

UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

April 2011

Groton/Conde Parishes



Dear Friends at Groton and Conde,

It's hard to believe that April is already here! The light of daylight savings time awakens us and yet the dreariness of snow and hypothermic temperatures linger. It is that time of year when Mother Nature has no idea what she is doing. I am sure that many of you like me are getting impatient for the spring temperatures to rise and the sunlight to return to our neck of the woods.

As Mother Nature continues to play with our minds, the season of Lent continues. While we wait for a rise in temperature, the season of Lent draws to a close and with it the liturgical season of Easter begins!

We wait for risen Christ! For the disciples, this meant huddling together behind closed doors as they were afraid of the Jewish leaders and Roman soldiers. We however know the rest of the story. That despite the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of Christ is our reality, as baptized Christian believers. It is amazing to think that Christ died as atonement for our sins once and for all!

Even more amazing still is the assurance we have, through faith, that Christ conquered hell and death by the power of his resurrection. It is my hope and prayer this Easter, as we

celebrate the risen Christ, for each of you to experience the power found in the resurrection story.

Our remembrance of Christ's journey of passion begins with Palm Sunday, continues through Maundy Thursday extends through Good Friday and culminates on Easter Sunday. Each service during Holy Week will involve the telling of different events along Christ's journey.

I hope to see you in Church!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matt

He is
RISEN

Holy Week Schedule

- Palm Sunday
(G) Children Sing in Church - Camp Sunday
- Maundy Thursday
(G) 7 pm
- Good Friday
(G) Noon at CMA Church
(C) 7 pm
- Easter Sunday
(G) 7:30 am Sunrise Service w/brunch
(C) 9 am Service
(G) 11 am Service

CONDE THANK YOU

Our thanks go to all who cleaned the church roof of snow again - Cindy and Norman Smith, Bud, Shane and Cary Bruckner, Tim Geist. We most certainly appreciate the fact that the snow banks have been moved as far as possible from the church for good parking and easy walking. Thank you!!

GROTON THANK YOU

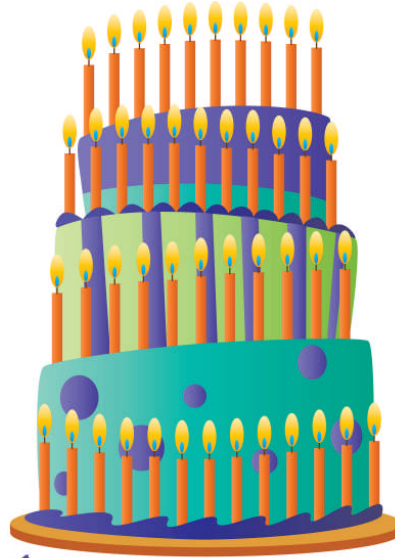
I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, phone calls and cards during his illness and while recuperating. It is so nice to know people really care. God Bless you all. Bert Raap



CAMP TIME

April 17th will be camp Sunday in Groton. Registrations are taking place and please see Kay before or after church to sign up. Deadline is May 1st but it is better to not wait till the last day. If need to meet with Kay at another time, just call 397-8389.

Younger Campers need a shepherd to attend. Please volunteer to take a small group of children. See Melissa Gilbert if you are able to help in this way.



Young at Heart

103 BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations to Irene Breitreutz who will be 103 on April 5th. The flowers on the altar April 3 will be in honor of Irene. She is doing well. Enjoys crocheting baby afghans for the homeless shelters, is a faithful follower of all things on CNN and enjoys solving the puzzles on "Wheel of Fortune".

Please send greetings to Irene at 4736 S 177th St, Omaha, NE 68135-3413 or call 402-891-6304.



Sunday, April 10

Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast

9:00-10:30 am

Freewill offering to earn money for Scout Camps.

During Fellowship Hour at our Church

The public is also invited to attend

Groton UMYF meets weekly at 7 pm

Confirmation meets weekly at 4 pm



Women's Bible Study every Tuesday Morning at 10 AM

and

Men's Bible Study every Wednesday Morning at 7 AM in Groton

Everyone is Welcome!

OUR CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

Groton

Apr 3 Marc Johnson
 Apr 4 Mitchell Madsen
 Apr 5 Irene Breitreutz (103!)
 Apr 7 Reilly Ell
 Apr 8 Lon Gellhaus
 Apr 10 Martha Miller
 Pauline Luce
 Apr 13 Jessica Morehouse
 Apr 14 Reta Washnok
 Toby Dobbins
 Apr 15 Brady Graf
 Apr 16 Kristi Peterson
 Rodney Boehmer
 Terry & Lynette Furman

Apr 18 Dylan Vogel
 Merrie Atherton
 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



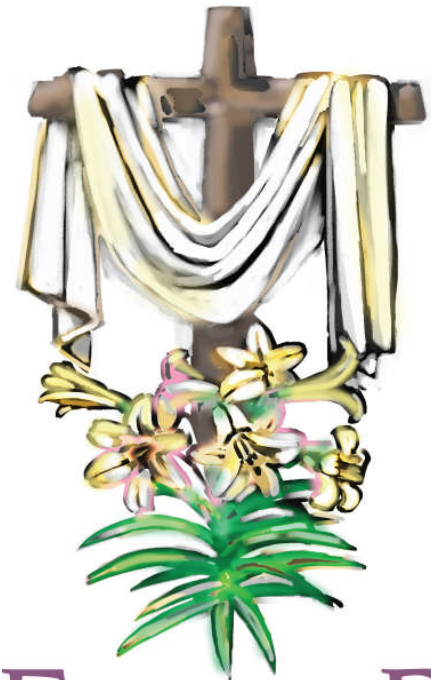
Greetings for Reta Washnok can be sent to 1020 N Jay St #209, Aberdeen, SD 57401

WALKING A 125 YEAR PATH

Groton May Breakfast is May 4th with serving times 11:30 and 1:15. Cost this is \$8/plate and reservations can be made by calling Clare Brotherton or DeLoris Knoll. Please contact a chair to sign up and help.

Gloria Pharis, General Chair; Marj Overacker, Program; JoAnn Krueger and Marj Overacker and Jeanne Wanous, Decorations;

Rose Tewksbury, kitchen; Sharon Wheeting and Anita Lowary, Dining Room; Doris Zoellner and Diann Morehouse, Coffee; Twila Ruden and Kay Brandt, Advertising; Kelli Hanson, Kitchen & Dining Room Cleanup.



EASTER

TRUSTING THE UNSEEN

A gardener planted two peony bulbs side by side. In a few weeks, as expected, the first one poked a single stem through the ground. The other would soon follow, the gardener thought. But it didn't. Many more weeks went by with no sign of life.

Then one day, to his surprise,

not one but five leaf points poked through the soil at once. When the peony bloomed, its flowers were more beautiful and numerous than those of the first bulb.

John Piper said, "In every situation God is doing a thousand things that we cannot see and do not know." When God seems to have

forgotten you and hope fails, don't despair. God is at work, and someday you will see.



GROTON UMW - MARCH

On Mar. 16th at 2p.m., sixteen members gathered to hear an informative talk by Shirley Schwab of CASA "Court Appointed Special Advocate."

President Gloria Pharis called the business meeting together with the recitation of the Purpose. The minutes and financial reports were read and approved.

Reports were read from the district president outlining mission work will continue as it always has for 140 years even though some new district lines have been drawn, a note from

the district V.P. explained a mission project for 2011 is the Pierre Southeast Church, Flood Buckets were reviewed, to make your life "Greener" declutter your life, clean the natural way, use compost, plant a garden, and exercise were given as examples. New books have been added to the reading program.

The World Day of Prayer was successful with many from the community in attendance. Doris Zoellner thanked everyone who helped. UMW Sunday was held Mar. 13th. Jeanne Wanous handed out Pledge cards at the

UMW meeting which are due Apr. 3. Plans for the May Breakfast to be held May 4th are coming along.

Upcoming events are Focus Days to be held April 30th at Aberdeen First, the next UMW meeting is 2p.m. on April 20th. JoAnn Krueger will be presenting a program on "Easter". Hostesses are Pat Dahlquist and Sharon Wheeling.

At the close of the meeting, Delores Knoll and Doris Zoellner served lunch.

GROTON LENTEN SUPPERS

April 6 - May Committee

April 13 - June Committee

Meal is served from 6-6:45 pm with a short Lenten service following.

Each work committee is responsible to prepare, serve, and clean-up. Soup & sandwiches are typically served but other choices are op-

tional. Prepare for 50 people. Take free-will offering which should be turned over to Anita Lowary or Kay Brandt. It will help defray and 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.



UMW FOCUS DAYS

Saturday, April 30 from 9 am - mid-afternoon with registration starting at 8:30. Aberdeen First Church is hosting the event. Anyone wishing to attend please contact Gloria Pharis.



MAUNDY
Thursday

Groton UMW
May Breakfast
Wednesday
May 4th

CONDE COLLECTING SEWING KITS IN APRIL

3 continuous yards of fabric

- cotton or cotton blend only
- no heavy duty, corduroy, knit etc.
- No patriotic, religious, holiday, camouflage, or military patterned fabric

1 pair scissors for fabric

1 package of hand needles

1 med-lge spool thread

- no travel kit thread please

5-8 buttons

- no loose buttons

- leave in original packaging or fasten all together

1 plastic sealable gallon bag

All items must be new. Do not wash the fabric as it will then be considered used

If you would rather donate money rather than buy items, please give to Donna Hearnen in Conde. Thank you for all your support with helping UMCOR provide these kits. They have been used in many emergency situations here in the US and abroad.



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

CONDE UMW - MARCH

Donna Hearnen presented the lesson regarding Women's History Month by asking all to bring something that reminded them of a special woman in their life. and how they had been affected by her. There were many interesting items brought from the past - one a recipe book produced locally hand written by everyone who contributed to the book.

Lunch was served by Lois Trapp and Donna Walter.

Donna Hearnen opened the meeting by leading the reading of the Purpose, Betty Taylor read from the Devotional Booklet.

Pat Siefken read the minutes of previous meeting which were approved. Treasurer Jane Worlie presented financial statement saying that our pledge had been remitted to our Conference

Treasurer. World Day of Prayer material was \$60.00, which was approved.

UMW Sunday will not be presented on March 27th, Sue Fritz from Bath, is our Shepherdess for the year.

Focus Day has been set for April 30th at First United Methodist in Aberdeen.

The date for Friendship Night had also been set. No further plans were made

We will be gathering Health Kits for this month and purchasing items of packaged food and paper products for the Home in Redfield.

Meeting closed with the Mizpah Benediction.

Next meeting will be at 10:00 AM with Pat Siefken leading the lesson on "Making Peace With Mother Earth". Hostesses are Jane Worlie and Betty Taylor. This will be April 20th.



All the members that were there were included in some way. Pat Siefken was in charge of the program and presented the message of the day. It was an interesting and fulfilling Sunday morning worship.

GROTON CHURCH CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation Policy and Protocol for Groton United Methodist Church

Regular Sunday and special church services may be cancelled due to inclement weather and/or issues which affect the church property (ie:water leak or no heat). Inquiries regarding cancellation will be directed to the pastor or the persons in charge of worship for that Sunday in the absence of the pastor. The Chair of the Administrative Council and the Lay Leader shall be consulted in the decision if

available and input shall be gathered from members living outside of Groton if needed.

Announcements shall be sent to local radio stations and KELOLAND TV (who posts it on their website) as soon as possible. A message will be sent via the church email contact list. The church organist will be called promptly and local members who do not have email will be called in the same manner as the prayer chain. We have divided this list up into two groups, the prayer chain will be

used as one group and the second group is listed below. If you are being missed, please let Kay know .

Doris Strom	397-8367
Dolly McCarlson	397-2181
Audrey Padfield	397-8166
Jerry & Ann Rix	397-8478
Pernell & Noella Graf	397-4432
Doug & Pam Bahr	397-8251
Lance & Kristi Hawkins	397-8148
Jean Walter	397-8149
Ida Hannon	298-5665

PRAYER CHAIN

The prayer chain is only activated when given permission to do so from the family. Should you hear of something you would like to put on our prayer chain, please ask for permission and then contact Kay or the Pastor to start both the email and phone chains.



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

*Currently 82 on email prayer chain. If you are not on this list or the email list, please notify the church office.





We're Proud of You!
GRADUATES

Groton

- Dylan Hanson
- Gavin Voss

May 8th Graduates will be honored in church during coffee hour and during the worship service.

Conde

- Shanna Geist



Groton

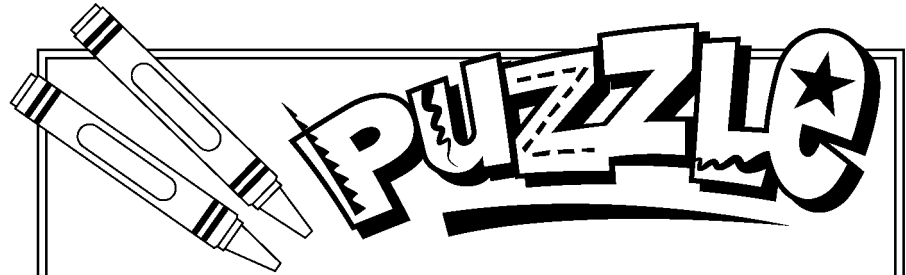
- Jocelyn Peterson
- Katelyn O'Neill
- Spencer Knecht
- Amanda Seelye
- Kyler Ell
- Danielle Schinkel

May 1st is Confirmation Sunday

SUNDAY
SCHOOL
SCHEDULE

April
3rd - SS
10th - SS
17th - SS (Palm Sunday - Sing in Church)
24th - No SS (Easter)


May
1st - SS
8th - SS (Mother's Day - Sing in Church - last day of SS)




FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.


Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.



1. Jesus	5. cross
2. weary	6. endured
3. endured	7. scorning
4. opposition	8. shame



1. Jesus	5. perfecter
2. lose	6. him
3. pioneer	7. faith
4. sinners	8. hand



1. eyes	5. right
2. us	6. grow
3. joy	7. God
4. heart	8. throne

"... fixing our _____ on _____, the _____ and
 _____ of _____. For the _____ set before _____
 he _____ the _____, _____ its _____, and
 sat down at the _____ of the _____ of _____.
 Consider _____ who _____ such _____
 from _____, so that you will not _____
 and _____." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - APRIL 3

As the recent news broke in Japan, it wasn't too long before I got thinking about the United Methodist Committee on Relief, better known as UMCOR, and its role in the relief effort of many of these disasters. We are fortunate to have missionaries stationed in Japan so we had people on the ground who could begin making a difference immediately.

United Methodist response to the earthquake and tsunami in Japan will be closely coordinated with churches and church-related agencies in that country, which continues to reel as the death toll continues to rise.

UMCOR is also investigating collaboration with Global Medic, an international organization with the capacity to provide emergency clean water in crisis situations.

All United Methodist mission personnel, missionaries, and volunteers were accounted for on the morning of March 13, but questions lingered over the possible implications of radiation from damaged nuclear reactors. Global Ministries gave all personnel permission to evacuate at their own choice. The agency has a total of almost 20 related professionals in Japan.

Several reports indicate that new Wesley Center in Tokyo, related to United Methodist Women, was not damaged and is able to care for a group of now homeless people. However, the Asian Rural Institute, a major mission partner north of Tokyo, sustained considerable damage. Global Ministries uses the institution for the training of persons from Asia and Africa in sustainable agriculture.

One Great Hour of Sharing offering enables UMCOR to respond to disasters around the world by covering its operational and administrative costs. Unlike other mission programs, UMCOR receives no World Service or other apportionment money. By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you enable UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of designated gifts can go 100% to support the designated projects.

This is possible because of the **One Great Hour of Sharing**, an annual offering across The United Methodist Church that covers the overhead expenses of UMCOR. Last fall the Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey said that all of UMCOR's emergency relief work is done with a staff of seven, four who work with domestic disaster relief and three who work internationally. That's a very efficient program and one, I believe, that is worthy of your support.

But support for One Great Hour has decreased over the last several years. Regrettably, the need for disaster relief has not decreased. I strongly encourage you to participate in One Great Hour of Sharing next week.

Lent is the season of repentance, self-examination, and awareness of the hurts of the people of the world. One Great Hour of Sharing calls the Church to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. One Great Hour of Sharing gifts provide refuge and relief to some of the world's most vulnerable people during times of distress.

Please participate in our special offering for UMCOR next week. The missions committee has decided this year we will be working on local projects instead of the kits. We see what God can do and what can be accomplished through our gifts. Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing next Sunday. Your gift can make a difference in the lives of those who are hurting.



LIVING IN SATURDAY

Saturday of Holy Week is a strange day for the church. It's sandwiched between Good Friday, when Jesus died on the cross, and Easter, when he rose.

Certainly, we know the truth and triumph of the resurrection, but until Jesus comes again, we're living in Saturday. The Lamb of God has been sacrificed, and the curtain of sin that separated us from God has been torn down. Yet we're still looking forward to — as Jesus said — the renewal of all things.

Although we may be battered and bruised, stumbling,

limping or crawling, we shouldn't wallow in defeat. Instead, we can be confident in the victory Jesus won for us. We can shout with Paul, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV).

While you look back to Friday and forward to Sunday, live victoriously in Saturday. Jesus has won and has run the victory lap ... and he's coming around again.

—Gregg McCaslin

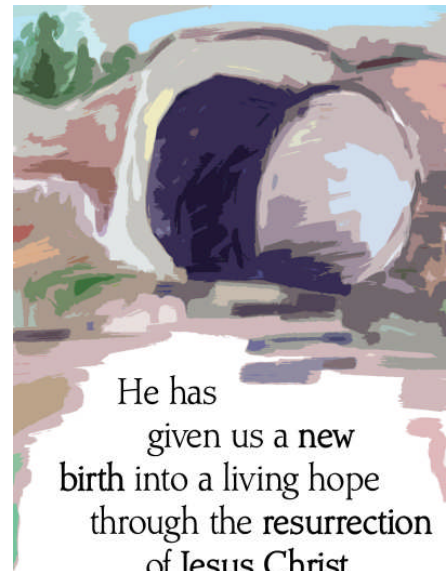


Without Jesus...

Without the risen Savior in our hearts, life is like:

- A chocolate Easter Bunny — empty on the inside;
- An Easter bonnet — easily blown off kilter;
- Last year's Easter outfit — it doesn't quite fit right;
- An Easter lily — it soon withers and dries up;
- A bag of jellybeans — sugary and sweet but lacking substance;
- An unfound Easter basket — full of gifts that spoil and go to waste;
- A colored Easter egg — looks great but cracks under pressure;
- The Easter bunny — always hopping here and there;
- Marshmallow Peeps — becomes hard when opened up;
- Easter parade — a long journey with no destination;
- An unopened Easter card — a message of love unclaimed.

—David Patterson



He has
given us a new
birth into a living hope
through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV

YOU TOOK MY PARKING SPACE

One day, a man went to visit a church; he got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor

was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell

among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

Thank you Jan Raap for this story.

GROTON AD COUNCIL - MARCH

Concerns were voiced regarding the discrepancy between monthly expenses and the weekly giving amounts. It is realized that the bad weather has played a role in lower Sunday attendance which has also negatively affected member's tithing.

The protocol for cancelling church services was discussed as a result of a recent service cancellation due to bad weather. Carna Atherton-Pray outlined a proposed policy for the council to adopt to assure everyone is made aware of the cancelled service.

Kay Brandt reported on the mission committee's Flood Bucket project. The group is also mak-

ing plans for their Easter mission project.

Fifteen members of the UMYF attended the council meeting as a learning experience. They reported on their recent ski trip. Justin Morehouse, youth leader, opened a discussion amongst the council and youth on how to attract the youth to our Sunday services. Justin and individuals from the youth group shared a number of ideas they had that would make our services more interesting for the youth as well as young adults and their children.

GROTON MAY FAMILY COMMITTEE

Marlys Rodman

Rose Tewksbury

Lance & Kristi Hawkins, Katelyn, Kylie

Kami & Tom Lipp, Reilly Ell

Carna & Cliff Pray, Kevin

Dale & Michelle Kramer

Karla Pasteur

Yvonne Lange

Gayleen & Jon Voss, Lacey

Anita & Gary Voss

Honorary Members

- ImoJeanne Oliver
- Mary Swisher
- Doris Zoellner
- Charlotte Lange

Extra Responsibilities

- Mow lawn if needed
- Clean Nursery - wipe down all toys with hygienic product, clean furniture, wash window
- Potluck 2nd Sunday
- 5th Sunday may buy donuts



Groton Mission Statement
 "Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

May 2011						
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				



Palm Sunday

Groton Stewardship Report March 2011
Average Wkly Giving \$1,664
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,030
Average Weekly Attendance 58
Total Building Fund Donations \$40



OUR CHURCH HAPPENINGS

April 2011						
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

- Apr 3 One Great Hour of Sharing - UMCOR*
- Apr 10 Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast open to the public 9 - 10:30*
- Apr 10 Golden Living Center Worship*
- Apr 12 PPR 7 pm in Conde - Lenten Study changed to 6 pm*
- Apr 13 Groton Puppet Education 4 pm All Welcome!*
- Apr 13 Groton Ad Council 7 pm*
- Apr 17 Groton Camp Sunday*
- Apr 17 Palm Sunday - Groton Sunday School Sing in Church*
- Apr 20 Conde UMW 10 am - Making Peace with Mother Earth*
- Apr 20 Groton UMW 2 pm - Easter Lesson*
- Apr 21 Groton Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm*
- Apr 22 Groton Good Friday Service Noon at CMA*
- Apr 22 Conde Good Friday Service 7 pm*
- Apr 24 Easter Sunday - Groton Sunrise 7:30 - Conde 9:00 - Groton 11:00*
- Apr 30 UMW Focus Days 8:30 am Aberdeen First UMC*
- May 1 Groton Confirmation Sunday*
- May 1 Camping Registration Deadline*
- May 8 Groton Graduates Honored*