



# UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER



## FROM PASTOR THOMAS' DESK

Greetings  
Friends,

As the weather gets warmer, I'm beginning to look forward to summer and all the fun that comes with it. Soon, we will be seeing kids make their way to the swimming pool to have fun with their friends. Which means, VBS is right around the corner. I don't know about



every Thursday at 9:30 starting June 9 running until July 28. This is a great time to bring your children for a story on the front lawn of the church.

We have several kids registered for camp which will be underway soon. As I was thinking about all these times, I could not help but think of Matthew 19:14 Jesus said,

you, but I'm PUMPED for VBS. Groton VBS runs May 9 - 11 from 3:30 to 6:00. Conde VBS runs May 31- June 3 from 8:30- 12:30 with a program on Friday night the June 3 at 7:00.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." I'm looking forward to all the fun we will be having with our children and teens this summer.

On May 8, we will be celebrating with our graduates, Marlee Jones, Brady Graf, Tia Thompson, Kari Hanson, Hannah Webb, Zara Maag, and Emily Raap. CONGRATS seniors as each one of you are going to make a HUGE impact in our world! May God's hand be upon each of you as you begin this new chapter in your life. We will also be confirming Austin Jones, Anthony Schinkel, Kaycie Hawkins, Dylan Graf, and Grady O'Neill. Blessings to each one of you as you continue to grow in your faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Blessings!

Pastor Thomas



### Pastor's Office Hours

AND

### SCHEDULE

- Mon - in office 10 am - 2 pm
- Tues - working on sermon
- Weds - in office 2 - 3:30 pm
- Thurs - available by appt 10am-5 pm
- Friday and Sat - Days Off
- Emergency Calls 24/7

**Church Information**

Pastor Thomas Carlson  
Office Phone  
605-397-8270  
Cell Phone  
605-277-8448  
Pastor Email  
pastorthomas@nvc.net

Secretary Email  
grotonumc@nvc.net

website  
grotonumc.org

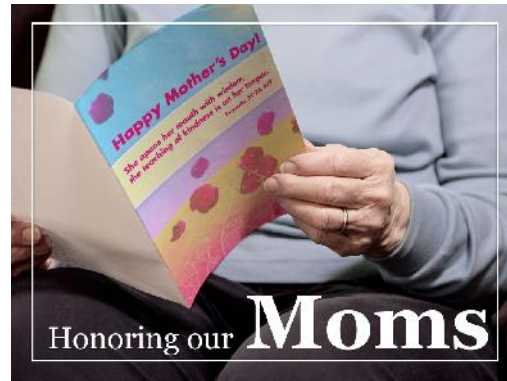
906 N 1st St  
Groton, SD 57445

**CONFIRMED**  
*In Faith*

Sunday, May 8 is Confirmation Sunday. We will celebrate with Austin Jones, Anthony Schinkel, Kaycie Hawkins, Dylan Graf, and Grady O'Neill



Sunday, May 8 we will celebrate with our graduates: Marlee Jones, Brady Graf, Tia Thompson, Kari Hanson, Hannah Webb, Zara Maag, and Emily Raap



THANK YOU

Thank you to all the women that made the 2016 Focus Day successful. Ten UMW Units were represented with 28 women in attendance. The salads, bars and desserts were delicious. A special thank you to Carna for providing the piano music, Pastor Thomas for leading us in prayer and Gloria and Marge for participating in the Reading Program skit. The women in the kitchen and at the registration table, thank you. UMW is a great organization to belong to, all of us working towards the same purpose, if you would like to join the Groton UMW unit, contact Gloria, Jeanne or Jolene.

Thank you ...UMW Pres. Jolene



Laura Jean Lowary died April 23, 2016.



Betty Jean Jensen died April 23, 2016

Sympathies and Prayers to their families.

# GROTON UMW - APRIL

President Jolene Townsend opened the meeting with a prayer. Jolene explained that our program was to have been a presentation by our Shepherdess, but since she had just been in Groton at the Focus Days we decided not to have here make another trip from Watertown.

Gloria Pharis shared a story entitled John 3:16 about a little boy who found shelter, food, and God’s message on a cold winter night after being told by a policeman to go to a specific house and say John 3:16 when the door was answered.

Jolene gave two book reports on books from the UMW reading program. An Invisible Thread from the social action category was a true story was about the relationship between a successful business woman and a young beggar boy. The Noticer under the spiritual growth category was about a man who would somehow be aware that random people needed his help.

Jeanne Wanous shared thank you notes from Twila Ruden & Carolyn Snyder. Jeanne then reported that we had received very generous member

pledges this year and that our current bank balance is \$2,270.67.

Jolene announced the addition of two new members: Valerie Baker and Pam Rix.

The UMW voted to donate \$50 to support VBS. We will purchase some of the groceries on the want list and the balance of the \$50 will be given as cash.

Jolene announced two upcoming events: The Conde UMW Spring Fling on May 11, and a women’s retreat called Come to the Well in Aberdeen.

Co-chairs of the May Luncheon, Diane Morehouse & Jolene Townsend reviewed what was planned for decorations and desserts. A list to sign up for salads was passed around and it was decided that set up and final preparations would be done on Tuesday, May 3 at 10:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned after a final prayer by Jolene. A delicious dessert was served and prepared by Pat Dahlquist and Sharon Wheeting.

Secretary,  
Jeanne Wanous

## MAY 19TH UMW MEETING

1:30 PM ON  
THURSDAY

PROGRAM BY  
MARGORIE  
OVERACKER

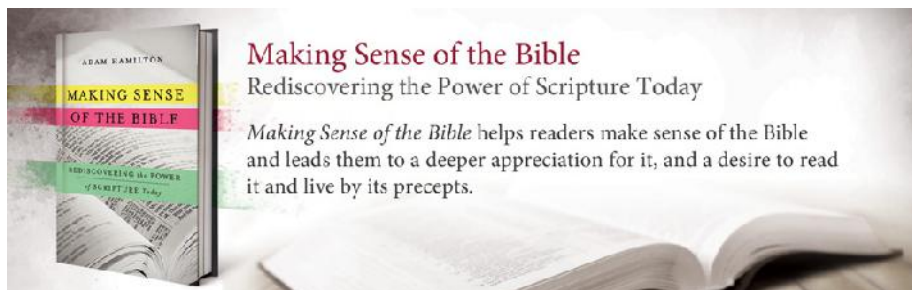
HOSTESSES  
ARE JEANNE  
WANOUS &  
JAN RAAP

UMW members will be making desserts and setting up for the May Luncheon on May 3rd at 10 am. Everyone welcome!!

## NEW EVENING BIBLE STUDY - GROTON

A new evening Bible Study Group is meeting on Thursday evenings at 7 pm. The first study is Adam Hamilton’s “Making Sense of the Bible” Come and Join this new group and “grow your faith”

Please contact Valerie Baker at 541-653-1753 and Join Today!



★ ARMED FORCES DAY ★

May 21st

# CONDE UMW - APRIL

The Conde UMW met at 2:00 on Wednesday, April 20th. Donna Hearnen gave the lesson on the first Beatitude - "Blessed are the Poor - Poverty and Possibility". She used some of the material from the Program Book, but also information about all of the Beatitudes which she found on the internet. It was interesting to compare the familiar Bible account from Matthew to the account in Luke. In this reading there are only four, and these were given to the disciples at the Sermon on the Plain. Luke writes, "Blessed are the Poor", whereas Matthew's account reads, "Poor in Spirit". Thus the Program Book included information about helping the poor.

After the lesson, we had a business meeting which consisted of discussing the "Spring Fling" which will be held

May 11, at 6:30. There will be a skit about "If the Shoe Fits", and this pertains to certain shoes for a special job or occasion. A lady goes shoe shopping with her husband, and for anyone who has taken their husband on a shopping trip, you will know how they react. This skit will provide some laughs and also some good advice. Following the program, there will be a salad luncheon. The free will offering will be used for "Shoes for SD Children" mission. There are several different places that have this type of mission, and the group discussed the different options. Pat Siefken is going to obtain some more information on the various ones. But the money will be used for children in SD.

## Conde UMW Meeting

May 18 at 10 am

"Mother's Day Giving"

By Pat Siefken

Hostess is  
Cindy Smith

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

**Conde United Methodist Church**  
**Spring Fling**  
 May 11 @ 6:30 pm  
 Join us for a Program & Salad Luncheon  
**"If the Shoe Fits!"**  
*free will offering for children's shoe project*



**A Day for Remembering**  
 Memorial Day  
 May 29th

*Groton United Methodist Women*

# *May Luncheon*

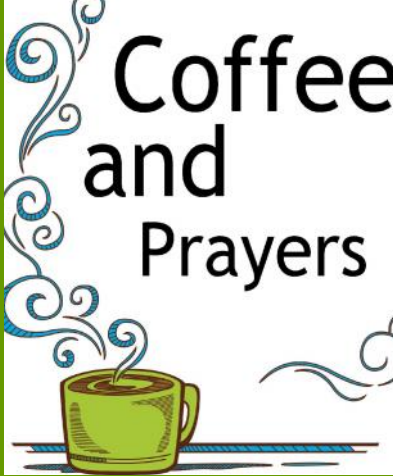
## *Wednesday, May 4th*

*Serving from 11 am - 1 pm*  
*No Reservation Required*



*Men & Women \$8 - Children 6 and under free*

*Come and join us for lunch OR Make your own lunch to go*  
*at the Groton United Methodist Church*



# Coffee and Prayers

Every Monday at 9 am  
Every Thursday at 7 pm  
At the Groton UMC  
*coffee may not always be available  
but feel free to bring a cup along*

WEAR RED FOR

# *Pentecost*

May 15th



## RUTH - A PENTECOST STORY

The disciples were celebrating Pentecost, originally a Jewish festival, when the Holy Spirit descended on them and birthed the church. Pentecost, which began as a harvest festival, had come to commemorate the giving of the law. The book of Ruth became integral to festival worship.

Why Ruth? This short story doesn't mention the law, let alone God giving it to Moses. Yet in Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law ("Where you go I will go .... Your people will be my people ..." [Ruth 1:16, NIV]), she fulfills not just the letter but the spirit of the law: loving-

kindness — all the more remarkable because she's a foreigner. Boaz, too, demonstrates exorbitant kindness to Ruth.

As Christians celebrate the Spirit bridging differences in Jerusalem, uniting all nationalities by making the gospel message intelligible to all people, we too can remember Ruth's story. For in it, God unites two enemy peoples for his grand purpose: Boaz and Ruth's marriage leads to King David and, ultimately, to King Jesus. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to unite all categories of people under Christ's reign for the good of the world.

# LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Little Free Library will soon be full of books again! Summer Story time will be at 9:30 am on Thursday June 9th through July 28th.

New this year is a battery operated candle inside that will automatically turn on to light our library in the evenings!

If you are interested in helping with story time. Please contact Kim at 380\*7148.

Any donations of new or nearly new books would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Kim



## Close to God

I can take my telescope and look millions and millions of miles into space. But I can lay it aside, go into my room, shut the door, get down on my knees in earnest prayer, and see more of heaven and get closer to God than I can assisted by all the telescopes and material agencies on earth.

—Isaac Newton



Pastor Thomas and Richard Krueger cleaning the street and filling in the big hole.

## Of greatest worth



Not what I get, but what I give,  
this be the gauge by which I live.  
Not merely joys that come my way,  
but the help I give to those astray.  
Not the rewards of money and fame,  
but the loads I lift in mankind's name.  
This be the pay at the end of the day,  
not what I keep, but what I give away.

—Author unknown

# OUR CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

## Groton

- May 1 Don Bartz
- May 2 Evan Jacobson
- May 3 Kim Weber
- May 4 Desiree Foltz  
Evan Erickson  
Tom Strom
- May 5 Gary Thurston  
Marlee Jones  
Tony & Brenda Madsen
- May 6 Clint Jacobson  
Richard Ruden
- May 7 Gabbie Kramer  
Rebecca Padfield  
Tigh Flihs Jr
- May 8 Austin Jones  
Dale Kramer  
John Lowary  
Rob Wanous
- May 10 John & Anita Lowary
- May 11 Audrey Padfield
- May 12 Jack & Maggie Oliver
- May 13 Doris Strom  
Leroy Severson  
Chase Neiber
- May 14 Henry Pharis  
Linda Johnson  
Pam Rix
- May 17 Cliff & Carna Pray

- May 18 Jean Walter
- May 19 John Erickson  
Scott Kampa  
Taylor Diegel
- May 20 Tom & Kami Lipp
- May 21 Cody Hanson
- May 25 Adrienne Flihs  
Jon Voss
- May 26 Dion & Sam Bahr  
Drake Peterson
- May 27 Luverne & Carol Strom
- May 28 Cheryl Hanson  
Jesse & Julie Morehouse
- May 29 Clare Brotherton  
DeLoris Knoll  
Gary & Anita Voss
- May 30 Hazel McKittrick  
Kami Lipp  
Macy Knecht  
Randy & Rebecca Padfield  
Ron & Meredith Gubin

## Conde

- May 10 Marion Jensen
- May 12 Diane Taylor
- May 16 Dwight Lyren
- May 25 Greg Bonn  
Floyd & Carol Smith
- May 28 Grant & Janice Hanson
- May 30 Curtis & Cindy Haskell



## Groton UMC

Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marj 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 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.

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY MAY 22

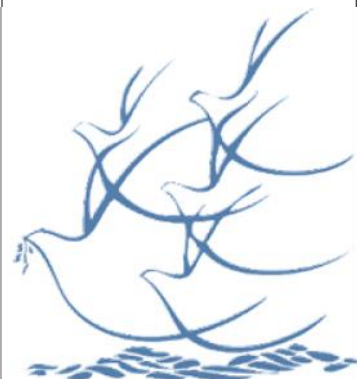
In Arizona border towns, communities facing social challenges are dramatically divided. In Liberian villages, citizens' human rights are being violated. In local U.S. communities, women and girls are being bought and sold against their will.

Moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God's image, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice.

Although you, and possibly even your

congregation, may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace.

Through your giving good news is proclaimed to—and experienced by—the poor. Thanks be to God!

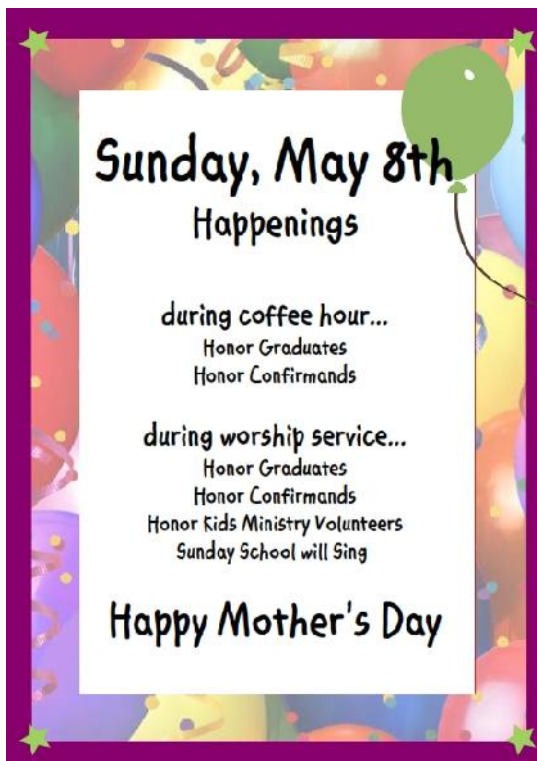


## GROTON UMC AD COUNCIL - APRIL

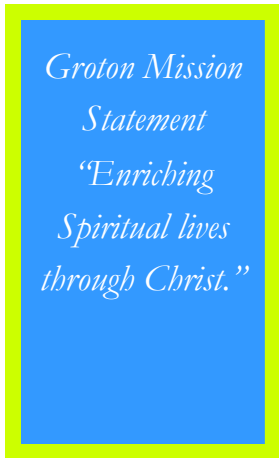
Eleven members of the administrative council met on April 20. They discussed ways to encourage more volunteer help from our church members, especially with youth activities and nursing home and shut-in visitations.

Pastor Lou Wittmer from North Highland UMC, Aberdeen shared information with the council about the Thrive Campaign started by Bishop Ough. The congregation will be hearing about the campaign in the next few weeks.

The council also discussed lawn mowing needs, the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner, and some parsonage cement repairs .



<b>Groton Stewardship Report April 2016</b>	
Average Wkly Giving	\$1,940
Needed Wkly for Church Mission	\$2,347
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday	72
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs	\$225



## GROTON UMC FAMILY COMMITTEE - JUNE

**Anita & John Lowary**

**Pernell & Noella Graf, Brady, Alex, Caroline**

**John Padfield**

Josh & Merrie Atherton

Melissa & Neil Gilbert

Kelli & Lars Hanson, Kari

Darlys Kampa

Carol & Pat Knecht, Macy

Yvonne Lorenz

Brenda & Tony Madsen

Tim Olson

Kevin & Kara Pharis

Lynette & Leroy Severson

Francine & Marc Sippel, Anthony

**Honorary Members**

- Audrey Padfield
- Audrey Thurston

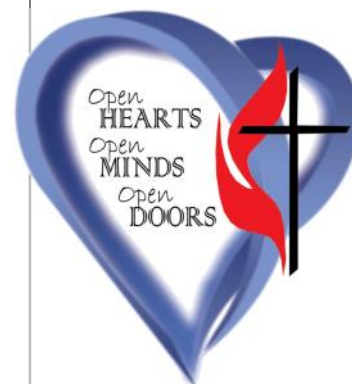
**June Responsibilities**

- 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
- 1 Greeter for each Sunday
- Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- Mow the Lawn Weekly
- Kelli & Lars Hanson change banners, altar cloths, and do the candle maintenance

June 2016						
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		







Camp Sunday featured Scott Jensen and fun!

### Procrastinators

A pastor waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but many cars were ahead of the pastor at the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

“Sorry about the delay,” said the young man. “Everyone seems to wait until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.”

The pastor chuckled, “I know what you mean. It’s the same in my business.”

### Disciples needed

The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as “Christians” will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the kingdom of the heavens into every corner of human existence.

–Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*



# M.O.Ms

(Moms Offering Moms Support)

## May 6<sup>th</sup>

### 9:30am-10:30am

@ Groton United Methodist Church  
Jaymie Overacker 605-228-1891

\*First Friday of every month

Parents of infants to kindergarteners are welcome!

Let’s have a play date!

Join us for constructive and open play, small snack, and a devotional with other parents.

Jump  
for JOY!





# KIDS MINISTRY

I would like to thank everyone that helped make this a great Sunday School year! I can't wait to enjoy the beautiful weather! We have many new things this year that we have all enjoyed! Hopefully next year our programs can be even better than they are now! This is possible because of all the great volunteers. If you would like to be a Sunday School teacher or sub next year please talk to me. If you would like to volunteer no matter how much or how little we appreciate the help. Please e-mail me if you would like to be on my e-mail list for upcoming events. [grotonumckids@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumckids@nvc.net). Follow our page on FB for more information as well. I have a couple of fun events in the works for this summer! If you would like to oversee an event and help plan let me know. I hope the kids are having as much fun as I am! Thank You!



Join us for the Emmanuel Lutheran/ United Methodist VBS

**May 9-11 2016**  
**3:30-6pm**

Join us for Program and Supper  
 @ 5:30pm May 11th  
 @ **Groton UMC**  
**Preschool -5th Grade**

Sign up now at:  
<http://cokesburyvbs.com/ml2016>



Angela Dobbins— 605-380-3870  
[grotonumckids@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumckids@nvc.net)

**May 4th**

**VBS Volunteer Meeting & Decorating 5:30pm**

**May 8th:**

**Mother's Day**

**Kids sing in church**

**Last Day of Sunday School**

**Kids ministry volunteer appreciation in church**

**May 9th & 10th**

**VBS 3:30-6pm**

**May 11th**

**VBS 3:30-5:30**

**Program 5:30pm**

**followed by Pizza**

**-Please send a note with your child to walk over with me from school!**

May 2016						
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				



## OUR CHURCH HAPPENINGS

May 3 Groton UMW making desserts and setting up at 10 am

**May 4 Groton UMW Luncheon from 11 am - 1 pm**

May 4 Groton VBS Volunteer Mtg & Decorating 5:30 pm

May 5 Evening Bible Study 7 pm - Everyone Welcome! We meet weekly!

May 6 Groton M.O.M.s 9:30-10:30 am

May 8 Groton Graduates Honored

May 8 Groton Confirmation Sunday

May 8 Groton Honor Kids Ministry Volunteers

May 8 Groton Sunday School singing in church

**May 9-11 Groton VBS** 3:30-6 pm for preschool - 5th grade

May 11 Groton VBS Program & Supper at 5:30 pm

**May 11 Conde UMC Spring Fling at 6:30 pm program & salad luncheon**

May 18 Conde UMW 10 am

May 18 Groton Ad Council 7:15 pm

May 19 Groton UMW 1:30 pm

May 22 Peace with Justice Sunday

**May 31-June 3 Conde VBS** 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

June 3 Conde VBS Program at 7 pm

June 9 - July 28th Little Free Library Story Time at 9:30 am