



August 2024

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Rob

Ephesians 5:20 - always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This morning I give thanks to God for slough grass. For those “not from around here,” Northeast South Dakota has many scattered low areas called sloughs where rain, snow, and run-off water collects. Having lived in the South where these areas might be called swamps, these low laying wetlands are impossible to cultivate and farm. In fact, sloughs in this day are off limits to farming because of the habitat they provide and the water they collect.

Sloughs have always been ugly to me. Instead of a beautiful small lake, sloughs produce this tall, thick ugly brown grass which can be seen all year, even in our snowy winters. Sloughs are where mosquitos and other pests breed. I know they help collect needed water and help our surrounding cropland in years of drought, but they just seem ugly.

No more! As I write this column, we survived an early Spring blizzard which forced us to cancel Palm Sunday Services (that’s called a “late season blizzard”). We also had our first snow day of the school year (That’s how mild our winter has been). This morning school started two hours late and as I climbed into my school bus for the



morning route I wondered what the roads would be like. This is where the slough grass comes in.

Slough grass might be thick, brown and ugly to some but it is also very sturdy, so sturdy that it stands two to three feet without bending over in stiff winter winds. As I drove north from Groton this morning the highway was covered with a sheet of ice (snow melt which had hardened in the blizzard winds). But as I kept driving up toward an area surrounded by sloughs, the roads became as clear of ice and snow as if it was a summer day. For a few seconds I wondered what had happened until I recognized there was no snow along the road or even at the tops of the slough grass. What I realized was in the areas which had allowed the snow to simply blow across the road, snow melt created thick sheets of ice. The slough grass simply

stopped the snow at its outer edges preventing it from getting to the road. I’m starting to love slough grass.

Another side benefit of slough grass I noticed this morning was the protection it was providing for waterfowl which had migrated north thinking the winter was over. In fact, in one slough I saw what might have been over a hundred ducks nestled in the grass.

Do you now the story of Corrie Ten Boom? Her family hid many Dutch Jews during the Second World War helping them to escape the Holocaust. Near the end of the war, Corrie’s family were arrested by the Nazi’s and sent to concentration camps. Corrie and her sister, Betsie, eventually ended up in the same camp. While in the camp, Corrie wondered if she would ever survive. Her sister told her to “give thanks for everything” which Corrie

found hard to do. One day Corrie, Betsie and their bunkmates were forced to move into a flea-infested barracks which even their guards refused to enter. At first Corrie was miserable and thought they would all die of some disease but Betsie realized something about this situation. With their guards thinking the barracks was flea-infested and unwilling to enter, the ladies could hold bible study, pray out loud and support each other as Christian sisters in ways they would never had been allowed to do previously. Corrie said she finally realized the value of giving thanks for everything.

Slough grass is a long way from suffering in a concentration camp, but it was valuable on a nerve-racking icy road. What are you thankful for?

See you in church!

OFFICE HOURS

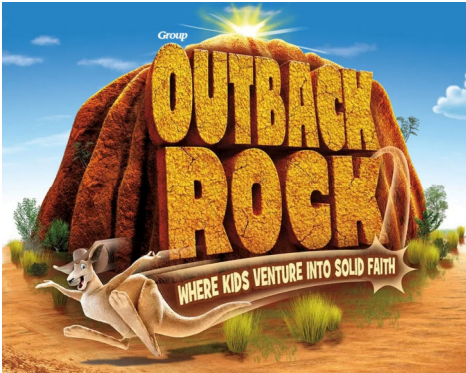


Pastor Rob
In Office
Tuesday &
Wednesday
Mornings

Monday
Day Off



Vacation Bible School - Groton



There is a donation list for VBS on the kitchen counter if anyone is interested in contributing. Thank you for your generosity, it is greatly appreciated.

Groton United Methodist Church will host **Vacation Bible School August 6-7 from 5:00-8:00 pm.** Helpers are needed. Please register or volunteer by texting or calling Meri at 605-216-2981. All are welcome!



Sympathies

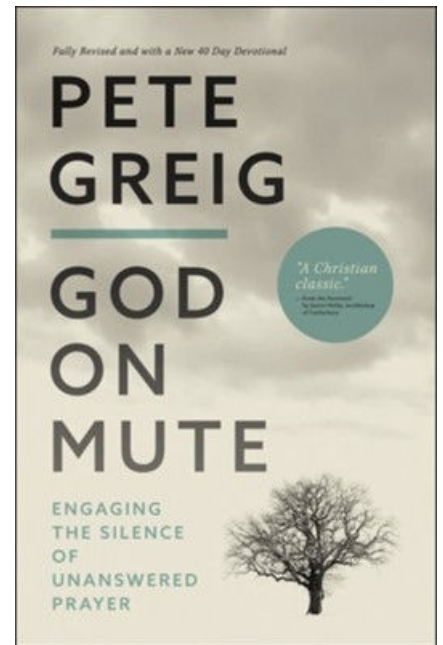
Marion Jensen

May 10, 1920
June 18, 2024



Book to Read

Pastor Rob shared some of his book he listened to in the car while on vacation this summer. You might enjoy it as well?



Groton Missions

During the month of July; the missions committee will be collecting Hygiene items for the middle/high school kids, to include; toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, brush, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, hand/personal wipes, under clothes and socks. We are wanting to get a jump on this Falls school year, for their clothing storage.



Church Information

Pastor Rob Moorlach
Office Phone 605-397-8270
Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

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

Congratulations

Megan & Mitchell Madsen welcomed Jack Mitchell Madsen to their family on April 24, 2024. He weighed 9 lbs 12 oz and 22 inches long. He joins brother Beau. Grandparents are Tony and Brenda Madsen and Great Grandmother is Louise Thorson.



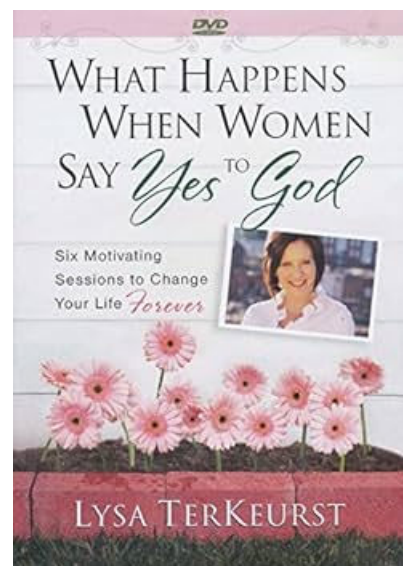
Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

Tuesday 10 am Bible Study

July 30th we are starting a new study. “What Happens When Women Say Yes to God” by Lysa Terkeurst. No book required just come and join us! We will not be meeting fair week in August 13th. Six week study. 1) The Power of one: Celebrating stories of how God works, 2) The Five Questions: How to recognize His

leading, 3) Learning to Live Open-handed: How to receive His blessings, 4) Simple Acts of Obedience Change the World: Ways to have transforming faith, 5) I want to Say Yes, But I’m Afraid: How to release excuses, 6) So What Does God Want Me to do? How to live in His will.



Upcoming Bible Studies on Tuesday mornings

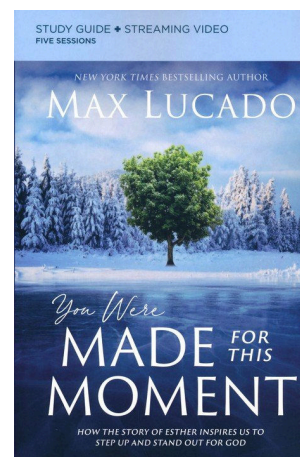
September 17 Plans are to study the story of Esther with Max Lucado and a DVD.

October 29 We will be doing the Christmas Study Early. The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel. Early due to vacations.

December we do not meet.



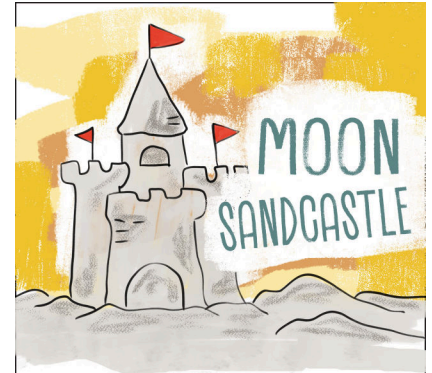
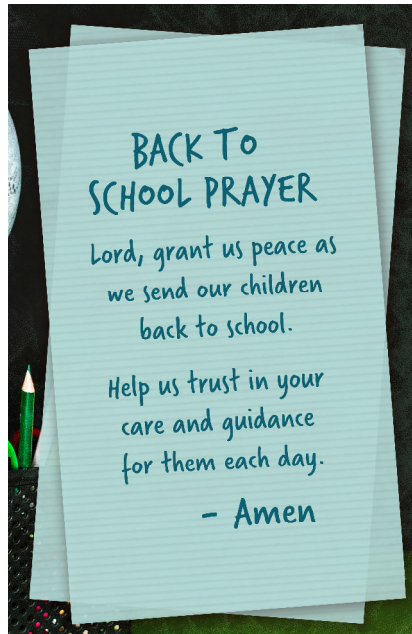
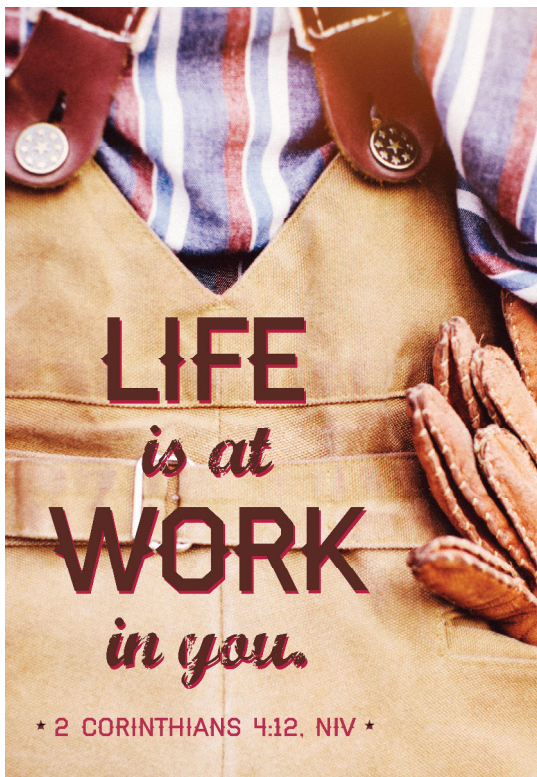
Weather could change dates...



Being of Service

God of love, help us to remember
 That Christ has no body now on earth but ours,
 No hands but ours,
 No feet but ours.
 Ours are the eyes to see the needs of the world.
 Ours are the hands with which to bless everyone now.
 Ours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.

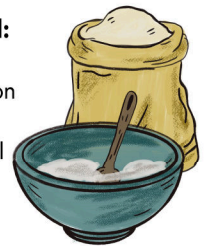
-St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)



You don't have to visit the beach to make a sandcastle. Make fluffy "moon sand" to build fun structures.

What you need:

- Large bowl
- Wooden spoon
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup baby oil



What you do:

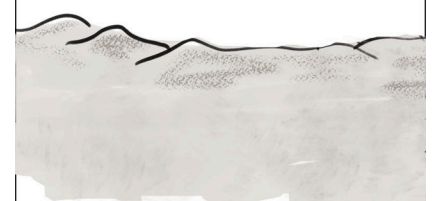
1. Measure flour into the large bowl. Add baby oil.
2. Mix thoroughly until all the oil is combined and the texture is consistent. If needed, use your hands to knead the mixture.
3. The sand is ready when it sticks together to form a ball when pressed in your hands.
4. Use sand toys and molds to create a sandcastle. Store sand in an airtight container for up to two weeks.

Co-Laborers with Christ

Rusty Stevens, a ministry leader in Virginia, described trying to finish mowing the lawn before dinnertime. His 6-year-old son darted in front of him and grabbed the mower handle. But when Stevens stopped pushing, the mower soon stopped. The busy dad fought the urge to tell his son to get out of his way and instead offered to help. Stevens began pushing again, leaning over and walking awkwardly to accommodate his eager assistant. Although the mowing commenced, it was slow-going and not as efficient as the solo effort.

That's when Stevens realized a ministry parallel: "This is the way my heavenly Father allows me to 'help' him build his kingdom!" The church leader pictured God busy "seeking, saving and transforming the lost, and there I was, with my weak hands 'helping.'"

Although God surely can tackle all the work of ministry and evangelism alone, he "chooses to stoop gracefully to allow me to co-labor with him," said Stevens. What a blessing and privilege that God lets us work alongside him!



June Groton Ad Council

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, AM Mitchell. Those in attendance were, AM Mitchell, Carna Atherton-Pray, Anita Lowary, Jolene Townsend and Jeanne Wanous. Carna Atherton-Pray shared a prayer prior to the discussion of business.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Jolene Townsend.

The previous meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Anita Lowary.

Correspondence:

- Jeanne Wanous shared a Thank You note from Tristan Kampa.
- Copies of the Dakota/Minnesota Methodist Foundation Connections newsletter were shared.

Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: Anita stated that those GUMC members currently listed as members who have not responded to two previous letters from our membership committee, will receive one final letter asking if they want to continue to be listed on our membership list. If they do not respond, our membership committee will remove them from our list. Carna Atherton-Pray motioned to approve that those members who don't respond to this final communication be removed from our membership list. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Memorial—Linda Thurston: Linda was not present, but Carna Atherton-Pray who is serving on the kitchen remodel committee shared that they have begun to make remodel plans followed by getting estimates. All work would be paid for with designated memorial funds. However, if current piping under the floor becomes an issue, that would not be covered by memorial funds. The council confirmed that the project would need to meet with approval by the council before any physical work could begin.

Missions--Val Baker: Val was not present but communicated via email that the recent Taco Feed served 25-30 people and collected \$111 for missions. The committee also plans to start collecting personal hygiene items for the High School students clothing closet beginning July 7 to get a jump start on the Fall school Year.

The Caring Team-- Jolene Townsend: The Caring Team gifted our 2024 graduates with t-shirts related to what their plans for the fall were. This team will also be helping with the upcoming Gary Ruckdaschel celebration of life at our church on June 21.

Trustees: Tyke Nyberg sent word that plans are for Heartland Heating to fix the leaks on the boiler sometime this summer.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous: Jeanne reviewed the treasurer's report and noted that monthly offerings are not keeping up with monthly expenses.

Financial Secretary-Allen Walter: no report
Pastor Parish-Meri Erickson: Meri was not present but Carna Atherton-Pray said that PPR completed and sent in our annual church assessment with our basic concerns being small attendance causing financial concerns.

Bills to be Presented:

R-Technics Bill for \$190.00 from Kay Daly. This bill is for the renewal of the presentation software contract. Pastor Rob and Kay feel a need for this program. Anita Lowary motioned to approve this contract renewal as a PPR expense. The motion was 2nd and passed.

Administrative Report:

Pastor Rob: No report as Pastor Rob is on vacation.

Old Business:

IRS Certified Letter Update—Anita Lowary. Anita met twice in Aberdeen with the IRS to make sure that our original non-profit status is restored. They now agree and understand that the Groton UMC should be considered a non-profit institution and are making the necessary changes. This change may take up to two weeks. Lon Gellhaus has also proven to the state of SD that we are non-profit.

New Business:

Annual Conference Expenses—Carna Atherton-Pray: Carna has chosen to donate her Annual Conference expenses. It was agreed that she will submit a reimbursement request but will donate it back to the Groton UMC once she receives her reimbursement.

Substitute Pastor—Carna Atherton-Pray: Carna asked for permission to invite Gary Compton to be a substitute pastor for us when

needed in the near future as we are short of available substitutes. The council agreed that Carna has the authority as the PPR chair to invite Gary to be a substitute.

Fresh Expressions Ministry—Carna Atherton-Pray: Carna explained her proposed activity as an open invitation to young people approximately Jr. High through 12th grade. A suggested format of Fresh Expressions Ministry used in the UMC is to share a Jesus story and then teach kids something new like playing cards or some other social skill. She expects this would be done in the evening with a meal. Carna would like to start by this fall. There were no objections by the council.

Easier Method for Changing Hanging Orb—Jeanne Wanous: The hanging Orb above the organ needs to be changed periodically and requires asking someone to bring in a very tall ladder to complete the task. Carna volunteered to ask Allen Walter if he has any ideas to make this task easier to complete by any monthly committee member.

Discuss Status of Manger Figures—Jeanne Wanous: Jeanne explained that the nativity figures were purchased in 1985 as a memorial gift to the church by the Wegner family. These figures are now 40 years old and haven't been displayed during the Christmas season recently. Jeanne was curious if the council would be in favor of continuing to use them.

After discussion, the council agreed they would like to continue to put up the nativity display at Christmas time. The council stated that we need to determine if the manger is still usable and if there are any electricity issues that need to be addressed.

Other Discussion: It was noted that Nancy Ruckdaschel complimented us on how nice the church looks. Nancy and her husband were married in our church in 1968 and she will be using our church for a Celebration of Life for her husband, Gary on June 21.

It was also noted that the hanging alter flame needs cleaning.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Secretary, Jeanne Wanous



Groton Family Committee - Sept

Megan & Seth Erickson

Mendy & Jim Jones

Marlee, Emerlee

Erin & Damian Bahr, London

Andrea & Scott Eisenbiesz

Cheryl Hanson

Kelli & Lars Hanson

Laurie & AM Mitchell

Diann & Brad Morehouse

Chuck Padfield

Sabrina & Joey Padfield

Jeanne Wanous

Carol Strom

Honorary Members

Doris Strom

Curtis Krueger

Richard Krueger

Ruby Luce

September 2024						
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					

September 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
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- Serve at Avantara Nursing Center – 4th Sunday
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Rally Sunday) - give church secretary details for bulletin
- 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to church treasurer

Groton Stewardship Report May 2024

Average Wkly Giving \$1,220

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,393

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 41

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$205

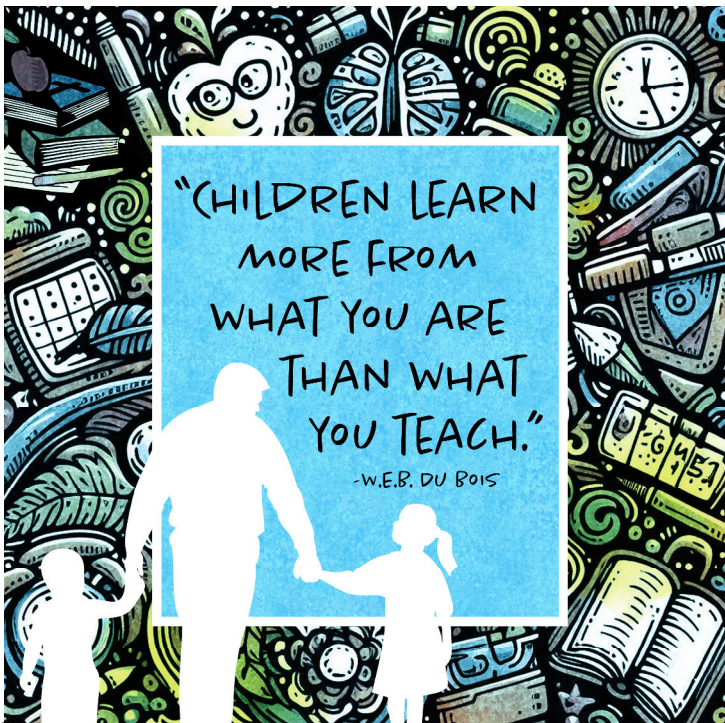
Groton Stewardship Report June 2024

Average Wkly Giving \$1,163

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,393

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 28

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$205



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Aug 2 Dylan Graf
Max Erickson
Jessica & Brent Morehouse
- Aug 4 Craig & Kim Weber
- Aug 5 Tigh Fliehs
- Aug 6 Damian Bahr
Nash Kurtz
- Aug 7 Kelli Hanson
Sherwin Nyberg
- Aug 8 Yvonne Lange
Matthew & Morgan McCranie
Brad & Diann Morehouse
- Aug 9 Loel Schott
- Aug 12 Tom Lipp
- Aug 13 Sully Strom
Logan Nilsson
- Aug 15 Paisley Johnson
- Aug 16 Jenna & Nick Strom
Jim Jones
Rose Tewsbury
- Aug 17 Chanda Nilsson
- Aug 19 Jaeger Kampa
Sherwin & Chris Nyberg
- Aug 20 Marc Sippel
Tyson Parrow

- Aug 21 Clayton Morehouse
- Aug 22 Belinda Nelson
- Aug 23 Haley Erickson
- Aug 27 Rachel Dobbins
- Aug 28 Rob & Jeanne Wanous
- Aug 29 Chuck Padfield
William Zoellner
- Aug 30 Emma Jo Schinkel
Jase Bahr
Nathan Atherton

Conde

- Aug 1 Joan Fahrenwald
- Aug 5 Myron & Joan Fahrenwald
- Aug 6 Loren & Pat Siefken
- Aug 10 Cindy Smith
- Aug 20 Richard & Jane Worlie
- Aug 26 Pam Hanson

I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,
Their steps are short like mine.
They don't say, "Now hurry up."
They always take their time.

I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,
Their eyes see things like mine do ...
Wee pebbles bright, a funny cloud,
Half-hidden drops of dew.

Most people have to hurry,
They do not stop and see.
I'm glad that God made Grandpa and
Grandma
Unrushed and young like me.

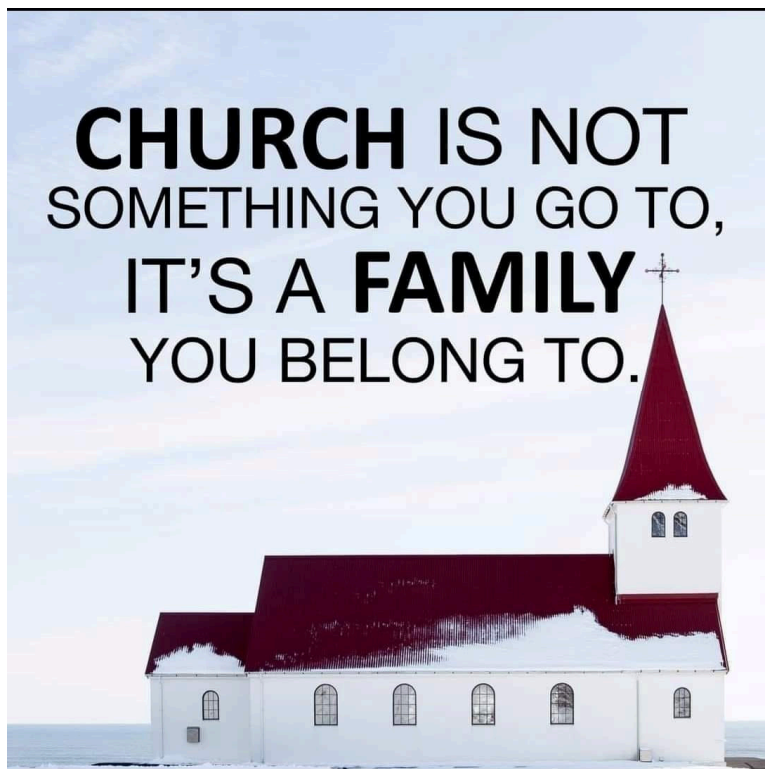
—Author unknown



Watch for Details Coming Soon!



**CHURCH IS NOT
SOMETHING YOU GO TO,
IT'S A FAMILY
YOU BELONG TO.**



Groton July Ad Council

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, AM Mitchell. Those in attendance were, Pastor Moorlach, AM Mitchell, Carna Atherton-Pray, Jolene Townsend, Tyke Nyberg, and Jeanne Wanous. Pastor Rob shared a prayer prior to the discussion of business.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Carna Atherton-Pray.

The previous meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Carna Atherton-Pray.

Correspondence:

Jeanne Wanous shared a Thank You note from Lane Tietz for his graduation gift from the church.

Jeanne Wanous shared that we received a monetary gift from the Gary Ruckdaschel family in appreciation of our help with Gary's celebration of life.

Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: no report

Memorial—Linda Thurston: no report

Missions--Val Baker: Val was not present but communicated via email that the Missions committee will be collecting hygiene items and some clothing for the high school students closet.

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: Jolene shared that the team has been sending out cards (sympathy, etc.) as needed.

Trustees: Tyke Nyberg stated that the boiler work for leaks still needs to be done and has contacted Heartland Heating to remind them.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous: YTD through June, we have spent 45% of our budgeted expenses for the year.

Financial Secretary-Allen Walter: no report

Pastor Parish-Meri Erickson: Meri was not present, but she shared that in June she paid a total of \$442.40 for materials & work on the parsonage sump pump. And in July, she paid a total of \$328.08 for work & materials on the parsonage furnace.

Bills to be Presented: none

Administrative Report:

Pastor Rob: There will be an upcoming funeral in Conde followed by a family get together in our fellowship hall after burial in the cemetery. Vacation Bible School will be on August 6-7.

Old Business:

IRS Certified Letter Update—Anita Lowary: no update

Cleaning of Hanging Alter Flame: This was cleaned, and a new bulb has been ordered.

Hanging Orb Pulley: A pulley system was installed by Allen Walter & we thank him!

Fresh Expressions Ministry (card playing group)—Carna Atherton-Pray: Carna explained again what her vision is. She explained that it is aimed at high school students and adults who want to learn to play cards. She plans to ad-

vertise and is thinking of having this on Wednesdays when there is no Youth Group. There would be a light meal served followed by a Jesus story and then the teaching & learning of various card games.

Christmas Manger Figures & Manger Updates:

AM Mitchell said that the manger is currently stored at the Moorehouse's. It was agreed that we should bring the manger to the church site now and discuss ways to store it on site. Carna will see if she and her husband can help make this happen, along with others. Council members looked at the figures after the last meeting and the council felt that we should take each one out now and determine if they need touch-ups done.

New Business:

August Council Meeting: On a motion by Carna Atherton-Pray, members agreed unanimously to cancel the August meeting due to the Brown County Fair.

Kitchen Remodel: It was reported that the committee is still working on design & options.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

Secretary, Jeanne Wanous



August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	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	31











Our Church Happenings...

- July 30 Groton Tues 10 AM Bible Study starts a new study
- Aug 6th & 7th Groton Vacation Bible School 5-8 pm
- Aug 12th - 18th Brown County Fair Week
- Aug 21 NO Groton Ad Council
- Aug 21 Groton School Starts
- Aug 22 Sept Newsletter Items Due



August 2024

Groton UMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p> <p>10th Sunday after Pentecost (green)</p> <p>8:30am Conde Worship</p> <p>9:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:30am Groton Worship</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>10:00am Bible Study (New Study Begins)</p> <p>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p> <p>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>4</p>  <p>11th Sunday after Pentecost (green)</p> <p>Communion in Worship (white)</p> <p>8:30am Conde Worship</p> <p>9:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:30am Groton Worship</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>10:00am Bible Study</p> <p>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p> <p>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p> <p>5:00pm Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p> <p>5:00pm Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>11</p> <p>12th Sunday after Pentecost (green)</p> <p>8:30am Conde Worship</p> <p>9:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:30am Groton Worship</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00am NO Bible Study</p> <p>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p> <p>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>18</p> <p>13th Sunday after Pentecost (green)</p> <p>8:30am Conde Worship</p> <p>9:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:30am Groton Worship</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study</p> <p>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p> <p>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>Groton School Begins</p> <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p> <p>7:00pm NO Ad Council</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Newsletter Items Due</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>25</p> <p>14th Sunday after Pentecost (green)</p> <p>8:30am Conde Worship</p> <p>9:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:30am Groton Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study</p> <p>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p> <p>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>