



UMC Messenger

DECEMBER 2017

GROTON/CONDE



Pastor's Schedule

Monday

in office 10 am - noon
and 1 - 3:30 pm

Tuesday

Sermon Writing Day

Wednesday

in office 12 - 3:30 pm

Thursday

available by appt
10 am-5 pm

Friday and

Saturday

Days Off

Emergency Calls

24/7



FROM OUR
PASTOR

From Pastor Thomas' Desk

Greetings Friends,

As we begin to enter this Christmas season may our hearts and minds be turned to the star as we wait for the birth of Jesus! As I was reflecting on advent and the thought of the star lighting up the sky and shining into the darkness 2 Corinthians 4:6 came to my mind,

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

As I thought about this scripture, I could not help but think about how some peoples' faces seem to shine from within. Something about them is beautifully transparent and gloriously lights up with love. I fully believe that this something can only be the radiant goodness of God shining through them.

Let us think about the blazing brightness that shines from Jesus' face and the glow that must have been on Mary and Joseph's face. Where ever Jesus goes, he brings light to those who walk in darkness. He lights up the dark lives of those he comes in contact with. His shining life was and is and always will be a reflection of the one who sent Him.

In our dark and broken world, today it seems that our hearts can easily become stained with despair and hopelessness. Before we even know what is happening we may begin to be filled with the dark-

ness that surrounds us. We may begin to reflect the darkness through our words and actions. We begin to reflect on darkness instead of the goodness from God's love shining through us. The light that filled our face has gone dark. Our lives no longer shine with compassion and warmth.

This advent season I invite you to open your hearts and minds to the eternal light of God. As we light each advent candle, may we welcome the light that we so desperately need to shine bright through our lives. This great light cannot be overcome by the darkness of our broken world.

May God surround each of you with the light of Christ that was born that first Christmas day in the stable. May God's light shine through our lives and penetrate the hearts and minds of others who so desperately need it this Advent season.

Holding you in the light!

Pastor Thomas Carlson





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

*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.

CHURCH INFORMATION

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906 N 1st St
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Thank You...

Thank you to all who donated to our October One Thing "Brief" Challenge. We delivered 17 packages a total of 122 new underwear to the Hot Springs Prairie UMC whom will be delivering them to the Texas Hurricane area this month. Awesome job everyone! Missions Committee

We would like to thank everyone for helping with the church dinner. Thanks for your donations of food or money,. Thanks to everyone who came to help work, it is great to see all ages working together. Wishing many blessings to everyone, The Church Dinner Committee



Wedding Shower

A come and go bridal shower honoring Amber Wolken, bride-to-be of Bryce Sombke, will be held Saturday, December 9, 2017 from 9 to 11am at St. John's Lutheran Church, 308 N 2nd St, Groton.

The couple is registered at Target and Amazon.com.

Dec 1st
 @ 9:30 am



Greeting Cards for Sale

Located in the Library

Sold by the box or individually

Catalog Ordering will be available in the Spring.

Supporting UMW

Conde UMW

On December 6th at 10:00, the ladies will meet for a potluck dinner. Because of several circumstances, the November 21st meeting had to be cancelled, so the Thank Offering program will be given at the December meeting. There will also be a short Christmas lesson.

The first session of the Advent Study, "ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS" will be held at 7:00 on Tuesday, November 21st. Pat Siefken will be leading this study. Several

ladies have purchased books, so it should be an interesting group.

The UMW will again be donating to the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield. This is a Tri-County facility, and Spink is included. The committee there picks out families that need a little lift at Christmas, and gifts are bought for the children. Instead of buying the gifts, the Unit will send enough money to buy gifts for four children.



Conde Church News

The Bishop's Thanksgiving offering is for aid to the people in Puerto Rico, and the Conde Church is encouraging members to donate to this worthwhile mission. UMCOR goes into disaster areas such as this, and works in much the same way as Salvation Army or Red Cross, however, administrative costs are covered in the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Sunday offering taken in March. When giving to an UMCOR Advance Special, it is guaranteed that your money will go to help those in need.

The Congregation donated a very impressive amount of money to help North Highland Methodist Church in Aberdeen with the Shoe Box Christmas project. The Mission

Committee did not try to buy gifts this year, but rather gave them the cash, and their Mission Committee will purchase what they need. Wrapping the shoe boxes with gift wrap is a time consuming process, so Donna Hearnen wrapped nine boxes to help them out. The box and the lid must be wrapped separately. North Highland Church hand delivers these gift boxes to the children at the Enemy Swim Indian School. All of the work they do is volunteer service, so there is no administrative costs.

Conde Church will not have services on Sunday morning December 24, but there will be a Christmas Eve service at 5:00.

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



Groton UMW

Our monthly meeting, attended by 14 members, began with a program presented by Kay Daly entitled "The Origin of the 12 Days of Christmas" song. Kay shared how each verse in the song relates to the Bible. Kay also shared some fun film clips and neighborhood gift ideas related to the song.

President, Jolene Townsend, then opened the business meeting. JoAnn Krueger shared devotions. Jeanne Wanous shared the previous meeting minutes and the treasurer's report, stating that we had an ending balance of \$2107.58. Both reports were approved as presented. Two bills were presented by Jolene Townsend and approved for payment.

Jolene shared that our UMW unit again received a 3 Flame & 5 Star unit certificates for 2017. In addition, Angela Dobbins' grant request to the UMW Love Ribbon program was approved. A check for \$180 for the Kids Zone program was received.

Old Business: Gloria Pharis continues

work on the 2018 program book and gave members an opportunity to sign up for hostess and/or program presentations.

New Business: Kay Daly proposed allowing members to purchase cards & napkins directly from the catalog twice a year. There being no negative comments, we will try that approach in the future. Jeanne Wanous also asked Kay to share a screen slide occasionally to promote our UMW card & napkin sales.

Jolene alerted members that the December meeting date had been changed to December 21. It will begin at noon with a Christmas lunch and the annual packing of Christmas goodies cans will follow.

Jolene closed the meeting with a prayer. Members were then treated to a delicious dessert provided by hostess Marjorie Overacker.

Jeanne Wanous, UMW Secretary



Groton UMW Jewel of a Woman

The next award is "Jewel of a Woman". This is a very special award given by the UWM group to show our appreciation to one woman each year for their service to our UMW mission and our church. Like the special recognition awards, this recipient is given a special pin, and a monetary gift is given to missions by the UMW in honor of this special lady.

This year's honoree joined our church family in 1949 after moving here from Minnesota. All four children attended Sunday school here and were confirmed here as well. As her children grew, they participated in Sunday school and MYF. It was during those years that she helped them institute the Sunday morning coffee and cookies tradition that continues today. Our honoree has been very involved in our church activities over the years, often working in the background, but

always contributing in any way she can. She has always been a regular attendee at our UMW meetings, willingly and generously giving of her time & talents.

Today, we recognize you, **Delores Knoll**, a mother of four boys; Doug, Richard, Ronald, and Curtis. You have been a faithful and valuable UMW member and servant to our church, your family, and our community. Please come up front to receive your pin.



Groton UMW Special Recognition

Each year our UMW group honors one or two people in our congregation with a special recognition pin and certificate, along with sending a monetary gift amount to our national office to be used in mission work around the world. These pins offer a meaningful way to honor individuals who have dedicated so much time and effort to service in our church. Please come forward and receive your pin as I call your name.

Angela Dobbins:

Angela has been a life-long member of our Groton United Methodist Church. In 2015 Angela became a member of our UMW. In addition to making sure that her three children are involved in our church programs, Angela has been our Sunday school superintendent and has filled in a SS teacher if needed. In addition, she started both the "Kids Zone" & "Mom's" groups. Both groups encourage all community children and mom's to participate. Add to this the fact that Angela has been our Vacation Bible School director and has actively participated in the camping experience with the children.

Angela is happy to encourage others to take the lead. It is evident that she loves kids and according to her mom, Angela says this is her church family, since she grew up here. Angela is working hard to make our church a place for children to grow up with that same feeling—that this is their church family too. Angela we thank you for your positive attitude, your enthusiasm, your spirit, your willingness to try new things and your love of God's children.



Pastor Thomas Carlson:

Pastor Thomas, today we take time to thank you for your faithful leadership. Thomas came into our church lives with an infectious love of people, children, and youth, song, and prayer. He and Britni have touched many lives here in Groton and we are pleased that his faith journey has brought both of them to the Conde and Groton United Methodist Churches. Under his guidance many new church & community activities have lifted our church and community to new heights.

Thank you Thomas for being instrumental in starting the following:

- J 5th Quarter, an ecumenical youth program after home football games;
- J Trunk or Treat for the community (including live streaming our event on Facebook);
- J The Thursday night prayer warrior group which was established to help any and all members learn to be more at ease praying and how to pray from our hearts, praying for those in need and any prayer requests the group received;
- J A Sunday night Bible class where all benefit from his experiences and education.

The children from our church adore Pastor Thomas and are always high-5ing him. In support of our children & youth, Thomas has been highly involved in the Methodist camping experience and our Vacation Bible School.

Thomas hasn't forgotten about our senior members and community. He conducts church services at the Groton Rehabilitation Center and Rosewood Court as well as visiting our shut-ins and conducting communion with our members who cannot attend church services. Thomas has a genuine concern for assisting all people dealing with any form of illness or discontent, reaching out to members of our church, their extended families and the community.

Pastor Thomas our UMW is thankful for the programs you have presented to our group, for your support in our mission, and for the energy and blessings of your ministry to our church and community.



Trunk or Treat 2017



Thank you to
everyone who
made this year's
"Trunk or Treat"
a success!

Everlasting Joy

In a *Chicken Soup for the Soul* sampler, Karen Asire tells of a particularly difficult Christmas after her husband left and began divorce proceedings. As Karen and her three young children set up their tree, she fought tears and secretly tucked aside certain ornaments, such as one announcing "Our First Christmas Together."

Several days later, a neighbor stopped by with a gold decoration proclaiming JOY. "We've hung this ornament on our tree for several years," she explained, "but this year we wanted you to have it." When Asire hung

it on the tree and stepped back, "all the other ornaments seemed to fade into the background, and all [she] saw was the shimmering gold of the JOY ornament." She allowed herself to cry then, grateful for the reminder that amid grief and heartache, God's love shines.

Pain fades in time, while God's Christmas gift — Jesus — brings joy that lasts forever.



Our Church Celebrations

Groton

Dec 2 Meri Erickson\
 Dec 3 Anthony Sippel
 Edison Foltz
 Dec 4 Darlys Kampa
 Dec 9 Ann Rix
 Brooklyn Gilbert
 Wesley Morehouse
 Dec 10 Jim Zeck
 Dec 11 Dave & Connie Nilsson
 Dec 13 Melissa Gilbert
 Dec 15 Marjae Schinkel
 Dec 16 Dan Schinkel
 Sage Mortenson
 Dec 17 Alan Townsend
 Dec 18 Dylan Hanson
 Michaela Oleson

Dec 20 Lon & Marva Gellhaus

Dec 21 McKenna Tietz
 Noella Graf
 Bo Garrett Fliehs

Dec 23 John Padfield
 Marc & Fran Sippel

Dec 27 Emily Overacker
 Jane Johnson
 Karla Pasteur

Dec 28 Jaden Dobbins
 Meredith Gubin

Dec 29 Andrea Davidson
 Dec 30 Alec Oleson
 Alex Graf

Conde

Dec 1 Joyce Haskell
 Dec 4 Greg & Stacey Bonn
 Dec 24 Floyd Smith
 Dec 27 Richard & Dorothy Sanderson



UMW Annual Christmas Goodies Packages

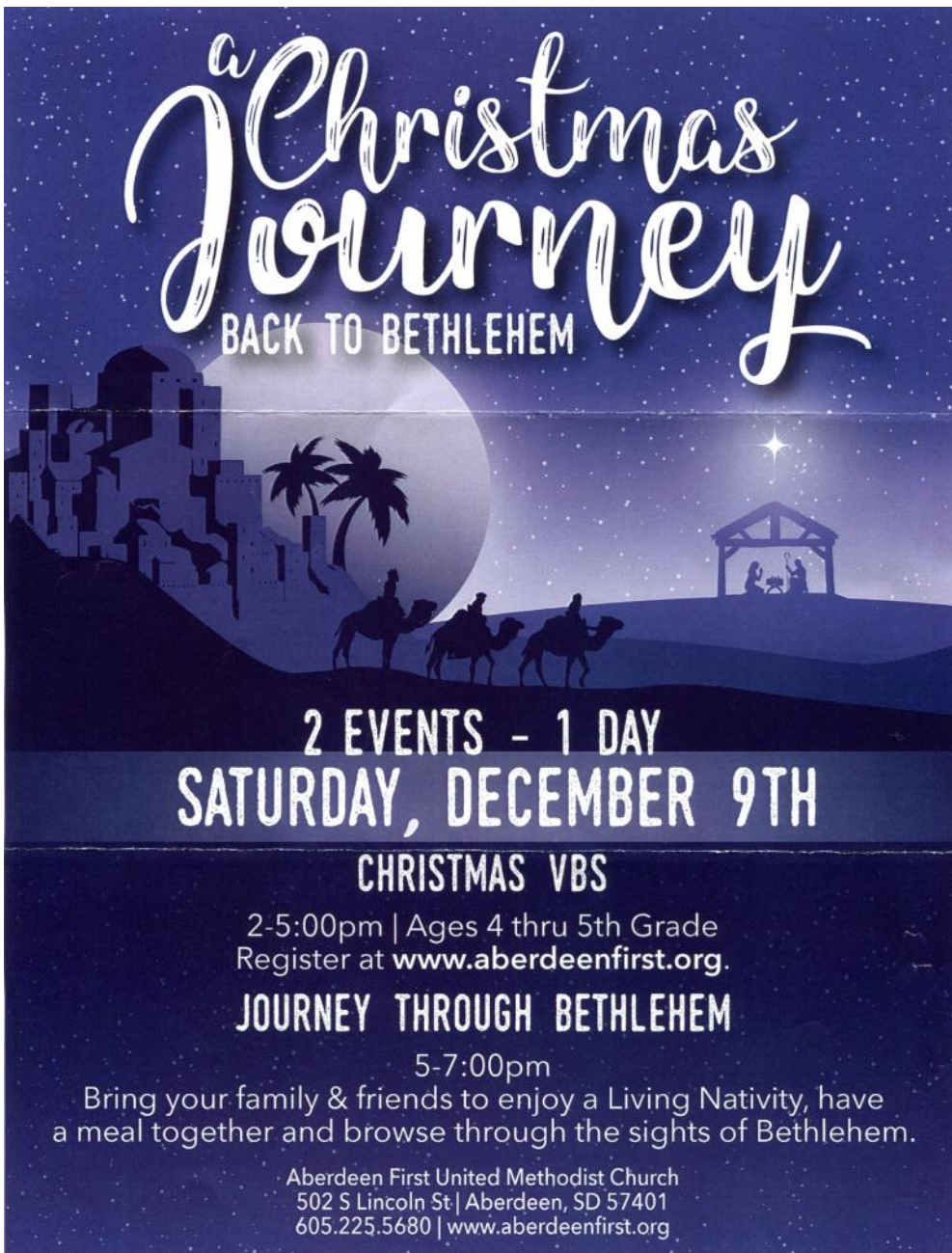
Please help us fill our Christmas Goodies packages this year. Christmas Luncheon at noon followed by packing of Christmas Goodies Packages.

Join us if you can or drop off 1 -2 doz. individually wrapped or small snack size baggies of goodies to the church before noon, **Thursday, December 21.**

UMW ladies will package 30 – 40 boxes and deliver them that day to families or individuals who have had a difficult year or may be lonely for the holidays.

Goodies can be home baked or purchased.
 Ideas: cookies, snack mix, candy.





a Christmas Journey
BACK TO BETHLEHEM

2 EVENTS - 1 DAY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
CHRISTMAS VBS

2-5:00pm | Ages 4 thru 5th Grade
Register at www.aberdeenfirst.org.

JOURNEY THROUGH BETHLEHEM
5-7:00pm

Bring your family & friends to enjoy a Living Nativity, have a meal together and browse through the sights of Bethlehem.

Aberdeen First United Methodist Church
502 S Lincoln St | Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.225.5680 | www.aberdeenfirst.org

Our Greatest Need

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.

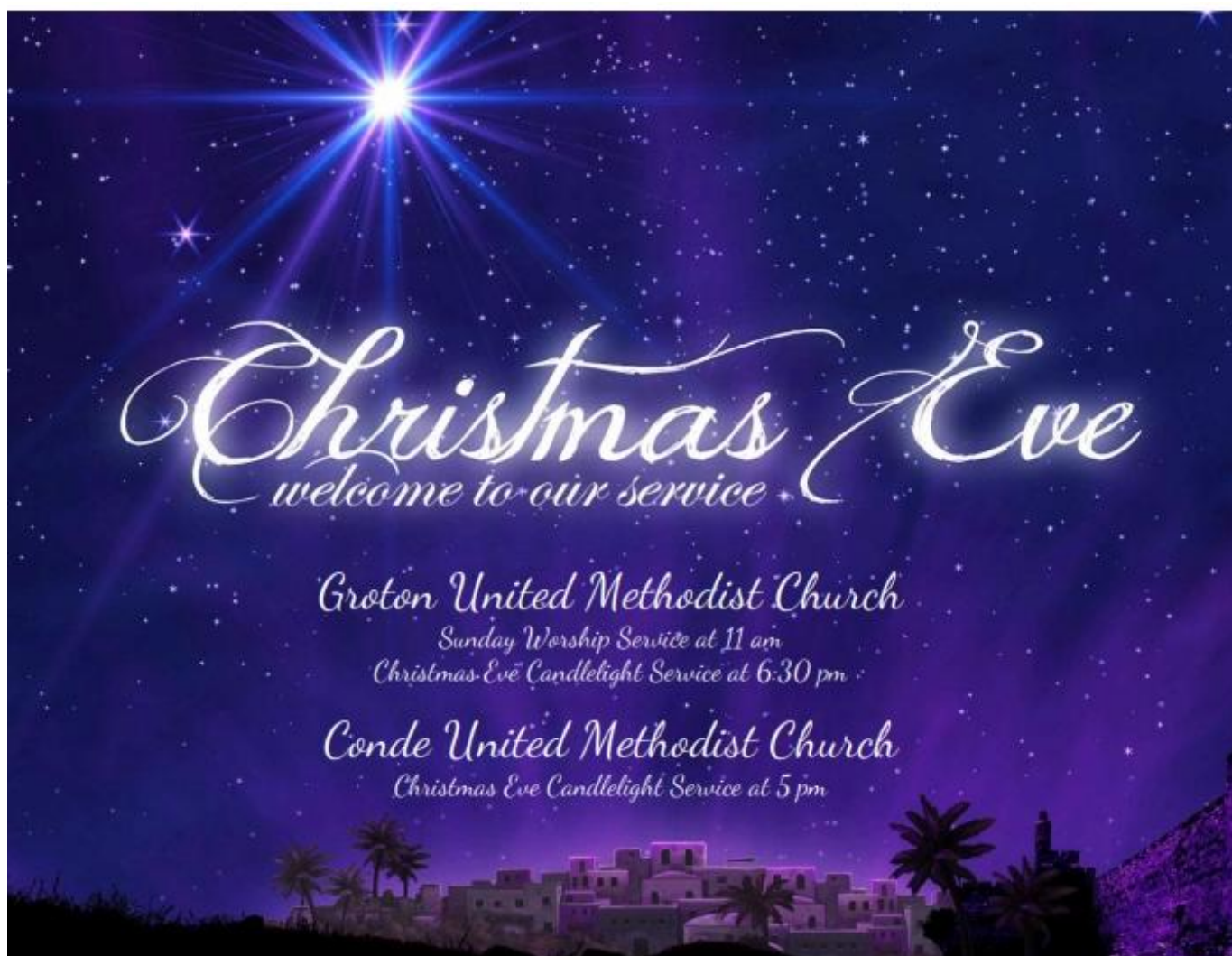
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness
and acceptance,
so God sent us a Savior.

—Author unknown





"HE WILL BE
GREAT
 AND WILL
 BE CALLED
 THE SON OF THE
MOST HIGH."

LUKE 1:32



"At least they saved themselves a co-pay."

Groton Ad Council - Nov



President Brad Morehouse was absent, so the board agreed that Diann Morehouse would be the acting Vice Chair. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. There were 10 members in attendance.

Anita Lowary presented an October UMC Financial Report. It was noted that receipts from the October 29 Church Dinner were \$1905 while receipts from the silent auction on that day were \$689.50. Also noted, y-t-d expenses have been \$4,892.43 more than income. In addition, we are behind in apportionment payments by \$2500 to our conference.

Anita Lowary reviewed the 2018 proposed budget showing a comparison to the 2017 budget. Anita noted that everything has been cut drastically for 2018. We will need to do some serious fundraising to help sustain our activities.

The Administrative Council also approved Angela Dobbin's request to hold a November 11 Kids Ministry Chili/Soup Cook-off and Vendor Event at our church with all money going to our children's ministry. There will be a free will donation for chili and soup and each vendor will pay \$15 for their

vendor spot.

In preparation for the annual Charge Conference, the council approved the list of nominations for the Groton council leadership and committee members as presented by Pastor Thomas.

Jolene & Alan Townsend volunteered to purchase and hang fresh greenery around the church doors this Christmas season. The council was happy to approve their offer.

After a short discussion all agreed that the Groton church would hold their normal Sunday morning service on Sunday, December 24 along with the traditional Christmas Eve service that evening.

Laurie Mitchell, Trustees Chair, stated that the pipe leak in the fellowship hall would be fixed as soon as a part arrives. The Trustees were also given permission to complete painting of the walls in the fellowship hall. Thanks to those who are donating all materials and labor to give the room a fresh look.

Karla Pasteur, Missions Chair, explained their idea for collecting meal items for a Thanksgiving Blessing and the council gave her their approval for the project.

Groton Stewardship Report Oct 2017

Average
Wkly Giving
\$2,478

Needed Wkly for
Church Mission
\$2,347

Average Weekly
Attendance Sunday
69

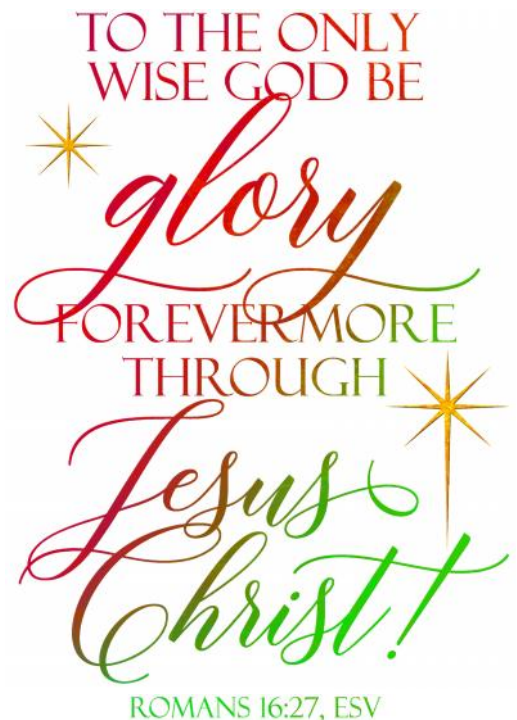
Total Building Fund
Donations
for Repairs
\$255

The Perfect Gift

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about

perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday — or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, "How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends — the people who seem to have everything — and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you — your time, your talent and your treasure — used in service to others."



Our Church Happenings



- Dec 1 MOMs Group 9:30 am
- Dec 3 1st Sunday of Advent
- Dec 6 Conde UMW Potluck 10 am
- Dec 7 Prayer Group 7 pm
- Dec 10 Groton Ad Council 10 am
- Dec 13 Youth Group at Emmanuel 7 pm
- Dec 17 Newsletter Items due for the New Year
- Dec 20 Youth Group Caroling from UMC at 6:30 pm
- Dec 21 Groton UMW Christmas Dinner with Delivering Treat Boxes 12 noon
- Dec 24 Groton UMC Worship 11 am**
- Dec 24 Conde Christmas Eve Service 5 pm**
- Dec 24 Groton Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm**
- Dec 25 Christmas Day

December 2017						
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						