

United Methodist Messenger

February 2008



Ash Wednesday and why do we come for ashes?

The previous years palm branches have been burned and their ashes are the ones used to make the sign of the cross for you. Some choose to keep their mark of ash cross on their forehead as a sign of humility and as a sign that we all need forgiveness. Christ's death has given us that forgiveness. As we begin Lent, this symbol has great meaning for us all as those free to worship the King of Kings.

A friend inside

I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every friend on Earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside me.

-Abraham Lincoln

Arriving?

“One of the greatest pleasures in life is doing what people say you cannot do.”

Ouch! Is that how life really is? Seems so, or at least to many it hits the nail on the head.

Getting through the drivers test and getting your license when others say you are an awful driver—pushes that away with the approval of a state examiner.

Learning to do anything you could not imagine yourself doing is great. Like learning to swim, ride a bike, pole vaulting, playing the piano all are skills with value for years to come.

We tend to shy away from things we are not really good at and lean to those where we are drawn to and perhaps that is where our hidden talent is buried.

Going through school, getting a diploma, or degree gives us an up over those who have not invested time or money to pursue that level of education. Others learn skills that we pay money to have them work on our cars, household appliances, plumbing, heating, and our computers. We just don't have the acquired skills.

Each group has their own learning push and desired end to achieve.

God has given each of us talents and gifts that God wants us to use for the king-

dom here on earth and others. When we are in the right field of learning, the best way to find our skill level is to understand that going to work is a joy if we are in the right place to use our gifts. We delight in doing that which we are gifted through God to do our best work. Life becomes a wonder to be able to immerse ourselves in our God given graces.

So when we feel we have “arrived” at the best ending in life we can think of, ask yourself ; “who am I working for me or God?” The gift comes from above and we are the recipients of the joy that comes from a job well done if it is for the kingdom.

Let your light so shine.

I close with this prayer:

O Lord, I thank You for the gifts of this challenging life. Let me have the confidence that wherever it leads me, I am only following You. Amen.

Keeping on the Journey,
In Christ, Pastor Jan



Tuesday AM Bible Study Project for Iraq

We are collecting items this month to send to a service person known by Shirley Larson. If you wish to help us out, items may be placed in the designated box or given to Kay or Pastor Jan. Tammy Phipps does combat debriefings and she sometimes uses stress management items - anything from relaxation CD's, votive candles in relaxing scents, stress balls, etc.. She is the captain of a unit that travels to other units after an injury and/or casualty event and helps the soldiers process the event right away. The army has found this helpful in working to prevent burnout, post traumatic stress disorders and other mental health concerns. Above all else she appreciates cards, letters, and

prayers. Other items she uses are: phone cards (just regular ones), beef jerky, chocolate candy, and inspirational items. Feb 5 is the last day.

Children's shoes and socks may also be added to our box. Even used ones in good shape. They will be gifts to the children of Iraq. The soldiers used to give out stuffed animals until this gift of love was turned against them and used to hide bombs. So we will try again with a useful gift and help our soldiers with the joy of giving.



February 17
during coffee
hour we shall
host a Blessings
Shower for
Caroline
Rebecca Zeeb
who was born
December 7th.
Daughter of
Nate & Kate
Zeeb.

Cub Scouts



Groton is starting a Cub Scout Group and the Ad Council voted to have the Groton UMC sponsor them. The group has started with about 20 youngsters. And more can join at any time.

There is a reason for everything boys do in Cub Scouting. Apart from the fun and excitement, the aim of Cub Scouting is to help boys grow into good citizens who are strong in character and personally fit. This is why we say that Cub Scouting is fun with a purpose.

Need A Ride to Church?

Call Groton Transit at 397-8650 on Friday to schedule a ride to church. The church has an account set up with them for pre-paid rides.



Sympathies to the families of

Jay Swisher who passed away January 11th

Margaret Blader who passed away January 6th.

Groton UMC



Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Jean Lowary	731-5256
Audrey Thurston	397-8493
Gert Ruden	397-8211
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Florann Norris	97-2638
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 71 on email prayer chain.

Groton Lenten Services

Lenten Services will take place each Wednesday Evening with a Light Meal provided by various committees of our church. The meal will be at 6 PM with a short service at 7 PM.

Feb 6th - UMW preparing the light meal

Feb 13th - Ad Council

Feb 20 - Outreach/Finance

Feb 27 - Trustees/PPR

March 5 - UMYF

March 12 - Nurture



Groton UMW

Next meeting is February 20 at 2 pm on Wednesday. The program is on Social Action Issues. Hostesses are Marlys Rodman and Doris Zoellner. Upcoming events we will be working on is the World Day of Prayer March 7th hosted by our church.

February 21 we will be doing a birthday/coffee party outing to Bristol for Ruth Thompson. Meet at the church at 9 AM to carpool.

Health Kits being Collected

Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes. When people gain the knowledge and materials to maintain personal hygiene, their overall health improves. Please help provide all or part of a kit and donate any of these items.



Why Ash Wednesday?

Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshippers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!

Conde UMW

Next meeting is February 20 at 11 AM with the program on Call to Prayer & Self-Denial. "Learning for a Lifetime" will be led by Patty Knoll. Hostesses are Donna Walter & Pat Siefken.

Small Group will meet February 6th with Leader Jane Worlie and Hostess Betty Taylor.

Thoughts for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, a time when thoughts turn to love. But what is love? Is it a box of chocolates, or a pretty valentine? Is it a red rose, or maybe a dozen? Is it a peck on the cheek, a fond embrace, or a big bear hug?

Well, sometimes love is known in those ways. But love, real love, is how we relate to God and to one another if life is what it ought to be - beautiful!



LEAP YEAR

Our Church Celebrations

Groton Birthday's

Feb 4 KayLynn Overacker
Feb 5 Gene Luce
Feb 7 Gary Voss
Feb 8 Larry Wheeting
Feb 10 Brenda Madsen
Dion Bahr
Feb 14 Diane Nissen
Feb 16 Pernel Graf
Feb 19 Gaylene Voss
Robin O'Neill
Terry Furman
Feb 20 Michael Wells

Feb 21 Ruth Thompson
Feb 22 Anthony Schinkel
Robin Wanous-Williamson
Feb 25 Brent Morehouse
Greg Heitmann
Feb 26 Mary Ann Wehde

Groton Anniversaries

Feb 1 Richard & Gert Ruden
Feb 5 Andrea & Brian Bahr
Feb 10 Alan & Jolene Townsend
Feb 18 Chuck & Michelle Padfield

Conde Birthday's

Feb 3 Shannon Haskell

Feb 4 Donna Walter
Feb 5 Richard Sanderson
Feb 7 Bill Trapp
Feb 9 Vicky Stark
Feb 12 Norbert Hearnen
Feb 19 Tyler Stark
Feb 22 Horace Walter
Betty Jensen
Conde Anniversaries
Feb 10 Mr & Mrs Greg Stark



Giving is healthy for us

Abraham Brunk, a professor and researcher in the Netherlands, found that people oriented toward giving and sharing are more physically and emotionally fit than their self-focused and less generous peers.

Brunk's study showed that givers use 50 percent fewer sick days. They also have lower blood pressure and higher self-esteem.

The anonymous poet who wrote the following words was right on target:

Give strength, give thought, give deeds, give of your wealth,

Give love, give tears, and give thyself.

Give, give, always giving. Who gives not is not living;

The more you give, the more you live.



Conde UMW Minutes - Jan Meeting

Conde United Methodist Women met January 16 at 11:00 with Treasurer Jane Worlie leading the Pledge Service. "Giving Makes Mission Possible" lifted the opportunities we have for giving locally, nationally and world wide. All made their pledges for the year.

Vice President Pat Siefken opened the meeting by reading "Instructions on How to Read the Bible".

The Treasurer's report showed their was adequate Mission Money to give a love gift for the Jurisdictional Meeting for Children and Youth.

Cards were sent to Norbert Hearnen and Beverly Bonn. The group was reminded of the

Bishop's Laity Gathering in February in Sioux Falls. There are also DAVID sites available. The 2008 Program Books were distributed and discussed by the members.

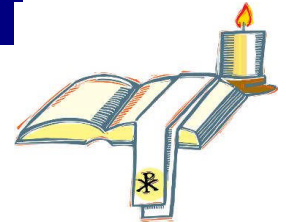
Lois Trapp and Betty Taylor were hostesses for the day.

The February meeting will be February 20 at 11:00 AM. Patty Knoll will lead "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" Hostesses are Donna Walter and Pat Siefken

Martha Circle will meet February 6. Jane Worlie will lead the lesson, Betty Taylor is hostess.

DID YOU KNOW?

A pulpit Bible was presented to the Conde church Dec. 25, 1904 by E. L. Smith and is still in use.



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

Conde Ad Council Minutes - Jan Meeting

CONDE AD COUNCIL met Wednesday, January 16 at the church, with chair Patty Knoll presiding.

Due to the extreme cold, it was decided to have worship services in the Fellowship Hall for some time.

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 2, with our collection to be used for our work with

The Banquet in Sioux Falls.

Sunday, February 2, there will be a brunch following the worship.

Ash Wednesday service will be observed at 5:30 on February 6.

The next Ad Council meet Wednesday, February 20th at 8:00 PM.



Conde Youth

UMW Sunday - Groton



Giving Our Hearts



Gert Ruden received a special silver UMW pin and gift in appreciation for being an "angel" in remembering all of us in times of need with a card from the UMC for the past 15 years.

Jeanne Wanous, Brenda Madsen and Harry Pharis received the UMW Special Mission Recognition Pins as a thank you from the UMW for all the time, talents and dedication they have served the church.

Jolene Townsend received the "Jewel of a Women" award for support to the UMW and UMC for her time, talents, and dedication.



The Bible as a letter

Søren Kierkegaard, a brilliant 19th-century philosopher, said this about the Bible: "The Bible should be read as a letter from God with our personal address on it."

How true! The Bible tells us who's behind our amazing lives. The Bible makes clear the source of our existence and explains how we're to live out our years on Earth. The Bible gives us the best rules for living with others and for living in our own skin.

Scripture tells us of the wisdom of saints and the foolishness of scoundrels. It explains how God tries to relate to us. It guides us and provides strength and courage through our daily lives.

The Bible tells how God walked among us on Earth in the person of Christ. Most importantly, it details how Christ revealed God's immeasurable love for all humankind.

Finally, the Bible assures us that God not only cares for us here and now but will care for us in the hereafter. Forever and forever!



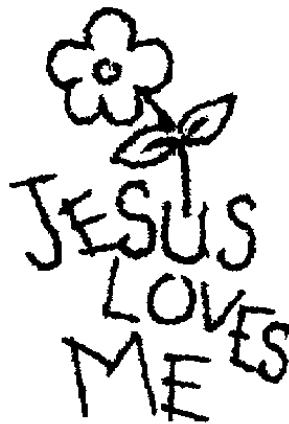
Beloved lyrics

At a women's retreat in Arizona, the leader discussed the subject of passing faith to the next generation. She divided the women into groups of five and asked each group to choose and then sing a cherished hymn. The women were surprised to hear an overwhelming favorite: the Sunday school standard "Jesus Loves Me."

Most of us probably can sing the first and last verses of that beloved song. But do you know the other verses? Here are the lyrics:

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."
(Refrain)

Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.
(Refrain)



Give a heart



One way to show love is to do something nice for someone else. Luke 10:27 tells us to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? Everyone is!

Make these fun heart treats to share with some of your neighbors.

What you need:

- Saucepan
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 or 3 bags of miniature marshmallows
- 4 cups of crisp-rice cereal (regular or chocolate)
- 9 x 13 pan
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bag of chocolate chips (milk or white chocolate)
- Bowl
- Zipper sandwich baggie
- Scissors

What you do (with adult help):

1. Melt butter in saucepan and add marshmallows.
2. Stir until mixture becomes difficult to stir anymore. Mix in cereal and stir.
3. Butter the 9 x 13 pan and spread the mixture evenly in it. Allow to cool.
4. When cool, use cookie cutter to cut out heart-shaped treats.
5. Melt chocolate chips in a bowl in the microwave.
6. Spoon melted chocolate into a baggie. Cut off a corner and drizzle chocolate over the treats.
7. Enjoy giving a heart to your neighbor!

Groton Admin Council - Jan Minutes

Newsletter Items from Jan. 9, 2008 Admin Council Meeting

- Finance: The bill from the city for curb & gutter was presented. The total amount is \$11,980. The council agreed to use \$7000 from the remaining roof fund and make an initial payment in order to make paying the balance more manageable.
- Trustees: The trustees are investigating a way to satisfy a request to shorten two pews for wheelchair access. They have some ideas and will report back at the next council meeting.
- UMYF: Pastor Jan reported that this group is planning a Valentine Supper.
- Rides to Church: It was explained that the church will purchase a punch for the Community Transit Bus so that our members can schedule a free ride to and from church if needed.
- Boy Scouts: This group will meet at our church monthly but will confirm ahead of time that there are no conflicts.
- Child Care During Church Services: The council voted to discontinue this service, as it has not been used enough. If need be special arrangements could be made in advance.
- Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers and Services will again be held. Groups hosting each service and meal are as follows: Feb. 6 - UMW; Feb 13 - Admin Board; Feb 20 - Finance/Outreach; Feb. 27 - Pastor/Parish; March 5 - UMYF; Mar. 12 - Nurture.

Groton Stewardship Report January 2008

Average Wkly Giving	\$1,635
Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs	\$1,733
Average Weekly Attendance	61
Total Building Fund Offerings	\$135

March Family Committee - Groton

Brian & Andrea Bahr

Alan & Jolene Townsend

Connie & Dave Nilsson, Alexa

Logan Nilsson

Pam & Doug Bahr

Anita & John Lowary

Linda & Gary Thurston

Zachary Townsend

Bert Raap

Dion Bahr

William & Wanda Zoellner

Dick Oliver

Audrey & Clint Jacobson

Brent & Christie Swenson, Amanda

Honorary Members

- Ruby Fuller
- Doris Strom

March Extra Responsibilities

- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Clean the kitchen
- March 2nd change altar cloths to white and hang communion banners for this Sunday only
- March 9th change the altar cloths to purple and hang the banners for this month
- March 23rd change the altar cloths to white for Easter and hang the appropriate banners.
- Order Easter Lilies
- Water the Easter Lilies
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)



The engine of marriage

Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. Love is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners ask and receive from God. On this love the engine of marriage is run; being in love was the explosion that started it. -C.S. Lewis

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



February 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	

Our Church Happenings

- Feb 3 Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday - Conde offering to the Banquet in Sioux Falls
- Feb 5 Groton Tues AM Bible Study Collection for IRAQ deadline
- Feb 6 Conde Ash Weds Service at 5:00 PM
- Feb 6 Conde Martha Circle Meets at 7 PM
- Feb 6 Groton Ash Weds Service at 7 PM. Light Meal by UMW at 6 pm.
- Feb 8-9 Bishop's Laity Gathering at Sioux Falls First UMC
- Feb 10 Conde Brunch following Worship Service
- Feb 10 Conde UMYF Spaghetti dinner at 5 PM for Community and Members
- Feb 13 Groton Lenten Service at 7PM. Light Meal by Ad Council 6 pm.
- Feb 13 Groton Ad Council 7:15 following Lenten Service
- Feb 17 Groton Blessings Shower for Caroline Zeeb during coffee hour.
- Feb 20 Conde UMW 11 AM
- Feb 20 Groton UMW 2 PM
- Feb 20 Conde Ad Council 8 PM
- Feb 20 Groton Lenten Service at 7 PM. Light Meal by Outreach/Finance 6 pm
- Feb 21 Groton UMW Birthday/Coffee Party to Bristol for Ruth Thompson
- Feb 24 Conde World Hunger Sunday
- Feb 27 Groton Lenten Service at 7 PM. Light Meal by Trustees/PPR 6 pm
- Mar 2 One Great Hour of Sharing
- Mar 7 World Day of Prayer at Groton UMC 2 PM
- Mar 14-15 "Lock in Fast" for world hunger for UMYF from 9 pm Friday to 7 pm Saturday.
- Mar 16 Groton UMYF Spaghetti Dinner for all after Church - UMYF Fundraiser

