



July 2021

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

Freedom... it's an interesting word. Freedom has been a topic of conversation for a while now by our nation's most influential leaders, news anchors, and many many people who fear their nationalistic "freedom" may be in danger. But what truly is freedom?

Jesus, in the gospel of John (8:31-32) says this about freedom, because he knows that the human soul longs for it, we want to feel free to be all that we were created to be, and he also knows that he's the God that designed us to walk in that freedom. Here's what he says: *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth.* (Like you can read about my goodness, and my mercy, and you can memorize all of my commands, but unless you actually shape your life around these, you won't really know what's available to you. We only KNOW it when we experience it. He says if you follow my teaching, then you'll know the truth that



this is the way life was designed to work.) *...and the truth will set you free.*"

Freedom, according to Jesus, isn't the ability to do anything we want, whenever we want, with whomever we want. That may be a freedom, but **True Freedom**, according to Jesus, is the ability to become his disciple — to learn to live in his way with his heart — and in doing so align ourselves with the way he's designed the world to function. True freedom is found in complete release, as we know that we are fully and completely loved by God, and from that foundation, we live the lives we were created for. No outside pressures. No internal anxiety.

We simply wake each morning remembering God is giving us the greatest gift we could have ever asked for, and then we get to work.

We push back against that freedom all the time, almost every day, with our Americanized "you can't tell me what to do" freedom. But what he gently does is he pushes back and says no, true freedom friends is found in living for Christ and others... and that's not something that can be taken away.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Brandon Dunham



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



Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off



Groton UMW



30 birthday boxes were collected and distributed to Safe Harbor and 5 to Journey Home. Thank you to all who took part in helping boys and girls celebrate their birthday.

The UMC Groton Community Coffee Hour from 9:30am to 10:30am each Weds has resumed! All are welcome.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



UMW Weds Community Coffee Hour



Church Information

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

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

Groton Ad Council - June

President Lars Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Those in attendance were: Lars Hanson, Pastor Brandon Dunham, Linda Thurston, Anita Lowary, Richard Krueger, Marjorie Overacker, Jolene Townsend, and Jeanne Wanous. Pastor Brandon Dunham shared a prayer prior to the discussion of business.

Agenda: Several items were added to the agenda on a request by Marjorie Overacker. Those items will be listed in new business below. The revised agenda was approved on a motion by Allen Walter.

Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Anita Lowary.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

UMW: Jeanne Wanous reported that the Wednesday Community Coffee Hour sponsored by the UMW is being well attended by many Groton community members.

Administration Report:

Pastor Brandon shared information about the Dakotas Annual Conference held in Sioux Falls on June 11 & 12, 2021. The Friday, June 11 session was all pertaining to church business while the Saturday, June 12 sessions were centered on teaching. Pastor Brandon shared that the Dakotas Conference is looking ahead at what may happen at the UMC General Conference scheduled for Aug. 29 – Sept. 7, 2021 in Minneapolis. Brandon discussed legislation that was passed at the annual conference including: 1) the ratification of a disaffiliation agreement allowing Prairie Winds Church in Dickinson, North Dakota, to leave The United Methodist Church; 2) affirmation of a resolution advocating for the inclusion of all people in the life of the church; and 3) voting yes to a resolution calling for boards and related agencies of the Dakotas Conference to begin planning for a separation of the denomination.

For more information see <https://www.dakotasumc.org/news/2021->

[annual-conference-highlights-to-share](#)

The Administrative Council felt that we should take advantage of resources being made available by the UMC to have someone come to Groton to explain what is happening and help answer questions our congregation might have.

Pastor Brandon explained a proposed mission project by the Groton churches. It would be called Community Service Sunday to bless people in our community who need help with minor projects. The work would take place on Sunday morning, July 25 and would be followed by lunch. There would be no worship on July 25. A couple of churches have shown interest as well as the Fellowship of Christian Athletics. Richard Krueger motioned to approve planning for this event and Allen Walter 2nd the motion. The council voted to approve the motion.

One final thing from Pastor Brandon was that he learned that a way to encourage people to come back to church post Covid is to plan events in groups of three. He thinks this is worth giving a try for event planning going forward.

Treasurer's Report: Marge Overacker stated that our finances are looking ok.

Finance Report: Allen Walter reported that the Dick Ruden endowment funds are doing well. Allen also reported that the PPP2 fund is out of money so we can't apply for it.

Pastor Parish: no report

Bills: none

Old Business:

Credit card for Kay Daly: It was reported that Dacotah Bank is switching to a new credit card provider, so we will wait until the new provider is found to apply for a card for Kay.

Wireless Ear Mic for Pastor: It was noted that a number of members feel they can hear the pastor better when he uses the wireless mic vs. the handheld microphone. Pastor Brandon will look into getting the wireless mic fixed.

New Business:

Stained Glass List of Pastors: Thomas Carlson needs to be added. We

will check with Kay Daly to see if she knows who to contact to arrange for the update.

Organist, Yvonne Lange Leave: On a motion by Richard Krueger and 2nd by Jolene Townsend, the board moved to pay Yvonne while she is out for 4-5 weeks. Pastor Brandon will make a couple of calls to find an alternate for Sunday worship.

Dollar General Charge Account: Kelli Hanson (janitorial services) has requested a Dollar General charge account/card because she can't get the current Walmart card to work. Kelli says she can get all of her cleaning supplies at Dollar General. If the Dollar General account/card doesn't work the next step would be to get a second credit card from Dacotah Bank.

Dead Tree Removal: It was noted that there is a dead pine tree near the parsonage that should be removed. It is possibly dead due to disease and we don't want it to affect other pine trees. We should also survey the other trees to look for problems or that need trimming. Lars Hanson will give Sperry's Tree Removal a call. It was also noted that this expense might fall under PPR.

Sunday School Start Date: Although a Sunday school start date has not yet been determined, it was suggested that the Administrative Council host a dinner that day or perhaps have a potluck.

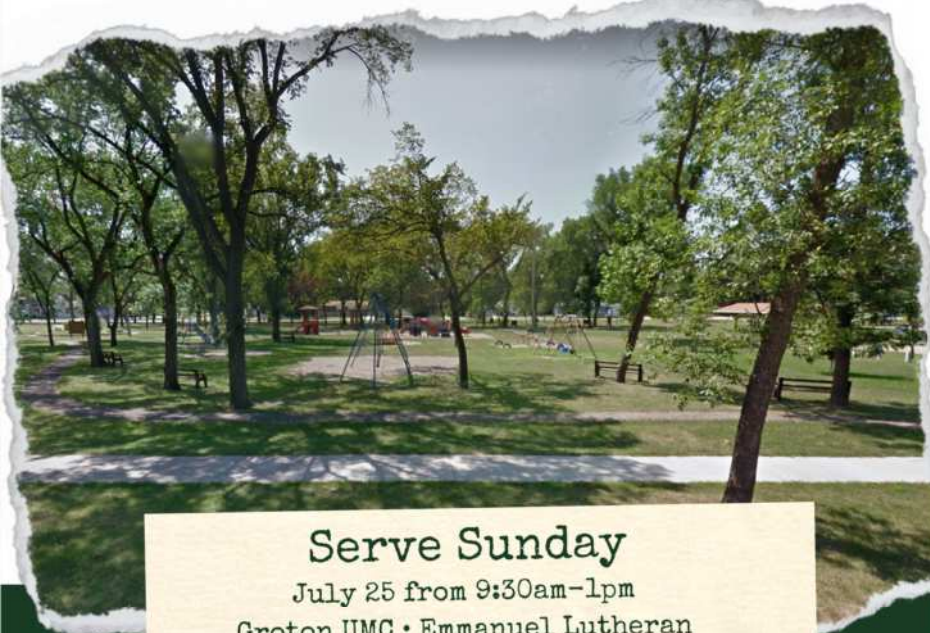
Allen Walter motioned to adjourn at 8:08 pm.

Secretary, Jeanne Wanous

Thank You to: Karla Pastuer & Kim Weber for staining the Little Free Library and adding flowers.



How can we... "Love Groton"?



Serve Sunday
July 25 from 9:30am-1pm
Groton UMC • Emmanuel Lutheran
FCA • Table Talks

Is there something we could assist you or someone you know with?

Yard Work • Window Washing • Trash Pick-Up
Garage Cleaned Out • Let Us Know!

TO SIGN UP FOR A SERVICE TEAM OR TO GIVE US A PROJECT
PLEASE CALL 605-397-8270
OR EMAIL PASTORBRANDON@NVC.NET

Love Groton is hopefully the first of an annual celebration of our commission to serve as followers of Jesus Christ! Imagine what it looks like to come together as a body of believers, to love our neighbors all over the Groton area, regardless of who they are, where they live, or whether or not they attend church with us!

We're coordinating with organizations and individuals who could use a helping hand with everything from park cleanup, yard work, housecleaning, moving, organizing, planting, minor repairs, painting—the possibilities are endless.

We will meet at Groton UMC in the Fellowship Hall on July 25th at 9:30am for coffee, donuts, and prayer before we send out our teams of volunteers to tackle all the opportunities that were shared with us by the community. After a couple hours, we'll meet at City Park where EVERYONE is invited to join together in lunch off the grill. Free will offering will be taken for the Groton Crisis Fund to benefit others in our town.

If you are wanting to be on a serving team, signup sheets will be hung at both Groton UMC and Groton ELCA and we would love to have you! Additionally, if you or anyone you know has a project that they might really appreciate some extra hands with, please email pastorbrandon@nvc.net and we'll see what we can do.

What happens when God's people serve as ONE BODY on ONE DAY? Let's find out when we ALL come together to Love Groton!

CHURCH ON A
MISSION





Theme: In a time of continual changes, God is calling United Methodists in the Dakotas to remain rooted in Christ. Drawing on our collective values of Jesus, Mission and Connection, the theme of this year's annual conference session is "**Jesus. Waymaker.**" We explored ways in which we need to step out of our comfort zone and follow the path to live like Jesus in ways beyond our imagination.

Bishop's Episcopal Address: "Where is Christ's compassion? Didn't Jesus call that woman (begging for help) a dog? A woman whose young daughter is possessed by an unclean spirit finds out about Jesus and falls at his feet," Bishop Laurie Haller stated in her first sermon, the 2021 Episcopal Address, to the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Laurie invited all those listening to transform their hearts and minds, continuing to share the good news of Jesus, the Waymaker. "Keep on innovating. Keep on sharing the good news. And

keep on discerning in humility and wisdom how God invites each of us to transform hearts and minds. Wait a minute. Didn't Jesus just call you "beloved child of God?" [Read more](#)

Teaching sessions with Rachel Billups: In two teaching sessions, Rev. Rachel Billups explored the importance of knowing, claiming, and reclaiming our personal "God" stories and underscored that we need to let Jesus make a way in difficult conversations and open ourselves to—ask anything, listen well, freely disagree and love regardless. "Let's allow Jesus to be our way through difficult conversations. You have to be willing to get your feelings hurt for Jesus," said Billups. [View the teaching sessions](#)

Missional Report: We have seen first-hand that, even as we seek to follow Jesus closely, the way forward will not be without struggle. As we emerge from a season of disorientation and disconnection, we know that

Jesus has continued to be our Waymaker, working in and through all of us. The 2020-2021 Missional Report highlights some of the ways we've seen this truth revealed in the past year. [View the 2020-2021 Missional Report](#)

Recognizing those entering new chapter of ministry: At a Celebration of Life in Ministry worship service Friday evening, hundreds of United Methodists gathered to remember 16 friends and colleagues who have died over the past year, honor 5 retiring clergy, and celebrate three elders being ordained, three elders being commissioned as provisional members, 11 newly assigned licensed local pastors, and five licensed local pastors completing their educational requirements. Thanks be to God for this group of dedicated leaders! [Read more](#)

Conference Summary Continued

Legislation: Delegates affirmed all legislation put before them during the twenty-eighth session of the Dakotas Annual Conference including: the ratification of a disaffiliation agreement allowing Prairie Winds Church in Dickinson, North Dakota, to leave The United Methodist Church; affirmation of a resolution advocating for the inclusion of all people in the life of the church; and voting yes to a resolution calling for boards and related agencies of the Dakotas Conference to begin planning for a separation of the denomination.

In March of 2021, [Prairie Winds United Methodist Church in Dickinson, North Dakota, voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church in compliance with the Dakotas Conference process for disaffiliation.](#) The final step of the disaffiliation process is the ratification of an agreement written in cooperation with the Dakotas Conference Treasurer, Board of Trustees, Chancellor, the local pastor, and local church board of trustees. The [agreement outlines](#) obligations and next steps related to property, financial responsibilities, and church records. The agreement was ratified on June 11, 2021, by the Dakotas Annual Conference, with 233 members voting yes and 122 members voting no.

Resolution 1.2 A Vision for a More Just Church ([view on page 5](#)) urges the Dakotas Conference to welcome LGBTQ+ persons into leadership, including actions of the Board of Ordained Ministry regarding candidates

for ministry, local congregations to welcome and include LGBTQ+ members in full participation, respect clergy's discernment on marrying same-sex couples. Furthermore, it urges the bishop to refrain from conducting clergy trials. The resolution was affirmed by a vote of 179 yes votes and 172 no votes. This resolution is currently under judicial review as to compliance with the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

Resolution 1.3 Resolution to Prepare for a Denominational Separation ([view on page 6-7](#)) directs the Dakotas Conference to act in the following manner to prepare for a potential denominational separation:

- ◆ The Common Table recognizes prospective leadership. Board of Pensions and Dakotas United Methodist Foundation prepare to serve multiple Methodist denominations.
- ◆ Conference Council on Finance and Administration prepare a proposal of equitable division of cash and investments.
- ◆ Camp and Retreat Ministry Council prepare a proposal for a shared camping ministry across denominational lines.
- ◆ The Missional Impact Link prepares to independently incorporate Spirit Lake Ministry Center and Solar Oven Partners and transfer land owned in Mission, South Dakota, to Tree of Life Ministries.

- ◆ The Human Resources Committee provides direction to guide the personnel needs of the Dakotas Conference.

These tasks are to be completed by the 2022 session of the Annual Conference. The resolution passed with a vote of 294 yes votes and 40 no votes.

In other matters before the body, a 2022 budget was approved with a slight decrease in spending, four clergy were commissioned as elders, three were ordained as elders, the retirement of five clergy was celebrated, and the slate of nominations for all committees, boards and agencies was approved. [Read more](#)

Miracle Offering: Our 2021 Miracle Offering, Feeding the Dakotas is an effort to help feed 150,000 people who face hunger daily in the Dakotas. So far, we've collected close to \$40,000. We are over half-way to the finish line. Help us reach our goal of \$75,000 to be shared with the Great Plains Food Bank in North Dakota, Feeding South Dakota, and grants to local hunger ministries. [Access resources for the 2021 Miracle Offering.](#)



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Jul 1 Charity Hinman
Graham Rose
- Jul 4 Seth Erickson
- Jul 5 Allen & Joyce Walter
Jasmine Schinkel
- Jul 7 Ida Hannon (85)
Julie Morehouse
- Jul 8 Kelby Hawkins
- Jul 9 Jordan Voss
Judy Zeck
- Jul 11 Roger & Marj Overacker
Scott Hinman
- Jul 12 Ashtyn Bahr
Beckett Rose
- Jul 13 Jeff Voss
Jolene Townsend
Stephanie Townsend
- Jul 14 Ava Kramer
Christine Nyberg
- Jul 16 Linda Thurston
- Jul 17 Mackenzie Atherton
- Jul 18 Doug & Kay Daly
Josh & Merrie Atherton

Kaitlin O'Neill

- Kevin Pray
- Jul 19 Carol Strom
- Jul 21 Levi Parrow
- Jul 23 Joyce Walter
Chanda & Logan Nilsson
- Jul 24 Ashley Dunham
Maggie Oliver
Roger & Pam Rix
- Jul 25 Hannah Webb
- Jul 26 Angela & Perryn Dobbins
Laila Roberts
- Jul 27 Damian & Erin Bahr
Ryland Strom
Tony Madsen
- Jul 28 Craig Weber
- Jul 29 Ava Rose
Curtis Krueger
- Jul 30 Megan & Seth Erickson
- Jul 31 Lynette Severson

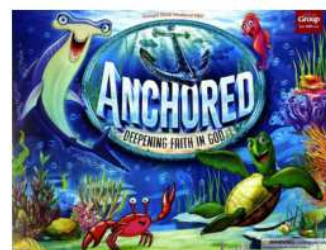
Conde

- Jul 3 Guy & Renee Hanlon
- Jul 6 Shanna Geist
- Jul 23 Patty Knoll
- Jul 27 Horace & Donna Walter



Ida Hannon
85th Birthday
July 7th

Send Greetings to:
1902 Prospect Ave B2
Aberdeen, SD 57401



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
maerickson7@gmail.com

Groton August Family Committee

Laurel & Monte McNickel

Karla Pasteur

Cheryl Hanson

Lance & Kristi Hawkins

Rick & Sarah Hofer

Dale & Traci Kramer

Yvonne Lange

Anita & John Lowary

Diann & Brad Morehouse

Carna & Cliff Pray

Dwight & Eugenia Strom

Linda & Gary Thurston

Todd Thurston

Anita & Gary Voss

Honorary Members

- Susan Odland

- Rose Tewksbury

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

- Serve at Avantara Nursing Center - 4th Sunday

- 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to church treasurer.

Groton Stewardship Report May 2021

Average Wkly Giving \$1,736

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,285

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday --

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$15

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				

Groton UMC Tuesday 10 AM Bible Study

Wow! I just found the graphic to the right and I love it! I will have to discuss giving our Bible Study a name. We should be come the JOY Study Group!

Another JOY our group will be experiencing is Rev Sheila Richards is coming on July 27th to give a study she has been working on for another group. It has to do with the rules the Apostles followed and should be very interesting.

No Bible Study July 6. Then the last two lessons on "Bad Girls of the Bible July 13th and July 20th. Watch for what our new study will be on in August. --Kay





Our Church Happenings...

- July 4 Happy Independence Day!
- July 6 No Groton UMC 10 AM Bible Study
- July 7 Happy 85th Birthday Ida Hannon
- July 20 Conde Ad Council 5 pm
- July 21 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- July 22 Newsletter Items Due
- July 25 Serve Sunday to Love Groton 9:30 am - 1 pm
- July 25 No Worship in Groton
- July 27 Rev Sheila Richards teaching Groton UMC 10 AM Bible Study

July 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