



January 2023

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2023! Are you ready to start the new best year of your life? That's always the perception painted by the public isn't it? "This is going to be YOUR year! This year is going to be different from the last! New year, new you!" However, it feels like after especially the last couple years, we've begun to be a little more hesitant to hope in that same way.

And I actually want to suggest that may not be the worst thing for us, because when we look to a new year to be better simply because it's a "new year" our hope is being based on something external. Maybe two years ago it was on a vaccine working or like a pandemic stopping. Maybe this last year it was in a new gym membership or cookbook that you got for Christmas. And yet, I want to suggest that we can still have hope today, and we definitely need to have hope today... but we've got to place our hope in something else.

I have this feeling that a lot of people place our hope in



the externals, like the stuff that we have, the job that we have, the external things going on in our lives. And we think that if we can just get those things right, then we're going to live a good life. And yet, when it doesn't work, we find ourselves struggling.

To start this year I want to remind you of something you already know, but maybe need to be retold. And that is...

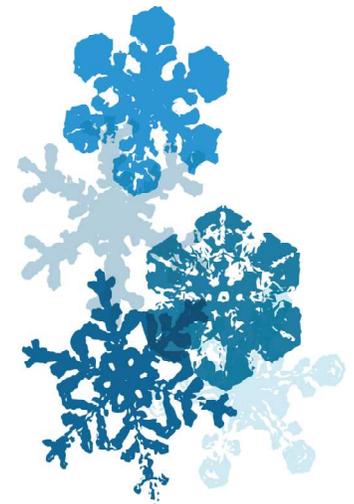
The good life is found nowhere else other than Jesus.

And we're going to start the year with a short little series called "The Good Book". I want to talk about

how our Bible is intrinsically tied to the good life. That knowing and following its teachings are all about the way that we live the good life God intended.

And so, January 8th and 15th, please bring your own Bibles from home to worship. If you do not have one then please let us know and we will happily give you one. So we're going to talk about the most influential book of all time, and my prayer is that we would not only grow in our understanding of what this book is, but how it all points to Jesus in a way still relevant in 2023.

Blessings,
Pastor Brandon Dunham



OFFICE HOURS

Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off

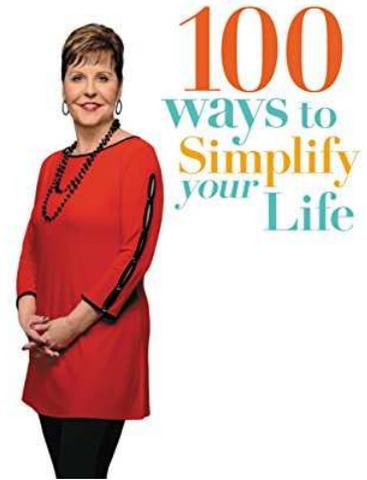


Book Study to begin

"100 Ways to Simplify Your Life" by Joyce Meyers Book Study - Wednesdays at 4:00 in the church library - beginning January 11.

Many want a simple life, but find it difficult to actually live that way. We all fight a constant battle to balance work, family, friends, and other demands on schedules stretched to thin. In this quick read, Joyce Meyers breaks it down to the simple principle of exercising faith rather than doubt and

confidence rather than people-pleasing. She writes from her experience of struggling to balance work, family, friends, and all the other demands on limited time. Any questions? Contact Lindsey Tietz. (No reading needs to be done for the first meeting.)



We will also be watching the movie on how the song originated as part of the lessons.



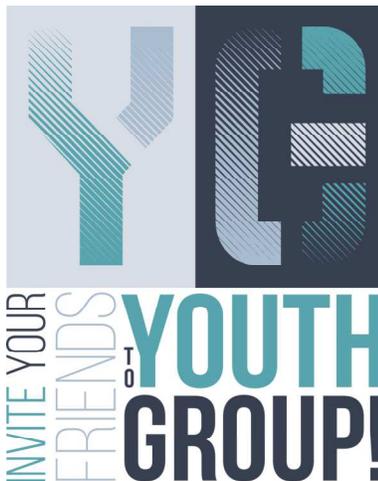
Conde MISSION STATEMENT
"The Conde United Methodist Church is seeking to satisfy the spiritual and physical needs of all."



Tuesday 10 AM Bible Study will resume on January 24th. We will be doing a short study on Amazing Grace which is 250 years old.

UMYF

Youth group will meet on Jan 11 for a New Year's Party at 6:30 pm and Jan 25 for Ice Skating & Hot Chocolate.



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

52 Week N.T. Reading Plan

The start of a new year always brings the picture of opportunity for fresh beginnings. Many use it to pick up new habits or try something that they know is important but have struggled to implement in their routine. One habit that is very important to cultivate, in order to grow in our relationship with Jesus, is the practice of daily Bible reading.

"The vigor of our spiritual life will be in direct proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life & thoughts."
George Müller

If someone took note of an average day in your life, how would they see you spend your time? How much of your time is given to TV, Social Media, YouTube, podcasts, or hobbies? How much do you devote to Bible reading? It might surprise you to

know that, by spending just 12-20 minutes a day reading the Bible, you could read through the entire Bible in just one year. God can use even five minutes each day in His word to change your life.

There are many different translations and "specialty" Bibles available — including Life Application (with study notes) and Chronological — that can assist you in making your Bible reading time well spent. If you don't already have a Bible, please let us know and we will happily supply you with one. Additionally, there are online Bibles and Bible study aids also available for free. If you don't find what you are looking for (or know what to look for!) ask Pastor Brandon and he would be happy to help!

Here are a few favorites!

YouVersion

Download the free Bible App to read and/or share Scripture with friends, including the ability to highlight, comment and connect over the Word.

My Utmost for His Highest

A daily devotional that can be emailed straight to you, including a Bible in a Year reading plan.

The Bible Project

View short, animated videos for every book of the Bible, exploring story-lines, main points, themes, and connections across all of Scripture.

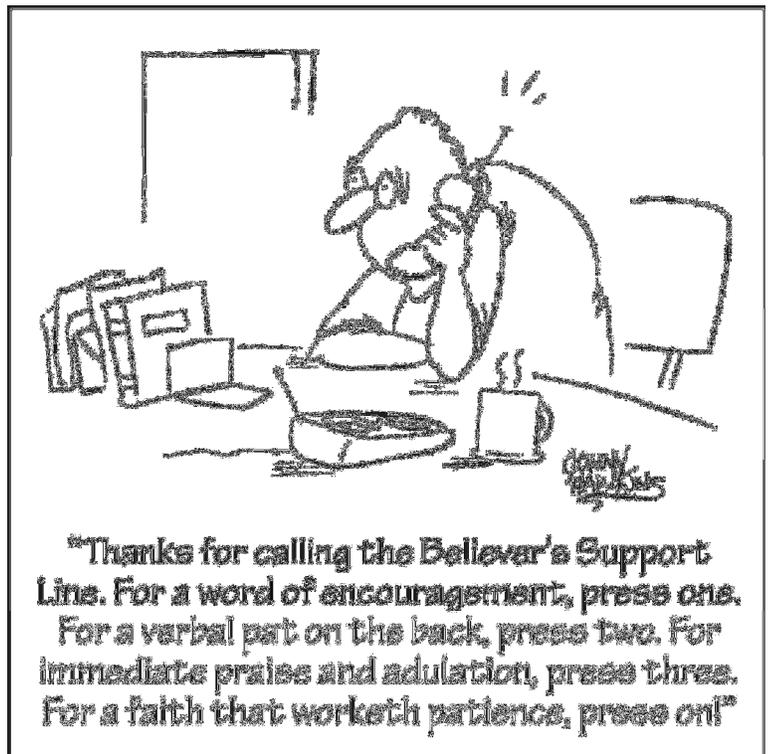
Reading Plan on back of this page.

Wisdom from MLK

I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.



—Martin Luther King Jr.



52 Week N.T. Reading Plan

| WEEK | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Matthew 1 | Matthew 2 | Matthew 3 | Matthew 4 | Matthew 5 |
| 2 | Matthew 6 | Matthew 7 | Matthew 8 | Matthew 9 | Matthew 10 |
| 3 | Matthew 11 | Matthew 12 | Matthew 13 | Matthew 14 | Matthew 15 |
| 4 | Matthew 16 | Matthew 17 | Matthew 18 | Matthew 19 | Matthew 20 |
| 5 | Matthew 21 | Matthew 22 | Matthew 23 | Matthew 24 | Matthew 25 |
| 6 | Matthew 26 | Matthew 27 | Matthew 28 | Mark 1 | Mark 2 |
| 7 | Mark 3 | Mark 4 | Mark 5 | Mark 6 | Mark 7 |
| 8 | Mark 8 | Mark 9 | Mark 10 | Mark 11 | Mark 12 |
| 9 | Mark 13 | Mark 14 | Mark 15 | Mark 16 | Luke 1 |
| 10 | Luke 2 | Luke 3 | Luke 4 | Luke 5 | Luke 6 |
| 11 | Luke 7 | Luke 8 | Luke 9 | Luke 10 | Luke 11 |
| 12 | Luke 12 | Luke 13 | Luke 14 | Luke 15 | Luke 16 |
| 13 | Luke 17 | Luke 18 | Luke 19 | Luke 20 | Luke 21 |
| 14 | Luke 22 | Luke 23 | Luke 24 | John 1 | John 2 |
| 15 | John 3 | John 4 | John 5 | John 6 | John 7 |
| 16 | John 8 | John 9 | John 10 | John 11 | John 12 |
| 17 | John 13 | John 14 | John 15 | John 16 | John 17 |
| 18 | John 18 | John 19 | John 20 | John 21 | Acts 1 |
| 19 | Acts 2 | Acts 3 | Acts 4 | Acts 5 | Acts 6 |
| 20 | Acts 7 | Acts 8 | Acts 9 | Acts 10 | Acts 11 |
| 21 | Acts 12 | Acts 13 | Acts 14 | Acts 15 | Acts 16 |
| 22 | Acts 17 | Acts 18 | Acts 19 | Acts 20 | Acts 21 |
| 23 | Acts 22 | Acts 23 | Acts 24 | Acts 25 | Acts 26 |
| 24 | Acts 27 | Acts 28 | Romans 1 | Romans 2 | Romans 3 |
| 25 | Romans 4 | Romans 5 | Romans 6 | Romans 7 | Romans 8 |
| 26 | Romans 9 | Romans 10 | Romans 11 | Romans 12 | Romans 13 |
| 27 | Romans 14 | Romans 15 | Romans 16 | 1 Corinthians 1 | 1 Corinthians 2 |
| 28 | 1 Corinthians 3 | 1 Corinthians 4 | 1 Corinthians 5 | 1 Corinthians 6 | 1 Corinthians 7 |
| 29 | 1 Corinthians 8 | 1 Corinthians 9 | 1 Corinthians 10 | 1 Corinthians 11 | 1 Corinthians 12 |
| 30 | 1 Corinthians 13 | 1 Corinthians 14 | 1 Corinthians 15 | 1 Corinthians 16 | 2 Corinthians 1 |
| 31 | 2 Corinthians 2 | 2 Corinthians 3 | 2 Corinthians 4 | 2 Corinthians 5 | 2 Corinthians 6 |
| 32 | 2 Corinthians 7 | 2 Corinthians 8 | 2 Corinthians 9 | 2 Corinthians 10 | 2 Corinthians 11 |
| 33 | 2 Corinthians 12 | 2 Corinthians 13 | Galatians 1 | Galatians 2 | Galatians 3 |
| 34 | Galatians 4 | Galatians 5 | Galatians 6 | Ephesians 1 | Ephesians 2 |
| 35 | Ephesians 3 | Ephesians 4 | Ephesians 5 | Ephesians 6 | Philippians 1 |
| 36 | Philippians 2 | Philippians 3 | Philippians 4 | Colossians 1 | Colossians 2 |
| 37 | Colossians 3 | Colossians 4 | 1 Thessalonians 1 | 1 Thessalonians 2 | 1 Thessalonians 3 |
| 38 | 1 Thessalonians 4 | 1 Thessalonians 5 | 2 Thessalonians 1 | 2 Thessalonians 2 | 2 Thessalonians 3 |
| 39 | 1 Timothy 1 | 1 Timothy 2 | 1 Timothy 3 | 1 Timothy 4 | 1 Timothy 5 |
| 40 | 1 Timothy 6 | 2 Timothy 1 | 2 Timothy 2 | 2 Timothy 3 | 2 Timothy 4 |
| 41 | Titus 1 | Titus 2 | Titus 3 | Philemon 1 | Hebrews 1 |
| 42 | Hebrews 2 | Hebrews 3 | Hebrews 4 | Hebrews 5 | Hebrews 6 |
| 43 | Hebrews 7 | Hebrews 8 | Hebrews 9 | Hebrews 10 | Hebrews 11 |
| 44 | Hebrews 12 | Hebrews 13 | James 1 | James 2 | James 3 |
| 45 | James 4 | James 5 | 1 Peter 1 | 1 Peter 2 | 1 Peter 3 |
| 46 | 1 Peter 4 | 1 Peter 5 | 2 Peter 1 | 2 Peter 2 | 2 Peter 3 |
| 47 | 1 John 1 | 1 John 2 | 1 John 3 | 1 John 4 | 1 John 5 |
| 48 | 2 John 1 | 3 John 1 | Jude 1 | Revelation 1 | Revelation 2 |
| 49 | Revelation 3 | Revelation 4 | Revelation 5 | Revelation 6 | Revelation 7 |
| 50 | Revelation 8 | Revelation 9 | Revelation 10 | Revelation 11 | Revelation 12 |
| 51 | Revelation 13 | Revelation 14 | Revelation 15 | Revelation 16 | Revelation 17 |
| 52 | Revelation 18 | Revelation 19 | Revelation 20 | Revelation 21 | Revelation 22 |

Created by Bible Plan

See more plans and sign up for email reminders at <http://bibleplan.org>



Sunday School Schedule

*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.

- January 8 – Sunday school resumes – 10:30-11:30
- January 15 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- January 22 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- January 29 – Sunday school – 9:30-10:30 (Carnival of Silver Skates)
- February 5 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30 (Sing in church 10:45)
- February 12 – Sunday school – 9:30-10:30 (Youth Wrestling)
- February 19 – No Sunday school (President's Day weekend)
- February 26 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- March 5 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- March 12 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- March 19 – No Sunday school (Spring Break)
- March 26 – Sunday school – 9:30-10:30
- April 2 – Sunday school – 9:30-10:30 (Palm Sunday – Sing in church 10:30)
- 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 Day)



Groton Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School presented the Christmas program "How the Grinch found the Christ in Christmas ". The children did a wonderful job. A special thanks to the following for all they did to make this program happen:

Coordinators-Meri Erickson and Megan Erickson; assisted by Sydney Kurtz, Rebecca Padfield, Val Baker, Lane Tietz, Emerlee Jones, McKenna Tietz and Riley Rose. Yvonne Lange and Pastor Brandon for accompanying on piano and guitar, and Marc and Jane Johnson for coordinating the lunch following the program.



Gingerbread BASH



Groton Family Committee - February

Jane & Marc Johnson

Eugenia & Dwight Strom

Karla & Russell Davidson

Pernell Graf

Charity & Scotty Hinman

Karsten, Breslyn

Sarah & Rick Hofer

Yvonne Lorenz

Belinda & Joe Nelson

Tim Olson

Roger & Marjorie Overacker

John Padfield

Sue & Randy Stanley

Joyce & Allen Walter

Honorary Members

- Caralee Heitmann
- Sharon Wheeting

February 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
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Serve at Avantara Nursing Center - 4th Sunday
- Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin

| February 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 | | | | |



God's Peaceable Kingdom

Once in a while — too seldom, it seems, but often enough to give us hope — Isaiah's prophecy comes true: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together ... The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together" (Isaiah 11:6-7, NRSV).

In February 2022, a Minnesota photographer captured a rare event: a wolf and a deer lying feet from each other in



the snow — and neither was eating the other! Occasionally we hear of Palestinians and Israelis partnering to teach peacemaking skills, a rally protester helping an injured counter-protester, a crime victim and perpetrator embracing. A divorced couple I know,

deeply estranged, decided they could sit together at their son's high school graduation to demonstrate their love for him.

In a world sadly torn apart, glimpses of mending, tolerance and love are signs of God among us. Isaiah (11:6) declares what makes such goodness possible: "A little child shall lead them." We know this child as the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Jan 2 Holly Walter
- Jan 3 Caroline Graf
- Jan 5 Treyton Diegel
Jeremy & Sam Weber
- Jan 6 Samantha Bahr
Zachary Townsend
- Jan 7 Karla & Russell Davidson
- Jan 9 JoAnn Krueger
- Jan 10 Neil Gilbert
Melissa & Neil Gilbert
- Jan 11 Huntley Overacker
Myndi Kampa
Randy Padfield
- Jan 13 Lance Hawkins
Monte McNickle
- Jan 14 Isabella Daly
Jay & Linda Johnson
- Jan 15 Alissa Gellhaus-Wells
- Jan 16 Marjorie Overacker
Laurie Mitchell
Ryder Johnson
Hunter Bahr
- Jan 18 Cheryl Graf
- Jan 19 Tim Graf

- Jan 21 Taryn Thompson
- Jan 23 Jed Morehouse
- Jan 26 Trinity Smith
- Jan 27 Kristi Hawkins
- Jan 28 Ruby Luce (90)
- Jan 30 Major Dolan

Conde

- Jan 3 Bruce Herman
- Jan 10 Donna Hearnen
- Jan 11 Norman Smith
- Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon.0

Happy 90th Birthday

Ruby Luce January 28th

PO Box 32
Groton, SD 57445
605-397-8237



Fresh Starts

I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade. That's why I also like sunrises, Mondays and new seasons. God seems to be saying, "With me you can always start afresh."

—Ada Lum



FALL DINNER



Baptism is serious business!

Baptizing people into God’s family has always been a ministry highlight for Pastor Stan Purdum. One Sunday, he had the privilege of welcoming three infants and two young boys to the baptismal font, along with all their parents. After baptizing the babies, Purdum turned toward the families with older children, who’d been instructed to have their boys step forward one at a time.

Immediately, the 3-year-old shouted, “Not me!” and bolted for the exit. His father caught the youngster and carried him back as the congregation chuckled. This time, Purdum wasted no time completing the sacrament.

“Maybe this young boy was not greatly wrong to try to duck baptism,” he later pondered. “Far from being a harmless little ceremony, baptism begins a lifetime commitment to God, which over the long haul is no easy thing. It lays upon us the responsibility to live up to the vows we have made.” How seriously do you take your baptismal vows?

January 8th - Baptism of the Lord!





Our Church Happenings...

- Jan 11 Groton Book Study with Lindsey Tietz 4 pm
- Jan 11 Groton UMYF New Year's Party 6:30 pm
- Jan 15 Human Relations Day Special Offering
- Jan 17 Conde Ad Council
- Jan 18 Groton Ad Council
- Jan 24 Groton 10 AM Bible Study Resumes with Amazing Grace
- Jan 25 Groton UMYF Ice Skating & Hot Chocolate
- Jan 26 Feb Newsletter Items Due
- Feb 22 Ash Wednesday

| January 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 | | | | |