

# United Methodist Messenger

MARCH 2011

GROTON/CONDE CHURCHES

Dear Friends at Groton and Conde,

In just a few days, the season of Lent begins. Many of us will look to giving something up for the season of Lent. A few years ago the trend began, that rather than giving something up, people instead would take something on. The purpose of all of this is to draw us closer to God, to develop spiritual disciplines, and grow in our awareness of that which is truly necessary to live out our faith in God.

Actually one of the early Christian traditions observed during the season of Lent was that all new believers would undergo a season of instruction and discernment before they could be baptized. This "period of discernment and preparation" would include fasting, prayer, the reading

of scripture and daily fellowship with believers.

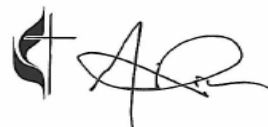
Sounds pretty intense huh? Well back in the day, this was tradition, this was routine. It was how new believers became full members in the body of Christ; the Church. And those who had been a part of the community, for a longer period of time, also took on a spiritual practice as a way of solidarity with the new believers and as way of remembering their own spiritual journey into the faith.

To read and understand some of the differences between the Church of today and the Church of long ago helps us to see how the Church, long ago, grew exponentially, where as today mainline churches are seeing a decline in interest and membership. Our spiritual practices seem to have lost meaning and relevancy.

It is my hope that during this season of Lent we will be able to re-claim the meaning found in the traditions. That we can live out our faith with boldness and purpose; realizing a sense of nostalgia found in our Christian DNA.

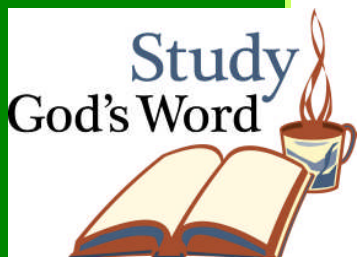
Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matt



**What Are You Giving Up?**

# Our Church Celebrations



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!

Groton Banners If you missed purchasing a banner and would like to, please contact Linda Thurston, head of the Memorial Committee.

## Groton

- Mar 1 Mary Jane Schott
- Mar 4 Kay Brandt  
Kale Pharis  
Christina Zoellner
- Mar 5 Chance Strom
- Mar 7 Brian Bahr  
Dale Strom  
Richard & JoAnn Krueger
- Mar 9 Betty Strom
- Mar 14 Mendy Jones  
Sydney Erickson
- 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
- Mar 31 Aiden Strom  
Caralee Heitmann

## Conde

- 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 23 Greg Peterson  
Greg Stark
- Mar 25 Larae Taylor
- Mar 26 Clayton Kurtz  
Samantha Menzia
- Mar 31 Renee Hanlon

Groton Choir Meets Every Wednesday at 8 pm. Join Us!



## Baby Shower

March 12th

9-11 am

Groton UMC

for Andrea & Brian Bahr who are expecting a boy at the end of April



## Groton Lenten Suppers

March 9 - Jan Committee serving baked potato bar and birthday cake for Betty Strom

March 16 - Feb Committee

March 23 - March Committee

March 30 - April Committee

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 optional. 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.



- March 9 - Ash Wednesday Service: Conde at 10 am and Groton at 6:45 following the Lenten Meal starting at 6 pm.
- April 17 - Palm Sunday: Groton Sunday School Singing in Church
- April 21 - Maundy Thursday Service: Groton 7 pm
- April 22 - Good Friday Service: Community Service at noon in Groton and Conde at 7 pm.
- April 24 - Easter Worship Service: Conde at 9 am and Groton to be announced.
- Lenten Services Each Week in Conde on Tuesdays at 7 pm
- Lenten Supper/Service Each Week in Groton on Wednesdays at 6 pm with short service following the supper.

## Groton UMW - February

With sixteen members present, Carol Strom and Doris Zoellner gave an interesting program on Haiti. An emphasis was placed on the role of UMCOR(United Methodist Committee on Relief) following the devastating 2010 earthquake in this poverty stricken island country. UMCOR is almost always one of the first organizations into one of these areas of devastation and without hesitation led a massive relief effort in Haiti. With the help of the Methodist Church Haitians will find the strength to help themselves in the rebirth and recovery of their island nation.

President Gloria Pharis opened the business meeting with the members reciting the Purpose. The minutes and financial reports were read and approved.

The Spiritual Growth Committee reported that plans are being made for The World Day of Prayer which is to be held at

the Methodist Church on Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>. UMW Sunday is to be held Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. The Pledge Cards are to be handed out that day. Other committees reported that Anti-smoking, Race/social justice, Environment, and Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle are focal points of Social Action. Books with copyright dates of 2007 or newer can be used for the Reading Program.

There will be a May Breakfast Meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. Focus Days will be held April 9<sup>th</sup> at Aberdeen First. The next meeting will be March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. The program will be "Court Appointed Special Advocate" by Shirley Schwab.

Hostesses were Audrey Padfield and Marjorie Townsend. Deloris Knoll and Doris Zoellner are hostesses for the Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Groton UMW**

**March 16th**

**2 pm Weds**

**"Court**

**Appointed**

**Special**

**Advocate" by**

**Shirley Schwab**

**Hostesses**

**DeLoris Knoll**

**and Doris**

**Zoellner**

# Health Kits - Conde Collecting - March

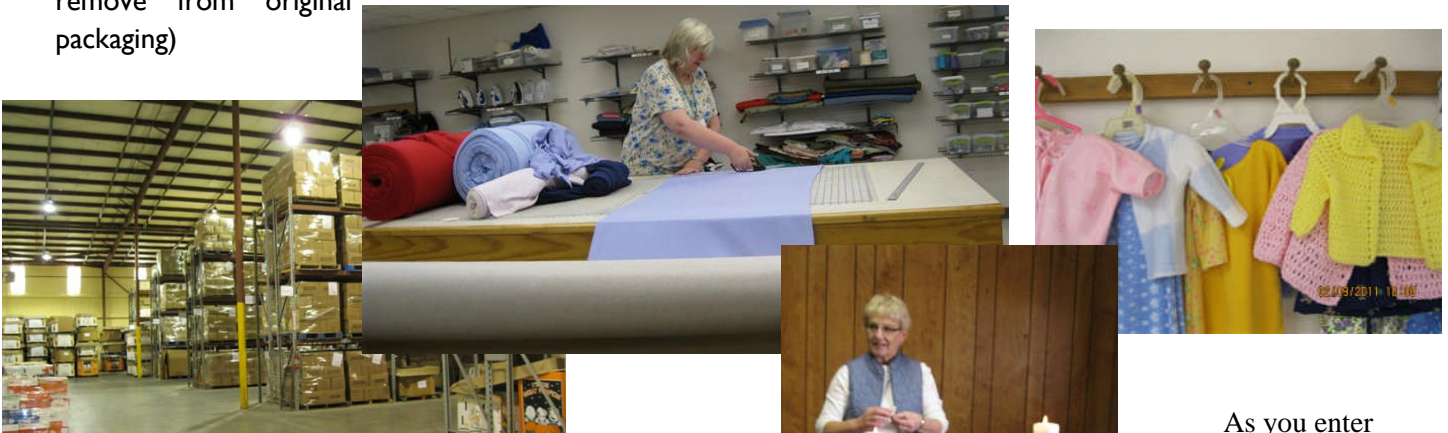
- 1 hand towel 15" X 25" to 17" X 27" (kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (comb needs to be sturdy and at least 8" long, no pocket combs or picks please. Rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable)
- 1 metal nail file or clipper (no emery boards or toenail clippers please)
- 1 bath size soap (3 oz and larger sizes only, all brands are acceptable, do not remove from original packaging)
- 1 toothbrush (adult size only and do not remove from original packaging)
- 6 adhesive bandages (3/4" to 1" size of common household band aids)
- 1 plastic bag one gallon size (sealable bags only)
- \$1 to purchase toothpaste

All items must be new. Do not wash any of the items as they will 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 - February

Patty Knoll led the worship in the Call to Prayer and Self Denial by reading Corinthians II.

United Methodist Women are known for putting mission to work; and to dedicate themselves to Christian service. The Prayer Calendar was used to inform as to how many retired deacons, deaconesses and retired missionaries from our church are listed there. What are some gifts we like to re-

ceive? The meeting closed with prayer and joining in song.

**Next meeting will be March 16th at 10 am with Women's History Month with Donna Hearnen leading the lesson; Lois Trapp and Donna Walter are hostesses.**

As you enter the church the basket for gifts will be sent to the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield. Can ned goods, paper goods, boxed and ready to prepare foods are welcome.

# Groton Missions Committee - Feb Mtg

The biggest change will be the fact we are not doing UMCOR Kits this year but will replace this project with helping our local community. Our first project will be to prepare flood buckets for this area to be distributed by the city as needed (goal of 20 buckets). A list will be compiled to fit our local needs. The School Kits will be replaced with helping kids in our local school obtain school supplies. We will be working with the school in filling this need for grades PreSchool-12. Jan Raap will be organizing this project.

We will be doing the Special Sundays of Giving with Marva Gellhaus explaining each one the Sunday before and showing the short Movie Clip the Sunday of to explain just what each Special Sunday is all about.

Easter Meals will be delivered this year as a Gift Certificate from Ken's with the family

being able to purchase the meat of their choice for the holiday meal. A special card will be created for this purpose. We will look at Thanksgiving when the time comes and assess the need at that time.

The Angel Tree will be put up by Thanksgiving in time for everyone's holiday shopping. JoAnn Krueger will be organizing this project.

We will be supporting the August Mission Trip to Spirit Lake. Supplies will be collected as well as funds. We will have a small red wagon with a large container on for the children to collect change during children's time each Sunday. Please mark your calendar for this trip! August 7-12 (personal note: I know I cannot go the entire time but maybe some of us can go for a day or two?)



Local Missions

## Groton Flood Bucket



- 5-gallon bucket with re-sealable lid (Buckets from restaurants can be used if washed and cleaned. Do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint)
- Bleach 2-1 qt or 1-82 oz
- 1 scrub brush
- 18 cleaning towels (handi wipes or reusable wipes, no terry cleaning towels)
- 1 12-16 oz household cleaner that can be mixed with water, no sprays
- 2 pair rubber gloves (med and large)

- 1 pair of work gloves
- 24 bag roll heavy duty trash bags 33-45 gal
- 8 or 9 oz can air freshener (aerosol must have protective cap)
- Liquid Laundry Detergent (1-25 oz)
- 4 scouring pads (3M Donation?)
- Pkg of Sponges (3M Donation?)
- 4 Dust Masks (3M Donation?)



Time to Spring Ahead

## Mission Trip

Join the Mission Trip August 7-12th to Spirit Lake Nation at Devils Lake, ND. We will be working with Mike and Libby Flowers. Check your schedules and see if this opportunity works for you.

Cost is \$300/person and this covers meals and lodging for the week.

**The Groton and Conde Churches have received recognition for 100% payment of apportionments paid this past year by the Conference. Everyone is to be commended for this honor and filling of our commitment.**

## Sunday School Schedule

### March

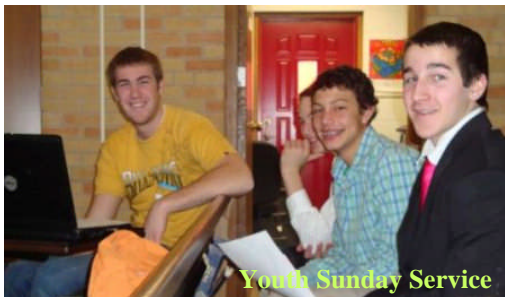
- 6th - SS
- 13th - SS
- 20th - No SS (Spring Break)
- 27th - SS

### April

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

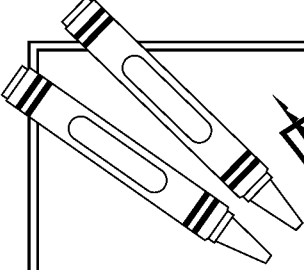
### May

- 1st - SS
- 8th - SS (Mother's Day - Sing in Church and honor the Graduates - last day of SS)




Youth Sunday Service





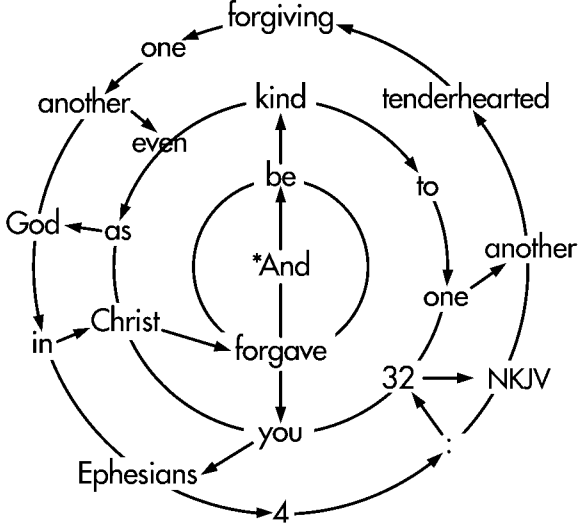
# PUZZLE

## WHY FORGIVE?



This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others – and why.

**Directions:** Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.



“And \_\_\_\_\_ ,

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .”

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV

Groton UMYF meets weekly  
at 7 pm  
Confirmation meets weekly  
at 4 pm

# Groton 125th Anniversary Committee



As we begin 2011, our church will be busy preparing for our 125th anniversary celebration. Save the date of September 18, 2011 and plan to join us in celebration.

The committee has plans for a special worship service on Sept 18, along with a dinner and program. Past ministers and their families along with past and present District Superintendents and Bishops will be invited to join us on this special day. In addition, a new pictorial church directory will be published this year.

We will also commemorate our 125 year history by using the theme of "Walking a 125 Year Path" at various annual events throughout the year.

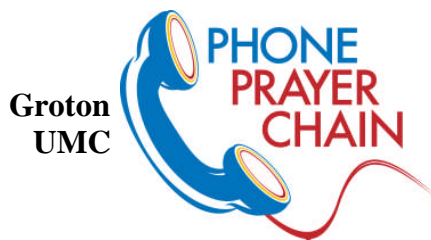
The committee is asking for your help

during these cold winter months to please take time to collect personal items you might have and could share related to past church activities such as: baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and special events. The committee will use these to help tell our story at our celebration.

As each of you visit with your families living away from Groton, please let them know that they are invited to join us on Sept 18 as well. It will be a wonderful time to renew friendships and reminisce.

We hope that each of you will look forward to this anniversary and find it to be an inspiration and renew your pride in our Groton United Methodist Church and our mission.

"Everything has become new!"  
2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV



- 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.



# Groton Ad Council - February

The Memorial Committee reported that they have created a list of wants that could be funded by memorial contributions. They will also be investigating ways to update and display previous memorial gifts. The council also had additional suggestions for good uses of undesignated memorial funds.

Our Education Committee is preparing for several special occasions including Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Confirmation, and Graduation Recognition. The committee will also be discussing plans for Vacation Bible School.

Pastor Matt spoke about the activities of our UMYF, including a planned ski retreat which will include youth from Claremont/Hecla and possibly Bath. There is also a

March 11-13 middle-high youth rally in Jamestown that Pastor is encouraging our youth to attend.

A March 25-26 two-day seminar in Wattertown is planned and Pastor Matt would like to attend along with three leaders. It will focus on re-energizing congregations.

The council discussed and approved funding 75% of the cost for the summer camping experiences of our youth.

### Groton Mission Statement

*“Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ.”*

### Groton Stewardship Report February 2011

Average Wkly Giving \$1,225

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,030

Average Weekly Attendance 94

Total Building Fund Donations \$65

# Groton April Family Work Committee

**Karla & Russell Davidson, Michaela Oleson, Alec Oleson**

**Alan Strom**

**Pam & Roger Rix**

Jeanne Wanous

Melissa & Neil Gilbert

Josh & Merrie Atherton

Kelli & Lars Hanson, Dylan

Lynette & Terry Furman

Francine & mark Sippel, Camille

Carol & Pat Knecht

Kent Webb

John Padfield

Pernell & Noella Graf

Kevin Pharis

Yvonne Lorenz

### Honorary Members

- Audrey Padfield
- Bob & Marvel Johnson
- Audrey Thurston
- Clare Brotherton

### Extra Responsibilities

- April 21 Maundy Thurs Altar color and arrangement as per Pastor
- April 24 Change altar cloths to White
- Kitchen clean and straighten cupboards and drawers, dispose of out-of-date products, and wipe down cupboards/walls/woodwork.
- Potluck on 2nd Sunday

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





March 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		



Look inside the printed copy for a full calendar with all events. OR you can go online to [www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc/calendarumc/](http://www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc/calendarumc/) for a full interactive calendar that is up-to-date as events become available.

## Our Church Happenings

- Mar 9 Conde Ash Weds Service 10 am  
Lenten Services will continue each week on Tuesdays at 7 pm
- Mar 9 Groton Ash Weds Service following 6 pm Lenten Supper  
Lenten Services will continue each week on Weds at 6 pm
- Mar 9 Groton Ad Council following Lenten Service
- Mar 11-13 "The Crossing" Middle High Youth Rally in Jamestown
- Mar 12 Groton Baby Shower for Bahr 9-11 am
- Mar 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Mar 13 Golden Living Center Service
- Mar 15 Groton May Breakfast Mtg for chairpersons 1 pm
- Mar 16 Conde UMW and Ad Board 10 am
- Mar 16 Groton UMW 2 pm with program by Shirley Schwab  
"Court Appointed Special Advocate"
- Mar 27 Conde World Hunger Sunday
- Apr 3 One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday

