



March 2021

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## ...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

Whereas I would typically share some kind of devotion or challenge with you in my letters, I decided this month I wanted to use my space here as an opportunity to teach.

There is an ancient practice for reading scripture that our Lenten Bible Study has invited us into each week that I wanted to share with you all and invite you to try with your own daily Bible reading called Lectio Divina.

At its core, it's quite simple. As opposed to what many of us do while reading the scriptures, read and attempt to discover what it means, Lectio Divina requires the discipline of reading a passage of scripture and then pausing, allowing it to speak back to you. It's a much slower way of reading God's Word that has been really helpful to readers for centuries.

I would invite you to follow the steps shown as you follow your own Bible reading, but here is also a collection of passages the Lectionary would cover each week of the Lenten season this year!

- Week 1- Genesis 9:8-17
- Week 2- Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16
- Week 3- Exodus 20: 1-17
- Week 4- Ephesians 2:1-10
- Week 5- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Week 6- Mark 11:1-11

Blessings,  
Pastor Brandon Dunham

## A GUIDE TO Lectio Divina

A way to reflect on God's Word

### 1st *Prepare - Silencio*

Become aware of God's presence. Quiet your mind and body, and offer yourself to God. (Try a few deep breaths and a simple prayer such as 'Come, Holy Spirit, Come.')



### 2nd *Read - Lectio*

Read the passage slowly, out loud if possible. Avoid analyzing and simply try to savor the words, letting them sink in. Listen for a nudge: What words or images is the Spirit drawing you toward today? What character do you identify with?

### 3rd *Reflect - Meditatio*

Re-read the passage, lingering over the person/word/phrase that captured your attention. Imagine yourself in the story: What are the people thinking/feeling? Or consider a phrase or image: What does it bring to your mind? Invite the Spirit to reveal how this passage might speak to you and your life.



### 4th *Pray - Oratio*

Allow the scripture to lead you into a prayer response. Talk to God about what has come to mind, and how he might be inviting you to respond.

### 5th *Contemplate - Contemplatio*

Rest in the awareness of God's presence, remaining open to anything else the Spirit might stir. Simply be still. Expect nothing. Enjoy a moment of fellowship with God that goes deeper than words. Relax in this moment to be, with God. And know that you are loved.



**April 4**  
Conde Service 9 am  
Groton Service 11 am



# OFFICE HOURS



Pastor  
In Office  
Tuesday &  
Thursday  
Mornings

Friday  
Day Off



# Confirmation

 The word "Confirmation" is written in a large, purple, serif font. To the right is a purple silhouette of a person kneeling before another person standing and holding a staff, set against a yellow circular background.

Groton's March 10 Confirmation Class at 4 pm will be for the 8th graders only.

Confirmation Sunday is March 14th. Those being confirmed are: Jaeger Kampa, Levi Parrow, Karsten Hinman, Emily Overacker, and Jaden Dobbins

**Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Marking the beginning of Holy Week we will be remembering the joyful and triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem while also marking the passion narratives that take place throughout the week.

**Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

As we did last year, we will be observing the last moments of Jesus before his betrayal and crucifixion through daily devotions throughout Holy week. Beginning on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> at 7am and reaching it's end on Friday, we will be sharing the story as well as words of reflection on our Facebook page Facebook.com/grotonsdumc as well as through email. If you are receiving the messages each week through our mail ministry you will also receive these.

**Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

All are invited to join as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! Worship will still be at 9:00am in Conde and 11:00am in Groton.

Sunday School will be resuming Feb.28. Safety precautions will continue. Hope to see you there! Here is the schedule for the rest of the year.

- Feb. 28 - Sunday School resumes
- Mar. 7 - Sunday School
- Mar. 14 - Sunday School
- Mar. 21 - No Sunday School (Spring Break)
- Mar. 28 - Sunday School (Palm Sunday)
- Apr. 4 - No Sunday School (Easter)
- Apr. 11 - Sunday School
- Apr. 18 - Sunday School
- Apr. 25 - Sunday School
- May 2 - Last Day of Sunday School


 A graphic for "Children's Ministry News" with the text in orange, blue, and purple, set against a background of colorful paint splatters.


**Church Information**

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 906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

## Lenten Small Group Study

This year we are joining with churches across our Dakotas and Minnesota Conference of the UMC in a six-week study of Michael Frost’s “Surprise the Word”. You can join at any time and Pastor will order you a book if you desire. Conde is meeting on Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm at the Conde church. Groton is meeting on Monday nights at 7:00pm in the Groton UMC Fellowship Hall.

(Taken from the Conference Description) *Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, marks the beginning of Lent. We will be marked with ash, be reminded of our mortality, and know that from dust we came and to dust we shall return. But surprise: God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, Jesus, not so that*

*we would die, but that we would live! We die, but we don't? That is surprising.*

*And the culmination of Lent, Easter Sunday, this year is April 4, 2021. Everyone thought they knew how the world worked. Who had the power, what the rules were, who was in, and who was out. They killed the one who came to turn the world upside down, and called anyone who followed him a fool, but then what happened? Surprise! He is not here. He has risen from the dead. Nope, dead is not dead, and what we think we know for*



*sure, well maybe, just maybe there is more. Way more.*

*God is not predictable. God is mystery and beauty and amazing love and joy. And*

*God's presence in our life and world breaks in and through in the most surprising ways, leading us to places and new beginnings that we thought impossible.*

*We who have encountered this surprising God, who have been on the journey from death to life, we too live different lives. Lives that the world often considers unusual, surprising, but that we know to be the best and only way to live. This Lent, we want to be a part of surprising the world. We invite you to join the movement!*

## Lenten Sermon Series

“Wait what? Jonah isn’t a story about Jesus. I remember Sunday School and the felt board told me it’s about a guy who disobeyed God and got swallowed by a fish!” That is correct, but Jonah is also so much more than the kid-friendly tale we remember.

Few stories capture the spirit of disobedience and repentance like the story of Jonah. It’s a story of God’s

compassion and longing for all people to return to him. It’s a story of running away and coming home, of disobedience and spiteful obedience, and of course the excitement we love. Ultimately Jonah is a story about a resentful prophet and a relentless God who transforms the world through his love. Would you join us on this Lenten journey?



**Bible Quiz**

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they’d had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?

A. carrots and potatoes  
B. onions and garlic  
C. fish and leeks  
D. melons and cucumbers

Answers: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)



March 14

## Groton Missions Committee - Safe Harbor Project

During the month of March, the Missions Committee has decided to do a Hygiene Drive for Women’s Month. We will have a laundry basket sitting in the Parish Hall for you to fill up. This will be donated to Safe Harbor for the women and children. The items we are looking for are listed below. If you have any questions you can contact Val Bake 05-252-1521 or Pastor Brandon.

Thank you in advance for your service in donations to help with meeting these needs.

- ) Body Wash
- ) Deodorant
- ) Toothpaste
- ) Shampoo
- ) Conditioner
- ) Razors
- ) Tooth Brushes (Adult & Child)
- ) Combs
- ) Brushes
- ) Snacks for Kids
- ) Diaper Wipes
- ) Pullups - 4T & 5T
- ) Diapers - Newborn, 2, 3
- ) Copy Paper
- ) Dryer Sheets
- ) Laundry Detergent
- ) Batteries AA & AAA



## UMCOR Sunday - March 14

### Our Mission

The Advance is an accountable, designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100% of each gift is used for its intended mission or ministry. Our work fulfills both physical and spiritual needs through a variety of partnerships worldwide to reach mutual goals that make a life-changing and long-lasting impact.

### Your Generosity Sustains

Give knowing that 100% of your gift will be used to help the program, ministry or missionary you designate. This is possible through The Advance, an official

program of The United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated, second-mile giving. The Advance allows United Methodist annual conferences, districts, local churches and organizations, as well as individuals and families, to choose to support mission programs or mission personnel with their financial gifts. Each Advance project has been vetted and approved by Global Ministries and Advance staff to ensure that projects are aligned with the goals of The United Methodist Church in the local area, help develop partnerships that are mutually advantageous,

tell the story of projects and missionaries, and report how giving is making an impact.

### History

Since its founding in 1948, The Advance has been a lifetime for tens of thousands of mission endeavors, and has helped channel over three million gifts totaling over \$1.2 billion to projects and ministries around the world.



## Groton Family Committee - April

**Ashley Dunham**

**AM & Laurie Mitchell**

Erin & Damian Bahr, Jackson

Rodney Boehmer

Karla & Russell Davidson, Andrea

Seth & Megan Erickson

Caralee Heitmann

Charity & Scotty Hinman

Curtis Krueger

Justin Morehouse

Justin Olson

Roger & Pam Rix

Cheri & Tom Strom

Sharon & Larry Wheeting

**April Responsibilities (follow ad council guidelines with COVID)**

) Check the 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 Altar Flower Arrangements
- ) Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons



April 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	

## FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



### What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

### What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.

## Camping Season is Open!



Welcome back, summer! It's time to CAMP! Registration is open for 2021 camps and events. We'll have a ton of that traditional camp fun all while following the latest coronavirus safety standards from the CDC and state and local departments of health. Camp may look a little different in 2021, but it's going to be a great summer!

Registration is Open and you can go to [Camps and Events | Dakotas UMC Camping](#) to register. Click on the title of the camp for more information and to download the welcome letter. Camper grade is designated as **the grade completed as of June in the current school year**. When registering online for the first time, plan for the process to take 15-20 minutes to complete.

## Setting Captives Free

Though St. Patrick's Day has become a secular "holiday," March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn't very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. "The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes" in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there,

**Register for camp at Lake Poinsett Camp, Storm Mountain Center, or Wesley Acres Camp on or before April 30th, and receive the Early Bird discount is \$5 off per night at camp.** (Some exclusions apply.) So, a two-night camp would be \$10 off. If you register through our online registration system, the Early Bird price will automatically be charged.

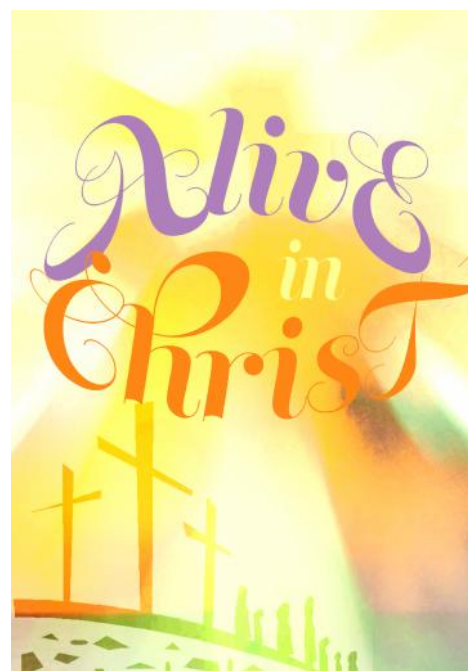
Current COVID-19 safety guidelines include reductions to overall group size and camp capacity, so we will have less space in our summer camping events. ***If an event is full, you will be placed on a waitlist.*** But don't give up! **As COVID-19 conditions change we hope to adjust our capacities upward and register those on our waitlists for**

**their chosen event.** You will be notified no later than 3-weeks prior to the start of your event if you are moved from a waitlist onto the event roster. Please let our central office camp staff know as soon as possible if you decide to register for a different event and no longer wish to remain on the waitlist.

Please see our **FAQ section** for answers to common registration questions. If you need further assistance, contact the camping office at [info@dakcamps.org](mailto:info@dakcamps.org), or give us a call toll-free at 855-622-1973.

and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.

In *Confessio 61*, St. Patrick writes, "I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation ... except the Gospel and God's promises."



## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

- Mar 3 Tristan Kampa
- Mar 4 Kay Daly  
Kale Pharis  
Christina Zoellner
- Mar 5 Chance Strom
- Mar 7 Brian Bahr  
Dale Strom  
Richard & JoAnn Krueger
- Mar 8 Lindsey & Tom Tietz  
Vic Fliehs
- Mar 9 Betty Strom  
Everett Foltz
- Mar 10 Lindsey Strom
- Mar 14 Mendy Jones  
Sydney Kurtz
- Mar 15 Samantha Weber
- Mar 16 Lane Tietz
- Mar 17 Asher Johnson
- Mar 21 Harlan Place  
Kaelee Morehouse
- Mar 24 Emerlee Jones

- Mar 25 Laurel McNickle
- Mar 26 Chloe Daly  
Clare Davidson  
Justin Morehouse
- Mar 27 Dwight Strom  
Michelle Walter
- Mar 29 Sharon Wheeting
- Mar 31 Aiden Strom  
Caralee Heitmann

### Conde

- Mar 6 Stacey Bonn
- Mar 14 Katie Lyren
- Mar 17 Myron Fahrenwald
- Mar 23 Greg Peterson
- Mar 27 Cindy Haskell
- Mar 31 Renee Hanlon

### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

#### Groton Stewardship Report Jan 2021

Average  
Wkly Giving  
\$1,365

Needed Wkly for  
Church Mission  
\$2,276

Average Weekly  
Attendance Sunday  
??

Total Building Fund  
Donations  
for Repairs  
\$15

## Laud & honor on Palm Sunday

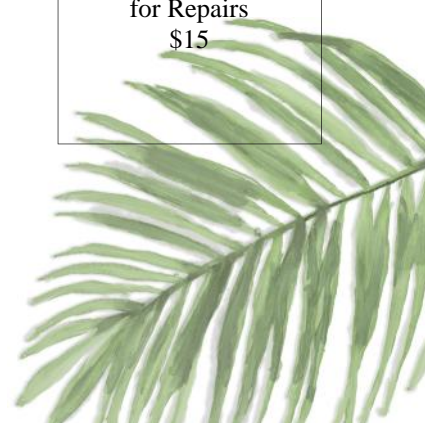
The Palm Sunday anthem “All Glory Laud and Honor” is one of Christendom’s oldest hymns. St. Theodulf of Orleans, who helped reform the church under Charlemagne, wrote the lyrics in the year 820 while imprisoned in France.

The lyrics recount Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event the medieval church reenacted every Palm Sunday. Clergy and townspeople processed from fields through the city gates, behind a Jesus figure riding

a donkey. At the gates, children began singing the hymn in Latin — *Gloria, laus et honor* — and onlookers soon chimed in.

City gates may be a thing of the past, as the website Hymnary.org notes, yet we still praise our blessed Redeemer “because we know just what kind of King he was and is — an everlasting King who reigns not just in Jerusalem but over the entire earth. What more could we do but praise him with glory, laud and honor.”

All glory, laud and honor to you,  
Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made  
sweet hosannas ring.  
You are the King of Israel and Da-  
vid’s royal Son,  
now in the Lord’s name coming,  
the King and Blessed One.



## Groton Ad Council - Feb

Chairman Lars Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Those in attendance were: Pastor Brandon, Lars Hanson, Allen Walter, Richard Krueger, Marjorie Overacker, Jeanne Wanous, Anita Lowary, and Meri Erickson. Pastor Brandon Dunham shared a prayer prior to the discussion of business.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved as written.

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Correspondence:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** Marjorie Overacker stated that our monthly balance has been running from \$1000 to \$2000 behind normal for the last couple of months.

**Pastor Parish:** No concerns.

**Bills to be Presented:** There were no bills for the council to approve.

**Administrative Report:**

J Pastor Brandon said there were about eight people who took advantage of the Ash Wednesday drive-thru. They were offered Lenten kits to take home with them.

J There will be no Easter Sunrise Service this year, just the normal service on Easter.

J The Missions Committee met last week and catered a meal to the faculty at the Elementary School. They are also making plans for a special monthly project through May.

J In addition, the Hospitality Committee is working on new opportunities.

J Plans are to begin having a coffee hour again prior to Sunday morning worship as well as starting Sunday school again if enough adult help can be found.

**Committee Reports:** None

**Memorial:** None

**Trustees:** Richard Krueger

**Insurance Audit:** This week Richard will be completing paperwork needed by our insurance company.

**Closet Usage:** Approval was given to Meri Erickson to move & use the former closet from the choir loft in an alternate location.

**Parking Lot Re-surface:** Richard has requested a bid to redo our church parking lot at the same time the City of Groton is doing city roads. Bids must be in by March for work in August. Once bids are received we can decide if we want to move forward.

**Arbor Day Tree Project:** Richard purchased a number of trees through the Arbor Day Tree Project and asked if anyone objected to him planting some in the area west of the parsonage to replace a number of them that have died or been removed. There was no objection.

**Stained Glass Window Inspection:** A letter was received from the Willet Hauser Architectural Glass firm offering a free inspection of our stained glass windows. There being no objection to the free inspection, Richard will go ahead with scheduling the inspection.

**Old Business:**

**2021 Ad Council Vice-Chair:** No one has been appointed yet.

**Status of Surplus Items:** No one has expressed an interest in taking the old big TV in the fellowship hall so it will be disposed of during the city spring cleanup.

**Rent/Donation** for use of piano room for giving lessons has not yet been received.

**Status of Audit of Church Books:** Anita Lowary is almost done with auditing the church and misc. church group financial books. She should have the

final audit paperwork done soon.

**Status of Changing to Dakota Bank:** Persons in charge of different Wells Fargo church accounts are in the process of closing the Wells Fargo Accounts and opening Dakota Bank accounts.

UMW is totally done.

Marge & Merri will complete the transfer next month for the church treasurer and the Pastor Parish accounts.

UMYF Account: Kami Lipp will be contacted to get that account transferred.

Anita Lowary explained that she was appointed many years ago as a Groton UMC finance committee member/financial advisor for all church accounts to allow for continuity from year-to-year for each church bank account as they many times change from one specific person in charge to a new person in charge.

**New Business:**

**PPP Loan Application:** Kay Daly & Marjorie Overacker & Allen Walter volunteered to complete PPP Loan application paperwork. All members were in agreement that we should do that for our church.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.







## *Our Church Happenings...*

- Mar 1 Groton Lenten Small Group 7 pm (weekly during Lent)
- Mar 2 Groton 10 AM Bible Study meeting weekly
- Mar 2 Conde Lenten Small Group 6 pm (weekly during Lent)
- Mar 3 Groton Confirmation Class 4 pm
- Mar 10 Groton Confirmation 4 pm for 8th graders only
- Mar 10 Groton UMYF 7 pm
- Mar 11 Groton Missions Meeting 7 pm
- Mar 14 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Mar 14 UMCOR Sunday
- Mar 14 Groton Confirmation Sunday
- Mar 15 Conde Ad Council 5 pm
- Mar 17 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Mar 21 Newsletter Items Due
- Mar 21 No Groton Sunday School (Spring Break)
- Mar 24 Groton UMYF
- Mar 28 Palm Sunday
- Holy Week Daily Devotions on Facebook at 7 am
- April 4 Easter Sunday Conde Worship 9 am and Groton Worship at 11 am

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