

MARCH 2009

# UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

GROTON/CONDE PARISHES

[www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc](http://www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc)



## FAT TUESDAY

I woke up this morning to the sounds of the voices on ESPN talking about today being "Fat Tuesday" (better known as the day before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent). One of the anchors of the program was talking about the big meals he was going to have for lunch and dinner "to spoil himself before he has to give up something for Lent."

While in seminary, a good friend of mine suggested I give up something for Lent and put aside the money I would have spent on "that something" for a charitable cause. After thinking about it, I gave up soda pop and chocolate for Lent that year. Of course, I drank and ate as much chocolate and soda pop as I possibly could on Fat Tuesday. In fact, I might have spent as much on that Tuesday as I ended up giving to the church at the end of Lent for the chocolate and soda pop I had "given up."

In case you were wondering, Lent is a time of discipline and serious contemplation about our relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ. It is a season to concentrate on that relationship and how we live it out.

Fat Tuesday, on the other hand as you might have guessed, is the day given to "run-away celebrations," last minute indulgences, and any other type of non-Lenten activity a person could do.

The health insurance plan for United Methodist clergy has started a program this year called "Healthmiles" in which participants are rewarded for healthy behavior. The "catch" to the program is a person is only rewarded after consistent, long-term participation in the program. Days like "Fat Tuesday" are discouraged because they lead to old habits.

Ever since that first Lent in which I gave up something, I have wondered about the indulgences of Fat Tuesday and the sacrifices of Lent. While they are fun to talk about, it seems to me we are missing the real message of Fat Tuesday and the Season of Lent – we should practice the "discipline" of Lent a little more throughout the year and avoid the indulgences of Fat Tuesday whenever those temptations arise. God Bless!

Pastor Rob

## Hush ... hush

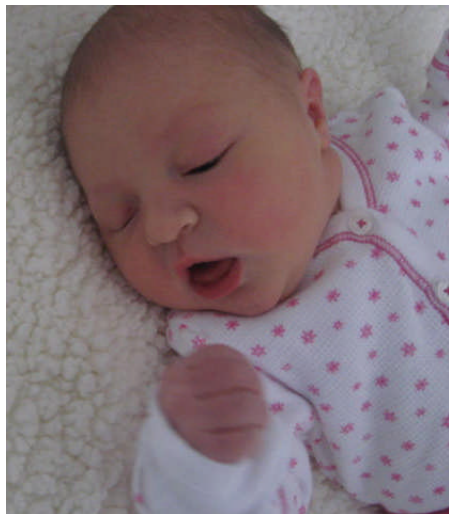
Seven-year-old Kathy tried to quiet her younger brother during a church service. "Hush ... hush," she warned him. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why?" asked the brother. "Who's going to stop me?"

Kathy pointed to the rear of the sanctuary. "See those men standing back there? Well, those are the hushers!"



## UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER



TAYLOR AMANDA THURSTON

Open House Baby Shower will be held at the Groton UMC on March 1st, Sunday, from 1-3 pm. Please come and welcome Taylor and her parents Rick & Kate Thurston. Taylor was born on January 23rd.



## BLESSINGS SHOWER &amp; BAPTISM

Dawsyn Ray Dinger will be baptized on March 8th followed by a Blessings Shower in the Fellowship Hall.. Dawsyn was born October 31st, 2008. His parents are Jessica Pasteur and Mason Dinger.



**Groton World Day of Prayer** will be at the SEAS Catholic Church March 6th at 2 PM. Please plan to come and join the day of fellowship with a friend.



## Groton Lenten Services

Each work committee is responsible to prepare, serve, and cleanup one Lenten Supper according to the schedule below. Soup & Sandwiches are typically served but other choices are optional. Prepare for 50 people. Meal is served from 6-7 pm. Take a free-will offering which should be turned over to Anita Lowary or Kay Brandt. It will be used to defray the cost of the meal. Groceries may be charged or receipts given to Kay for reimbursement. Questions may be directed to Gloria Pharis or Clare Brotherton.

**Feb 25 - Jan Committee**

**March 4 - Feb Committee**

**March 11 - March Committee**

**March 18 - April Committee**

**March 25 - May Committee**

**April 1 - June Committee**



**Couer Grief Support Group** cordially invites you to our meeting March 2, at 6:30 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Pastor Elizabeth Johnson from Emmanuel will share "Telling the Story". All are welcome.

**Emmanuel Pancake Feed** serving pancakes, eggs, and sausage on March 8th from 10 AM - Noon. Free-will offering for the youth mission trip to New Orleans.



MARCH 2009



**UMYF Ski Trip** included Hannah Luecke; Sydney Erickson, Katelyn Hawkins; Kylie Hawkins; Evan Erickson; Cody Hanson; Riley Ell; Mason Madsen; and Justin Morehouse





## An Irish blessing

May you have  
walls to keep out the wind,  
a roof to keep out the rain,  
warm drinks by the fire,  
laughter to cheer you,  
those you love near you,  
and all that your heart may  
desire,  
including the love of God  
within.

## MOVE THE FENCE

In Europe during World War II, two soldiers attempted to provide a decent burial for their buddy. At a nearby village, they found a cemetery next to a church. When the friends asked for permission to bury their friend there, the pastor said that wasn't possible because the soldier belonged to another denomination.

Sensing their disappoint-

## OUR CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

### Groton Celebrations

Mar 1 Mary Jane Schott  
Mar 4 Christina Zoellner  
Richard Zoellner  
Kale Pharis  
Kay Brandt  
Mar 5 Chance Strom  
Mar 7 Brian Bahr  
Dale Strom  
Richard & JoAnn Krueger  
Mar 9 Betty Strom  
Mar 10 Art & Charlotte Lange  
Mar 14 Mendy Jones  
Sydney Erickson  
Mar 19 Katie Zeeb  
Mar 22 Don Walter  
Mar 24 Emerlee Darlene Jones  
Mar 25 Laurel McNickle  
Murdock McNickle  
Mar 26 Claire Davidson  
Justin Morehouse  
Mar 27 Dwight Strom  
Michelle Walter  
Mar 29 Sharon Wheeting  
Mar 30 Lori Seelye  
Taylor Schmidt  
Mar 31 Caralee Heitmann

### Conde Celebrations

Mar 1 Patrick Murphy  
Mar 6 Stacey Bonn  
Mar 9 Samuel Schlosser  
Mar 10 Alyssa Taylor  
Mar 11 Jared Murphy  
Mar 14 Katie Lyren  
Nicole Taylor  
Mar 17 Myron Fahrenwald  
Mar 20 Dale Buising  
Mar 22 Mike Knoll  
Mar 23 Greg Peterson  
Greg Stark  
Mar 25 Chelsea Murphy  
Larae Taylor  
Mar 26 Clayton Kurtz  
Samantha Menzia  
Mar 31 Renee Hanlon



ment, the pastor agreed to bury the soldier in a grassy area beyond the cemetery. "It's just outside the fence," he said. The two friends accepted the offer and vowed to return.

A few weeks later, when they came back to the village, they couldn't locate the new grave. The pastor quickly calmed them down. "Everything's all right," he said.

"After we buried your friend, I kept thinking about him. So I came out here, and I moved the fence."

Denominational divisions often keep us from interacting with other Christians. The next time you have the opportunity to fellowship with someone who's different from you, remember this story. Take a bold step and move the fence





**Groton UMW  
March 18  
2 PM Weds**

*Program by JoAnn  
Kruger "Lent: This is  
the Fast I Choose"  
Hostesses: Darlys  
Kampa & Carol Strom*

## GROTON UMW NOTES

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women met Wednesday afternoon, February 18, Doris Zoellner led devotions, reading Scripture, John 3:16-18, and a meditation.

Plans were made for the World Day of Prayer, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 2:00 p.m. Members volunteered for specific parts.

Vice-president Twila Ruden announced a new UMW project for the Dakotas. It is "Undies for a Month of Sundays". New undergarments of all kinds and sizes will be collected, starting now and in the fall will be taken to Conference annual meeting in Aberdeen. The conference committee will then distribute items to points in the Da-

kotas. The collection of coats, caps, mittens etc. in an ongoing project and will be distributed as well.

The president, Jolene Townsend, distributed copies of "Top Ten Christian Resolutions" and a Bread for the World update which included a recipe for Easter cookies, a teaching recipe to be used with children.

The next meeting will be March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. JoAnn Krueger will have the program, "Lent: This Is the Fast I Choose". Hostesses will be Darlys Kampa and Carol Strom.

After adjournment, DeLoris Knoll and Rose Tewksbury served a tasty lunch.

## UMW Focus Days April 18th At Webster



## UNDIES IN A MONTH OF SUNDAYS AT GROTON UMC

The United Methodist Women in the Dakotas is sponsoring a new project. It is Undies in a Month of Sundays. Start collecting NEW underpants, socks, t-shirts, bras, camisoles, long johns etc.-sizes for children of all ages from infants to adults. There is a blue basket in the front hallway of the church. These garments will be taken to the Conference meeting of UMW in Aber-

deen in October. They will be distributed to children in need on the reservations in the Dakotas. Also the collection of coats, mittens and caps will continue and distribution will be continued in the same manner. Those receiving these garments are very appreciative.

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

March 19 - 9:30 - 10:15  
AM Conference Prayer Vigil  
for International Peace Day.

***Conde Habitat for  
Humanity Birthday  
Donation***  
*is voluntary during the  
month of your Birthday.  
House is available at the  
church for Donations.*

## CONDE UMW MEETING

met at 11:00 AM Wednesday, February 18 with Patty Knoll leading the lesson for Call for Prayer and Self Denial. The subject was on Sharing Communication which is very important in today's world.

Cards were signed and sent to Jane Worlie and Dolores Gearey, both hospitalized.

World Day of Prayer will be hosted in our church on Friday March 6 at 9:00 AM, with refreshments to be served. The women of Papua, New Guinea have prepared the program to call for the unity of all to fulfill Christ's mission.

Coats and outerwear will

## CONDE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

will be observed in the Conde United Methodist Church March 6, Friday, at 9:00 AM.

The women of Papua New Guinea welcome us to a land of many languages, cultures, traditions and beliefs. The Christian community draws on the New Testament assurance "In Christ, there are many members, yet one body" The women say, "By God's grace we are able to be united."

They invite the community in celebrating their unity in Christ to be one heart and soul, and where the body of Christ unites to one body and soul, and overcome evil with good. The differences in our churches that di-

vide diminish our capacity for living in unity.

As we observe this World Day of Prayer, millions of God's people are suffering from violence, exploitation, poverty, hunger and disease. The motto "Informed prayer leads to powerful action" affirms that prayer and action are inseparable and have considerable influence.

We are called to unite as the body of Christ to fulfill his mission on earth, to partner with each other to bring unity to our families, community, and the world.

There will be refreshments for this morning meeting that is open to all in the community.

## CONDE AD COUNCIL

met at the church at 7:00 PM Wednesday, February 18 with Patty Knoll presiding. The purpose of the church was read in unison.

Stewardship letter is being prepared. Groceries have been taken to the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield. Bible School is being planned for this year. There will be a Bible Study following church beginning in March. World Day of Prayer will be hosted by our church on March 6th at 9:00 AM with refreshments to be served. Ash Wednesday observance will be at 9:AM on February 25th followed by serving rolls and coffee.



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - MARCH 22ND

### GROTON SEWING KITS

The Mission Committee will be continuing the efforts to collect mission kits. For the months of March and April we will be collecting sewing kits. 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 given to Carna Atherton-Pray or 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

One Great Hours of Sharing is one of the six church wide Special Sundays of the United Methodist Church. Traditionally, it is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Our offering will follow this tradition on March 22, 2009. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering underwrites the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) "cost of doing business." UMCOR reaches our through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace. Giving to One Great Hour of Sharing enables UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of each designated gift goes entirely to specific causes. The UMCOR receives no World Service Funds or any other United Methodist apportion-

ments. Offering gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs go where they are most needed: to assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest.

One Great Hour of Sharing has been a part of the United Methodist tradition since 1949. Many other churches also participate in this kind of offering to support mission work through their own connections. If you would like to know more information about this offering and about the mission work of the church, go to the following web-sites:

<http://www.umcor.org>

<http://umcsgiving.org/>

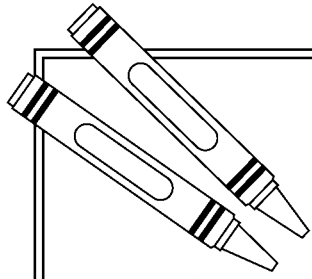
Groton  
UMC



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.





# Just for KIDS

## A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

**KEY:** a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

"H e \_\_\_\_nd \_\_\_\_ll h\_\_\_\_s f\_\_\_\_m \_\_\_\_l\_\_\_\_  
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w\_\_\_\_r\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_v\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_nd  
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G\_\_\_\_d-f\_\_\_\_r\_\_\_\_ng; h\_\_\_\_ g\_\_\_\_v\_\_\_\_  
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g\_\_\_\_n\_\_\_\_r\_\_\_\_s l\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_ th\_\_\_\_s\_\_\_\_n  
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n\_\_\_\_d \_\_\_\_nd pr\_\_\_\_d t\_\_\_\_ G\_\_\_\_d  
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D B+D

r\_\_\_\_g\_\_\_\_l\_\_\_\_r l\_\_\_\_." \_\_\_\_cts 10:2, NIV  
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

## TIME TO GEAR UP FOR CAMPING!

The Dakotas United Methodist Camps Brochures are here! Pick one up in the Office today or you may go online to [www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org) and find camping information. The Registration deadline is April 20th and we will be doing this online this year. Kay Brandt will be able to help you in the church office. So get ready for summer!

## 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.

Mar. 1= SS

Mar. 8=SS

Mar. 15= SS

Mar. 22=No SS

Mar. 29= SS

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

**Groton Sunday School meeting Sunday, March 8th, at 10:30am. Anyone interested in helping with VBS please attend meeting. Meet in the K,1st, and 2nd grade room.**



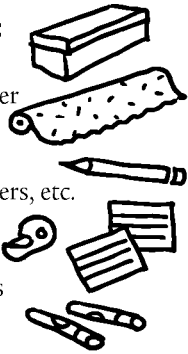


# PRAYER BOX

Family prayer time is a good habit. Make it fun with this activity for all family members. They can use this special box whenever they have a prayer request.

**What you need:**

- Shoebox
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stickers, markers, etc. (optional)
- Index cards
- Pencils or pens



**What you do:**

1. Wrap the shoebox like a present. Be sure to wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.
2. Let the whole family help decorate the box. You can write Bible verses about prayer, draw pictures, glue on pictures or add stickers. Be creative!
3. Put the box in a prominent location of your house. Keep a pile of index cards and pencils or pens near the box.
4. Whenever a family member has a prayer request, he or she can write or draw it on a card and put it inside the box.
5. Family members can share the cards in a prayer circle, or people can take turns praying for all the requests. Throughout the week, family members can check the box for new prayer needs.

## GROTON CUB SCOUT PACK 264

held their monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 16 at the Groton United Methodist Church. After starting out with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Boy Scout Promise, Bobcat badges were awarded to Noah Allen and Noah Poor and pins were given to their parents.

After two den skits were presented, each boy was given paper, crayons, staples and tape to design and decorate their own paper airplane. When the airplanes were created they were judged for creative design with the award going to Hayden Anderson. Each boy was given the chance to fly

their plane individually and the award for the farthest flight also went to Hayden Anderson!

The NorthStar District Commissioner, Skip Clay, gave a presentation on Friends of Scouting to the adults attending the meeting. It was reported that 9 scouts and 9 adults attended Polar Days on Feb. 14 at Camp Iyatoka. The next Pack meeting will be held on Monday, March 16 at 6PM at the Groton United Methodist Church. Anyone interested in learning more about scouting is invited to attend.

## Skywarn Spotter Training

The Cub Scouts are talking of taking a class or if enough people, a class could be held in Groton. This training, provided for free by the National Weather Service in Aberdeen is a 2 hour session on severe weather spotting, thunderstorm identification, and severe weather safety. April 23 there will be a session in Aberdeen at 6:30 pm. At the community room in the county courthouse basement. Contact Information is Scott Meints 626-7122.





## GROTON UMW SUNDAY

The United Methodist Women were in charge of the morning worship service on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the church. Jolene Townsend was in charge of the program. A video entitled "Invisible Women" was shown.

During the service, Doris Strom was honored as "Jewel of a Woman" and presented a gold certificate and gold pin with a sapphire in it. Others honored for service to the church were Chris Nyberg, Kim Weber and Gary Heitmann, who

each received a certificate and gold pin.

UMW members received pledge cards and information was given about the Love Ribbon project. Love ribbons were available for purchase to be given to others.

Solos were sung by Amanda Swenson, Kari Hanson, and Gabby Kramer. About 80 people were present for the service.

## A prayer request

In Dr. Burns' Prescription for Happiness, comedian-actor George Burns wrote that after he played "God" in a movie, he received a letter simply addressed to "God — Beverly Hills, California." It was from a 6-year-old boy who asked "God" to keep it from raining on the day of his baseball team's championship game. The boy ended by saying, "Don't forget; it's this Sunday."

Burns said he guessed it didn't rain that day because he later received another letter from the boy that read, "Thanks, but we lost."



## What is prayer?

If the Bible is our food, then prayer is our air. It's the way by which we draw in the atmosphere of God.

Prayer is rich and varied. Sometimes we confess our sins in a prayer of penitence. Sometimes we praise God in worship and thanksgiving. Sometimes we ask God for help and grace to meet whatever comes our way. Sometimes we pray for other people. Sometimes we're quiet, knowing that when we stop clamoring and pleading our case, there comes a sense of God's reply, some intimation of his will, some message from him to us.

Remember that nothing God can ever give is comparable to himself. It is God we seek in prayer. Everything else is secondary.



## GROTON AD COUNCIL FEB NOTES

The board discussed proper management of heating costs between gas and electric to assure we do not lose our dual heat status as contracted with by the city and still assure we are utilizing the lowest cost heating source as much as possible.

The board has decided it was prudent to pay off our current curb & gutter balance with the city in order to save on interest payments.

Approval was given to Pastor Rob to proceed with administering a

congregational survey that the General Council on Finance & Administration has asked a number of churches at random to do. Pastor Rob did assure the council that all input received on the survey is confidential.

There was agreement amongst the council members that the church should again support the cost of camping for our youth by paying 75% of the camping fees.

The results of the annual audit were reviewed by the audit commit-

tee. They cited a few opportunities along with recommendations to improve recording keeping in the future as well as make it easier for the audit committee to complete the audit in the future. The board gave its approval to the audit report as presented.

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



April 2009						
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		

*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!*

## APRIL FAMILY COMMITTEE

**Kay & Ben Brandt**

**Pat Dahlquist**

Joyce & Alan Walter

Darlys Kampa

Twila Ruden

Gloria & Harry Pharis

JoAnn & Richard Krueger

Michelle & Chuck Padfield

Ruby Luce

Pauline Luce

Crystal & Doug Sippel

Audrey Miller, Martha

Jennifer Miller

Marg & Russell Townsend

Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt

Rodney Boehmer

### Honorary Members

- Eugene Luce
- Ruth Thompson
- Richard Voss
- Vernon Walter

### Extra Responsibilities

- April 12 change altar cloths to white for Easter and hang the



### Easter Banners

- Clean the Fellowship Hall
- Brunch 2nd Sunday, bring egg bake ready to warm up
- April 5th hang Palm Sunday Banners and change altar cloths to purple for this Sunday only
- April 9th Maundy Thurs & Good Friday hang banners for the service as per Pastor



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



March 2009						
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				

Groton Lenten Services are Weds Evenings with a light meal from 6-7 and a short service at 7 PM.

## OUR CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Mar 1 Open House Baby Shower from 1-3 pm for Taylor Amanda Thurston
- Mar 1 Conde Lenten Bible Study each Sunday, noon until 12:30 am.
- Mar 4 Conde Bible Study Group Meets
- Mar 6 World Day of Prayer at 2 PM at the Groton SEAS Catholic Church
- Mar 6 Conde Community World Day of Prayer 9 AM
- Mar 8 Baptism & Blessings Shower during Groton Coffee Hour for Dawsyn Ray Dinger born Oct 31st. Son of Jessica Pasteur and Mason Dinger.
- Mar 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Mar 8 Groton Sunday School Meeting at 10:30 - VBS Planning
- Mar 10 PPR Meeting in Conde at 7 PM
- Mar 11 Groton Ad Council 7 PM
- Mar 16 Groton Cub Scout Turtle Races at 6 pm in the fellowship hall
- Mar 18 Conde UMW 11 AM
- Mar 22 Groton Camp Sunday - April 20th Early Bird Discount Deadline!
- Mar 25 Conde Ad Council 7 PM
- Maundy Thursday Service in Groton at 7 PM
- Good Friday Service in Conde at 7 PM
- Easter Sunday Services will be at 8 AM - Groton and 10 AM - Conde.