



Groton & Conde
United Methodist Church

Newsletter

December 2020

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

*O come, O come,
Emmanuel
And ransom captive
Israel
That mourns in lonely
exile here
Until the Son of God
appear*

This Advent Season we follow alongside churches across our globe in looking to Christmas through the prophetic words of Isaiah as he speaks to a nation in exile. A nation of Israel that endured the immediate and all-encompassing stripping of their way of life as the Babylonian army came swiftly and without mercy, to destroy their city and carry them off into slavery. In a moment all that these people had known was different... thinking, "would it ever again be like it once was?"

The year of 2020 has seemed like a mirror image to many of us. We have been stripped of so many things we once relied so heavily on. We've had to adapt... find a way through uncharted territory. All the while wondering, "will what was ever be again?"

The prophet Isaiah



speaks into this desperation in Isaiah 64 as he says to God, "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down..." GOD. COME. DOWN. See your people and meet us in the ruins of what was. We're tired of talking and debating the "how" and the "why". We just need you.

As we prepare to worship apart, we recognize that many of us have been apart from us since March, and in the desperation for what once was, maybe we have missed that God has been moving all along. Leading us, making a way before us, into something much greater than before.

In this season leading to Christmas I invite us all to take the postures of Advent: anticipation for what

God might do in and through our lives this year, preparation to ensure that we're ready for it when it comes, and patient and intentional waiting... for the Lord is coming.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee,
O Israel*

Blessings,
Pastor Brandon Dunham



- ⇒ Groton Advent Bible Study will no longer be meeting
- ⇒ Conde Advent Bible Study will continue to gather Tuesday evenings at 6pm ending on December 22nd.



Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off

COVID Related Updates

Groton Administrative Council met last Friday and decided to adhere to the Bishop's "strong and urgent" request that we plan on Advent and Christmas Eve services to be held online. That is as far as we've voted so far, but our hope is this is a short-term transition.

Because of this we will not be hosting our last 2 Confirmations this year, but will be inviting those students to join the Youth Group in Angel Tree shopping this Wednesday, Dec 2, from 6-8pm and Christmas Caroling on December 16th from 7-

8pm.

I have additionally ordered and will be receiving materials soon for at Home Advent Kits. Click the link to a Google Form to fill out so Pastor Brandon can get you what you need <https://forms.gle/5nd83BARhdZp9kHG6>



Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.



Sympathies to the family of Marjory Townsend, who passed away Saturday, November 21st.



Church Information

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Fall Dinner

We held our annual Fall Dinner in Groton on November 15th, and because of COVID and everything else going on, we did so drive-through style. I want to extend a special thank you to Jane Johnson, Jeanne Wanous, John Padfield, and especially Jessica, Brent, Wesley, Colton, and Jed Morehouse because we served a good number of our folks... but also had people coming from other churches... had people coming I had never seen before... we even had folks coming back around for seconds! Some people took meals to neighbors or friends

and family... and we got to do it all purely on a Freewill donation.

I know others helped in bringing bars and I want to thank you too as I joyfully share that we served about 100 meals on the dot, raised over \$1000 for future missions, and what was leftover was happily donated to the Table Talks ministry in Groton where there were only 2 pork sandwiches unclaimed. Talk about what kind of church do we want to be? **THAT KIND.**



Thanksgiving Baskets

Our Missions Committee in Groton also received donations for and distributed 13 boxes of groceries to families filled with Turkey, potatoes, cans of vegetables, and pie. What a blessing you were this month

UMYF

Our Youth had a wonderful time last week creating these Happy Thanksgiving cards for the residents at Rosewood. Upcoming projects are Angel Tree shopping Wednesday, December 2nd from 6pm-8pm and Christmas Caroling on December 16th from 7pm-8pm.

If you would like your ears tickled with sounds of the season, email pastor-brandon@nvc.net to get on our list!



?? ? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7.)

away
 IN A
 manger



Groton UMW - November

Jeanne Wanous called the meeting to order with a total of five members present.

The group repeated the UMW Purpose in unison.

The group shared prayers and warm thoughts of concern for our President Jolene Townsend and for Marjorie Townsend as they continue to mourn the loss of Alan Townsend.

Jeanne reviewed our current financial status stating that our balance was at \$1,131.71 which includes \$300.18 being held over to send in as our World Thank contribution in early 2021. The group discussed the fact that we have had no fund-raising opportunities this year due to Covid and all decided that we should close out the year with this balance so that we can start 2021 with something to go on. Jeanne shared a photo of our UMW Trunk or Treat car and thanked Marjorie Overacker & Linda Thurston for helping at the event. Gloria Pharis will start working on our 2021 UMW books. Those present agreed that due to Covid we should not prepare our annual coffee cans of goodies this coming December, therefore the group will not plan to meet again until February 2021.

Those present then enjoyed a couple of activities. The first was a Thanksgiving quiz about the history of Thanksgiving and the second was a craft project using green colored Styrofoam tree shaped cones and attaching any color of button desired with stick pins to make a colorful Christmas tree to take home. All present seemed to enjoy the activity and social time while masked and socially distanced.

Secretary Pro Tem,
Jeanne Wanous



Christmas Eve

Bishop Ough Christmas Message on KELO TV 2-3 pm

Christmas Eve Service On Facebook at 5 pm

Christmas Eve Service Facebook Watch Party Online 7 pm

Kay is working on getting the Facebook worship services mirrored onto our website. So if you do not use Facebook, you may watch online at www.grotonumc.org.





Conde News

Conde has several mission projects that people can give to. One of these is collecting nonperishable food items for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Redfield. This project is sponsored by the Conde Legion Auxiliary. Their December meeting has always been the time to place grocery items under the Christmas tree, but there will not be a meeting, so it was decided to put boxes in several places in town and in the Conde Church and also the Catholic Church in Turton. This food pantry services Spink, Hand, and Faulk Counties. For those who don't want to shop, cash is appreciated. The food will be delivered in early December. Cash donations can

be put in the collection plate, with notation what it is for. Another idea for food donation or cash donations is to the Salvation Army in Aberdeen.

The Conde church is again participating in the Shoe Box for Christmas under the direction of the North Highland Methodist Church in Aberdeen. They will not be making up shoe boxes for Enemy Swim Day School this year, but will decide on some type of gift for every student. Distribution will be somewhat different because of the pandemic. They will not be able to interact with the students like they have in the past. Donations for this can also be placed in the collection plate with a notation

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

Groton January Family Committee

Josh & Merrie Atherton

Kelli & Lars Hanson

Melissa & Neil Gilbert, Brooklyn

Pernell Graf, Alex

JR & Paula Johnson

Jay & Linda Johnson

Carol Knecht

Yvonne Lorenz, Sage

Brenda & Tony Madsen

Joe & Belinda Nelson, Mary

Tim Olson

John Padfield

Kevin & Kara Pharis, Kale

Francine & Marc Sippel

Mark & June Thompson

Kim & Craig Weber

Honorary Members

Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt

Gloria Pharis

Pat Dahlquist

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and possible cancellation of church and activities, the normal work committee duties and responsibilities will be changed from time to time. Thank you for your cooperation.

Normal January Responsibilities

- * Check Kitchen Supplies for the month
- * Check & Clean Oven and Fridge as necessary.
- * Coffee Hour workers (make coffee, launder towels, and remove trash)
- * 2 Ushers for each Sunday
- * Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
- * Change the banners as needed.
- * Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- * Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- * Take down Christmas decorations

- with all church helping
- * If tree lights need replacing, do so before putting them away
- * Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- * Serve at Avantara Nursing Center – 4th Sunday

January 2021						
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 Sunday School

There will not be Sunday School until after the first of the year. But we will be putting together a virtual Christmas program. Please contact Megan Erickson (380-8012) or Meri Erickson (216-2981) if your children would like to be part of it.

We would like to have a Sunday School Christmas Program. We have found a play to do and would like to send out parts to those children who would like to be part of the program.

The parents can tape their parts with their phones and then send them to Megan, Pastor Brandon, or me and we will splice the parts together to make a program. Pastor Brandon plans on showing the Christmas program on December 20, during on-line church services. That said, parts will have to be done and sent back by December 14 to give us enough time to put it all together. Children are also encouraged to sing 1 verse of a favorite Christmas carol if they would like. They can sing a solo or with siblings.

Please email me back whether or not you would like your child(ren) to be part of this program and I will get

parts ready. Also, let me know if they would like to contribute some music and what song they would like to sing. (Ex. Silent Night, Away in a Manger, What Child Is This, Little Town of Bethlehem, or another favorite.... one verse only).

Please respond one way or the other ASAP, so we can start distributing parts. Children can dress up for their parts, add props, whatever.... and

the videos do not have to be perfect. Feel free to change the part a little if it helps them say it.

We think this could be fun - and are looking forward to some amazing videos. Thank you!

Meri Erickson, Megan Erickson, and Pastor Brandon



Virtual Christmas Program



Groton Stewardship Report Oct 2020

Average Wkly Giving
\$2,134

Needed Wkly for Church Mission
\$2,285

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday
--

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs
\$15

DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

Dec 2 Meri Erickson
 Dec 3 Anthony Sippel
 Edison Foltz
 Dec 4 Darlys Kampa
 Dec 7 Morgan McNickle
 Dec 9 Ann Rix
 Brooklyn Gilbert
 Wesley Morehouse
 Dec 10 Jim Zeck
 Dec 13 Melissa Gilbert
 Dec 15 Marjae Schinkel
 Dec 16 Dan Schinkel
 Sage Mortenson
 Dec 17 Pastor Brandon
 Dec 18 Dylan Hanson
 Michaela Oleson
 Dec 20 Lon & Marva Gellhaus
 Dec 21 Bo Fliehs
 Kent Webb

McKenna Tietz

Dec 22 John Padfield
 Dec 23 Marc & Fran Sippel
 Dec 27 Emily Overacker
 Jane Johnson
 Karla Pasteur
 Dec 28 Jaden Dobbins
 Dec 29 Andrea Davidson
 Dec 30 Alec Oleson
 Alex Graf

Conde

Dec 1 Joyce Haskell
 Dec 4 Greg & Stacey Bonn
 Dec 17 Pastor Brandon
 Dec 24 Floyd Smith
 Dec 27 Richard & Dorothy Sanderson



TOGETHER IN
Spirit

 STAYING CONNECTED

LET IT snow!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter



What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.

Groton Ad Council - November

Pastor Brandon Dunham chaired the meeting which was called to order at 7:05 pm. Those in attendance were: Pastor Brandon, Linda Thurston, Marjorie Overacker, Richard Krueger, Anita Lowary, Jeanne Wanous, and Brent Morehouse. Pastor Brandon shared a prayer prior to our discussion of business.

Agenda: Approved

Minutes: Minutes of our previous meeting were approved on a motion by Richard Krueger & 2nd by Brent Morehouse.

Correspondence: Pastor Brandon shared a thank you note from Jolene Townsend to the Ad Council for the Peace Lily given in memory of Alan. Alan was serving as our 2020 Administrative Council Chairman.

Treasurer's Report: Marjorie Overacker had no specific comments regarding the current Treasurer's Report. There was one question regarding a balance of \$1698 listed in the general fund as Fall Dinner. It was explained that these are the undesignated funds taken in after our 2019 Fall Dinner. On a motion by Anita Lowary and a 2nd by Brent Morehouse, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Pastor Parish: No report

Bills to be Presented: On behalf of Kay Daly, Linda Thurston presented a bill of \$29 for a YouTube download subscription. This is a one-time purchase for Music & Worship. In addition, a bill from Kays Computing was submitted for \$88.33 for misc. electronic supplies for the new projector.

Administrative Report:

Our Lay Leader, Dale Kramer, will be leading our worship service on Sunday, Nov. 22 in order to give Brandon a weekend off.

Pastor Brandon is currently planning Advent as well as planning the best option for our annual Children's Christmas Program. In addition, he discussed the possibility of offering Christmas Eve Services as follows: Groton at 3:00 & 7:00 pm which would allow for less crowding in Groton services and Conde at 5:00 pm. The council agreed that this would be a great plan.

Brandon's Monday evening Bible Study was moved from Nov. 16 to Nov. 23 as Brandon was not feeling well on the 16th.

Brandon stated that the video Charge Conference went well and that our proposed 2021 budget was approved.

Our Nov. 15 Drive Thru Meal went well. We served approximately 100 meals and the free will offering netted about \$1100. We are so appreciative of Brent & Jessica Morehouse and Brandon & Ashley for planning the event and preparing the food. All food was donated so the board agreed that the profits would be used as seed money for our next community meal. In addition the leftover food was donated to the Groton Table Talks program which was much appreciated.

Committee Reports:

Memorial: Linda Thurston shared that there is a current total balance of \$13,549 in the memorial fund.

Trustees:

Richard Krueger reported that he is working on the following issues:

1. There is water by the kitchen door again. It is still a mystery as to the source of the water but it seems to appear after kitchen use for an event.
2. Kitchen Outlets: Locke Electric has surveyed the issue with the east wall outlets in the kitchen and reported that they are not up to code for safety by a water source. The proper fix has not yet been determined or reported back to Richard.
3. Lighting improvement in the narthex. Because the lights keep burning out and are not very bright, Richard is considering new lighting fixtures or trying LED bulbs.
4. Surplus Items: Richard is working on a list of surplus church items to be offered for sale to church members.
5. Spraying for attic flies has not been done this year so Richard will try to arrange to have this done if it is not too late in the season.

Old Business: None

New Business: Valerie Baker and the Missions Committee are working on Thanksgiving Boxes & the Angel Tree.





December 2020						
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...

Groton Worship will be online for the month of December
Conde will continue to have limited in-person worship Dec 6, 13, and 20th.
Conde will worship online Christmas Eve and Dec 27th.
Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc/> or
On our website at www.grotonumc.org

Dec 15 Groton Ad Council via Zoom at 7 pm
Dec 16 Confirmation & UMYF Caroling 7-8 pm
Dec 17 Pastor Brandon's Birthday
Dec 20 Groton Virtual Sunday School Program during online worship
Advent Bible Study in Conde on Tuesdays at 6 pm until Dec 22nd

Christmas Eve Worship Online

Bishop Ough Christmas Message on KELO at 2 pm
Christmas Eve Service On Facebook 5 pm
Christmas Eve Service Facebook Watch Party 7 pm
Christmas Eve Service on Website at www.grotonumc.org

