

United Methodist Messenger



Monday 9 am - 4 pm

Tuesday 9 am - 4 pm

Wednesday 9 am - 3 pm
followed by evening mtgs

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

Friday and Sat - Off

Emergencies - Any time

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are in the bleak mid winter; but the milder temps are a welcomed break from the bitter cold temperatures. Now, I don't know about you but this time of year always brings me down. The hustle and bustle of Christmas is over, the joy and love spent with family is still present but distant and celebrated through electronic means, the loss of face time. And I wonder if human beings feel this way when we are apart from loved ones, and we're created in God's image, how does God feel when we tend to wander and leave the God we love?

Does God mourn our leaving? Some might think that is a silly question to ponder, because God is always by our side right? God hems us in, front and back. Scripture tells us this. But scripture also tells us that our God is a jealous God and that there are to be no other gods before our God. So again we must consider the possibility that God longs for us to worship, praise and commune together as we glorify God. So if that is the case, imagine how God feels when we come home.

One of my favorite stories in scripture is the story of the prodigal son. Now if you look up the word prodigal in the dictionary or Google it you'll find that the word doesn't refer to leaving home and coming back. The word

prodigal refers to actions that are extravagant. In the story the prodigal son is living his life extravagantly and (foolishly) spending his inheritance on licentious living. He has left the love and security of home, family and faith community and pursued something else.

But instead of refusing to welcome his son home, the father in the story runs out to meet him when he sees him coming from far down the road and welcomes him back as an equal heir. This tells us two things, first that the father was deeply yearning for him and was looking out for his return. And secondly, the father had deep love for his son, so deep that

he was willing to split his wealth again. In so doing, the father exhibits prodigal love, extravagant love.

And so it is when our God sees us returning from far down the road. God meets us with extravagant compassion and mercy. May you, in your journey with God, experience God's extravagant grace through Jesus Christ and those called to be his disciples, the people of the church.

I look forward to seeing you in church,
Pastor Matt



THANK YOU



A special thank you to all the UMW members for selecting me as your 2014 Jewel of a Woman. I was so surprised! I will cherish this great honor forever. I would also like to congratulate Kami Lipp and Fran Sippel for receiving the UMW special recognition award. Supporting our UMW unit, our church and our church family is very important! Thank you and God Bless, Marjory Townsend

Thank you for all the beautiful cards I received for my birthday. Darlys Kampa



Thank you to all who helped spread the Christmas Spirit to 47 children this year on the Angel Tree. We helped out 20 local families. Thank you all for making their Christmas fun and blessed! It is always amazing to see so many gifts and the parents are very grateful for the help. Thank you. Kay



Sympathies to the family of Robert Johnson who died December 11th

GROTON UMW MEETING

FEBRUARY 18
WEDNESDAY AT 1:30 PM

PROGRAM BY
LINDA THURSTON
HOSTESS ROSE TEWKSBURY



GROTON UMW - JAN

Thirteen members were present as President Jolene Townsend welcomed everyone to a new UMW year and wished those in attendance a Happy New Year. The meeting began with a recitation of the Purpose. Jolene began her program to implement the revised Secret Angel program with a reading "Angels Among Us." Members chose their Secret Angel and Jolene went over the packet that explained how to correspond with their "Angel" and also how to go about being a Secret Angel was discussed.

Devotions were given by Pat Dahlquist which emphasized one to love your neighbor as yourself and to look at others with eyes of Jesus. Minutes and the financial report were given and approved. There was much correspondence from those receiving the Christmas goodies by way of a warm thank-you note. Also there was a thank-you from the Groton High School, for the UMW helping with meal assistance and purchasing clothes for students in need through monetary donations.

Old business: President Jolene thanked Sharon Wheeting, Rose Tewksbury, and Marlys Rodman for decorating the coffee cans so beautifully with Christmas cheer. She gave another thank-you to Marlys for cleaning up the cans. It was announced that 51 cans were delivered filled with delicious Christmas goodies. Jolene reminded members to save grocery receipts and coffee cans and also reviewed book titles ordered by Yvonne Lange through Program Resources.

New business: There was much discussion and suggestions for the spring and fall events. Some good ideas were discussed and more information will be coming as time and ideas come together.

Jolene T. ended the meeting with a prayer from the Response magazine. She also served a delicious dessert to close the day. The next meeting is February 18 at 1:30 with program by Linda Thurston and hostess Rose Tewksbury.



Groton UMC

Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marjory Townsend	298-5221
Ann Rix	397-8478
Darllys 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.

Stepping stones

It is just a step to the Father's love —
No farther than the heart,
No farther than a faith that knows
God sets each life apart.

It is just a step to the Father's work —
No farther than a door,
No farther than the lonely soul
So easy to ignore.

It is just a step to eternity —
No farther than the spring,
No farther than the laws of life
That govern everything.

—Peggy Ferrell

GROTON LENT INFORMATION

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 a brief Lenten Service. All are welcome.

- Feb 18 - Jan Committee
- Feb 25 - Feb Committee
- March 4 - March Committee
- March 11 - April Committee
- March 18 - May Committee
- March 25 - 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 Myndi Kampa or Kay Brandt. It will help defray any costs of the meal. Groceries may be charged or receipts given to Kay for reimbursement.

Watch for more on Holy Week Services and the Tues AM Women's Bible Study will do a Lenten Study starting Feb 24 as long as we have no cancellations.



CONDE CHRISTMAS CAROLS PROGRAM

At 4:00 on December 21st the Conde UMC had a Christmas Carol Program. Several carols from the hymnal and some other favorites were used, and a short vignette preceded each song. Different people dressed in costume read the vignettes. The audience plus the persons in the program had a chance to sing along. Pastor Matt did solos on a few of the songs. Following the program, there was a soup supper with sandwiches and bars. The evening was enjoyed by those participating in the program and those that came as guests.



CONDE UMW CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Conde UMW had a Christmas Party for the community on Dec 10th at 6 pm. The ladies presented a short play entitled "Have you Heard the Latest?" The play portrayed the "gossiping ladies" of Biblical times. And the subject of their gossip was "this young local girl, Mary, who was pregnant and not married." It was humorous, but also very typical of a small community, and in the end they all realized there was a real meaning to the birth of Jesus. Following the play, the guests enjoyed a delicious ham meal. The local attendance was good, with several men present; however, there were no guests from out of town. Those attending brought a nonperishable food item for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Redfield, and the free will offering was used for a local need.

CONDE NEWS & EVENTS

The Advent Bible Study, "Not a Silent Night" was completed on Jan 13th. There had been several cancellations during advent. Pastor Matt led this study by Adam Hamilton. He used the DVD to supplement the reading in the book. Following the discussion time, there was an Administrative Board Meeting. Old Business - Assessment of events: UMW Christmas Party, Christmas Sing Along and Soup Supper, and New Business - Discussion of upcoming events.

"Shrove Tuesday" which is also called "Fat Tuesday" is an event held the last Tuesday before Lent begins. It is a time when people indulge in rich food before the beginning of Lenten fasting. Many churches acknowledge this day to prepare themselves spiritually for the Lenten and Easter Season. Conde Church will have a pancake sup-

per on Feb 17, 5:00- 7:00, and the public will be invited to this festive event.

Lenten Bible Study - This will begin on Tues, Feb 24 at 6:30. Pastor Matt will be leading this study.

"Souper Bowl Sunday" offering to go to Aberdeen Salvation Army.

"Movie Night" - Thursday, Feb 6th at 7:00. This is at the church complete with popcorn and pop.



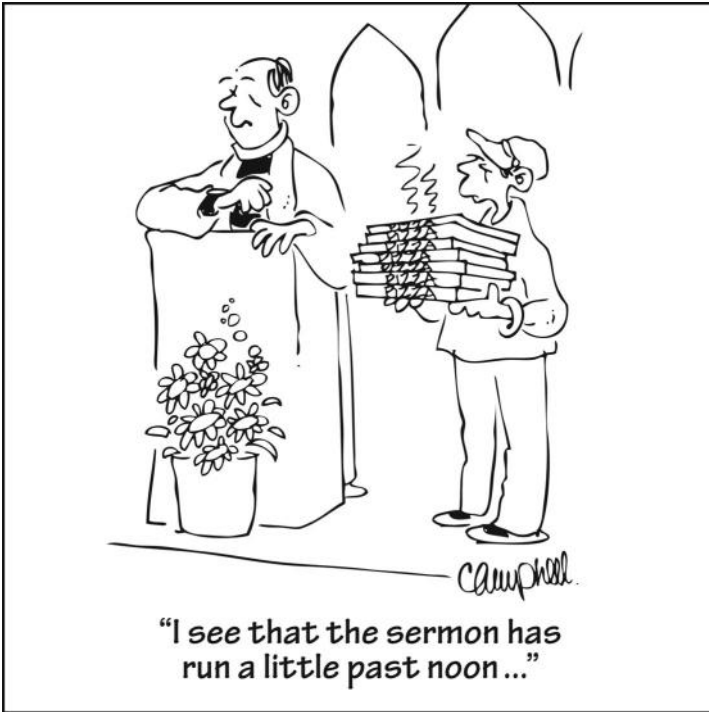
Conde UMW Meeting

February 18 at 10 am
 Program Focus
 Valentines/Hearts
 Leader: Pat Siefken
 Hostess: Organized Potluck



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



NOT IN A PARTYING 'MOOD'

A Sunday school teacher shared the parable of the prodigal son with his class, pointing out how resentful the older son was when the father welcomed the wayward brother home with open arms and a party.

Amid the celebration, the teacher emphasized, someone in the story failed to share in the joy. "Can you tell me who that was?" the teacher asked.

Eagerly, a little girl raised her hand. "I know, I know!" she exclaimed. "The fatted calf!"

Lenten living

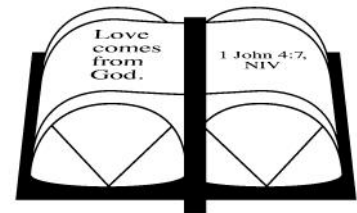
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth — a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.



GOD'S SWEET WORD

Share this Bible treat — and God's love — with a special valentine.

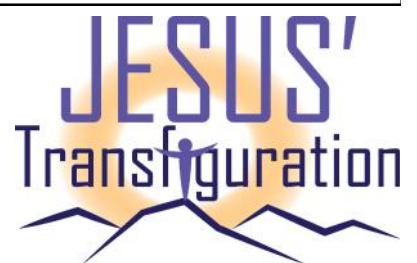


What you need:

- Black card stock or construction paper (2" x 1.5")
- Double-sided tape
- 2 wrapped Hershey's Nuggets candy bars (silver or gold)
- Pen or marker
- White paper (2.75" x 1")
- Thin sliver of red paper or ribbon
- Scissors

What you do:

1. In the center of the black paper, tape down the candy bars side by side.
2. On the white paper, write a short Bible verse about love. Then wrap it around the candy bars horizontally and tape it down.
3. Place the red paper or ribbon between the two candy bars, and tape the top of this "bookmark" to the Bible.
4. Give away this fun, sweet message of God's love!



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



Human Relations Day is an opportunity for United Methodists to give money outside their regular giving to promote programs that address the real needs in communities for *human relations.*

JANUARY 18TH



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church*

www.umcsgiving.org/HRD



LOCAL GROTON MISSION PROJECT

Groton has a local family with several children at home that has a hazard in their home that needs immediate attention. Their large old house has a fuel oil furnace which is venting out of the chimney before the chimney reaches the roof. There are a few bricks falling from the chimney as it sticks out the roof. As the smoke and hot air comes into the house, there is a danger that the gases could overcome the family as they live and sleep in their home or that the hot air traveling over the wooden rafters and roof could catch fire. Neither option is safe for this family.

This family is also facing some serious health problems and surgeries and well as financial issues. The family had not hired a repair person that they suspected they needed, because they knew

they could not afford the repairs. But the City has now discovered the problems and have demanded the issues be addressed immediately to prevent a fire or death. The repairman recommends a relining of the chimney for \$1,400 and brick repair on the upper chimney for \$400. The \$1,800 is due. The Groton Pastor's Association will be committing some cash from the Family Crisis Fund to the project, but more is needed.

Please help this local family pay for these really needed repairs. Donations can be brought to the church marked "Chimney Mission" or to City Hall for the Family Crisis Fund.

Thank you for your support to this family. They really are very grateful that someone cares about their safety.

Annual Kiwanis Pancake Brunch

Sunday, Jan 25th
10 am - 1 pm
Groton Community Center
Adults \$6
Children \$3
Age 0-5 free

Groton Missions Committee Meeting

February 22
10:15 am
during coffee hour


This includes
Karla Pasteur, Chair
Richard & JoAnn Krueger
AM & Laurie Mitchell
Becky Diegel
Merrie Atherton
Kami Lipp

GROTON JR UMYF SCHEDULE

- Feb 4 6:30 pm
- Feb 18 6:30 pm
- Mar 4 6:30 pm
- Mar 6 Lock-In 7 pm to 8 am
- Mar 18 6:30 pm
- Apr 1 6:30 pm
- Apr 15 6:30 pm
- Apr 29 6:00 pm Fun Night

Groton Sunday School Schedule

- Jan 25 Sunday School
- Feb 1 Sunday School
- Feb 8 Sunday School
- Feb 15 Sunday School
- Feb 22 Sunday School and
Sing in Church
- Mar 1 Sunday School
- Mar 8 Sunday School
- Mar 15 Sunday School
- Mar 22 No Sunday School
- Mar 29 Sunday School and
Sing in Church
- Apr 5 No Sunday School
- Apr 12 No Sunday School
- Apr 19 No Sunday School
- Apr 26 No Sunday School
- May 3 Sunday School
- May 10 Last Day Sunday School
and Sing in Church



Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.

mercy
and

"And
what

To
act

humbly
with

does
the
LORD

Micah
6:8, NIV

justly
and

to
love

to
walk

require
of
you?

your
God."

"

_____ ? _____

_____ " _____ 6:8 , _____

Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV



OUR CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

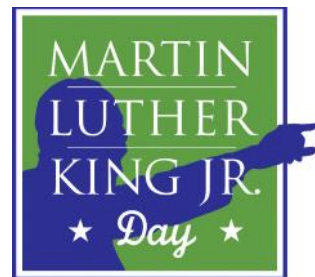
Groton

Jan 2 Holly Walter
 Jan 3 Caroline Graf
 Jan 5 Jeremy & Samantha Weber
 Treyton Diegel
 Jan 6 Samantha Bahr
 Zachary Townsend
 Jan 7 Karla & Russell Davidson
 Jan 9 JoAnn Krueger
 Jan 10 Anita Voss
 Melissa & Neil Gilbert
 Neil Gilbert
 Jan 11 Huntley Overacker
 Myndi Kampa
 Randy Padfield
 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 Justin Fischbach
 Ruby Luce
 Jan 30 Breslyn Hinman
 Feb 4 KayLynn Overacker
 Tim Olson
 Feb 7 Gary Voss
 Feb 8 Gage Sippel
 Larry Wheeting
 Feb 9 Jay Erickson
 Feb 10 Alan & Jolene Townsend
 Brenda Madsen

Dion Bahr
 June Thompson
 Feb 11 Oliver Anderson
 Feb 12 Skylar Kramer
 Yvonne Lorenz
 Feb 14 Diane Nissen
 Feb 16 Pernell Graf
 Feb 18 Chuck & Michelle Padfield
 Feb 19 Gaylene Voss
 Robin O'Neill
 Feb 20 Darin Gubin
 Michael Wells
 Feb 21 Wyatt Morehouse
 Feb 22 Anthony Schinkel
 Feb 23 Karl Rekow
 Feb 25 Brent Morehouse
 Greg Heitmann
 Feb 26 Mary Ann Wehde
 Feb 28 Paisley Mitchell

Conde

Jan 3 Bruce Herman
 Jan 5 Tony & Marcene Bruckner
 Jan 8 Darrell Haskell
 Charles Haskell
 Jan 10 Donna Hearnen
 Jan 11 Norman Smith
 Jan 27 Darrel & Joyce Haskell
 Jan 30 Alice Hanson
 Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon
 Feb 3 Shannon Haskell
 Feb 4 Donna Walter
 Feb 5 Richard Sanderson
 Feb 7 Bill Trapp
 Feb 9 Vicki Stark
 Feb 10 Greg & Vicki Stark
 Feb 15 Tim & Betty Geist
 Feb 19 Tyler Stark
 Feb 22 Betty Jensen
 Horace Walter



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*



**Happy
Valentine's
Day!**

GROTON SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



"People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7, NLT

MAR FAMILY COMMITTEE - FUNERAL GROUP B

Janice Raap

Scott & Myndi Kampa

Connie & Dave Nilsson

Logan & Chanda Nilsson

Adrienne & Tigh Fliehs

Doug Bahr

Dion & Sam Bahr

William Zoellner

Steve & Becky Diegel

Julie & Jesse Morehouse

Anita & John Lowary

Brian Bahr

John & Meri Erickson

Marjae & Dan Schinkel,

Danielle & Jasmine

Karen & Ian Rose

Meredith Anderson & Ron Gubin

Jeanne Wanous

Ida Hannon

Honorary Members

Emery Sippel

Bert Raap

Reta Washnok

March Responsibilities

- Check Kitchen Supplies for the month
- Check & Clean Oven and Fridge as necessary.
- Coffee Hour workers (make coffee, provide cookies, launder towels, and remove trash)
- 2 Ushers for each Sunday
- pickup ritual of friendship sheets
- Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- Serve at Golden Living Center - 2nd Sunday

March Extra Responsibilities

- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin
- 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to Kay Brandt

FEB FAMILY COMMITTEE - FUNERAL GROUP

Carna & Cliff Pray

***Laurel & Monte McNickel**

Susan Odland

Dale Kramer, Gabrielle

Yvonne Lange

Cheryl Hanson

Mark & June Thompson

Marlys Rodman

Rose Tewksbury

Kami & Tom Lipp, Kyler Ell

Lance & Kristi Hawkins, Kelby

Diann & Brad Morehouse

Karla Pasteur

Jane & Marc Johnson (Feb)

Dwight & Eugenia Strom

Linda & Gary Thurston

Honorary Members

Doris Zoellner

February Responsibilities

- Check Kitchen Supplies for the month
- Check & Clean Oven and Fridge as necessary.
- Coffee Hour workers (make coffee, provide cookies, launder towels, and remove trash)
- 2 Ushers for each Sunday
- pickup ritual of friendship sheets
- Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- Serve at Golden Living Center - 2nd Sunday

February Extra Responsibilities

- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin

March 2015						
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 Dec 2014

Average Wkly Giving \$3,057

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,125

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 95

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$14,951

Groton Mission Statement
 "Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."



February 2015						
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



OUR CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Jan 25 Conde World Hunger Sunday
- Feb 4 Groton Jr UMYF 6:30 pm
- Feb 5 PPR at 7 pm in Groton
- Feb 6 Conde Movie Night 7 pm "The Help"
- Feb 17 Conde Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7 pm
- Feb 18 Conde UMW 10 am
- Feb 18 Conde Ash Weds Service 10:30 am
- Feb 18 Groton UMW 1:30 pm
- Feb 18 Groton Lenten Meal served from 5:30-6:15 pm
- Feb 18 Groton Ash Weds Service at 6:15 pm in Sanctuary
- Feb 18 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Feb 22 Groton Missions Committee Mtg 10:15 am
- Feb 22 Conde World Hunger Sunday
- Feb 25 Groton Lenten Meal served from 5:30-6:15 pm each week during Lent
- Feb 25 Groton Lenten Service at 6:15 pm each week during Lent
- Mar 6 Groton Jr UMYF Lock-In 7 pm - 8 am
- Feb 24-Mar 24 Conde will have a Lenten Study on Tuesday nights - 6:30 pm