

March 2014

United Methodist Messenger



Groton/Conde Parishes

Pastor Office Hours

Monday 9 am - 4 pm

Tuesday 9 am - 4 pm

Wednesday 9 am - 3 pm
followed by evening
meetings

Thursday will be out
spent on visitation and a
time of sermon prep

Friday and Sat - Off

Emergencies - Any time



Dear Friends in Groton and Conde

The liturgical season of Lent is upon us and many of us wonder what this season is about? Well I have prepared a brief overview for you detailing the earliest practices of the Christian church throughout the season of Lent. It isn't supposed to be what it has become. It's not just about giving something up and hoping and praying that by some miracle you'll be a transformed miracle after the forty days of Lent.

In mainline churches, Lent has morphed into just a season of practicing self-denial and introspection as a means of spiritual discipline. And typically after the 40 days are over, so are those practices that brought you closer to God. However it hasn't always been this way. The season of Lent is steeped in its' tradition as a season in which new converts were welcomed into the community of believers, with Baptisms held on the day of Easter.

Throughout the 40 days the catechumen (those to be received into the fellowship of believers) would make a covenant to fast and pray daily and immerse themselves in the reading of scripture and the Didache (The teachings of the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ). These 40 days reflected the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness prior to his ministry (Matt 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13). After going through such an intense journey, one could imagine how wonderful it was to celebrate baptism as well as breaking their fast with the Lord's Supper.

Then as the day of baptism grew closer for the catechumen, the meaning and emotion found in the passion story intensified as they moved through Holy Week. It is unfortunate for us as Christians living today that Holy Week has lost some of its' meaning. However there are those who are working for renewal and a revival of that type of deep faith experience. Not out of a sense of self-righteousness or to be labeled as holier than thou, but out of a genuine and heartfelt desire to have a closer relationship with Jesus who is the Christ. For me, the restoration of that relationship is the beauty found in the passion story, or Holy Week.

In Groton and Conde, we have study groups reading "The Way" by Rev. Adam Hamilton. And each week a topic of that study will be addressed in Sunday's sermon. May you find this season of Lent enlightening and may your faith be enriched by the Holy Spirit along the way.

I look forward to seeing you in church,
Pastor Matt

World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 7, at 9 am all are welcome to gather for World Day of Prayer at the Groton UMC. The program is entitled "Streams in the Desert" written in Egypt. Following the program rolls, muffins, juice, and coffee will be served for a time of fellowship.



Thank You

In Memory of Irene Breitkreutz the family has purchased flower stands. Thank you very much for this addition to our sanctuary.



Blessings Wedding Shower

Sunday, April 6, at 10 am during coffee hour there will be a Blessings Wedding Shower to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Zachary Townsend and Stephanie Jung. They are planning a June 13 wedding and are registered at Target.



Blessings Wedding Shower

Sunday, March 2, at 10 am during coffee hour there will be a Blessings Wedding Shower to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Desiree Morehouse and Corey Foltz. They are planning an April 5th wedding.



Groton Lenten Season Starts

The family committees will be in charge of serving the Lenten Supper each week from 5:30 - 6:15. The Lenten Service will follow in the sanctuary at 6:15 for Ash Weds and the rest of the Lenten Services will take place in the fellowship hall.

March 5 - Jan Committee
 March 12 - Feb Committee
 March 19 - March Committee
 March 26 - April Committee
 April 2 - May Committee
 April 9 - June Committee

The 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 a free-will offering which should be turned over to Anita Lowary or Kay Brandt. It will help defray any costs of the meal. Groceries may be charged or receipts given to Kay for reimbursement.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Good Friday service is a community service held at noon at CM&A..

Sunrise Service at 7:30 am and the regular service is at 11 am.



ATTENTION: Groton..
 An informational meeting intertwined with worship. The how, when & why of membership and committee responsibilities. Why--to help us become an all encompassing church.
Sunday, March 30, 11am
Please try to attend!

Groton Church Camping Information

Early Bird Deadline is April 30th. Registrations must be completed on-line or postmarked by April 30th. After April 30 the Full Price will show in the registration process online. Register Online at www.dakcamps.org

A new payment system is in place this year with the Dakotas UMC Camping Program. All members and regular attendees of the Groton UMC will be able to input our church code during the registration process and the 75% we are paying will automatically be deducted from the camper's fees and billed to the church.

Because this newsletter is publicized online I will not be putting our church code in here. Please call Kay Brandt, Pastor Matt, Kim Weber, or Carna Pray for this code. I will leave a card with the code taped to the office monitor as well.

Watch the bulletin for updates and if we have volunteers to take the younger children and what dates. Sign up today!



Our Church Celebrations

Groton

Mar 3 Tim Yeaton
Tristan Kampa
Mar 4 Christina Zoellner
Kale Pharis
Kay Brandt
Mar 5 Chance Strom
Mar 7 Brian Bahr
Dale Strom
Richard & JoAnn Krueger
Mar 9 Betty Strom
Mar 14 Mendy Jones
Sydney Erickson
Mar 15 Samantha Weber
Mar 22 Don Walter
Brett Grenier
Jennifer & Brett Grenier
Mar 24 Emerlee Jones
Mar 25 Laurel McNickle
Murdock McNickle
Mar 26 Clare Davidson
Clayton Kurtz

Justin Morehouse

Mark Thompson

Mar 27 Dwight Strom

Michelle Walter

Mar 28 Bennett Suther

Mar 29 Sharon Wheeting

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 Samantha Menzia

Mar 31 Renee Hanlon



Anniversaries and Birthdays

Quite a story

During Sunday dinner, a mother asked her son what he'd learned in Sunday school that day.

"Well," he said, "our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge, and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, is that *really* what your teacher said?" the boy's mother asked.

"Well, no," he admitted. "But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"



Moses Parts the Red Sea

Stop, look and listen

Lent, the season of the church year that's associated with repentance, begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year). While some people deny themselves by giving up something for Lent, others prepare for Easter through special Bible studies or devotions.

Christians observe Lent for these reasons:

- It causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile," as well as "Stop doing wrong."
- It tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ offering healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.
- It tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words aren't only important for our safety in travel; they're also helpful for our journey through the 40 days of Lent.

Conde Bible Study

Lenten Study will begin March 5 after the Ash Wednesday service and will then continue weekly on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm.

The study will be "The Way" by Adam Hamilton. We will travel with Adam Hamilton as he retraces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



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

*If you are not on this list or the email prayer chain, 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.

Conde UMW Meeting

The March 19 UMW Meeting is at 10 am. The Program Focus is Call to Prayer & Self-Denial "Sound Foundations: Sound Missions" with Leader Patty Knoll. Hostess will be Pat Siefken.

Groton UMW Meeting

The March 19 UMW Meeting is at 1:30 pm with a "Shepherdess Visit" Hostesses will be Pat Dahlquist & Jan Raap.

Back in Church

A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. So it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday."

God brings us together as the Body of Christ to share our lives. We celebrate together in joyous times - Baptisms and Weddings. We grieve together at funerals. We support and care for each other during times of hardship or illness. And together we gather for worship to hear the Word of God and to strengthen our faith in Him.



March 9

One Great Hour of Sharing

your GIFT GIVES LIFE

Worshippers arriving June 2, 2013, at First United Methodist Church in Moore, Okla., found the church lacked electricity. They didn't need it. The Son powered that Sunday morning service. For almost two weeks, the church had charged into the chaos caused by a tornado May 20. Two dozen people died. Thousands of homes were gone. When another round of deadly tornadoes struck May 31, church members kept giving and serving even without electricity and water.

EQUIPPED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

The senior pastor, the Rev. Tish Malloy, threw open the doors of the church and prepared to give, proclaiming, "We have life!" Children scurried to select activity kits. Additional folding chairs appeared as the crowd grew. Passing the peace of Christ now held extra meaning.

With your generous gift, First Church in Moore, Okla., can continue as a long-

term UMCOR recovery center.

YOUR GIFT MATTERS TO SURVIVORS OF DISASTER.

Your donation to the One Great Hour of Sharing enables UMCOR to serve children, families and communities when disaster strikes. Thank you for giving generously today.

One Great Hour of Sharing

calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. The offering provides administrative support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief as it responds to disaster survivors and people in need around the world.

United Methodists relate to **One Great Hour of Sharing** by supporting UMCOR's ongoing work, responding in times of disaster and telling the story of UMCOR's ministry.

Please give generously on One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday.



Unconditional love

No matter what sin we have committed, no matter how terrible it may be, God loves us.

—Billy Graham

Groton Missions Committee

The Missions Committee met and our next project will be holding a silent auction for theme baskets. If you wish to donate a basket to help us raise funds for the Ken's Easter Gift Certificates to help those in need at Easter, please bring your theme basket to the church on Ash Weds or the following Sunday, March 9 at the latest. Bidding starts when they arrive and will end at noon on April 6 when everyone may pay and pick up their baskets after church. Everyone join in the fun and BID!

After Easter we will be doing a mission project for our swimming pool. At times there are children outside looking in wishing they may swim and we would


like to give every child a chance to have fun this summer with your help. So, as you clean your children's closets this spring we would like nearly new bathing suits and trunks. Small drawstring bags or beach bags, Beach Towels, Sun Tan Lotion. And after Easter I will have the prices to make donations for a child to have a pass to swim for that day.

Last item on the agenda we had was a new missions chairperson for 2015. Carla Pasteur will be working on being the new chair. Thank you Carla!

Kay Brandt Missions Chair 2014



Local
Missions

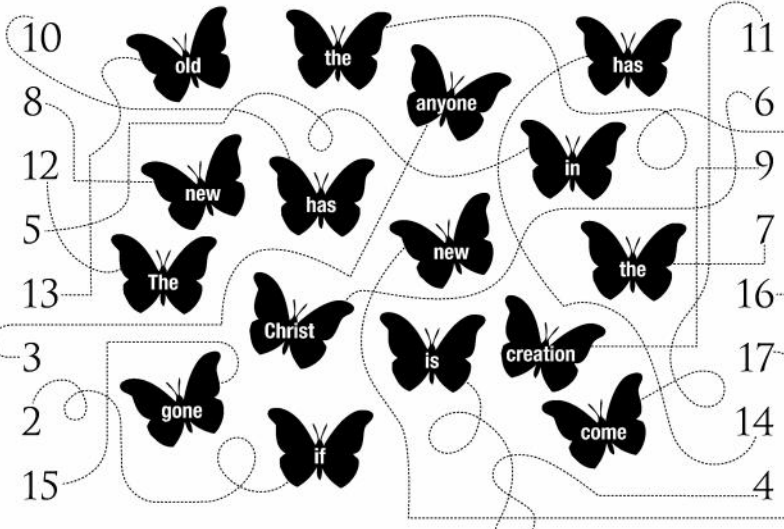


PUZZLE

A new creation

Just as spring brings beauty and renewal,
in Christ we, too, are made new.

Directions: Follow each flying butterfly to its correct number. Then write that word on the line with the corresponding number to read 2 Corinthians 5:17.



"Therefore, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
 _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
 _____, _____, _____, _____ is here!"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

Butterfly Pretzels

Celebrate being a new creation by making this fun spring snack.



What you need:

- 45 miniature twist pretzels (to make 20 butterflies)
- Cookie sheet covered with parchment paper
- Light cocoa and multi-colored Candy Melts (available at craft stores)
- Disposable decorating bags
- M&M's, Skittles, sprinkles, cinnamon drops, etc.

What you do:

1. Break five pretzels into pieces for antennae.
2. On cookie sheet, arrange pairs of whole pretzels as shown.
3. Melt Candy Melts in microwave, separating colors into different bags.
4. Pipe melted brown candy down the center to hold pretzels together, making a head and body. Press on two pretzel pieces for antennae.
5. Pipe other melted candy into the pretzel holes.
6. Add M&M's and other decorations into melted candy on the wings. Let cool. Enjoy!



Church Events List Cont from Back Page

Mar 23	Conde World Hunger Sunday	Apr 6	Groton Missions Basket Auction Ends at noon.
Mar 26	Groton Lenten Supper 5:30-6:15 with Apr Committee Serving	Apr 7	PPR in Conde 7:30
Mar 26	Groton Lenten Service 6:15 pm in fellowship hall	Apr 9	Groton Lenten Supper 5:30-6:15 with June Committee Serving
Mar 27	Conde Lenten Study 6:30 pm	Apr 9	Groton Lenten Service 6:15 pm in fellowship hall
Mar 30	Groton Information Mtg during worship 11 am	Apr 10	Conde Lenten Study 6:30 pm
Mar 30	One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering	Apr 13	Groton Sunday School Singing in Church for Palm Sunday
Mar 30	Newsletter Items Due	Apr 17	Groton Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm
Apr 2	Groton Lenten Supper 5:30-6:15 with May Committee Serving	Apr 18	Groton Good Friday Service at Noon at CM&A Church
Apr 2	Groton Lenten Service 6:15 pm in fellowship hall	Apr 18	Conde Good Friday Service 6 pm
Apr 3	Conde Lenten Study 6:30 pm	Apr 20	Groton Sunrise Service at 7:30 am and regular service at 11 am
Apr 6	Groton Blessings Wedding Shower for Townsend during Coffee Hour	Apr 20	Conde Service at 9 am

Groton Stewardship Report Feb 2014

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,667
Needed Wkly for Church Mission
\$2,125
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday
72
Total Building Fund Donations
\$974

Groton April Family Committee

Jeanne Wanous

Ida Hannon

Connie & Dave Nilsson

Logan & Chanda Nilsson

Kayla & Adam Suther

Adrienne & Tigh Fliehs

Doug Bahr

Dion & Sam Bahr

William Zoellner

Steve & Becky Diegel

Scott & Myndi Kampa

Janice Raap

Anita Lowary

Brian & Andrea Bahr

John & Meri Erickson

Marjae & Dan Schinkel, Danielle

Honorary Members

- Emery Sippel
- Bert Raap
- Reta Washnok

April Extra Responsibilities

- Potluck 2nd Sunday - Notify Kay in Church Office of Monthly Plans to publish in bulletin
- April 6 - white altar cloths for communion
- April 13 - purple altar cloths for Palm Sunday
- April 17 - Maundy Thursday Purple altar cloths
- April 18 - Good Friday no color
- April 20 - white altar cloths for Easter Sunday
- April 27 - white altar cloths
- Remind Anita & John Lowary to change banners



Groton Mission Statement
"Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

April 2014

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 2 Groton Memorial Committee Mtg 10 am
- Mar 2 Groton Blessings Wedding Shower for Morehouse during Coffee Hour
- Mar 4 Conde Fat Tuesday Pancake Meal from 5 - 7 pm
- Mar 4 Conde Ad Council 7 pm
- Mar 5 Conde Ash Wednesday Service at 10:30 am Lenten Study Following
- Mar 5 Groton Missions Basket Auction Begins in fellowship hall
- Mar 5 Groton Lenten Supper 5:30-6:15 with Jan Committee Serving
- Mar 5 Groton Ash Weds Service 6:15 pm in sanctuary
- Mar 7 World Day of Prayer at Groton UMC 9 am lunch following
- Mar 9 UMW Sunday in Groton and Conde
- Mar 9 Groton NO Potluck this month
- Mar 9 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Mar 12 Groton Lenten Supper 5:30-6:15 with Feb Committee Serving
- Mar 12 Groton Lenten Service 6:15 pm in fellowship hall
- Mar 13 Conde Lenten Study 6:30 pm
- Mar 16 No Groton Sunday School
- Mar 19 Conde UMW at 10 am
- Mar 19 Groton UMW at 1:30 pm
- Mar 19 Groton Lenten Supper 5:30-6:15 with Mar Committee Serving
- Mar 19 Groton Lenten Service 6:15 pm in fellowship hall
- Mar 19 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Mar 20 Conde Lenten Study 6:30 pm

See Page 8 for the list to be continued through Easter or Visit the Online Calendar

March 2014						
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					

