



Groton & Conde
United Methodist Church

Newsletter

October 2020

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

As I sit to write this letter this morning, I think of the choices each day brings. “What do I eat for breakfast?”, “Should I wear a sweater or button up?”, “How am I going to organize my day?” These choices may seem mundane, or insignificant, but true worship can be seen in these small choices. Where will we choose to invest our time, our energy, and our resources?

To worship something is simply to give **worth** to that thing. To invest in it. Whether it be our Christian



worship which is to give **worth** to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit... or other things. We all spend time putting value, or worth, into something. The question is: What are those things?

We are swept up in a society of doing and achieving, and yet so many of the things we busy our lives with were once choices. Did those choices lead us closer to the Jesus? Jesus, who offered his life to give his value to us? Or were those choices to give value to things that take far more than they give... that depreciate over time?

When we choose to start to worship in the small, everyday

choices, and make that a discipline, we can build upon a firm foundation of a worship when the truly hard choices come. We can slowly become more worshipful every day and THAT is when we see transformation!

Pastor and author, John MacArthur writes, “... the essence of authentic faith and true worship is wrapped up in honor and adoration that we render to God. That consuming selfless desire to give to God is the defining element of all genuine worship. **It begins with the giving first of ourselves, and then of our attitudes, and then of our possessions — until wor-**



ship is a way of life.”

A life of worship starts with presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice. The worship that follows happens in those small choices that, when we choose to give God the glory in the midst of those choices, don't seem so small anymore.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Brandon Dunham



Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off



Congratulations

Jaxxynn Tylor Chouinard was born August 31 to Danielle Schinkel and Zack Chouinard. Jaxxynn was 9 lbs .6 oz and 22 inches long.



**God is
Awesome!**

Baptism Blessings to Ava Joy who was baptized during worship on Sept 6th. Ava was born July 29th to Karen and Ian Rose. She also joins Rylie, Graham, Nolan, and Beckett.



Happy birthday to — and for — you!

Birthdays are unique because they celebrate who someone *is*, not what they've *done*. Henri Nouwen wrote, "It is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone, 'Thank you for being you.' ... On a birthday we do not say, 'Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished.' No, we say, 'Thank you for being born and being among us.'"

To rejoice over someone purely for who they are is an echo of God's joy over us. Some families celebrate "baptism birthdays" (anniversaries) by lighting candles, sharing scripture and prayer, perhaps looking at photos and recounting stories of that milestone event that marked the beginning of their faith life.

On a birthday, said Nouwen, "we lift someone up and let everyone say, 'We love you.'" In baptism, God lifts us to his very heart and declares, "You are my precious child. I love you."

Church Information

Pastor Brandon Dunham
Office Phone 605-397-8270
Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

Pastor Email: pastorbrandon@nvc.net
Secretary Email: grotonumc@nvc.net
Website: grotonumc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/grotonsdumc/
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

Groton Sunday School

We had an awesome Rally Sunday with a great turnout of kids! We are hoping to keep this success going!

We wanted to address some concerns. Masks are optional for the kids; however, teachers and helpers will be wearing them.

We will be having music outside with weather permitting, or we will move it into the sanctuary for social distancing. Depending on the number of kids each Sunday, we will be moving lessons to the sanctuary, hallway, or splitting kids up into the separate classrooms. We will be serving wrapped, store bought treats on Sunday morning for a snack. Crafts supplies will be individually bagged for each student. Tables, chairs, etc... will be sanitized each Sunday. We

want you to know that we will be taking every precaution to ensure that our Sunday School program can continue. If you have any suggestions or questions, please let me know. This is definitely a group effort!

Students in 3rd grade will be receiving their bibles in church on Sunday, September 27, during church services. Wyatt Morehouse, Peyton Padfield, Rachel Dobbins, Trey Tietz, Isabella Daly, Jace Hofer, and Nolan Bahr

A media release for parents to print, sign, and return is available. We took some great pictures at our carnival and try to take them randomly throughout the year in Sunday School. We wanted to be sure that it is ok with the parents to post these pictures on our website and in the



church newsletter.

We are also in need of another teacher in the preschool-1st grade classroom, if anyone would like to volunteer. We also need substitute teachers for all grades. Please let me know if you would be willing to help.

If you would like to donate a box of wrapped treats for Sunday morning snack, please bring to church whenever you can. We will build a stash for the kids to choose from! 😊

Thank you! Meri Erickson



3rd Graders Receive Bibles



Groton UMW Meeting - September

The Groton United Methodist Women met on Sept 17 at the church with 9 members present.

Chris Nyberg led the program: Start a Gratitude Journal.
1. Practice Gratitude 2. Don't worry - hand it over to God and 3. Focus on the silver lining.

President Jolene Townsend called the meeting to order with the members reciting of the UMW Purpose.

A discussion was held about activities cancelled and remaining 2020 activities and projects

for the Groton UMW.

- ◆ Need Volunteers for PAM Ministry
- ◆ "Fall Event" with no UMW Sunday and discussed having a "no bake-bake sale"
- ◆ "Trunk or Treat" will be in the church parking lot on Friday, Oct 30th
- ◆ Tabled discussion for Christmas luncheon and delivering goodies.
- ◆ Retain 2021 UMW Slate of officers and 2021 Budget

Next Meeting is scheduled for Oct 15 at 1:30 pm with Jeanne Wanous giving the program. Marjorie Overacker is the Hostess.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer and the meeting adjourned.

Meri Erickson, Secretary



World Communion Sunday - Oct 4

According to the 1972 Book of Discipline paragraph 163.b there shall be a World Communion (formerly Fellowship of Suffering and Service) offering to support the division of chaplains and ministries, Crusade Scholarships and the scholarship fund for minority groups.

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy.

What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given

potential of all women and men—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins? On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

Will You Equip World-Changers?

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." And because the people of The United Methodist Church believe that all of God's children have been created and gifted to build the kingdom Jesus ushered in, we're resourcing them to do just that. Because of your giving on World Communion Sunday, the most powerful tool to change the world is in more hands.



Fall Sermon Series Cont...



At the beginning of the year we began a search for perspective in our worship and yet we had no idea how we would be shown it. For months our church has struggled like the rest of the country to regain not only our connection, but also our mission, as we have wrestled with the challenge of worship being stripped down to its

bare bones. But... we believe God is on the move. We believe this is not the end of what was, but an opportunity for what will be. We believe that God has a history of doing big things and so we poise ourselves in expectation of where our churches will fit in this master plan.

We've been taking a step back

and asking, God, who are you shaping us to become, and what are you shaping us to do, and what are the things that we hold dear, and what are the dreams that we have about the way that you would use this little community of faith to make a massive difference in your world?



Start planning your costumes because Trunk or Treat will be held on October 30th from 5:30pm-7:00pm in our Groton UMC parking lot!

Safe and simple fun for the whole family, we line our parking lot with cars decorated for candy pitstops, and **all are welcome!** If you wish to volunteer as a trunk to hand out candy, please email pastorbrandon@nvc.net for more details.

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts! From Lifeway Ministries

A spiritual gift is an expression of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers which empowers them to serve the body of Christ, the church. As we press into what our Ethos is, we would encourage you to take a look at what gifts are listed below and decide where you might feel led!

Leadership - Leadership aids the body by leading and directing members to accomplish the goals and purposes of the church. Leadership motivates people to work together in unity toward common goals (Rom. 12:8).

Administration - Persons with the gift of administration lead the body by steering others to remain on task. Administration enables the body to organize according to God-given purposes and long-term goals (1 Cor. 12:28).

Teaching - Teaching is instructing members in the truths and doctrines of God's Word for the purposes of building up, unifying, and maturing the body (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11).

Knowledge - The gift of knowledge manifests itself in teaching and training in discipleship. It is the God-given ability to learn, know, and explain the precious truths of God's Word. A word of knowledge is a Spirit-revealed truth (1 Cor. 12:28).

Wisdom - Wisdom is the gift that discerns the work of the Holy Spirit in the body and applies His teachings and actions to the needs of the body (1 Cor. 12:28).

Prophecy - The gift of prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God boldly. This builds up the body and leads to conviction of sin. Prophecy manifests itself in preaching and teaching (1 Cor. 12:10; Rom. 12:6).

Discernment - Discernment aids the body by recognizing the true intentions of those within or related to

the body. Discernment tests the message and actions of others for the protection and well-being of the body (1 Cor. 12:10).

Exhortation - Possessors of this gift encourage members to be involved in and enthusiastic about the work of the Lord. Members with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service. Exhortation exhibits itself in preaching, teaching, and ministry (Rom. 12:8).

Shepherding - The gift of shepherding is manifested in persons who look out for the spiritual welfare of others. Although pastors, like shepherds, do care for members of the church, this gift is not limited to a pastor or staff member (Eph. 4:11).

Faith - Faith trusts God to work beyond the human capabilities of the people. Believers with this gift encourage others to trust in God in the face of apparently insurmountable odds (1 Cor. 12:9).

Evangelism - God gifts his church with evangelists to lead others to Christ effectively and enthusiastically. This gift builds up the body by adding new members to its fellowship (Eph. 4:11).

Apostleship - The church sends apostles from the body to plant churches or be missionaries. Apostles motivate the body to look beyond its walls in order to carry out the Great Commission (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11).

Service/Helps - Those with the gift of service/helps recognize practical needs in the body and joyfully give assistance to meeting those needs. Christians with this gift do not mind working behind the scenes (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7).

Mercy - Cheerful acts of compassion characterize those with the gift of mercy. Persons with this gift aid the

body by empathizing with hurting members. They keep the body healthy and unified by keeping others aware of the needs within the church (Rom. 12:8).

Giving - Members with the gift of giving give freely and joyfully to the work and mission of the body. Cheerfulness and liberality are characteristics of individuals with this gift (Rom. 12:8).

Hospitality - Those with this gift have the ability to make visitors, guests, and strangers feel at ease. They often use their home to entertain guests. Persons with this gift integrate new members into the body (1 Pet. 4:9).

God has gifted you with an expression of His Holy Spirit to support His vision and mission of the church. It is a worldwide vision to reach all people with the gospel of Christ. As a servant leader, God desires that you know how He has gifted you. This will lead you to where He would have you serve as part of His vision and mission for the church.

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



Something we do extremely well each year for our community is our Fall Dinner and we're gearing up for another! With concerns around safety we are changing the format to a drive-through. Hungry people can drive through our loop at the church and pick up a hot meal to go beginning right after church.

One of the biggest blessings around this event each year is the involvement of our congregation in the donations of food, money, and time, and those will all be appreciated again this year. We will have more information on what is needed in the coming weeks, but for now we ask that you prayerfully consider who you could invite to join us. The meal will be paid for through the generosity of our church so that anyone who may benefit from a meal may come.



Did you know 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men experience domestic violence in their lifetimes? Some communities are more affected by abuse and experience more barriers to safety because of race, age, faith, class, immigration status, language, physical ability, gender, or sexual orientation. Domestic violence is abuse that can be verbal, emotional, physical, financial, sexual, or spiritual. We'd like to think it doesn't happen in our congregation, but the truth is that domestic violence happens in every congregation. Experiences of abuse can be difficult to talk about, and that explains why we often haven't heard about it. We all have a critical role to play in supporting survivors of abuse, so we all

need to learn more about how to help. Please, talk to your friends, and others in our congregation about your ideas, and contact our local domestic violence services agency, Safe harbor by calling 605-226-1212 to learn more.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911. If you or someone you know may be experiencing domestic violence, call Safe Harbor. For resources about faith and domestic violence, visit <http://www.interfaithpartners.org/dvfaith>. For other resources please call 211 or visit helpline.org

Safe Harbor provides emergency shelter, 24 hour help line, protection order services, abuse support groups, and advocacy. We can also do presentations for schools, businesses, and other community events.

Groton November Family Committee

Seth & Megan Erickson

Sharon & Larry Wheeting

Erin & Damian Bahr, Jackson

Rodney Boehmer

Karla & Russell Davidson, Andrea

Ashley Dunham

Caralee Heitmann

Charity & Scotty Hinman

Jay & Linda Johnson

Curtis Krueger

AM & Laurie Mitchell

Justin & Amanda Morehouse

Justin Olson

Cheri & Tom Strom

Alan & Jolene Townsend

Honorary Members

* Gary Heitmann

* Marjory Townsend

November Responsibilities

* Check Kitchen Supplies for the month

* Check & Clean Oven and Fridge as necessary

* Do Coffee Hour with guid-

ance from Hospitality Committee and Ad Council

* Straighten the Sanctuary Pews

* Change the banners as needed as per schedule in back of this book

* Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements

* Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons

* Bring Christmas decorations in from the shed and fluff them so they are ready to put up. Check the lights on them as well.

* Check and make sure the Christmas Eve candles are okay for the service early in the month in case we have to order new ones.

* Check and make sure the Advent Wreath Candles are okay in case they need to be

ordered.

* Put up church indoor and outdoor decorations with December committee and all church members (check date with Pastor)

November 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					

A lesson in appreciation

During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. Her ears perked up when an older member said, "Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, 'The one we

have at any given time is my favorite.'"

What a relief for the pastor to hear — and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.



Our Church Celebrations...



Groton

Oct 1 Turner Thompson
 Oct 4 Fred Wolken
 Josh Atherton
 Rick Hofer
 Oct 5 Jeanne Wanous
 Oct 6 Paula Johnson
 Oct 7 Allen Walter
 Oct 8 Gloria Pharis
 Lars & Kelli Hanson
 Oct 9 London Bahr
 Oct 10 Dan & Marjae Schinkel
 Kaleb Hofer
 Megan Erickson
 Charity & Scott Hinman
 Oct 12 Marc & Jane Johnson
 Charles & Sabrina Padfield

Oct 13 Carna Atherton-Pray

Oct 14 Grady O'Neill

Oct 15 Brad Morehouse
 Jaymie Overacker
 Russell Davidson

Oct 17 Jackson Bahr

Oct 21 Gary Heitmann

Oct 22 Kara Pharis

Oct 23 Randy Stanley

Oct 24 Karla Davidson

Oct 25 Lars Hanson

Oct 26 Jaeden Morehouse

Oct 30 Holden Sippel
 Sarah Hofer

Conde

Oct 22 Janice Hanson
 Oct 29 Marcene Bruckner
 Oct 31 Andee Geist

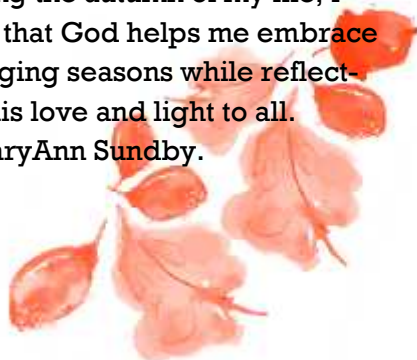
Learning from Autumn Leaves

Every fall, I marvel at the beautiful leaves, studying the intricate shapes and God's creative, colorful displays. Despite its deterioration, the foliage reveals splendor — mere months after bursting out in spring and providing summer shade.

I often think I'm like an autumn leaf. Through many seasons, God has transformed me from a self-absorbed person to one who trusts his steadfast

promises. Winter is approaching for me too. Yet the Holy Spirit keeps molding me to reflect God's goodness and beauty. During the autumn of my life, I pray that God helps me embrace changing seasons while reflecting his love and light to all.

—MaryAnn Sundby.



SEED impressions

Create autumn-themed artwork using items from plants.



What you need:

- Seed pods, nuts, pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Go on a nature walk and collect seeds with interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. On a table, knead the dough. (If too dry, add more water; if too sticky, add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough and stamp impressions in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several hours at 150 degrees until dry and hard. Or, to reuse dough, store in an airtight container up to 6 months.

Groton Ad Council - Sept

Chairman Alan Townsend called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Those in attendance were Pastor Brandon, Alan Townsend, Richard Krueger, Marjorie Overacker, Jolene Townsend, Lon Gellhaus and Brent Morehouse. Pastor Brandon shared a prayer prior to our discussion of business. Agenda and Previous Minutes were approved by Richard and 2nd by Brent.

No correspondence was received.
Treasurer's Report: Marjorie stated that our balance is good. We are still in need of matching funds for the church's roof. The Deloris Krueger Memorial will fund ½ of the total roof costs. Brent approved financial report and 2nd by Lon.

No report from the Financial Secretary or Pastor/Parish Treasurer.

No new bills presented.

Administrative Report: Pastor Brandon shared that he has communicated with our new District Superintendent, Kris Mutzenberger from Fargo, ND. Confirmation has begun with 7 students attending with possibly more. Laurie Mitchell and Diann Morehouse are assisting in class. Pastor Brandon will be preparing for Charge Conference via zoom in November.

Committee Reports:

Pastor/Parish: Brent reported all is well.

Trustees: Richard reported the new roof has been completed by Hub City Roofing. Ongoing projects are shelving in the choir loft closet, removal of the stain on the bricks in the sanctuary, a desk for equipment in the sanctuary loft area and removal of the storage unit for the alter cloths and supplies.

Endowment: Lon gave an update on all of our accounts.

UMW: Jolene reported that our unit would resume our regular meetings beginning tomorrow, Sept 17. Resuming the Wednesday Community Coffee was discussed and it will be postponed.

Old Business: none

New Business: Trunk or Treat will take place in the parking lot Friday, October 30th. The Men's Dinner was discussed at length but no decision was made at this meeting.

Next meeting will be October 21st at 7 pm.

There being no other business, Jolene motioned to adjourn and 2nd by Marjorie.

Meeting Adjourned.

Jolene Townsend, Sec. Pro tem

Groton Stewardship Report Aug 2020

Average
Wkly Giving
\$1,291

Needed Wkly for
Church Mission
\$2,285

Average Weekly
Attendance Sunday
?

Total Building Fund
Donations
for Repairs
\$15



October 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...

- Oct 4 World Communion Sunday
- Oct 7 Groton Youth Group at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall
- Oct 10 Dakotas Annual Conference Virtually
- Oct 13 PPR Mtg at 7 pm at Conde UMC
- Oct 15 Groton UMW 1:30 pm
- Oct 20 Conde Ad Council 7 pm
- Oct 21 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Oct 21 Groton Youth Group at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall
- Oct 30 Trunk or Treat 5:30-7 pm Groton UMC Parking Lot
- Nov 15 Fall Dinner Noon-1:30 pm (Drive-Thru)