



Newsletter

May & June 2023

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

As we get closer to Annual Conference in June there have been more churches moving forward with disaffiliation conversations and votes that have led to their departure of the UMC. For us things have looked quite different and there is still a bit of confusion on why that is and what exactly is happening within the UMC. What I thought might be helpful is if I was to present the information one more time so that we can be on the same page.

"I would not want to be a part of a denomination that formed primarily over the topic of whether or not we believe same-gender couples should be married." Adam Hamilton

And honestly neither would many others. Which is why the conversation has shifted beyond simply human sexuality (which is where it started), and become accusatory towards the United Methodist Church that we are headed in a dark direction.

To address those claims I would recommend watching Pastor Adam Hamilton's videos on YouTube as he responds to each accusation separately... but I would give my defense of the UMC in this way. It really boils down to two things: interpretation of scripture and understanding what the UMC is.

1. There is a common line of thinking among Christians that says, "The Bible says it, that settles it." And yet for those who are serious about studying the Bible and have read through it in its entirety you will find there are places in the Bible that make you scratch your head and you wonder, "What do I do with that?" There are passages giving freedom of slavery and even punishment of slaves to within inches of death (providing they do not die within 2 days of said punishment). There is a passage that says if a priest's daughter becomes a prostitute she should be burned to death. And one that hits much closer to home for us as United Methodists is the insistence by many that women have no place in ministry leadership.

And I hope you've already seen in my time here that as these hard to process and highly debated passages emerge, we don't shy away from them, but we recognize their existence and seek some kind of understanding so that we don't have to live in fear that someone will come along and use these verses to tear us apart.

Following Jesus is NOT as simple as just taking everything

in the Bible at face value, and if it was then I would ask why there isn't anyone currently following all of the Bible's instructions... including folks who are disaffiliating.

When we read the Bible, and when we interpret scripture, we do so in light of the entirety of the text, we do so in light of the context in which the text was written, we read it in conjunction with the Holy Spirit. And this does not discredit the Bible, but I believe invites us into real freedom of fear as we try to make sense of particular passages within the scriptures.

2. But regarding Human Sexuality and understanding what the UMC is. The United Methodist Church has been known amongst protestant denominations as the church that stands in the middle in so many instances, not because we don't know what we believe, but because since the beginning of the UMC we have believed in a church where both conservatives and liberals and everyone else in between can come and seek the throne of God together. As a people seeking to see God's kingdom here on earth, we believe in not insisting upon our own rights, but putting first the mission of God which is ultimately the redemption of all things.

That is who we are as United Methodists. Fully orthodox and yet always welcoming questions. Emphasizing evangelism and yet calling people to holiness. And also having our hearts fully in social justice... the lifting of the lowly.

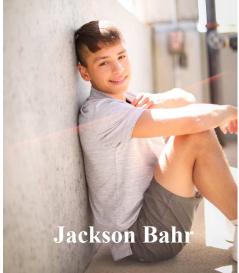
The real question churches have had to answer is **not** where do they lean: liberal or conservative, but **can we work together**.

Is our church one that we would call compatibilists in the sense that we see why others hold a different interpretation of scripture than we do, but we do not see that as an obstacle in working alongside them for the making of disciples, the real mission we were called to. Jesus doesn't call us spend all of this time and energy making sure that we are all on the exact same page when it comes to theology (outside of REALLY important facets such as father, son, holy spirit, the virgin birth, and the resurrection). Jesus calls us to love God and love our neighbor, which includes our enemies (or those we do not see eye to eye with).

My prayer is that we would find joy in being an umbrella church where all are welcome and served and led to the feet of Jesus.

Peace be with you, Pastor Brandon Dunham Page 2 Groton & Conde













May 14th

Ashtyn Bahr PO Box 522 Groton, SD 57445

Jackson Bahr 12235 413th Ave Langford, SD 57454

KayLynn Overacker 505 N 2nd St Groton, SD 57445

Tyson Parrow 1106 N Main St Groton, SD 57445 Ava Kramer 206 N Washington St Groton, SD 57445



Church Information

Pastor Brandon Dunham Office Phone 605-397-8270 Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

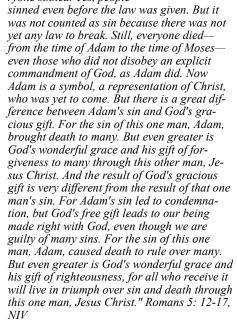
Pastor Email: pastorbrandon@nvc.net Secretary Email: grotonumc@nvc.net Website: grotonumc.org Facebook: facbook.com/grotonsdumc/ 906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

BLESSED TO SERVE THE LORD: REV. DEAN TRAPP'S MINISTRY JOURNEY - FROM DAKOTAS CONFERENCE

By: Doreen Gosmire, director of communications, Dakotas UMC

Rev. Dean Trapp. Photo by jlynn studio.

"When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. Yes, people



This passage affirmed Rev. Dean Trapp's call to ministry when he was a junior in high school. He will retire this year after serving 34 years in ministry.

Growing up, Rev. Dean Trapp had Sunday school teachers and his great aunts tell him, "I think someday you are going to be a pastor."

When he was in confirmation at Central United Methodist Church in Milbank, South Dakota, Rev. Sam Graf asked Dean what he wanted to be after high school and college. Dean told him, "I think I want to be an attorney." Graf said, "It would be good to have an attorney who is a Christian. But I think God is calling you into ministry."

Rev. Trapp remembers the exact moment that he knew that God was calling him into pastoral ministry. "I was in my bedroom doing my devotions. I was reading a passage about the differences be-

tween Adam and Christ. I felt God say at that moment, 'Dean, I want you to preach this.' I knew I was called," said Pastor Dean.

Throughout his years at Central UMC as a youth and young adult, he sang in the choir and was involved with the youth group. Rev. Dave and Mary Motta led the youth group.

Pastor Dave and Mary took Dean on a tour of Westmar College. Then, he headed to Westmar for a bachelor's degree in religion and sociology.

After graduation from Westmar, Pastor Dean attended St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. "I was challenged by the liberal theology being taught at St. Paul's. At times I felt very uncomfortable. But I was not the only Evangelical student there. I became friends with some of the other Evangelical students. We met together for prayer and Bible Study and mutual support. And that helped me make it through my studies. Being at St. Paul's and having the experience I did only made me stronger in my faith and helped me realize I was on the right path," he said.

Upon graduation from seminary, Rev. Trapp entered his first appointment at Conde and Andover, South Dakota. "When Susie and I went to visit the church and parsonage, we couldn't get into the parsonage. At the time, they had no Pastor so there was no one living in the parsonage. It was February. It had just snowed 10-12 inches on top of what they already had earlier in the winter. The snow had not been removed all winter. So, they just told us what the parsonage looked like," said Rev. Trapp. "It was a great place to start. We still have some friends that we keep in contact with in those communities.'

In 1990, Dean and Susie moved 21 miles north to serve a two-point appointment at the United Methodist Church in Groton and the United Church of Christ in Columbia, South Dakota.

After five years, there was a realignment. Rev. Trapp served the United Methodist Churches in Groton and Conde. "It was great to serve the people of Conde again. It was like we never left,"

he said.

In 1996, he was appointed to serve the United Methodist congregations in Yankton and Gayville/Volin. In about 2005, Gayville/Volin was realigned to be served by the pastor at Vermillion. But Dean and his family served the Yankton Church for a total of 14 years. "It became known as home to our three children. They spent most of their school years there," said Pastor Dean. "It was a wonderful time for our family and ministry."

The next stop in Trapp's ministry journey was Sunnycrest United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, before moving to Huron to serve at Riverview and Virgil United Methodist Churches.

"Every place we have been in ministry, we have been blessed. I give thanks for that," said Pastor Dean.

He has fond memories of the building project at First UMC in Yankton.
"The building wasn't handicap accessible. The offices were not easy to find," said Pastor Dean. "The congregation had seen a turnover of pastors about every four years. After I had been there about seven years, they felt we could begin a building project. A new main entrance and an elevator were installed. It made things accessible. The Fellowship Hall became a gathering spot for true fellowship. It was an inviting space. It was a great move for the ministry of the church."

While serving at Yankton, First UMC expanded from two to three worship services, with the new one being a contemporary service. "It created a new opportunity for some people to get involved in the church. New people from the community came to check out the contemporary service," said Rev. Trapp.

Sharing music has been a part of Pastor Dean's ministry. "In all the places I have served, I have shared the gift of music. I sing in the choir, do special music, and encourage others to share their musical gifts," he said. "I also have been involved in various community music groups and singing with clergy colleagues."

Being with individuals and families when they have the greatest need for

Trapp Story Continued...

prayer has been one of Rev. Trapp's highlights. "Walking with people in their time of need has been a blessing. Visiting with a family as we plan a funeral is a privilege—to hear the stories and bring words of comfort. Building relationships and trust with people as you visit them in the hospital or nursing home is truly a blessing. It has meant a lot to me."

Times of celebration, baptisms, and weddings are another opportunity that Pastor Dean cherishes. "I love the celebrations. For baptisms, I make it a point to meet with the parents for instruction about baptism. It is an opportunity to build relationships. There are a lot of blessings that come your way. I have been blessed."

Here is some advice Rev. Trapp offers to those entering or continuing ministry. "Make sure that your relationship with Jesus Christ is solid. So often, we can get wrapped up in doing things that keep Christ out of the center of our lives. Love the people and serve them. Be open to the ways God is leading. Although you are there to minister to the people, let the people you are serving minister to you, as well. They want to do that."

Rev. Trapp gives thanks for the support of people throughout his ministry journey. Rev. Boyd Blumer was the dean of a camp and nurtured Pastor Dean's call to ministry when he was in the sixth grade. In high school, Dean met and got to know Rev. Eldon Reich. Rev. Reich was the dean of a camp and Dean served as a Junior Counselor for him. Eldon was appointed to First UMC in Aberdeen the same year Dean graduated from seminary and was appointed to Conde and Andover. So, Dean would stop in to see Eldon often. He appreciated the advice and support Eldon gave him as a young clergy person.

He recalls a camp leadership opportunity. Rev. Roger Spahr invited Pastor Dean to be a counselor at Dream Team Camp. The Dream Team Camp was about inspiring campers to explore the dream that God has for

their life. It was held at Storm Mountain

Pastor Dean holding his granddaughter. Photo from Facebook. "We tried to inspire the campers by re-

living God's dream for Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. I played Moses, and we would climb to the top of Storm Mountain for the Sermon on the Mount and receive the ten commandments. It was a wonderful experience," recalled Pastor Dean.

In these times of tensions and division Rev. Trapp encourages us not to let disagreements and differences define who we are as children of God. "I think we need to understand and believe that we are all children of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. Sometimes we don't get along. But, even when we argue and have differences, we are all part of the family of God. We belong together in the Kingdom. We cannot let disagreement define our relationships. We were made in God's image. Let that define us."

In retirement, Dean and Susie will continue to live in Sioux Falls, where they currently live. Dean will continue to work at Walmart as a Customer Host/Greeter. He will go from full-time to part-time, working two days a week, beginning in June.

"We have a granddaughter in Illinois that we want to spend more time spoiling. Our daughter Alyssa is getting married in Colorado Springs in June. So that will take some time," said Pastor Dean.

He was honored to baptize his grand-daughter, the daughter of Rev. Justin and Kimberly Iverson. "I was able to baptize our granddaughter on Sunday, Christmas Day. She is a joy in our lives," said Pastor Dean.

As he reflects on his years in ministry, Rev. Trapp shares these words of appreciation. "I am truly thankful for my colleagues in ministry. Being in the ministry has been such a blessing. It has been a joy for my family and me."

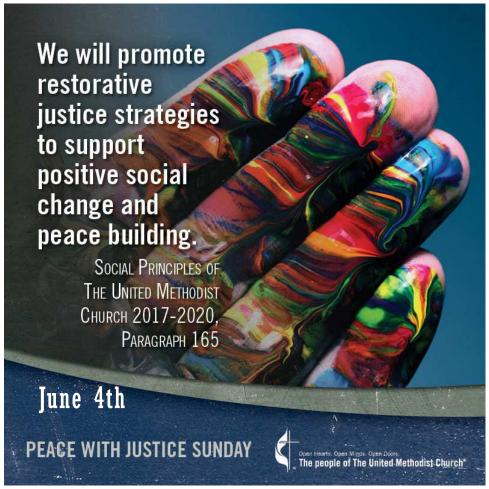


Honor your mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."





Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



Open House Bridal Shower for Jasmine Schinkel, bride-to-be of Jedd Groft on Saturday, June 3rd at the Groton United Methodist Church from 9:30 am to 11:20 am. Hosted by friends and family. Registered at Target or Menard's Gift Cards. Hope to see everyone there!



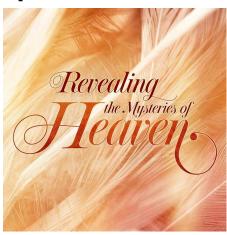


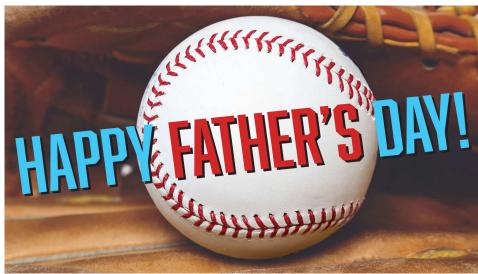
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May 23 we will be starting a new study at 10 am each Tuesday. "Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven" by David Jeremiah. We will explore what the Bible says about Heaven. There will be a video and discussion each week.

No book to read so join us any week. During this study we will be having a special visit from Amanda Keefe June 13th on her experience of heaven.





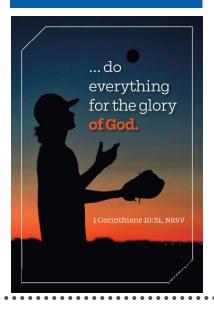
Just like Dad

At the beginning of his ministry career, Jerry Steen supplemented his income by mixing animal feed. When his two young boys greeted him at home, they laughed at his dusty appearance before he headed to the shower.

"I didn't think too much of this until I was washing my car and saw my older son doing something very strange," Steen recalls. "He was picking up the gravel and stones in our drive and rubbing them into his pants." Curious, the father asked what the boy was doing. "I want to be dusty like you, Dad!" his son replied.

For Steen, that was an eyeopener. "I realized that if a child would
look up to his father for being dusty
and want to copy his father," he says,
"a child could look up to his father and
follow him for anything." What traits
and qualities are you modeling and
passing on — to your own kids and to
anyone else who looks up to you?





Groton Family Committee - June

Crystal Strom, Holden, Gage Jolene Townsend

Merrie & Josh Atherton
Evan Erickson
Meri & John Erickson
Marva & Lon Gellhaus
Melissa & Neil Gilbert, Carly
Paula & J.R. Johnson, Ryder
Laurel & Monte McNickle
Justin Morehouse
Rebecca & Randy Padfield
Marc Sippel
Carol Strom
Tom Strom
William Zoellner

Honorary Members

- Susan Odland
- ♦ Rose Tewksbury
- ♦ Laverne Strom

June 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 this book.
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- ◆ Serve at Avantara Nursing Center− 4th Sunday
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons



June 2023									
S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S			
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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				

Groton Family Committee - July

Brenda & Tony Madsen Betty Strom

Brian Bahr
Sam & Dion Bahr, Ashtyn
Kristi & Lance Hawkins
Traci & Dale Kramer, Emma
Anita & John Lowary
Chris & Tyke Nyberg
Justin Olson
Jesse Overacker, Emily
Marjae & Dan Schinkel, Emma
Jenna & Nick Strom

Honorary Members

- ♦ Ida Hannon
- Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt
- Louise Thoreson

July 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 this book.
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- Serve at Avantara Nursing Center – 4th Sunday
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the sea-

sons

 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to church treasurer

July 2023									
S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S			
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
30	31								

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Our Church Celebrations...

Groton May 3 Kim Weber May 4 Evan Erickson Desiree Foltz Tom Strom May 5 Gary Thurston Marlee Jones Tony & Brenda Madsen May 6 Clint Jacobson May 7 Rebecca Padfield Gabbie Kramer Tigh Hank Irvin Fliehs May 8 John Lowary Dale Kramer **Austin Jones** Rob Wanous May 10 John & Anita Lowary Emma Davies May 11 Ashley & Brandon Dunham May 12'Jack & Maggie Oliver May 13 Doris Strom Leroy Severson Chase Neiber May 14 Linda Johnson Pam Rix **Henry Pharis** May 15 Carol & Trevor Lien Mary Nelson May 17 Cliff & Carna Pray Faith Johnson Matt & Casey Johnson May 18 Jean Walter Kaylee Hofer May 19 John Erickson Scott Kampa Taylor Diegel May 20 Tom & Kami Lipp May 21 Cody Hanson May 25 J.R. Johnson Jon Voss Adrienne Fliehs Beau Bahr May 26 Dion & Sam Bahr May 27 Luverne & Carol Strom **Emmett Morehouse**

May 28 Cheryl Hanson Jesse & Julie Morehouse May 30 Kami Lipp Macy Knecht Randy & Rebecca Padfield May 31 J.R. Johnson & Paula Johnson Matt Johnson June 1 Anita Lowary June 2 Doug Daly June 3 Donald Nissen June 4 Janice Raap Jay Johnson June 6 Bailee Zoellner June 7 Peyton Padfield June 8 Zoey Strom Lacey Voss June 10 Jacob Morehouse June 11 Jim & Mendy Jones June 13 Roger Rix Zachary & Stephanie Townsend June 14 Roger Overacker Danielle Schinkel

June 15 Eugenia Strom

June 17 Jesse Morehouse

Kristopher Oleson

June 20 Harlan & Peggy Place

June 21 Gary & Linda Thurston

Easton Weber

Chesney Weber

Mavrik Severson

Mark & June Thompson

June 22 Angela Dobbins

June 23 Kaycie Hawkins

June 24 Jeremy Weber

June 27 Elaine Wolken

Tanae Lipp

Peggy Place

June 25 Carol Lien

June 16 Gavin Voss

June 18 Nick Strom

June 19 Pat Dahlquist

Leroy & Lynette Severson

Garrett & Sindi Heitmann

June 5 Norman & Cindy Smith June 6 Keith Hanlon June 20 Cary Brukner June 22 Julie Brucker June 26 Grant Hanson June 27 Lance Haskell Birthdays

June 28 Sindi Heitmann

June 29 Carley Gilbert

June 30 Spencer Knecht

May 7 Jane Worlie

May 25 Greg Bonn

June 4 Pat Siefken

May 10 Marion Jensen

Conde

Derick Furman

John & Meri Erickson

May 11 Ashley & Brandon Dunham

May 28 Grant & Janice Hanson

May 30 Curtis & Cindy Haskell





Groton Ad Council - April

Groton United Methodist Church Administrative Council met on April 19, 2023 at 7pm at the fellowship hall with the following persons present: Carna Pray, Marjorie Overacker, Sherwin (Tyke) Nyberg, Anita Lowary, Roger Rix, Meri Erickson, Allen Walter, Pastor Brandon Dunham, and AM Mitchell presiding.

The group repeated the mission statement and Pastor Brandon led the group in an opening prayer.

The meeting agenda with an addition by Pastor Brandon was approved on a motion by Anita Lowary and seconded by Roger Rix. All members present voted aye.

The minutes from the 3/15/23 meeting were amended and both meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Carna Pray and seconded by Roger Rix. All members present voted aye.

It was reported that the elementary youth meeting scheduled for April 16 was canceled due to the weather.

No correspondence was presented.

Trustee President Tyke Nyberg reported that the church furnace was repaired by Heartland Heating for \$5,064. This included repairs to the control panel display board, air exchange motor, 2 leaks in boiler room, library/chapel circuit, and pump repairs. A gap in church front doors will be repaired. The parsonage inspection is set for May.

Treasurer Marge Overacker presented the financial report.

Since there are not enough money in the building fund for the furnace repairs and it meets the requirements of the Dick Ruden Memorial Fund, a transfer of funds from the Ruden Memorial Fund will be moved to the Building Fund. Moved by Anita Lowary and seconded by Carna Pray to make the transfer and pay Heartland Heating. All members present voted aye.

The Community Good Friday service collection of \$193 was donated to the Groton Family Crisis Fund.

Carna Pray reported on the progress of setting up a first aid kit with AED. Approximately \$800 has been donated to the project and she will be ordering the AED soon. Several locations in the church for a permanent location were discussed.

The security cameras have arrived and will installed soon. The Keyless Entry System will be ordered soon. Approximately \$800 has been donated to this project.

Fund raising for all three projects was discussed.

Pastor Parish Committee report was given by Carna Pray. Annual reports will be completed at their next meeting.

Pastor Brandon reported that May 14th will be 2023 graduation recognition (postponed from May7). May 14th will also be the last day of Sunday School for the year and the children will sing at church, as well as Mother's Day.

Updates are being done the membership directory. Photo opportunities will be available on May 14. A letter will be sent requesting address updates or other changes.

Pastor Brandon reported more information on the division of Global Methodist from United Methodist. No action was taken or needed as our congregation plans to continue as United Methodist.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Tyke Nyberg and seconded by Roger Rix.

Anita Lowary, Substitute Secretary

Groton Stewardship Report Mar 2023

Average Wkly Giving \$1,256

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,393

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 59

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5





Pastor In Office Tues and Thur Mornings

Friday - Day Off





Our Church Happenings...

May 14 **Groton Graduation Sunday**

May 16 Conde Ad Council

May 17 Groton UMYF Bonfire Time and Place to be announced

May 17 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

May 23 Groton Tues 10 am Bible Study starts new study

June 3 Bridal Shower for Jasmine Schinkel 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Dakotas Annual Conference - Sioux Falls June 6-8

June 20 Conde Ad Council

June 21 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Tuesday 10 am Women's Bible Study meets each week at the Groton United Methodist Church. Join us this summer!

> Conde Church 1975-385-509 Office, Groton 078-795-8270 http://www.grotonumc.org Email: pastorbrandon@nvc.net Pastor Brandon Dunham

10:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m.

Groton Worship Groton Sunday School check schedule Conde Worship

May/June 2023

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Groton, SD 57445-2192 906 North First Street Groton - Conde Parish

United Methodist Church

