



Groton & Conde UMC

# Newsletter

October 2023

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## Pastor Rob's Ponderings...

I receive a bible verse each day in my email from Bible Gateway. You can get one too by signing up for daily emails at [www.biblegateway.com/newsletters/](http://www.biblegateway.com/newsletters/) I'm not sure how the good people at Bible Gateway choose the verse for each day, although I suspect some of them are based on what is happening on our calendar. For example, the verse they send out on Mother's Day usually has to do with mothers or families.

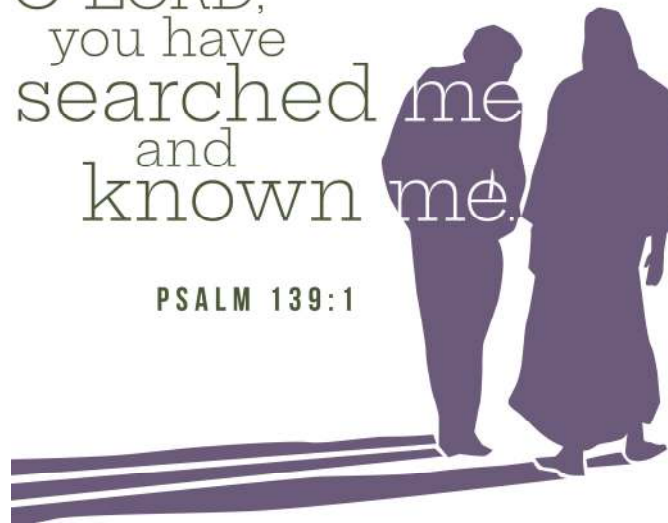
I enjoy these daily verses because they always "get me thinking" about what the verse could mean or what the author of the verse was trying to say.

This happened a couple of days ago when the verse for the day was Isaiah 46:4. I will be your God throughout your lifetime—until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you. There are some obvious implications of the verse: God has known us from the moment we were conceived and He will know us the rest of our lives; God cares for us, knows our wants and needs, even carries us in hard times.

But there are some other things named in this verse which have me thinking. "Until your hair is white with age" has me laughing about my youngest brother and another wonderful friend who have no hair. My friend is my

O LORD,  
you have  
searched me  
and  
known me.

PSALM 139:1



age and my youngest brother is five years younger than me; neither of them would be considered "old." I think what has me smiling is both of them would testify to the number of times they have seen God work in their lives and they would both proclaim, "Yup, God has carried me through."

The other phrase which has me thinking is "I will be your God throughout your lifetime." First, notice who is speaking. This is God's statement; we don't have a choice in the matter. I'm reading (or listening too) the biography of John D Rockefeller by Ron Chernow. One of the facts about him is one of his daughter's, Bessie, married a Baptist theologian who later renounced his faith and claimed

to be an agnostic (believes nothing can be known about God). What strikes me about the verse in Isaiah is God does not care if you think He can't be known. God is still God. There's something secure and foundational to that belief. In the midst of anything we go through God is still here even if we chose to ignore Him.

Second, notice the length of time in the phrase. "I will be your God through your lifetime." If you thought it was death, think again. There is a wonderful passage in Psalm 139 in which the writer refers to God being everywhere from the heights of heaven "to the depths." And then the writer says "all of this is too wonderful to understand." (Psalm 139:1-12)

This is where I end up, thinking about, pondering what God means when He says, "I will be your God throughout your lifetime. Yes, I know that means while I'm here. Yes, I understand God's Spirit will help me through death's door. Yes, it will be Jesus who welcomes me into the heavenly realms. But is God still my God when I tell a lie to get out of a traffic ticket? Is God still my God when I get mad at my brother? Is God still my God when I deliver a really bad sermon?

I think this is what the second part of the verse is about: I made you and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.

What do you think?

See you in church.



Pastor Rob  
In Office  
Tuesday &  
Wednesday  
Mornings

Monday  
Day Off



## Groton UMC New Mailman

Well as of yesterday I have now officially taken over route 2 (Tyler's route) in the Groton post office. I am now officially a full time RCA for USPS. I want to thank all the community's that helped me along the way like Andover/Pierpont, Claremont/Amherst, Columbia/Houghton, Conde, and route 1 (Sarah's Route). Here is Tyler and I on his last day passing the torch. Thanks everyone I will see you on the route.

Have a nice day! Justin Olson Facebook Post

Congratulations Justin!



## Groton Sound

Upgrade is done and the sound on Facebook is much improved as well as in church. If you had difficulty hearing before, try us again! We always need people to learn how to run the screen and sound during church so volunteer today! Thank you to everyone that made this improvement possible!



## World Communion Sunday - Oct 1

Holy Communion joins us in Christian unity. This sacrament invites us to focus on the holiness of communion with God and one another. On World Communion Sunday - United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This universal and inclusive connection is the foundation of the special offering for World Communion Sunday.

Your donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities. In 2021, World Communion Sunday offerings awarded 242 scholarships and grants. Your generosity continues to provide scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development. The needs exceed what we can fund and your gifts can further growth and success.

### Church Information

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Facebook: [facebook.com/grotonumc/](https://www.facebook.com/grotonumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445



Welcome to  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL!**

We have a new curriculum this year and are excited to present it to the kids. We will be starting our lessons in the Old Testament, starting in the Beginning and learning about Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Leah, Joseph, Miriam, Moses, and many others. We will be incorporating activities, crafts, videos, and games. This year we have Meri, Megan, Sydney, Rebecca, and Val helping with Sunday School. We could always use substitutes if you are interested. Please let me know. If you have any questions, please call or text Meri (216-2981), Megan (380-8012), or Sydney (216-7410). Hope to see everyone there!

- Oct. 1 Sunday School (10:30)
- Oct. 8 NO Sunday School
- Oct. 15 Sunday School (10:30)
- Oct. 22 SS (9:30) – **Sing in church 10:30**
- Oct. 29 SS (10:30)
- Nov. 5 SS (10:30)
- Nov. 12 SS & Christmas Practice (10:30)
- Nov. 19 SS & Christmas Practice (10:30)
- Nov. 26 NO Sunday School
- Dec. 3 Christmas Program Practice (9:30)
- Dec. 10 Christmas Prog Practice (9:30-11:30) (Will have snacks for



- kids)
- Dec. 17 SS Christmas Program Practice (9:30)
- Dec 17 SS Christmas Program (10:30)**

**YOUTH FRIENDS TO YOUTH GROUP!**

# TRUNK OR TREAT

## October 31st

• Games • Candy • Fun •

5:30 - 7 pm

Groton United Methodist Church

Parking Lot

(inside if inclement weather)

safe & child friendly environment

free community event



Individuals or groups or businesses can decorate a car trunk and provide candy to children.

Please Register by October 27th for a space. Vehicles setup by 5 pm please.

Questions Please Contact: Pastor Rob at [pastorrob@nvc.net](mailto:pastorrob@nvc.net)



God is working,  
even when we can't see it  
and don't understand.





**Groton United Methodist Church**

# Fall Dinner

**Sunday, November 12, 2023**

**11 am to 1:00 pm**

*Adults \$10 - Children 6-10 \$5*  
*Children under 5 - free*

## Roast Beef Meal

*Worship with us at 10:30 am*  
*906 N 1<sup>st</sup> St, Groton, SD*  
*Drive-Thru and Delivery Available*




## One Way Ticket

While on a red-eye flight from California to Philadelphia on a stormy night, evangelist Tony Campolo sat near someone who wanted to chat. Upon learning that Campolo was a Christian, the seatmate said, "I believe that going to heaven is like going to Philadelphia," meaning you can get there by various modes of transportation. "We all end up at the same place."

When Campolo woke from a

nap and saw that the descending airplane was circling Philly in the fog, he told his neighbor, "I'm glad the pilot doesn't agree with your theology." Confused, the man asked what Campolo meant.

"The people in the control tower are giving instructions to the pilot: 'Coming north by northwest, three degrees, you're on beam, don't deviate from the beam.' I'm glad the pilot's not saying, 'There

are many ways into the airport. There are many approaches we can take.' I'm glad the pilot's saying, 'There's only one way we can land this plane, and I'm going to stay with it.'"



## Groton Family Committee - November

### Linda & Jay Johnson

### Sydney & Trent Kurtz

Valerie Bakr

Rodney Boehmer

Steve Diegel

Myndi & Scott Kampa

Tristan, Jaeger

Kami & Tom Lipp

Karla Pasteur

Kara & Kevin Pharis

Peggy & Harlan Place

Carna & Cliff Pray

Lindsey & Tom Tietz, Lane

Kim & Craig Weber

### Honorary Members

Gloria Pharis

Pat Dahlquist

Louise Thoreson

### 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 the 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 there is a Fall Dinner
- Serve at Avantara Nursing Home - 4th Sunday

November 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		

## Baptism Blessings

Keller Ellis Rose and Willow Maris Rose were baptized Sept 3rd. Parents Karen & Ian and siblings: Rylie, Graham, Nolan, Beckett, and Ava. Welcome to our church family!



## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

- Oct 1 Turner Thompson
- Oct 4 Fred Wolken  
Josh Atherton  
Rick Hofer
- Oct 5 Jeanne Wanous  
Matthew McCranie
- Oct 6 Paula Johnson  
Vee Flihs
- Oct 7 Alan Walter
- Oct 8 Gloria Pharis  
Lars & Kelli Hanson
- Oct 9 London Bahr
- Oct 10 Charity & Scott Hinman  
Dan & Marjae Schinkel  
Kaleb Hofer  
Megan Erickson
- Oct 12 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 Bahr

Kristen Dolan

- 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
- Oct 29 Marcene Bruckner
- Oct 31 Andee Geist

### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

## Conde Happenings

Conde Board Meeting is at 6 pm on October 3rd followed by Bible Study at 7 pm. Bible Study is on the Gospel of John and books are available at the church.



## God's Helpers

God's providence is not in baskets lowered from the sky, but through the hands and hearts of those who love him. The lad without food and without shoes made the proper answer to the cruel-minded woman who asked, "But if God loved you wouldn't he send you food and shoes?" The boy replied, "God told someone, but [they] forgot." —George Buttrick

# Groton Ad Council - Sept

Administrative Council Meeting  
Groton United Methodist Church  
September 20, 2023

Groton United Methodist Church Administrative Council met on September 20, 2023 to at 7pm at the fellowship hall with the following persons present: Linda Thurston, Anita Lowary, Allen Walter, and AM Mitchell presiding.

Anita Lowary led the group in an opening prayer.

President AM Mitchell called the meeting to order and the mission statement was recited. The meeting agenda was approved on a motion by Linda Thurston and seconded by Allen Walter. All members present voted aye.

The minutes from the previous meeting was approved on a motion by Anita Lowary and seconded by Allen Walter. All members present voted aye.

A letter from Grinnell Mutual Insurance Co was read indicating that the church insurance would not be renewed this November because the current stated value of the property would not meet the company's replacement value policy. JR Johnson, insurance agent, has contacted the company and they requested the value of the property be almost doubled to retain the replacement value insurance which would result in a 50% raise in premium. He will look at other companies, and other plans. Other insurance agents will be contacted to look at other companies.

Membership Chairman Anita Lowary presented a sample letter to be sent to selected members asking for updates. After discussion, the letter will be sent to all members and a new letter will be re-

viewed at the next meeting on a motion by Anita Lowary and seconded by Allen Walter. All members present voted aye.

The Heartland Heating and Cooling bill for \$970.55 and Pauer Sound bill for \$3,751.06 (\$1,035.94 from undesignated Memorial Funds are included in this payment) were authorized to be paid on a motion by Anita Lowary and seconded by Allen Walter. All members present voted aye.

A bill for camping from Dakotas Conference was presented. Three of the four campers were pre-paid. As per our church policy these three parents will be reimbursed for 75%. Moved by Allen Walter and seconded by Linda Thurston to pay these checks totaling \$1,033.28 from the Mamie Johnson camping fund. All members voted aye.

Due to Treasurer Marjory Overacker's illness, authorization and another signature was needed for the bank accounts. Moved by Linda Thurston and seconded by Allen Walter to appoint Anita Lowary as Assistant Treasurer and authorize her signature on the church general fund checking and savings accounts at Dacotah Bank. All members present voted aye.

The Fall Dinner was set for Nov 12, 2023 and the Charge Conference will also be held that day. Reminders will be given to PPR, Nominations and Finance Committees to start their annual budget and meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm on a motion by Allen Walter and seconded by Anita Lowary.

Anita Lowary, Substitute Secretary

### Groton Stewardship Report July 2023

Average Wkly Giving \$984

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,393

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 25

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5

### Groton Stewardship Report Aug 2023

Average Wkly Giving \$1,540

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,393

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 35

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5

# Groton Service of Remembrance



All Saints Day will be observed on Nov. 5 during worship remembering Becky Diegel, Anita Voss, and Jack Oliver.







## *Our Church Happenings...*

October 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				

- Oct 1 World Communion Sunday
- Oct 2 PPR Budget Meeting in Groton 7 pm
- Oct 3 Conde Ad Council 6 pm / Bible Study 7 pm
- Oct 8 No Sunday School - Groton
- Oct 8 Groton Finance Committee Budget Mtg 11:30 am
- Oct 18 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Oct 22 Groton Sunday School singing during worship
- Oct 31 Groton Trunk or Treat 5:30 - 7 pm
- Oct 5 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 12 Groton Fall Dinner 11 am - 1 pm (Spread the Word)
- Nov 12 Groton/Conde Charge Conference 2 pm