

# United Methodist Messenger



## Morphing & Changes

This new year will see many more changes that we have not nor could not predict would happen. This past year some of our former notions have had to change with the elimination of a planet's status to the finding of new universe systems and far ranging expanses of a huge magnitude. We mostly deal with the minutia of our small, mostly, self-centered daily lives. Each day is filled with "What is it I should be doing today?". When we need to be asking, "God what can I do for you today?"

Our prayer can be that of; "Lord, you have called me out of thousands to serve you. I am grateful for the trust you place in me to do and carry out your will. Lead me today by thought or intention to those you wish me to be an instrument of your love. Help me to seek you more clearly and to know you are leading my ways as I follow you. With all my heart I choose to seek you, serve you and honor you all my days. Bless my day today, Precious Lord whom I love and honor. Amen."

This is also a year for letting go of the things that we are able to now know are in the past. Some of those things we need to ask forgiveness for and try to do a better job of being focused intentionally toward new ways. Some things need to be left behind and not brought forward into a new year to hold us down with guilt or heavy regret. Part of life is learning from our mistakes. Those who feel they are above mistakes forget that each one of us cannot be in life without being human. Being human means we make

mistakes, but a less forgiving heart creates bitterness and hurt for those whom we have hurt. Our heavenly Father is very open to forgiveness for our being human. We can go to God and seek forgiveness for those things our human counterparts will not.

So, in a new year we can hope that past hurts can be let go, new unity and harmony be among us in all our various so that we can continue to have a positive impact in our lives. We will always need to find forgiveness, and if we cannot offer it to others readily, then we are told it will not be offered to us eternally. [Col 3:13]

I look forward to morphing into a new creature this next year. However, God intends for me to be; in body, mind and spirit may I find myself doing what God asks of us all. To be more open, loving, and accepting of God's will in our lives and in the lives of those around us, but in new directions too. For each of us has the opportunity to make a difference right where we are--wherever that is. To be God's servants and allowing His love and direction to lift us to a new place from the old.

May your new day, month, and year be one of discovery and joy. It's a brand new world e a c h d a y w e learn.....it's ever changing.

In Christ I serve,  
Pastor Jan



The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents, and discerns those inner qualities that make all [people] human and, therefore, brothers [and sisters].

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let each new year find you a better [person].

—Benjamin Franklin

# Our Church Celebrations

## 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  
 Marvel Johnson  
 Neil Gilbert  
 Jan 11 Randy Padfield  
 Jan 13 Lance Hawkins  
 Monte McNickle  
 Jan 15 Alissa Gellhaus-Wells  
 Jeanette Blader-Reid  
 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 Michelle Padfield  
 Jan 25 Russell Townsend  
 Jan 26 Doris Zoellner  
 Jan 27 Kristie Hawkins  
 Jan 28 Audrey Miller  
 Ruby Luce

## Groton Anniversaries

Jan 6 Todd & Robin Williamson  
 Jan 7 Karla & Russell Davidson  
 Jan 10 Melissa & Neil Gilbert  
 Jan 14 Jay & Linda Johnson  
 Jan 22 Bob & Marvel Johnson  
**Conde Birthday's**  
 Jan 3 Bruce Herman  
 Jan 8 Darrell Haskell  
 Jan 10 Donna Hearnen

Jan 11 Norman Smith  
 Jan 27 Wava Thomas  
 Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon  
**Conde Anniversaries**  
 Jan 5 Tony & Marcene Bruckner  
 Jan 27 Darrell & Joyce Haskell  
 Jan 30 Mike & Patty Knoll



## Caroline Rebecca

Was born on December 7th at 11:45 AM weighing 6 lbs 15 ozs and 20 3/4 inches long. She is the daughter of Nate & Kate. Congratulations! Watch for information on a Blessings Shower in February.

## 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.

## Sympathies to the families of

Howard "Bill"  
 Thomas passed  
 away Dec 2nd

Margaret Hubbard  
 passed away Dec  
 26th

Clara Rix passed  
 away Jan 1st



# Groton UMW December Minutes

The Groton United Methodist Women met at the Latte on Main at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 12, 2007 for its Christmas luncheon. Those attending were Marlys Rodman, Clare Brotherton, Jolene Townsend, Gloria Pharis, Sharon Wheeting, Audrey Thurston, Mary Swisher, JoAnn Krueger, DeLoris Knoll, Hazel McKittrick, Gert Ruden, Anita Lowary, Elaine Wolken, Joy Walter, Carolyn Snyder, Marjory Townsend, Pat Dahlquist, Twila Ruden, Kim Weber, Karla Pasteur, Kay Brandt, Doris Zoellner and Pastor Jan Price. Members were each given a memento and a verse of

a poem. As the verses were read, an advent poem was completed.

The group of ladies returned to the church to assemble the boxes of goodies to be delivered. Twenty-six boxes were completed and delivered.

Upcoming Events: Next Meeting- January 16, 2008-2:00p.m.-Executive meeting at 1:00 p.m. Jolene Townsend will have the program, "The Icing on the Cake" which will include installation of the 2008 officers. Jolene Townsend and Marjory Townsend will also have the lunch.



## Giving Our Hearts



### *"Giving Our Hearts"*

### *Groton UMW Meeting*

*January 16 at 2 PM*

*Executive Mtg at 1 PM*

*Installation & Program*

*"Icing on the Cake" by*

*Jolene Townsend. Lunch*

*Served by Marj Townsend*

*& Jolene Townsend*

*January 27 is*

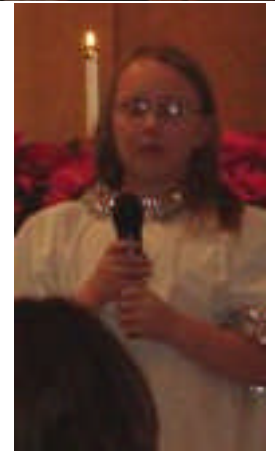
*UMW Sunday*

*Jewel of a Woman Award*

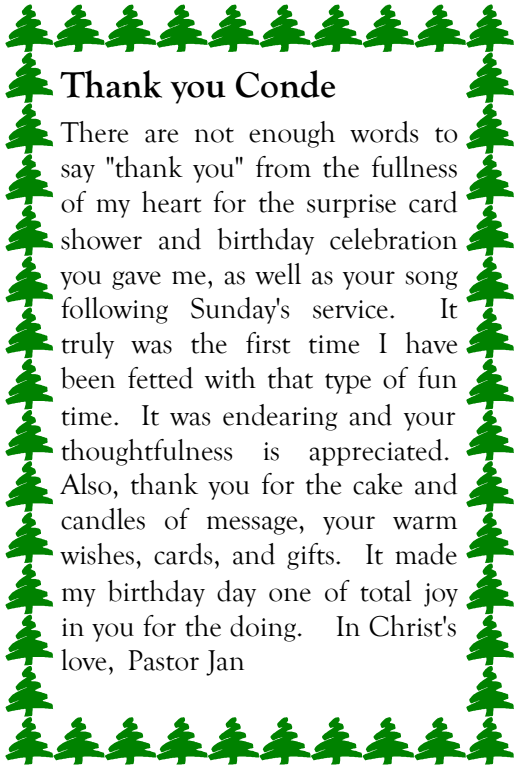
*and Special Recognition*

*Awards will be given*

# Groton Sunday School Program 2007

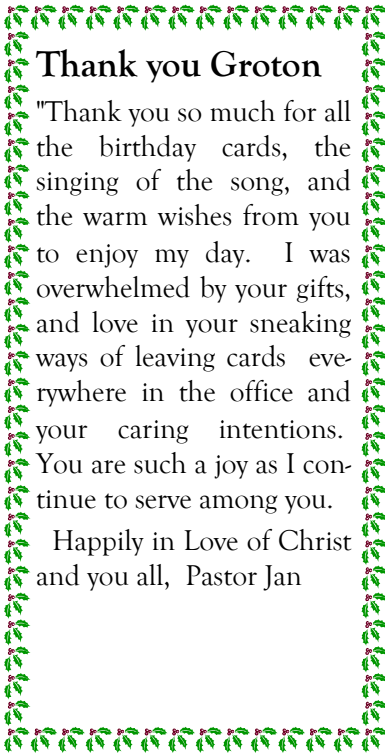


Thank you to Meri & Sydney Erickson for doing the Christmas Craft this year!  
Sunday School



### Thank you Conde

There are not enough words to say "thank you" from the fullness of my heart for the surprise card shower and birthday celebration you gave me, as well as your song following Sunday's service. It truly was the first time I have been fetted with that type of fun time. It was endearing and your thoughtfulness is appreciated. Also, thank you for the cake and candles of message, your warm wishes, cards, and gifts. It made my birthday day one of total joy in you for the doing. In Christ's love, Pastor Jan



### Thank you Groton

"Thank you so much for all the birthday cards, the singing of the song, and the warm wishes from you to enjoy my day. I was overwhelmed by your gifts, and love in your sneaking ways of leaving cards everywhere in the office and your caring intentions. You are such a joy as I continue to serve among you.

Happily in Love of Christ and you all, Pastor Jan



Groton Mission Statement  
"Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

### Conde Advent Candle Lighting

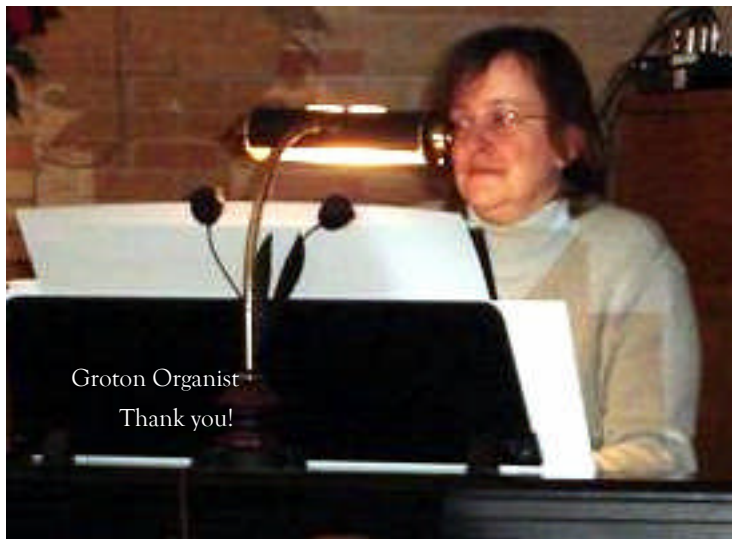
Thank you to all who participated in the lighting of the Advent Candles each Sunday and Christmas Eve. They were: Cindy and Norman Smith, Betty and Tim Geist, Shanna and Andee, Julie and Bud Bruckner, Carey and Shane, Donna and Horace Walter, Betty and Marion Jensen, Andee Geist. Also, a special

thank you to Shanna and Andee for providing offertory music of carols.

Mary Ann Watts' provided poinsettias for use on the altar in memory of her husband, Albert Watts. Nancy Thomas Staley furnished a poinsettia as well.



Tuesday 10 AM Bible Study  
January 8th  
We are starting a new study on Christian Virtues. Please Contact Kay Brandt for a book to come and learn with the rest of us!



Groton Organist  
Thank you!

## Conde Ad Council

Met following the Christmas program with Chairman Darrel Haskell leading the ten members in the reading of the Mission Statement of the church.

Memorial money had been used to purchase the crèche for the altar in the church.

Bibles had been presented to Sunday School students

Christmas Eve Offering will be sent to the Salvation Army

Brunch will be served following second Sunday worship in January, February and March.

## Conde UMW Minutes

GENERAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN met on December 5th at 11:00 AM for the program with six members and one guest present.

Pat Siefken presented the Advent-Christmas lesson. Patty Knoll read from the Conference devotional book. Members and friends were remembered with cards signed by all present.

Christmas gifts are to be purchased for a family of four through the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield. Purchases

## Conde Community Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 19, the Wednesday Church School combined with other churches in the community to present A Traditional Christmas Pageant, under the direction of Cheri Kurtz. The Christmas Story was presented in narratives and songs.

Assistants to the director were Donna Barnes, Kathy Jorgens, Jeannie Worlie and Denise Allen for their work with the costuming. Church members provided and served goodies following the pro-

gram. Teachers were Jodie Miles, Melissa Dunlavy, Mary Ann Taylor and Monica Gearey.

The children chose to give their prayers and offering for the family of Rob Luecke, as some of the group were his students.

All involved in the program made it a special night to celebrate the birthday of Jesus with story, song, and a birthday cake.

Church will begin at 9:00 AM on January 6.

Donna Hearnen reported that layettes are now being assembled for layettes. There is a list of items for the kit, or money may be given to the church for this purpose. The layettes will be sent for the InGathering in September.

Needs of the church were discussed, with Memorial Money being used for special projects.

Pastor Jan opened and closed the meeting with prayers for the people.

Choices for funeral meals were presented for use for families and the funeral director. Work chairs for the year were chosen: First name is chair. January - March ~ Donna Walter and Pat Siefken; April - June ~ Pat Siefken and Cindy Smith; July - September ~ Cindy Smith and Jane Worlie; October - December ~ Jane Worlie and Donna Hearnen.



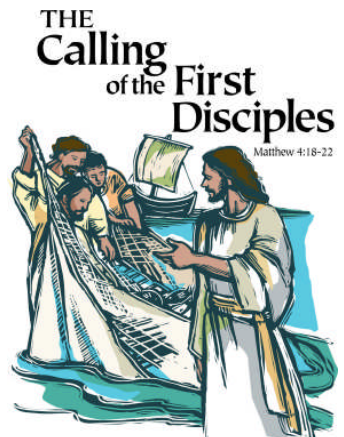
## Conde UMW

January meeting will be January 16 at the church at 11:00 AM

The Pledge Service will be led by Jane Worlie.

Lunch is to be served at noon by Betty Taylor and Lois Trapp.

Business meeting will follow the lunch.



Conde MISSION  
STATEMENT

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

## Clues to aging well

Whether or not we like it, “the days dwindle down to a precious few,” as an old song puts it. We’re aging daily and hourly. “The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, moves on ....”

The question, sooner or later, is: How do we best handle the aging process?

It begins with keeping a healthy spirit. The body ages, but our spirits can remain vibrantly alive. We can keep spiritually alert by carrying on a conversation with God, truly listening more than talking. We can strengthen our spiritual life by attending worship services and reading the works of people who lived

close to God, such as Mother Teresa, E. Stanley Jones, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others.

Keeping one’s body in tune through exercise and diet are also keys to aging well. But just as important are fellowship with others, working on interesting projects, engaging in family activities, learning something new and traveling.

Most importantly, remember that you’re never too old to grow in love for others. After all, St. Paul tells us that love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends” (1 Corinthians 13:7-8, NRSV).



Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us.  
—John Stott

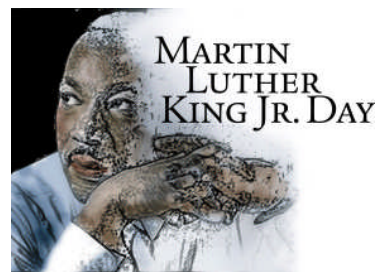
God gave us life. What we do with it reveals our attitude toward the Giver.  
—Charles Ferrell

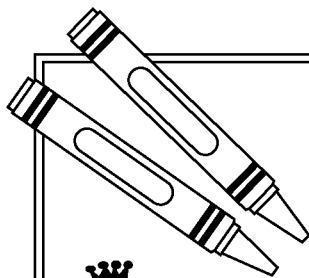


**O hatred, on love**  
*Martin Luther King Jr., born on January 15, 1929, will be remembered this year on January 21.*

*Given the rancor rampant in today’s world, it’s fitting to recall King’s words:*

*“Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it.”*



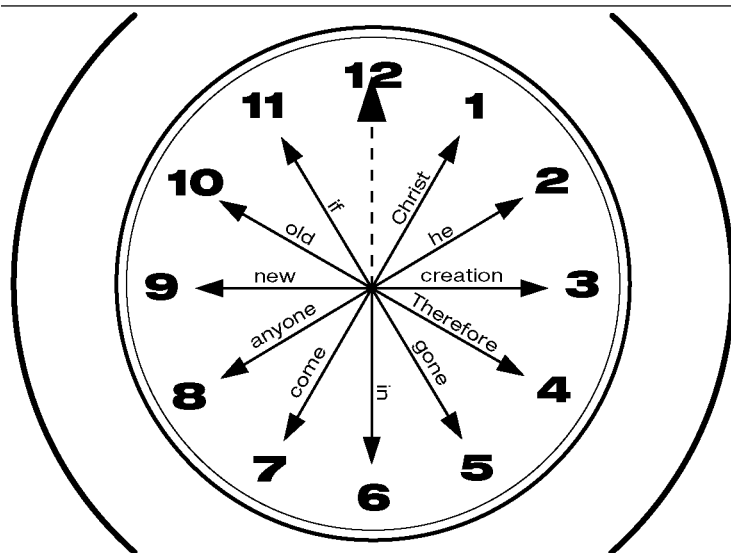


# Just for **KIDS**

## **IN WITH THE NEW**

*It's "time" for New Year's resolutions! We should always want to improve ourselves for God, looking to Jesus as our example. God will work with us and through us when we come to him in prayer.*

Using the clock's hour hand, copy each word to help you complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



" \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ; the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ , the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ !"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV



Groton



**January**

- 6-SS
- 13-SS
- 20-SS
- 27-Sing in Church

**February**

- 3-SS
- 10-SS
- 17-No SS (President's Day)
- 24-SS

**March**

- 2-SS
- 9-No SS (Spring Break)
- 16-SS & Sing in Church (Palm Sunday)
- 23-No SS (Easter Sunday)

**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.

Answer: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

**Groton UMYF Meeting**  
**January 23rd**  
**6:30 PM**



DEUTERONOMY 30:14, NIV



# Groton Ad Council Minutes - Dec 12

Trustees: The pastor/parish committee prepared a list for the trustees of tasks to be done for parsonage upkeep.

Sanctuary Screen & Projector Project: The council discussed the cost of installing a projector & screen in the sanctuary as an aid in viewing the weekly church service information. It was decided that this should be a future project for which funds could be raised through donations and other means. The project and fund raising ideas will be shared with the congregation.

Boy Scouts of America Presentation: Robert Vergamini, District Director of the Boy Scouts of America gave a presentation to the Administrative Council in hopes of having our church agree to charter a Boy Scout group in Groton. Mr. Vergamini explained that he had visited the school the day before to invite boys to join. He added that nationwide the United Methodist Church is the scout's number one chartering organization. He explained that this is looked upon as an outreach activity within the United Methodist church. The council tabled a decision on chartering the group until after church on Sunday, December 16.



Groton Stewardship Report December 2007	
Average Wkly Giving	\$2,067
Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs	\$1,742
Average Weekly Attendance	66
Total Building Fund Offerings	\$230



## This Busy Day

Today is a gift  
From God above  
With time for our work  
And time for love.

When work pushes hard  
And haste wants to shove,  
That's just when we need  
To share more Love.  
—Peggy Ferrell



## Our Church Family - Feb Groton Committee

- Marlys Rodman
- Rose Tewksbury
- Jane & Marc Johnson
- Kami & Tom Lipp
- Karla Pasteur, Ali
- Yvonne Lange
- Carna & Cliff Pray, Kevin
- Lance & Kristi Hawkins, Katelyn
- Dale & Michelle Kramer
- Pam & Roger Rix
- Doris Zoellner

- Gayleen & Jon Voss, Jordan, Lacey
- Michelle Sundling

### Honorary Members

- ImoJeanne Oliver
- Mary & Jay Swisher
- Mary Alice Jensen
- Richard Zoellner
- Art & Charlotte Lange

### Extra Responsibilities

- Feb 3rd change altar cloths to white and hang Communion

banners for this day only



- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Clean coffee/furnace storage room
- Feb 10th change altar cloths to purple
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)



## Our Church Happenings

Remember Time Change  
for Church starting  
January 6th  
Conde at 9 AM  
Groton at 11 AM

January 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	31		

- Jan 8 Groton Tues AM Bible Study begins a new series on Christian Virtues
- Jan 9 Groton Ad Council 7 PM
- Jan 13 Conde Brunch following Worship Service
- Jan 16 Conde UMW Meeting at 11 AM
- Jan 16 Groton UMW Meeting at 2 PM (Executive Mtg at 1 PM)
- Jan 16 Conde Ad Council
- Jan 23 Groton UMYF at 6:30 PM
- Jan 27 Groton UMW Sunday with Jewel of a Woman and Other Recognitions
- Jan 27 Groton Sunday School sings in church
- Jan 27 Newsletter Items Due
- Feb 6 Ash Weds with Groton Service at 7 PM
- Feb 8-9 Bishop's Laity Gathering at Sioux Falls First UMC (If need more information to attend, please ask in the office.)