



March 2026

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

FLYING SIDEWAYS

I saw, what I thought, was a strange sight tonight. As I was driving toward Groton from the north, I saw many flocks of birds flying west and other flocks of birds flying east. I thought birds went north and south. I suppose a bird expert could tell me about this strange sight but it was interesting to see and think about.

South Dakota is a major "fly way" for all kinds of birds and in the northeast area of the state we have plenty of low areas filled with water. I suppose the birds are going from water hole to water hole. The weather has been rather mild so it makes sense for the birds to be looking for a place to stay. On the other hand, we know cold weather is coming so wouldn't the smart be to start flying in one direction?

I always thought the shortest distance between two points was a straight line. And that reminds me of Isaiah's prophecy about John the Baptist, "Make straight in the desert a highway for our Lord." (40:3) But I think we all know our lives, our plans are hardly ever a straight line.

One of my dear friends recently lost her husband after many years of declining health and battling a few



different health challenges. In one way, I feel a sense of peace for my friend because we know her husband had faith rooted in Jesus, and it's always comforting to know he is fully well. On the other hand, we always grieve with friends who were married for so long and had wonderful memories from earlier days. You might think the days since my friend's loss might get a little "straighter," not having to deal with health issue after health issue. Instead, my friend promptly fell breaking her ankle requiring surgery. Now, she is laid up for a few weeks. What's the cliché, "When it rains it pours." My friend is experiencing "flying sideways" for a bit.

I know I've had that

experience, and it doesn't have to be health-related. I still have not forgotten the day when the bishop of the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church told me I was being sent back to pastor in a local church after administering the pension and health benefits for just three short years. It turns out the leadership of the Conference wanted to "re-structure" and "re-align" some of the administrative work. Within three months I was back in the Northern Plains pastoring a church just when I thought the "straight line" to retirement went through Kentucky. Have you had a similar experience?

One of my favorite stories about Jesus is when he comes up to walk with two

men on their way home to Emmaus (Luke 24:13ff). The men are discussing all the events which have "thrown them sideways" concerning the death of Jesus when Jesus suddenly appears with them, walking and asking them questions. I love the fact Jesus "walks" with them even when they are going sideways, not understanding everything which happened. I love the fact Jesus talks with them, explaining scripture and then goes into their home to eat with them. In other words, Jesus takes the time, just as He's doing with my friend and just as He did with me in Kentucky. And with you too.

See you in church!

OFFICE HOURS



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

Monday
Day Off





**Oaklynn Marie
Daly**
February 15, 2026
Baptized



BABY SHOWER

**MEMBERSHIP
SUNDAY**

for Mason and Tally Madsen baby on March 28 from 10 am to noon at the Groton UMC. Hosted by friends and family. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate!

If anyone is interested in joining our church, please mention this to Pastor Rob so he can set up an appointment.

Church Membership Recognition will be during our worship service on Palm Sunday, March 29th.

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

Memorial Gifts

Thank you to the family of Jim Zeck for Sunday School Curriculum for 2nd half of the year and supplies for the Christmas Program and after practice treats for the kids.

WITH sympathy

to the family of
Gerald Schneider
he passed away
February 9
Member of
Britton UMC



Church Information

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

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

Mission Kits - UMCOR

The Mission Committee will be collecting items for a Cleaning Kit that is distributed by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kits sent to Midwest Missions, a non-profit supply depot. The kit is used in disasters such as floods and tornadoes when clean up of homes and other buildings is needed. We will be collecting supplies through Lent, February 18 through April 4, 2026. The contents for the kits are listed below and are on a list on the table at the back of the church, along with a sample kit. As you bring items for the kit to the church, check off what you have brought on the board so others can see what is still needed. Our goal is to make up five kits plus the one already made as a sample. Envelopes for financial gifts are also on the table and can be placed in the offering plate at the back of the church. All of items will be placed in a 5-gallon bucket with a cover that the Missions Committee will supply. The kits will be taken to Asbury UMC in Sioux Falls which is a drop off location for Midwest Missions. Please pick up a list and pick something to do-

nate. You do not need to bring everything for a kit - for example you could bring trash bags – one or two or all five boxes of bags or bring one bottle of cleaner. Together we will get all five kits filled.

UMCOR Disaster Kit List

- ⇒ 1 - 32-40 oz bottle liquid laundry detergent
- ⇒ 1 - 16-40 oz liquid concentrate household cleaner
- ⇒ 1 - 16-34 oz liquid dish soap
- ⇒ 1 - scrub brush – with or without handle
- ⇒ 18 – reusable cleaning wipes (not microfiber or disposable)
- ⇒ 5- scouring pads (no soap)
- ⇒ 24- heavy duty trash bags (33-45 gallon size)
- ⇒ 2 pair kitchen gloves
- ⇒ 1 pair work gloves



When Life Needs a Little Wind

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves.

Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

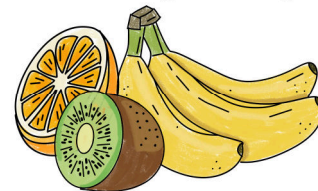
—Jane Truax



These cheerful “palm trees” make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Scripture Tie-In:

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)



Lenten Reading Plan: A Countdown of Hope

Get ready for Easter with this family Bible Reading Plan. From Ash Wednesday to Resurrection Sunday, read a promise from God each day. May God bless you as you discover his love and faithfulness through Scripture.

- The **Promise** of a Savior, *Genesis 3:15*
- The **Promise** to Never Again Flood the Earth, *Genesis 9:13-15*
- The **Promise** to Bless Abraham, *Genesis 12:1-3*
- The **Promise** to Multiply Abraham's Offspring, *Genesis 22:17-18*
- The **Promise** of Deliverance, *Exodus 3:7-8*
- The **Promise** of God's Presence, *Exodus 33:14*
- The **Promise** of Blessing for Obedience, *Leviticus 26:3-12*
- The **Promise** to Raise Up a Prophet, *Deuteronomy 18:15*
- The **Promise** of Strength Through God, *Joshua 1:6-9*
- The **Promise** of an Everlasting Covenant, *2 Samuel 7:12-16*
- The **Promise** of a Shepherd, *Psalms 23*
- The **Promise** of Wisdom, *Proverbs 2:1-6*
- The **Promise** of a Messiah, *Isaiah 9:1-7*
- The **Promise** to Strengthen and Help, *Isaiah 41:9-10*
- The **Promise** of a Suffering Servant, *Isaiah 53*
- The **Promise** of Restoration, *Jeremiah 29:10-14*
- The **Promise** of a New Covenant, *Jeremiah 31:31-34*
- The **Promise** of Renewal, *Ezekiel 37:1-14*
- The **Promise** of the Spirit, *Joel 2:28-29*
- The **Promise** of Jesus, *Luke 2:1-20*
- The **Promise** of Provision, *Matthew 6:25-34*
- The **Promise** of Rest, *Matthew 11:28-29*
- The **Promise** of Eternal Life, *John 3:16-17*
- The **Promise** of Christ's Return, *John 14:1-3*
- The **Promise** of Peace, *John 14:27*
- The **Promise** of Answered Prayer, *John 15:7*
- The **Promise** of Guidance, *John 16:13*
- The **Promise** of Power from on High, *Acts 1:8*
- The **Promise** of Grace, *Romans 6:14*
- The **Promise** of Freedom from Condemnation, *Romans 8:1-4*
- The **Promise** of Adoption, *Romans 8:15-17*
- The **Promise** of Purpose, *Romans 8:28*
- The **Promise** of Victory Over Death, *1 Corinthians 15:54-57*
- The **Promise** of Comfort, *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*
- The **Promise** of New Life, *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- The **Promise** of God's Faithfulness, *2 Thessalonians 3:3-5*
- The **Promise** of Eternal Glory, *2 Timothy 2:11-13*
- The **Promise** of Perseverance, *James 1:2-4*
- The **Promise** of a New Heaven and a New Earth, *Revelation 21:1-4*

Try the bonus activities to make Lent more meaningful

Family Lenten Activities

Make promise stones. Paint and display small stones that remind you how God keeps his promises.

Fill a jar with blessings. During Lent, jot down ways that God is faithful to you. On Easter, read aloud the slips of paper as a family.



COURTS OF COURAGE

Featuring Guest Speaker

Seth Franco
Former Harlem Globetrotter

Sponsored by

ABERDEEN CIVIC ARENA
ABERDEEN, SD MARCH 18 ~ 7PM

HOPE
LIVES
BECAUSE
JESUS
LIVES.

CELEBRATE
THE EMPTY
TOMB.

EASTER SUNDAY

Setting captives free

Though St. Patrick’s Day has become a secular “holiday,” March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn’t very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. “The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes” in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there, and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.

In *Confessio 61*, St. Patrick writes, “I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation ... except the Gospel and God’s promises.”



Groton Family Committee - April

APRIL 2026 Chairpersons

Merrie and Josh Atherton
 Laurel and Monte McNickle

Merrie and Josh Atherton
 Amber and Adrian Daly
 Kay and Doug Daly
 Lucy Daly
 Evan Erickson
 Megan and Seth Erickson
 Kelli and Lars Hanson
 Paula and JR Johnson
 Mendy and Jim Jones
 Sydney and Trent Kurtz
 Laurel and Monte McNickle
 Rebecca and Randy Padfield
 Karen and Ian Rose
 Fran and Marc Sippel
 Tom Strom
 Linda and Gary Thurston
 Joyce and Allen Walter
 William Zoellner

Honorary Members

Caralee Heitmann
 Richard Krueger
 Ruby Luce
 Janet Graf

- 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)
- Help with Easter Breakfast -2nd Sunday if held.
- 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
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- **Order and Pickup Graduation Cake for coffee hour. Honor the Graduates on Sunday, April 26, 2026**
- Gifts & Table are organized by The Caring Team

April 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		



- Mar. 1 – SS 9:30
 8 – SS 9:30
 15 – SS 9:30
 22 – No SS (Spring Break)
 29 – Palm Sunday – Sing in church 9:30-SS follows
- 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)

Lessons From A Little Voice

A woman invited several guests over for dinner. When everyone gathered around the table, she turned to her 6-year-old daughter and asked, “Would you like to say the blessing?”

“I don’t know what to say,” the little girl replied. Her mother smiled. “Just say what you hear Mommy say.”

The child bowed her head and prayed sincerely, “Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?”

GROTON UMC OFFERING STATISTICS

2026 Month	Offering Received	Needed for Budget	Average Attendance	Received for Building Maintenance
January	6,833	9,946		355
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
YTD Totals	6,833	9,946	0	355

Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Mar 3 Kennedy Ball
Tristan Kampa
Christina Zoellner
- Mar 4 Kay Daly
Kale Pharis
- Mar 5 Bentley Johnson
Chance Strom
- Mar 7 Brian Bahr
- Mar 8 Lindsey & Tom Tietz
Vic Fliehs
- Mar 9 Betty Strom
- Mar 10 Lindsey Strom
- Mar 13 Ron Anderson
- Mar 14 Mendy Jones
Sydney Erickson
- Mar 15 Sam Weber
- Mar 16 Lane Tietz
- Mar 17 Asher Johnson
- Mar 21 Harlan Place
- Mar 24 Emerlee Jones

- Mar 25 Laurel McNickle
- Mar 26 Chloe Daly
Mark Thompson
- Mar 27 Dwight Strom
Michelle Walter
- Mar 29 Sharon Wheeting
- Mar 31 Aiden Strom
Caralee Heitmann
Henry Townsend

Conde

- Mar 23 Greg Peterson
- Mar 31 Renee Hanlon

Britton

- Mar 30 Dorthy Schneider (90)
- Mar 31 Tyler Bush



90TH BIRTHDAY

March 30th
Dorthy Schneider
1409 West 6th St
Britton, SD 57430



ROOSTER — The rooster reminds us of Peter’s threefold denial of Jesus on the night of his trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV). Because of this, it often symbolizes human weakness and faithlessness—especially when faith is tested. Yet, the rooster also calls to mind watchfulness. Its early-morning crowing echoes Jesus’ words about being alert for his return: “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn” (Mark 13:35, NIV).



Groton Ad Council - Feb

Chairman, AM Mitchell, called the meeting to order. In attendance were AM Mitchell, Jeanne Wanous, Anita Lowary, Meri Erickson, Linda Thurston, and Allen Walter. Cliff & Carna Pray and Val Baker arrived after the meeting began. Anita Lowary shared a prayer prior to the discussion of 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 letter regarding updating our members list. She asked for council members' input to ensure that it was properly worded. Council members shared their feedback and with that in mind, Anita will soon be sending this letter out. She also announced that Palm Sunday, March 29, has been designated as a day to recognize new members to the Groton UMC.

Memorial—Linda Thurston: Linda reviewed current memorial dollars in the memorial account as of 1/31/2026. They are:
Designated: \$16,825.88
Undesignated: \$ 9,601.71
Total: \$ 26,427.59

Linda also shared that the memorial fund includes designated dollars for the kitchen update project. In addition, Linda mentioned that a few church members had done some preliminary investigation into options for the kitchen update along with some \$ figures, which she shared.

The council agreed that we should make one more announcement in church on March 1, asking that people interested in being a part of the kitchen remodel committee should notify Carna Atherton-Pray immediately.

Per Anita Lowary: Anita stated that Lowary memorial money should be used first for film for windows before the kitchen remodel.

Anita volunteered to investigate ways to find where water leaks might have originated in the kitchen floor area.

Missions --Val Baker/Carna Atherton-Pray: Carna reminded the council about our current project which is collecting items for 6 UMCOR Disaster Kits.

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: no report

Pastor/Parish Relations: A meeting will be held sometime in March.

Trustees—Cliff Pray: Cliff checked into businesses who could do window tinting and found that to do one window it would cost \$200 + labor. Since we need to tint four windows, he felt that would be too costly. He will continue to investigate other options & vendors.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer—Jeanne Wanous:
Dakotas Methodist Foundation Annual Distribution: Jeanne shared the annual distribution amounts from the Dakotas Methodist Foundation that are made possible through the generosity of past members of the Groton UMC. Deceased members of the Groton UMC who have generously left an endowment are Gerald & Anna Rix, Mamie Johnson (for camping), and Richard Voss. This year the Methodist Foundation was able to distribute 4.5% of the average balance of each endowment to our Groton UMC.

Groton UMC Apportionment Annual Giving: Jeanne also shared that the Groton UMC has increased their aver-

age apportionment giving amounts to the NE District of the UMC every year since 2022. These funds are used to collectively fund ministries, missions, and administrative costs that individual congregations cannot achieve alone, as well as funding projects beyond local capacity, such as national & global.

Administrative Report: Pastor Rob was not present as he is at the annual UMC conference.

New Business:

Annual Audit: Anita reviewed the annual audit report of 2025. She found all records to be in order. She did however need to make one adjustment regarding camping funds that had not been corrected in a previous audit.













The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Secretary, Jeanne Wanous



March 2026

Groton UMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>2nd Sunday in Lent (purple)</p> <p>8:15am Conde Worship</p> <p>9:30am Groton Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am Groton Worship</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>3</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>4</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>World Day of Prayer</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>3rd Sunday in Lent (purple)</p> <p>Daylight-Saving Time Begins</p> <p>8:15am Conde Worship</p> <p>9:30am Groton Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am Groton Worship</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>10</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>11</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>15</p> <p>4th Sunday in Lent (purple)</p> <p>8:15am Conde Worship</p> <p>9:30am Groton Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am Groton Worship</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	 <p>St. Patrick's Day</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>18</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p> <p>7:00pm Groton Ad Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Newsletter Items Due</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>First Day of Spring</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>22</p> <p>5th Sunday in Lent (purple)</p> <p>8:15am Conde Worship</p> <p>9:30am Groton Worship</p> <p>9:30am NO Groton Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>24</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>25</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p> <p>10:00am Mason & Tally Madsen Baby Shower</p>
<p>29</p>  <p>Membership Sunday</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>8:15am Conde Worship</p> <p>9:30am Groton Worship</p> <p>9:30am Sunday School sings in worship</p> <p>9:40am Groton Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>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</p> <p>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p> <p>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</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Good Friday</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>



Our Church Happenings...

March 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 20 First Day of Spring

March 29 Palm Sunday

Membership Sunday in Groton

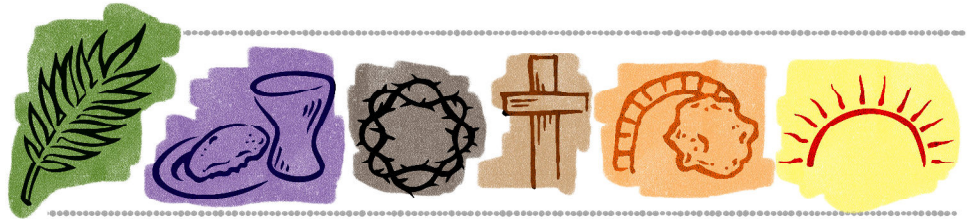
Groton Sunday School Children singing during worship

April 2 Maundy Thursday

April 3 Good Friday

April 5 Easter Sunday

March 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				



Holy Week