



February 2024

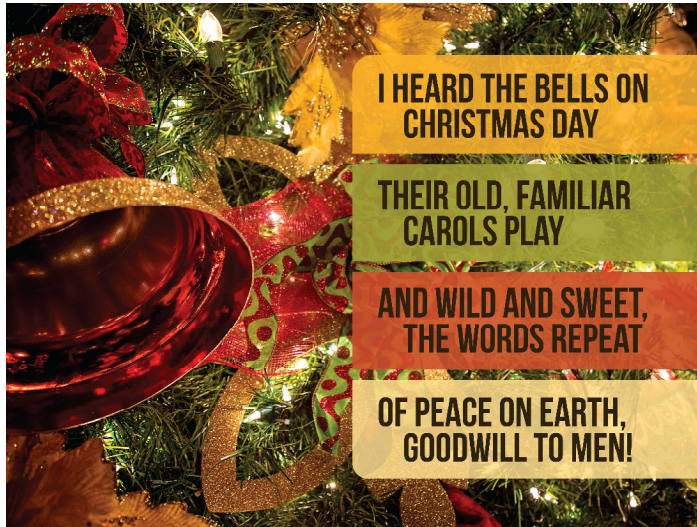
906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

Pastor Rob's Ponderings...

I promise this will be my last column about Christmas music – this year. I experienced something this morning I had to share with you. Most people know I listen to lots of Christmas music; I even have a speaker in my bus so I can listen to it on my early morning route.

I leave Groton heading North each morning at about 6:15 am. It's still pretty dark at that time. This morning, Burl Ives' rendition of "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" started to play. I've heard this song plenty of times but, maybe in the dark, it had a little more meaning. The song begins with the verse, "I heard the bells on Christmas Day/Their old, familiar carols play/And wild and sweet/The words repeat/Of peace on earth, good-will to men. I love that!

But when I got home from the bus route and opened my email this morning, I learned from a daily devotional this carol was written by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on Christmas Day in 1863 in the middle of the American Civil War. Our nation was overcome with turmoil and loss. This



is why the second verse of the carol says, "And in despair, I bowed my head/'There is no peace on earth,' I said;/'For hate is strong/And mocks the song/Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

The writer of the devotional and I agree this second verse seems to describe our world in 2024. Name a place in the world and we can find problems. It often seems the darkness I see in the mornings driving my bus invades our lives.

But the writer of the devotional also noted we Christians are strange people. In the middle of dark places, we reach for songs (it's especially true of Methodist Christians) to

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

THEIR OLD, FAMILIAR CAROLS PLAY

AND WILD AND SWEET, THE WORDS REPEAT

OF PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TO MEN!

remind us the Light of day is coming. And I love it in the morning when it does! Everything seems new and crisp even in the gloomy days of January and February. Sure, there's still problems to face. Yet as a Christian I live with a real, living Hope that morning will come. Even Longfellow believed this when he wrote the last verse: "Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:/ 'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;/ The Wrong shall fail,/The Right prevail,/With peace on earth, good-will to men." That's good news! See You in church!

Open invitation

Come, sinners, to the gospel feast,
Let every soul be Jesus' guest;
Ye need not be one left behind,
For God hath bidden all human-kind.

Sent by my Lord, on you I call;
The invitation is to all:
Come, all the world; come, sinner, thou!
All things in Christ are ready now.

Come, all ye souls by sin oppressed,
Ye restless wanderers after rest,
Ye poor, and maimed, and halt,
and blind,
In Christ a hearty welcome find.

—Charles Wesley (18th century)

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Rob
In Office
Tuesday &
Wednesday
Mornings

Monday
Day Off



American Heart Association

February 20, 2024 a CPR course will be offered at 6 pm at Groton UMC. We will start with a light supper and the class time will be approximately 2 hours. This will include bystander CPR as per the American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines taught by a certified instructor. AED (automatic external defibrillator) use will be reviewed. If you cannot perform CPR but wish to know about the AED, please attend. Cost is \$10 per student certifying for CPR – this covers the cost of registration with the AHA and the receipt of a billfold card noting certification. If you already hold a CPR card and wish to renew your 2 year certification, please consider attending. Contact Carna at ccpray@nvc.net or call or text at 605-380-1742 to sign up or for more information.



Starting on Ash Wednesday and going through Lent, Pastor Rob will host a video study on the topic of "Grace: More Than We Deserve - Greater Than We Imagine" using videos from Max Lucado.

These studies will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at the Groton UMC Church.



Dear Groton United Methodist Church family,

We are so grateful for the time we had with you all while we were remembering Mom together in Groton. Thank you for the wonderful reception! Those rooms hold many memories for us all, and you were all a part of them.

May God bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you.

We are so thankful for all you did for us,

Linda for all of us (Barb, Kris and John, Ben, Mike and Val, Paul and Shawn and all our families)

GLENNA B. BINGHAM

Born: July 5, 1930 in Groton, S. Dakota
Died: October 28, 2023 in Streator, IL



Glenna B. Bingham, 93 of Streator and formerly of Peoria passed away Saturday morning (October 28, 2023) at her home. Private family services will be held.

Burial will be in the Groton Union Cemetery, Groton, S. Dakota.

Glenna was born on July 5, 1930, in Groton, S. Dakota to Scott and Gladine (Litzkow) Bingham.

Surviving are sisters, Pat Ladika of Missouri, Sandra Lierman and Betty Beguhn both of

Wisconsin and several nieces and nephews and her care giver Janie Gochanour.

She is preceded in death by her parents, sisters Yula Nunes, Marian May, and Margaret McCary, brothers Darrell and Carroll Bingham. Glenna graduated from Groton High School in 1948, she retired from Caterpillar in Peoria in 1985. Glenna was of the Methodist faith, she enjoyed bowling, golfing, fishing, and woodworking.

Memorials may be made to the Groton Methodist Church.

The Winterrowd Funeral Home assisted with the arrangements.

Winterrowd Funeral Home
305 S. Park St.
Streator, IL 61364
815-672-2703
www.winterrowdfh.com

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



It's Time To Register For Camp!

Registration is now open for the 2024 camping season! Check out the [upcoming camps and events at Dakotas United Methodist Camps](#) and pick your favorite camp location: [Wesley Acres](#), [Storm Mountain](#), or [Lake Pointsett](#). All camp listings and registration information are on the [Dakotas UM Camps website](#). The fliers have arrived and are in the back of the sanctuary!

Signing up for camp is easy! There are multiple ways to register for camp:

ONLINE

Directly access the [Campwise online registration](#) site to register, or search through the complete list of Dakotas UM Camps current [Camps and Events](#). Select a camp event name to display the full camp description. Then click on "Register Online" to begin registration process. Contact the Camping Office for login and password assistance.

PHONE

To register by phone call toll-free [855-622-1973](#) Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (Central Time)

MAIL

Download, print, complete, and mail the [paper registration](#) form to:

Dakotas UM Camps
122 W. Franklin Ave, Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55404
 (Make checks payable to **Dakotas UM Camps**.)

EMAIL

Download, print, and complete, the [paper registration](#) form. Then scan and email completed form to info@dakcamps.org

Incentives and Discounts

Register by April 30th to receive the **Early Bird** discount of \$5 off per night of camp.

With our **Bring-A-Friend Incentive**, for each new camper you bring to camp you can request to earn a discount of \$25 off the price of your camp. Simply list your friend's name in the **Bring-a-Friend Discount Request form** located in your online registration dashboard. Camp staff will apply the discount after your friend registers for camp.

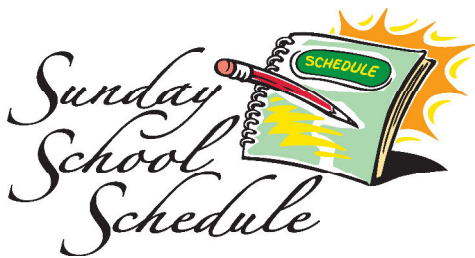
The Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church offers financial assistance through [Dakotas UM Camps](#)

Camperships

to help with the cost of camp because we believe that every child should have a Christian camping experience, and no camper will be turned away due to a personal lack of funds. We have scholarship funds available to campers who need them most, based on personal and family needs. Before registering, check with your local church to see if they assist with the cost of registration by registering with a camp code.

The Groton UMC also has scholarships available for our students who are attending. Please contact Jeanne Wanous, Treasurer for the code





Feb. 4 – SS 10:30
 11 – SS 9:30 / Sing in church 10:30
 18 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 (President’s Day weekend)
 25 – SS 10:30
 Mar. 3 – SS 10:30
 10 – SS 10:30
 17 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 (Spring Break)
 24 – SS 9:30 / Sing in church
 10:30 (Palm Sunday)
 31 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 (Easter)
 April 7 – SS 10:30
 14 – SS 10:30
 21 – SS 10:30
 28 – SS 10:30
 May 5 – SS 10:30
 12 – Last Day of SS – Carnival 9:30
 Sing in church 10:30 (Mother’s Day)



The Caring Team

will be meeting Feb 11th at 9:45 am during coffee hour at the Groton UMC. All church family members are welcome and belong to help.

Team Chair is Jolene Townsend along with Anita Lowary, Carol Strom, Marva Gellhaus, Sara Hofer, Kay Daly, and all members and friends of our church family.

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android

Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you 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



Groton Missions is hosting a Pie Auction on February 11th. Make that favorite pie and have it auctioned off... Proceeds will help to make Easter Baskets for Sunday School.



Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.



Groton Family Committee - March

Megan & Seth Erickson
Mendy & Jim Jones, Marlee,
Emerlee

Erin & Damian Bahr London
 Brian Bahr
 Andrea & Scott Eisenbiesz
 Cheryl Hanson
 Kelli & Lars Hanson
 Curtis Krueger
 Laurie & AM Mitchell
 Diann & Brad Morehouse
 Joann & Mike Nehls
 Chuck Padfield
 Sabrina & Joey Padfield

Honorary Members

- Doris Strom
- JoAnn & Richard Krueger
- Ruby Luce
- Jim & Judy Zeck

March 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)
- **Order and Pickup Confirmation Cake for coffee hour.** Confirmation Sunday – TBD
- Gifts are organized by Confirmation Leaders
- Hospitality sets up gift table
- Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin
- 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
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- Serve at Avantara Nursing Center – 4th Sunday
- 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to church treasurer

March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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						



ASH WEDNESDAY

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“RETURN TO ME
 with all your heart,
 with fasting, with weeping,
 and with mourning.”

Joel 2:12, ESV



Our Church Celebrations...

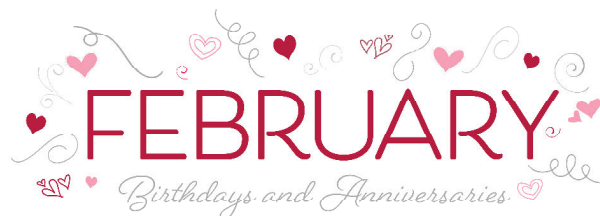
Groton

- Feb 2 Journey Zieroth
- Feb 4 KayLynn Overacker
Tim Olson
- Feb 5 Scott Eisenbeisz
Todd Thurston
- Feb 7 Gary Voss
- Feb 8 Gage Sippel
- Feb 10 Brenda Madsen
Dion Bahr
June Thompson
Nori Hinman
Andrea & Scott Eisenbeisz
- Feb 12 Skyler Kramer
Yvonne Lorenz
- Feb 13 Monica McCranie
- Feb 14 Diane Nissen
- Feb 16 Pernell Graf

- Feb 19 Gaylene Voss
Robin O'Neill
- Feb 20 Jim & Judy Zeck
Michael Wells
- Feb 21 Joe Nelson
- Feb 22 Anthony Schinkel
- Feb 25 Brent Morehouse
Greg Heitmann
Luke Johnson
- Feb 26 Ginger McNickle

Conde

- Feb 4 Donna Walter
- Feb 5 Richard Sanderson
- Feb 9 Vicki Stark
- Feb 15 Tim & Betty Geist
- Feb 19 Tyler Stark
- Feb 22 Horace Walter



Christian Symbol

CROSS OF ASHES — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshippers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshippers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

**Staff Parish Relations
Committee Training**
February 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Join Rev. Dan Bader, Rev. Susan Nienaber,
and Diane Owen on Zoom



If you have new members to your Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), or have recently received a new pastor, or haven't been through a training in a while, [join an online \(Zoom\) training](#) on February 22, at 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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



Groton Ad Council - Jan

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

The agenda was approved on a motion from Anita Lowary.

The previous meeting minutes were approved on a motion from Lon Gellhaus.

Correspondence: none

Committee Reports:

Anita Lowary, Membership Letter: Anita handed out a revised version of a letter to be sent to all those who are currently listed as GUMC members. Along with the letter, there will be that members' current contact information with a note asking for corrections if need be. The council approved the membership letter as presented.

Trustees:

Tyke Nyberg: Tyke reported that an inspector was here on Dec. 19 for the purpose of an annual inspection of our boiler system. The inspector found a fault with the vent limiter on the gas regulator. He said it must be installed in a vertical position. It is noteworthy that the boiler has always passed inspection previously. Tyke will be working on a solution to the issue.

Treasurer's Report:

- Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous:
 - Jeanne shared the 2023 year-end report. She also stated that she is in the process of having Kay Daly train her on the treasurer's job.
 - Jeanne reported that we are in the process of closing our Interfaith Federal Credit Union account which is inactive

but has a balance of \$20.

- Financial Secretary-Allen Walter: no report
- Pastor Parish-Meri Erickson: no report

Memorial Report: Linda Thurston reported that the memorial committee will be meeting on Jan. 24. Linda also passed around a list of ideas for use of memorial funds to the Ad Council members for their input. Current funds in our memorial account are:

Designated: \$ 13,473.60
 Undesignated: \$ 1,623.84
 Total: \$15,097.44

Bills to be Presented: none

Administrative Report:

Pastor Rob:

Confirmation classes have begun for 7th & 8th graders with 5 students participating. Parents have been helping out with meals along with group participation. Confirmation will be held on March 10. Bible study starts again next week, and Sunday school will also start up again this coming Sunday, Jan. 21.

Old Business:

- CPR Classes: Carna Atherton-Pray shared that CPR classes are being planned for Tuesday evening on February 20. Carna's brother, Brad, is a certified trainer. She thinks the class will begin at 6:30 pm. She doesn't believe there will be a significant charge per person, if any. However, students would have to pay \$10 to get their certification card.
- 2nd Mower: When spring comes Tyke will look at our second mower to see if it is operable in case our current mower gives out. It was explained that the current mower is starting to use oil, so we want to plan ahead for a replace-

ment. Jolene Townsend has mentioned she might have one to donate if need be.

- Snow Removal: Jeremey Weber is currently doing snow removal for our church. The council members weren't sure what he is charging.

New Business:

- Tyke noted that there is a ceiling light panel out in the fellowship hall. He will look at it soon.
- Fellowship hall speakers: There was a discussion about adding new fellowship hall speakers to the memorial list. It was noted that the speakers in the small chapel and the playroom are working fine.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.
 Secretary,
 Jeanne Wanous

Groton Stewardship Report Dec 2023

Average Wkly Giving \$994

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,393

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 51

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5





Our Church Happenings...

Feb 11 Groton Caring Team Meeting 9:45 am

Feb 11 Groton Missions Pie Auction (Donations Needed)

Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Lent Bible Study begins at Groton 7 pm
and will meet weekly during Lent

Feb 21 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Mar 10 Confirmation Sunday

February 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		

Groton Confirmation every Weds at 6 pm

Groton Tuesday 10 AM Bible Study each week

