

# United Methodist Messenger

Dear Friends in Groton and Conde,

Recently, because of the season of Lent and the spiritual discipline of journaling, I have grown to love quiet morning conversations with God. I used to practice only an evening devotional time, with the added discipline of journaling in the morning, I have found that the two different devotional times mean something completely different to me.

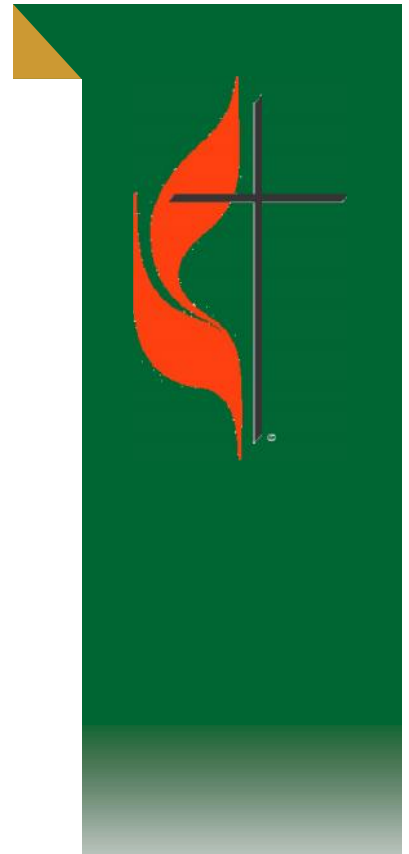
The morning time has become a time for me to align my thoughts and plans for the day more closely to God's call for my life. And in the evening I am practicing gratitude and deep thankfulness for all the ways that God has blessed my life, in good times and in bad. The times spent in prayer and focused thought provide two very nice bookends to my days.

Here's the deal though. I didn't anticipate this. This feeling of being overjoyed in the season of Lent wasn't

part of my plan. It wasn't on my calendar. It wasn't my agenda. It's amazing how God meets us in places and times we don't expect. That being said, I hope that all of you are able to find this to be true during this season of Lent. Often times it is the open and willing heart that allows God to move more freely in our lives. Just the simple ability of making yourself available for God can change your world in ways that at times can't be described.

Lastly, I hope that all of you have had a chance to pick up your copy of "The Sanctuary for Lent 2012" these are made available for all members and guests during the season of Lent at both Groton and Conde Churches.

I look forward to seeing you in church,  
Pastor Matt



Photos of Groton youth ski trip and Youth Sunday throughout this newsletter



Bert Raap would like to thank everyone for your thoughts, prayers, cards and phone calls since his knee replacement surgery and recuperation.

### Groton Calling System

The Calling System has been set up and is usable. We tried it out last Wednesday cancelling the Lenten Service. Some people did say that when they answered there was nothing there, but please be patient as I know it took a few seconds for the message to start. So maybe adding the church phone number 397-8270 to your phone will let you know it is a church phone call.

for UMW, UMYF, the Prayer Chain, and Ad Council. If any committee wishes to add to the calling system, please let Kay Brandt know.

If you did not get a call or need to add a cell phone number to the list, please let Kay Brandt know. We hope this calling system will keep all members informed.

All messages repeat from the beginning, so if you missed any part of this message, stay on the line as the message will repeat and this will account for any messages that are answered via voice mail and start midway into the message.

We have also set up some groups on this list



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.

### Blessings



### Baptism/Blessings Shower

March 18 will be the Baptism/Blessings Shower for Rachel Kay Dobbins. Daughter of Perryn and Angela Dobbins and sister to Jaden and Toby. Rachel is about size 12 month.



## Conde Shrove (Fat) Tuesday Supper

On Tuesday, February 21st there were wonderful smells coming from the Conde United Methodist Church's kitchen. Although not as many people attended the Shrove Tuesday meal as the planning committee had hoped for, those who came enjoyed some good food and good conversation. The menu consisted of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and king cake. This event was a free meal for the public.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Traditionally Lent has always been a solemn time, and people did not have parties. They also refrained from eating rich foods such as butter, milk and eggs; any of the items with fat that make eating such a pleasure! With that thought in mind, peo-

ple had to use up these things, so they wouldn't spoil during Lent. What better way than to make pancakes and serve them with eggs. Then of course to make that meal complete, you must add the meat. Now the feast is even more fattening and delicious.

As for the king cake: This is a yeast type dessert, with a rich and delicious filling. The dough is twisted and baked in a ring, frosted with purple, gold and green frosting, and most important, there is a Baby Jesus concealed in the cake. Whoever gets Him in their serving of cake is believed to have good luck for a whole year; however, there is a catch. That person is also expected to bake the king cake for the next year's festivities.

## Conde Lenten Study

On Tuesday, February 28th, the Lenten Study Group will have their first session to start discussing the "40-Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer". The book has a daily devotion with questions to discuss in the group, and also questions to reflect on in your own private journal. It is not absolutely necessary to attend every Tuesday session, as much of the study involves each person's own thoughts; however, the discussion and fellow-

ship time will make the study more meaningful. The books are available at the church, and some people have already picked up one and have begun the daily reading and reflections. There will be a light supper at 6:30 with the discussion time to follow. This is a wonderful way to start the Lenten Season. Being part of a group is more of an incentive to be regular in your daily devotions.

## One Great Hour of Sharing In Conde

The following Sunday is One Great Hour of Sharing which is one of the six special Sundays throughout the Church Year. However; this Sunday is even more significant than the other five Special Sundays. The offering received on this day supports the humanitarian aid offered by UMCOR. By having funds on hand, this wonderful organization is able to move into an area when a catastrophe strikes without having to wait for

money to come in from special offerings. Calendars were handed out in church on February 19th, and each day has a special little thing to do and determines how much money to set aside for that day. An example would be: "Refugees often have no way to keep warm. Give 1 cent for every blanket, quilt, or comforter in your house." On March 18th, each family can count up the amounts and write a check for One Great Hour of Sharing.

## Conde Events

At 2:00 on Friday March 2nd, there will be **World Day of Prayer**. This is open to all women in the community and also the Groton ladies. The service is written by women from Malaysia and the title is "LET JUSTICE PREVAIL!" After the program, there will be lunch and fellowship.

On March 11th, the UMW will be in charge of the Sunday Morning Service. The title of the sermon is "A Reconciled Road Ahead", and this sets the theme for the rest of the service.

It has been decided that the second Tuesday of each month will be Church Cleaning followed by a Church Board Meeting. We will start cleaning at 6:30 and then have the meeting about 8:00; however, on March 13th, we will have to squeeze another activity into the evening, that being the Lenten Study. So on that Tuesday the times will be: 5:30 Cleaning 6:30 Study 8:00 Meeting.

Conde UMW will meet March 21 at 10 am. Program Focus is call to Prayer & Self-Denial "A Time for Change" with Leader Patty Knoll. Hostesses are Pat Siefken & Donna Walter

## Conde UMW Valentine Party

On Wednesday, February 15, the UMW had a Valentine Party at the Methodist Church. There were about 15 ladies in attendance. Pat Siefken started the morning activity with some games. The first was a test of everyone's knowledge of candy products, and the second game was using the dexterity of the hands. Following the games, she read a very meaningful paraphrase of the Corinthians Love Chapter. Even though this gathering had a party spirit, the UMW ladies included the regular lesson that was scheduled for the month of February. Donna Hearnen presented this and it was entitled, "International Ministries". She showed pictures of various mission projects throughout the US and the rest of the world; how-

ever, the main focus of her lesson was the Biblical selection from the Gospel of Matthew. This is the story of the women who went to the tomb on Easter Morning. The link between this Gospel story and missions is the fact that these women instilled the Missionary Spirit into the hearts of women throughout the ages.

A very delicious lunch was served by Donna Walter and Cindy Smith. The next General Meeting of the UMW is at 10:00 on March 21st, and all the women in the community are also invited to this. There will be some "fun" activities, a lesson, and lunch at noon. The membership of the UMW is small, so the extra guests make it much more interesting.

## One Great Hour of Sharing - March 18th

Children and adults from various communities had already assembled and were eagerly waiting, when the UMCOR delegation finally reached remote Mutumbami, Zimbabwe. Today was the day the children would take home school supplies from UMCOR's Sager Brown depot.

As the contents of the kits were announced, the eager crowd reacted: notebooks (smiles, clapping), scissors (smiles, clapping), an eraser, a ruler, crayons (more smiles and clapping), pencils (**LOUD CHEERS!!!**). "Never have I seen such excitement about six pencils!" said UMCOR's Melissa Crutchfield, moved to find something so commonplace in her homeland was so prized in this struggling community.

This year marks UMCOR Sager Brown's twentieth anniversary of bringing joy and hope in the form of relief kits to communities around the world—whether school supplies to children in Africa eager to study, or cleaning buckets to families in the United States mucking out their homes after a hurricane, flood or tornado.

### God's Steadfast Love

So much of what UMCOR does is about revealing God's steadfast love for humankind. For more than 70 years, UMCOR has brought hope and solidarity to communities both at home and abroad in the wake of disaster, and support and expertise to those on a path to development. UMCOR's relief-supply ministry is part of those efforts, gathering the goodwill of selfless volunteers to assemble much-needed relief kits and cleaning buckets to ship to those seeking to become self-sufficient or to rebuild lives and communities following an emergency.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in the special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to manifest God's steadfast love throughout the world. Please give generously

March 2012

For  
by  
**GRACE**  
you  
have  
been  
**saved**  
through faith.

EPHESIANS 2:8, NRSV

### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

For more than 70 years, UMCOR has brought hope and solidarity to communities both at home and abroad.

GOD'S  
STEADFAST  
LOVE

UMCOR • One Great Hour of Sharing

### Groton UMW - Feb

The Groton UMW held their February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting beginning at 2 p.m. with Doris Townsend as guest speaker. Doris gave an interesting and informative talk about her recent visit to Israel (the Holy Land). Her talk was accompanied by many pictures as she highlighted places Jesus would have traveled in his lifetime as well as geographical sites highlighted in the Bible. Doris's program was entitled "My Walk to Bethlehem." She visited the Holy Land in early December.

President Gloria Pharis called the business meeting to order with members reciting the Purpose. Doris Zoellner read devotions. The minutes and financial reports were given. There was no correspondence.

Old business began with the announcement the community World Day of Prayer has been canceled. UMW Sunday will be held March 11.

New business was a discussion of Focus Days which will be hosted by the Groton unit. It will be held on April 14 with a salad luncheon. Plans for the May Breakfast are moving along toward the May 2 event.

Pat Siefken is the Shepherdess for this year. Marlys Rodman encouraged members to continue collecting pop tabs, soup labels, etc. She directed members to look at p.22 of the UMW booklet which explains "Labels for Education" if there are any questions.

The meeting concluded with joys and concerns followed by a prayer. Nineteen people including four guests were on hand for a delicious lunch served by Darlys Kampa and Doris Zoellner. The next meeting is March 21 at 2 p.m. with a visit from the Shepherdess. Hostesses are Jan Raap and Audrey Thurston.

**Groton UMW**

**March 21 at 2 pm**

**Shepherdess Visit**

**Hostesses**

**Jan Raap and**

**Audrey Thurston**



## Our Church Celebrations

### Groton

March 1 Mary Jane Schott  
 March 4 Kale Pharis  
 Kay Brandt  
 Christina Zoellner  
 March 5 Chance Strom  
 March 7 Brian Bahr  
 Dale Strom  
 Richard & JoAnn Krueger  
 March 9 Betty Strom  
 March 14 Mendy Jones  
 Sydney Erickson  
 March 22 Don Walter  
 March 24 Emerlee Jones  
 March 25 Laurel McNickle  
 Murdock McNickle  
 March 26 Claire Davidson  
 Justin Morehouse  
 Clayton Kurtz

March 27 Dwight Strom  
 Michelle Walter  
 March 28 Bennet Suther  
 March 29 Sharon Wheeting  
 March 31 Aiden Strom  
 Caralee Heitmann

### Conde

March 6 Stacey Bonn  
 March 9 Samuel Schlosser  
 March 10 Alyssa Taylor  
 March 14 Katie Lyren  
 Nicole Taylor  
 March 17 Myron Fahrenwald  
 March 20 Dale Busing  
 March 23 Greg Peterson  
 Greg Stark  
 March 25 Larae Taylor  
 March 26 Samantha Menzia  
 March 31 Renee Hanlon

## Angelica in Haiti

I have been spending time at the New Life Primary School twice sitting and observing. I want to observe teaching styles so that I might be able to help or maybe recruit some educators from the US to come do a training with our teachers.

I also have several learning English as a second language books that I have been reading. I am working with our English teachers and also working with a few of our students to teach some English at the Primary School.

I have also worked with several teams that have come to the area working with different organizations. We have showed them our school, they shopped in the art gallery and some have shared a day training with our young adult leaders.

Our English classes start this Saturday and I have meetings with our leaders for planning. I have also been busy updating our activities

online. If you are on facebook this is where I share most of the material. Also please go check out Living Media International's FB page because some things I am involved in I just put on there too.

Thank you for your support and love! I couldn't do this work with out all of you. Donations can be send to the 1st United Methodist Church 16 N Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069 to be matched or on my blogspot. If you have any comments or questions about anything please feel free to contact me. Love to hear from you, helps me with the work I am doing.

Blessings

Angelica Laudermith

<http://www.angelicaheartforhaiti.blogspot.com/>





### Groton Sunday School Schedule

March:

- 4th: Sunday School
- 11th: No Sunday School
- 18th: Sunday School
- 25th: Sunday School

April:

- 1st: Sunday School & Sing in Church (Psalm Sunday)
- 8th: No Sunday School (Easter)
- 15th: Sunday School
- 22nd: Sunday School
- 29th: Sunday School

May:

- 6th: Sunday School
- 13th: Sunday School & Sing in Church (Mother's Day)
- 20-23rd: Tentative for Vacation Bible School



## SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

**Directions:** Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

bloom  $6+1=$  \_\_\_\_ blossom  $2 \times 2=$  \_\_\_\_ rejoice  $4 \times 2=$  \_\_\_\_

burst  $3+3=$  \_\_\_\_ wilderness  $2+1=$  \_\_\_\_ joy  $5+5=$  \_\_\_\_

crocus  $3+2=$  \_\_\_\_ desert  $1 \times 0=$  \_\_\_\_ parched  $0+1=$  \_\_\_\_

glad  $2 \times 1=$  \_\_\_\_ shout  $10-1=$  \_\_\_\_

“The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ land will be \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ will rejoice and \_\_\_\_\_. Like the \_\_\_\_\_, it will \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_; it will \_\_\_\_\_ greatly and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.”

*Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV*

Answers:  
“The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.”

Camp Books are in! Registration Deadline is April 22.  
Please see Kay Brandt about registering.  
Do this as early as you can!

## Groton Ad Council - Feb

The Groton UMC received a Certificate of Appreciation from The United Methodist Church – Dakotas Area for paying 100% of our conference apportionments in 2011. The Groton UMC also received the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation Steward Award certificate for cumulative giving of \$15,000 – 24,999.

The Trustees committee installed a new motion light in front of the church, ordered a “No Trucks” sign

for the parking lot, and moved the garbage container onto the street. Please watch for an upcoming tree trimming date to be scheduled.

Camp Sunday will be held on Palm Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Ad Council will again contribute financially to assist in supporting camp attendance.

Thank you to the Audit Committee for your hard work!



Groton Mission Statement  
 “Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ.”

## April Family Committee

- Kami & Tom Lipp, Reilly Ell, Kyler Ell
- Lance & Kristi Hawkins, Katelyn, Kylie
- Carna & Cliff Pray, Kevin
- Dale & Michelle Kramer
- Karla Pasteur
- Yvonne Lange
- Gayleen & Jon Voss, Lacey
- Cheri & Tom Strom
- Anita & Gary Voss
- Dwight & Eugenia Strom
- Marlys Rodman
- Rose Tewksbury

### Honorary Members

- ImoJeanne Oliver
- Doris Zoellner
- Charlotte Lange

### April Extra Responsibilities

- April 1 Change altar cloths to white for communion
- April 5 Maundy Thursday color as per Pastor (red or purple)
- April 8 change altar cloths to white for Easter
- Potluck 2nd Sunday
- On 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to Kay Brandt

Groton Stewardship Report February 2012	
Average Wkly Giving	\$2,571
Needed Wkly for Church Mission	\$2,045
Average Weekly Attendance	90
Total Building Fund Donations	\$90



April 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					



## Our Church Happenings

- Mar 4 Groton Ad Council 12:30
- Mar 7 Groton May Breakfast Committee Mtg at 4 pm
- Mar 7 Groton Lenten Supper/Service 5:30/6:30
- Mar 8-11 "The Crossing" Youth Rally grades 7-8 at Dakota Wesleyan
- Mar 11 UMW Sunday - Both Churches
- Mar 11 No Sunday School
- Mar 11 Daylight Saving time Begins
- Mar 13 Conde Cleaning 5:30-Lent Study 6:30- Board Mtg 8:00
- Mar 14 Groton Lenten Supper/Service 5:30/6:30
- Mar 18 One Great Hour of Sharing
- Mar 18 Groton Baptism/Blessings Shower - Rachel Dobbins
- Mar 18 Groton Potluck after worship.
- Mar 21 Conde UMW 10 am
- Mar 21 Groton UMW 2 pm
- Mar 21 Groton Lenten Supper/Service 5:30/6:30
- Mar 28 Groton Lenten Supper/Service 5:30/6:30
- Apr 1 Palm Sunday/Camp Sunday - Register Early for Camp
- Apr 8 Easter Sunday
- Apr 14 UMW Focus Days 8:30 am to 3:00 pm



March 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

