.org.



DAKOTAS UMC CAMPING

The Groton UMC will be paying for 75% of the camp registration. Registrations need to be in the office by April 13th. Transportation to and from camp is the camper's responsibility and we strongly urge you to carpool with other campers in the area.

The Conde UMC please contact Cindy Smith (382-5923). The church and UMW will help with 'early bird' costs for campers.

NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY - APRIL 6TH

"I want to be the best minister I can be. The best way to do this is through theological education."

When lifelong United Methodist Chebon Kernell graduated from college, he decided to go to law school "to get into the political arena. I thought that would be my calling."

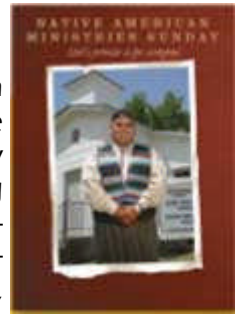
But apparently God had other ideas for the young man whose heritage is Seminole. At a church retreat in 2001, Chebon remembers, "I heard the calling to ordained ministry."

So he responded. Now a third-year student at Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Okla., and director of interpretation and programs for the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, Chebon has a clear life plan—"to serve the local church. Spiritually, it is such a blessing."

Of his student appointment, Pawnee Indian UMC, Chebon says, "It's fun to see the church grow, to see the opportunities for worship and hospitality. These are at the heart of the gospel of Christ."



Your offering on Native American Ministries Sunday enriches The United Methodist Church in many ways. Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved seminaries receive scholarships. Across the United States, urban ministries reach out to Native Americans and others. Mission with Native Americans in your annual conference and across the connection is developed and nurtured.



"For the promise...is for everyone whom...our God calls" (Acts 2:39). Help promising Native Americans like Chebon Kernell to answer God's call to ministry. Please give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, the third Sunday of Easter. Your gift makes a world of difference!

"For the promise is for... everyone whom... our God calls"
Acts 2:39, NRSV

The friendly church

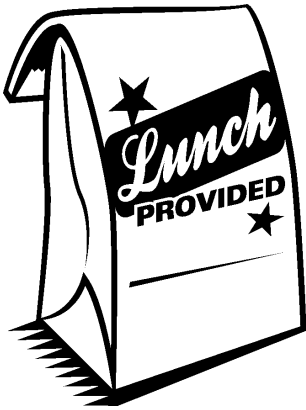
A friendly church is one where worshipers greet one another warmly and sincerely.

A friendly church is one where members seek out newcomers and make them feel welcome and important. Visitors hear that the congregation can help meet various needs: spiritual nourishment, Christian education, fellowship, friendship, service opportunities, support and comfort during difficulties and more.

A friendly church has something for everyone. It becomes a loving home where people desire to return frequently for spiritual, social, physical and emotional support.



SUNDAY LUNCH HOUR



Does God give us just as much time as we give him? Being he is such a kind and forgiving God, I am sure he works on me much more than I work on him. But it is so difficult to find an hour each week to attend church, yep, one hour is hard to find. Yet, everyday I go to lunch for an hour and my does that seem to go by ever so quickly. So, why do I think church is so long that I cannot fit it into my schedule? God gives me 168 hours/week and I can't give him 1? An hour isn't much and I am sure God will accept me if I just go dressed as I am.

So, God, I am really glad you do not measure how much time you give me by the amount of time I devote to you. Please be with me as I work to incorporate you into my life each day. May it be a prayer on the way to work or just giving you a lunch hour on Sunday morning in church. Guide me as I grow in faith and work on trusting you to handle all the tough things in my life. Amen.

*"When a prophet of the LORD
is among you, I reveal
myself to him in visions, I
speak to him in dreams."*

Numbers 12:6, NIV



PREACH ★ snack ★

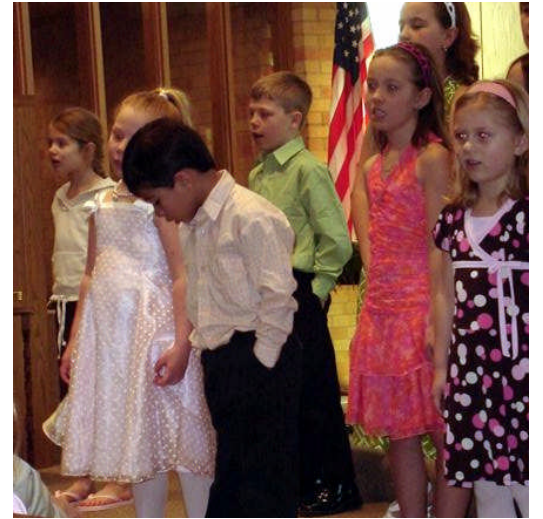
No matter our age, we all have opportunities to "preach" by how we live. And everyone can tell about God and his love. Use this activity to raise money for your church's mission efforts.

What you need:

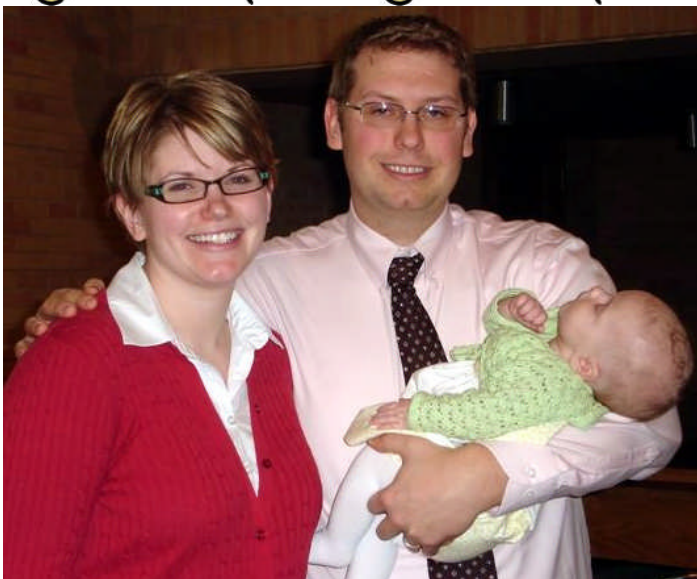
- Large bowl
- Quart- or snack-size zippered baggies
- Snacks that spell PREACH
Suggestions include:
P = Pretzels
R = Raisins
E = Extra (add extra of your favorite snack)
A = Almonds
C = Chex cereal
H = Honey Nut Cheerios
- 8.5" x 5.5" paper (one sheet for each bag made)
- Crayons or markers
- Stapler
- Stickers

What you do:

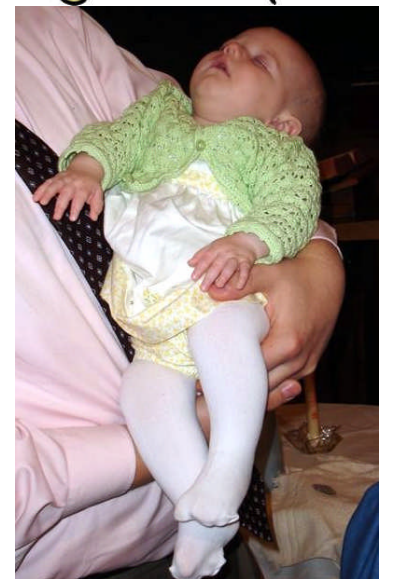
1. Mix all your "PREACH" ingredients in a bowl.
2. Fill baggies with the snacks.
3. Fold your paper in half. On one side, write the ingredient acoustic and a Bible verse. For example: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15, NIV).
4. On the other side, write a thank you to the snack's purchaser and mention which activity it's supporting.
5. Staple the paper to the baggie.
6. Decorate baggies with stickers.
7. With adult help, price the baggies and decide when and how to sell them. Afterward, deliver earnings to the appropriate people.



Above: Palm Sunday Singing enjoyed by all.
Center: UMYF Lock-in was enjoyed by about 20 youth.



Caroline Zeeb was Baptized March 9th. Parents are Nathan & Katie.





GROTON MAY FAMILY COMMITTEE

Joyce & Alan Walter

Darlys Kampa

Twila Ruden

Joy & Don Walter

JoAnn & Richard Krueger

Michelle & Chuck Padfield

Ruby Luce & Pauline Luce

Kay & Ben Brandt

Crystal & Doug Sippel

Pat Dahlquist

Jean Walter

Marge & Russell Townsend

Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt

Rodney Boehmer

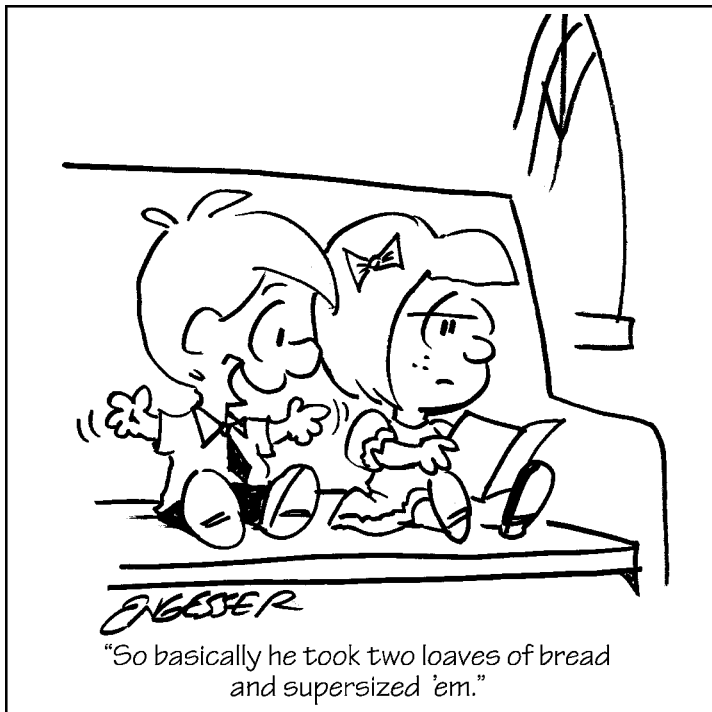
Honorary Members

- Eugene Luce
- Ruth Thompson
- Richard Voss
- Vernon Walter

May Extra Responsibilities

- May 4th change altar cloths to white and hang communion banners for this Sunday only
- May 11th change altar cloths to red and hang Pentecost Banners for this Sunday only
- May 18th Trinity Sunday, change altar cloths to white
- May 25th change altar cloths to green
- Mow Lawn if needed
- Clean Nursery & Kindergarten rooms
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)

Groton Mission Statement
"Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."



"It is important that people know what you stand for. It's equally important that they know what you won't stand for."

—Mary Waldrop

Life is like an onion: You peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep."

—Carl Sandburg

Groton Stewardship Report
March 2008
Average Wkly Giving \$1,487
Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs \$1,733
Average Weekly Attendance 70
Total Building Fund Offerings \$115



The Groton United Methodist Church is the Charter Organization for the Groton Cub Scouts. They cleaned the trash in our yard last month. Thank you!



World Day of Prayer





April 2008						
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			

OUR CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Apr 5 District Scout Show at the Lakewood Mall
- Apr 5 Irene Breitzkreutz celebrates 100th Birthday.
- Apr 6 Native American Ministries Sunday
- Apr 9 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Apr 11 Groton UMYF Overnight Pool/Party in Aberdeen
- Apr 12 Aberdeen First UMC sponsoring a one-day evangelism course.
- Apr 13 Dakotas Camps Early Bird Sign-up Deadline.
- Apr 16 Conde UMW 2 PM
- Apr 16 Conde Administrative Council at 8 pm
- Apr 20 Blessings Shower & Baptism of Skylar Andrew Kramer born Feb 12
- Apr 20 Groton Sunday School Sings in Church
- Apr 20 Conde World Hunger Sunday
- Apr 27 Blessings Shower & Baptism of Gage Carl Sippel born Feb 8th
- Apr 30 Conde Friendship Night (details to come)
- May 7 Groton UMW May Breakfast
- Jun 2 Conde serving "The Banquet" in Sioux Falls - Volunteer!