

Groton & Conde & Britton UMC

# Newsletter

June 2025

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

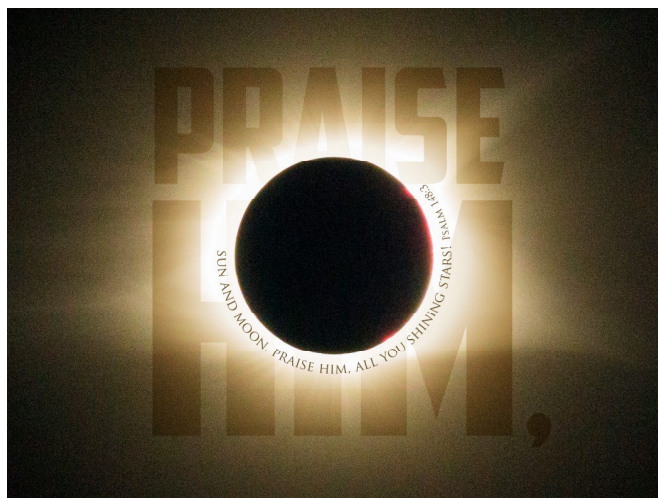
## ...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

**Psalm 19:1** *The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.*

I love God's creation! This will be a common refrain in these columns for as long as I keep doing them. I'm fascinated by God's creation, whether it be looking out my office window at the trees in my front yard, driving north on Highway 37 being amazed at the colors of the early morning sky, or looking across farm fields at carpets of green.

One of my friends, Dr. Dan Hayward, was in anatomy class when he told me, "Rob, my faith in Christ was confirmed in this class. There is no way the intricacy and complexity necessary for nerve endings to send messages back and forth from the brain 'just happened'." Dan reminded me of one of my favorite bible passages which I like to paraphrase, In Him all things were created and He holds together all things. (Colossians 1:16-17)

Most of you know I went to Fishers, Indiana (where my younger brother Richard and his family live) to view the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. My nephew, Ben, (my youngest brother, Brian's oldest son) went with me. Ben and I drove about 12 hours out to Casper Wyoming in 2017 to view the previous total solar eclipse, so driving



out to Indiana, especially to the home of my brother, was a no-brainer. We had a fantastic time! My niece, Olivia, was home from New York and she invited friends over for an "Eclipse Brunch" and then we all went out to the nearby soccer fields to enjoy the eclipse. We ended up enjoying the day! Although the City of Fishers had warned residents to expect over 500,000 visitors, there were less than 100 in the eight soccer fields. We had the wonderful green grass, blue skies, and calm weather to ourselves to play frisbee, eat Moonpies and Sun Chips, or just sit in lawn chairs or on blankets and visit. When the eclipse started with the moon taking the first "bites" out of the sun, we put on our glasses and were amazed (My nephew started taking pictures with a special filtered camera). When totali-

ty hit and the world became dark, we took off the glasses while some in our group oohed and awed. Having experienced this before I stepped away from the group to listen for the sounds of animals and watch streetlights come on. In the distance someone was playing "Total Eclipse of the Heart" by Bonnie Tyler. When totality finally ended with a sliver of the sun being seen, some in our group started clapping. I asked why they were clapping and who they were clapping for. No one gave me an answer. Ben, my brother and his wife, Kathy, and I stayed out on the field for another hour or so as the moon slowly disappeared and the sun came fully back "online." (Ben still taking pictures every ten minutes) As we walked back to the house still thinking about what we witnessed it

was hard to describe the feeling. Later that night we all went out to a fancy dinner still thinking about it.

It wasn't until later that night I realized why some had started clapping. During the eclipse someone made the observation how amazing it was that someone had figured out all the "science" about rotations of the earth and moon as well as the rotation of the earth around the sun "to know the exact time when all this would happen."

That's when I started "clapping" to myself thanking God for doing this wonderful thing for us and giving the ability for the astronomers to figure it out.

Jesus Christ is the One who holds it all together! By the way, the next total solar eclipse is a little closer (in western North Dakota) in 2044.

See you in church!



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

Monday  
Day Off



## Groton Missions Meeting

The missions committee had to reschedule due to a mix-up, our meeting will be on June 3 at 7 PM. This includes Valerie Baker, Carna Pray, Kelli Hanson, Sue Stanley, & Melissa Gilbert. If there is anyone else

has some ideas that they would like to see happen in the church, please come and join us on the third. We would be more than happy to have you in our group

### Church Information

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

Pastor Email: [pastorrob@nvc.net](mailto:pastorrob@nvc.net)  
Secretary Email: [grotonumc@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumc@nvc.net)  
Website: [www.grotonumc.org](http://www.grotonumc.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/grotonsdumc/](https://facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445



## Confirmation to Graduation 2025

Angela pointed something out to me the other day. We have quite the group of young people. They stood in the exact order on Graduation Sunday as they did 4 years earlier for Confirmation. Hence old photo and new photo... LOL



Have they changed?

Karsten, Jaeger, Emily, Jaden, and Levi



## Groton 10 AM Bible Study

Our Schedule for the summer is as follows:

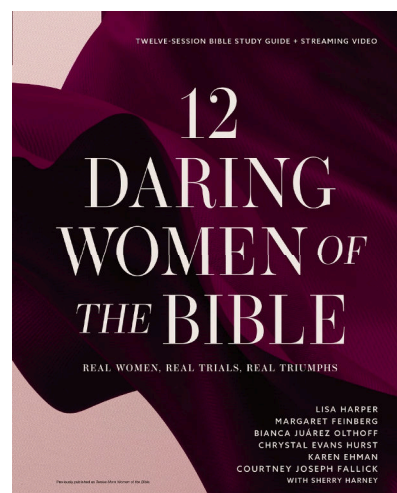
June 3 we are watching a movie and starting at 9:30 am.

June 10 we will not be meeting for the funeral.

June 17 we are starting a new study of 12 Daring Women of the

Bible. Each week is a different person, so join us when you can! It is a DVD study we will discuss each week.

Questions? Feel free to contact Kay Daly 605-397-8389





## Britton Confirmation Sunday

Right: Alexis, Pastor Kris,  
Kendra

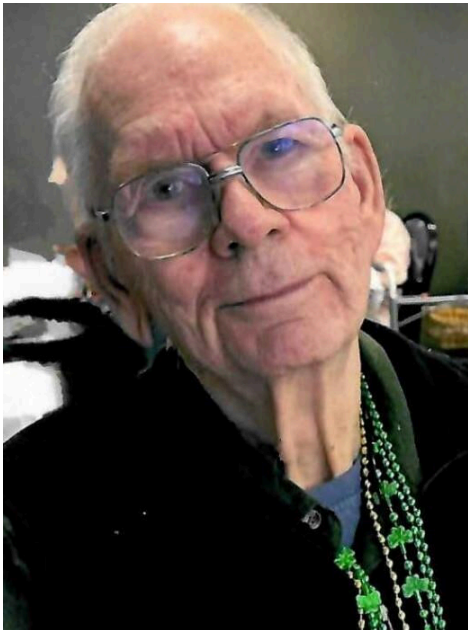
Below: Kendra, Deena, Alexis

Bottom Right: Alexis, Kendra,  
Pastor Deb

**CONFIRMED**  
*In Faith*







*With Sympathy*

LEFT: Myron Fahrenwald, M.D. died May 11, 2025

RIGHT: James "Jim" Zeck died April 30, 2025



**Groton  
Sunday School  
singing for  
Mother's Day**



This is the day  
the Lord has made



# Groton Family Committee - July

## July 2025 Chairpersons

Lindsey and Tom Tietz  
Myndy and Scott Kampa

Tyson Daly  
Erin and Damian Bahr  
Sam and Dion Bahr  
Steve Diegel  
Andrea and Scott Eisenbeisz  
Evan Erickson  
Meri and John Erickson  
Marva and Lon Gellhaus  
Melissa and Neil Gilbert  
Marc Johnson  
Myndy and Scott Kampa  
Traci and Dale Kramer  
Monica and Mike McCranie  
Matthew & Morgan McCranie  
Mitchell McCranie  
KayLynn Overacker  
Pam and Roger Rix  
Lindsey and Tom Tietz  
Jolene Townsend

## Honorary Members

Pat Dahlquist  
Darlys Kampa  
Doris Strom  
Rose Tewksbury

## 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
- ◆ Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons

## GROTON UMC OFFERING STATISTICS

	Offering Received	Needed for Budget	Average Attendance	Received for Building Maintenance
<b>2025 Month</b>				
January	5521	9249	44	255
February	5753	9249	42	205
March	8209	9249	55	405
April	20718	9249	61	505
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
<b>YTD Totals</b>	40201	36996		1370

July 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	



# SHOO fly!

Make this candle to keep uninvited insects from your outdoor summer meals.

**What you need:**

- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help

**What you do:**

1. Have an adult slice the lime in half. Cut off the rounded end of one half so it can stand without rolling.
2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of each half.
3. Stand the bottom half on a plate. Insert the candle in the center.
4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the cut side of the bottom half. Then place the other half atop the toothpicks.
5. Before dinner, have an adult light the candle that's between the two lime halves. The flame's heat will warm the lime and create a smell that insects don't like.
6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when it reaches the bottom lime.



## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

Jun 1 Anita Lowary  
 Jun 2 Doug Daly  
 Jun 3 Donald Nissen  
 Jun 4 Janice Raap  
 Jay Johnson  
 Jun 7 Peyton Padfield  
 Jun 8 Zoey Strom  
 Lacey Voss  
 Jun 11 Jim & Mendy Jones  
 Jun 13 Roger Rix  
 Zachary & Stephanie Townsend  
 Jun 14 Roger Overacker  
 Danielle Schinkel  
 Jun 15 Eugenia Strom  
 Jun 16 Gavin Voss  
 Jun 18 Nick Strom  
 Jun 19 Pat Dahlquist  
 Garrett & Sindi Heitmann  
 Jun 20 Harlan & Peggy Place  
 Jun 21 Gary & Linda Thurston  
 Jun 22 Angela Dobbins  
 Whitley Johnson  
 Jun 23 Chesney Weber  
 Easton Weber  
 Jun 24 Jeremy Weber  
 Mark & June Thompson

Jun 25 Tanae Lipp  
 Jun 27 Elaine Wolken  
 Peggy Place  
 Jun 28 Sindi Heitmann  
 Jun 29 Carly Gilbert  
 John & Meri Erickson  
 Jun 30 Spencer Knecht

### Conde

Jun 4 Pat Siefken  
 Jun 5 Norman & Cindy Smith  
 Jun 20 Cary Bruckner  
 Jun 22 Julie Bruckner

### Britton

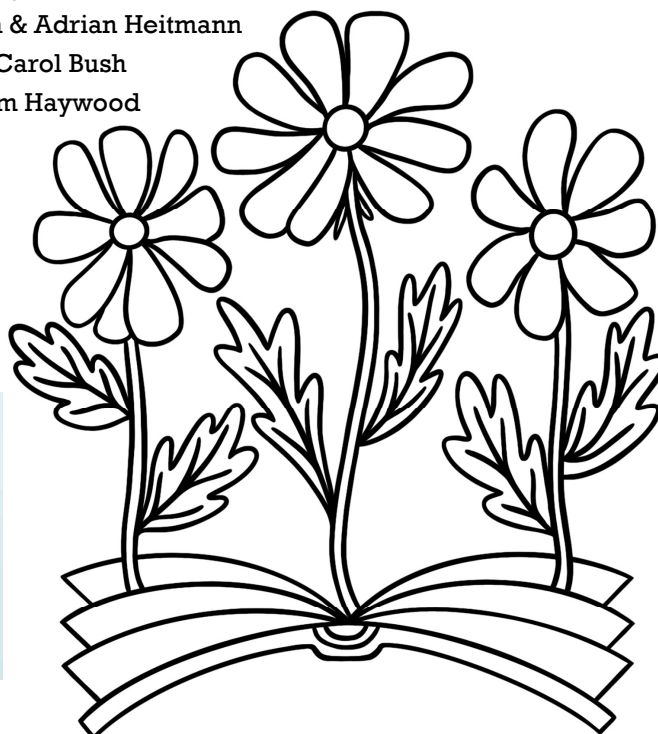
Jun 5 Troy & Paula Hanson  
 Jun 10 Jo Bush  
 Alexis Bolzer  
 Jun 18 Scott & Jo Bush  
 Jun 21 Deena & Adrian Heitmann  
 Jun 24 Jim & Carol Bush  
 Jun 27 William Haywood

### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

### June 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					



**Spend time with God this summer**

Dakotas Annual  
 Conference  
 June 6-8  
 Mitchell,  
 South Dakota



Created for  
**Love**

## Groton Ad Council - May

Chairman AM Mitchell called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were AM Mitchell, Jeanne Wanous, Lon Gellhaus, Linda Thurston, Cliff & Carna Pray, Roger Rix, and Jolene Townsend. Carna Atherton-Pray shared a prayer prior to conducting business.

By general consensus both the agenda and the previous minutes were approved.

### Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: no report

Memorial—Linda Thurston:

Current Memorial Balances:

Designated = \$16,008.78

Undesignated = \$ 7,796.49

Total = \$ 23,805.27

Linda suggested that some memorial money be used to purchase a nicer looking stainless steel trash container to be used for special events in the fellowship hall. She shared a photo and dimensions with the board and stated it would cost approx.

\$175. Roger Rix motioned to approve Linda's suggested purchase using memorial undesignated money. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> and all members voted to approve the motion.

Missions - Val Baker: no report

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: Jolene shared that the high school graduation recognition along with t-shirt gifts related to what the graduates will be doing went very well, with many graduates' family members and friends attending. Jolene did feel that in the future; the event should be held earlier than the Sunday before graduation.

Pastor/Parish Relations: Carna Atherton-Pray stated that a joint PPR meeting with Conde, Groton, and Britton will be held on May 28 at 6:00 pm in Groton, with a meal being served. The group will complete a required church

assessment online, which Pastor Rob needs to complete regarding his position prior to the joint PPR meeting.

They will also be touring the parsonage.

Trustees—Cliff Pray:

Front Door Solutions: Cliff talked with House of Glass regarding our church front door needing to be able to open from the inside for fire safety. They suggested a push bar be installed for approx.. \$4700 while still being able to use the same doors. The council felt further discussion is in order and will revisit this at the next council meeting.

Cliff shared that Jolene Townsend gifted a lawn mower to the church which Chuck Padfield was very pleased with. Thank you, Jolene!! Cliff also stated that the PPR committee is looking into options to remove the bathtub at the parsonage and replace it with a handicap shower. The committee is also looking at other situations in the parsonage that need improvement.

Security Cameras going off & on—Anita: There was no update available.

Cliff stated that he was aware of a downed rain gutter on the west side of the fellowship hall that needs to be repaired.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer—Jeanne Wanous: see monthly report

Financial Secretary—Allen Walter: no report

Pastor Parish—Meri Erickson: no report

Administrative Report: Pastor Rob Pastor Rob stated that he won't be able to attend the Annual Conference due to his current required daily medical treatments. Pastor Rob gave an update regarding treatments going forward. Pastor stated that he has no

issues continuing to serve all three churches.

### Old Business:

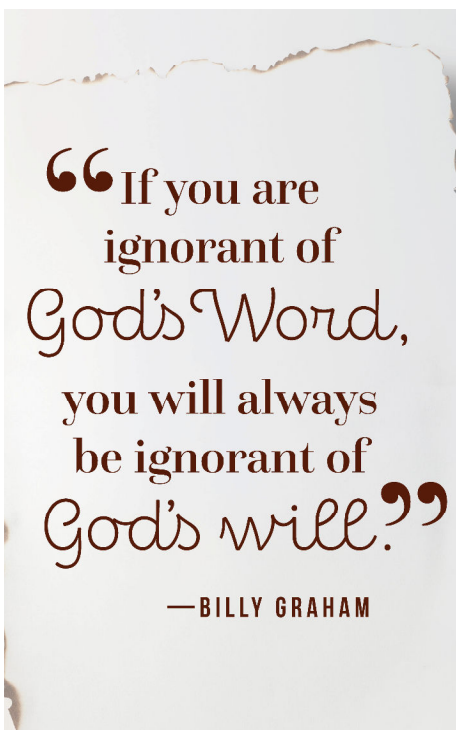
The BAGS Program: Roger Rix stated that this program is now being managed by the Groton Area School and no longer a part of the Groton UMC responsibility.

### New Business:

Outside Office Doorlock Working?: Yes, this has been fixed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 45 pm.















Secretary, Jeanne Wanous





## Groton UMC

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  7th Sunday of Easter (white or gold) Ascension Sunday Communion in Worship (white) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	2 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	3 9:30am Bible Study - Watching a Movie 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center 7:00pm Missions Committee Meeting	4  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	5 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	6 Dakotas Conference @ Mitchell, SD	7 Dakotas Conference @ Mitchell, SD 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
8  (red) Dakotas Conference @ Mitchell, SD <b>Pentecost</b> 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	9 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	10  10:00am NO Bible Study 1:00pm Zeck Funeral 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	11  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	12 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	13	14  <b>Flag Day</b> 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 10:00am Madsen Shower at Golf Course
15  (white or gold) <b>Father's Day</b> Newsletter Items Due <b>Trinity Sunday</b> 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	16 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	17  10:00am Bible Study - New Study Starts 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	18  9:30am Community Coffee Hour 7:00pm Groton Ad Council	19  <b>Juneteenth</b> 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	20  <b>First Day of Summer</b>	21 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
22 2nd Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	23 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	24 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	25  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	26 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	27	28 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
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  <b>Independence Day</b>	5 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown

## June 2025

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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## *Our Church Happenings...*

- June 3 Groton Missions Committee Meeting 7 pm
- June 6-8 Dakotas Conference in Mitchell, SD
- June 8 Pentecost Sunday
- June 10 Zeck Funeral Groton UMC 1 pm
- June 14 Madsen Shower at Golf Course 10 am- noon
- June 15 Trinity Sunday/ Father's Day
- June 17 Groton Tues 10 AM Bible Study starting summer study
- June 18 Groton Ad Council 7 pm