Greeting friends,

As I was thinking about the new year with new opportunities. There were three bible passages that really can to mind;

First - Matthew 14:28-31,
Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

The second passage is John 15:5-9,
I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you

bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

The Third and Final passage is Matthew 28:19-20,
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

As I reflect on these three passages I believe that 2018 will be a year for us to grow together, reach as we branch out with the gifts that God has given to us and go into the world around us as we connect with those who need God’s love and grace.

In 2018 how can we get out of our boats and walk towards Jesus? What comfort zone are we stuck in? What gifts has God blessed us with that we can branch out and share with the world as we begin to impact God’s kingdom? Where can we go out and connect with those who are searching for the love, grace, and mercy that Jesus has to offer.

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
Groton, SD 57445
Groton Finance

As we begin the new year of 2018, it's time to reflect on what is important in our lives and changes we can make to support those important things. One item of importance to most people is their church. While we might think that our Groton UMC has always been here for us in the past and will always be here in the future, that is not necessarily the case without the support of its members. That support can come in many different forms, but the one area that needs to be addressed occasionally is our financial support of the church.

Over the last several years the church finances have been treading water, but now they are slowly slipping below the surface. Several UMC Conference payments have been missed this year in order to have enough money for us to pay salaries and utilities. Whether you and your family attend every Church service and event, or you just attend the Christmas service, the bills have to be paid.

Both the expense side and the income side of the church budget need to be addressed. As Church Treasurer Anita Lowary reported in the December newsletter the Finance Committee has made as many cuts to the 2018 budget expenses as possible, but there are expected increases, also. It's up to the Church parishioners to help on the income side.

Our Church expenditures are projected to exceed Church revenue by about 15% this year. If every Church member gave 15% more, the problem will be solved. We are asking every member to examine their current giving. Perhaps it has been awhile since that giving has been increased, and going to the next level would not be too burdensome. For example, if you give $5 per week, go to $6 or $10. Or, if you give $100 monthly, jump to $110 or $125. Maybe you give electronically; call Myndi Kampa at 397-4530 to make an adjustment.

If everyone gave a little more, then the burden is spread around to all of the church members. Thank you.

Finance Committee

**Groton Stewardship Report Nov 2017**

Average Wkly Giving $1,668

Needed Wkly for Church Mission $2,347

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 56

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs $455

“I love bowling night at church.”
Our Church Celebrations

Groton
Jan 2  Holly Walter
Jan 3  Caroline Graf
Jan 5  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 Isabella Daly
Jay & Linda Johnson
Jan 15 Alissa Wells
Jan 16 Hunter Bahr
Marjorie Overacker
Jan 18 Cheryl Graf
Jan 19 Tim Graf
Jan 20 Dave Nilsson
Jan 21 Taryn Thompson
Jan 23 Jed Morehouse
Jan 26 Doris Zoellner
Jan 27 Kristie Hawkins
Jan 28 Ruby Luce (85)

Conde
Jan 3  Bruce Herman
Jan 8  Darrel Haskell
Jan 10 Donna Hearnen
Jan 11 Norman Smith
Jan 27 Darrel & Joyce Haskell
Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon

85th Birthday
January 28th
Ruby Luce
PO Box 32
Groton, SD 57445

IN HIM
and through
FAITH
IN HIM
we may approach
GOD
with
FREEDOM
and
CONFIDENCE.
EPHESIANS 3:12, NIV
UMYF Schedule 2018

Jan 10  7 pm at UMC
Jan 24  7 pm at UMC
Feb 14  7 pm at ELCA
Feb 28  7 pm at ELCA
Mar 14  7 pm at UMC
Mar 28  7 pm at UMC
Apr 11  7 pm at ELCA
Apr 25  7 pm at ELCA
May 9   Community Service Project TBA

Winter Gift

"God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, ‘Fall to the earth’; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work” (Job 37:5-7, NABRE).

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. “Snow days” due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We’re granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It’s like a surprise Sabbath — the gift of grace-time — when no one’s expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work — his place — in our lives. Praise God for snow days!

—Heidi Mann
**New Boxes in Office**

We have had new boxes installed in the church office for a safe place to leave information for different officers in the church. Each Ad Council person with an * behind their name has a box that they should check regularly. In addition to that list there is a box for the following.

Music-Organist / Yvonne Lange*
PPR Treasurer/ Meri Erickson*

There is also some on top of the file cabinet for Sunday School, Youth Ministry, Pastor, and Lay Leader

Secretary items may be placed on the desk in the office.

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**From the Correct Perspective**

A child sat at his grandmother’s feet as she embroidered. Looking up, he saw a mishmash of threads and ugly knots but no discernible picture or words. “Nana,” he said with concern, “that’s not very pretty.”

“Come up here,” Grandma invited, “and look at it from this side. You have to see it from my perspective.”

“Oh!” the boy exclaimed then. “It’s beautiful!”

Seeing the world from our human, earthly viewpoint, we can’t grasp the masterpiece that God is completing. But when we finally see it from his perspective, we’ll discover that the threads and knots all contribute to a beautiful work of art. That work won’t be finished until Jesus returns, but in the meantime, may God grant us an occasional glimpse of the work in progress — from God’s side!
Human Relations Sunday - Jan 14

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:
- An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that’s what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God’s children to realize their potential.

Will You Support the Ministry of Christ Among Those on the Margins?

Will you continue to support Human Relations Day? Will you continue nurturing at-risk youth, strengthening communities’ self-improvement efforts and advocating for the oppressed?

Rev. I Malik Safir, whose church works with those gripped by addiction in Little Rock, sums up the work of Human Relations Day by recalling Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan: “to meet the poor, the disadvantaged and the underserved at the places where others have robbed them and help them to recover from the wounds of social inequality.”
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
- Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
- Change the banners as needed as per schedule in back of committee book.
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- Shovel snow from the doorways before church
- Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for the bulletin.

JoAnn & Richard Krueger
Chuck Padfield
Valerie Baker
Jane & Marc Johnson
Chris & Sherwin Nyberg
Joey & Sabrina Padfield
Randy & Rebecca Padfield
Gloria & Harry Pharis
Randy & Sue Stanley
Lindsey & Tom Tietz
Joyce & Allen Walter

Honorary Members
- Ruby Luce
- Richard Voss
- Jean Walter
- Marjory Townsend
- Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaitt
- Pat Dahlquist

J A N U A R Y  2 0 1 8

P A G E  8

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

JAMES 2:17, NRSV

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

Jan 4  Groton Prayer Group 7 pm
Jan 10 Groton Youth activities resume
Jan 14 Human Relations Day
Jan 16 Groton 10 am Bible Study resumes
Jan 17 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
Jan 21 Newsletter Items due
No January UMW Mtg in Groton