United Methodist Messenger

September 2008

www.grotonsdchurches.com/

groton/conde parishes



PASTOR ROB'S PONDERINGS

It is the end of Summer around here. Do you know how I know? There are actually a few reasons for this assumption. One of the local newspapers declared it was the end of Summer because school had begun. I got sick from all the fried food I ate both at the Minnesota and South Dakota State Fairs. And it is the end of Summer because of I have no idea where to place all the meetings activities on my calendar.

I would love it if the end of Summer was only marked by state fair food, but getting sick would be an easier "out" than trying to be in three places at the same time. Of course, this will not always be the case. Being in a different place to start the Fall will not always be true. Next year I'll just contend with not eating so many pork loin sandwiches followed by an abnormally high number of beef brats (A pastor does what a pastor can do to support the SD Pork and Beef Councils!). In the mean time, I'm juggling schedules as fast as my hands will keep the various meetings up in the air.

At this point, it might be wise to say something like, "Just slow down; Enjoy the change of seasons; Take the chance to smell the smells and hear the sounds of harvest." But you know as well as I do this advice belongs with the rest of the wheat chaff! Nowhere in God's Word does Jesus give us instruction on taking things easy. If we were to look at His example, you would find people chasing after Him when He wants to get away and He turns right there and ministers to them. (see various examples in Matthew, Mark and Luke)

Then a light bulb went off in my head (Actually, I was reminded of this lesson when I heard one of my former youth group members do a 4-H presentation at the State Fair). I took a "mini-vacation." I love watching movies and it just so happened that one of my favorites was on the American Movie Classic (AMC) Channel this afternoon. So I saw the end of one of my favorite movies for about an hour and then got back to work. In other words, I "got away" just like that young lady reminded me - by using the gift of my brain to get my mind somewhere else. Reading Jesus' teaching on prayer from Matthew 6 or studying the other examples of Jesus spending time alone, it seems likely He might have done the same thing from time to time. A good idea for the end of Summer!

United Methodist Messenger



Baptism & Blessings Shower for Mackenzie Jo Atherton is September 28, 2008. Mackenzie is the daughter of Josh & Merrie Atherton born July 17th.



Grief

Grief is perhaps the most difficult of human emotions to face, though it also has the potential for being the most therapeutic. Grief isn't a bad thing; it's the cost of having loved. If we hadn't loved, if we hadn't cared, we wouldn't grieve. And our lives would have been even emptier



Jackson Michael Wells was 7lbs,6oz, 20 and 1/2 inches long, born August 9, 2008. Parents are Michael & Alyssa Wells. Grandparents are Lon & Marva Gellhaus



Jessica Retzlaff and Brent Morehouse were united in marriage on August 2nd.

More about having a "Happy Afterlife"

Pastor Rob has copies of the book, "The Room of Marvels" by James Bryan Smith which is a companion to the "How to Have a Happy Afterlife" Series. Contact him to get a copy for only \$5!

Part 3 of Have a Happy Afterlife sermon can be checked out of the office and listened to at home on a CD or in the chapel on the CD player there. OR you may download from the internet and listen to it as well along with the PowerPoint presentation. To download from the internet, just right click the file and select save as. Then, when downloaded, double click to listen to it.



Our Church Celebrations Anniversaries

Groton Birthdays

TJ Johnson	
Kylie Hawkins	
Alana Wolken	
Sue Rock	
Wanette Strom	
Audrey Jacobson	
Alexa Nilsson	
Cliff Pray	
Richard Krueger	
Bob Wehde	
Mason Madsen	
Camille Sippel	
Jackson Strom	
Kyler Ell	
Diann Morehouse	
Marjory Townsend	
Eunice Sperry	
Madison McNickle	
Carolyn Snyder	
Jesse Overacker	
Joey Padfield	
Alan Strom	
Adam Atherton	
Ben Brandt	
Bob Johnson	

Groton Anniversaries

Sept 7 Doug & Crystal Sippel				
Sept 8 Laurel & Monte McNickle				
Sept 9 Clint & Audrey Jacobson				
Sept 12 Richard & Doris Zoellner				
Gerald & Ann Rix				
Alan & Vicki Strom				
Vern & Jean Walter				
Sept 20 Russell & Marj Townsend				
Conde Birthdays				
Chuck Trapp				
Bev Bonn				
Richard Worlie				
Marjorie Wright				
Eva Lyren				
Shane Bruckner				
Edwin Cunningham				
Alex Lyren				
Conde Anniversaries				
Jerry & Bev Bonn				
Rex & Larae Taylor				
Bud & Julie Bruckner				

Pastor Rob's Ponderings are on the internet at our website. Check it often! If you wish comment, let to Pastor know and he will set up а username and password for you.

"Any fool can count the seeds in an apple. Only God can count all the apples in one seed." –Robert Schuller

"No job is boring if we can see God's purpose in it."

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Groton UMW August Meeting

After recessing in June and July, the Groton unit of United Methodist Women convened Wednesday evening at the church. President Jolene Townsend presided and Carolyn Snyder read a devotion with Bible verses and a meditation from the devotional booklet. The PURPOSE was repeated in unison. Jolene reviewed information from the Prayer Calendar. The treasurer reviewed the financial transactions since April and recapped the May Breakfast proceeds.

Upcoming church activities were discussed. The South Dakota Ingathering will be held at Mitchell on September 27th and sewing, health and school kits are being prepared.

Susan Odland reported on the teacher appreciation day at the Elementary School in May. Linda Thurston gave the reading report and will send the names of the readers and books read to the district coordinator. The Bazaar is scheduled for October 1st. Plans for lefse making and basket assembly are underway.

A monetary donation was made to the Groton Swimming Pool fund and new supplies for the kitchen will be purchased.

The Dakotas Conference Glacial Lakes District UMW meeting will be at Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Watertown on September 13, 2008. Call Jolene Townsend to register for it.

The Executive Committee met preceding the meeting. The Committee on Nominations has been meeting and will present a slate of officers for consideration at the September meeting

The Sept 17th meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Doris Zoellner will present the World Thank Offering program, "Giving Thanks for Good News." Members are asked to bring their "World Thank Offering" boxes. Hostesses will be Sharon Wheeting and Twila Ruden.

Audrey Thurston and Clare Brotherton served a delicious dessert after the meeting.



UMW Fall Bazaar

The fall bazaar will be held Wednesday, October 1 from 4-7 PM. Supper will be served the entire time. There will be craft and bake sale. Lefse will be sold. Memebers are encouraged to bring the usual items which will include theme baskets. Come, and join the fun!

Lefse Making Days (come and learn how at any session you can!) Sept 18: 8am - peel & rice potatoes and then 1pm - rolling and frying Sept 19: 1pm - peel & rice potatoes and then 6pm - rolling and frying Sept 20: 9am - peel & rice potatoes and then 1pm - rolling and frying Bring your lefse making supplies!

"Giving Our Hearts" Sat. September 13 Cornerstone Methodist Church-Watertown 9:00am to 3:00pm \$8.00 (paid by our unit) Please bring new or slightly used coats (infant to 18 yr) also hats, gloves, baby quilts or crib blankets and pop tabs. Car pool leaving the Groton church at 7:30 am and in Conde contact Donna Hearnen for a ride.

Giving Our Hearts



Groton UMW Meeting

September 17th 7:30 pm World Thank Offering: Giving Thanks for Good News. Leader Doris Zoellner Hostess Sharon Wheeting

Executive Meeting at 6:30

Bring World Thank Offering Boxes!

Conde UMW August Meeting

Conde Unit traveled to Clark on August 20th to meet with Marjorie Wright at the Roettel Living Center there.

Donna Hearnen led the lesson on favorite hymns. Authorship of hymns was brought out and purpose of the hymn. Most of the hymns were sung, but some were read. They were all favorites which were enjoyed by all attending.

Following the program, dessert was served by the unit with assistance of the staff at the Center. All enjoyed visiting with Marjorie again. Members attending: Donna Hearnen, Patty Knoll, Betty Jensen, Lois Trapp, Jane Worlie, Donna Walter and Betty Taylor. Special guests were Valois Danekas and Pat Fey, Marjorie's nieces.

The next meeting will be September 17 at 2:00 PM with the focus on Public Education. Pat Siefken will lead the lesson, "For the Love of Children". hostess for the day is Patty Knoll.

The Martha Circle is scheduled to meet September 3 in the evening at the church.

Dakotas Conference UMW invites you to our Annual Celebration!

"Giving Our Hearts" celebrating Native Americans of the Dakotas will take place October 3 & 4th at the St. Paul's UM Church in Jamestown, ND. Speakers for the event will be Kathleen Enzminger, Former Dakotas Conference UMW President and Women's Division Director, also Jerome and Teresa High Horse of Rapdi City, and formerly Wanblee, SD on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

We will worship, sing, pledge,

dedicate, install, have a little business, listen and learn, and commune together.

Bring Children's winter outerwear for boys and girls. Gently used, clean, and in no need of repair. Sizes infant to 18 years. Monetary Donations may also be made to the Dakotas conference UMW.

Registration fee is \$15.00 and you need to RSVP by Sept 21st. Please contact your UMW President if you wish to attend.

Fringe benefits

Can faithfully attending worship actually raise your income? MIT economist Jonathan Gruber thinks so. In a study, he found that income increases by 10 percent when people double their church attendance.

Gruber proposes these possible reasons:

• Churchgoers join in fellowship with one another, resulting in social and job networking.

• They support one another during losses and setbacks. Such encouragement helps people do their best in all of life's endeavors.

• Churchgoers tend to be less stressed by everyday life, enabling them to work creatively and be more productive.

Boosting one's bank account isn't the reason most people go to church, of course. But it's interesting to note that worshipers reap both spiritual and earthly rewards.



Conde United Methodist Women

meet at 2:00 PM on Sept 17. Pat Siefken presents the lesson, "For the Love of Children". Patty Knoll is hostess.

Sunday School News

Rally Sunday will be Sunday, Sept. 07 with singing, games, tattoos, face painting, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and prizes. All children 3 years through 6^{h} grade are encouraged to participate. Any visitors are welcome! Schedules and upcoming events will go home with children on Rally Sunday.

Acolytes: Kelli will be showing the $5\&6^{\text{th}}$ grades proper technique.

Teachers for this Fall are: Music: Dale Kramer and Mendy Iones

5th&6th grade: Kelli Hanson

3rd & 4th: Franne Sippel

K, 1st& 2nd: Melissa Gilbert

Preschool: Marjae Schinkel Christmas Program: Mendy Jones, Dale Kramer, and Kelli Hanson Christmas Craft: Kami Lipp Substitute/ Helpers: Karla Davidson, Kristi Peterson, Sydney Erickson,

Michaela Oleson, Katelyn Hawkins, Camille Sippel, and Kylie Hawkins. We are very excited to start our

new year! This year's theme is:

BUILDING A HEART OF FAITH

Melissa Gilbert





SEPTEMBER:

7^{th}	RALLY Sunday	
14^{th}	SS	
21 st	SS	

28th SS

OCTOBER:

 5^{th} Sing in Church 12th No SS 19th SS 26th SS

NOVEMBER:

 2^{nd} SS 9^{th} Sing in Church 16th SS 23rd SS 30th No SS

DECEMBER:

7th SS 14th SS 21st SS Christmas Program 28th No SS

January:

4th No SS





what you and your family should do for God.

What you need:

- 81/2" x 11" cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- A photograph of each person in your family that you can cut apart
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- A hanging picture frame that holds an $8^{1/2}$ " x 11" photo (optional)

What you do:

- Draw a colorful picture of the outside of your house. Remember to add a door and windows.
- Decide where you want each person's photo to go. Cut out a whole body (if you want someone to stand on the front porch, for example) or just cut out a face (if you want someone to be looking out a window).
- Use the glue stick to glue the cut-out photos onto your drawing.
- Write out Joshua 24:15b, NIV: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
- To frame your picture, have an adult help you. If you don't have a frame, display your house on a refrigerator or bulletin board for everyone to see.

September 7th **10:00 AM**

Camp Thank You

Dear UMC,

Thank you for paying for part of the fee for church camp and allowing me to go. I went to the camp at Lake Poinsett called "Jr. High Sand, Surf, & Sun." It was a great experience. I met a lot of new friends and had a great time. My favorite part was waterfront time when we got to ski, tube, knee board, swim, and jump on the inflatable. I had a really good time and plan on going next year.

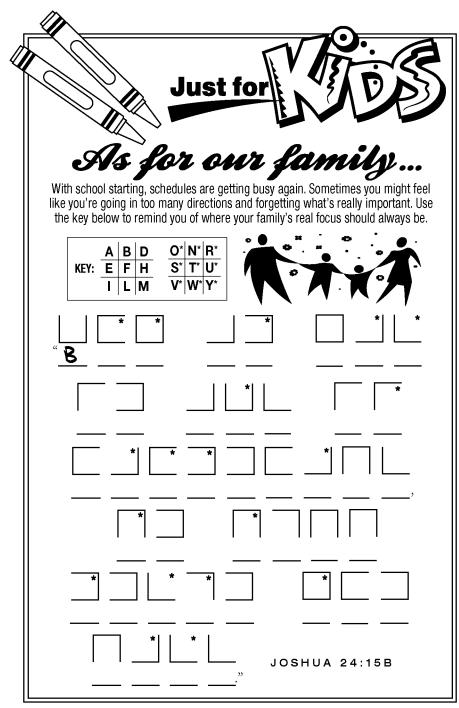
Thanks a bunch,

Katelyn Hawkins

Dear UMC,

Thank you for allowing me to go to church camp this summer. I went to Lake Poinsett Church Camp. I had a great time at church camp. The best thing about camp was learning about God and camp fires. I met tons of new people at camp and we prayed lots of games there too. I plan on going next year to camp.

Sincerely, Kylie Hawkins



Answer: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."



Groton UMYF Starts September 10th

YOUTH KICK-OFF at 7:00 pm All Junior and Senior High Youth! Come and help plan our year! Refreshments provided.

United Methodists Prepare for Hurricane Relief Work

After being battered by Tropical Storm Fay and Hurricane Gustav, UMs along the Gulf coast are beginning to assess the damage and coordinate relief efforts. In the days prior to Gustav's landfall just west of New Orleans on Sept. 1, UMCOR secured its Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, La., and made sure evacuating staff members had proper credentials to return immediately after the storm had passed. Flood buckets and other supplies are being distributed from Sager Brown to aid relief efforts across Louisiana and other affected annual conferences.

"We are receiving reports of catastrophic flooding and debris in parts of the state," said Marilyn Swanson, director of Disaster Recovery Ministry for the Florida Annual Conference, affected by Tropical Storm Fay in late August. Four UM churches reported minor damage, including one that was looted during the storm. Bishop Timothy Whitaker is asking the UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for a \$10,000 emergency grant to help with initial needs. The conference is poised to provide flood buckets filled with cleanup

Flood Bucket Info

Note: if the requested item size is not available, go down to the next available size. If nothing is available in the requested or smaller

size, put masking tape on the outside of the bucket saying, "This bucket contains no "

Cleaning Agents. All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic bottles. No powders. Pack them inside a bucket or strong outer box.

All Items must be New.

supplies to homeowners. It has 1,400 buckets stored in a warehouse in Madison, about an hour outside of Tallahassee.

Churches can support hurricane relief efforts by assembling and shipping flood buckets to Sager Brown and the Florida Annual Conference. UMs are also asked to re-stock their local food pantry or food bank. Work teams are expected to be needed after the water recedes. Volunteers should contact their Jurisdictional Volunteer in Mission Coordinator for information about when and where their help will be needed. To donate to UMCOR, drop checks in church offering plates or mail them directly to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Write Advance #3019695, Hurricanes 2008 on the memo line. Credit-card donations can be made by calling 800-554-8583 or at www.givetomission.org. — Erik Alsgaard, Florida Annual Conference (UMNS) and UMCOR

> School Kits In Groton we need bags sewn, pencil sharpeners, and paper to finish kits.

Flood Bucket Items

- 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- Bleach (two 1-quart or • one 82 oz. bottle. Do not include bleach if you are shipping the bucket through the US Postal Service, UPS or FedEx)
- 5 scouring pads
- 7 Sponges
- 1 scrub brush
- 18 cleaning towels (reusable wipes)
- Liquid laundry detergent (two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottle)
- 1 household cleaner. 12-16 oz. bottle
- Disinfectant dish soap, 16-28 oz. bottle
- 50 clothes pins
- Clothes line (two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.)
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pair latex gloves
- 1 pair work gloves
- 24-bag roll of heavyduty trash bags, 33-45 gallon (remove roll from box before placing in bucket)
- 1 Insect repellant spray, 6-14 oz. can (If aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See Special Requirements below.)
- 1 Air freshener, 8 or 9 oz. can (lf aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See Special Requirements below.)



Ingathering for World Hunger

Like a Craft Fair!

Saturday, Sept 27th at the Christian Wellness Center at the Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD.

7:30 am Registration & Coffee

8:30 am Music Celebration

9:00 am Celebration & Dedication of gifts. Featured Speaker, Montas Joseph (trainer for Haitian Solar Oven Project)

10:30 AM Auction of Handmade



Marlys Rodman	397-4570
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 70 on email prayer chain. If you are not on this list or the email list, please notify the church office.



Quilts plus other creations in wood, glass, and fabric.

A silent auction will be held throughout the day for many beautiful items.

Coffee, pie, and ice cream will be served throughout the day. Rolls, coffee, and lunch will be available.

Come and bring your friends!



New Study Starts Sept 16th at 10 AM Psalms, Prayers of the Heart Contact Kay Brandt if you need a book.

The Wind and the Sun

Aesop told the story about the Wind and the Sun, who were disputing which of them was stronger. After a while they saw a traveler hiking down the road.

"I see a way to decide who's strongest," said the Sun. "Whoever can make that traveler take off his coat the quickest will be the winner. You can even go first."



The Sun ducked behind a cloud, while the Wind began to blow mighty blasts of air at the traveler. But the harder the Wind blew, the closer the traveler pulled his cloak around himself. Finally, the Wind gave up in despair.

The Sun came out from behind the clouds and smiled down on the traveler. Feeling the gentle rays, the man soon found it too hot to walk with his cloak on. He felt so warm that he took off one garment after another, and then bathed in a nearby stream.

The Sun knew that warmth, friendliness and a gentle touch are always stronger than fury and force.

Conde Ad Council Highlights - August Meeting

Council Chair, Patty Knoll, called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM., asking Pastor Rob to lead us in prayer. Secretary's report was approved as corrected; followed by treasurer's report. Portable stand for the digital piano was purchased with payment from Memorial Fund.

Darrel Haskell as chair of Trustees Committee gave the results of Trustee meeting concerning the 80 acre plot of land. Jeff Hanson will cash rent the land for a three year term, with the lease to be drawn by Darrel. Haar Heating in Aberdeen will be contacted to check the heating system in the church.

Charge Conference is set for November 2 at 7:00 PM in the Groton Church. All committees will have met by the time of the October Ad Council meeting. Another member of the Memorial Committee will be selected at that time.

Mission Committee reported that 30 school kits have been prepared for In-Gathering September 27 at Dakota Wesleyan University.

Worship of Holy Communion will continue to be the first Sunday of every month. This may be varied in the summer.

New file cabinets will be purchased for the office in the church.

The suggestion was made to consider air conditioning for the sanctuary.

The next meeting will be September 24 at 8:00 PM. Please note the change in time.

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

all."







My church

My church is composed of people like me. We make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

My church will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with those things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be!

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Groton Ad Council - August Notes

Pastor Rob explained that he would be leading the Youth Fellowship group this year and a letter to those in grades 7 - 12 would be sent soon sharing more details. Assistance from parents will be requested as needed.

It was noted that 2009 budgets would need to be completed in September so that they can be approved in October, as the Charge Conference is being held on November 2.

Pastor Rob explained the United

Methodist Investment Plan that is available for those employees of the church who are compensated for their work. There is no cost to the church and the board agreed to make enrollment forms available to those employees who express an interest in this program.

The condition of the nativity figures was discussed. They are in need of repainting and investigation is being done to understand the cost of doing this.

A prayer for perspective

Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful. Aprayer written for use during the Jewish New Year (September 30-October 1) is pertinent for Christians, too:

Groton Mission Statement Groton Stewardship Report for August 2008

"Enriching Spiritual

lives through Christ."

Average Wkly Giving \$1,846 Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs \$1,733 Average Weekly Attendance 82

Average Weekly Attendance 82 Total Building Fund Offerings \$175

Groton October Family Committee

Brenda & Tony Madsen, Mitchell

Marjae & Dan Schinkel

Carol & Luverne Strom Gloria & Harry Pharis Sharon & Larry Wheeting Kristi & Ben Peterson Caralee & Gary Heitmann Jean Walter Lori & John Seelye, Casey Betty & Charlie Strom Dwight Strom Mary Jane Schott Loel Schott Diane Nissen Don Bartz Curtis Krueger

Honorary Members

- DeLoris Knoll
- Robert Hood
- Hazel McKittrick
- Emery Sippel
- Irene Breitkreutz

October Extra Responsibilities

- First Sunday, Oct 5th, World Communion, change the altar cloths to while and hang Communion Banners for this Sunday only
- Oct 12th, change the altar cloths to green and hang the monthly banners
- Care for the lawn as needed
- Clean Storage Room off the Fellowship Hall
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)



Was that a compliment?

After a worship service, a pastor was greeting people at the front door. A woman shook his hand vigorously and said, "That was a very helpful sermon. You know, you ought to have your sermons put in a book."

"Thank you!" answered the pastor. "Maybe my wife will have some of them published after I'm dead."

"Well," responded the elderly saint, "the sooner the better."



School Schedule Inside! And More!

Our Church Happenings!

Sept 7 Groton Rally Sunday at 10 AM with loads of fun! Sunday School will be singing in church. Groton Christian Education Leaders Recognition

Sept 7 Groton POTLUCK!

- Sept 9 Conde Nomination Committee 7 pm
- Sept. 10 Groton YOUTH KICK-OFF at 7:00 pm. All Junior and Senior High Youth! Come and help plan our year! Refreshments provided.
 Sept 10 Groton Ad Council 8 PM
- Sept 13 Glacial Lakes District UMW Meeting at Cornerstone UMC, Watertown
- Sept 17 Conde UMW at 2 pm.
- Sept 17 Groton UMW Meeting at 7:30 PM Bring World Thank Offering Boxes! Exec Mtg at 6:30 PM
- Sept 18 Groton Lefse Making at 8AM (peel) & 1PM (roll) Come to any Lefse
- Sept 19 Groton Lefse Making at 1PM (peel) & 6PM (roll) Ses
 - Session to learn and have fun!
- Sept 20 Groton Lefse Making at 9AM (peel) & 1PM (roll)
- Sept 23 Pastor Parish Relations in Groton at 7 PM
- Sept 24 Conde Ad Council 8 pm
- Sept 26 All kits need to be in churches' fellowship hall ready for Pastor Rob by noon to take to the Ingathering.
- Sept 27 Ingathering in Mitchell Plan to Attend!
- Sept 28 Groton Blessings Shower & Baptism for Mackenzie Atherton born Jly 17th.
- Sept 29 Conde World Hunger Sunday Undesignated Offering
- Oct 1 Groton UMW Fall Bazaar from 4-7pm
- Nov 2 Charge Conference 7 PM Groton
- Oct 3 & 4 UMW Annual Celebration in Jamestown, "Giving Our Hearts" Bring warm outerwear for children infant to 18 years.
- Oct 5 World Communion Sunday