



Groton & Conde & Britton UMC

Newsletter

July 2025

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

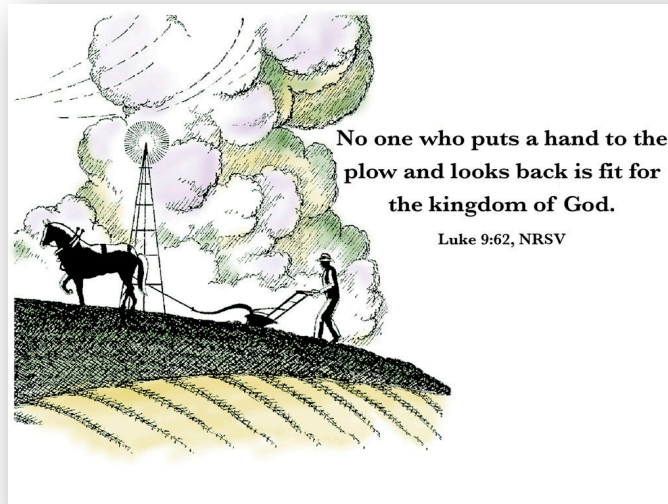
...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

There's a verse I read recently which bothers me. Many verses in scripture bother me but this one more than others, especially this week. In Luke 9:62 Jesus tells a would-be disciple, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God." Jesus is saying, "You don't have time to go home and relive the past, today is the day to follow me."

This verse bothers me because I love to relive the past, especially around the 4th of July. I love to think back on the fireworks "fights" my brothers and I took part in. I love to remember blowing up stuff or scaring people with unexpected firecrackers. Isn't that what the 4th of July is all about? Actually, Yes and No.

No to all the hijinks of kids playing with fireworks, although I still chuckle about some of the foolish things we did.

Yes to the looking back and remembering the past. It's important to remember where we came from, how our country started, how we progressed through the years (even recalling the mistakes and outright blunders), and honoring those men and women who give us the ability to sing "America the



Beautiful" with one voice.

So what is Jesus telling this would-be disciple about the past? I believe Jesus is saying, "Remember the past and its lessons, but don't live there. Have you ever tried to drive backwards for a long distance using only mirrors and looking back? I missed a stop once on my school bus route so the kids on the bus yelled, "Mr. Moorlach! Our stop is back there!" I had driven a mile past the driveway. Thinking it was safe to simply back up on this lonely gravel road, I shifted the bus to reverse and started back. What I thought would be a simple maneuver turned into a nerve-wracking ordeal. Frequent braking, turning the steering wheel in one direction then another, repeatedly

checking the mirrors finally got me back to the proper driveway, but when I looked at the traveled road it looked like the curviest roller coaster ever made. I understand what Jesus was talking about.

One of my high school friends told me many years ago he wanted to move back "to our hometown" in order to raise his kids the way we were raised. He moved back but everything had changed. The town was now a city. The school was three times as large; no small classes. My friend had a job but it was with family and he discovered even the work habits and attitudes of his family had changed. Within three years my friend moved to another state, even another part of the country.

We forget our national past was not even as rosy as we remember. The 1960's had the Vietnam War, race riots, assassinations and college campus unrest. Sound familiar?

Jesus says, "Move forward!" The roads will not be easy. He was on the way to Jerusalem and the cross. But learn the lessons of the past. Give thanks for those who gave us a country of liberty, even when it took us awhile to get there. And put your faith in Jesus.

Something to think about during this 4th of July! See you in church!

OFFICE HOURS



Pastor Rob
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Evenings
6-8 pm

Monday
Day Off

Groton VBS

We have scheduled VBS for July 28-29 (3:00-6:30) with supper. Please let me know if you or an older child could help-even for part of the time.

Also, please let me know if your kids are planning to come. Feel free to invite other family or friends- just please let me know so we have enough supplies.

Thank you,
Meri Erickson
605-216-2981



Max Update

Just wanted to update on Max. He's in a tough phase of chemo this summer, but he's been having some good days and has been able to stay out of the hospital! He's been responding well to treatment. We continue weekly trips to Sioux Falls for chemo. We continue to be thankful for all of the support and prayers!



Church Information

Pastor Rob Moorlach
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Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

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

Parsonage Update



The parsonage has had a recent update to the upstairs bathroom. The SPPRC (Staff and Pastor Parish Relations Committee), a committee made up of members from all three churches in the parish, made the decision following a review of the parsonage, to remodel the bathroom to provide a more handicapped accessible room. This included a new walk-in shower stall, new vanity and sink top, etc. The room was moved one foot into the dining room space which was the most economical way to enlarge this space. Lane Construction was engaged to complete the work and several from the church have volunteered in many ways. Work will be completed by Monday, June 23rd. Thank you to everyone! Carna Atherton-Pray



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



Happy Father's Day - Coffee Hour in Groton with cake





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By: Rebecca G. Trefz | Dakotas communications staff

Seventy-two hours. 400 people. Gallons of coffee. Laughter, tears, and celebrations. Hard conversations, worship, and learning. All wrapped in the powerful movement of the Holy Spirit. This is the 2025 Dakotas Annual Conference.

Theme: Drawing on 1 John 4, the theme of this year's conference was "Created to love BOLDLY." Throughout the gathering, Bishop Lanette, worship leaders, and presenters lifted up ways to live this theme in our ministry and discipleship. Teaching and workshop times laid out practice examples of how United Methodists across the Dakotas and the larger connection are putting this bold love into action.

Bishop's Episcopal Address: Bishop Lanette Plambeck delivered the 2025 Episcopal Address on Friday, June 6, 2025. She shared the many ways that the goodness of God's love has been present in the past and will be lived out in the future for The United Methodist Church and the Dakotas Conference. "I want you to love God with such a desperate love, that you cannot help but tell your neighbor about the saving grace of God," said Bishop Lanette. [Watch the Episcopal Address.](#)

Missional Report: The 2024-25 Missional Report reminded attendees at the 32nd Session of the Dakotas Conference that we were created to love boldly. This isn't just the annual conference theme or logo—it is our identity and purpose—a calling that Dakotas United Methodists have been living passionately this past year. The Missional Report celebrated the ways the Dakotas Conference is boldly sharing the love of Jesus. [View the 2024-2025 Missional Report.](#)

Theologian in Residence: Rev. Dr. Tim Eberhart, Dakotas Conference elder and associate professor of Ecological Theology and

Practice at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary led attendees through two sessions around the theme "Fireseeds of Renewal." Drawing from our Wesleyan theology and heritage, Eberhart identified ways that our ecclesial DNA has given us the resources and framework to face the challenges in our world in this time in history. [View the livestream from Friday, June 6.](#) [View the livestream from Saturday, June 7.](#)

Legislation: Voting members of the 32nd Session of the Dakotas Annual Conference affirmed all the legislation before them including the 2026 Budget Proposal, a resolution to create a Conference Green Team and Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator, Reaffiliation Policy, and updates to the Conference Structure and Rules of Order. Additionally, members voted on four amendments to the constitution of The United Methodist Church. [View all the legislation.](#)

Miracle Offering worship: When Rev. Jennifer McDonald was 17 years old, she preached a message on Youth Sunday. It was based on 1 John 4. Fast forward to 2025, she delivered a sermon based on the same scripture to 400 people gathered for worship on Saturday, June 7, at the Dakotas Annual Conference. "In First John, we read, if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us," shared Rev. Jennifer McDonald. As a part of this worship, the Miracle Offering was received for the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR.) [Get more details.](#) Watch Rev. McDonald's [sermon here.](#)

Ministry milestones: "You have been called into the vocation of love. God is wooing you into a love relationship with God and your neighbor," Bishop Lanette Plambeck told those retiring from ministry, being recognized as a licensed local pastor, being commissioned, and being ordained at the Celebration of Life in Ministry Service. Preaching on 1

John 4 at the worship service held on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at Downtown First United Methodist Church in Mitchell, South Dakota, she encouraged those present to be agents of love. [View the Celebration of Life in Ministry Service.](#) [Access the Celebration of Life in Ministry booklet.](#)

Dakota Wesleyan and Mitchell community exhibit radical hospitality: Dakota Wesleyan University welcomed 400 United Methodists to campus for the 32nd Session of the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church. At opening worship, on Friday, June 6, at the Sherman Center, President Dan Kittle welcomed everyone and shared an inspirational message. "We must prepare and shape people for lives of meaning and service. That is our shared commitment," said President Dan Kittle. DWU, along with Fusion Church and Downtown First United Methodist Church in Mitchell, South Dakota, served as hosts of the three-day event. It has been nearly 30 years since the annual gathering has been held in Mitchell. Event organizers and attendees expressed great appreciation for the hospitality, facilities, services, support, and overall atmosphere of the location and hosts. [Listen to President Kittle's welcome address.](#)

Videos: Throughout annual conference, attendees watched videos that highlighted ways that churches and individuals are loving boldly as United Methodists in the Dakotas. Watch and/or download all the videos presented, and livestream recordings of the entire 2024 Annual Conference, [here.](#)



Golden Threads


"Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels.
Proverbs 8:10-11

Ladies Luncheon

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

By Bethesda Women of the ELCA



Silent Auction opens at 10:30

Guest Speaker: Melinda Eikamp,
"Weaving Threads of our Heritage"


Luncheon at Noon

Tickets: \$15.00

Deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, July 11

Kay Espeland	605-492-3507
Jane Goehring	605-290-1420

Or contact any WELCA member




The Groton American Legion Auxiliary (Unit #39) is hosting a

Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar

at the Groton Legion (12 N. Main)
Wednesday, July 9, 2025
11 am-1 pm

Enjoy a ham sandwich as well as a variety of salads, bars, coffee, and water.

\$10 per person
Tickets may be purchased at the door.



PRAIRIE HOMECOMING

CAST, FANS & FUN

JULY 11, 12, & 13

with Charlotte Stewart, Dean Butler, & Wendi Lou Lee
& the new documentary, *LITTLE HOUSE HOMECOMING*

Use of 'Little House' in the title of Little House Homecoming is used with the permission of Friendly Family Productions, LLC. The owner of the 'Little House on the Prairie' name and trademarks.





Awesome Play for your family - more information online!

Groton Family Committee - August

August 2025 Chairpersons

Anita and John Lowary
Carol Strom

Doris and Ron Anderson
Pernell Graf
Charity and Scotty Hinman
Nancy Hinrichs
Yvonne Lorenz
Anita and John Lowary
Brenda and Tony Madsen
Belinda and Joe Nelson
Chris and Tyke Nyberg
Jesse Overacker
Roger Overacker
John Padfield
Carna and Cliff Pray
Marjae and Dan Schinkel
Jenna and Nick Strom
Carol Strom
Eugenia and Dwight Strom
Jeanne Wanous

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

Honorary Members

Sharon Wheeting
Louise Thoreson
Betty Strom
Curtis Krueger

August 2025						
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						

GROTON UMC OFFERING STATISTICS

2025 Month	Offering Received	Needed for Budget	Average Attendance	Received for Building Maintenance
January	5521	9249	44	255
February	5753	9249	42	205
March	8209	9249	55	405
April	20718	9249	61	505
May	5964	9249	65	280
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
YTD Totals	46165	46245		1650

PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4th craft.

What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw



What you do:

1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!

Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

July 1 Charity Hinman
Graham Rose
July 4 Seth Erickson
July 5 Allen & Joyce Walter
Jasmine Schinkel
July 7 Ida Hannon
Louise Thoreson
July 9 Judy Zeck
July 11 Scott Hinman
July 12 Ashtyn Bahr
Beckett Rose
July 13 Jolene Townsend
Stephanie Townsend
July 14 Ava Kramer
Christine Nyberg
July 16 Linda Thurston
July 17 Mackenzie Atherton
July 18 Doug & Kay Daly
Josh & Merrie Atherton
July 19 Carol Strom
July 20 Casey Johnson
July 21 Levi Parrow
July 23 Joyce Walter
July 24 Roger & Pam Rix

July 25 Mattilyn McCranie
July 26 Keller Rose
Willow Rose
Angela & Perryn Dobbins
July 27 Tony Madsen
Ryland Strom
Damian & Ein Bahr
July 28 Craig Weber
July 29 Ava Joy Rose
Curtis Krueger
July 30 Megan & Seth Erickson
Mitchell McCranie

Conde

July 6 Shanna Geist
July 23 Patty Knoll
July 27 Horace & Donna Walter

Britton

July 2 Dorthy & Gerald Schneider
July 9 Brittany Bush
July 10 Thane Henschel
July 18 Betty Lou Haywood

*If I am missing your special day,
please let the office know.*

70th Wedding Anniversary

Gerald & Dorthy Schneider will be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on July 2nd. Cards may be sent to 1409 6th St, Britton, SD 57430



*Member of the
Britton UMC Church*

What happened in 1955? - 70 years ago?

1955 was a year of significant events in politics, culture, and technology. Key happenings include the opening of Disneyland, the launch of the Warsaw Pact, and the start of the Montgomery bus boycott. Other notable events include the first McDonald's restaurant opening, the Salk polio vaccine being declared safe, and the death of actor James Dean.

Jul 2 "Lawrence Welk Show" premieres on ABC

Jul 11 Congress authorizes all US currency to say "In God We Trust"

Jul 17 Disneyland televises its grand opening in Anaheim, California.

Swiss electrical engineer George de Mestral is granted a patent for the **Velcro fabric hook-and-loop fastener**. Tappan introduce the first domestic microwave oven, in the United States. American electrical engineer Eugene Polley invents the Zenith Flash-Matic, the first

wireless television remote control.

In 1955, a brand new car cost around \$1,900, while the average home was about \$18,400. A gallon of regular gasoline was \$0.25, and a gallon of milk was \$0.86. A dozen eggs cost \$0.65 and a loaf of bread was \$0.15. **Sugar, 5 lb.: \$0.52** bottle of Coca-Cola was set at **five cents**

McDonald's first opened in 1955, and burgers were just **15 cents**

Groton Ad Council - June

Chairman AM Mitchell called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were AM Mitchell, Jeanne Wanous, Cliff & Carna Pray, Anita Lowary, and Allen Walter. Carna Atherton-Pray shared a prayer prior to conducting business.

Both the agenda and the previous minutes were approved on a motion by Anita Lowary.

Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: Anita shared a draft of a membership status update form that could be sent by text or email. Carna Atherton-Pray moved to use the format shared by Anita to contact members who we are not certain want to remain members of the Groton UMC congregation. We are obligated to send these members three notices before we can remove them from our membership list. The motion was seconded and approved.

Memorial—Linda Thurston: Although there was no report, council members shared great reviews of the new garbage cans recently purchased by the Memorial committee.

Missions - Val Baker: Val was not present, but Carna Atherton-Pray shared that she found out we could still do kits for UMCOR, so the Missions committee may plan for that. In addition, Carna mentioned the possibility of participating in the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization in Aberdeen. Their mission is: NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!. And also, our missions committee will plan to do some special activity at Christmas time.

Caring Team: no report

Pastor/Parish Relations: Carna reported that this committee will begin to look at their budget for 2025. Carna also reported that she attended the 32nd Annual Da-

kotas Conference in Mitchell on June 6-8, 2025.

Trustees—Cliff Pray: Cliff reported on the following items:

Front door: The House of Glass, Aberdeen, has found a way to change the front door of the church to allow people to exit even when the door is locked. This is crucial in case of emergencies. The approximate cost will be in the \$600 range. Anita Lowary motion to authorize Cliff to have House of Glass change the locking mechanism of the front door to address safety concerns at the rate of approximately \$600. The motion was seconded and passed.

Front Hallway Leak: A water leak was discovered in the front hallway. Cliff had Hub City Roofing come out to investigate. They found cracked caulking and fixed it. In addition, they checked all around the roof for any other issues. They didn't find any other issues, but did report that the roof is getting worn, and that we should keep an eye on it. As a side note, they said that any future caulking repairs must be done with a masonry type caulk.

Parsonage Update: Cliff reported that the update of the parsonage bathroom is going very well and should be done by June 23. All plans and details fall under the Pastor/Parish committee which includes Conde/Groton/and Britton.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous:

The BAGS Program Update: Although it had been reported earlier that the BAGS Program had completely transferred to the school, Anita Lowary reported that it had not completely transferred. Anita still must meet with the Groton Area School treasurer to finalize the transfer. Once the transfer is complete, the Groton UMC

bank account where the money and credit card resides will be closed.

Financial Secretary-Allen Walter: no report

Pastor Parish-Meri Erickson: no report

Administrative Report: Pastor Rob, no report

Old Business: none

New Business:

Vanco: Carna Atherton-Pray shared information she learned at the Dakotas Conference at a presentation by Jim Ducker, the Dakotas Conf. Treasurer, regarding Vanco features that may benefit the Groton UMC. Carna said she would talk personally with Mr. Ducker, to review how Groton UMC utilizes Vanco and any things we can do differently to benefit our financial situation.










Cleaning of Chairs & Pews: The council discussed the need to clean the fellowship hall chairs and also the sanctuary pew pads. A date of July 10 at 1:00 pm was set for this task to take place. Anyone who is willing and able is asked to come and help with this long overdue task.

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 45 pm.
Secretary, Jeanne Wanous



Groton UMC

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 3rd Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	30 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	1 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	2  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	3 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	4  Independence Day	5 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
6  4th Sunday after Pentecost (green) Communion in Worship (white) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	7 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	8 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	9  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	10 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	11	12 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
13 5th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	14 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	15 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	16  9:30am Community Coffee Hour 7:00pm Groton Ad Council	17 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	18	19 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
20 6th Sunday after Pentecost (green) Newsletter Items Due 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	21 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	22 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	23  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	24 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	25	26 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
27 7th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	28  11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center 3:00pm VBS w/supper	29  10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 3:00pm VBS w/supper 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	30  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	31 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	1	2 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown



Our Church Happenings...

July 16 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

July 28-29 Groton VBS 3 pm - 6:30 pm

(details inside newsletter)

Groton UMC Tuesday 10 am Bible Study meets each week. Summer is a great time to join us as we study a different woman of the Bible each week!

July 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		