

United Methodist Messenger

Lent

Dear Friends in Conde/Groton United Methodist Parish,

March? Already? More blizzards? Green grass?

March means Spring. and Lent. Lent is our 40 day journey with Jesus, 40 days for us to remember his time of trial and temptation.

The English word "lent" began to be used in the late Middle Ages. This word initially simply meant *spring* (as in German language *Lenz* and Dutch *lente*) and derives from the Germanic root for *long* because in the spring the days visibly lengthen. It is true in our corner of the world. The days are growing longer.

I wonder does anyone "use" the extra minutes of

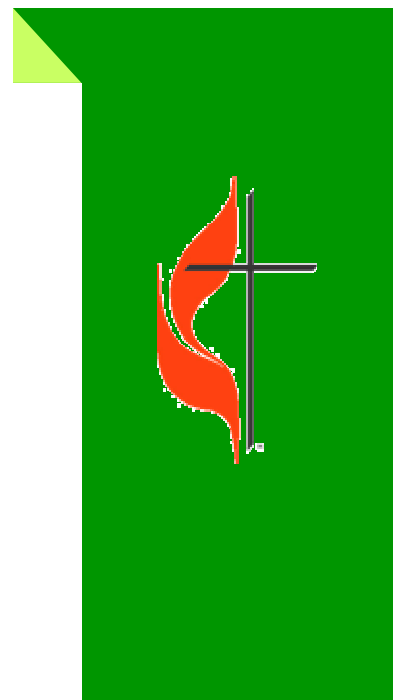
daylight in any special way or do we accept it as a matter of course and pay it not much attention?

It is my hope that each of us has taken seriously the invitation to observe a holy lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting and self denial and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Put to use those extra minutes we receive during lent. Use those extra minutes to spend time in silence, in prayer or in meditating. Use the lengthening days to lengthen your spiritual life. Use them to prepare for a joyous Easter.

April will be here before you know it.

Peace, Pastor Sheila



"WERE YOU THERE...?"

Collection for Tree of Life Ministry

Yarn and Craft Kits are being collected for delivery on March 10th by Pastor Sheila. This includes partial skeins of yarn and full skeins. Craft Kits never used or even craft kits you may have started and will never finish. Let's fill





Sympathies

to the families of

Vernon Walter who passed away February 4th

and

Clarence Hannon who passed away February 24th

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday March 28 is Palm Sunday. Groton Sunday School will be singing.

Maundy Thursday Services are 5:30 pm at Groton and 7:00 pm at Conde.

Good Friday Service is at noon in Groton at the ELCA Church for a community service.

Easter Sunday there will be a 7:45 am worship service in Groton followed by a brunch served by the UMYF. The Conde worship service will be at 9:00 am followed by coffee hour. No Sunday School in Groton.

Groton Lenten Suppers

As per the Family Committee book, each monthly committee will be serving on one Wednesday evening. The committee is responsible to prepare, serve, and cleanup. Soup & sandwiches are typically served but other choices are optional. Prepare for 50 people. Take a free-will offering which should be turned over to Anita Lowary or Kay Brandt. It will be used to defray any costs of the meal. Groceries may be charged or receipts given to Kay for reimbursement. Questions may be directed to Gloria Pharis or Clare Brotherton.

- Mar 10 April Committee
- March 17 May Committee
- March 24 June Committee

Appointment Announcement

Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey makes formal announcement of all pastoral appointments in the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Effective July 1: Matt Richards from White/Aurora/Sterling/SDSU Campus to Groton/Conde

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 81 on email prayer chain.

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



Time to Register for Camp

Deadline is April 25th! Registration online is preferred. Groton may find Kay to register online before or after church anytime from Feb 14 through April 25th. In Conde, please contact Cindy Smith as soon as possible.

Camp books are available at the churches or you may go online to www.dakcamps.org

Groton UMW - Feb

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women met Wednesday afternoon, February 17. The Purpose was recited with Gloria Pharis presiding.

The 2010 officers were installed by Past President Jolene Townsend, who used an activity to show how the entire unit is interconnected to work together for the success of the organization.

Twila Ruden followed the installation with the Pledge Service, "What Gift Shall I Bring", which explained the connection between money and missions as well as the gifts the members bring to the organization. JoAnn Krueger and Pat Dahlquist assisted with the litany. The unit makes a district pledge as well as donating to many local projects.

The treasurer reported the finances and that an audit has been completed and approved.

Plans were made to assist with the World Day of Prayer which will be held at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 5. Gloria Pharis, Doris Zoellner, JoAnn Krueger, and Pat Dahlquist will participate in the program and during the social hour.

The social action emphasis for the year will be "Go Green", reduce, reuse and recycle. Social injustice and drug addiction

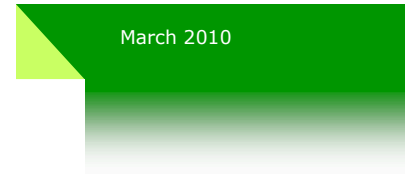
will also be focal points. "Action Alert" can be found on the Internet which keeps members updated on issues. Also social action books for the reading program are marked with yellow tabs. The membership committee reported three new members with 73 total. Marlys Rodman reported that 29 health kits had been assembled, boxed, and destined for Haiti. Sharon Wheeting said all new books had been marked and placed in the bookcase.

Preliminary plans were discussed for the May Breakfast and there will be a planning meeting at 3:00 p.m. March 3.

The "Undies for a Month of Sundays" collection will be starting and Groton's shepherdess will make a visit later this spring. The prayer vigil schedule is out. Groton's first scheduled time is March 7, 2:45 to 3:30 p.m., to pray for International Peace Day.

JoAnn Krueger will give the Easter program at the next meeting, March 17, 2:00 p.m.

Doris Zoellner, Carol Strom, and Eugenia Strom served homemade ice cream and other goodies for lunch after the meeting.



Groton UMW

March 17th at 2 pm

Easter Program
by JoAnn Krueger

Hostesses
Sharon Wheeting
Rose Tewksbury

Upcoming Events
Focus Days in Redfield
on April 17th

What is faith?

"Sight is not faith, and hearing is not faith, neither is feeling faith; but believing when we neither see, hear nor feel is faith; and everywhere the Bible tells us our salvation is to be by faith. Therefore we must believe before we feel, and often against our feelings, if we would honor God by our faith."

—Hannah Whitall Smith



Groton Celebrations

Mar 1 Mary Jane Schott
 Mar 4 Kale Pharis
 Christina Zoellner
 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 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 Aiden Strom

Caralee Heitmann

Conde Celebrations

Mar 6 Stacey Bonn

Mar 9 Samuel Schlosser

Mar 10 Alyssa Taylor

Mar 14 Katie Lyren

Nicole Taylor

Mar 17 Myron Fahrenwald

Mar 20 Dale Busing

Mar 22 Mike Knoll

Mar 23 Greg Peterson

Greg Stark

Mar 25 Larae Taylor

Mar 26 Clayton Kurtz

Samantha Menzia

Mar 31 Renee Hanlon

**Conde MISSION STATEMENT**

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

Conde UMW

March 17th at 11 am

Leader Donna Hearnen with the Easter Lesson

Hostesses for noon luncheon are Pat Siefken and Betty Jensen. Business Meeting will close the day.

Conde UMW February Meeting

CONDE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN opened their meeting on February 17 with the lesson on Call to Prayer and Self-Denial led by Pat Siefken. The emphasis of Women's Division is work of women and children throughout the world, making our offerings used not only in this country but throughout the world.

President Donna Hearnen opened the meeting by leading in the reading of the Purpose. Wilma Butler read the devotions from the Conference

Book of Devotions. A card was sent to Marjorie Wright, our member who now lives in Clark. The group also will remember Marjorie with a Gift to Mission.

World Day of Prayer, under the guidance of that committee, will meet on March 5 at 9:30 in our church with a program written by the women of Cameroon. Patty Knoll is in charge of the program. Cindy Smith will serve a breakfast following the program and ask all to join us for that morning.



Conde Ad Council and Calendar

Chair Patty Knoll called the Conde Ad Council in session on Wednesday, February 24. The Purpose of the Conde Church was read in unison, with approval of the past minutes and treasurer's report.

Camping hopefuls are urged to contact Cindy Smith if they wish to attend any United Methodist camp this year. This is to be done as soon as possible.

Letters will be sent to parents and students asking for interest in Bible School this summer.

Lenten Studies will continue under the guidance of Pastor Sheila on Tuesdays at 1:30 PM. There are some books remaining if anyone is still interested.

World Day of Prayer will present a program written by the women of Cameroon at 9:30 on March 5. All are invited to attend the program led by Patty Knoll, followed by breakfast served by Cindy Smith.

A letter was read from the Conference Director of Finance thanking the Conde Church for their faithful payments of apportionments to assist in the work of the church.

Wednesday March 3 Bible Study Donna Walter hostess

Saturday - March 6th 8:00 -8:45 AM Prayer Vigil at Conde for International Peace

Sunday March 14 One Great Hour of Sharing. This special collection is to be used for the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Thus, all the money or gifts you send to Advance Specials are to be used for that purpose of Administrative Costs collected by OGHS. Thank you.

Wednesday March 17 at 11:00 AM Conde United Methodist Women. Donna Hearnen leads the Easter Lesson. Pat Siefken are hostesses for the noon luncheon. Business Meeting will close the day.

Wednesday March 24th 8:00 PM Ad Council meets

Sunday March 28 - Collection for World Hunger at Conde Worship. All loose change and designated monies will be used for this Advance Special..

Sunday March 28 - Palm Sunday

Thursday April 1 - Conde Maundy Thursday remembrance at Conde 7:00 PM

Sunday April 4 at 9:00 AM - Easter Sunday worship with coffee following.

Conde Layette Kits

Emphasis will be placed upon assembling layette kits which are badly needed by United Methodist Committee on Relief.

To be included:

- 6 cloth diapers
- 2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits
- 2 baby washcloths
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 2 diaper pins
- 1 sweater open in front
- 2 receiving blankets.

Bundle the items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.

All items must be new.

The Mission Committee does have some items on hand. If you would like to donate money to complete a kit, they would appreciate that, also. Thank you.

Cleaning buckets in anticipation of this Spring's water; and birthing kits are also needed. You may contact Donna Hearnen for more information.



March 14th

One Great Hour of Sharing

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 (NIV)

LIFE-CHANGING MINISTRY—A RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in this special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to seek justice and mercy for suffering people everywhere.

You can be assured that when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion, will be in the lead to ease the pain.

THE 2010 OFFERING—ESSENTIAL TO UMCOR

Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps us keep our promise that 100 percent of every other gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project—not on home office costs.

UMCOR is a good steward of God's gifts. UMCOR's top ratings by both [Charity Navigator](#) and the [American Institute of Philanthropy](#) attest to UMCOR's financial accountability.

Offering gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they're most needed. UMCOR's specialized ministries responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world, and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees all assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest.

NO WORLD SERVICE FUNDS COME TO UMCOR

UMCOR receives no World Service funds or any other apportionments. Your gifts mean we're right there with hardworking families, people who are affected by storms or war, disaster or disease.

HOW YOUR GIFTS HELP

Keep the Lights On

Most gifts coming to UMCOR have been designated for specific

programs—and those programs receive 100 percent of those gifts. So part of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering plus a small percentage of other general donations support UMCOR's cost of doing business.

Fill-in Fundraising

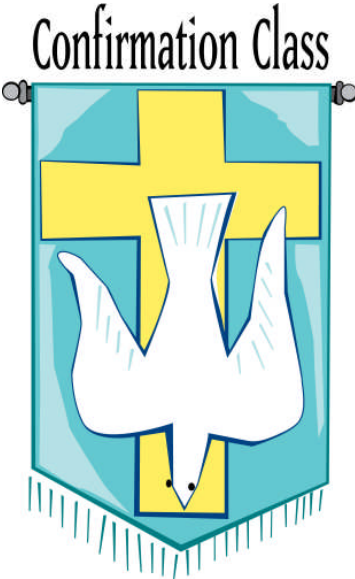
Donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering also assist UMCOR programs that have not been fully funded through designated Advance gifts.

Answering Jesus' Call

United Methodists' donations often become the springboard for additional funding.

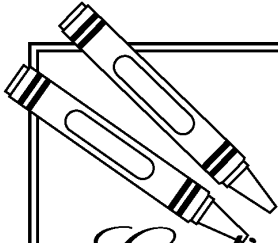
The compassion of Jesus makes all things new. As Christians we're called to do the same: to offer the hands, the heart and the hope of the church wherever people are suffering. Your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing, channeled through UMCOR, enable the church to answer that call.

Groton UMYF
Every 1st and 3rd
Wednesday at 7 PM
See you there!



Pastor Sheila reports the 8th graders are a great bunch of young people. The group meets on Wednesdays after school to study the history, doctrine and polity of the United Methodist Church. In

plainer language, the life of Jesus, the Bible, John Wesley and the history of the UMC and what it means to make a commitment to membership. Parents have been great at serving snacks (almost a full meal!).











Just for **KIDS**




God's teaching is like...










In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.









Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.







CODE    







“Let my teaching fall like    







and my words descend like    ,

like         

        ,

like abundant      

      ”

Answers: rain, dew, showers on new grass, rain on tender plants



Choir is back in Church and it was a "Joyful Noise"

Groton Make A Joyful Noise Choir

All our welcome to join us! We are practicing every Tuesday at 6:45 pm. Join Us!

Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts

On Monday, February 15, the Groton Cub Scouts Pack 264 held their annual Blue and Gold Banquet at the Groton United Methodist Church. Greg Grajczyk, North Star District Chairman, gave a Friends of Scouting presentation to the adults present. A skit, "Radio Program" was presented by den leader, Anissa Poor and helpers, Micah Poor, Clint Fjelstad, Zach Kern, Katie Groebelinghoff, and Joni Groebelinghoff. Several badges were awarded to the cub scouts. This was a special night for the second year Webelos as they received many final badges and belt loops during their last Pack meeting as cub scouts. The following boys also received their Arrow of Light Award which is the highest award a cub scout can receive: Nathan Fjelstad, Dillon Freeman, Joe Groebelinghoff, Peyton Jondahl, Alex

Kern, and Kayde Wiedrick. These six boys, along with Tevin Abeln, have now become the starting members of the newly formed Groton Boy Scout Troop 264! Congratulations to all of these boys for working very hard to achieve this and a big thank you to their den leader, Vicki Pigors for all of her help. As part of the Webelos crossing over to the next level in scouting, Cubmaster Clint Fjelstad prepared an obstacle course that each of the boys took part in. Each second year Webelo received a "Career Arrow", Boy Scout handbook, and a Boy Scout hat presented to them by the Pack. The evening concluded with a dessert potluck. A special thank you to the Groton United Methodist Church for sponsoring both the Cub Scout Pack 264 and also our new Boy Scout Troop 264.



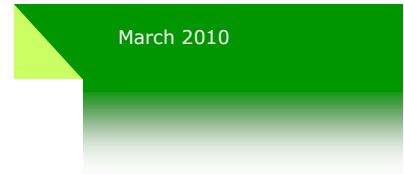
100 YEARS
OF
SCOUTING

1910-2010



"Pastor Bob is the leader of the flock, Son, not the herd."





Groton Ad Council- Feb 10th

The annual audit has been completed as reported by committee representative, Linda Thurston. The report was reviewed and a copy presented to the council.

The Trustees reported that a cleaning crew has been hired for the parsonage to prepare for tours of potential pastors during the interview process. Clare Brotherton reported that Dist. Superintendent, Marilyn Sperrl, would bring a candidate to interview in February.

Melissa Gilbert updated the council on our Sunday school classes. We have three pods of classes this year -- (Pre-K), (K-3), and (4-6).

Jolene & Alan Townsend have accepted the chair position of the "Hospitality" Committee, renamed from the Evangelism committee. Four other committee members are needed, for a total of six. The committee's goal is to make visitors to our church welcome and to visit the "shut-ins" on a regular schedule.



Groton Stewardship Report Feb 2010	
Average Wkly Giving	\$2,197
Needed Wkly for Church Mission	\$1,929
Average Weekly Attendance	79
Total Building Fund Donations	\$515

Groton April Family Committee

Chris & Sherwin Nyberg

Laurel & Monte McNickel

Diann & Brad Morehouse

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

Justin Morehouse

Marjorie & Roger Overacker

Mendy & James Jones

Angela & Perryn Dobbins

Jesse & Jaymie Overacker

Nathan & Kate Zeeb

Brent & Jessica Morehouse

Honorary Members

- Dick & Gert Ruden
- Eunice Sperry
- Gerald & Ann Rix
- Irene Breitreutz
- Joy & Don Walter

April Extra Responsibilities

- April 1st Maundy Thursday color as per Pastor
- April 4th change altar cloths to white for Easter
- Clean the Fellowship Hall
- Potluck 2nd Sunday

April 2010						
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	



Our Church Happenings

- Mar 5 World Day of Prayer -
Conde Service 9:30 am - Groton 2 pm ELCA Church
 - Mar 3 Conde Small Group meeting - hostesses Donna Walter
 - Mar 6 Conde Prayer Vigil for International Peace 8 - 8:45
 - Mar 10 Groton Ad Council
 - Mar 10 Deadline for Tree of Life Collection of Yarn & Craft Kits
(even partial skeins or half finished kits)
 - Mar 14 Groton Potluck & No Sunday School (spring break)
 - Mar 14 One Great Hour of Sharing
 - Mar 14 Daylight Saving Time Begins
 - Mar 17 Conde UMW 11 AM
 - Mar 17 Groton UMW 2 PM
 - Mar 24 Conde Ad Council 8 PM
 - Mar 28 Palm Sunday
 - Mar 28 Conde World Hunger Sunday
 - Apr 1 Maundy Thursday Service 5:45 at Groton - 7pm Conde
 - Apr 2 Groton Good Friday Service at noon at ELCA Church
 - Apr 4 Easter Sunday - 7:45 AM Groton Service followed by brunch -
9 AM Conde Service followed by coffee hour
-

March 2010						
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			



Note Easter Schedule
on this calendar.