



February/March 2022

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Dear Church FAMILY,

I've addressed us that same way each and every newsletter because according to Jesus, the church is meant to look and function a lot more like a family than any other group of people we might bump into in the world. The biggest reason we're called family in the Bible? Well simply put, we were all graciously adopted by the same father.

The problem? There's a problem? Honestly yes because we don't often look at church that way in today's world. Church has become another option in the buffet of life's choices. When things happen that we don't care for, we phase out... move on... or worse... we stick around and undermine.

Hebrews 10:24-25 gives us a picture of what God's design for the church is supposed to look like and I think it's something we would all actually love to be a part of. *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*



I remember growing up I had principles ingrained in my head of what it meant to be a family.

"If you're a part of this family then you will participate in this family."

"If you're a part of this family then you will be there for your family."

"We won't always like each other, but we will always love each other."

These statements from the heads of my family (Dad, Mom, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles) told me that family wasn't something just for me to feel loved and sup-

ported if/when I needed it, but family was about all of us. If all I did was take, then our family was weaker and others wouldn't have the same level of support I had.

Church family, you may feel like you don't need the church at times, but there is always someone at the church who needs you. It's not an item at the buffet, but the family you take with you to enjoy the buffet. Words to reflect on.

Blessings,

Pastor Brandon Dunham



March 13th



Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off



2022 Lenten Study

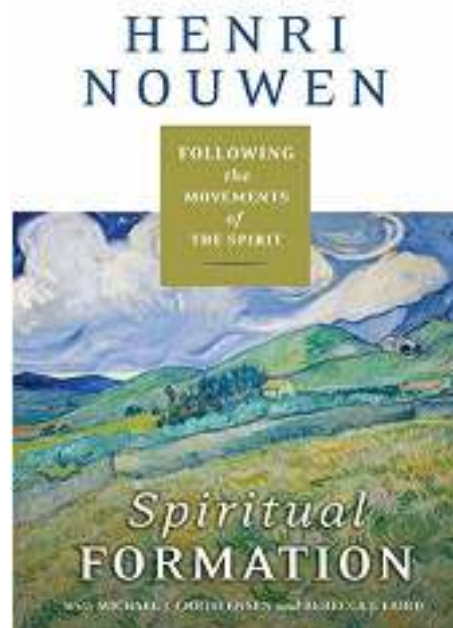
2022 Lenten Study | Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit

This year we are joining with churches across our Dakotas and Minnesota Conference of the UMC in a six-week study of Henri Nouwen's "Following the Movements of the Spirit". Books can be ordered online (if desired) and Conde will begin meeting Tuesday, March 1st at 6:00pm at the Conde church. Groton will begin meeting on Monday, February 28th at 7:00pm in the Groton UMC Fellowship Hall. Both groups will begin conversations around chapter 1. We will begin each study with a video that will set the stage for our conversations so no one needs to have read the book to participate.

(Taken from the Conference Description)
Everyone tries to make sense of the world and how the world works. Liv-

ing in the time of Jesus assumptions were made about, 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?

Our relationship with God, who loves us beyond all measure is a journey from death to life. Each of us has a unique relationship that requires attention, contemplation, and discovery. Henri Nouwen understood the spiritual life as a journey of faith and transformation that is deepened by accountability, community, and relationships. Spiritual Formation reveals Nouwen's sage advice on how to live out the five classical stages of spiritual development. This Lent explore Nouwen's unparalleled wisdom on how to move from the mind to the heart and live there in the center — the place where God dwells.



Additional Lenten Devotion Available

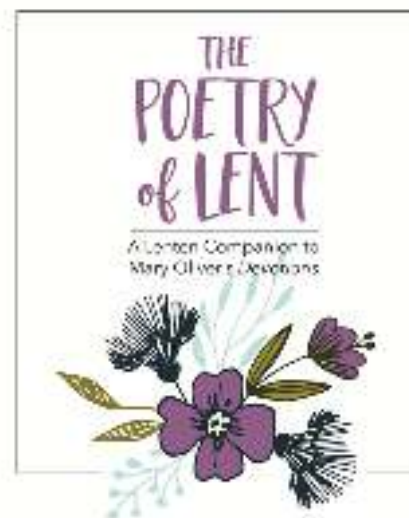
The word "Lent" comes from an old English word for "lengthen," and refers to the lengthening of those long-anticipated days of spring. And so if Lent is about lengthening light, it's also about broadening our hearts and preparing the way, making room for careful attention to what matters most.

This year I want to extend this devotional to you from Saltproject, which uses the words of scripture and the poetry of Mary Oliver to be our guide. Each week, text and poetry will illuminate each other, pointing toward sim-

ple, powerful practices you can try yourself or with your family or friends.

A few copies of Mary Oliver's "Devotions" will be available at the church to take home, but otherwise you can order her poetry collection on Amazon. Devotional will be at the church to be picked up at any point during our Lenten Season.

Note from Kay: If you Google the poems listed, you can read them on the computer without the book.



Camp Registration is Open Baby Shower

[View camps here](#)

Summer 2022 camp registration is open! Check the link above to see all the exciting camp offerings at Wesley Acres, Storm Mountain, and Lake Poinsett. Remember the Early Bird Discount? Register before April 30 and receive a discount of \$5 off per night. Save even more by bringing a friend with you to camp. Click [here](#) for details, info@dakcamps.org or call the camping office at [855-622-1973](tel:855-622-1973).

There will be a baby shower for Mitchell & Megan Madsen on April 2 from 10-12 am in the Groton UMC Fellowship Hall. Hosted by friends and family. Brenda and Tony Madsen, are very excited to be welcoming a grandson around May 29th.



Lent 2022 Schedule

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd

This year we will be offering the imposition of ashes in our Groton church's drive through. Pastor Brandon will be available at the front door from 11:30am- 1:00pm for those who wish to receive ashes and a couple other Lenten gifts.

Palm Sunday, April 10th

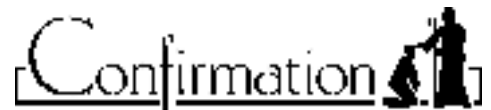
Marking the beginning of Holy Week we will be remembering the joyful and triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem while also marking the passion narratives that take place throughout the week.

Maundy Thursday (Conde UMC), April 14th at 6pm

Good Friday, April 15th (Emmanuel Lutheran Church) Details Available Soon.

Easter Sunday, April 17th

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



Sunday

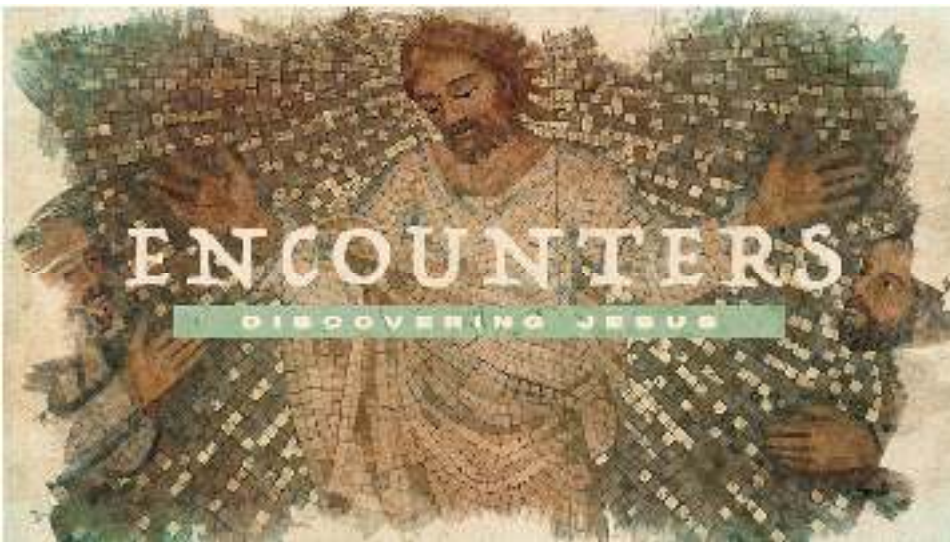
Confirmation Sunday will be March 13th. There will be no Confirmation the Wednesday before, just a meeting with the 8th graders. ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP REQUIRED OF ALL CONFIRMATION STUDENTS.

Students being confirmed: London Bahr, Emma Davies, Carly Gilbert, Breslyn Jeschke, Ryder Johnson, Gage Sippel

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



Upcoming Lenten Sermon Series

We've all met someone that has changed our life. I think back to meeting my now wife, Ashley, and realize how that moment changed my future forever. The gospels are full of stories just like that, but about people who meet Jesus. Sometimes they walk away from the encounter sad because he called them to give up everything to follow him. Other times, people walked away overjoyed because he's just healed them.

The one common factor throughout all the gospels however, is that when people encounter Jesus, they are changed. It's impossible to meet him and remain the same. Throughout the history of the world, no person has

affected more lives and these stories of who he was continue to resonate thousands of years after his earthly life ended. There has never been and will never be again, anyone like Jesus.

The Lenten season as we journey toward the empty tomb, we are going to be exploring Jesus' encounters with people throughout the Gospel of Luke. As we study these passages, my prayer is that we meet Jesus afresh and would be changed.



Friendship SOUP

Makes just 1/2 cup berry soup to share back and forth with friends.



What you need:

- 1 cup packed basil
- 1/2 cup washed torn mango
- 1 1/2 cup dry roasted garlic
- 1 1/2 cup dry roasted pecans
- 1 cup of basil leaves
- 1/2 cup plus juice with salt
- Cinnamon
- Saffron
- Honey

What you do:

1. In a bowl, beat the five ingredients into the juce
2. Place the mixture of the lid onto cardboard. Put out.
3. On the card, write these directions: Mango, raspberries, strawberries, basil, and cinnamon of juce as you want. Add 1/2 cup of honey and a dash of dried saffron. Bring to a boil over high heat, reduce to low, simmer about 10 minutes, until thickly in cream. Pour in with personal drink.
4. Place the card atop the lid. Serve on the accompanying to keep it in place.

Groton Sunday School Schedule

Sunday School

- ◇ Feb 20 - No SS - President's Day
- ◇ Feb 27 - SS at 10 am
- ◇ March 6 - SS at 10 am
- ◇ March 13 - SS during church (11:10 am)
- ◇ March 20 - No SS - Spring Break
- ◇ March 27 - SS at 10 am
- ◇ April 3 - SS at 10 am
- ◇ April 10 - SS during church (11:10 am)
Sing in Church
- ◇ April 17 - No SS - Easter
- ◇ April 24 - SS at 10 am
- ◇ May 1 - SS at 10 am
- ◇ May 8 - SS at 10 am
Sing in church Mother's Day



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

Pastor Brandon playing Donkey Basketball for a fundraiser



...from Pastor Brandon for February

Hello Church Family,

Do you know which books of the Bible I've read the most? The first 3... The reason being just about every December I have this conviction that I do not read my Bible nearly as much as I should. If I am a follower of Christ then I should behave as someone, well... following. So, I have set a daily Bible reading goal to start January 1st more years than I haven't.

The problem with forming any new habit however is the sustaining nature of the practice until it becomes second nature. Reading your Bible more sounds like a wonderful idea until you realize your body doesn't always get on board as quick as your heart does. Waking up earlier in the day or staying up later in bed... turning off the TV in the evening to have a few moments of intentionality with God and His Word is far more diffi-

cult than we want to admit because those practices shake up our established daily rhythm. But it's there that I feel God wanting to speak into me and through me.

What is our rhythm? What are our lives built upon? What are the things that we value the most? Personally, if I cannot bring myself to spend 15 minutes of my day with my Bible and my Lord, can I really say that He is my priority? If I believe that "every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17) and among those gifts are my wife, friends, family, job, home, food on the table, heart that feels joy, and maybe even greater than all those, purpose for this life... but do not have time to spend with God in thankfulness and in council to know how I can share these great gifts with others... am I misleading myself to believe that God is the rock I stand

upon?

Thankfully that is where grace meets us time and time again. It meets us through the blessing of unconditional love and it meets us through His church. We do not go to church out of guilt. We ARE the church because of grace. It is in our church family that we draw near to God and celebrate His goodness. Celebrate His faithfulness. Celebrate the ways He is moving in the people around us. And draw near to one another in the midst of struggle and pain. It's not just a habit that needs to be started it's a home that is waiting for you.

So my charge to you is simple. BE THE CHURCH. Lean into the habit of carving out time for the giver instead of just for the gifts. God wants to rebuild us, by His power... do we accept?

Blessings, Pastor Brandon Dunham

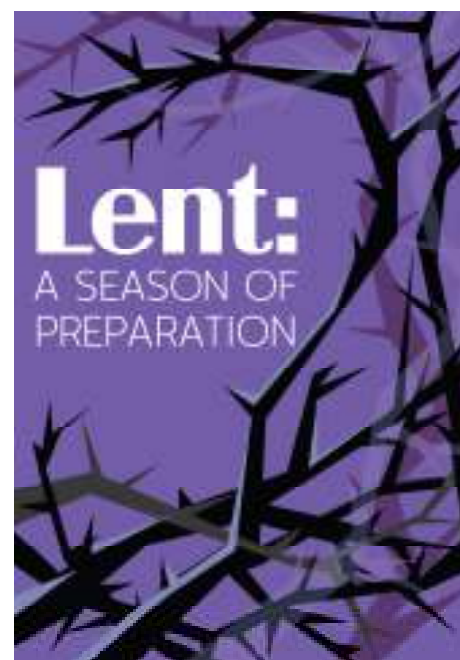
Love that Welcomes All

Actor Tom Hanks once said, "There's no substitute for a great love who says, 'No matter what's wrong with you, you're welcome at this table.'" Although I don't know that quote's context, those words could well describe Jesus and Holy Communion, as well as God's unconditional love.

For when Jesus first invited his followers, "Take and eat; this is my body. Take and drink; this is my blood," he didn't exclude Judas, who would betray him, or Peter, who would deny him, or any of the others, who would abandon him as he was arrested and executed.

Indeed, no matter what's wrong with us — what sins we've committed, what flaws we try to hide — Jesus welcomes us to the communion table. And he'll welcome us to the great heavenly banquet at the end of time. For the great love of God declares,

"You're all welcome at my table."
—Heidi Hyland Mann





MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE TOGETHER.

"Our faith in Jesus allows us to look beyond ourselves and help others. We connect with those who are in the midst of a disaster, and our response is to support them in any way possible. It's not just recovery. It's also meeting emotional, spiritual and basic needs.

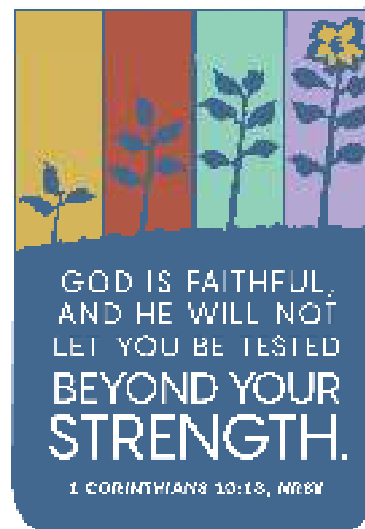
THE GOAL IS TO MAKE EVERYBODY WHOLE."

Emeraldia "Missy" Gordillo, UMCOR Case Manager



www.umcor.org
This group is a part of The United Methodist Church

www.umcor.org/UMCOR



Complete serenity

Many of us have heard the first part of what's called "The Serenity Prayer," attributed to theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. But we would do well to learn the rest of it as well:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; trusting that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen."

No regrets!

If you've ever regretted a big purchase and wondered if you could return it, you're familiar with the nagging feeling of buyer's remorse. Thankfully, our Redeemer never experienced that. As a church sign proclaims, "When Jesus bought you, he never had buyer's remorse. And he never will!" To Jesus, the payment of suffering

and death was well worth the payoff. "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2, NIV).



L E N T



Groton March Family Committee

Seth & Megan Erickson

Anita & John Lowary

Erin & Damian Bahr, Jackson

Rodney Boehmer

Karla & Russell Davidson, Andrea

Ashley Dunham

Charity & Scotty Hinman, Karsten

Curtis Krueger

AM & Laurie Mitchell

Justin Morehouse

Jaymie Overacker

Justin Olson

Tom Strom

Honorary Members

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

March 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
- ◆ Shovel snow from the doorways before Church
- ◆ Potluck 2nd Sunday - give

church secretary details for bulletin

- ◆ Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- ◆ Serve at Avantara Nursing Center - 4th Sunday
- ◆ **Order and Pickup Confirmation Cake for Coffee Hour**
- ◆ Gifts are organized by Confirmation Leaders
- ◆ Hospitality sets up gift table
- ◆ Confirmation Sunday - March 13th

March 2022						
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27	28	29	30	31		

Groton April Family Committee

Randy & Rebecca Padfield

Lindsey & Tom Tietz, Lane

Valerie Baker

Andrea & Scott Eisenbeisz

Evan Erickson

Sydney & Trent Kurtz

JoAnn & Richard Krueger

Mike & JoAnn Nehls

Chris & Sherwin Nyberg

Chuck Padfield

Joey & Sabrina Padfield

Roger & Pam Rix

Betty Strom

Crystal Strom, Holden

Joey & Allen Walter

Honorary Members

- ◆ Jean Walter
- ◆ Darlys Kampa

April 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

mittee book

- ◆ Maintain the Altar flower arrangements
- ◆ Potluck 2nd Sunday- give church secretary details for bulletin
- ◆ Serve Avantara Nursing Center - 4th Sunday
- ◆ Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons

April 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Feb 2 Journey Zieroth
- Feb 4 KayLynn Overacker
Tim Olson
- Feb 5 Scott Eisenbeisz
Todd Thurston
- Feb 7 Gary Voss
- Feb 8 Gage Sippel
- Feb 10 Andrea & Scott Eisenbeisz
Brenda Madsen
Dion Bahr
June Thompson
Nori Hinman
- Feb 12 Skylar Kramer
Yvonne Lorenz
- Feb 14 Diane Nissen
- Feb 16 Pernell Graf
- Feb 19 Gaylene Voss
Robin O'Neill
- Feb 20 Jim & Judy Zeck
Michael Wells
- Feb 21 Joe Nelson
Wyatt Morehouse
- Feb 22 Anthony Schinkel
- Feb 25 Brent Morehouse
Greg Heitmann
- Feb 26 Ginger McNickle

- Mar 3 Tristan Kampa
- Mar 4 Christina Zoellner
Kale Pharis
Kay Daly
- Mar 5 Chance Strom
- Mar 7 Richard & JoAnn Krueger
Dale Strom
Brian Bahr
- Mar 8 Lindsey & Tom Tietz
Vic Fliehs

- Mar 9 Betty Strom
Everett Foltz
- Mar 10 Lindsey Strom
- Mar 14 Mendy Jones
Sydney Erickson
- 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
Murdock McNickle
- Mar 26 Chloe Daly
Claire Davidson
Clayton Kurtz
Justin Morehouse
Mark Thompson
- Mar 27 Dwight Strom
Michele Walter
- Mar 29 Sharon Wheeting
- Mar 31 Aiden Strom

Caralee Heitmann (80th!)

March 31st

PO Box 334
Groton, SD 57445

heitmanncara@hotmail.com



Conde

- Feb 4 Donna Walter
- Feb 5 Richard Sanderson
- Feb 9 Vicki Stark
- Feb 15 Tim & Betty Geist
- Feb 19 Tyler Stark
- Feb 22 Horace Walter



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



Groton Ad Council - January

Chairman, Lars Hanson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Those in attendance were: Pastor Brandon Dunham, Marjorie Overacker, Anita Lowary, Linda Thurston, Meri Erickson, Val Baker, and Jane Johnson. Pastor Brandon opened with a prayer.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Anita Lowary and 2nd by Val Baker. Motion carried.

Minutes: The previous minutes were approved on a motion by Anita Lowary and 2nd by Marjorie Overacker. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Marjorie Overacker reported Edward D Jones sent a Thank You/Christmas card.

Committee Reports:

Missions: Val Baker reported the Missions Committee sent out a questionnaire via text, e-mail and Facebook. They are looking for feedback from the congregation on what they are passionate about and what moves them in the area of mission work.

Hospitality: Pastor Brandon reported they need to meet. There was a planned meeting but it appeared that was probably not going to work anymore.

Trustees: No report. Tyke Nyberg is recovering from surgery.

Treasurer's Report: Marjorie Overacker reported both the electrical and natural gas bills are jumping up considerably. There was discussion about leaving the thermostat set and not alter that to keep the heat consistent. Marjorie also mentioned she is working with the IRS regarding a pay-

ment she made 7-28-2021 in which the IRS did receive but may have misallocated it.

Financial Audit Committee: Chairperson, Anita Lowary, reported she is also dealing with the IRS on W-2 information from 2018. IRS won't work with her because she isn't listed as an authorized person for the church. Val Baker made a motion to complete the necessary documentation to make Anita an authorized person to represent the church in this matter and 2nd by Jane Johnson. Motion carried.

Pastor/Parish Treasurer: Meri Erickson reported everything is good.

Financial Secretary: Anita Lowary reported for Allen Walter, there were 81 people in attendance 1-16-21 and over \$1000 in offerings.

BILLS: Pastor Brandon presented the annual CCLI renewal bill.

Administrative Report: Pastor Brandon reported the missions' e-mails were starting to come back to him. Pastor handed out a daily devotional book titled "Leadership" to everyone in attendance. He thanked everyone for their leadership in the church.

Old Business: Anita Lowary reported she hasn't had a chance to work on the Pastors' window. She has dedicated her time to the IRS issue.

New Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.
Secretary Pro-Tem
Jane Johnson

Groton Stewardship Report Dec 2021
Average Wkly Giving \$1,337
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,285
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 64
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5

Groton Stewardship Report Jan 2022
Average Wkly Giving \$1,289
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,353
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 53
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5





Our Church Happenings...

March 2022						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- Feb 22 Groton Missions Meeting at 7 pm
- Feb 28 Pastor Brandon Groton Lent Study begins 7 pm
- Mar 1 Pastor Brandon Conde Lent Study begins 6 pm
- Mar 2 Groton Ash Weds with drive-thru 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
- Mar 9 Groton Confirmation for 8th graders only
- Mar 9 Groton UMYF at 7 pm
- Mar 13 Groton Confirmation Sunday
- Mar 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Mar 15 Conde Ad Council 5 pm
- Mar 16 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Mar 17 Groton UMW 1:30 pm
- Mar 22 Newsletter Items for April due
- Mar 23 Groton UMYF at 7 pm
- Mar 27 UMCOR Sunday