



Dear Friends in Groton & Conde

On the morning of Thanksgiving I was driving back from Redfield after picking up my son for the holiday weekend. We were suddenly surprised with a heavy and wet snow squall, visibility was limited and Andrew started to get scared and ask questions like "Um.. Dad.. What if we go into the ditch?" I calmly responded to him that it hadn't been snowing that long, and that the roads weren't slick and that I felt confident that we would be just fine. The storm lasted for about 15 minutes. But the entire circumstance made me think of a funny story that one of our parishioners shared.

Her 5 year old grandson asked his dad a question. The young boy was wondering what the difference was between a 2 wheel drive and 4 wheel drive vehicle. The father explained that the 4 wheel drive vehicle would have more traction if it was real muddy. The boy paused for a second and replied that it would be really bad to get caught in the mud while riding a unicycle! Oh the mind of a child and what a wonderful story.

Children ask such wonderful questions, with innocence and curiosity. The season of Advent is filled with questions. What did it mean for a young teenage girl to accept the fact that she was going to give miraculous birth to our world's savior? What did all this mean for Joseph? And what does this say about the nature of God? And what implications are made regarding our human response to God and what God

is doing in our world today?

What would it mean for you as a child of God to approach the season of Advent with the very wonder and excitement of a child? Can you acknowledge the mystery of "God with us, Emmanuel" with humility, innocence and curiosity? And how long has it been since you allowed yourself to believe in the miracle of the Christ child? Tough questions, if you allow yourself to go there. Can you peel back the layers? Can you allow God to come into your heart and life in a way that transforms your very being?

The season of Advent is upon us. For the next 4 weeks we will be watching and waiting, preparing our hearts and minds for a great renewing as we embrace the light of the world, Jesus Christ, born into this world by a family of meek and humble status, chosen to be the messiah, savior and king. I invite you to join with me this season, kneeling at the altar, acknowledging with childlike nature our God and King, Jesus the Christ! Bring your questions, fears, joys and confessions, God is waiting to hear.

I look forward to seeing you in church,
Pastor Matt



**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Services**

Groton at 5pm

*Offering split between
Groton BAGS Program and
UMCOR for the Hurricane
Disaster on East Coast*

Conde at 7 pm





Groton Missions Thank You

Thank you to all for helping us collect coins in our Kettle of Kindness this fall. We collected \$157.15 total. This enabled us to send out 6 Ken's Gift Certificates to local families in our community. Keep collecting your change as we will be collecting again at the first of the year for Easter.

Your support this year for all our mission projects have been greatly appreciated and we have been noticed in our local community as we Enrich Lives through Christ.

Groton UMW Meeting

**Wednesday December 12th
at 11:30 AM**

Christmas Luncheon by the Officers

"Delivering Gift Boxes of Treats"

All UMW Members are asked to bring goodies packaged individually for approx 30-40 boxes and make this outreach a success!

Groton Men's Dinner Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for all their help and support for the "Men's Dinner," each of you helping makes a great difference, either by working, cooking, cleaning, making desserts, money or just coming to enjoy. A huge thanks to Chuck & Tyke for all their help in the kitchen but also to the youth group for all their work. Hopefully we didn't leave anyone out but know your help is appreciated. Blessings to each of you. Richard & JoAnn, Marc & Jane, and Brad & Diann

**Groton Sunday School
Christmas Program
December 9th
during Worship**

Join Us!

Potluck Following

Work Committee is serving pork loin and everyone else are asked to bring salad and bars.



Something Different

EVERYONE WELCOME

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15 PM

GROTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Groton UMC Angel Tree

Christmas is just around the corner and the Angel Tree is up. This mission Project is to provide Christmas gifts for children in our local community. It will be decorated with two cards for each child, one for a toy and one or more for any clothing needs depending on costs of items desired. On the card will be a postcard for you to sign and place in the designated box so we know who has that specific card rather than signing on a sheet as we have done in the past. There will also be an envelope with the card for your receipts to be placed in the box as well when the gifts are returned. No names will be on the cards as this is kept confidential.

Gifts should be returned wrapped with

the card attached and number written on the gift so that we can make sure the right recipient receives the gift. Deadline for the gifts to be returned is Noon on December 16th.

The tree is open to the public as well so if your co-workers would like a card or you wish to do one together, please do so. Anyone in Groton may come in and check out cards from our tree.

If you do not wish to shop, donations may be placed in the offering plate marked Angel Tree or given to Anita Lowary or Kay Brandt. We appreciate your support for this mission of making sure our local children have a joyous Christmas.

Missions Committee



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

- 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



WHAT SHALL WE GIVE HIM?

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





Conde UMW Meeting

December 5 at 10 AM
Program
"Upside Down Christmas"
Leader Pat Siefken
Hostesses are a Potluck



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



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.

What's missing?

When shopping for gifts became too difficult, an elderly man decided to just send checks to relatives. In his Christmas cards, mailed early, he wrote, "Buy your own present!"



After the holiday, the man noticed he'd received few cards in return. Puzzled, he went into his study, intending to write to a few relatives and ask what had happened. As he cleared his cluttered desk, the horrified man found the answer. Under a stack of papers were the checks he'd forgotten to enclose with his cards!

The lesson? Don't be in such a hurry to give gifts that you inadvertently leave out what's most important. Without the message of Jesus and his birth, the earthly trappings of Christmas are empty indeed.

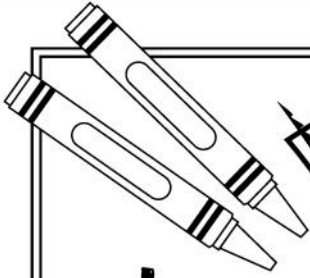
Blue Christmas Service at Groton
December 21st at 6:30 pm
Refreshments Following
An Opportunity for Healing during the Christmas Season





Groton Men's Dinner Highlights





PUZZLE

cheerful giver

Jesus came to serve and give to others. This Christmas season, consider how you can follow Jesus' example by giving your time, love and kindness.

Directions: Cross out every *my*, *me* and *mine*. Then write the remaining words on the blanks below to read 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.



myeachmineofyoumeshouldmygiveminemewhat
youminemehaveminememinemydecidedmeinmy
myyourmineheartmemyminetomygivememinenot
minereluctantlymeormyunderminemycompulsion
minemymeforminemyGodminemymylovesmy
meamyminecheerfulmymegivermineCorinthians

“

-----,
-----,
-----”

2 ----- 9:7, NIV

Answer:
“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV

“Christmas Bells”



I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Celebrate the Savior

Hope is born

A little child, a shining star,
a stable rude, the door ajar.
Yet in that place so crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all the world was born.

—Author unknown



Groton Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The 10 am Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study that meets each week will be taking a Christmas Break. Dec 4 we will be doing our last Christmas Lesson in our book "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton. Dec 11 we will watch the movie "The Nativity" and experience the things we studied over the past weeks in the movie. A light lunch will be served after the movie at the church.

We will resume Bible Study Tuesday, January 15. We will do a short study for 4 weeks and then begin another Adam Hamilton study on February 12 for Lent. The Lenten study will end with a trip to the Nursing Home to play "Egg-citing" BINGO.



Bringing Christmas outdoors

The first colored electric Christmas lights on outdoor evergreen trees appeared in Denver in 1914. The tradition began thanks to a sick boy bedridden in the top floor of his home. Ten-year-old David Sturgeon couldn't see his family's Christmas tree downstairs, so his grandfather, a pioneering electrician, painted some light bulbs red and green and strung them on a tree outside David's window.

Not only did the lights brighten what would be

David's last holiday, but residents throughout the city came by to admire the display. Just as David's innovative grandfather brought light into the boy's dark times and joy to the whole community, God revealed the true light by sending Jesus into our dark world. For "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).



Hopes and fears

Sacred Christmas carols are a cherished tradition. But during sorrow and struggle, some lyrics may seem hard to swallow. "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant"? Where is the joy when my loved one has just died? Where is the triumph if I've lost my job? "Silent night, holy night, all is calm ..."? Not in my house; I'm exhausted from the fighting. "The little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes"? Our baby screams with colic for hours on end.

Yet ... listen:

And you beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low ...
Oh, rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

—"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Truly, God reaches out to the happy and hurting alike. "The hopes and fears of all the years are met" – and gathered up – in the Babe of Bethlehem, who shares our joys and troubles. There are Christmas carols for us all



Groton Ad Council - Nov

The council reviewed, discussed, and approved a 2013 budget to be presented for approval at the annual Charge Conference.

Pastor Matt stated that the WOW services continue and that he has set up a Facebook account for the Groton UMC WOW serves as a way to send out reminders about the service.

The council reviewed our church's strengths & weaknesses. Strengths include: the WOW services; great Sunday school program; men's & women's Bible Study for all denominations; support of our local missions including sponsoring the BAGS program. A couple of weaknesses mentioned were: findings ways to be more welcoming to visitors and new members; finding ways to increase church attendance.

It was decided to split our Christmas Eve offerings evenly between UMCOR for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts and our local BAGS program.

Groton Mission Statement

"Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

January 2013

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		

Groton Stewardship Report November 2012

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,924

Needed Wkly for Church Mission
\$2,045

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday
75

Total Building Fund Donations
\$150

Groton January Committee

Kay Brandt

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

Justin & Amanda Morehouse

Julie & Jesse Morehouse

Mendy & James Jones, Marlee

Angela & Perryn Dobbins

Brent & Jessica Morehouse

Marjorie & Roger Overacker

Jesse & Jaymie Overacker

Kim & Craig Weber

Roger & Pam Rix

Alan Strom

Jay & Linda Johnson



Honorary Members

- Dick Ruden
- Gerald & Ann Rix
- Irene Breitzkreutz
- Don Walter
- Bob & Carolyn Snyder
- Doris Strom

Extra Responsibilities

- Jan 6 White Altar Cloths for Epiphany
- Jan 13 White Altar Cloths for Baptism of the Lord
- Jan 20 Green Altar Cloths
- Shovel snow from doorways before church
- Take down Christmas decorations with all church helping
- Potluck 2nd Sunday
- **Banner Changers - Marjorie & Roger Overacker**

December 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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 5 Conde UMW at 10 am with potluck
- Dec 5 No WOW Worship in Groton
- Dec 9 Groton Sunday School Christmas Program with Potluck Following
- Dec 12 Groton UMW at 11:30 am with Luncheon & Deliver Treat Cans
- Dec 16 Groton Angel Tree gifts due by Noon
- Dec 21 Groton Blue Christmas Service at 6:30 pm - refreshments following
- Dec 23 Conde World Hunger Sunday
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services are 5pm in Groton and 7 pm in Conde
- Dec 26 No WOW Worship in Groton
- Dec 26 No Groton Confirmation
- Jan 2 No WOW Worship in Groton
- Jan 2 No Groton Confirmation

