



# United Methodist Messenger

December 2011

Groton/Conde UMC Parishes

## Dear Friends at Groton and Conde,



Photos of the Groton Men's Dinner scattered throughout this newsletter.



**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight  
Services  
will be at  
5 pm in Conde  
7 pm in Groton**

Advent, the season of preparation leading up to Christmas has begun. Is it any coincidence then that this season, in which we are told to "watch for the light," is occurring during the darkest time of the year? The natural physical light around us is fading. It begs the questions: Where will this light come from? What exactly are we supposed to be watching for? What light?

These are perplexing questions right? Imagine the questions that young Mary had forming in her mind when the angel Gabriel spoke to her about the child she would carry in her womb! There's no doubt that she was nervous, confused and scared. Who would her child grow up to be exactly? What did all of this mean? It required of her a tremendous faith!

We read in Isaiah 8 and 9 of the darkness that existed before the revealed promise of The Great Light. The prophet revealed to the Israelite people of the time that child born of a virgin womb would be the messiah! The Christ child would usher in the kingdom, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace!

As we prepare for Christmas, we carry with us a great hope for the world, both for others but also for

ourselves. In the midst of oppression, poverty, war and violence; the darkness of our time, let us remain hopeful for the good news of the Messiah! May we practice our faith with boldness and humility and experience the joy and peace of the season!

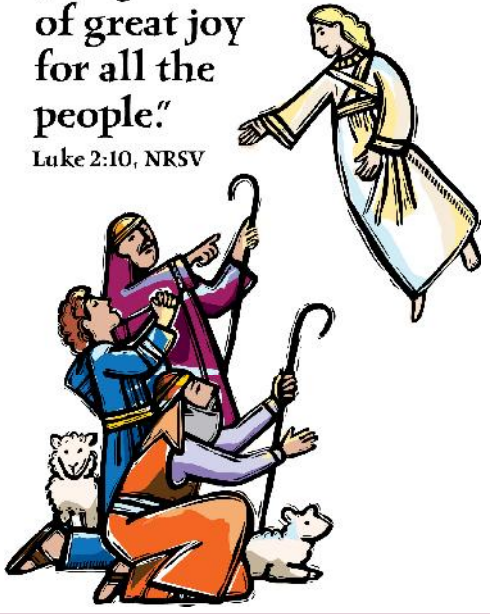
I look forward to seeing you in church,



Rev. Matthew G. Richards

**"I am bringing  
you good news  
of great joy  
for all the  
people."**

Luke 2:10, NRSV





## Groton Missions

Thank you to all who helped our children collect “thankful tips” for holiday gift certificates to Ken’s Fairway. We collected \$256.73 and were able to send certificates to 12 families. We may be doing this again so please keep collecting change!

The Christmas Angel Tree is up in the fellowship hall and there is a great need this year. The response was surprisingly high and the thank you notes we have already received are enormous. So please take a tag and let’s fill all these children’s wishes or as many as we can! We are sharing tags with Steven Lust Automotive - Groton so tell your friends they may help us out by picking up cards either at the church or at Lust.

Anyone may pick up and sign out a card.

If you do not like to go shopping, you may still help with the Angel Tree. Donations may be placed in the offering plate marked Angel Tree or given to Anita Lowary, Kay Brandt, or JoAnn Krueger.

All gifts need to be returned to the church by December 18th so that we can get them ready to be distributed to all the children in our community. Please return them wrapped with the card on them. Thank you for your gifts and sharing during this holiday season.

Kay Brandt, Missions Chair



## Groton Thank You Notes

We would like to thank everyone for helping with the Men’s Dinner. For the help in the pie or coffee room, the kitchen help, those who cleaned or brought pies or desserts, or donated money. Each person is so important in making it a successful day. Thanks again. Blessings to all, the Men’s Dinner Chairs

*Following have names removed, from Missions.*

UMC, thank you for the Ken’s Gift Certificate. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. God bless you all.

Thanks so very much for the money gift certificate. It will be very helpful.

Thank you for the Ken’s Gift Certificate. It will be a great help during this holiday season.

Thank you so much for including our family in your tree this year. It is greatly appreciated! You have no idea how much this means to me and what a great help this will be. I wasn’t sure how I was going to do Christmas gifts this year. Praise the Lord! God’s Blessings.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for including us on your angel tree. You don’t know how much this means to me, to us, again thank you!

I would like to thank you all. It’s greatly appreciated. I hope the boys have a Blessed Christmas this year. Thank you very much. God Bless.

New Groton  
UMC



Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Audrey Thurston	397-8493
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marjorie Townsend	298-5221
Ann Rix	397-8478
Darlys Kampa	395-6996
DeLoris Knoll	397-2681
Gloria Pharis	397-2375
Marvel Johnson	397-2425

\*Currently 84 on email prayer chain. If you are not on this list or the email list, please notify the church office.

We must have your permission to start the Prayer Chain. So please call and request this to be done. It is not automatic for privacy reasons.

## Conde UMW - Nov

The lesson was given by Jane Worlie on the "World Thank Offering". Lunch was served by Patty Knoll and Pat Siefken.

Some of the things that will take place this month are... continue collect for shoe box Christmas, prepare for Advent by decorating Nov 20th after church, Advent Bible Study led by Pastor Matt starting Nov 29 @ 6:30 pm. with a meal and lesson this will be every Tuesday till Christmas.

**General meeting will be Dec 14 @ 10:00 am. with a Christmas program and potluck. Pat Siefken will be in charge of the program.**

### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



**The young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.**

ISAIAH 7:14, NRSV

## 2012 Women of Faith Event

October 19-20, 2012 in St. Paul, MN. We would leave Watertown Friday at 8 am and return Saturday at 11 pm. Cost is \$180 which includes transportation (chartered bus), hotel (Hilton Garden Inn at Oakdale), 2 day event ticket, and a box lunch. A \$60 non-refundable deposit is due by December 15, 2011 to guarantee you a spot on the trip! The Balance of \$120 is due by July 1, 2012. Please contact Jolene Townsend at 395-6455 today to become a part of this fantastic event and opportunity!



Groton 125th Celebration Cookbooks

\$15

Buy for your Christmas Gifts from Jeanne Wanous or Marge Overacker





## Groton UMW - Nov

The UMW met at 2 p.m. with Pastor Matt giving the Advent program. The word Advent means coming or arrival. He emphasized it is time of hope and anticipation. The program also included beautiful music of the season.

President Gloria Pharis brought the business meeting to order with sixteen members reciting the Purpose. Doris Zoellner led the devotions.

During old business, Gloria presented a plaque which had been given to this unit from the district honoring members who have died over the last year. The reading program was discussed and Gloria read information on the number of books to be read at each level.

It was decided during old business that installation of officers would be held at the January meeting. Jeanne Wanous presented the budget for 2012. Jolene Townsend made a motion to accept the budget and Marlys Rodman seconded it. Also during new business discussions and decisions

were made on monetary gifts that will be made toward special mission projects. Jolene made a motion to accept the donations to special missions and Clare Brotherton seconded it.

Jolene talked about the "Women of Faith" Event to be held Oct. 19-20 in St. Paul. Anyone interested in going must register by Dec. 15.

At the conclusion of the meeting, plans were made for **Christmas luncheon to be held Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at the church. The time is 11:30 and the officers will serve the meal. The program will be putting the Christmas treats together and the delivery. Please bring or drop off individually wrapped Christmas treats so we can deliver more cans than ever! Everyone is invited to help with this project!** Names are needed.

Hostesses for the November meeting were Carolee Heitmann and JoAnn Krueger



## Groton Scouting

The Boy Scout Troop 264 has had several busy months with various activities. In July, the boys attended Camp Wilderness in Minnesota for a full week. Along with tent camping and outdoor cooking, they participated in activities such as wood-carving, kayaking, canoeing, shotgun, and leather work. All seven scouts were able to attend this week-long camp along with Scoutmaster Clint Fjelstad and Assistant Scoutmaster Zach Kern.

In August, the boys changed jobs in the troop. The new positions are: Tevin Abeln-Senior Patrol Leader, Dillon Freeman-Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Nathan Fjelstad-Quartermaster, Joe Groeblichhoff-Scribe, Peyton Jondahl-Historian, Kayde Wiedrick-Patrol Leader, Alex Kern-Chaplains Aid.

During the month of September, the troop participated in entering a parade entry for the Groton Homecoming parade. Our Boy Scout trailer was decorated and pulled by Clint's truck with several of the boys riding along. On Sept. 26, a Court of Honor was held for the troop with a potluck being enjoyed by those attending. At this time, the boys received their merit badges that were earned. The Court of Honor is a nice recognition for the boys and their work involved in completing merit badges.

October was a very busy month in scouting! Our main event for October was Popcorn sales and the boys worked hard to meet their goals. A big thank you to all who purchased popcorn from both the Boy Scouts and the Cub Scouts! On October 8, the troop attended the Northern State Gypsy Day football game. Unfortunately, the Wolves came up a little short against Augustana, but the boys enjoyed the afternoon. On Tuesday, Oct. 25, the troop was represented by Tevin Abeln and Joe Groeblichhoff at the Groton football playoff game as they carried out the flags for the National Anthem. The month's activities ended with a fall camp-out on October 28 & 29 at Amsden Lake. Scoutmaster Clint Fjelstad, Cubmaster David Poor and scouts Nathan Fjelstad, Dillon Freeman, Alex Kern, Te-



vin Abeln, Joe Groeblichhoff and 2nd year Webelo Micah Poor ventured out into the cool evening with the temperature dropping to 19 degrees. Along with tent camping, and cooking, the boys filled part of their requirements for the Fire Safety merit badge.

In November, the troop was rewarded for their efforts at popcorn sales with a pizza party and games. This was a fun night for the boys as they played some outdoor games and a couple games of pool in the UMC youth room! The troop is also working on their Citizenship merit badge and they attended the Groton City Council meeting on Nov. 21 as a requirement for this badge. Also in November, the troop has started a new community project of putting out and taking down the United States flags on Main Street for each holiday. Their first official holiday was Thanksgiving.

In December, the Boy Scout troop and the Cub Scout pack will be having a joint Christmas party with a potluck and a gift collection for the residents of Golden Living Center and Rosewood Court.

Our recharter is coming up in January and we are in need of an adult to be our Committee Chair in order to recharter. Please remember, that you don't have to have a child in scouting to help out! We truly appreciate the Groton UMC sponsoring the Groton scouting program and if you would like to know more about scouting or help out, please contact Clint Fjelstad or David & Anissa Poor.

# Our Church Celebrations

## Groton

- Dec 2 Meri Erickson
- Dec 3 Anthony Sippel
- Dec 4 Darlys Kampa
- Dec 7 Morgan McNickle
- Dec 9 Ann Rix  
Brooklyn Gilbert
- Dec 11 Dave & Connie Nilsson
- Dec 13 Melissa Gilbert
- Dec 14 Bob & Mary Ann Wehde
- Dec 15 Marjae Schinkel
- Dec 16 Dan Schinkel  
Sage Lorenz
- Dec 17 Alan Townsend
- Dec 18 Dylan Hanson  
Michaela Oleson
- Dec 20 Lon & Marva Gellhaus
- Dec 21 Kent Webb  
Noella Graf
- Dec 23 John Padfield  
Marc & Fran Sippel
- Dec 25 Steve O'Neill



"A little child will lead them."  
Isaiah 54, NIV



- Dec 26 Ben Peterson
  - Dec 27 Emily Overacker  
Jane Johnson  
Karla Pasteur
  - Dec 28 Jaden Dobbins
  - Dec 29 Andrea Davidson
  - Dec 30 Alec Oleson  
Alex Graf
  - Dec 31 Ralph & Virginia Breikreutz
- ## Conde
- Dec 1 Joyce Haskell
  - Dec 4 Greg & Stacey Bonn
  - Dec 8 Tony Bruckner  
Millie Busing
  - Dec 10 Skylar Bonn  
James Zeck
  - Dec 20 Rex Taylor
  - Dec 27 Richard & Dorothy Sanderson

If there is a birthday/anniversary missing, please let Kay know in the office or at [grotonumc@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumc@nvc.net) to be added or if a correction needs to be made.







Groton Sunday School Program is December 18th during Church.

December Committee is serving ham sandwiches for potluck following the Sunday School program. Please bring side dishes accordingly.

### Groton Sunday School News

No Sunday School December 25 or January 1st. Sunday School resumes on January 8th.

Need a Music Leader for the children this spring. If interested please contact Melissa.



### What's on your list?

A little smile, a word of cheer, A bit of love from someone near,  
A little gift from one held dear, Best wishes for the coming year...  
These make a Merry Christmas!

—John Greenleaf Whittier

## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

$7+6$ Strength	$9+1$ shepherd	$30-5$ the	$7+5$ ends	$50-26$ live	
$21-10$ will	$27-24$ reach	$10+7$ flock	$40-20$ stand	$15+4$ security	$8+8$ his
$35-31$ Lord	$17-3$ greatness	$10-3$ earth	$10+5$ will	$5+1$ will	

"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_  
15                      20                      10                      17

in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ .... And they \_\_\_\_\_  
13                      4                      11                      24

\_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_  
19                      16                      14                      6

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."  
3                      12                      26                      7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord .... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

## Groton Ad Council - Nov

Alan Strom presented the proposed 2012 budget and explained that it has increased approximately 2% over the 2011 budget. After discussing some specifics of the budget, the council approved it to be presented at the annual charge conference.

Lon Gellhaus gave an explanation of the Groton United Methodist Church Endowment Fund. He explained that the purpose of the fund is for unforeseen major expenses or for large building needs. Lon explained that there is no minimum

amount required when giving to the fund and that gifts are tax deductible.

Clare Brotherton reported that our average church attendance is less year-to-date in 2011 than it was in 2010. The council had a good discussion on possible ways to increase attendance.

The council also discussed possible ways to address special cleaning duties now assigned to monthly work committee families, but no specific solutions were decided on.

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



*Merry Christmas*

### What to give?

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
  - To an opponent, tolerance.
  - To a friend, your heart.
  - To a customer, service.
  - To all men, charity.
  - To every child, a good example.
  - To yourself, respect.
- Oren Arnold

### The true meaning of Christmas

A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby – our second child, due December 23. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual, didn't send cards and didn't plan a holiday dinner, assuming – correctly, it turned out – I'd be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God's gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn't this how Christmas should always be? Seasonal activities are fun, but they hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby – the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love. Heidi Mann

<b>Groton Stewardship Report November 2011</b>
Average Wkly Giving \$2,082
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,030
Average Weekly Attendance 81
Total Building Fund Donations \$90

January 2012						
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				





December 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

## Our Church Happenings

- Dec 14 Conde UMW 10 am with potluck
- Dec 14 Groton UMW Christmas Luncheon 11:30 at church
- Dec 14 Groton UMW Christmas Goodie Cans will be packed to share with many - please have items at church by noon
- Dec 14 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Dec 15 Women of Faith Sign-up Deadline
- Dec 18 Groton Sunday School Program During Church
- Dec 18 Groton Potluck Sunday after church
- Dec 18 Groton Angel Tree Gifts Due Back to Church
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service Conde 5 pm and Groton 7 pm**
- Dec 25 Church Times as Normal
- Dec 25 No Coffee Hour in Groton
- Dec 28 No Confirmation - Groton
- Jan 4 No Confirmation - Groton

