



United Methodist Messenger

January 2014

Groton/Conde Parishes

Dear Friends in Groton and Conde

Well known author and theologian Johann Christoph Arnold writes that "the fear of death overshadows all of our lives." He continues, "...And even if we have been successful in warding off plagues that decimated earlier generations, we have no lack of our own, from addiction, suicide, abortion and divorce to racism, poverty, violence and militarism. We live, as Pope John Paul II has said, in a culture of death."

Are things really this dark and bleak? It really depends on who you ask and who you trust to give you the most overall comprehensive story of truth. It's rather a sad commentary that we have to use a truth disclaimer nowadays isn't it? What

happened to absolute truth? Is there any solid theological or ideological ground to stand on anymore? This question applies, especially when we are talking about three of these hotly debated issues.

One could argue that for some divorce can be a blessing, a similar argument could be made about abortion, for example if the child has life threatening deformities and development hasn't taken place to the point where the child can live outside the womb, and if the

mother's life will be lost. All these arguments can be made. Even the question of Militarism becomes a slippery slope when you mention the fact that necessary force is required to end unnecessary evil.

What is the point of these questions? Why do we wrestle with truth and why now? Our world is dark and bleak. And as Christians we seek the light of truth in a darkened realm of uncertainty and false truths. As the magi sought out the Christ Child and wrestled with the Herod's untruths and façade, we must, as we seek to be like Christ, wrestle with the world's false truths and deception.

And so as we enter 2014, let us continue our discussions our faith journey as we ask deep questions of faith from our worldly context, while looking to Christ for divine inspiration through the Holy Spirit as we come to know the truth about the God who is LOVE.

May you know this God of LOVE, the God peace, the God hope, the God of promise and the God of us all. Happy New Year!!!

I look forward to seeing you in church,
Pastor Matt



*The white
Baptismal towel
seems to have
been misplaced.
If you find it,
please put it on
the front pew.
Thank you.*

Thank You

United Methodist Church, I would like to thank you for the generous gift at Thanksgiving. With a large family to feed your gift was really helpful. Thanks.

We would like to thank you for the gift certificate at Thanksgiving.

I can't say how grateful I am for you wonderful people of the Methodist Church for the gift certificate for food. God Bless you all and a big Thank You.

Thank you for choosing my children to be a part of the UMC Angel Tree. I feel very blessed to live in a community

that is willing to give and help others in need. Also thank you very much for the Ken's Certificates - they helped a lot. Have a blessed New Year!



Groton Angel Tree Thank You

There are not enough words to express the gratitude of our Angel Tree. Together, we helped 47 Children have a brighter more joyful love filled Christmas. 21 Families in the Groton Area School felt us as we made a difference. I had requests for more cards on the tree, what a blessing! Some were delivered and many were picked up at the church. All went really well! Thank you everyone!

Missions Committee

Family Photos and Updates Wanted

The church office is working on making sure the membership register is up-to-date so please tell us if we have any incorrect information or you are missing the one call telephone calls (those with telemarketer blocks will not receive these) or not receiving the newsletter either by mail or email. Photos would be good to add to the directory as well as I work on bringing it up-to-date. Thank you. Kay



Our Church Celebrations

Groton

Jan 2 Holly Walter
 Jan 3 Caroline Graf
 Logan Grenier
 Jan 5 Treyton Diegel
 Jeremy & Samantha Weber
 Jan 6 Zachary Townsend
 Jan 7 Karla & Russell Davidson
 Jan 9 JoAnn Krueger
 Jan 10 Anita Voss
 Melissa & Neil Gilbert
 Neil Gilbert
 Jan 11 Randy Padfield
 Myndi Kampa
 Jan 13 Lance Hawkins
 Monte McNickle
 Jan 14 Jay & Linda Johnson
 Jan 15 Alissa Wells
 Jan 16 Hunter Bahr
 Marjorie Overacker
 Jan 18 Cheryl Graf
 Jan 19 Tim Graf
 Jan 20 David Nilsson
 Jan 21 Taryn Thompson
 Jan 24 Michelle Padfield
 Jan 26 Doris Zoellner
 Justin & Amber Fischbach
 Jan 27 Kristie Hawkins
 Jan 28 Ruby Luce
 Justin Fischbach

Conde

Jan 3 Bruce Herman
 Jan 5 Tony & Marcene Bruckner
 Jan 8 Darrel Haskell
 Jan 10 Donna Hearnen
 Jan 11 Norman Smith
 Jan 27 Darrel & Joyce Haskell
 Jan 30 Alice Hanson
 Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon

If your birthday or anniversary is missing please let the office know so we can get our records updated. Thank you.

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



"Millions of fish begging to be caught,
and we only brought two worms."

Groton UMW Jan Meeting

January 15th at 2 pm with a program on "Ready to See" by Jolene Townsend. Hostesses are Kay Brandt and Marjory Townsend.

Executive Meeting at 1 pm to plan UMW Sunday and activities/goals.

Upcoming Events are UMW Sunday on March 9, and Ash Wednesday on March 5.

Service Pins were handed out in December to Jan Raap and Matt Richards. Yvonne Lange received Charlotte Lange's Jewel of a Woman award.



"Help Me Be"

Lord, help me be your heart today,
providing hope for those who stray.
Lord, help me be your love today,
displaying grace in every way.
Lord, help me be your Word today,
proclaiming good when all is gray.

—MaryAnn Sundby



Groton UMC

Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marjory Townsend	298-5221
Ann Rix	397-8478
Darlys Kampa	395-6996
DeLoris Knoll	397-2681
Gloria Pharis	397-2375

*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.

Human Relations Day - Jan 19

Because of a Human Relations Day grant, United Methodists of all ages travel to Washington, D.C., where about 30 seminars on national and international affairs per year take place at the United Methodist building across from the U.S. Capitol.

The high-impact seminars date back more than half a century with luminaries such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Hubert Humphrey. The sessions empower and equip participants to put their faith together with action steps to change their world.

VIGILANT VOICES SPEAK OUT.

After each group chooses a topic — poverty and homelessness, human trafficking, immigration, environmental justice — seminar designer Susan Burton tailors a unique learning experience.

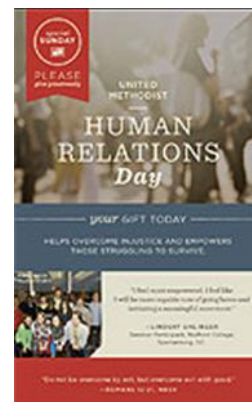
"The program," she said, "offers us

the opportunity to increase our knowledge of ourselves and our faith, increase our knowledge of injustices impacting our brothers and sisters in our own communities and throughout the world, and identify new ways to use our voices — staying awake and keeping watch."

DONATE TODAY. YOUR GIFT MATTERS.

Your donation empowers those struggling to survive and equips change agents. The United Methodist Human Relations Day offering provides Lindsay and countless others with the resources to transform the world. Thank you for your generous gift.

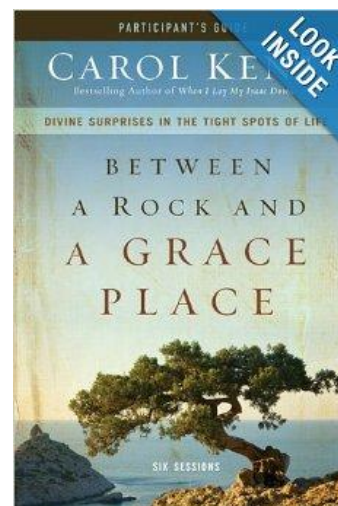
Please give generously on Human Relations Day.



Baptism Blessings to
Wyatt Fischbach

Groton 10 AM Bible Study

January 14 we are starting a new 6 week study "Between a Rock and a Grace Place" by Carol Kent. Video based study of facing impassable obstacles of life and discovering the last thing you ever expected - the sweet spot of grace. Carol teaches the liberating truth that when we are caught between a rock and a hard place, we are given a choice: Will we place ourselves in a posture of humility and complete dependence on God, or will we just "try harder" and stumble over what could be a transforming encounter with grace? If you are new to the study, please let Kay know at 397-8389 so a book may be ordered.



Groton United Methodist Church Endowment Fund

Recognizing that it is vital to its continued growth and security, the Groton UMC has established a permanent Endowment Program, a non-profit corporation, created to receive permanent gifts to ensure the future of the Groton UMC and its ministry.

Its basic purpose is to provide members and friends opportunities to make charitable gifts to the Groton UMC that will become a permanent endowment of financial support and a living memorial. The Endowment Program is intended for purposes that are *not* a part of the church's established programs, which are funded through the annual operating budget of the church and the regular giving of its members.

The principal of the gift is invested and the interest from that principal may accumulate or be used to provide funds for ministries beyond the annual budget of the church.

You can become an integral part of Groton's continuing church history and ministry of this congregation by helping us establish a living endowment. This

endowment starts with your gift of any size; you can make additional contributions throughout your life as the Lord blesses you and in death through your estate.

To the full extent of the law, your contributions to the Groton UMC Endowment Program are tax deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.

In What Ways Can I give?

- Memorials
- Cash Gifts
- Giving Appreciated Securities
- Giving through your Will
- Giving Real Estate
- Giving Personal Property
- Giving through Life Insurance, Annuities, or Charitable Trusts
- Giving through Retirement Plans
- Giving Government Bonds
- Century Club Membership (\$100.00 each year for 5 years)

For more information, please contact the minister or an endowment board member.




HOLY HOTLINES

WORRY HOTLINE.....	1 PETER 5:7
FEAR HOTLINE.....	ISAIAH 41:10
TEMPTATION HOTLINE.....	1 CORINTHIANS 10:13
DOUBT HOTLINE.....	ROMANS 10:17
SICKNESS HOTLINE.....	ISAIAH 53:5
DEPRESSION HOTLINE.....	PSALM 34:18
LONELINESS HOTLINE.....	DEUTERONOMY 31:8

LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

iBelieve.com



Winter Connection

Dakotas United Methodist Youth


One Event - Four Unique Locations - choose what works best for your group

Brookings, South Dakota
First United Methodist Church
 Registration: Friday, Jan 24, 7-8pm (CST)
 Concludes: Saturday, Jan 25, 5pm (CST)
 Cost: \$40 (includes 2 meals and activity)
 Ages: youth grades 6-12
 Activity: Children's Museum and mission projects.
 Lodging: Church floor
We must have 1 adult for every 5 youth to go to the museum.

Bismarck, North Dakota
McCabe United Methodist Church
 Registration: Friday, Jan 24, 7-8pm (CST)
 Concludes: Saturday, Jan 25, 3pm (CST)
 Cost: \$25 (includes 2 meals and activity)
 Ages: youth grades 6-12
 Activity: bowling
 Lodging: Church floor
 limited showers

Rapid City, South Dakota
Storm Mountain Center UM Camp
 Registration: Friday, Jan 24, 7-8pm (MST)
 Concludes: Saturday Jan 25, 5pm (MST)
 Cost: \$55 youth; \$30 adults
 (includes 2 meals, lodging and activity)
 Ages: youth grades 6-12
 Activity: Wa Tiki Indoor Water Park
 Lodging: Storm Mountain Center facilities, bring your own bedding/towels

Fargo, North Dakota
Fargo Faith United Methodist Church
 Registration: Friday, Jan 24, 7-8pm (CST)
 Concludes: Saturday, Jan 25, 2pm (CST)
 Cost: \$25 (includes 2 meals and activity)
 Ages: youth grades 6-12
 Activity: Sledding at the Dike
 Lodging: Church floor
Optional Mission opportunity
 Friday, 4-6:30pm helping with feeding ministry at Faith UMC



Free T-shirt at all locations!

@ Each Location : G.L.O.W. Worship, Games, and more
 Check www.dakyouth.com or www.dakcamps.org for specific details for each site (address, tentative schedule and more)
YOUTHworkers register your group online @ www.dakyouth.com
Registration Deadline is January 18, 2014

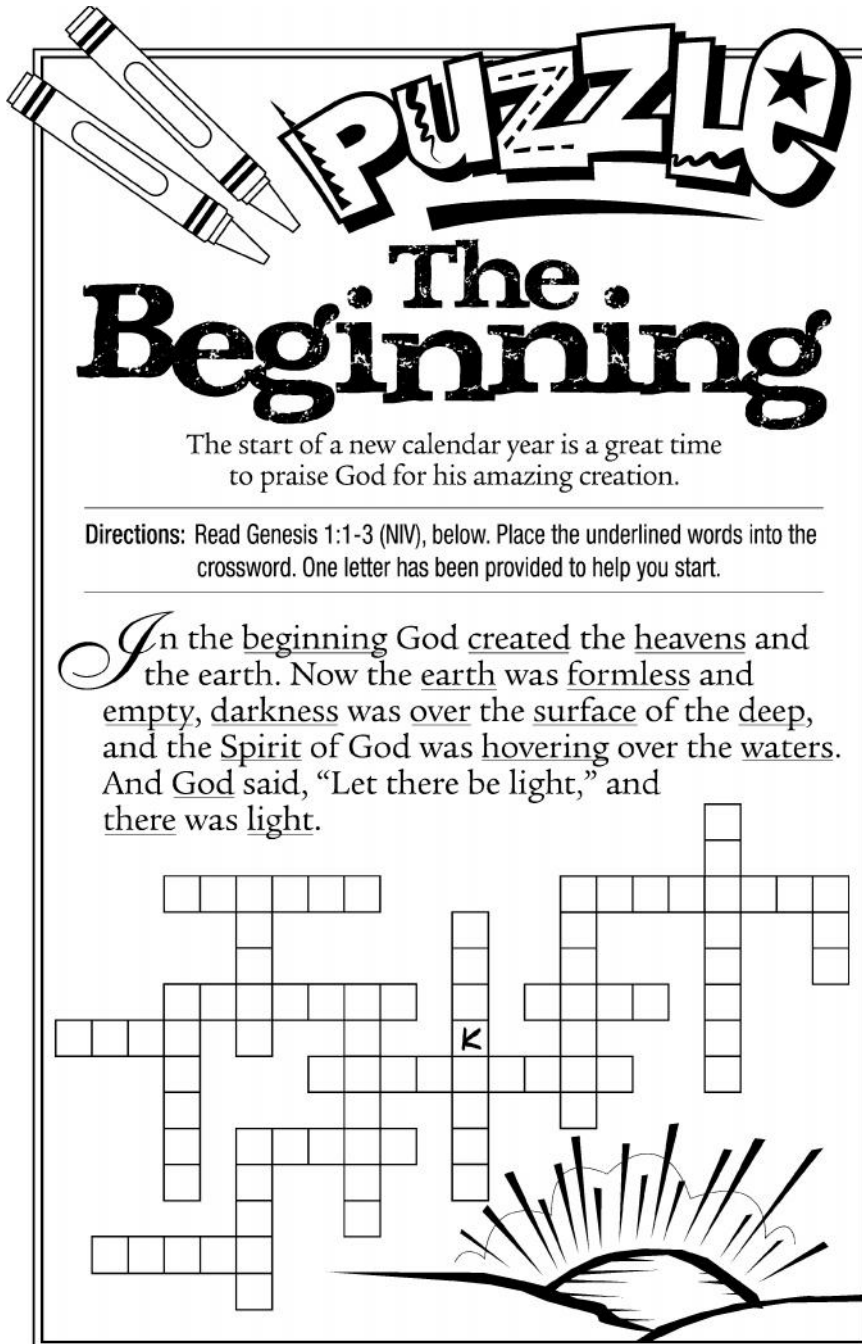
January 24-25, 2014

Waiting to blossom

A 1979 song called "The Rose" (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn't visible.

In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth "with the sun's love" into springtime flowers.

When you're in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God's love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.



Sharing Jesus

The true story is told of two men sitting together on a train. When one shared with the other, a committed Christian, that he was heading home to donate a kidney to his father, the Christian listened intently. Sensing his seatmate's genuine interest, the speaker confided that he didn't know his life's purpose.

Sensing an openness in his new friend, the Christian told him about Jesus and the purpose Jesus had given to his life. The Christian man said later that he'd never met someone so appreciative of hearing the Good News.

A key Epiphany theme is sharing the news of Jesus. "Ordinary" Christians can do that best by listening for an opening when visiting with someone and sharing part of their faith story in relation to something the other has said. There's no need to accost strangers on street corners. Just be yourself, let the Holy Spirit guide you and invite your listener to follow Jesus, too.

The red-faced usher

When an elderly woman asked a church usher to seat her close to the pulpit, he tried to talk her out of it. "If you sit up front, you won't be able to sleep," he said.

The woman looked the usher square in the face and asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No, I don't," he responded.

"Well," she said firmly, "I'm the preacher's mother."

Fully embarrassed, the usher asked, "Do you know who I am?"

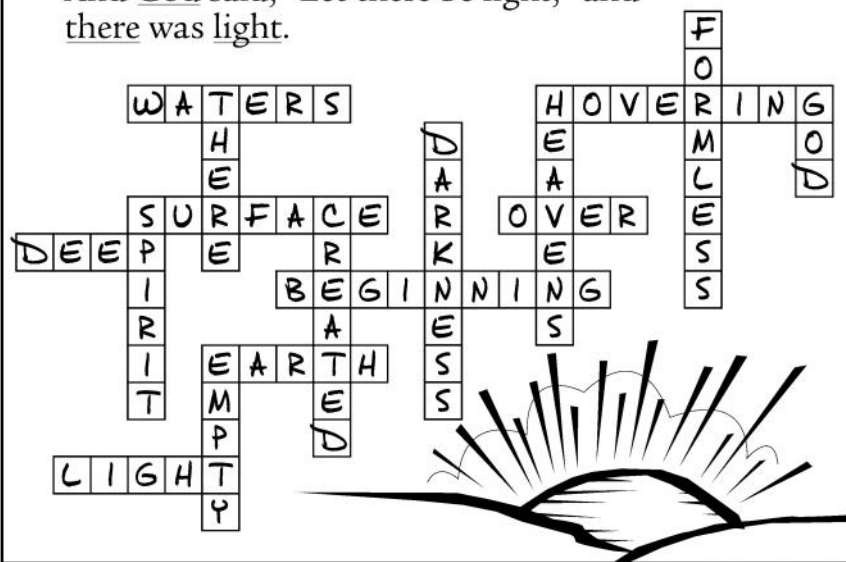
"No," she answered.

"Good!" whispered the fellow. "Sit anywhere you want."





In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.



Groton Stewardship Report Dec 2013

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,911

Needed Wkly for Church Mission
\$2,088

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday
104

Total Building Fund Donations
\$1225

Groton Mission Statement

"Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

Groton Feb Family Committee

Carol & Pat Knecht, Spencer & Macy

Brenda & Tony Madsen, Mitchell & Mason

Lynette & Leroy Severson

Kent Webb, Hannah & Turner

Denise Brown

Tim Olson

John Padfield

Pernell & Noella Graf, Brady

Kevin Pharis

Yvonne Lorenz

Tim & Malerie Yeaton

Jane & Marc Johnson

Melissa & Neil Gilbert

Josh & Merrie Atherton

Francine & Marc Sippel,

Camille

Kelli & Lars Hanson, Kari

FUNERAL GROUP A

Honorary Members

- Audrey Padfield
- Bob Johnson
- Audrey Thurston
- Clare Brotherton
- Bob Wehde

Extra Responsibilities

- Feb 2 change altar cloths to white for communion
- Feb 9 change altar cloths to green
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
 - Potluck 2nd Sunday
 - Remind Marc & Jane Johnson to change banners



February 2014

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

January 2014						
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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	



Your business tag line here.

Our Church Happenings

- Jan 5 Groton No Sunday School
- Jan 12 Groton De-Decorating at 9:30 am
- Jan 12 Groton Potluck following Worship
- Jan 14 Groton Tuesday 10 AM Bible Study Resumes
- Jan 15 Groton UMW at 2 pm with Exec Mtg at 1 pm
- Jan 15 Groton Ad Council 8 pm
- Jan 19 Human Relations Sunday