



October 2022

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,
In my social media scrolling this last week I came across something quite interesting that I wanted to share with you all. It was a video of a gentleman speaking on the decline of community in America and he attributed much of it to the decline of something called “third places”. Now, what are third places you might ask? Well, it’s a term coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg and refers to places where people spend their time outside of home (first place) and work (second place). They are places where we relax, exchange ideas, have a good time, and build relationships.

Trends in technology and the general increased pace of humanity have brought many to social media to try and fill that role in their lives in a more efficient manner, but as Oldenburg mentions, the most effective “third places” for building **real community** seem to be physical places where people can easily and routinely connect with each other.

Now, here is where my heart began ache.

As Rabbi David Wolpe points out in *Time*,



“The decline in attendance at churches and synagogues is sad for those of us who care for religion, of course. But it is also sad to see the waning of one of the last great institutions that brings people together. Yes, the synagogue is full of problems and politics, but that is just another way of saying it is full of people.”

And all of this had me thinking of the role my church has played in my life, and how ever since I began attending it has always been THE “third place” for me and so many of my friends. It was where we went after school to play ping pong and eat dinner before Youth Group on Wednesday nights. It was where I made college

friends who actually encouraged me to truly know God and walk towards being who God created me to be. It was where I studied for finals, wrote music, played games, laughed the hardest, cried the deepest... the church is where I met my wife.

And in a town with so few “third place” options, there is no reason for our church to not at least offer all those things to each and every member of our community. And I understand in many ways culture has drawn us away to the point where we don’t have enough people left to manage a “third place” for all the needs in our neighborhood... but that does not mean we shouldn’t try our very best.

My prayer is for our church to begin taking greater steps towards making our building a “third place” for the Groton and Conde areas. And the truth is, we will need a lot more help than we currently have. But I believe we have all the resources we need to bring real transformation in our community, if we would each simply take up the charge our Mission states, of seeking to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

“Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”

Proverbs 11:25

Blessings,
Pastor Brandon Dunham



Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off



UMYF Kicked Off with Scavenger Hunt!



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

Groton UMYF Events - Youth Group

Oct 5 - Movie Night 6:30 pm



Oct 12 - Hayride and Bonfire at Tietz's at 6:30 pm

Oct 19 - Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall at 7 pm



Oct 26 - Pumpkin Carving/ Painting at 7 pm

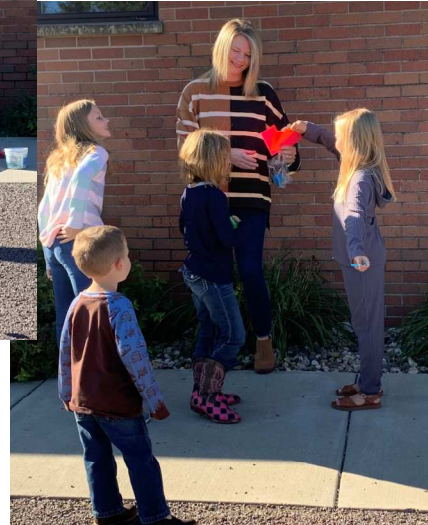
Church Information

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

Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday was a big success! Over twenty children enjoyed a Sunday school carnival with games and prizes. This was followed by church services and a potluck sponsored by the Administrative Council. A huge thank you to all who helped with the carnival: Sydney Kurtz, Rebecca Padfield, John Erickson, Emerlee Jones, Carly Gilbert, and McKenna Tietz.
Meri Erickson



TRUNK OR TREAT



It's spooky season once more and that means Trunk or Treat! Partnering with activities already taking place around town, we ask volunteers to park their vehicle in our parking lot, decorate the back end of it in some kind of fun and creative way, and then we hand out candy to trick or treaters... simple as that!

Trunk or Treat will be on Monday, October 31st in our church parking lot from 5:30pm-7pm and we would love you to be a part of it by bringing a trunk and serving our community, donating a bag of candy, or simply coming by in support.

All who wish to participate with decorating a trunk contact Pastor Brandon Dunham so he can put you on the list or answer any questions you might have.

JOIN US FOR OUR TRUNK OR TREAT!



Groton UMW Oct 20 Meeting Notice

We would like as many Groton UMW members as possible to attend our monthly UMW meeting on October 20 at 1:30 pm. During this meeting the officers have decided to propose disbanding our Groton UMW group.

The reasons for this decision include:

1. The announcement in March, 2022 that the traditional UMW organization has been refreshed and renamed as United Women in Faith.
2. Groton's UMW declining active member attendance
3. The same officers having served Groton's UMW unit for the last seven plus years.

Even though we have seen a decline in member's attendance at our

monthly meetings, we continue to be humbled & grateful for those who have always been there for our UMW when we have asked for help by way of monetary donations & food donations, etc. We are hopeful that this support can continue through our missions group or pop-up groups as needed.

If the vote is in favor of disbanding, members will then begin discussion of where to donate our remaining funds. These funds need to go to missions/needs (preferably local) that support women, children and youth. In addition we will need to discuss what happens with our weekly Community Coffee hosted by UMW members each Wednesday morning.

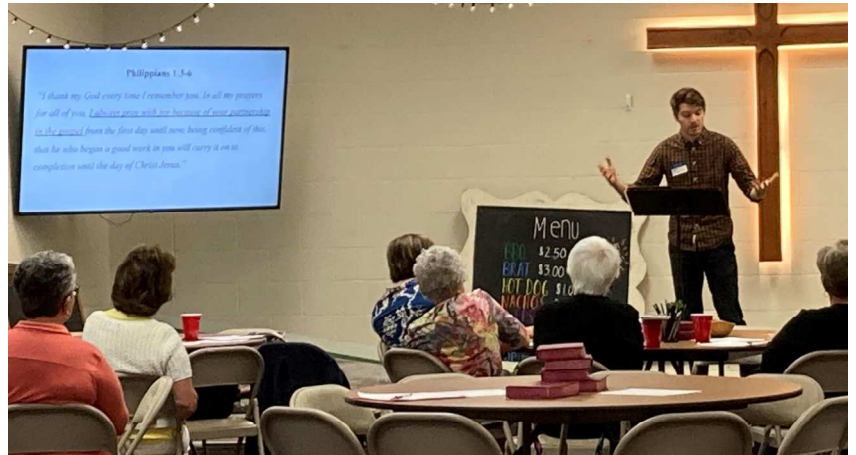
Also, if the vote to disband is fa-

vorable, women of the Groton UMC who still want to remain active as United Women in Faith members can find information on how to engage with that group at uwfaith.org.

Signed,
Jolene Townsend, President
Gloria Pharis, Vice President
Anita Lowary, Secretary
Jeanne Wanous, Treasurer



UMW Conference Meeting Sept 17th hosted by Groton UMW



Groton Family Committee - Nov

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

- Mendy & James Jones, Marlee Amber & Adrian Daly, Tyson, Levi Kay & Doug Daly
- Angela & Perryn Dobbins, Jaden Jay & Linda Johnson
- Jessica & Brent Morehouse
- Jesse Overacker, KayLynn, Emily Marjorie & Roger Overacker
- Harlan & Peggy Place
- Alan Strom & Shelly Lerew
- Jolene Townsend
- Kim & Craig Weber
- Jim & Judy Zeck

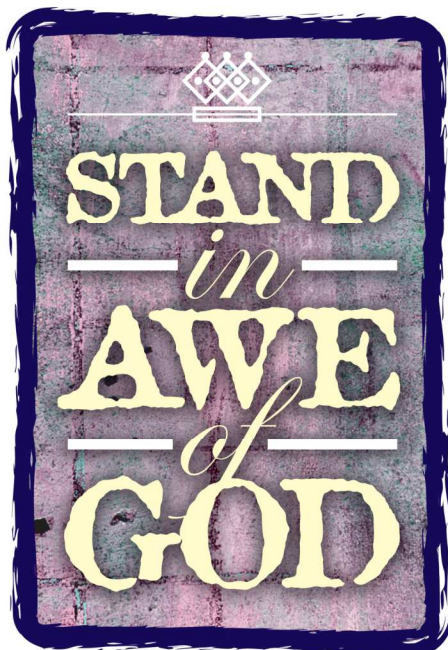
Honorary Members

- ◆ Doris Strom
- ◆ Ruby Luce

November 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
- ◆ Bring Christmas decorations in from the shed and fluff them so they are ready to put up. Check the lights on them as well.
- ◆ Put up church indoor and outdoor decorations with December committee and all church members (check date with Pastor)
- ◆ No Potluck if Men have their dinner
- ◆ Serve at Avantara Nursing Center – 4th Sunday

November 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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			



Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in those moments we could decide to notice the

sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.

—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Oct 1 Turner Thompson
- Oct 4 Rick Hofer
Josh Atherton
Fred Wolken
- Oct 5 Jeanne Wanous
- Oct 6 Paula Johnson
Vee Fliehs
- Oct 7 Allen Walter
- Oct 8 Gloria Pharis
Lars & Kelli Hanson
- Oct 9 London Bahr
- Oct 10 Dan & Marjae Schinkel
Kaleb Hofer
Megan Erickson
Charity & Scott Hinman
- Oct 12 Marc & Jane Johnson
Charles & Sabrina Padfield
- Oct 13 Carna Atherton-Pray
- Oct 14 Grady O'Neill
- Oct 15 Brad Morehouse
Jaymie Overacker
Russell Davidson
- Oct 16 Brian & Elizabeth Bahr
- Oct 17 Jackson Bahyr
- Oct 22 Kara Pharis



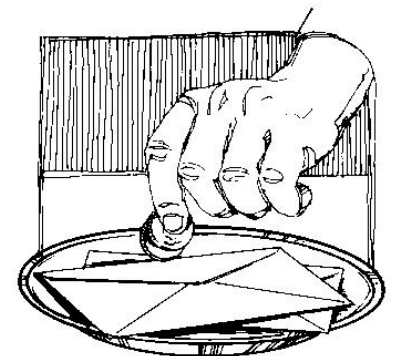
- Oct 23 Randy Stanley
- Oct 24 Karla Davidson
- Oct 25 Lars Hanson
- Oct 26 Jaeden Morehouse
- Oct 30 Holden Sippel
Sarah Hofer

Conde

- Oct 22 Janice Hanson (80)
- Oct 29 Marcene Bruckner
- Oct 31 Andee Geist

Groton Stewardship Report Aug 2022
Average Wkly Giving \$1,098
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,3543
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 37
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5

HAPPY
 Birthday
 FROM YOUR
 CHURCH FAMILY



Cents-ible stewardship

During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)

The pastor let the children keep the

coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies.

When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.

—Julie Lee



Groton Ad Council - Sept

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Pastor Brandon. Those in attendance were Anita Lowary, Jeanne Wanous, Tyke Nyberg, Pastor Brandon, Meri Erickson, Allen Walter, and Lars Hanson & Val Baker arrived later. Prior to the meeting Pastor Brandon shared a prayer.

Agenda & Minutes: The agenda & the previous minutes were approved on a motion by Anita Lowary.

Correspondence: Anita Lowary said she received another letter from the IRS still asking us to pay a fine. Anita will continue to monitor the issue.

Committee Reports:

UMW: Jeanne Wanous reported that the group met on Thursday, Sept. 15 for the first time since July. They made final plans for hosting the UMW District Meeting at our church on Saturday, Sept. 17. The Sept. 17 District Meeting was attended by 23 ladies from Fargo, Wahpeton, Aberdeen, Webster and Groton. The District officers conducted business, shared in some small group discussions, prayers and singing. Pastor Brandon also participated with a Bible Study presentation which had the complete attention by the entire group. The Groton group of UMW members prepared and served a meal for the ladies before they finished their annual business and departed.

Trustees: Tyke Nyberg reported that he has asked McGannon's to check out our heating system to make sure it is ready for fall/ & winter.

Education: Meri Erickson reported that Rally Sunday was attended by 20 kids & everything went well. Bibles for 3rd graders is planned for Oct. 2.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Bills to be Presented: None

Administration Report:

Youth Group: Pastor Brandon was happy to report there were 15 youth present for the Sept. 14 youth group meeting. They went on a scavenger hunt and enjoyed walking tacos. In addition, Brandon organized & served breakfast to 13 youth prior to school the morning of Sept. 21 since it was a busy homecoming week for all of the students. Brandon would really like to focus on our children's & youth ministry going forward. Lindsey Tietz has been a great help with organizing and helping with youth group.

Sunday School: It was noted that we really could use more volunteer help with Sunday school.

Bible Studies: Bible study in Conde is going amazingly well. There seems to be no interest in evening Bible study in Groton, but the 6:30 pm Thursday evening Bible Study with Ashley Dunham at the parsonage is still happening.

Old Business:

Chip & Seal Bill: The bill for the chip & seal of the parking lot has been paid for out of the Building Fund in the amount of \$7240.90.

Sanctuary Pulpit Microphone: New microphones would address the problem of on-line viewers of our Sunday morning services not being able to hear persons preaching at the pulpit. Brandon stated that it would cost approx. \$270 each for 2 new microphones which would include the necessary transmitters. Another idea would be to purchase a 4-line system for approx. \$800 which would be a great upgrade for all our needs. This would be helpful for our upcoming children's Christmas program, plus a benefit for those listening in to services on-line. Brandon

will speak with Linda Thurston to see if this might be a good project for memorial funds.

Apportionments: The council again discussed increasing our 25% monthly apportionment giving. It was decided this should be reviewed with Marjorie Overacker to get her input. The discussion was tabled until next month.

New Business:

Trunk or Treat: We will again host a parking lot Trunk or Treat event from 5:30 – 7:00pm on Oct. 31. Jolene Townsend & Meri Erickson have volunteered to serve hotdogs at the event.

Charge Conf. Sat. Oct. 29: Pastor Brandon announced that our annual Charge Conference will take place at our church on Oct. 29 at 6:30 pm. Conde will also be in attendance. That means we need to prepare. In preparation there was a motion by Anita Lowary that the nominating committee invite all committee chair persons to the nominating committee's annual meeting so that those current chairs could assist in filling committees for next year. Valerie Baker 2nd Anita's motion and the motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.
Secretary, Jeanne Wanous





Our Church Happenings...

October 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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					

- Oct 2 World Communion Sunday
- Oct 5 Groton UMYF Movie Night 6:30 pm "Woodlawn"
- Oct 9 Groton Finance Meeting following Worship
- Oct 12 Groton UMYF Hayride and Bonfire at Tietz's at 6:30 pm
- Oct 18 Conde Ad Council
- Oct 19 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Oct 19 Groton UMYF Bible Study at 7 pm
- Oct 20 Groton UMW 1:30 pm
- Oct 23 Groton 3rd graders receive Bibles during worship
- Oct 26 Groton UMYF Pumpkin Carving/Painting at 7 pm
- Oct 29 Charge Conference 6:30 pm at Groton UMC
- Oct 31 Groton Trunk or Treat 5:30 - 7 pm