

## Dear Friends

It's the last full day of my vacation in the Upper Peninsula. My son Andrew has taken to running into Lake Superior and standing waist deep as his body is chilled to the bone in 42 degree water. Today, he and I have arrived at the Waterfront Park in Houghton, MI to enjoy the chutes and ladders playground. After running up ladders and scooting down slides numerous times, he turned his attention to fending off an impending nuisance. He noticed the gathering seagulls.

I sat there on the picnic bench sipping my coffee and watching my son running full speed at birds that seemed to just be baiting him to attack! Time after time he would run at them screaming and hollering all the while trying to catch one. I watched mindlessly, enjoying the grand display of creation. I chuckled to myself as Andrew would regroup after each failed attempt.

It was then that I started thinking about how we act as Christians towards each other and people of other faith. Our desire is to be hospitable and caring towards one another. Our calling is to make Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. And yet it is in our nature to try and control, our nature to try and manage and even micro-manage to the point where others feel controlled, left out, alienated, turned off, and not trusted.

My son Andrew was trying to catch seagulls; who knows for what

purpose? But the point is he was going about it the wrong way. We as followers of Christ are given a commission to make disciples. (See Matt 28:16-20) Maybe it's time that we do an attitude check? How do we approach the notion of "making disciples?" The truth is that it isn't just the Pastor's job; we all have a share in the task, as well as the celebration of growing the Kingdom. And why do we grow the Kingdom? Is it for the sake of the Kingdom? Is it for our benefit? Is it so that our apportionments can be paid with the additional offerings that will be added? No! It is because God calls us to love others as we are loved by God.

If we aren't taking into consideration how we extend Christ to others, our attempts to grow the Kingdom of God will be as futile as trying to capture seagulls. Our resolve to share the Gospel, should be the same as that of a 6 year olds desire to capture that which seems unattainable.

I hope to see you in Church!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matt






### Wedding Blessings Shower

**Megan Brandlee & Seth Erickson**

At Groton UMC

June 19 during coffee hour

Registered at Target, Inspire, and Kohls

*July 30 Wedding will be in Bristol*



**Chanda Johnson & Logan Nilsson**

At Groton UMC

June 19 during coffee hour

*Registered at Target & Herbergers*

*July 23 Wedding will be in Aberdeen*



Groton 125th Cookbooks are for sale. They can be purchased at the church or by calling Kim Weber 397-8675 email is kimweber59@yahoo.com or Marj Overacker at 397-8562 email is romo@nvc.net. They are \$15 each.



### Baptism & Blessings Shower

June 5th for Nolan Everett Bahr

Parents - Brian and Andrea Bahr



Madelynn Grenier was baptized May 29th. She is the daughter of Jennifer Miller.



- Thank you to the Green Foundation for a grant to help our 14 campers attend camp.
- Thank you Alan Strom for finishing our new shed in memory of Vicki.
- Thank you to Ann Rix for the years spent as Memorial Treasurer.

A little thoughtfulness can be the greatest blessing of all. Thanks for the gifts I received for Confirmation and for welcoming me into the church. Thanks again. Kyler

Thank you Groton UMC. Thank you for thinking of me at Confirmation. Also thank you for the Book and the plaque you gave me. I really appreciate it. Danielle Schinkel

*Following are Thank You's for the Easter Ken's Gift Certificates. Names are removed for privacy.*

When I count my blessings, I always think of you... 'cause I couldn't be more grateful for the thoughtful things you do!

Thank you so much... for all you have done. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Gods blessings. So wonderful to have Christian friends!

Thank you so much for the thoughtful gift to help make our Easter extra special. God Bless.

Dear Pastor Matt & Congregation– We want to thank you for all the wonderful things you have done for our family. We cannot express how much we appreciate it all. Thank you so much for making our holidays & lives so very blessed.



Confirmation



- |                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Marlys Rodman     | 397-4570 |
| Audrey Thurston   | 397-8493 |
| 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.

## Our Church Celebrations



### Groton

June 1 Anita Lowary  
 June 3 Donald Nissen  
 June 4 Gary & Caralee Heitmann  
     Janice Raap  
     Jay Johnson  
 June 5 Jennifer Miller  
 June 6 Bailee Zoellner  
 June 8 Lacey Voss  
 June 11 Jim & Mendy Jones  
 June 12 John Seelye  
 June 13 Roger Rix  
 June 14 Danielle Schinkel  
     Doug & Pam Bahr  
     Roger Overacker  
 June 15 Gene & Ruby Luce  
 June 15 Jesse & Jaymie Overacker  
 June 16 Gavin Voss  
     Harry Pharis, Jr.  
 June 17 Jesse Morehouse  
     Kristopher Oleson  
 June 18 Nick Strom  
 June 19 Garrett & Sindi Heitmann  
     Pat Dahlquist  
 June 20 Robert Snyder  
 June 21 Ben & Kristi Peterson  
     Gary & Linda Thurston  
 June 22 Angela Dobbins  
 June 23 Kaycie Hawkins  
     Shaylee Peterson  
     Twila Ruden  
 June 24 Charles & Betty Strom  
     Jeremy Weber  
     Steve & Robin O'Neill  
 June 25 Carol Knecht  
     Tanae Lipp  
 June 27 Elaine Wolken  
 June 28 Sindi Heitmann  
 June 29 Carly Gilbert  
     John & Meri Erickson  
 June 30 Spencer Knecht

### Conde

June 4 Paxton bonn  
     Pat Siefken  
     Lois Trapp  
 June 5 Norm & Cindy Smith  
 June 6 Keith Hanlon  
 June 12 Jerry Bonn  
 June 13 Guy Hanlon  
     Donna Hannon  
     Dwight & Katy Lyren  
 June 14 Betty Taylor  
 June 15 Janice Herman  
 June 20 Cary Bruckner  
 June 22 Julie Bruckner  
 June 26 Grant Hanson  
 June 27 Lance Haskell  
 June 30 Betty Barrie  
     Marion & Betty Jensen



**Conde Collecting Layette Kits In June**

- 6 cloth diapers - prefolded or plain diapers only, no disposable diapers
- 2 shirts - undershirts or onsies
- 2 wash cloths - infant size only, no adult wash cloths
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 2 diaper pins - must have protective plastic closures, no regular safety pins
- 1 sweater or jacket - must open from the front, may be hand knitted, crocheted, or sewn, hooded sweatshirts are acceptable
- 2 receiving blankets - 30X30 or 30X32 sizes only, no crib blankets please

All items must be new. Do not wash any items or they will be considered used. Please remove all packaging. Monetary donations for this project may be given to Donna Hearnen.



Friendship Night Photos

*Conde MISSION STATEMENT*

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



**Conde UMW Meeting**

June 15

*Wear something red this day!*

Program: Pentecost: A Mighty Wind

Leader: Betty Taylor

Hostesses: Donna Hearnen & Donna Walter



**Peace with Justice Sunday**

**“We cannot keep quiet if there is something wrong.” — Dr. Leonard Kabwita**

In a world where 250,000 children are forced to be fighters or sex slaves, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the largest persistent violator, according to the United Nations Security Council. Because of the war, young boys are forced to enlist in the rebel army. Sexual assault of women and young girls has become the norm.

Compounding the problem is “conflict mineral,” the selling of copper, tungsten, tin and other minerals to support war efforts. Unfortunately, minerals sold to global supply chains and corporations may be used as components for electronics that are part of our everyday lives: mobile phones, MP3 players and computers.

United Methodists are trying to do something about

it. Armed with a grant from the **Peace with Justice Sunday offering**, the *Jerusalem Justice and Peace Ministry (JJPM)* is assisting communities in the DRC. While physical and emotional healing is vital, the ministry also challenges unjust systems.

“We cannot keep quiet if there is something wrong,” said JJPM executive Dr. Leonard Kabwita. JJPM workshops educate and empower Congolese people about justice issues in their communities and seek local solutions to close the gap between rich and poor.

When you give to **Peace with Justice Sunday**, you support ministries in the DRC, the United States and worldwide to remove unjust systems and equip the victimized to live more fulfilled lives.



## Groton UMW - April

President Gloria Pharis opened the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and welcomed our Shepherdess, Pat Siefken, to the meeting. Devotions were read by Marlys Rodman.

Gloria reminded members of Focus Days to be held April 30<sup>th</sup> at Aberdeen First. Anyone wishing to attend should let Gloria know. Those planning to attend are the UMW officers; Gloria Pharis, Twila Ruden, JoAnn Krueger, and Jeanne Wanous.

Plans for the May Breakfast May 4<sup>th</sup> are moving along. Mission reports included: Membership is to be reviewed, keep collecting soup can labels, box tops, and pop tabs until the end of April, and new books are on the shelves.

Gloria Pharis introduced our Shepherdess, Pat Siefken and asked her to share information regard-

## Groton UMW May

President Gloria Pharis opened the meeting with fifteen members present reciting the Purpose. Doris Zoellner led the devotions. Those attending the April 30<sup>th</sup> Focus Days reported an interesting and rewarding day. The Groton UMW also received the Five Award that day.

Gloria read a letter from the new Eastern Sunrise president, urging UMW women to continue their care of children, youth, and women. To keep in mind as 2011 unfolds there will be opportunities to seek peace for all in our world despite continued

ing available UMW publications. Pat explained there are publications that explain UMW officer responsibilities, the president and secretary receive the conference newsletter, the directory comes to the president which outlines the conference team goals, and she also explained the Prayer Calendar, the Response and New World Outlook magazines. In closing, Pat shared a reading about our 2011 garden planting referring to typical vegetables we plant and how they relate to a positive life. Gloria closed the meeting with a reminder of our next meeting May 18 and the August 1 deadline for finishing the book readings. Hostesses were Pat Dahlquist and Sharon Wheeting.

turmoil. She concluded her message with a welcome to all new units and a continuation of enthusiasm and interest for our local units.

Gloria closed the meeting with a reminder of the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:30 p.m. Hostesses in June are Jolene Townsend and Brenda Madsen. Clare Brotherton and Kay Brandt served a delicious dessert of homemade rhubarb pie at the end of the May meeting.

### Groton UMW Meeting June

June 15th

7:30 pm - Weds

No Program  
May Breakfast  
Report  
Bazaar Plans

Hostesses

Jolene Townsend  
Brenda Madsen

*Officers & Program  
Resource chairmen  
Meet at 6:30 pm*





## The power of Pentecost

Pentecost started as a Jewish festival commemorating God's giving the Law to the Israelites 50 days after they escaped from slavery in Egypt.

Just days after the risen Jesus ascended to heaven, his (Jewish) disciples gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. But God transformed the occasion by giving them the Holy Spirit, as he'd promised. The disciples saw something like flames among and on them, heard a rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. The pilgrims in Jerusalem heard about Jesus in their native tongues (see Acts 2:1-12).

In Christian churches, Pentecost was once as important as Christmas and Easter. Today, congregations still observe it in special ways, using the color red to symbolize the Holy Spirit's power. Worship services sometimes include hymns, prayers and Scriptures in various tongues. To simulate the original Pentecost experience, congregations may say the Lord's Prayer in several languages at once.



May Breakfast

UMYF Lockin!

## Groton Ad Council - May

It was reported that 14 youth have registered for camp this summer and that our Vacation Bible School is planned for August 7 – 11.

The Memorial Committee is working on a brochure to share with families to explain options for use of memorial monies for our church. A pictorial book of previous memorial gifts now resides in the church library.

Our Missions Committee reported that they will work with our local school and teachers to help

provide some of the things they need for the up-coming school year.

Plans are being made for a class or orientation for those interested in becoming members of our church.

The UMW reported another successful May Breakfast.

The UMYF hopes to continue meeting monthly throughout the summer months.



## Groton July Monthly Family Committee

- Betty & Charlie Strom
- Bob & MaryAnn Wehde
- Carol & Luverne Strom
- Linda & Gary Thurston
- Sharon & Larry Wheeting
- Caralee & Gary Heitmann
- Alan & Jolene Townsend
- Zachary Townsend
- Brenda & Tony Madsen, Mitchell, Mason
- Marjae & Dan Schinkel
- Kristi & Ben Peterson
- Dwight & Eugenia Strom

July 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						

### Honorary Members

- DeLoris Knoll
- Hazel McKittrick
- Mary Jane Schott
- Curtis Krueger

### Extra Responsibilities

- Mow lawn each week
- Clean Sunday School Rooms by wiping down walls/cobwebs, wash windows, wash tables and chairs.
- July 3rd white altar cloth for communion
- July 19th green altar cloths
- 5th Sunday may buy donuts

### Groton Stewardship Report May 2011

Average Wkly Giving \$1,661

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,030

Average Weekly Attendance 91

Total Building Fund Donations \$65

*Groton Mission Statement*  
*“Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ.”*







June 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		



*Church  
Calendar Online*

## Our Church Happenings

June 5 Groton 125th Committee Mtg 9:45 am

June 5 Groton Baptism & Blessings Shower for Nolan Bahr

June 8 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

June 8-11 Dakotas Annual Conference in Watertown

June 15 Conde UMW Meeting - wear red

June 15 Groton UMW Meeting 7:30 pm Exec Mtg 6:30

June 19 Groton Blessings Wedding Shower for Logan Nilsson & Chanda Johnson during coffee hour

June 19 Groton Blessings Wedding Shower for Seth Erickson & Megan Brandlee during coffee hour

June 19 Peace with Justice Special Offering

**June 19 Groton Directory Photos taken 6-9 pm**

**Last Session! Sign-up sheet on the kitchen counter!**

**Cannot attend? Call Jeanne Wanous or Marj Overacker.**

**No Charge to have photo taken.**

June 26 Conde World Hunger Sunday

Aug 7-11 Groton VBS during the evening - registrations next month