

November 2014

Groton/Conde Parish



WWW.GROTONUMC.ORG

United Methodist Messenger

Dear Friends

Stress, it is a part of all of our lives, and there is no way around it. But we do pass through it. How do you handle stress? Often it is the case that we can get so focused on our own stuff and everything that we are dealing with that we fail to see the other needs around us, and we miss things completely. Or if it's not the needs of others around us, we may forget that we are blessed? We focus so much on the stress, pain, or we get so caught up in the moment we forget all the ways God is working in our lives. We forget to count our blessings.

In many ways we as a parish, meaning the churches of Groton and Conde, bless each other. God is at work in both churches and we see that evidence through our ministries and through our relationship with each other. We are really blessed to be connected as a yoked parish.

I remember when I was young (4th-6th grade) and playing with friends at the house or in the yard, my mom saying play nice! This usually meant that she was working on a task or that she would be leaving to go to work or shopping, something along those lines. It was as though she was trying to establish simple guidelines so that we would remember to respect each other while she was gone; her way of reminding us to be mindful of each other because she wasn't there and couldn't supervise. If we were to put her words "play nice" into a God context we might say that God

tells us to play nice with each other and that means to bless one another.

We need to remember that we are a blessing to each other. I just gave a lesson in Confirmation on the Beatitudes. The scripture reference is Matthew 5:1-12, we read these words, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Despite our stresses and frustrations we need to remember that we are called "blessed." Have you counted your blessings? What are the collective blessings that we share in together as a yoked parish? Both Groton and Conde UM Churches can share with and strengthen each other. May it be so, according to the Grace given to us by God.

I look forward to seeing you in church,

Pastor Matt



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



Angel Tree

Plans are underway to enrich the lives of many local children with

gifts for Christmas. Plans are to have the tree up the Sunday before Thanksgiving so you can have a card when you go shopping after Thanksgiving. Please join us as we enrich the lives of children this Christmas. Monetary donations may be marked and placed in the offering plate as well. We usually have several gifts that need to be purchased at the last minute and this helps us out. Thank you all.

All gifts must be returned by noon December 21st for delivery that afternoon. Missions Committee



"Even if friends did always call you a saint, I still have to look it up."

Men's Fall Dinner

Groton United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 9, 2014

11 am to 1:30 pm

Roast Beef Dinner

Adults: \$8 Children 5-12: \$5

Children 4 and under: Free

Groton UMW - October

Vice-president Gloria Pharis opened the monthly UMW meeting with eight members present. The Purpose was recited. Marge Overacker gave devotions by reciting a poem entitled "Simply Autumn" by William Carruth which reminds us of the beauty of the season given to us by God.

Jeanne Wanous was acting secretary and read the Sept. minutes which were approved and also presented the financial report. Jeanne also reported the following kitchen items have been added: two RADA 3-piece knife sets, one steam table pan, and one plastic mixing tub. No bills were presented.

Under old business Gloria opened discussion about reviving the Secret Angel Program. A list of potential recipients was started in anticipation of starting the program in the near future.

New business included a discussion on our annual local charitable giving. Jeanne shared a history of local

giving for the past five years and asked members to be ready to make recommendations at the November meeting. Other new business included discussion on preparing for the annual Christmas goodies distribution.

Jeanne Wanous gave a World Thank Offering program which included information on how the Sierra Leone United Methodist Women are responding to the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone. Jeanne shared this information is available on an international UMW Facebook page. If interested you need to request to be a friend on the site. At the end of the program all the ladies donated what they had been collecting all year and a closing prayer was given by Jeanne.

The day concluded with a delicious dessert served by Gloria Pharis. The next meeting is Nov. 19 at 1:30 the program is by Kay Brandt and hostess is Marlys Rodman.



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
Audrey Thurston	397-8493

*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.

Groton UMW

November 19th at 1:30 pm

'Vintage Christmas Event'

By Kay Brandt

Hostess Marlys Rodman

Executive Meeting at 3 pm after lunch to plan Christmas luncheon, Finalize 2015 date book, Finalize 2015 budget, and summarize 2014.

*Plan to make Christmas Treats for our Gift Boxes Dec 10th.
Bring items individually wrapped for our outreach mission project.*

Code MISSION STATEMENT

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

Conde UMW

Nov 19 at 10 am

Program Focus: Thanksgiving & World Thank Offering

Leader Jane Worlie

Hostess Cindy Smith

Our Church Celebrations

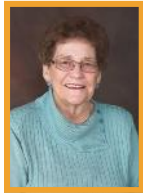
Groton

Nov 2 Andrea Snoozy-Bahr
Nov 3 John & Gayleen Voss
Nov 7 Marva Gellhaus
Susan Odland
Nov 11 Doug Sippel
Nov 15 Fred & Elaine Wolken
Nov 17 Delaney Atherton
Nov 18 Luverne Strom
Nov 19 Crystal Strom
Garrett Hetimann
Michael Krueger
Nov 21 Larry & Sharon Wheeting
Nov 23 Dwight & Eugenia Strom
Francine Sippel
Nov 24 Ian & Karen Rose
Ian Rose

Nov 25 Emery Sippel
Kari Hanson
Nov 29 Audrey Thurston
Cheri Strom
Nov 30 Breslyn Hinman
Tanner Johnson

Conde

Nov 2 Ashley Patterson
Nov 8 Dorothy Sanderson
Nov 12 Linda Pitts
Nov 16 Devon Smith
Nov 19 Mona Baldrige
Nov 24 Floyd Smith
Nov 25 Bud Bruckner
Betty Geist
Nov 28 Eric Menzia
Nov 30 Dani Smith



*90th Birthday
Celebration for
Audrey Thurston
Sat, Nov 8th, 2-4 pm*

80th Birthday
Celebration for
Darlys Kampa
Sunday December 7th
During Coffee Hour



Persevering Faith

In the movie *Monumental*, Kirk Cameron describes what led the Pilgrims to leave England and Holland for America — as well as the conditions they faced along the way. While on the cramped, storm-tossed Mayflower, they signed the Mayflower Compact, attesting that they came “for the glory of God and advancements of the Christian faith.”

Within months in the new land, 47 of the original 121 Pilgrims had died. Only six or seven could

walk and care for the others, and only four adult women were still alive for the first Thanksgiving. But the Pilgrims persevered, thanks to their faith in God and help from Native Americans.

William Bradford, governor of Plymouth Colony for 30 years, experienced hardship firsthand; his wife was one of the first to die during the journey. Yet Bradford’s tomb bears the bold message that “Jehovah is our help.”

Jr UMYF Food Drive



*O give thanks
unto the LORD;
for he is good.*

PSALM 136:1, KJV

United Methodist Student Day - November 30

Together, we educate students so they can make a difference in the world.

United Methodist Student Day is November 30, 2014 Across the country, the people of the United Methodist Church are serving the people God loves in Jesus' name. We're doing it at home, but so often we'd like to do more.

We want to serve those in other places who are suffering.

We want to offer spiritual words of hope and life.

And we want to be well-equipped to do both!

But the reality for most of us is that our responsibilities—home, family, work—don't allow us to engage with every need we'd like to meet.

Right now there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously you are support these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together.

Nurturing Christian Leaders Like Ricky Blue

The son of two addicted parents, Ricky Blue had grown up without much hope for a future. But

when Ricky's church family—Louisiana's Luling UMC—raised \$4000 for Ricky to begin college, hope was born. Then, the Gift of Hope Scholarship, made possible only by your generous giving to United Methodist Student Day, allowed Ricky to continue. Today Ricky is a certified candidate for ministry in the Illinois-Great Rivers Annual Conference.

What no one person can do, we're doing together.

Together We're Raising Up Gifted Christian Leaders

When you support United Methodist Student Day, you make it possible for more students like Ricky to serve the world God loves. So although you can't meet every need you'd like to, your giving allows members of Christ's body, people like Ricky, to do it in Jesus' name.

Zack Conover, a UMC student at Judson University, sums up the reason we give:

"Without the support of the United Methodist Student Day low-interest loan, I would not have the chance to attend college. And, to be honest, I don't even want to know the kind of person I would be without my education."

Will you give to United Methodist Student Day?



Makin' a List

In Daniel Defoe's classic *Robinson Crusoe*, the shipwrecked protagonist begins keeping a tally of his life. He lists his problems as well as a corresponding inventory of things for which to give thanks.

Crusoe's pros and cons surprise him. For every evil, a good is present to even it out. For example, the castaway doesn't have any clothes — but the weather's so warm he doesn't need any. He lost all his provisions at sea — but has access to water and fresh fruit.

Under the "evil" category, Crusoe writes: "I

am singled out and separated, as it were, from all the world to be miserable." Yet the corresponding "good" puts things into perspective: "But I am singled out too from all the ship's crew to be spared from death; and he that miraculously saved me from death can deliver me from this condition."


When you're tempted to hold a pity party, step back and thank God, your Rescuer, for all the blessings he provides.

Sunday School Schedule


- Nov 2 Sunday School
- Nov 9 Sunday School - Christmas Parts Handed Out
- Nov 16 Sunday School
- Nov 23 Sunday School
- Nov 30 Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
- Dec 7 Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
- Dec 14 Sunday School - Christmas Program During Church with Potluck Following
- Dec 21 Sunday School Craft Day
- Dec 28 No Sunday School
- Jan 4 No Sunday School
- Jan 11 Sunday School

Jr UMYF Schedule


- Nov 12 6:30 pm
- Nov 26 6:30 pm Fun Night (games and fun)
- Dec 10 6 pm POTLUCK for all families and then Caroling at Rosewood and Golden Living Center. With Sr UMYF as well as any church members
- Dec 24 No Jr UMYF
- Jan 7 6:30 pm



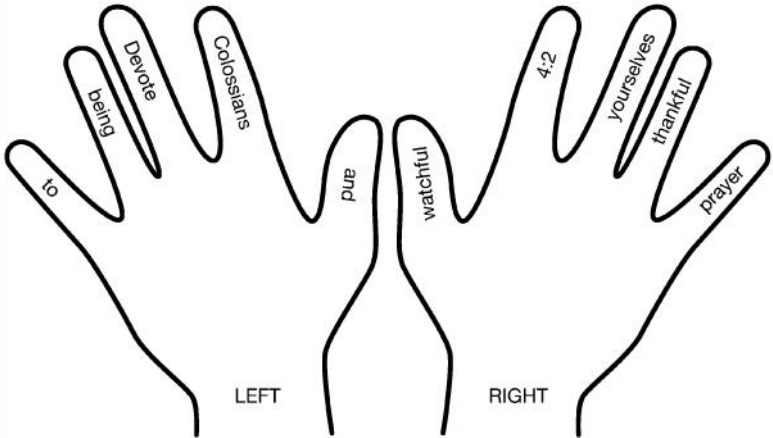
Praying hands



One way to show our thankfulness is to bow our heads, fold our hands and pray to God.



Directions: Complete Colossians 4:2 (NIV) by selecting one word on the left hand, then one on the right and so on. Go back and forth, using the word blanks as a guide.



LEFT RIGHT

W _____ , _____

_____ , _____

_____ : _____ NIV

Answer: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
Colossians 4:2, NIV



Groton December Family Committee

Michelle & Chuck Padfield

Joey & Sabrina Padfield

Joyce & Allen Walter

Randy & Rebecca Padfield

Rick & Sarah Hofer

Darlys Kampa

Jane & Marc Johnson

JoAnn & Richard Krueger

Crystal Strom

Pat Dahlquist

Gloria & Harry Pharis

Chris & Sherwin Nyberg

Honorary Members

- Ruby Luce
- Richard Voss
- Jean Walter
- Twila Ruden

December 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			

- Marjory Townsend
- Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt

December Extra Responsibilities

- Help decorate church with November committee
- Check and make sure Christmas Eve candles are okay for the service early in the month in case new ones have to be ordered
- Arrange candles for the Christmas Eve service to be handed out
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Potluck 2nd Sunday
- 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to Kay Brandt
- Remind Richard & JoAnn Krueger from worship committee to change banners, altar cloths, and fill candles

Groton Stewardship Report Oct 2014

Average
Wkly Giving
\$1,516

Needed Wkly for
Church Mission
\$2,125

Average Weekly
Attendance Sunday
59

Total Building Fund
Donations for Repairs
\$8865

Groton Mission

Statement

*"Enriching Spiritual
lives through Christ."*



Advent starts November 30th. Watch for information on helping decorate our church to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.



November 2

November 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

Nov 2 All Saints Sunday

Nov 2 Daylight Saving Time Ends

Nov 8 Groton 90th Birthday Celebration for Audrey Thurston 2-4 pm

Nov 9 Groton Men's Fall Dinner 11:30 am - 1 pm

Nov 9 Sunday School Christmas Program Parts handed out

Nov 16 Groton Dec Family Committee meeting during coffee hour

Nov 18 Groton 10 AM Bible Study starting "Under Wraps"

Nov 19 Conde UMW 10 am

Nov 19 Groton UMW 1:30 pm

Nov 19 Ad Council 7 pm

Nov 30 UM Student Day Special Offering

Nov 30 1st Sunday of Advent

Dec 6 Lay Ministries Effective Evangelism Course 9 am Groton UMC

Dec 7 Groton 80th Birthday Celebration for Darlys Kampa during coffee hour

Dec 10 Groton Jr High UMYF Caroling with potluck

Dec 10 Groton UMW Christmas Noon Luncheon

Dec 11 PPR Mtg in Conde 7 pm

Dec 14 Groton Sunday School Christmas Program with Potluck

Dec 15 Charge Conference 7 pm in Groton

Dec 24 Groton Service 5 pm and Conde Service 7 pm