

United Methodist Messenger

Eternal Light

My United Methodist health care plan has a new wellness incentive which involves walking a certain number of steps per day. As a pastor I have discovered over the course of the winter the church sanctuary makes a great walking track on the cold and snowy days; I have also discovered the church sound system makes a great stereo system to make the walking not so mundane.

The other day, during one of our late South Dakota blizzards, I was walking around the sanctuary listening to music and caught myself looking at the eternal flame that hangs on the wall in the front of the sanctuary. The first church I served in North Dakota had an eternal flame. They're the type that plugs into the wall so the only time the "eternal" flame would ever go out would be if the church lost electrical power. I know it might seem insignificant but when you walk around the sanctuary for a couple of hours, I just started thinking about that flame.

Perhaps I was thinking about it because the previous church I served did not have one and I was rebuffed by some church attenders there from getting one. Perhaps I was thinking

about it because I remember the Crystal (ND) United Methodist Church and its "eternal flame" and all the elderly people who have died in the years since I left there. Perhaps I was thinking about the flame because next week is Holy Week with its emphasis on the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus and the eternal implications of those events. Perhaps I was just thinking about it because there is not that much to think about when you are walking the aisles of a church sanctuary for two hours.

Why was I thinking about that eternal flame at the front of the sanctuary? All the reasons listed above are good answers. Of course, the most spiritual one, the most "pastoral" one would be about Holy Week, but the fact of the matter is all of those thoughts were going through my head. That is what "eternal flames" are meant to do – get us thinking about the past, present and future whether we are facing Holy Week or not. My prayer for you is for God to bless you with the time to think and ponder your past, present and future with Him.

Have a wonderful and blessed Easter!
Pastor Rob



Groton UMW May Breakfast

The annual May Breakfast will be held Wednesday, May 6th with serving times of 11:30 AM and 1:15 PM. The cost will be \$7.50 per plate. Kelly Clark will give a program entitled "Purse-onality." Reservations may be called to Clare Brotherton, 397-8177 or DeLoris Knoll, 397-2681.



Conde Friendship Night

Will be held April 29th with time to be announced. Friendship Night at the Church with the play "How's Your Heart" Salad luncheon will be served. Cost is \$6.00.

Friendship Night



Free Children's Carnival

Celebrating "Week of the Young Child" Roncalli Elementary School (kiddy corner from Avera St. Lukes Hospital), use the west gym door. Lots of fun booths from area Child Care Providers and Local Businesses on Saturday, April 18th, from 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Bringing Communities Together for Children! Lunch will be available, Bake Sale, Raffle. Dakota Midland Assoc for the Education of Young Children.

Owen Robert Sperry

was born March 24. 7 lbs 7 oz and 20 inches long. Born to Amanda & Ryan

Sperry and joins sister Ashlyn. Grandparents are Kim & Craig Weber and Great-Grandparents are Gloria & Harry Pharis.



Aiden Daniel Strom

Aiden Daniel Strom born 3/31 4lb 9oz 17in long-ER C-section as Eugenia was having really high blood pressure-born 5 weeks premature so he will be in the hospital for about 3 weeks or so. Also we just found out today that he has an infection of some kind (cuz he has a fever) so we won't know more about that until all test results are back. Eugenia will be in the hospital for 2-3 more days also. Son of Eugenia & Dwight Strom. Grandparents are Carol & Laverne Strom. Please keep this family in your thoughts & prayers!



Our Church Celebrations

Groton

Apr 3 Marc Johnson
 Apr 4 Mitchell Madsen
 Apr 5 Irene Breitreutz
 Apr 7 Reilly Ell
 Apr 8 Lon Gellhaus
 Apr 10 Martha Miller
 Pauline Luce
 Apr 13 Jessica Morehouse
 Apr 14 Reta Washnok
 Apr 15 Brady Graf
 Apr 16 Kristi Peterson

Rodney Boehmer
 Terry & Lynette Furman

Apr 18 Dick & Sandy Oliver
 Dylan vogel
 Merrie Atherton
 Vern Walter
 Apr 20 Marlys Rodman
 Apr 22 Ali Pasteur
 Apr 28 Kevin Pharis



Conde

Apr 5 Wyatt Kurtz
 Apr 14 Dylan Stark
 Apr 18 Loren Siefken
 Apr 22 Curtis Haskell
 Brandon Schlosser
 Mary Ann Watts
 Apr 28 Jim Baldrige

Groton & Conde Sewing Kits

For the months of March and April Groton will be collecting sewing kits. Conde will be collecting during the months of April and May. The kit contents are listed below. If you would like to give financial donations toward the purchase of the contents, the Mission Committee would be appreciative. Donations may be placed in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Mission 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

Groton April Easter Sunday Brunch will be furnished by the April Committee and the UMYF so please come worship at 8 AM and join us!

The April work committee will furnish egg bake dishes. The UMYF will furnish the rolls and muffins. April committee will be making a fruit salad on Saturday. So please join us!

Groton
 UMC



Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Audrey Thurston	397-8493
Gert Ruden	397-8211
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Mary Swisher	397-8337
Gloria Pharis	397-2375
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marjorie Townsend	298-5221
Darlys Kampa	395-6996
DeLoris Knoll	397-2681
Marvel Johnson	397-2425
Mary Ann Whede	397-8330

*Currently 82 on email prayer chain.

If you are not on this list or the email list, please notify the church office.



Groton UMW March

The Groton unit of the United Methodist Women met Wednesday afternoon March 18th at 2 PM.

Gloria Pharis had devotions reading Psalm 34:1-3 and a meditation.

Vice-Pres Twila Ruden opened the meeting. JoAnn Krueger gave the program on :Lent: This is the Fast I Choose." She gave us some very thoughtful and helpful things we could choose to do for others that are in need of many things that could use help in different situations.

The Purpose was recited by the group. The minutes of the Feb Meeting were approved as read. Treasurer Clare Brotherton gave the treasurer's report.

Thank yous were read from Brock Abeln and Sylvia Campball for the Christmas cookies and from the youth center for our donation of \$500 we sent them. An invitation to Focus Days to be held at Webster

UMC on April 18th was received.

A report was given on World Day of Prayer, it seemed to be a good success they only wished more people would attend.

We were reminded it was a time to pay pledges. We received our pledge cards on UMW Sunday.

A motion was made by Marvel Johnson that we send \$250 to the Salvation Army, Sharon Wheeting seconded the motion, it passed.

The next meeting will be April 15th at 2:00. Our Shepherdess Marge Alwin from Watertown will visit.

Our hostesses will be Pat Dahlquist and Marlys Rodman.

Marlys Rodman served a delicious dessert for lunch.

Secretary Gloria Pharis



Groton April UMW Meeting

April 15th at 2:00 PM

Leader Shepherdess Marge Alwin from Watertown

Program is Glacial Lakes Updates

Hostesses are Pat Dahlquist & Marlys Rodman

Executive Meeting at 1:00 PM

UMW Focus Days

April 18th

At Webster

Call Jolene about carpooling from the church that day.

Weep no more!

In John 20:13-15 (NRSV), the same question is repeated twice. The angels ask Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (verse 13). And then Jesus asks Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (verse 15)

On Easter Sunday, perhaps it's still the question before us: "Why are we weeping?" Why is there still such anguish in the world? Why are we laboring on, burdened and living as though there has been no resurrection?

Weep no more! Christ has risen!

Our Easter outlook

During World War II, when the Blitz was at its worst in London, theologian Leslie Weatherhead said there had been no loss of life among the Christians there. Many Christians had been killed in London, but there was no loss of life. People who believe in the risen Lord have true life in him, no matter their earthly trials and circumstances. Because God raised his Son from the dead, Christians are assured of immortality in Christ. Eternal life is ours, thanks to the empty tomb.





Native American Ministries Sunday - April 26

We cannot tell you her name, but we can tell you her story.

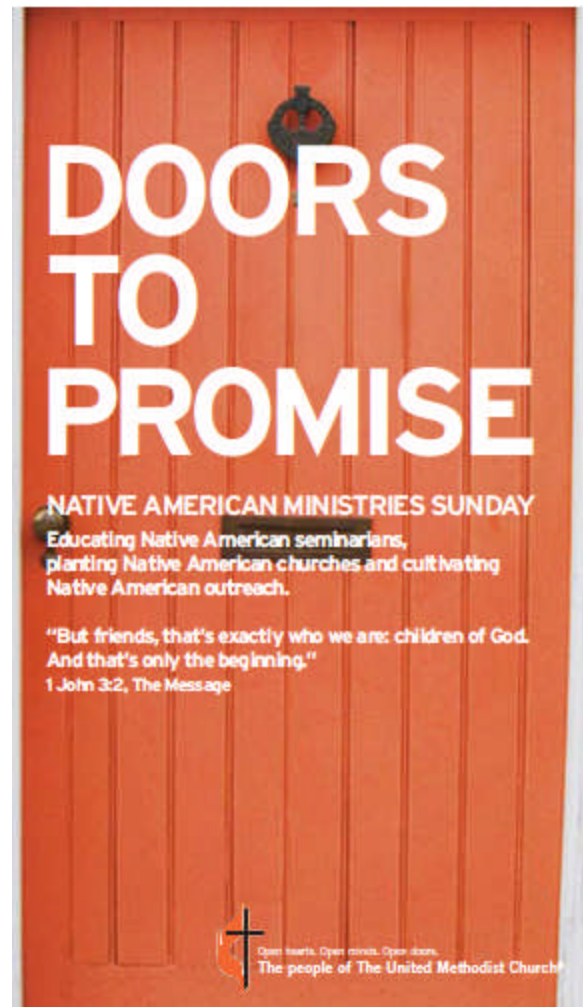
The abuse began when she was a child. No one hugged or encouraged her. She was punished brutally for not measuring up. She left home as soon as she could and met a man she hoped would give her the unconditional love she never received from her parents. But after the wedding, he husband beat, insulted and threatened her. She wanted to leave, but she was expecting a baby. Where would she go? What would she do? The abuse ended when she divorced him, but resurfaced again in another bad marriage. Eventually she found refuge in a domestic violence shelter and entered the New Beginnings Program at the Navajo United Methodist Center in Farmington, N.M. After 18 counseling and education, she is no longer a victim. She is a survivor. "In a few months I will be on my own, but another needy, hurting woman will take my place."

Whether it's providing shelter for victims of domestic violence, filling food pantries, starting new churches or educating Native American seminary students, the special offering is one way United Methodists honor Native Americans.

On Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodist's cultivate and support urban missions with Native Americans and fund scholarships for Native American seminarians. Your annual conference retains 50 percent of the offering to strengthen and develop Native American ministries. However, if no Native American ministries exist in the conference, the entire offering is remitted to the General Council on Finance and Administration for Native American ministries in other areas.

The remaining 50 percent of the offering expands mission work with the Native American Urban Initiative and provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved schools of theology.

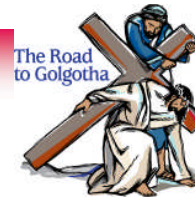
Is it easier to learn Native American traditions from a Native American or an Irish American? This is why the Native American Ministries Sunday offering is critical – to continue the traditions and nurture the gifts of Native Americans.



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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





Conde Ad Council

met Wednesday, March 18 with Patty Knoll presiding. The Mission Statement of the church was brought forth; minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

DATES TO REMEMBER: Conde Mission Committee will be collecting health and sewing kits during the months of April and May. If you would like to donate money for these projects, please see Donna Hearnen.

- Plans are progressing toward the sending of a stewardship letter for the purpose of increasing attendance and finances of the church.
- Books for the Senior graduates in our school were purchased and discussed at the meeting.
- Church will be in the sanctuary during April and May. Weather conditions may alter these plans during the summer.
- There will be no Bible Study the first Wednesday in April.
- Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday. Ecco Palms will be used.
- Good Friday April 10 - Services at 7:00 PM in our

church

- Easter Sunday April 12 - Worship begins at 10:00 AM in the church sanctuary.
- Please write this on your calendar.
- April 15, 2:00 PM - United Methodist Women meet at 2:00 PM with Pat Siefken leading the lesson on Native Americans. Cindy Smith is hostess.
- April 18 Focus Day in Webster for all United Methodist Women. Registration begins at 9:00 AM. Donna Hearnen needs to know if you are planning on going by April 13 to reserve a place for you.
- April 22 - 8:00 PM Wednesday evening - Please remember Ad Council meeting.
- April 29 - Friendship Night at the Church with the play "How's Your Heart" Salad luncheon will be served. Cost is \$6.00.
- Mother's Day will also be observed as Blanket Sunday. Please be prepared to sponsor many much needed blankets as they are very useful in many ways.
- With the absence of Pastor Rob, general church items were discussed.



Conde April UMW Meeting

April 15th at 2:00 PM

Program is Native Americans by Pat Siefken

Hostess is Cindy Smith

Conde UMW March Meeting

CONDE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN met in the church at 11:00 AM for the Lenten study, "This is the Fast I Choose" led by Betty Taylor and assisted by all the members present. Lent is not only a period of fasting, but also making good things better. Examples were given of the good results of mission giving in our church.

Arlie Rodman, our shepherdess and Communications Director for the Glacial Lakes United Methodist Women, presented resources that are available from the Women's Division for our education and use for the new quadrennium.

President Donna Hearnen presided at the business

meeting, leading in the singing of the Purpose Song. Patty Knoll read from the Conference Worship Book. Invitation to Focus Day was given by the Webster unit on April 18 with registration at 9:00 AM.

There will be no Bible Study meeting in April.

Rehearsals will begin for Friendship Night entertainment. Cost will be \$6.00 with salad lunch to be served. This is April 29th.

Native Americans will be the focus of the next regular meeting on April 15th at 2:00 PM led by Pat Siefken. Cindy Smith is hostess. Our hostesses for the day's lunch were Donna Hearnen and Betty Jensen.

Groton Sunday School

Church will be at 9:00am. Sunday school will be from 10:00am-11:00am. Here is a schedule for the Spring Semester.

Apr. 5=Palm Sunday Sing in Church, Egg Hunt

Apr. 12= No SS

Apr. 19=SS

Apr. 26=SS

May 3=SS

May 10=Mother's Day Sing in Church. Last day of SS.

Mother's and Graduates honored.


VBS June 1-4th 5:30-8:30

We will have a Potluck Thurs. night with a short program. The children sing the songs they have learned all week. We need LOTS of volunteers to make this a successful and FUN event for the children. This year's theme is Camp Edge. This theme is a camp like setting with Extreme Sports!! The children take trips to the Promise land, Bethlehem, etc...

Melissa Gilbert

UMC SS Superintendent

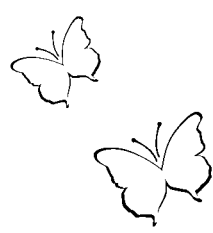




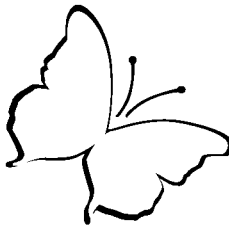
OUR LIVING HOPE


Easter is a time to rejoice because of what God did for us in sending his Son. Jesus is our living hope. Read 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV) below. Then find the **bold** words in the crossword search.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you"





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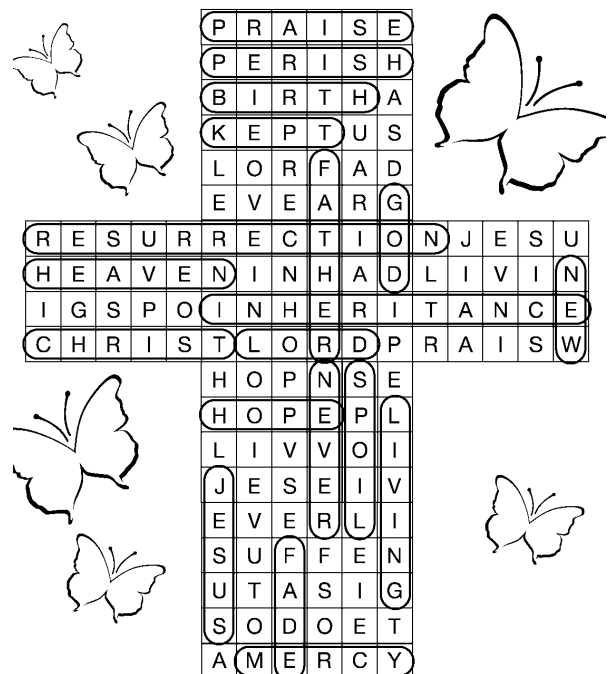
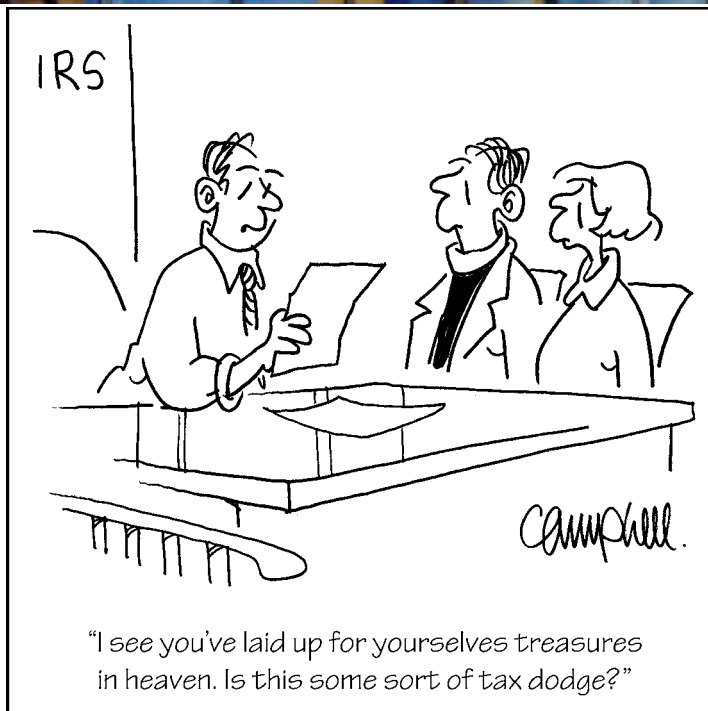


Conde Habitat for Humanity

Birthday Donation

is voluntary during the month of your Birthday. House is available at the church for Donations.

Turtle Races were held in March! Groton Cub Scouts



Groton Ad Council - March

The trustees reported problems with water leaks in our heating system that will require repair work. In addition they reported that a new north door will be installed this spring.

Our education committee is working on Palm Sunday, Mother's Day and Vacation Bible School plans.

The membership committee shared that attendance at our Sunday morning services has been

lower since the beginning of the new year, possibly due to the earlier start time and the winter weather.

The UMYF group is making plans for conducting the Easter service in addition to helping to serve a breakfast following that service.

The scouting group continues to be active with the Turtle Races being the latest activity they prepared for and participated in.



Groton Mission Statement
"Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

May Family Committee

Diann & Brad Morehouse

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

Justin Morehouse

Marjorie & Roger Overacker

Mendy & James Jones

Melissa & Neil Gilbert

Chris & Sherwin Nyberg

Jean Walter

Laurel & Monte McNickel

Jesse & Jaymie Overacker

Jack Oliver

Nathan & Kate Zeeb

Honorary Members

- Dick & Gert Ruden
- Eunice Sperry

May 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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						

- Gerald & Ann Rix
- Irene Breitzkreutz
- Joy & Don Walter

May Extra Responsibilities

- May 3rd change altar cloths to white and hang Communion Banners for this Sunday only
- May 10th change altar cloths to purple
- May 31st change altar cloths to red and hang Pentecost Banners for this Sunday only
- Mow lawn if needed
- Clean Nursery & Kindergarten rooms
- Potluck 2nd Sunday



APRIL

If you received this in the mail
and are able to pick it up at the
church or receive through email,
please contact Kay 397-8389

April 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Our Church Happenings

- Apr 8 Groton Ad Council 7 PM
- Apr 9 Maundy Thursday Service in Groton at 7 PM
- Apr 10 Good Friday Service in Conde at 7 PM
- Apr 11 Groton UMYF Easter Practice 5 PM
- Apr 12 Easter Sunday Services will be at 8 AM - Groton
and 10 AM - Conde.
- Apr 15 Groton UMW Meeting 2 PM Executive Mtg 1 PM
- Apr 15 Groton UMW Pledges are due for local missions.
- Apr 15 Conde UMW Meeting 2 PM
- Apr 15 Conde Ad Council Meeting 8 PM
- Apr 18 UMW Focus Days in Webster 9 AM
- Apr 19 Conde Confirmation
- Apr 20 Camping Registration Deadline!
- Apr 26 Native American Ministries Special Offering
- Apr 29 Conde Friendship Night
- May 6 Groton UMW May Breakfast