

UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

March 2008

www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc

GROTON/CONDE PARISHES



Seeing God's Hand

Coming into the "club" is a new process for this new grandma. I didn't know there was a club, as it was one of those quiet secrets of the rites of passage. My complete joy was being able to be around the edges of our new grandsons birth process. And the glow is still there, that of being an observer of new life. I wonder about life, nature, and the little things of this world all the time. It is my joy to be in wonderment.

The ability to hold new life in your arms, to listen to their breathing and little sounds in their world as they adjustment is really amazing. To watch tiny fingers, eyelashes, and know that just a short time ago he was curled up in his mothers womb. This world must surely be a shock to a new life.

While visiting in the real world of folks and their inquiries about this birth, I learn some of their stories. And it has caused me to think long and hard about our God.

Each birth story is different, none two alike, just like our fingerprints. Each story whether it is about being born at home on the kitchen table, warmed on the edge of the oven door, kept in a dresser drawer for each new life speaks loudly. I am enthralled over and over again as to the uniqueness of each individuals story. Some are just able to be born ahead of a storm, some in long hours of labor, some needed help to arrive, and others came in the surgical suite of a hospital.

There are millions of us in our country and billions of us in the whole world all the stories are different, unique unto each of us, we have OUR story.

All that confirms to me that God's hand is, and always has been, upon all of us with great plan and intention. I am able to

breath deeply knowing that God has control of all of this around us and we are part of that plan.

We not only trust God to do the very best in God's plan to bring us into this world. Can we not trust God completely to continue to take care of us on our journey?

This process of "grandmatization" has taught me to experience God in a fullness I have never fully entertained until now.

Share your birth story with others in your family and marvel at each one.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3: 16

Each of us has a purpose and God sent God's own son for the very purpose of loving us, dying for us, and redeeming us to himself when we seek Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We just have to ask for forgiveness of our sin and ask Christ into our hearts. A NEW LIFE begins when we do that. What more love can there be in all the world? God is love and beyond what we can experience here on earth. How much more of the Father's love can we share between us. In giving others forgiveness, in healed relationships, kind words, tender acts of kindness, and loving God everyday of our lives.

Christ uses us to show that love out into the world. A world starved for acknowledgement, love, attention, listening and caring. God uses US to share God's LOVE.

Sharing the journey,
Pastor Jan



Our Church Celebrations - March



Groton Birthday's

- 1 Mary Jane Schott
- 4 Christina Zoellner
Kale Pharis
Kay Brandt
Richard Zoellner
- 5 Chance Strom
- 7 Brian Bahr
Dale Strom
- 9 Betty Strom
- 14 Mendy Jones
Sydney Erickson
- 19 Katie Zeeb
- 21 Michelle Sundling
- 22 Don Walter
- 25 Laurel McNickle
Murdock McNickle
- 26 Claire Davidson

- Justin Morehouse
- 27 Dwight Strom
Michelle Walter
- 29 Sharon Wheeting
- 30 Lori Seelye
Taylor Schmidt
- 31 Caralee Heitmann

Groton Anniversaries

- 7 Richard & JoAnn
Krueger
- 10 Art & Charlotte
Lange
- 17 Jan & Don Price

Conde Birthday's

- 1 Pat Murphy
- 6 Stacey Bonn
- 9 Samuel Schlosser
- 10 Alyssa Taylor

- 11 Jared Murphy
- 14 Katie Lyren
- 17 Myron Fahrenwald
- 20 Dale Busing
- 22 Mike Knoll
- 23 Greg Stark
Greg Peterson
- 25 Chelsea Murphy
Larae Taylor
- 26 Clayton Kurtz
Samantha Menzia
- 27 Cindy Haskell
- 31 Renee Hanlon

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 | 397-8337 |
| 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 71 on email prayer chain.



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 prepaid rides.



World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer service is planned for Groton on Friday, March 7th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Groton United Methodist Church. A coffee hour will follow the service in the fellowship room. Women from the Emmanuel Lutheran Church and the Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church are participating as well.

Conde World Day of Prayer will take place March 5th at 1:00 PM. Patty Knoll will lead the lesson. Light refreshment will be served following the service.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March.

Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service. For 2008, the WDP Committee of Guyana developed the theme, "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding." Guyana is located geographically on the South American continent but culturally and historically a part of the Caribbean region.

The 2007 WDP USA grants helped women and children all over the world. There were 13 international grants and 9 grants in the United States. The monetary amounts were from \$1500 to \$3000 with most being \$2500.

The local service is open to the public and a free will offering will be taken. Everyone welcome.



Groton UMW
Meeting is March
19th at 2 PM
 Hostesses is Gloria
 Pharis
 Leader JoAnn
 Krueger

Groton UMW Minutes - Feb

JoAnn Krueger led the program for the Feb. 20th meeting of the Groton unit of United Methodist Women. The program was entitled "Peace: Journeying to Claim It." The program focused on women and the part women of the world play in reaching for it. The PURPOSE was recited and Doris Zoellner was in charge of devotions.

Vice-president Twila Ruden conducted the business meeting. Thank you notes were read. The treasurer reported on the period of January 1st to the present and bills were approved.

The conference newsletter, Dakota Links, and district newsletter, Glacial Lakes Gleanings, were discussed as was the possibility of subscriptions for all officers.

Doris Zoellner, mission coordinator of Spiritual Growth, reported on plans for the World Day of Prayer service planned for Groton. Groton UMW will host it this year on March 7th at 2:00 p.m. Program participants, kitchen helpers and ushers volunteered.

JoAnn Krueger, mission coordinator of social action, urged all to be more aware of recycling and more aware of the privileges experienced and taken for granted in the United States.

The plans for traveling to the Sun Dial Manor at Bristol Thursday morning to help Ruth Thompson celebrate her birthday were finalized. Putney Ladies Aid members will join us. We will carpool from the church at 9:00 a.m. for the party.

Focus Day will be at the Aberdeen North Highland Church on Saturday, April 19th. Plans are underway for Groton's shepherdess, Shirley Voeltz of Big Stone City to visit Groton's unit in March, April or June.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer. Open face sandwiches and a cherry dessert were served by the hostesses, Marlys Rodman and Doris Zoellner. The next meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. at the church March 19th, with Gloria Pharis and Pat Dahlquist hostesses.

Giving Our Hearts



"He has risen from the dead ..."

Matthew 28:7, NIV



Conde UMW Minutes - Feb

Conde UMW met at 11:00 AM Wednesday February 20th. Patty Knoll led the Call and Self Denial Lesson for the day. The special collection will be used for projects at home and abroad for special needs of women and children.

There were six members present for the meeting. Three table cloths had been purchased by Donna Hearnen. Conde School Alumni will meet the last weekend in June. The church will be open on Saturday afternoon as usual, with a group being contacted to serve a light lunch.

Annual Meeting will be October 3 and 4th at St. Paul's in Jamestown. Those attending are asked to bring slightly used, clean outerwear for children to wear on the reservations. They may not ride the bus if they are not adequately and warmly clothed.

Used shoes and socks are being asked for use in Iraq by

Tammy.

Also, if you are in the process of getting new cell phones, please send the old phones for use by our soldiers. There have been bags sent in the mail for that use.

Wednesday, March 5th at 1:00 PM has been sent for World Day of Prayer at Conde Church. All in the community are invited to attend. The Catholic ladies are being contacted for program help, also.

Guidelines for church use were presented and brought to date.

As Friendship Night is April 30, Patty Knoll will be ordering material for the program. Pat Siefken and Donna Hearnen served the noon lunch. The next meeting will be March 19 at 11:00 AM. Betty Jensen will present the Easter lesson "Peace, Journeying to Claim It" Hostesses are Cindy Smith and Donna Walter.

Conde UMW Meeting March 19 at 11 AM Program is "Peace: Journeying to Claim It" with Leader Betty Jensen and Hostesses Donna Hearnen & Jane Worlie

Conde Small Group Meeting
March 5th with Leader Pat Siefken and Hostess Cindy Smith

Why Palm Sunday?

Palm branches are mentioned in only one of the four Gospels (see John 12:12-15). So why do we call the first day of Holy Week Palm Sunday?

Tradition plays an important part in church history. During Jesus' time, Rome was the world's leading power. Whenever the Romans were victorious in battle, citizens traditionally threw palm branches in the returning heroes' path.

This was the accepted custom of reception. So when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, it was appropriate that he receive a hero's welcome. One week later, he would be victorious over death.





Skyler Andrew Kramer was born February 12th at 8:46 PM to Dale & Michelle Kramer. He weighed 8 lbs 5 oz and was 20 3/4 inches long. Skyler joins two sisters, Gabrielle & Ava.



Gage Carl Sippel was born February 8th at 4:43 PM to Doug & Crystal Sippel. He weighed 7lbs 11 oz and was 21 1/2 inches long. Gage joins a brother, Holden



Pastor Jan is Grandma! **Alex Michael Petersen** was born on February 12th at 7:36 PM to Laura & Larry Petersen in Huron. He was 7 lbs 6 ozs and 22 inches long.



Trust

Trust the sleep of a baby secure in being loved. the cry from the top of a slide, 'Catch me, Daddy.' the plea of a child, 'Make it better, Mommy.'

Trust is earned by loving, catching, healing.

Trust is learned, by sleeping, waking to find that all is safe by jumping, and being caught by hurting, and finding that love heals.

Trust we teach one another, and the best teachers are our children. -W. Ray Beaver Cross & Spire Lutheran Parish Esterhazy/Stockholm, Saskatchewan



Luke 9:48

Groton UMW Jan Minutes

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women met Wednesday afternoon, January 16th at 2:00 p.m. President Jolene Townsend conducted the business meeting. Doris Zoellner gave devotions and the PURPOSE was recited.

Gert Ruden retired from sending sympathy and get well cards from the church. Doris Zoellner will send the sympathy and wedding cards and Pat Dahlquist will send the get-well cards. Clare Brotherton will continue to send gifts to mission baby cards. One of the church fleece blankets will be given to the new babies at the blessing showers.

JoAnn Krueger will check on some social action projects and report at the next meeting. Kay Brandt reported that the Tuesday morning Bible Class is sponsoring a project for Tami Phipps who is working with the morale of Service people in Iraq. A box will be placed for donations to be sent to her by February 1st.

Doris Zoellner reported that the Groton World Day of Prayer service will be held at the United Methodist Church on March 7th. Carol Strom and JoAnn Krueger

will furnish 2 dozen cookies each for it. Three or four ladies will also be needed to work.

Jolene Townsend presented the program, "The Icing on the Cake" which incorporated the Installation of Officers. Officers for 2008 include Jolene Townsend, president; Twila Ruden, vice-president; Gloria Pharis, secretary; Clare Brotherton, treasurer; Doris Zoellner, Carol Strom and Marj Overacker, spiritual growth; Marjorie Townsend, Pat Dahlquist and Kelli Hanson, membership and nurture; JoAnn Krueger, Florrann Norris and Mary Ann Wehde, social action; Marlys Rodman, Susan Odland, Carolyn Snyder and Yvonne Lange, education and interpretation; Linda Thurston, Caralee Heitmann and Sharon Wheeting, program resources; and Jane Johnson, Chris Nyberg and Meri Erickson, nominations.

Lunch was served by Jolene Townsend and Marjorie Townsend.

The next meeting will be February 20th at 2:00 p.m. JoAnn Krueger will give the program and Marlys Rodman and Doris Zoellner will serve lunch.

There's More!

On the first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. They didn't know there was more – a resurrected Lord.

Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about this miracle, they didn't yet know there was more – a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make their joy complete.

Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine there was more – the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

As great as Easter is, it's only the "first fruits" of what lies ahead. Celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, but remember that the best is yet to come!



Turn it Over to God!

The Sunday Morning Prelude is for quiet meditative time.





Dakotas UMC Camping

The Camp books are here and available. The Early Bird Sign-Up requires you to have the registrations in by April 13th. Spring is almost here and now is the time to start planning for a great time at camp!

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.

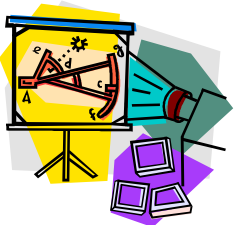
The Conde UMC please contact Cindy Smith (382-5923). The church and UMW will help with 'early bird' costs for campers.



The legend of the dogwood

There's a legend that the dogwood was once the size of the oak and other forest trees. It was so strong and firm that it was chosen as the timber for Christ's cross. This greatly distressed the tree. Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed the tree's regret and told it:

"Because of your sorrow for my suffering, never again shall the dogwood grow large enough to be used as a cross. It shall be slender, bent and twisted. Its blossoms shall form a cross - two long and two short petals. And at the outer edge of each petal will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red. In the center of the flower shall be a crown of thorns. And all who see it will remember"



Groton Screen/Projector Project

Each time I use the screen/projector in church I hear comments about how much everyone enjoys the songs and information on the screen. To put in the permanent screen will take some sizable funds. So please, donate to this project or even make a donation in memory of a loved one and eventually we will have funds to enjoy this new ministry every week during our service.

We will keep track of who made donations to this project and will have a slideshow recognition when the permanent system is in place.

We will have Camp Sunday and play some video's from the camps but without the full system, not everyone will be able to hear the music since I am not hooked into the sound system yet.

Any questions, ask Kay

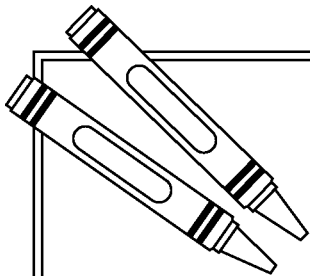


Cub Scouts

The cub scouts have been using our church for their meetings on occasion. They call first to make sure the church is open for them. Bryan Anderson is the Cubmaster. So far they have had a Derby Day where the kids take a block of wood and 4 wheels and create a car to race. Then they went off to Polar Day and went sledding down the hill on cardboard sleds. The emails the church has re-

ceived from them sounds like it is going strong. They hope to eventually display some of their trophy's and accomplishments in our church. And I also hope to get some photos some time to share with you what they have going on. Their meetings I try to put in the bulletin and am sure you can stop in and check it out to see the fun that is going on in our sharing the building with these young people. Kay

Sunday School
SCHEDULE



Just for KIDS

For everyone

Every day we should be thankful for God's love and for the gift of his Son, Jesus. Complete the maze below to help people from all directions hear about this good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read the words to John 3:16, NIV.

Whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

N "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16, NIV

E

S

Groton

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.



Conde Ad Board Minutes - Feb

- A moveable cart for the electronic piano will be made by Jim Zeck
- Supplies for Health kits are being collected now.
- Camping policy was updated. Scholarships are available. Cindy Smith is the contact person.
- UMW secured more tablecloths for the tables.
- World Day of Prayer will be held on Wednesday, March 5 at 1:00 pm at the church. Ladies from the community are invited to attend.
- Eco-friendly Palms for Palm Sunday have been ordered.
- Good Friday services and Easter services were discussed.
- During the Conde School Alumni Reunion the church will be open and snacks will be served. More details TBA
- The school will be using the church for testing purposes on May 8.
- We will be serving at the Banquet in Sioux Falls on June 2. Need volunteers to sign up to help.
- The General Church Use Policy was updated and approved.
- Pat Siefken gave a report on attending the Laity Gathering in Sioux Falls.

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



March 5 Groton UMC Lenten Service at 7 PM. Supper served by UMYF at 6 PM. Youth Group following the Service.

March 12 Groton UMC Lenten Service at 7 PM. Supper served by Nurture Committee at 6 PM.

Palm Sunday - March 16 Groton Sunday School is singing

in Church

Maundy Thursday Service March 20 at the Groton UMC at 7 PM

Good Friday Service March 21 at the Conde UMC at 7 PM

Good Friday Groton Community Service at 12 noon at the ELCA church for all congregations.



One Great Hour of Sharing

UMCOR's Guiding Values for Humanitarian Relief Work

UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church, a worldwide denomination. Compelled by Christ, UMCOR responds to natural or human made disasters—those interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

- UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering. We provide practical, proactive support to the most vulnerable survivors of chronic or temporary emergencies due to natural or civil causes.
- UMCOR honors cultural differences. We deliver aid to people without regard to race, religion, politics, or gender. We seek input from local communities in identifying needs.
- All people have God-given dignity and worth. The most essential partner in UMCOR's work is the beneficiary, the ultimate end-user of our service. There are no "victims" in our vocabulary. There are only survivors whose courage, along with a humanitarian helping hand, can transform communities.
- UMCOR always works with partners—usually in local settings. Civic organizations, faith communities, school leaders and other local resources are great assets to sustainable recovery and development, particularly after massive traumatic events. They exist close to the beneficiary and will continue to serve as positive influences in the community after UMCOR's work is complete.
- UMCOR is a good steward of our gifts and grants. Private donors can designate their gifts to our programs with the assurance that 100 percent is spent on the programs. The 8.5 million members of the United Methodist Church assure our ability to guarantee this through undesignated giving that underwrites our general administrative expenses.
- UMCOR avoids tying the promise of its relief and development activity to any religious or political viewpoint.
- UMCOR welcomes the good efforts of countless individuals and churches who support us through gifts and prayers and service. We incorporate volunteer action everywhere we can and ask our supporters to accept that sometimes it is not appropriate. We appeal to all volunteers to keep learning as their first objective so that the consequences of their service may become a true benefit.



Groton Ad Council Minutes - Feb

- Finance: It was agreed that costs related to the Lenten supper meals that are remaining after food donations should be reimbursed from the supper collections. Also the remaining monetary cash donations will be pledged to a worthy cause chosen by the host group.
- Trustees: This group is working on shortening of a couple of pews to allow for easier seating for those using wheelchairs.
- Outreach: The committee has decided to plan a time to help serve a meal at the Salvation Army in Ab-
erdeen. They are also making plans for Easter basket deliveries again this year.
- Sound System Calibration: It was reported that the sound system throughout the church has been checked and recalibrated to assure that sound from services being conducted can be easily heard in places like the fellowship hall when needed.
- Camping Funds: It was agreed that the church would cover 75% of the camping fees for those registering to attend.

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



Groton Family Committee - April

**Brenda & Tony Madsen,
Mitchell**

Marjae & Dan Schinkel

Carol & Luverne Strom

Gloria & Harry Pharis

Sharon & Larry Wheeting

Kristi & Ben Peterson

Caralee & Gary Heitmann

Lori & John Seelye, Casey

Betty & Charlie Strom

Dwight Strom

Mary Jane

Schott

Loell Schott

Diane Nissen

Don Bartz



Curtis Krueger

Honorary Members

• DeLoris Knoll

• Robert Hood

• Hazel McKittrick

• Emery Sippel

• Irene Breitreutz

April Extra Responsibilities

• Clean the fellowship Hall

• Potluck 2nd Sunday

(Optional)

• April 8th - hang Communion

Banners and change altar

cloths to white for this Sun-

day Only

• April 13th - hang monthly

banners and leave white altar

Groton Stewardship Report February 2008
Average Wkly Giving \$1,299
Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs \$1,733
Average Weekly Attendance 42
Total Building Fund Offerings \$90



March 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					

Our Church Happenings

- Mar 2 One Great Hour of Sharing Special Sunday
- Mar 5 Conde Small Group
- Mar 5 Groton Lenten Supper 6/Service 7 with UMYF Following
- Mar 5 Word Day of Prayer at Conde UMC 1 PM
- Mar 7 World Day of Prayer at Groton UMC 2 PM
- Mar 9 Conde Brunch following worship service
- Mar 9 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar 12 Groton Ad Council 7:30 PM
- Mar 12 Groton Lenten Supper 6PM/ Service 7 PM
- Mar 14-15 "Lock in Fast" for world hunger
Groton UMYF from 9 pm Fri to 7 pm Sat
- Mar 16 Palm Sunday - Groton Sunday School Singing In Church
- Mar 16 Groton UMYF Spaghetti Dinner for all after Church
UMYF Fundraiser
- Mar 19 Conde UMW 11 AM
- Mar 20 Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM in Groton
- Mar 21 Good Friday Service at 7 PM in Conde
- Mar 23 Conde Easter Worship at 9 AM (No Sunrise Service)
- Apr 13 Dakotas Camps Early Bird Sign-up Deadline.
- Jun 2 Conde serving "The Banquet" in Sioux Falls - Volunteer!