



Groton & Conde UMC

Newsletter

April 2023

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name,
would care to feel my hurt?
Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star
Would choose to light the way for my ever-wandering heart?

Not because of who I am,
but because of what You've done
Not because of what I've done,
but because of who You are

I am a flower quickly fading,
here today and gone tomorrow
A wave tossed in the ocean,
a vapor in the wind
Still, You hear me when I'm calling,
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
And You've told me who I am
I am Yours

Does anyone remember this old Casting Crowns song? It was released in 2003, and while I age myself in doing this... I remember first listening to it. I was in 5th grade and my mom would play it in our house. At the that age I wasn't all that concerned with big questions about myself or the world, but I remember liking this song for that final line, "I am yours".

There is something special about feeling sought after, especially as a kid. To know that you are



valued and understood, cared for... it provides the freedom to go on actually being a kid. And as we grow those same desires stay with us, don't they? We want others to care about who we are and the things we are doing. It feels good to be validated in the things our hearts are passionate about and yet so often it feels like we're in those things alone. Like no one is watching and we're making very little difference in the world.

The Easter story is such a mysterious one, because if we struggle to find assurance from the people around us that we're valuable, known, and seen... why would the God of the Heavens be any different.

Who am I to warrant any kind of attention with the King of Kings? And its for that very purpose that Jesus came. To speak worth into every fiber of your soul and declare that you are loved beyond your wildest dreams. He's seen everything you've been a part of, and even orchestrated much of it. He's been with you in the struggles and cheered you on in your triumphs. He has always been with you, because you are His.

I pray you all feel this to be true of you.

Blessings,
Pastor Brandon Dunham



OFFICE HOURS

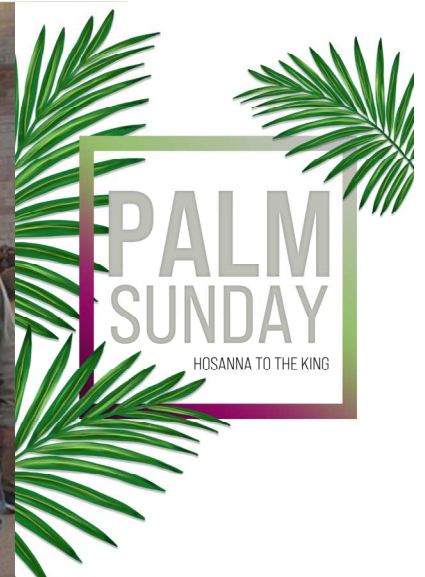
Pastor In Office
Tuesday & Thursday Mornings

Friday Day Off



Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday was held on March 12 during worship. Congratulations Emerlee Jones, McKenna Tietz, and Aiden Strom.



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/
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

Groton UMC Upcoming Projects

As most of you know, the church was burglarized this week and several things of value were stolen from the office. The Administrative Board held an emergency meeting to discuss the safety and security of our building. Decisions were made to add cameras in several locations and limit access to one entrance. Repairs to a door are needed and new locks will need to be purchased. The estimated cost of this project, including cameras and items needing to be fixed or replaced, will be approximately \$2,500. If you would like to donate to this project, please designate any funds to the Security Project.

A second project that was approved by the board, at an earlier date, is to add an AED (automatic external defibrillator) to our church. This is equipment that is easily used by lay people and can be critical in saving a life of someone who has suffered a heart related incident. General emergency supplies available in the church, including band aids, wound dressings, glucometer, and blood pressure cuff, will be added. The cost to purchase the defibrillator is approximately \$1900 and includes all of the needed supplies and a metal box for visible storage. There are

available discounts made available to churches that we are applying for. We are working with the Groton Rescue Squad to assure the equipment is similar to other AED's that are located at other public sites in Groton, such as the schools and other churches. If you would like to donate to this project, please designate any funds to the Emergency Equipment Fund.



Special Groton UMC Board Meeting - April

The Groton UMC Official Board met for a special meeting on Saturday April 1, 2023. Twelve members were present. Topic of church vandalism to be discussed.

President AM Mitchell called the meeting to order. Pastor Brandon Dunham offered a prayer. Pastor Brandon gave an overview of the vandalism from the beginning of the incident to the present time. A Bible Study of 4-5 people had just left the church. A list of damages and articles stolen were reviewed and discussed.

Lon Gellhaus made a motion to have Pastor Brandon buy a new iPad, Kindle and air Pods

and the church and the Pastor Parish will reimburse him. Seconded by Roger Rix. All members voting Aye.

Suggests for new safety measures: Carna Pray: Lock chapel, sanctuary, and offices and install 1 camera at the north door.

Kay Daly: Wireless Systems are not a good option with the church having cement walls. Presented a 4 camera and 8 camera system with NVR that would be effective for our church. Cost of camera system is \$1275.99. She can install it with assist of some men helping to drill holes in cement walls and running the wires. Further discussion was held on lock-

ing of the church now and after cameras are installed.

Meri Erickson made a motion that the church purchase the 4 and 8 camera system. To keep the office locked at all times. All exterior door will be kept locked an a keyless keypad will be installed on the north door. Seconded by Val Baker. All members voted Aye. Motion carried.

Pastor Branon will give a short overview of the incident and plans to update the safety measures in church on Sunday.



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

9:30am- Silent Dessert Auction

10:30am- Worship with children singing, Baptism remembrances, and Holy Communion

11:30am- Family Feast

MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30pm- Worship in the Fellowship Hall with Dinner

GOOD FRIDAY

7:00pm- Community Service

EASTER SUNDAY

7:00am- Sunrise Service

8:00am- Breakfast and Egg Hunt

(No 10:30 Service)

Psalm 118

Give thanks to the
Lord, for he is
good,
his mercy endures
forever.

Our 2023 Graduates



Ashtyn Bahr



Jackson Bahr



KayLynn Overacker



Tyson Parrow



Ava Kramer



Beginning ... and beginning again

During the coming weeks, as you or loved ones celebrate graduation, remember it isn't a closed door, an end or a farewell. Instead, it's an entryway threshold, a beginning, a hello — and one of many such opportunities that mark life.

“God wants us to know that life is a series of beginnings, not endings, just as graduations are not terminations but commencements,” writes Bernie Siegel. “Creation is an ongoing process, and when we create a perfect world where love and compassion are shared by all, suffering will cease.”

Of course, we can “create a perfect world” only by letting God guide our actions. So, dear graduates, may you partner with God to meet suffering with love, kindness and compassion through all the new beginnings of your life!



WE ARE YET ALIVE: UNITED METHODISTS IN THE HISTORY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA

[We are yet alive: United Methodists in the history of North Dakota and South Dakota](#)

By: Rev. Dr. Stephen Perry, retired elder and historian, Dakotas UMC

I have posted [Chapter Five](#) of the new history of [The United Methodist Church's Dakotas Conference](#) on my website. Both the content and my writing of it have been a long time in the making. Chapter Five goes back to the Second World War and generations that have today just about finished leaving us. It comes forward to the merger of denominations that, in 1968, created The United Methodist Church—a denomination that is today rapidly splitting apart over human sexuality.

I turned my attention to the period 1940-1968 in 2020 just as the COVID pandemic broke out. Today, as I post the results of thinking about these war and postwar years, many United Methodist congregations are trying to put themselves back together after a long and difficult struggle just to stay open.

It was not easy for me to present the people who lived thru the 40's, 50's, and 60's in their own terms—highlighting their hopes for a better, more peaceful world and their ignorance of how the real world would turn out in the 21st century. I found myself constantly making connections between their time and our time, something that historians need to do but not at the expense of understanding the people who lived before us.

Anyone who reads Chapter Five is bound to look for what's "relevant" today and will quickly find it in my descriptions of war, race, gender, counseling as a practice of ministry, involvement of Christians with social issues, congregations as social service providers, emphasis on the spiritual development of individuals, camping and the call to ministry, starting new congregations, fundraising, and the real reasons for membership decline.



Dakotas Conference file photo.

Many Dakotas United Methodists will recall people whose lives I discuss like Byron and Gladys Davis, Rod Gist, Bishop Garrison, Bishop Heininger, Fred and Mabel Hubbard, Grace Huck, Harvey Sander, Roger Smith, Bob Vessey, Bishop Voight, and Bob Wagner.

We need a good deal of imagination to remember that people familiar to us because they figured large in the recent past actually came from a different time than our own. But we also need imagination to discern a more profound connec-

tion with them.

They lived, like we live, as stewards of the world they inherited, not the world they might have preferred to live in. Like them, we live in fear, hope, and ignorance about the future. Helping to create a better world, as they did in many ways, requires humility about our limits but also courage not to give up.

[Chapter Five](#) is divided into three sections:
Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, December 7, 1941
Lake Poinsett Methodist Camp, South Dakota, June 1, 1952
Dakotas Area Convocation, Aberdeen, South Dakota, October 6-8, 1967

Earlier chapters are available:

- [Back East](#)
- [The Organized Frontier](#)
- [West River and the Second Frontier](#)
- [The Great War and the Great Depression](#)

I am a retired clergy member of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church and a historian with a Ph.D. in history from the University of Cambridge. I can be reached at historian@centurylink.net.





*When Sunday school is scheduled for 10:30, the kids will go to church and be dismissed for Sunday school after the children’s sermon.

- April 9 – No Sunday school (Easter Sunday)
- April 16 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- April 23 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- April 30 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- May 7 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- May 14 – Last day of Sunday school- 9:30-10:30 (Sing in church 10:30 -Mother’s

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android

Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for **Instant Church Directory** and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to **CREATE A LOGIN** the first time you use the directory app.

If you’re not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

Available on the App Store

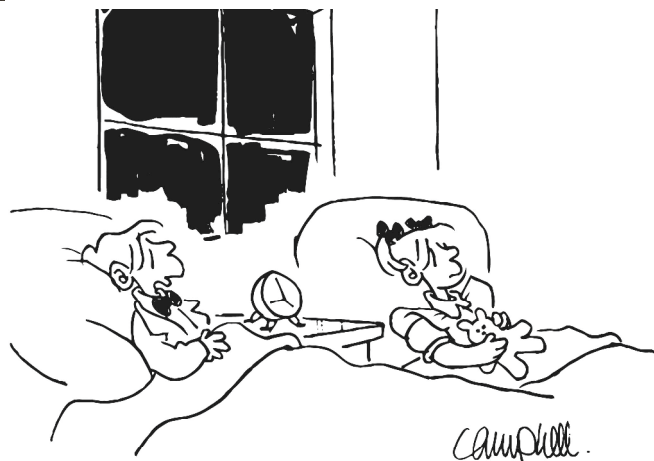
GET IT ON Google play

Missions Committee

Big thank you to all who supported our donation to the Groton Food Pantry. It is such a gift to participate in the valuable service it provides to this community.

May Mission- Decorating May Day baskets for residents of Avantara and Rosewood on April 30th.

Both events will take place during coffee hour at 9:30am.



“Mom’s really worried about being late for Easter sunrise service, isn’t she?”

Groton Family Committee - May

Sydney & Trent Kurtz

Betty Strom

Sam & Dion Bahr, Ashtyn

Valerie Baker

Rodney Boehmer

Steve Diegel

Myndi & Scott Kampa

Tristan, Jaeger

Kami & Tom Lipp

Julie & Jesse Morehouse

Kara & Kevin Pharis

Peggy & Harlan Place

Carna & Cliff Pray

Lindsey & Tom Tietz, Lane

Jeanne Wanous

Honorary Members

- Gloria Pharis
- Pat Dahlquist

May Responsibilities

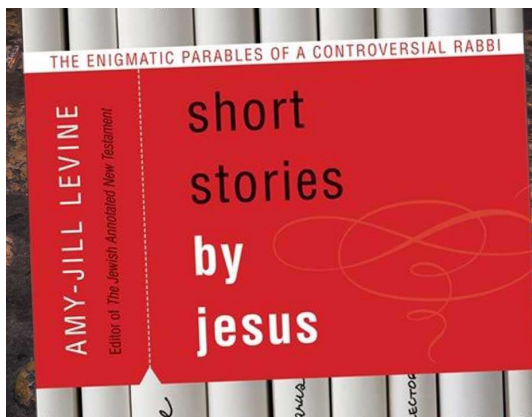
- Check Kitchen Supplies for the month
- Check & Clean Oven and Fridge as necessary
- Coffee Hour workers (make coffee, provide cookies, launder towels, and remove trash)
- 2 Ushers for each Sunday
- Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
- Change the banners as needed as per schedule in back of the committee book
- Maintain the Altar Flower arrangements
- Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin

- Order and Pickup Graduation Cake for coffee hour. Honor the graduates on Sunday ??
- Gifts are organized by UMYF Leaders
- Hospitality sets up gift table
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- Serve at Avantara Nursing Center - 4th Sunday

May 2023						
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			

J.O.Y. Bible Study

April 11th we will start a new study at 10 am on Jesus' parables from the view of going back in time and listening to Jesus himself. There is a short book so if you plan on joining us, please let Kay know you need a book to read. Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy-Jill Levine. All are welcome to join us! Questions call Kay Daly 605-397-8389



Groton Stewardship Report Feb 2023

Average Wkly Giving \$1,487
 Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,393
 Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 49
 Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Apr 3 Marc Johnson
Myndi & Scott Kampa
Nolan Rose
- Apr 4 Mitchell Madsen
Sue Stanley
- Apr 5 Desiree & Corey Foltz
Wyatt Kurtz
- Apr 6 Elise Pharis
- Apr 7 Jackson & Lindsey Strom
Reilly Ell
Shelly Lerew
- Apr 8 Lon Gellhaus
- Apr 10 Pauline Luce
- Apr 11 Taylor Thompson
- Apr 12 Erin Bahr
- Apr 13 Jessica Morehouse
- Apr 14 Toby Dobbins
- Apr 15 Brady Graf
Nolan Bahr
- Apr 16 Tom Tietz
Dale & Traci Kramer
Rodney Boehmer
- Apr 18 Dylan Vogel
Jenna Strom

Merrie Atherton

- Apr 21 Valerie Baker
- Apr 22 Ali Pasteur
- Apr 23 Colton Morehouse
- Apr 24 Rae Flihs
- Apr 28 Kevin Pharis
- Apr 30 Breslyn Jeschke

Conde

- Apr 11 Tim Geist
Audrey Imsland
- Apr 18 Loren Siefken
- Apr 22 Curtis Haskell



Death doesn't win

In the final hours of 2021, a wild-fire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter's backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter's foreground means death won't win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life "isn't all daffodils," we have hope and eternal life through

Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will "give us the joy, and it's going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well," added the pastor. "And that just makes me draw closer to God."



Groton Ad Council - March

Groton UMC Ad Council met on March 15, 2023 at 7 pm in the fellowship hall with the following persons present: Sherwin Nyberg, Carna Pray, Marjorie Overacker, Linda Thurston, Anita Lowary, Allen Walter, Lon Gellhaus, Kim Weber, Val Baker, Pastor Brandon Dunham and AM Mitchell presiding. Pastor Brandon led the group in an opening prayer.

The meeting agenda was approved on a motion by Linda Thurston and seconded by Marge Overacker. All members present voted aye. The minutes from the previous meeting was approved on a motion by Carna pray and seconded by Linda Thurston. All members present voted aye. No correspondence was presented.

Treasurer Marge Overacker reported that conference apportionments had been changed from 15% to 14% for this year. Groton is currently paying 25% of the assessed amount. No change was made.

The finance committee reviewed current giving and the high heating bills. Trustee President Tyke Nyberg reported that the church furnace needed a new circuit board on the newer pump.

Pastor parish Committee report was given by Carna Pray. The parsonage inspection is set for May. The sump pumps in the parsonage will be tested before snow melt.

Pastor Brandon presented the administrative report: Lenten Stud-

ies were going well. Maundy Thursday services will be in Groton (none in Conde) on April 6 at 6:30 pm. Groton Community Good Friday Service will be held April 7 at UMC at 7 pm. Easter Sunday services will be at 7 am and breakfast will follow at 8 am.

In old business the request for use of the church for a day care and preschool center was reviewed. Insurance costs would expect to rise by about \$2000.00. Several minor construction projects would have to be completed. Concerns on sharing the space and the need for childcare services in Groton were discussed. Moved by Val Baker and seconded by Marge Overacker to have Pastor Brandon tell them that for this time the answer would be no. All members present voted aye.

Carna Pray reported on the progress of setting up a first aid kit with AED. Supplies purchased so far were \$70.33. Advantages of buying the same brand as used by Groton Rescue Squad was mentioned. Grants are still being investigated.

Kim Weber reported that an effort was being made to organize a group for Christian fellowship for all elementary (grades 1-5) students. It would include teaching Acts of Kindness. She requested we host an April 16 organizational meeting. Moved by Tyke Nyberg and seconded by Val Baker to allow this April 16 meeting to be held at our church. All members voted aye.

Kim Weber reported that she



had been approached by Al Nordstrom and Rick Weiland to have a meeting on the Life Defense Fund Amendment on April 16 at our church. After discussion it was decided to not host this meeting because the issue could be too controversial.

Kim Weber asked about a meeting about the division of Global Methodist from United Methodist. No meeting was required unless more members wanted to follow through with discussion or separation from the United Methodist.

Val Baker reported that the Mission Committee and Sunday School were having a silent auction on baked goods on April 2 to provide Easter Baskets for the Sunday School Children. Meeting adjourned on a motion by Marge Overacker and seconded by Tyke Nyberg.

Anita Lowary, Substitute Secretary.





Our Church Happenings...

April 6 Groton Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm

April 7 Groton Community Good Friday Service 7 pm at Groton UMC

April 9 Easter Sunrise Service in Groton at 7 am

Breakfast following at 8 am followed by Easter Egg Hunt

April 9 Easter Service in Conde at 8:30 am

Apr 11 Groton 10 AM Bible Study starting new study on parables

Apr 18 Conde Ad Council

Apr 19 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Apr 20 Newsletter Items Due

Apr 30 Groton Missions May Day project during coffee hour

May 14 Groton Graduation Sunday

April 2023						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Tuesday Bible Study meets at 10 am - Kay Daly

Wednesday Bible Study meets at 4 pm - Lindsey Tietz