



August 2021

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## ...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

Galatians 6:2

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Summer is a time of rest and relaxation right?... or at least that’s what I always thought it was supposed to be. I wonder why then each summer seems to bring with it so much “busy”! Things that pull us in a lot of different directions. Things that vie for our attention and energy. Some of these things are really wonderful and important... but then other times I wonder, “why am I giving so much of my energy to this?”

In Galatians, Paul is speaking to a church that is feeling weighed down by religious extremists known as “Judiazers” who laid out all of these expectations of what a real follower of Christ looked like. Regular people who were trying to enjoy the life of freedom Christ talked about, but could not find their footing. Paul speaks out and shares that the true freedom of a Christ follower is not found in running your life



Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ  
Galatians 6:2

perfectly, and it also wasn’t found in some pie-in-the-sky faith that says “don’t worry; you believe in Jesus so you’re fine!”... true Christian freedom is found in pouring into a community of faith that will celebrate you in life’s victories and point you to Christ’s strength in life’s challenges.

We have brothers and sisters who have been away for quite some time now, and for I’m sure some very important and wonderful reasons at times but surely not always. You all deserve to be a part of something that points you towards eternity and that’s what a church family is. A group that fulfills the true law of Christ and participates in life together.

My prayer is that our family is reminded that our doors are wide open this fall, and even if we haven’t seen you for a while we are praying for you and are ready to do life together again.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brandon Dunham



WELCOME

## A daily prayer

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we’re in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness.  
Amen.

## OFFICE HOURS

Pastor  
In Office  
Tuesday &  
Thursday  
Mornings

Friday  
Day Off

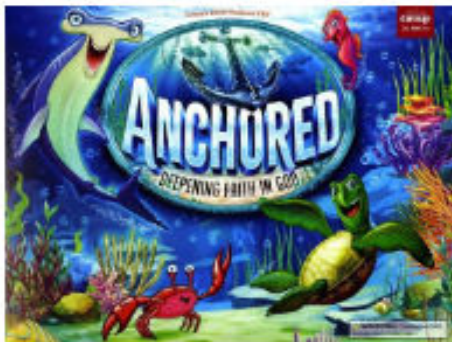
## Sympathies



(Left)  
Cheri Strom  
passed away July 10th



(Right)  
Doris Zoellner  
passed away July 29th.



### DIVE INTO OCEANS OF VBS FUN!

Groton United Methodist Church

August 10-11

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

(Supper provided)

Get on board for waves of fun by registering today!

Text – 216-2981 (Meri)

380-8012 (Megan)

Email – [meri.erickson@k12.sd.us](mailto:meri.erickson@k12.sd.us)  
[maerickson7@gmail.com](mailto:maerickson7@gmail.com)

#### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

#### Church Information

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

Pastor Email: [pastorbrandon@nvc.net](mailto:pastorbrandon@nvc.net)  
Secretary Email: [grotonumc@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumc@nvc.net)  
Website: [grotonumc.org](http://grotonumc.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/grotonsdumc/](https://facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445



How can we...  
"Love Groton"?





## Love Groton Event

July 25th was such a special Sunday. We want to extend a **VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU** to all who participated in this event. Hopefully it was the first of an annual celebration of what it looks like to put our Christian call to practice.

We had around 50 folks in attendance from our church and Emmanuel Lutheran Church who went out into the community and did everything from window washing to pulling weeds to trimming branches to mowing to caulking a sidewalk! What a blessing it is to serve a church that finds joy in serving their church family. Be on the lookout for this in the future



Thank You





# Joy

## Just Older Youth

Our August Tuesday AM Bible Studies are going to be jumbled up but hopefully some fun! Starting Aug 10th we are going to dive into Christmas by watching "Christmas at the Farm" featuring Liz Curtis Higgs and Ann Voskamp. My favorite part was learning about the Jesse Tree. What an inspiring idea for Christmas. This is an hour long video and all are welcome to come and

watch!

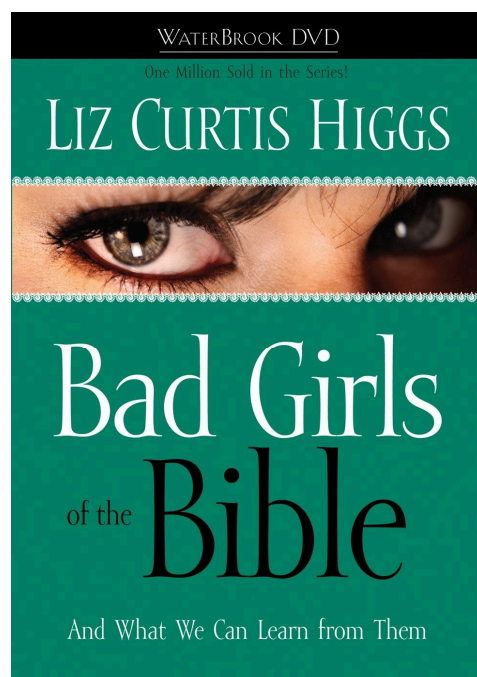
Aug 17th we are not meeting for Bible Study so that everyone can head to the fair.

Aug 24th we are hosting a movie day for all that enjoy laughter. We just finished the study on "Bad Girls of the Bible" and each week we watched a piece of the video. Now, we would like to share this fun and laughter with everyone! Please

## The miracle of summer

A team of Sunday school teachers faced boisterous youngsters on Rally Day, the start of a new education year. Because kids were reuniting after a break, they were eager to chat about vacations. To restore order, a teacher asked the children to take turns sharing a favorite Bi-

ble verse, story or miracle. One, who still had summer on the brain, exclaimed, "I like the time when everybody loafs and fishes!"



join us as we watch the entire hour long video, sip on some coffee and have refreshments.

Aug 31 our study group will be starting "REALLY Bad Girls of the Bible" and moving on to having more fun! If you plan on joining us each week for this study, please let Kay Daly know so I may order you a book, we have been using used books from eBay.



## Groton Ad Council - July

In the absence of both the President & Vice President, Pastor Brandon chaired the meeting which was called to order at 7:02 pm. Those in attendance were Pastor Brandon Dunham, Jolene Townsend, Marjorie Overacker, Richard Krueger, Jeanne Wanous, Anita Lowary, Linda Thurston, Brent Morehouse, Val Baker, and Allen Walter. Pastor Brandon Dunham shared a prayer prior to the discussion of business.

**Agenda & Previous Minutes:** Both the agenda & previous minutes were approved on a motion by Richard Krueger.

**Correspondence:** None

### Committee Reports:

**UMW:** The UMW sponsored Community Coffee is being well attended. Our next UMW meeting will be in September. Jolene Townsend reported the District & Conference UMW meetings will be in North Dakota in September. Our Groton UMW unit has volunteered to host the 2022 District meeting in Groton. In addition, our unit delivered 30 birthday kits to Safe Harbor & 6 kits to Journey Home.

**Memorial:** Linda Thurston stated that the Memorial Fund total was \$14,451 and of that amount there is currently \$3500 set aside for kitchen cabinets repair and painting. It is estimated the total cost of that project will be \$7000.

**Missions:** Valerie Baker reported that our Serve Sunday project coming up on July 25 is gaining steam with about 10 projects currently listed to help Groton citizens.

**Trustees:** Richard Krueger said that he has sprayed weeds a couple of times on the church grounds. In addition the two trees designated for removal have been removed as well as the stumps ground out.

**Pastor Parish:** It was reported by Brandon that the last PPR meeting included

his annual review. Brandon also anticipates he will be having a one-on-one meeting with our District Superintendent in August.

### Administration Report:

Pastor Brandon has been working on our Love Groton Service Sunday event. In addition to doing some work projects around Groton there will be a free will donation at lunch for the Groton Family Crisis Fund.

Brandon will be leaving in the middle of this event to travel to Texas to participate in a United Methodist camp by Ft. Worth, Texas.

Vacation Bible School will be August 10 & 11.

About 30 kids are signed up for Sunday school. A church meal will be held along with the first Sunday of Sunday school. In addition the children's sermon will begin again during our regular services once Sunday school starts.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marge Overacker stated that we are doing ok.

**Finance Report:** Allen Walter reported that our PPP Loan forgiveness application has been sent in.

Also, Allen said that Dacotah Bank now has their own VISA cards and he asked the Ad Council to consider approving credit cards: for Kay Daly for Pastor Parish office supplies; for Kelli Hanson for cleaning supplies; and for Meri Erickson for Sunday school supplies.

After some discussion and clarification, Anita Lowary motioned to approve credit cards for Kay Daly, Kelli Hanson, and Meri Erickson. Brent Morehouse 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the motion was approved.

### Pastor Parish:

**Bills:** none

### Old Business:

- **Pastor's Stained Glass Update:** Anita checked with Kay on who could do

the updating calligraphy but she needs to do some further follow up.

- **Repair of Wireless Mic:** Brandon went to Power Sound and got a replacement cord to try. He still needs to try it out.
- **Dollar General Charge Account:** This will not be needed.
- **Dead Tree Removal:** This work has been done.

### New Business:

- **Piano Teacher Rent—Past/Present:** Pastor Brandon will visit with Cody who has been using our church to give piano lessons to see if he wants to continue and to gather information on any past donations or payments from him.
- **Dakota Methodist Camps Payments:** Treasurer Marjorie Overacker asked for clarification as to how much of our United Methodist campers pay and how much of the fee the church pays. It was clarified that right now 25% of the fee is paid by the camper and 75% of the fee is paid by the church.
- **Rally Sunday:** It was decided that the Administrative Council along with the September work committee would provide a meal for all church members on this day.
- **Christmas Decorating:** The board was in agreement that the Nov/Dec work committees should do the Christmas decorating and that they were free to make any changes they would like.
- **August Ad Council Meeting Date:** The board agreed to meet on August 25, one week later than usual due to the Brown County Fair.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Secretary, Jeanne Wanous



## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

- Aug 2 David Strom  
Dylan Graf  
Jessica & Brent Morehouse  
Max Erickson
- Aug 3 Lance & Kristie Hawkins
- Aug 4 Craig & Kim Weber
- Aug 5 Tigh Fliehs
- Aug 6 Damian Bahr
- Aug 7 Killi Hanson  
Tyke Nyberg
- Aug 8 Brad & Diann Morehouse  
Yvonne Lange  
Margaret & Clint Jr Jacobson
- Aug 9 Jackson Wells  
Loel Schott
- Aug 12 Amber Wolken  
Tom Lipp
- Aug 13 Logan Nilsson  
Sully Strom
- Aug 16 Jenna & Nick Strom  
Jim Jones

- Rose Tewksbury  
Sam Furman  
Alissa & Michael Wells

- Aug 17 Chanda Nilsson
- Aug 19 Jaeger Kampa  
Tyke & Chris Nyberg  
Tia Johnson  
William Zoellner
- Aug 20 Marc Sippel  
Tyson Parrow
- Aug 21 Clayton Morehouse
- Aug 22 Belinda Nelson
- Aug 23 Haley Erickson  
Lisa Pray
- Aug 27 Elianna Jacobson  
Rachel Dobbins
- Aug 28 Rob & Jeanne Wanous
- Aug 29 Chuck Padfield
- Aug 30 Emma Schinkel  
Jase Bahr  
Nathan Atherton
- Aug 31 Katelyn Hawkins

### Conde

- Aug 1 Joan Fahrenwald
- Aug 5 Myron & Joan Fahrenwald
- Aug 6 Loren & Pat Siefken
- Aug 10 Cindy Smith
- Aug 20 Richard & Jane Worlie
- Aug 26 Pam Hanson
- Aug 31 Collin Ragels



## Sunday best

Throughout the pandemic, 82-year-old La Verne Ford Wimberly of Tulsa, Oklahoma, donned her Sunday best — emphasis on *best* — to worship online from home every week. The retired educator, who coordinates her colorful outfits and hats (she owns at least 50!), didn't want to "get in the habit of just slouching around" during lockdown.

To uplift fellow church members, Wimberly posted weekly selfies and encouraging words. The goal, she says, was to let people know "that if we continue to believe in ourselves, network together, trust in God, keep

the faith, then we will be okay."

Though Wimberly's style is impeccable, friends say she's even more beautiful on the inside. Her fashion sense "is merely an outer expression of her inner wisdom, wit and grace," says her pastor, Ray Owens. Church staffer Robin Watkins concurs, saying Wimberly's "heart is as beautiful as each outfit she has shared with us."

Story in Washington Post with more photos. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2021/03/31/sunday-virtual-church-outfit/>





## Groton Sept Family Committee

**John & Meri Erickson**

**Nick & Jenna Strom**

Brian & Elizabeth Bahr

Dion & Sam Bahr, Ashtyn

Lucy & Andy Daly, Chloe

Steve & Becky Diegel

Adrienne & Tigh Fliehs

Scott & Myndi Kampa, Tristan

Kami & Tom Lipp, Tanae

Julie & Jesse Morehouse

Karen & Ian Rose

Marjae & Dan Schinkel, Emma

Carol & Luverne Strom

Jeanne Wanous

William Zoellner

**Honorary Members**

- Ida Hannon

**September 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 need as per schedule in back of the committee book
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- Serve at Avantara Nursing Center - 4th Sunday
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Rally Sunday) - give church secretary details for bulletin

September 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		

**Groton Stewardship Report June 2021**

Average Wkly Giving \$1,492

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,285

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday --


Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$15

???

## Bible Quiz

What was the name of the queen who refused to appear before the king of Persia and his guests and, as a result, was deposed?

A. Esther  
 B. Jael  
 C. Vashti  
 D. Milcah



Answer: C (See Esther 1:12.)







## Our Church Happenings...

August 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				

- Aug 10 Groton Bible Study 10 am "Christmas at the Farm"
- Aug 10-11 Groton VBS 5 pm - 8 pm
- Aug 17 No Groton Bible Study 10 am
- Aug 17 Conde Ad Council 5 pm
- Aug 24 Groton Bible Study 10 am "Bad Girls of the Bible" Video - all are welcome!
- Aug 25 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Aug 26 Newsletter Items due
- Aug 31 Groton Bible Study 10 starting "Really Bad Girls of the Bible"
- Sept 8 Groton UMYF Begins 7 pm
- Sept 22 Groton Confirmation parents mtg 7 pm
- Sept 29 Groton Confirmation begins 4 pm (snack at 3:30 pm)