



August 2022

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

This summer we have been walking through a poem that may be familiar to quite a few of you. It's a poem that we learn about in Sunday School, memorize in Confirmation, recite when we're feeling lost or alone, and collectively lean on when we commend someone's life to their final resting place. It's the 23rd Psalm, and it goes like this...

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and



mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

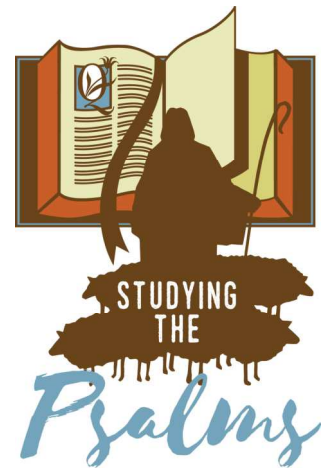
For 3,000 years people have looked at these words of David, the shepherd turned King, as a picture of what it looks like to live under the rule and reign of God. To be His sheep and allow Him to be our shepherd. To find satisfaction in His provision (I shall not want). To realize that He is so Good we can find true rest knowing He's near (He makes me lie down in green pastures... still waters). To trust that He loves us enough to seek us when we wander, go with us through the val-

leys of life, and strengthen us and protect us from the evil of this world. You go before and grant us a place at the table where, despite our enemy's proximity, we can feast on the goodness of the Gospel.

Friends, this is who we are invited to be. This how God invites us to see Him. And David even shares the prize awaiting those that do: a place in the house of the Lord forever.

This is the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Blessings,
Pastor Brandon Dunham



Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off



AUG 8 - 9 AT 5:30 PM – 8 PM

At Groton UMC

Food Truck Party is a two day Vacation Bible School that is free to children going into PK-5th grade! We also welcome friends from all over our community, so no need to be a member to join us!

Using Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread", children are invited to pray as Jesus teaches. These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God - and our daily needs are met by God.

Through stories in both the Old and New Testaments, we will seek to open eyes to the countless ways God provides, loves, and cares for us while inviting them to join God in providing, loving, and caring for others. The goal of Food Truck Party is to help children build on the practice of using daily prayer to turn to God for their needs - and also to serve as the hands of God in ensuring that the needs of others are met.



Registration will be available in the Fellowship Hall or online at <http://grotonumc.org/formcreator/view.php?id=13427>

- ⇒ Can also text Meri Erickson at 216-2981
- ⇒ There will be a donation sheet for VBS on counter in Fellowship hall by Sunday, July 31.
- ⇒ Looking for helpers for VBS. If interested, please sign up on sheet in Fellowship hall.
- ⇒ Meal provided both evenings.

New seat, new perspective

In older sitcoms, family members, especially parents, each had their own chair in the living room. No one else sat there. If its "owner" wasn't present, the on-set chair remained empty. Church can be like that too, with people claiming the same seat week after week. Our view of the service and of fellow worshipers is familiar and comfortable.

Recently, our family was "bumped" back a bit, which felt surprisingly different at first. But we interacted just the

same with the service. As a bonus, I talked with different people. And after church we stayed to visit a bit longer.

I'm glad church seats don't have nameplates. And I'm thankful that God nudges me out of my comfort zone from time to time, giving me a new perspective.

—Janna Firestone



Wedding Shower for Kylie Hawkins at the Groton Community Transit on Saturday, Aug 13 from 1-3 pm. Marrying Parker Rossow Sept 24th Registered at Target and Amazon.

Congratulations

Beau Richard was born on May 25, 2022. Mitchell and Megan Madsen- parents. Tony and Brenda Madsen grandparents.



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/](https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

I would sincerely like to thank the Woman's Bible Study group, Pastor Brandon and United Methodist Church for asking me to speak and giving so generously! Our situation here in Poland is changing so I wanted to explain in an email. All contributions were put to good use. Blessings, Kathy

Dear Contributor,

In the initial weeks of the current Ukraine war there was a tremendous need to provide shelter, food, clothing and other needs of the Ukrainian refugees, who in Poland alone eventually reached three million in number.

Along with hundreds of thousands of other people, I tried to make my small contribution to assist in that effort. In the last few weeks, the situation is noticeably different. One million of the three million Ukrainian refugees have either returned to Ukraine or moved further west to other European countries. The two million that remain in Poland are being provided for by the Polish government and humanitarian NGOs and hundreds of thousands of Polish families. Most have found temporary housing; some found jobs. Many of the initial temporary shelters in Warsaw are now closed or in process of closing.

It became apparent that the greatest need today is not in providing for the needs of Ukrainian refugees in countries neighboring Ukraine, but instead providing assistance to the Ukrainian people that remain in Ukraine.

Some time ago the Polish government had created a website to assist refugees in finding help and assisting donors in providing help. Among other things, the website lists 30 Polish humanitarian organizations and other NGOs that are legitimate and provide assistance to Ukrainians in Poland and Ukraine.

I used this information to select five humanitarian organizations that provide assistance within Ukraine and



have actual presence and resources on the ground within Ukraine.

In the last few months I have received from friends and family in the USA, thousands of dollars for the purpose of helping the Ukrainian people suffering from the war. The remaining money that I did not spend in Poland, my husband has transferred yesterday to these five organizations, with a designation for helping Ukraine:

- Polish Humanitarian Action (Polska Akcja Humanitarna) - direct aid (food and other forms of support) for people who are forced to flee their homes. The support is provided to people staying in Ukraine and refugees in Poland
- Polish Center for International Aid (Polskie Centrum Pomocy Międzynarodowej) – On site aid for the inhabitants of villages and towns in eastern Ukraine
- Polish Medical Mission (Polska Misja Medyczna) – Donations of medical equipment and supplies
- Polish Red Cross (Polski Czerwony Krzyż) – Transfer of food,

medical supplies and other priority needs

- SOS Children's Villages Association of Poland (Stowarzyszenie SOS Wioski Dziecięce w Polsce) – Relocation of orphaned and abandoned children from eastern Ukraine, placing them with foster families, and providing specialist help to these children

The direct link to the English language version of the Polish government website page listing the humanitarian organizations and NGOs helping Ukraine:

Pomoc finansowa
#PomagamUkrainie

Thank you for your generosity with helping these refugees of war.

Warm Regards,

Kathy and Richard Engel



Is the UMC Really?

1. Splitting at this time?

No. The term “split” applies when there is a negotiated agreement within the denomination to divide assets and resources. No such agreement has been made in The United Methodist Church. The earliest point at which such an agreement could be made would be at the next General Conference to be held in 2024.

A more accurate term, as suggested by the Rev. William Lawrence, retired dean of Perkins School of Theology and former member of the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church, is “[splintering](#).” What is happening is that some traditionalist leaders have decided to create their own denomination (the Global Methodist Church). Leaders of that denomination and other unofficial advocacy groups, such as the [Wesleyan Covenant Association](#), which created it, are encouraging like-minded United Methodist congregations and clergy to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and join their denomination instead.

2. Asking traditionalists to leave the denomination?

No. The requests for disaffiliations are coming largely from traditionalists. Keith Boyette, former president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and now leader of the Global Methodist Church, describes the reasons he and other leaders are asking traditionalists to leave [beginning at 13:32 in this video](#).

3. About to alter its doctrine to deny the virgin birth, the divinity of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, or salvation through Christ alone?

No. All of these positions are bedrock in the doctrinal standards of The United Methodist Church, more specifically in the Articles of Religion and the Confession of Faith. These cannot be altered without a two-thirds vote of the General Conference followed by a three-fourths aggregate approval of all annual conferences of The United Methodist Church worldwide. There is

no basis to conclude such majorities can be achieved to alter the Articles and Confession for any reason.

Here is what the Articles and Confession say on these matters. And will continue to say.

Virgin Birth and Divinity of Jesus

Articles of Religion, Article II:

“The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man’s nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin.”

Confession of Faith, Article II:

“We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Articles of Religion, Article III:

Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man’s nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.

Confession of Faith, Article II:

“Jesus Christ... was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return.”

Salvation apart from faith in Jesus Christ

Articles of Religion, Article IX:

“We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by faith.”

Confession of Faith, Article IX:

“We believe we are never accounted righteous before God through our works or merit, but that penitent sinners are justified or accounted righteous before God only by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

4. Intending to change the Bible?

No. The United Methodist Church has no official translation of the Bible and has never sought to alter the Bible at all. United Methodists have always had a variety of views about how to interpret specific passages of Scripture and likely always will.

5. Allowing congregations that exit the denomination to continue to offer the same pension and health benefits programs to their clergy and staff?

No. The Book of Discipline does not permit non-UMC entities to be plan sponsors of the Clergy Retirement

Security Program. Only a General Conference can change this. Churches that disaffiliate will face changes to the benefits they can offer their clergy. Individual congregations and clergy that join the Global Methodist Church (GMC) will be eligible to participate in a retirement plan offered by the GMC, which will be a Wespeth defined-contribution retirement plan similar to a United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP).

Elders and deacons who withdraw under Discipline ¶360 will have all assets accrued in CRSP and previous programs in which they may have participated (defined benefit and defined contribution) converted into a cash equivalent and placed into their United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). Future retirement plan contributions may be made to the new retirement plan described above which, like UMPIP, is a personal retirement account subject to the effects of the stock market and other investments on its value.

Nor, at this time, is it possible for *individual congregations* (whether in the Global Methodist Church or in the UMC) to be plan sponsors for the HealthFlex health insurance programs Wespeth offers unless a congregation has more than 50 eligible employees. United Methodist annual conferences are the plan sponsors for congregations with fewer than 50 eligible employees. This means individual congregations with fewer than 50 eligible employees currently participating in these programs that exit The United Methodist Church at this time can no longer offer these benefits to their clergy and employees effective with the date of disaffiliation. Clergy currently covered by HealthFlex, whether they disaffiliate or not, are eligible to continue on the health insurance plan by paying 100% of the costs themselves for up to 18 months. At that point, the HealthFlex plan is no longer available to them. Individual congregations and clergy who join the Global Methodist Church may participate in the health benefits selected by the Global Methodist Church, which may include HealthFlex.



Is the UMC Really?

6. Immediately dropping all prohibitions related to human sexuality, now that the Global Methodist Church has been officially started?

No. The creation of the Global Methodist Church has no bearing on the existing policies of The United Methodist Church. The policies of The United Methodist Church are set by its General Conference. The General Conference is the only body that can change them. The General Conference is scheduled to meet next in 2024 at a time and venue to be announced.

7. Going to drop all prohibitions related to human sexuality at its next General Conference in 2024?

Probably not. The 2024 General Conference will certainly *consider* legislative proposals that would drop several existing prohibitions. There are items that could authorize clergy who choose to do so to preside at same-sex weddings or union ceremonies. There are several proposals to drop the statement “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” Some proposals would remove the current policy that forbids committees and boards of ordained ministry and clergy sessions to approve and bishops to license, commission, ordain, or appoint self-avowed, practicing homosexuals as clergy. Another would drop the prohibition on annual conferences and general agencies to provide any funding for any activity or publication that promotes “the acceptance of homosexuality.”

The key words are consider and proposal. The General Conference must consider all legislative items it receives. All legislative items before a General Conference are *proposals* only. They have no force unless a General Conference approves them.

All of these kinds of proposals have come before General Conferences in the past. And all have been defeated, every time.

At present, there do not appear to be enough shifts in the makeup of the delegations to the General Conference in 2024 to conclude that any of these proposals will pass.

8. Going to require its clergy and clergy candidates to agree to offer same-sex

weddings as a condition of candidacy, status, or appointment?

No. There are no proposals before the next General Conference to do so, nor have there ever been such proposals. As noted above, proposals to permit clergy who choose to do so to preside at such ceremonies have come before previous General Conferences and will come before the 2024 General Conference. All such proposals have been defeated in the past. And there is no basis, considering the makeup of the delegations, to conclude this will change in 2024.

9. Ordaining drag queens and supporting worship of a “Queer God?”

Both of these allegations are based on things that actually happened. But both of those things have been seriously misrepresented.

No United Methodist bishop has ever ordained, commissioned, or licensed a drag queen.

So what is that allegation based on?

The Vermillion River District of The Illinois Great Rivers Conference voted unanimously to **approve the certification** of Mr. Isaac Simmons as a candidate for ordained ministry in 2021. The Book of Discipline prohibits “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals” from being certified as candidates for ordination. Mr Simmons identifies as a gay man, but not as a practicing homosexual. He also performs under the drag name, Penny Cost, for the purposes of evangelism in audiences made up of people of many sexual and gender identities. Nothing in the Book of Discipline disqualifies persons who are gay but not practicing or who perform in drag from consideration or certification as a candidate.

The vote by a district committee to certify a candidate is one of the earliest steps in a process toward ordination. The process typically takes 5-8 years to complete.

Being approved by a district committee for candidacy is not being named clergy in The United Methodist Church. That can occur only after substantial work toward the completion of seminary educational requirements, ongoing supervision over a period of years, and ultimately approval for commissioning by a 3/4 vote of the clergy session of the annual conference. Until that time, if assigned by a district superintendent to serve a local church, candidates cannot preside at sac-

raments or at weddings.

The reference to supporting the worship of “Queer God” comes from a chapel service at Duke Divinity School sponsored by an LGBTQ+ student group. Duke Divinity School serves students of many denominations, not just United Methodists. And students of many denominations make up the LGBTQ group that sponsored the service in question, as that service has been described in **some publications**. None of the students named is identified as United Methodist. Further, such “group sponsored” services represent the views of their sponsoring organization, not the Divinity School, nor its faculty. Such services are not a basis for making any statements about the beliefs or views of The United Methodist Church. General Conference establishes the official statements of The United Methodist Church and its ritual. Chapel services in a seminary do not.

10. Ignoring or refusing to implement the Discipline's statements, restrictions, and requirements regarding practicing homosexuals and same sex weddings?

In the majority of conferences, no. In some conferences, it may appear so. In those placing these matters “in abeyance,” also no.

Ignoring the Discipline?

The bishops of the Western Jurisdiction have **publicly stated** that they will not “withhold or challenge ordination based on a candidate’s gender identity or sexual orientation.”

The Discipline nowhere states that gender identity or sexual orientation is a basis for withholding or challenging ordination. The Discipline does prohibit district committees on ordination from certifying as candidates and bishops from licensing, commissioning, ordaining, or appointing as clergy persons who are “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals.” Stating one is homosexual is not disqualifying. What is disqualifying is being or being proven to a jury of peers in a church trial to be a self-avowed, practicing homosexual. So this statement of the Western Jurisdiction bishops does not ignore the Discipline.

The statement by the bishops of the Western Jurisdiction also says, “We are unwilling to punish clergy who celebrate the marriage of two adults of any gender or sexual orientation seeking the blessing of God and the Church for their covenanted



Is the UMC Really? Continued

life together." Bishops do not apply "punishments" as part of the complaint process. Rather, bishops oversee the process to its conclusion. If a church trial is necessary, bishops preside at the church trial. If guilt is found in a church trial, it is not the bishop who imposes a "sentence." It is the jury of peers who both reach a verdict and set a sentence. The Discipline names a mandatory minimum sentence the jury must apply to those found guilty of having conducted a same-sex marriage or union ceremony: one year suspension without pay. No other offense has a mandatory minimum sentence. See ¶2711.3 of the **2019 revision** to the Book of Discipline. Since bishops do not "punish" in the complaint process, this statement does not ignore the requirements of the Discipline. Instead, it expresses the intent of the bishops not to be punitive.

The **district superintendents in the Iowa Conference** have announced they will "grant contextual permission" for clergy of the conference to preside at same-sex weddings in Iowa effective in January 2022.

Examples such as this, in which some provisions of the current Discipline may be over-ridden through contextual permission by a district superintendent, are a rare exception. No other conference has stated this kind of policy to date.

Abeyance: Refusing to Implement the Discipline?

While there are few examples that come close to "ignoring the Discipline," a number of bishops and some cabinets have indicated their commitment, in the words of the **Minnesota Conference extended cabinet**, to hold in abeyance all... administrative and judicial complaint processes addressing restrictions in the Book of Discipline regarding gay and lesbian clergy and/or same-sex weddings until after General Conference meets and action related to the separation of the denomination can be considered."

What is abeyance, and where did this idea come from?

The term "abeyance" means "delay." It does not mean a refusal to implement the

Discipline. It means delaying further action on certain kinds of charges for a limited period of time and for particular reasons. Bishops who have announced they are placing such charges in abeyance are not refusing to implement the Discipline. They are indicating they will process such charges in light of actions that take place at a later time.

This approach to dealing with such charges began with the development of the so-called **Protocol legislation**, announced in January 2020.

While the Protocol legislation has no effect unless or until a General Conference approves it, the process of developing it included a **commitment by all of its signers**, including key leaders of traditionalist organizations and eight United Methodist bishops from across the connection. Article V of the agreement states, "As one expression of reconciliation and grace through separation, the undersigned agree that all administrative or judicial processes addressing restrictions in the Book of Discipline related to self-avowed practicing homosexuals or same-sex weddings shall be held in abeyance beginning January 1, 2020 through the adjournment of the first conference of the post-separation United Methodist Church. Clergy shall continue to remain in good standing while such complaints are held in abeyance."

The term "post-separation United Methodist Church" referred originally to the General Conference in 2024, assuming the General Conference meeting in 2020 would have passed the Protocol or other terms of separating the denomination. Since the 2020 General Conference is now delayed to 2024, the first post-separation General Conference would be in 2028. And the term separation involves an action of the General Conference. It does not apply to the decision of the Wesleyan Covenant Association to launch the Global Methodist Church prior to the next General Conference.

The part of the Protocol **agreement** calling for abeyance

for some period of time, originally signed by eight bishops, has since also been committed to by several other bishops in the United States. Signers of this statement also included Keith Boyette, formerly leader of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and currently leader of the Global Methodist Church. Boyette has separately **stated his agreement** with a practice of abeyance on such charges until a General Conference can meet to decide next steps.

To those on all "sides" who indicated their support for abeyance effective in 2020, abeyance in processing such charges was not seen as a refusal to implement the Discipline. Rather, it represented and represents the hope for a less stressful time of separation leading up to and following the action of a General Conference to create such a separation.

What can we accurately say about the isolated examples noted and the wider practice of abeyance? The Discipline's statements, restrictions, and requirements regarding self-avowed, practicing clergy and same-sex marriages are unevenly enforced in The United Methodist Church at this time. Initiatives by individual conferences or jurisdictions are one source of this unevenness. The practice of abeyance derives from a mutual agreement of United Methodists who identify as progressive, centrist, and traditionalist. Still, the provisions of the Discipline remain in force and are more widely more enforced across the whole denomination, worldwide, than not.

From the Dakotas Conference Weekly Emails.



Groton Sept Family Committee

Seth & Megan Erickson

Justin Olson

Erin & Damian Bahr, Jackson

Ashley Dunham

Rodney Boehmer

Karla & Russell Davidson

Charity & Scotty Hinman, Karsten

Curtis Krueger

AM & Laurie Mitchell

Justin Morehouse

Jaymie Overacker

Carol & Luverne Strom

Tom Strom

Mark & June Thompson

Jeanne Wanous

Honorary Members

- ◆ Caralee Heitmann
- ◆ Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt
- ◆ Sharon Wheeting

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 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
- ◆ Potluck 2nd Sunday (Rally Sunday) - give church secretary details for announcements.

September 2022						
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	

God among the rubble

The nonprofit World Central Kitchen provides fresh meals for communities in need following natural disasters or during humanitarian crises. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, WCK fed millions of people in the country and refugees at border crossings.

When I feel discouraged by tragic news and ask where God is, I'm reminded that God shows up precisely in people such as the WCK teams. They are God's hands serving healthy food to people fleeing home. They are God's heart and arms welcoming those in need to be nourished.

Often in the Bible God shows up around meals: Sarah and Abraham host the Lord in the form of three visitors; God rains manna from heaven for the Israelites; an angel provides food for exhausted Elijah; Jesus eats with "tax collectors and sinners" and feeds crowds with a few loaves and fish. Supremely, Jesus gives to all the meal of Holy Communion, the bread and wine that are his very body and blood.

In our broken world, God is among the rubble, among the helpers, among us.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

GROTON'S EVENTS

Sept. 2 - 4 Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport

Sept. 10 8am-3pm Lion's Club Fall City-wide Rummage Sale

Sept. 11 10am Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course

Oct. 1 10am-3pm Pumpkin Fest at the City Park

Oct. 7 10am Lake Region Marching Band Festival

Oct. 31 4-6pm Downtown Trick or Treat

Oct. 31 5:30-7pm United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat

GROTON
Chamber Of Commerce

120 N Main St., Groton, SD 57445
605-397-8422
GrotonChamber.com



Groton Ad Council - June

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman, Lars Hanson. Those in attendance were: Lars Hanson, Marjorie Overacker, Anita Lowary, Tyke Nyberg, Meri Erickson, and Jeanne Wanous.

Correspondence: Anita Lowary reported that she has received a letter from the IRS stating that they accepted the evidence Anita supplied showing that Groton UMC had filed our W2 and that they are considering the evidence for another 60-90 days.

Committee Reports: none

Trustees: Tyke Nyberg explained that in visiting with Terry Herron, Groton City street dept., our previous estimate for parking lot chip & seal bid has gone up from \$7000 to \$8900. Tyke will review the cost directly of \$450/sq yd with Top Coat and also try to get a 2nd quote from Jensen. Tyke also noted that he has fixed one of the toilets in the women’s bathroom.

Missions: no report

Treasurer’s Report:

Church Treasurer: Marjorie Overacker stated that we have started paying apportionments in May at 25% of expected rate.

Administration Report:

Pastor Brandon was not able to attend as he was a church camp, but he left the following message for the Ad Council.

I have been out of town much of this month but will be there each Sunday for worship.

The big project that I want everyone

to know about is our “Love Groton” service Saturday coming up June 25th. We are joining arms with both Emmanuel Lutheran, as well as Groton CMA, in seeking to live out the words of Jesus in loving our God and loving our neighbors. We will be gathering at our church at 9:30 for a time of coffee and light breakfast (donuts or bars). After a brief time of worship we will hand out service opportunities that have been submitted to those in attendance and dismiss. Opportunities range from washing windows, yard work, trips to the Rubble Site, quilting for an Emmanuel mission, cooking meals to be frozen for the Food Pantry, etc. This is event is for everyone and all are hoped to be involved. If you would like to sign-up for a work team the sign-up sheet is on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. If you or anyone you know of may appreciate a helping hand with a project at home, please let me know and we will make that connection.

Old Business: A motion was approved to allow Sydney Kurtz to use the church for her Life Skills Transition Camp on the following dates: June 13, 15, 20, 22 and July 11, 13, 18, & 20.

New Business: Lars Hanson made a motion to have Finance chair, Allen Walter, send out a letter requesting donations from members to help pay for the parking lot chip & seal. Motion approved.

Secretary,
Jeanne Wanous

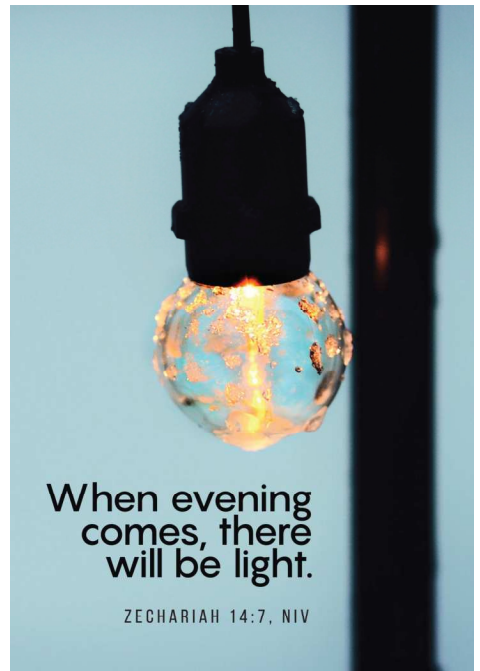
Come, my Way

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife,
Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a light as shows a feast,
Such a feast as mends in length,
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a joy as none can move,
Such a love as none can part,
Such a heart as joys in love.

—George Herbert



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Aug 2 Max Erickson
Jessica & Brent Morehouse
Dylan Graf
David Strom
- Aug 3 Lance & Kristie Hawkins
- Aug 4 Craig & Kim Weber
- Aug 5 Tigh Fliehs
- Aug 6 Damian Bahr
Nash Kurtz
- Aug 7 Kelli Hanson
Sherwin Nyberg
- Aug 8 Yvonne Lang
Brad & Diann Morehouse
- 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
Sherwin & Christine 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 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 Pamela Hanson
- Aug 31 Collin Ragels

Safe and secure

The Resurrection is an exploding flare announcing to all sincere seekers that it is safe to believe. Safe to believe in ultimate justice. Safe to believe in eternal bodies. Safe to believe in heaven as our estate and the earth as its porch. Safe to believe in a time where questions won't keep us awake and pain won't keep us down. Safe to believe in open graves and endless days and genuine praise. ...

Because of the Resurrection, everything changes. Death changes. It used to be the end; now it is the beginning.

—Max Lucado, *When Christ Comes*



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



The 10 AM Tuesday morning Bible Study will be doing different things during the month of August. August 2 we are going to study the book of Jude. August 9th we are studying the book of Titus. August 16th and 23rd we are taking a break and will not be meeting.



August 30th we are planning a cookout and the details will depend on the weather. All are welcome to join us! Especially

if you have been thinking of joining us on our faith journey studying the Bible. Please RSVP to Kay Daly, 605-397-8389. Just before COVID we were studying about Sheep and Lambs. So the menu will include tasting of lamb on the grill.

September 13th we will beginning "Creed" by Adam Hamilton so plan on joining us each week as we laugh and learn! Sept 6th Kay will talk about her trip to see the Ark.



Groton Ad Council - July

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman, Lars Hanson. Those in attendance were Tyke Nyberg, Jolene Townsend, Jeanne Wanous, Lars Hanson, Linda Thurston, Pastor Brandon, and Anita Lowary who arrived mid meeting. Prayer by Pastor offered a prayer prior to the discussion of business.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Linda Thurston.

Previous Minutes: The previous minutes were approved on a motion by Jolene Townsend.

Committee Reports: None

Trustees: Tyke Nyberg stated that he had sprayed weeds in the parking lot in preparation for the upcoming chip & seal project. Tyke reported that Anita Lowary visited with Top Coat about giving us a church discount for our church. They were kind enough to give us a reduced bid for a total of approximately \$7000. The project will begin within the next week.

Memorial: Linda Thurston gave an update on the current amount of money in the Memorial Fund. As of June 30, 2022 the funds are:

\$15,018.72 Designated
\$ 1,065.84 Undesignated
\$16,084.56 Total

UMW/United Women of Faith: Jolene Townsend reported that the group will meet again on Sept. 15 after a summer break. We will also host the UMW/UWF District meeting in Groton on Sept. 17. This will include a morning registration and meeting followed by a salad luncheon. Pastor Brandon will be the guest speaker & provide music.

Missions: no report

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer: Marjorie Overacker provided a written report but was not in attendance.

Bills to be Presented: None

Administration Report:

Pastor Brandon: Pastor Brandon asked for feedback on Kevin Timmons, Bristol Lay Speaker, who provided our sermon on the previous Sunday. Feedback was very positive. In addition Brandon shared that his focus is now on Vacation Bible School planned for August 8 & 9. Meri Erickson is organizing the event called "Food Truck Party". Brandon also mentioned that our upcoming newsletter will share some information on the current United Methodist Church and the newly formed Global Methodist Church.

Old Business: None

New Business: There was discussion regarding not being able to hear Sunday services being live-streamed if the speaker uses the microphone at the pulpit. Brandon will reach out to Power Sound for possible solutions and cost estimates.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Secretary, Jeanne Wanous

Groton Stewardship Report May 2022

Average Wkly Giving \$1,140

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,353

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 47

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5

Groton Stewardship Report June 2022

Average Wkly Giving \$1,121

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,353

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 34

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$35





Our Church Happenings...

August 2022						
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 8-9 Groton VBS 5:30 - 8:00 pm (Details Inside!)

- Aug 16 Conde Ad Council
- Aug 17 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Aug 21 Newsletter Deadline for September
- Aug 24 First Day of School in Groton
- Sept 7 Groton UMYF begins 7 pm
- Sept 11 Groton Sunday School begins with Carnival at 10:30 am
- Sept 13 J.O.Y. 10 AM Bible Study starting new study on the "Creed"
- Sept 21 Groton Confirmation parents meeting at 6 pm
- Sept 28 Groton Confirmation begins at 4 pm (Snack at 3:30 pm)