

From Pastor Thomas' Desk

Greeting friends,

We are finally unpacked and settling in to our new home. We would like to start off by saying thank you! We cannot express how extremely blessed we are by everyone; we have been shown so much love and hospitality over the past month making our transition so smooth. Britni and I are honored and are excited to be your pastors.

The transition is well under way! As we get settled in and as the school year is fast approaching, we will begin to kick off all of our church activities. Such activities include Sunday school, confirmation, middle school youth group, and high school youth group. As some of you may know, there have been meetings to start planning for the children's program and youth program.

As we begin to look at what we can do to grow the faith of our youth and draw more to come to have a relationship with Jesus, we need to partner with the parents to bring the love of Jesus to the youth. Confirmation will kick off on September 9 at 3:45 and will run every Wednesday throughout the school year. We are still in the planning stages for the middle school youth group and high school youth group. Please continue to watch for time and dates as we finalize the planning.

Some discussion among a group of ladies has been under way to bring a Wednesday night bible study for those who are unable to attend week-

day mornings due to job commitments; this too would kick off this fall. If you would be interested in being part of this additional study, please contact me so we can finalize the planning.

After much prayer, I feel that we also need to continue to focus on the 1237 ministry. If you have been a part of this ministry, I am asking you to contact me so we can work to continue developing and growing this ministry!

May God continue to richly bless you!

Pastor Thomas Carlson



WE ARE HIS HOUSE.

HEBREWS 3:6



Prayer — it's in our genes

I don't think prayer is merely a sociological phenomenon. I don't think it's something we do just to fit into a community or when we've exhausted all other options. I think it's hardwired into our spiritual DNA. God is the inevitability of humanity's search for true meaning.

—Jared Brock, *A Year of Living Prayerfully*

Conde VBS

From May 26-29, 40 children from the Conde community had a cool ‘mountain top’ experience as they attending Vacation Bible School with the theme of **“EVEREST- Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power.”**

Each day the crews gathered together at Base Camp Sing & Play for a time to sing, dance, and celebrate God’s mighty power. The rest of time was spent at stations where the Bible point for the day was expanded upon. The stations were; Bible Expeditions (where they were led through incredible and interactive learning activities that made the Bible stories come alive), Imagination Station (where they conducted scientific experiences based on the Bible point), Glacier Games (games where everyone participated and discussed the Biblical charac-

teristics) , KidVid Cinema (where a video was shown each day which led to thought-provoking experiences and heart-touching discussions). During the middle of our time together we had time for snacks – Mountaintop Treats. Each day one of the crews prepared a special treat which was based on the Bible point for the day.

On Friday evening we asked parents, grandparents, and friends to join us in a time celebration as the crew members shared what they had learned during their time together. The hit of the night was when the children went to the aisles and sang and danced the “Power Shuffle.”



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

Thank You Notes & Open House Invite

Thanks to all those who helped in any way with Bible School. Approximately 55 children attended. It takes many people to make these projects a success, and we thank you for supporting our youth!

We want to thank everyone for the generous and loving spirit and the welcoming shower. You have gifted us beef, pantry food items, kitchenwares, paper products, home décor, Groton event card, laundry items, gift cards/certificates/\$, towels, and an abundance of hospitality. We are pleased to be in Groton and part of your church family. It's been a blessed transition for us and we hope for you too! We excitedly and anxiously want to invite each and every one of you to our PARSONAGE

OPEN HOUSE!!! Come see our home, meet our dogs, see the remodel of the parsonage! It's going to be a potluck open house - bring something to pass; dogs and burgers will be provided! August 9, 2015 from 12pm-3pm. Pastor Thomas & Britni Carlson



Conde UMCOR Kits

August is the time to be buying items for the School Kits, as many of those things are on sale. During the year, we did not set a special time to collect things for Health Kits, so those items could also be purchased. Mid-September is the deadline for collecting things and packing them in boxes. It has worked quite well in the past two years for Conde to take their boxes to First United Methodist Church while the truck that transports the kits and other items to the UMCOR Depots is in Aberdeen. If you are interested in donating to this Mission Project, and do not want to shop, money will be accepted, and the Mission Committee will buy the items. The website for UMCOR is stating that there is a shortage of both kinds of kits. They like to have a supply of Health Kits on hand, so that when a need arises, they can meet it right away. If you are interested in reading more about UMCOR and how they operate, just go to that website. They are an organization that is there when disaster strikes, not just with kits, but in many other ways. This is a Mission Project that the Conde Church has supported for many years. It not only helps adults and children in other countries, but also here in the United States.

There has also been a suggestion to put together some school kits for children in the community who might find it hard to afford the list of items that some schools require. This would be a separate collection.

Following is a list of things for each kind of kit. Please note the special instructions on some of the items.

Health Kits - 1 hand towel 15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches (Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable); 1

washcloth; 1 comb (Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long and No pocket combs or picks please. Rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth); 1 metal nail file or nail clippers (No emery boards, please); 1 bath-size soap (3 oz. and larger sizes only and No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content and Do not remove from original packaging); 1 toothbrush (Adult size only and Do not remove from original packaging); 6 adhesive bandages ¾ inch to 1 inch-size common household Band-Aids; 1 plastic bag One-gallon size sealable bag only; AND \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

School Kits - 1 pair blunt scissors (Rounded tip only; No plastic scissors); 3 pads of paper Spiral- or top-bound pads (150 sheets or less of loose-leaf paper can be substituted for 1 pad Combination of spiral, top-bound, side-bound, or loose-leaf paper is acceptable No composition books); 1 hand-held pencil sharpener (Must be at least 1 inch long Remove from packaging); 1 30-centimeter ruler Hard or flexible (Cartoon characters are acceptable No advertisements); 6 unsharpened pencils (No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols; Cartoon characters are acceptable); 1 2-inch or larger-size eraser (No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols, Cartoon characters are acceptable); 1 24-count box of crayons Only 24-count boxes; 1 14x16 inch cloth bag Homemade or purchased bags are both acceptable;

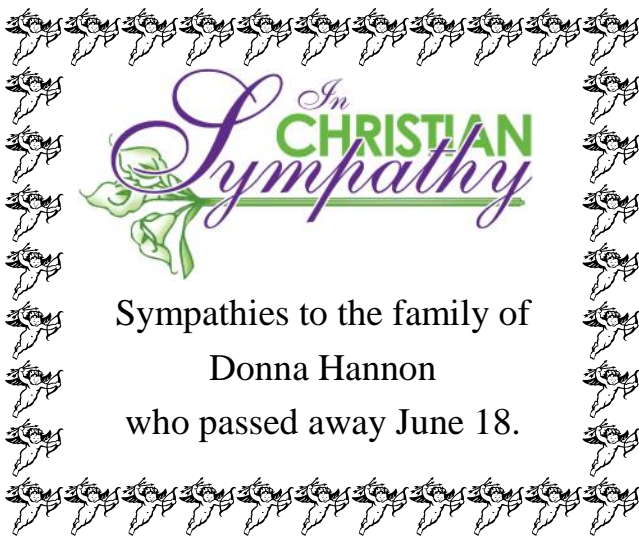
Last year, we purchased the school bags, but if someone is interested in sewing some, please contact Donna Heamen.

Little Free Library

Little Free Library Summer Story time is now over. Books will still be available through the fall. We are in need of some books right now for pre-school through lower elementary age (like paperback Scholastic type books). Please let Kim Weber know if anyone could donate books or donate money to purchase more books. The Wilmont Library Board was offering books to the public. Someone told them about our library, and the librarian dropped a box of books by our church on her way by Groton one day. God works in awesome ways! Thanks to everyone's support of the library!

Photo of Ashlyn reading a story to some children at the Little Free Library





In CHRISTIAN
Sympathy

 Sympathies to the family of
 Donna Hannon
 who passed away June 18.

Conde UMW Meeting
August 19th at 10 am
Lesson and Meeting followed by a noon luncheon
Donna Hearnen giving lesson
“Welcoming a Sustainable Future”
Donna Walter - Luncheon Hostess

Reverse economy

In *Love Does* (Thomas Nelson), Bob Goff describes his childhood interactions with a storekeeper. Goff would choose some candy, spread his change on the counter and let the man count out what was owed. One morning, judging by the man’s face, Goff could tell there wasn’t enough money.

“We’re one penny short,” the storekeeper said. After a long pause, he took one of Goff’s pennies, rubbed it with some vinegar and revealed a coin that looked brand new. Returning it to the pile, the man said, “In my store, shiny pennies are worth double.”

Goff says that was an important lesson about Christians’ role in Jesus’ economy, where the poor are rich and we must give to receive: “We get to decide that people, including ourselves, are worth more than others might figure and that following Jesus means doing the math differently sometimes,” he writes. “Because actually we’re all on the same side of the counter when it comes to needing a little help and grace and a shiny penny now and then.”

Groton UMW - June 17th

President Jolene Townsend opened the meeting by encouraging everyone to participate in the hugs & kisses ritual. Reciting of "The Purpose" followed.

Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting were approved as read by Jeanne Wanous. There was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: Jeanne Wanous informed the group that there were no expenses in the last month. She also reported that the Administrative Council approved the selling of 125th Anniversary Cookbooks by our group at a reduced rate of \$5 per book, and that we could retain the sales proceeds. Total receipts for the last month were \$151 leaving a June 16 balance of \$1990.24.

Bills: No bills.

Devotions: Marge Overacker gave devotions related to the welcoming of strangers who come into our lives.

Program: Jeanne Wanous shared a United Methodist Women's Facebook posting about creating a space of radical welcome for all generations of women to be a part of the UMW experience. Jeanne noted that her cousin's daughter from Bemis Point UMC, NY was in the FB picture posted to correspond with the article.

Jolene Townsend shared an article from The Dakota Links about welcoming new ladies to UMW with a personal invitation. Jolene challenged us to consider how we can work on making UMW more inviting to other ladies. Marge Overacker shared some information on new Pastor and wife.

New Business: Welcome basket: It was decided that UMW would put together a welcome basket and food to be available on July 1 when Pastor Thomas and Britni arrive. Jolene will mail a card to them in advance of their arrival from the UMW letting them know we are looking forward to their arrival. Darlys volunteered to set up a large tote bag on the blessings shower table for church members to contribute non-perishable items for a welcome basket to the pastor and his wife.

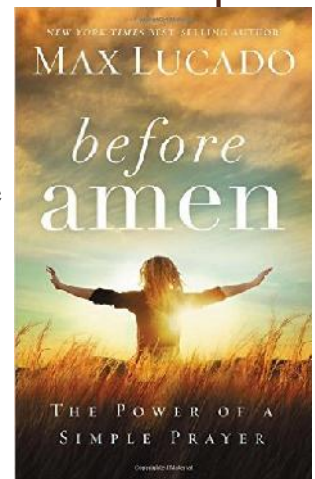
Charitable Items: On a motion by Jan Raap & 2nd by Marjorie Overacker, it was agreed to donate \$100 to the BAGS program and \$100 to the Groton Family Crisis Fund. These donations will be made now versus at the end of the year.

Jolene closed the meeting with a prayer. Darlys Kampa & Jan Raap served a delicious dessert following the meeting. Secretary, Jeanne Wanous

Groton UMW
 August 19 at 1:30 pm
 Hostesses JoAnn Krueger & Caralee Heitmann
Executive Meeting at 1 pm
 Continue Date Book Plans 2016
 Newsletter Updates
 Budget Plans

Groton Tuesday 10 AM

Bible Study will be starting a new study August 18. We will be doing a 4 week study "Before Amen: the power of a simple prayer" by Max Lucado.



Groton Directory Updates

Church Directory is online with information on the website at www.grotonumc.org. Please check your information and let Kay know corrections with emails, phone numbers, family listings, etc.. Those without online access can find Kay or anyone else in the church with a smart phone. You can download the app by searching for church directory and choosing the one from United Methodist Communications. You will then have to use your email address I have on file to request a password. For the PDF Directory on the website, email Kay for the password at grotonumc@nvc.net

Church Directory

UPDATE

Our Church Celebrations

Groton

- July 1 Charity Hinman
Graham Rose
- July 4 Seth Erickson
- July 5 Allen & Joyce Walter
Jasmine Schinkel
- July 7 Ida Hannon
Julie Morehouse
- July 8 Kelby Hawkins
- July 9 Jocelyn Peterson
- July 10 Pernell & Noella Graf
- July 11 Roger & Marjorie Overacker
Scott Hinman
- July 12 Ashtyn Bahr
Corey Mitchell
- July 13 Jolene Townsend
Stephanie Townsend
- July 14 Ava Kramer
Christine Nyberg
- July 16 Linda Thurston
Richard Voss (90th)
- July 17 Mackenzie Atherton
- July 18 Josh & Merrie Atherton
Kaitlin O'Neill
- July 19 Carol Strom
- July 22 Jean Lowary
- July 23 Chanda & Logan Nilsson
Joyce Walter
- July 24 Roger & Pam Rix
- July 25 Hannah Webb
- July 26 Angela & Perryn Dobbins
Laila Roberts
Pat Knecht
- July 27 Damian & Erin Bahr
Ryland Strom
Tony Madsen
- July 28 Bob & Carolyn Snyder
Craig Weber
- July 29 Curtis Krueger
- July 30 Megan & Seth Erickson
- July 31 Lynette Severson
- Aug 1 Bert Raap
- Aug 2 David Strom
Dylan Graf
Jessica & Brent Morehouse
- Aug 3 Lance & Kristie Hawkins
- Aug 4 Craig & Kim Weber
- Aug 5 Gerald Rix (90th)
Tigh Flihs

- Aug 6 Damian Bahr
- Aug 7 Kelli Hanson
Sherwin Nyberg
- Aug 8 Brad & Diann Morehouse
Yvonne Lange
- Aug 9 Loel Schott
- Aug 12 Amber Wolken
Tom Lipp
- Aug 13 Logan Nilsson
- Aug 14 Doug Bahr
- Aug 15 Bert & Jan Raap
- Aug 16 Jim Jones
Rose Tewksbury
Sam Furman
- Aug 17 Chanda Nilsson
- Aug 18 Hunter Maag
- Aug 19 Jaeger Kampa
Sherwin & Chrsine Nyberg
Tia Zoellner
William Zoellner
- Aug 20 Marc Sippel
- Aug 22 Virginia Breikreutz
- Aug 23 Haley Erickson
Lisa Pray
- Aug 25 Justin & Amanda Morehouse
- Aug 28 Rob & Jeanne Wanous
- Aug 29 Church Padfield
- Aug 30 Emma Jo Schinkel
Jase Bahr
Nathan Atherton
- Aug 31 Katelyn Hawkins



Anniversaries and Birthdays

Conde

- July 3 Guy & Renee Hanlon
- July 6 Shanna Geist
- July 23 Patty Knoll
- July 27 Horace & Donna Walter
- July 30 Judy Zeck
- Aug 6 Loren & Pat Siefken
- Aug 10 Cindy Smith
- Aug 12 Cody Evans
- Aug 20 Richard & Jane Worlie
- Aug 26 Pamela Hanson
- Aug 31 Collin Ragels



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.


*Having no July Newsletter,
you may have missed a
birthday - just send a
belated greeting card!*



Summer's gifts

Summer brings longer days, warmer nights and – for many people – time spent near water. Complete this puzzle to find out who's behind all those summertime joys.



Directions: Read Jeremiah 31:35 (NIV) below. Draw a around words describing God's actions. Draw an around words that describe day. Underline words that describe evening. Draw  under words that describe the ocean.

He who appoints the sun to shine by day,
 who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night,
 who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar ...



Directions: Circle the capital letters. Then write them from left to right on the lines below to reveal God's name in this Bible verse.

i t T w H s p j E k e m a b L f g O h b c R d
 e D q r s t c e a t o n a h f z z v u A w y L
 a v n M q z l s k y z G u w H h m o T k j k Y





Answer: The LORD Almighty



Groton Missions Committee will be collecting school supplies so pick up some extras when you are out shopping. Watch for more details!

The road of life

God of our life,
 there are days when the burdens we carry
 chafe our shoulders and weigh us down;
 when the road seems dreary and endless,
 the skies gray and threatening;
 when our lives have no music in them,
 and our hearts are lonely,
 and our souls have lost their courage.
 Flood the path with light,
 turn our eyes to where
 the skies are full of promise;
 tune our hearts to brave music;
 give us the sense of comradeship
 with heroes and saints of every age;
 and so quicken our spirits
 that we may be able to encourage
 the souls of all who journey with us
 on the road of life,
 to your honor and glory.

—St. Augustine

Open House Wedding Shower
 Kayley Valsvig bride-to-be of Tanner Johnson
 Weds, August 5th from 7 pm - 8:30 pm
 Registered at Herberger's, Menards, and Target



A Christian DNA

Our Spiritual Genetic Code
by Pastor Thomas Carlson

Join Us At

Groton United Methodist Church On Sunday at 11 am OR
Conde United Methodist Church on Sunday at 9 am

6 Week Sermon Series!

Starting July 26 through August 30

Genesis 2:7 "Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person."



Parsonage Open House

Everyone is invited to join us for a potluck after church at noon on August 9th. Hot Dogs and Burgers will be provided so bring something to pass (salad or dessert or other). The potluck will be in the fellowship hall and then everyone is invited to tour the parsonage from 12 pm - 3 pm and see the new remodel project that was done.



GLOW- IN-THE- DARK BOWLING



Make this fun summer game to play at the beach, a park or in your yard.

What you need:

- 10 empty plastic bottles (same size)
- 10 or more glow sticks
- Water (optional)
- Star stickers (optional)
- Hamster ball (or regular ball)
- Tape

What you do:

1. Place one or two activated glow sticks in each bottle. Fill bottles with water and decorate with star stickers, if desired. Screw on lids.
2. Put some glow sticks inside the hamster ball. Screw the halves together, and secure sides and lid with tape.
3. Challenge someone to a game of bowling. For the best glowing effect, play after dark.

BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL BASH!!!

September 13, 2015

At Groton United Methodist Church

Sunday school at 10:00 a.m.
(sign up online or when you come)
 Church Service at 11:00 a.m.
 Potluck Dinner at 12:00 p.m.
 Games & Inflatables to follow
(weather permitting)



Kids bring your school backpacks to Church for Blessings of the Backpacks!



www.grotonumc.org to register
 Sunday School Offering for a Local Cause



Groton August Family Committee

- Carna & Clif 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
- Mary Ann Wehde
- Dwight & Eugenia Strom
- Linda & Gary Thurston

August 2015						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Honorary Members

- Doris Zoellner
- Bob Wehde
- Bob & Carolyn Snyder

August 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
- Mow the lawn as necessary
- 5th Sunday - May buy donuts - Bill to Kay Daly

Kelli & Lars Hanson are responsible for changing the banners and altar cloths and candle maintenance.



Groton Ad Council - June

Kim Weber served ice cream cake prior to the meeting in honor of Pastor Matt's last Administrative Council meeting.

Camping: Kay Brandt reported on camping registration and that we have again received a generous donation of \$1000 from the Paul and Mayme Green Foundation of Aberdeen to help with our camper's registration costs.

Trustees: Marjorie Overacker reported that church building repairs would be complete by June 19. Beams and the cross have been wrapped with protective metal cover and the same material was used to cover the soffits. Outdoor cement work is planned for next spring. Updates to the parsonage were in progress with fresh paint and new flooring as well as a general cleaning. The council approved a motion to use a small portion of the Edward Jones Endowment funds to pay for some of the update costs for the parsonage.

Education: Carna Atherton-Pray reported that materials are already being ordered for the fall Sunday school classes, but we are still in need of teachers. Rally Sunday will be September 13.

Groton Stewardship Report June 2015

Average Wkly Giving \$1,553
 Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,206
 Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 55
 Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$1280

Groton Stewardship Report July 2015

Average Wkly Giving \$1,759
 Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,206
 Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 62
 Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$555

Groton Mission Statement
 "Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

Groton Sept Family Committee

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 and Jasmine
- Karen & Ian Rose
- Meredith Anderson & Ron Gubin
- Jeanne Wanous
- Ida Hannon

September 2015						
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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			

Honorary Members

- Emery Sippel
- Bert Raap
- Reta Washnok

September Responsibilities

- Check Kitchen Supplies for the month
- Check & Clean Oven & Fridge as necessary
- Coffee Hour workers (make coffee, provide cookies, laundry 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
- Take care of lawn as necessary
 - Potluck 2nd Sunday (Rally Sunday)

Carna & Cliff Pray responsible for changing the banners, altar cloths, and candles maintenance.



August 2015						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Our Church Happenings

- Aug 1 Rosewood Court Worship 10 am
- Aug 5 Open House Bridal Shower Tanner Johnson/Kayley Valsvig 7 pm
- Aug 9 Parsonage Open House 12 noon - 3 pm with potluck
- Aug 9 Golden Living Center Worship 3 pm
- Aug 19 Conde UMW Meeting 10 am followed by noon luncheon
- Aug 19 Groton UMW Meeting 1:30 pm - Executive Mtg 1 pm
- Aug 19 Groton Ad Council 8 pm
- Sept 5 Rosewood Court Worship 10 am
- Sept 9 Groton Confirmation starts 3:45 pm
- Sept 13 Groton Back to Sunday School Bash! Starts 10 am
- Sept 20 Groton - Celebration of Friendship with Bob & Caroline Snyder

