

April 2026

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

Don't Be That Kid

As I was dropping off kids at the Groton Elementary School, I saw a depressing sight. It had snowed over the weekend; the kind of snow which is perfect for making snowmen (or women). What I saw were remains of two and a half snowmen with a young boy kicking away at the third. I saw he had already toppled the head and the part of the body but he was kicking away at the bottom part. I had every urge to yell out the window at him but it would have done no good; the job was finished. As I drove away, I had the thought, "I never want to be that kid."

I have a confession to make: I was that kid, at least where my brothers were concerned. Who doesn't love to run into a room and scatter a well-built "fort" or knock down a house of cards? Having two younger brothers who often get on a person's nerves, and who have dashed more than a few of my creations to pieces, gives me every excuse to "do unto them as they have done unto me." The only problem is this is not the kid who is knocking down the snowmen in the yard. It's much worse. And I've been that kid too.

We are fast approaching Easter (some may even see this newsletter after Easter). It is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the



highpoint of Christian faith and life. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we are offered and given forgiveness of sin and new life in and through Jesus. It would not be exaggeration to estimate thousands of books have been written trying to explain all the implications of Easter. I think it comes down to that kid in the yard.

Do you remember the story of Jesus standing before Pilate and Pilate, as was his custom, offered to release a prisoner? Matthew puts it this way, "Meanwhile, the leading priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death." (Mt. 27:20). It's easy to be part of the crowd, to do what everyone else is doing, to be "persuaded" to do something, even though it might be some-

thing you should think twice about doing. "Hey, why not kick over a snowman? It's there to be knocked over. No one will care. It's just another snowman." "Hey, why not pick on the stranger, everyone else does it, that stranger talks funny anyway." "Why not cheat (on your taxes, on your spouse, on your kids, etc.)? Everyone does it. Who's going to notice?"

I have another confession to make: I've been that kid too, and perhaps you have as well. It's being the person who takes the easy way or does something because it feels okay at the moment. It's called sin and it's the reason Jesus went to the cross. He took the "hard way" and died for you and me. One of my favorite praise songs has the line, "For even in your suffering You saw to the other side

Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake you died."

Easter not only says we are forgiven for "being that kid" but we also don't have to live like him either. Jesus invites us to new life in Him. Sure, there will be days we are tempted to "kick the snowman," to take the easy way out. Why not? Everyone else does it! But we don't have to live there, and we certainly don't need to carry the guilt our past.

My hope and prayer for you is that you know this forgiveness and new life through Jesus Christ! Happy Easter!

See you in church!

OFFICE HOURS



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

Monday
Day Off





Apr. 5 – No SS (Easter)
 12 – SS 9:30
 19 – SS 9:30
 26 – SS 9:30
 May 3 – SS 9:30
 10 – Last Day of SS – Sing in church-SS follows
 (Mother’s Day)

2026 Month	Offering Received	Needed for Budget	Average Attendance	Received for Building Maintenance
January	6,833	9,946	47	355
February	4,007	9,946	57	305
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
YTD Totals	10,840	19,892	52	660

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

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/grotonsduc/
 906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

Max Clauson Update

15 months down, 12 left to go!

We celebrated on 3/12 because Max officially has one more year of chemo left and will be, Max will be 'ringing the bell' on 3/12/27! He's still in his maintenance phase and overall doing well. He gets daily oral chemo and goes to the Castle one time a month to see his friends at the oncology clinic. Every three months he gets a lumbar puncture and IV chemo. We still watch him close for fevers, he did have to make a trip to the ER last week for some IV antibiotics, due to a cold. But overall, I feel like we've found a good routine! Max loves going to preschool and has made new little friends! His resilience continues to amaze us.

A few weeks ago, we were able to go to Disney World for Max's Make a Wish trip! Words can't express how grateful we are for Make a Wish- their donors and

volunteers, that we got to take this magical trip. It was the experience of a lifetime. Max got to meet Woody and Buzz and we all had the best time together! It was amazing spend this time away for a week and we'll be forever thankful for the experience- Make a Wish is truly a wonderful organization. We stayed at Give Kids the World Village, a special resort for Wish kids, and it was amazing! The kids loved swimming and getting some sun in!

This experience has made us appreciate so many different things- blood donors, volunteers, family and friends who continue to check in on us and offer help!

We appreciate everyone continuing to pray for our little guy! We feel all of the love and know how lucky we are that Max is in a pretty stable place!

Karlie CaringBridge Update





Groton UMC Welcomed

On Palm Sunday we welcomed the following new members

- * Trey Tietz
- * Jace Hofer
- * Nolan Bahr
- * Graham Rose
- * Peyton Padfield
- * Harlan Place
- * Peggy Place
- * Delaney Atherton
- * Mackenzie Atherton

Palm Sunday Baptisms Thank You

- * Macklin Michael McCranie born Nov 16, 2025. Parents are Matthew McCranie and Morgan McCranie
- * Simon Joseph Sperry born August 25, 2025 . Parents are Travis and Alexandra Sperry

We are so grateful to the parish for the generous gifts and support given to us for our sons' baptisms on Sunday, March 29th. The kindness and thoughtfulness mean so much to our family, and we feel truly blessed to be part of such a caring community. Thank you for helping make this day so special for Simon and Macklin and our families.

With Love,

- Matt, Morgan, Mattilynn, Malilyah, and Macklin McCranie
- TJ, Alexa, Spencer, Reagan, and Simon Sperry

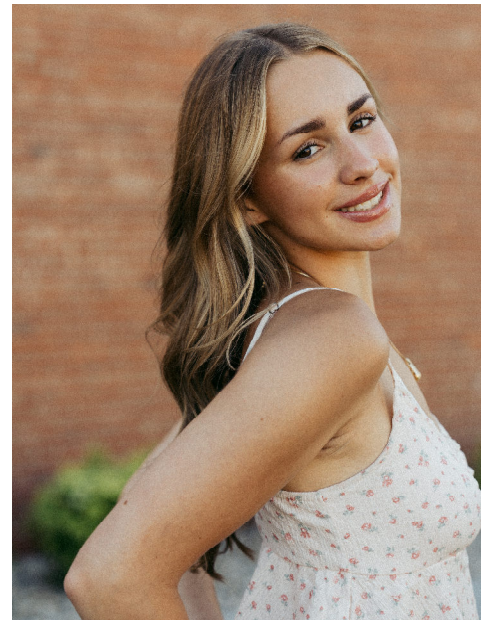




Gage Sippel
SDSU - Exercise Science



Ryder Johnson
DWU - Business Admin



London Bahr
NSU



April 26th

Graduation
SUNDAY



Carly Gilbert
University of Nebraska
School of Business



Emma Davies
LAVTS - Cosmetology



Breslyn Jeschke
Aims Community College
Greeley CO - Radiology





Dear Camp Families

As you look ahead to Summer 2026, Dakotas United Methodist Camps is excited to share updated discounts and incentives to make camp more affordable.

Here's what's available for 2026:

Early Bird Camp Store Credit: Campers who register for summer and fall programs by April 30 will receive a **\$25 camp store credit!** Camp staff will apply the credit to eligible accounts beginning on May 1. (Note: This replaces the Early Bird Discount of \$5 off per night.)

The Bring-a-Friend Discount has doubled! Campers will now receive **\$50.00**** off the price of their camp for each *new camper that they bring to camp. Simply list their friend's name in the Bring-a-Friend Discount Request form located in the [online registration](#) dashboard. Camp staff will apply the discount after their friend registers for camp.

* New campers are defined as those who have not been to any Dakotas United Methodist Camp event in the past three years. **Discounts cannot exceed the cost of the registration fee.

Camperships: We believe cost should never be a barrier to attending camp. Our need-based camperships are designed to partner with support from a camper's local church, family funds, and other sources to cover the registration cost for one program each year. Campers can submit an [application for a campership](#) after registering for their chosen program.

If you have questions or would like help navigating the process, our camp office staff are always ready to assist! You can reach us by email at info@dakcamps.org or by phone at 855-622-1973. We look forward to welcoming campers to another fantastic summer at Dakotas United Methodist Camps!

The Camp Ministry Team

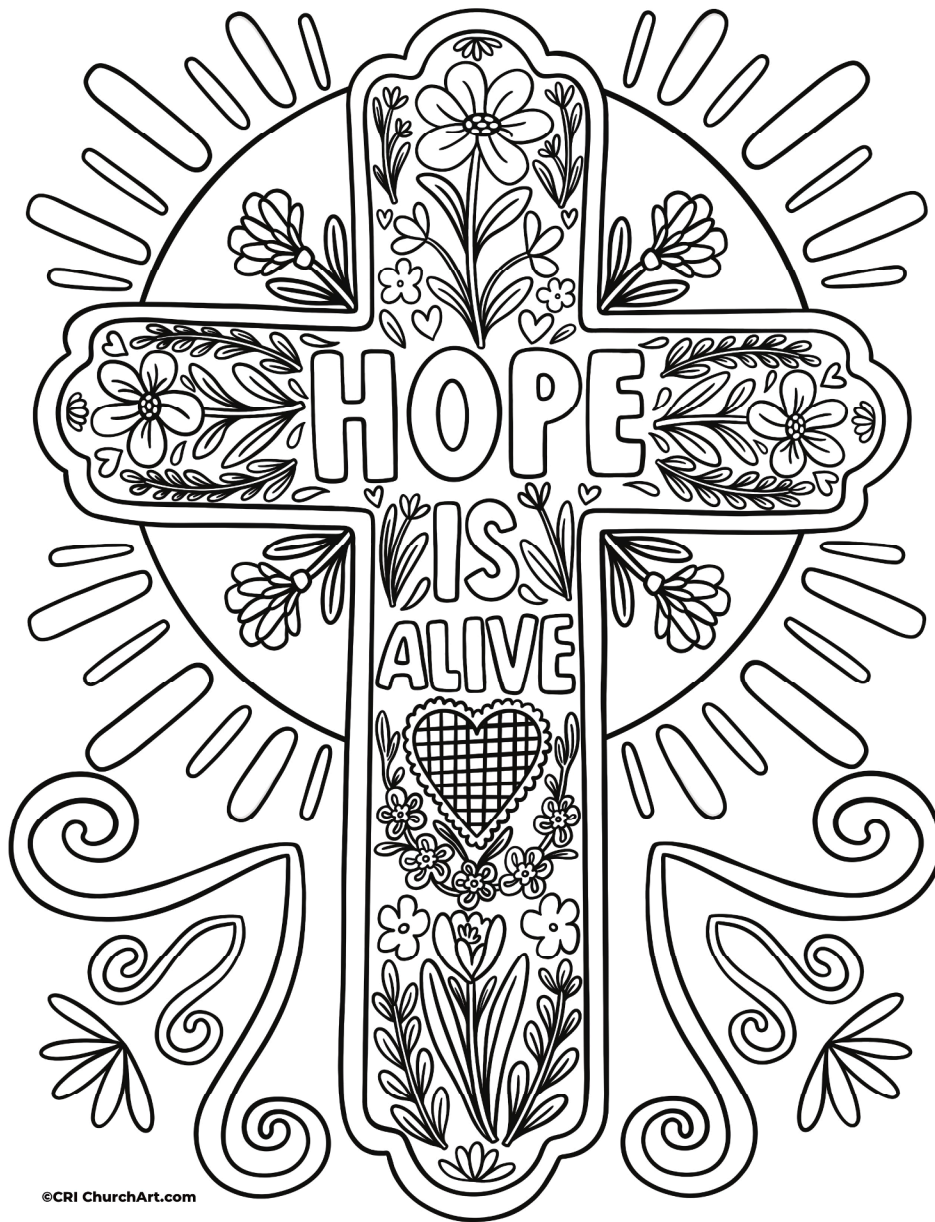
Scholarships are available for students wishing to attend camp from the Groton UMC.

Work at camp!

All locations hiring

Looking for more information about seasonal and summer jobs at camp? These job descriptions lay it out for you, but don't forget about the things a job description can't describe: the community, growth, and adventures you'll find at camp and the skills, curiosity, and resilience you bring with you!





Serving Joyfully Looks Like...

Across the Dakotas, **United Methodists are Serving Joyfully** in their churches and communities –people of different ages and differing abilities, people who have been a part of the church for years and those who have just gotten connected, members of churches in large cities and rural communities. These individuals faithfully share their time and talents in ways that give glimpses of the selfless, sacrificial love of Christ. We want to celebrate these small but significant acts of service.

We invite you to record and submit a short video (less than 30 seconds) or written testimony about examples of serving joyfully in your church or community. We will share these during annual conference session as well as on social media throughout the year so that we can continue to spur one another on toward love and good deeds! Check out **this form** for more information and share your story **before May 18th!** And thank YOU for all you do to Serve Joyfully!

Addressed to God

A letter written in a childish scrawl arrived at the post office addressed simply to “God.” Unsure what to do, a postal employee opened it and read: “Dear God, my name is Jimmy. I am 6 years old. My father is dead, and my mother is having a hard time raising me and my sister. Would you please send us \$500?”

Moved by the boy’s plea, the employee shared the letter with coworkers, and together they collected \$300 to send to the family.

A couple of weeks later, another letter arrived. Jimmy thanked God for the money and added one final request: “Next time would you please deliver the money directly to our home? If you send it through the post office, they deduct \$200.”



Groton Family Committee - May

MAY 2026 Chairpersons

Chuck Padfield
Angela and Perryn Dobbins

Brian Bahr
Val Baker
Lousie and Bernard Daniels
Angela and Perryn Dobbins
Kristin Dolan
Adrienne and Tigh Flihs
Cheryl Hanson
Sarah and Rick Hofer
Linda and Jay Johnson
Yvonne Lange
Shelly Lerew
Kami and Tom Lipp
Laurie and AM Mitchell
Chuck Padfield
Joey and Sabrina Padfield
Karla Pasteur
Peggy and Harlan Place
Sue and Randy Stanley
Crystal Strom
Todd Thurston

Honorary Members

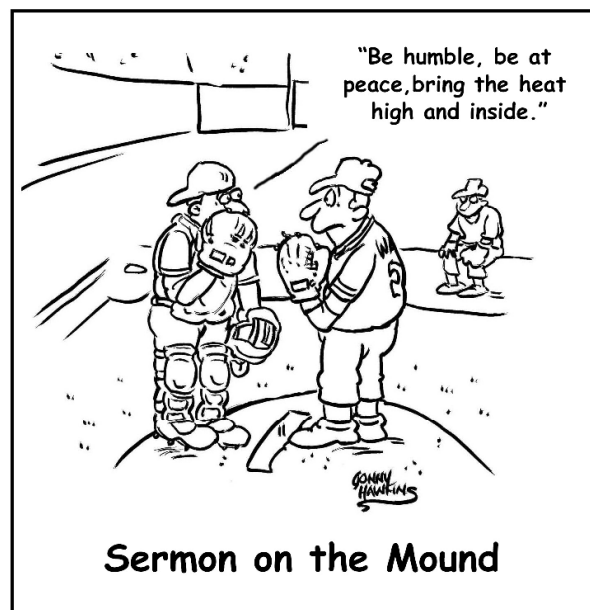
Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt
Ida Hannon
Gloria Pharis
Judy Zeck

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)
- 1 Greeter 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
- Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to church treasurer



May 2026						
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						



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Apr 3 Maliyah McCranie
Marc Johnson
Nolan Rose
Myndi & Scott Kampa
Elleit Severson
- Apr 4 Sue Stanley
Mitchell Madsen
- Apr 5 Wyatt Kurtz
- Apr 7 Reilly Ell
Shelly Lerew
Jackson & Lindsey Strom
- Apr 8 Lon Gellhaus
Willa Olson
- Apr 11 Taylor Thompson
- Apr 12 Erin Bahr
- Apr 14 Toby Dobbins
- Apr 15 Nolan Bahr
Bernard Daniels
- Apr 16 Tom Tietz
Dale & Traci Kramer

- Apr 18 Jenna Strom
Merrie Atherton
- Apr 21 Val Baker
Bernard Daniels - son
- Apr 22 Ali Pasteur
- Apr 24 Rae Fliehs
- Apr 30 Michael McCranie
Breslyn Jeschke

Conde

- Apr 18 Loren Siefken

Britton

- Apr 2 Braun Kadoun
- Apr 24 Diana MacKenzie

Corrections and Additions are appreciated. Please email the office: grotonumc@nvc.net



A Hymn Mix-Up With a Message

C. Gray Norsworthy, a pastor in Atlanta, once shared a story about the woman who prepared his worship bulletin. She was faithful in her work but didn't have much background in church hymns. One week, Pastor Norsworthy handed her a draft of the service and hoped she could decipher his handwriting.

When he reviewed the finished bulletin, he noticed the final hymn was titled "Just As I Am, Without a Clue."

Whether it's "without a clue" or "without a plea," the truth remains the same: we all come to Jesus just as we are — and we all need him.



The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

Groton Ad Council - March

Chairman, AM Mitchell, called the meeting to order. In attendance were AM & Laurie Mitchell, Jeanne Wanous, Anita Lowary, Linda Thurston, Val Baker, Lon Gellhaus, Joleen Townsend, Casey Richmond, Cliff & Carna Pray, and Allen Walter. Pastor Rob shared a prayer prior to the discussion of business.

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

Correspondence: Jeanne shared information from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF). The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF) is accepting scholarship applications for the 2022-2023 academic year between January 1 – March 1, 2022. Students who are members of The United Methodist Church and planning to attend a United Methodist-related school, college, university, or seminary full-time are eligible to apply. Pastor Rob will make sure our Groton Area Guidance Counselor has information regarding this scholarship fund.

Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: Anita stated that 32 letters regarding recipients' wishes to remain as a Groton UMC member or wishes to be removed. To date, Anita has had four responses.

Memorial—Linda Thurston: No Report
Missions --Val Baker/Carna Atherton-Pray: Carna stated that the Flood Bucket & supplies donation would wrap up this by the end of this week, March 28. We are pleased to have collected approximately 8 complete buckets. This group is also working with the Sunday School department to put together 45 Easter baskets to be given out on Palm Sunday to our Sunday school students and other youngsters during our service.

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: Jolene shared that we have had 1 blessing shower already this year and are planning for 2

this coming Sunday. In addition, the Caring Team is preparing to celebrate our graduating seniors on April 26. We will be celebrating with 7 seniors. The Caring team will meet again on April 12 during coffee hour.

Pastor/Parish Relations: Carna stated that this group met recently and assured that all of Pastor Rob's vacations days are covered. The group plans to complete a church assessment for all three churches at their next scheduled meeting.

Trustees—Cliff Pray:

Cliff reported that Heartland Heating was here to check on a leak. Their plan will be to come back when we turn the boiler off and then work on a solution to current issues.

Regarding tinting of upper-level sanctuary windows to improve clarity when viewing the large upfront screen, Cliff has found a reasonably priced tinted film that he feels will address this problem.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous: Jeanne mentioned that February 2026 offerings were higher than the same month in 2024 & 2025. There was a suggestion from a council member to consider entering the annual investment income as a separate line item for each year rather than including that amount in the general fund.

Endowments: Lon Gellhaus reviewed the current funds from deceased church members as well as stating that we expect to receive some additional funds from another deceased member in the near future. Linda Thurston, who is working on the committee for the kitchen update, asked if there was a specific amount from endowments that could be used for the project. This question will have to be further researched before an answer can be given.

Administrative Report: Pastor Rob Pastor Rob shared that both Conde & Britton seemed excited about the Mission Flood Bucket project. Since neither church has a formal mission's group, they would like to be included in future projects.

Pastor Rob stated that our Palm Sunday service will include 1) Sunday school children with palms & singing; 2) Baptism of two baby boys; 3) Recognition of new members.

There will be Maundy Thursday services in Groton at 6:00 pm.

Easter: Groton services are planned for 9:30 am as normal.

Old Business:

Kitchen Remodel: Linda Thurston took time to report on what work has been done with the kitchen remodel committee to date.

She shared components of three different options. For all options, she shared examples of different designs as well as samples of components such as counter tops, cabinets (tops & bottoms), flooring, layout, number of sinks, possible new ovens &/or stoves, possible contractors, and financial quotes.

Council members shared their thoughts, and Linda will take that information back to the Kitchen Committee to have further discussion.













New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm. Secretary, Jeanne Wanous



Groton UMC

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p>  <p>Membership Sunday Palm Sunday 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School sings in worship 9:40am Groton Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Maundy Thursday 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service Groton</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Good Friday 12:00pm Good Friday Service in Britton 5:00pm Good Friday Service in Conde</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>Communion in Worship (white) Easter Sunday 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am NO Groton Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour 6:00pm UMYF Eggravagant Egg hunt and Brunch</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>12</p>  <p>2nd Sunday of Easter (white) Caring Team Meeting after worship 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Sunday School 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour 7:00pm Groton Ad Council</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>19</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Easter (white) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Sunday School 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Earth Day 9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>Newsletter Items Due 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00pm Cody Swanson Piano Recital</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>26</p>  <p>4th Sunday of Easter (white) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Sunday School 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>



Our Church Happenings...

- April 2 Maundy Thursday Service Groton 6 pm
- April 3 Good Friday Service Britton at noon
- April 3 Good Friday Service Conde at 5 pm
- April 5 Easter Sunday Services are at all the normal times
 - Conde 8:15 am
 - Groton 9:30 am
 - Britton 11:15 am
- April 8 Groton UMYF Egg-Stravaganza at 6 pm
- April 12 Groton Caring Team Meeting following Worship
- April 15 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- April 23 Newsletter Items Due
- April 26 Groton Graduation Sunday

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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