



October 2024

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Rob

Psalm 18:30 - God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

A news article caught my eye the other day. The headline read, "We need to adjust our clocks." I thought it was just another opinion piece opinion why we should Daylight Savings Time and the sluggishness of Congress to do it. (On a personal note, I would simply like us to stay on the same time so I never get caught being too early or too late for something.)

However, the article was actually about the fact we have "lost" about one second over the course of the past few years. How do we "lose" time? The article went on to explain most people understand a trip around the sun to be 24 hours; the problem with the assumption is that a trip around the sun takes "about" 24 hours and thinking about it that way leads to an incorrect assumption.

When the "atomic clock" was invented, scientists thought they could get the precise time nailed down. But the problem



with the atomic clock is that the earth and the universe are constantly moving and "adjusting." One scientist compared the earth's subtle movements to the settling of a house. Scientists have discovered the earth moves according to several factors including the heating and cooling cycle of its molten core and the pull and tug of the moon's gravity. So, because of all this movement, we've lost a second somewhere in the last few years.

My opinion is that God is having a real good laugh over all of this concern about time and how we calculate it. I know God has a great sense of humor, and it would not surprise me if He is not One "pulling and tugging" or "heating and cooling."

More importantly, I think God gets a chuckle out of what we pursue in a search for perfection. While getting time right is important for many things (Did you know, for example, when setting the timing of respirators people need to breathe, doctors "time in" a person taking a sigh about every ten breaths?), we need to keep in mind the only One who is perfect is God. And while we reach for perfection in seeking to follow Jesus, God does not get mad or frustrated with us when we don't reach it. Instead, He helps us up, forgives us and is our "shield" as we press on. See you in church!

An autumn poem

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.

I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

—Emily Brontë



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

Monday
Day Off

3rd Graders Receiving Bibles
 September 15th during worship
 Calli Wilkinson, Bo Fliehs, Nolan Rose,
 Ava Strom, and Bentley Johnson



Relax, Refresh, Renew
 Women's Retreat
 Storm Mountain Center
 October 25-27

During this year's women's retreat our theme is A Hope Deferred: A Biblical Woman's Perspective when Life Doesn't Go Exactly as Planned. Our intention is to look at different biblical woman's stories in which life took unexpected turns. Walk with us and Lot's wife, Hagar, Jael, Esther and the Hemorrhaging woman as we journey through hope deferred. Aspects of the retreat will include free time to hike or

relax in the beauty of the Black Hills. Discover different spiritual disciplines that may be new to you or refreshers of some you might already practice. You will be well fed and pampered over this weekend intended to help you refresh, relax and renew your relationship with God and others. Check out the DakCamps website for more information and to register.

Oct 13th
11:30 am



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



Pauline Luce

Died Sept 3, 2024



Make this craft as a helpful reminder of Jesus' free gift of grace.



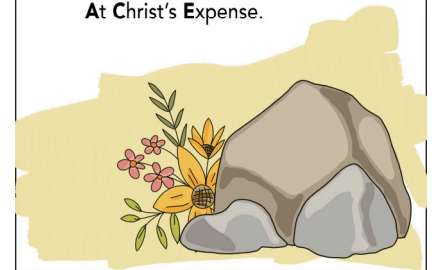
What you need:

- Small cardboard box
- Small stones
- Tape
- Wrapping paper and bow
- Permanent marker

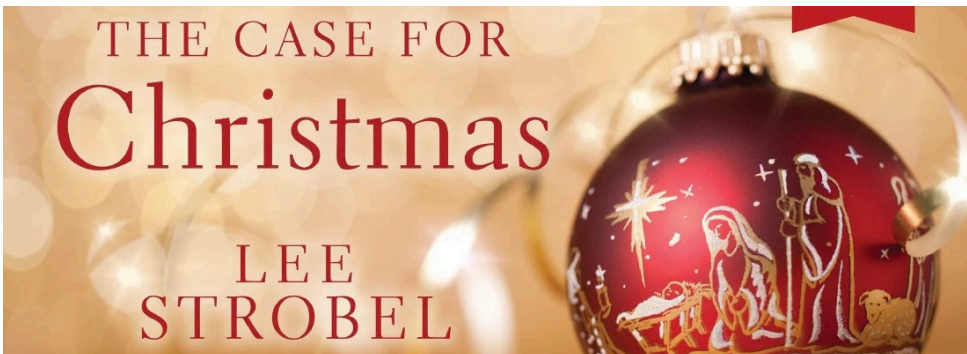
What you do:

1. Fill the box with small stones to weigh it down. Tape the box securely closed.
2. Wrap the box and add a bow on top.
3. With marker, write a capital letter on each side of the box and the bottom to spell GRACE.
4. Use this as a decoration or paperweight, or give as a gift.
5. Explain GRACE to someone.

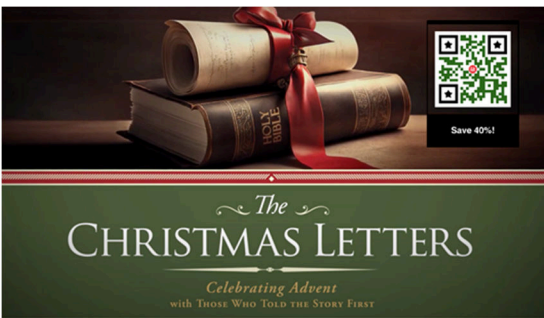
For help, use Ephesians 2:8-9 and the acrostic **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.



Groton Tuesday 10 am Bible Study



Starting October 29 as we quickly approach Christmas, **The Case for Christmas** will invite you to look beyond the familiar traditions of the season, challenge you to examine the evidence for yourself, and consider why Christmas really matters.



Bishop Lanette Plambeck will lead a virtual Advent study, **The Christmas Letters**, on Tuesday evenings, November 26 through December 17. Author Magrey deVega invites you to hear about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story.

Groton Sunday School Schedule

SEPT 29: SS-10:30
 OCT 6: SS-10:30
 OCT 13: NO SS
 OCT 20: SS-10:00 PRACTICE & SNACK, SING IN CHURCH AT 10:30 THEN DISMISS FOR SS
 OCT 27: SS-10:30
 NOV 3: SS-10:30
 NOV 10: SS-10:30 CHRISTMAS PRACTICE
 NOV 17: SS-10:30 CHRISTMAS PRACTICE
 NOV 24: SS-9:30 CHRISTMAS PRACTICE
 DEC 1: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 DEC 8: SS-9:30-11:30 CHRISTMAS PRACTICE W/SNACKS
 DEC 15: CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - 10:30 DURING CHURCH SERVICE. PRACTICE AT 9:30

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



The miracle of summer

A team of Sunday school teachers faced boisterous youngsters on Rally Day, the start of a new education year. Because kids were reuniting after a break, they were eager to chat about vacations. To restore order, a teacher asked the children to take turns sharing a favorite Bible verse, story or miracle. One, who still had summer on the brain, exclaimed, "I like the time when everybody loafes and fishes!"



The Caring Team - Sept Meeting

The Caring Team met on September 11, 2024 to organize events we would lead the congregation in. Those present were Jolene Townsend, Carol Strom, Kay Daly, Sarah Hofer, and Anita Lowary. We will continue sending Get Well (Sarah), Thinking of You (Jolene), Celebration (Jolene), and Sympathy (Val Baker) cards.

We organized a blanket gift for the Confirmation Students. Then organized t-shirts for the graduates from the college they would be attending. Gifts were well received. Thinking of You cards were sent to all the graduates at their college addresses from the church in September.

The Secret Angel program is available for sign-up. We will have sheets explaining the program with a church family

address for us to send cards to once a month. Any other gifts are optional...

The PAM program is available for sign-up. Contact Jolene. PAM (Pastor Appreciation Month) and you just do something special for the Pastor on your month.

Baptism Blessings Showers will be given to all babies baptized in the church from now on. Gifts may be brought or cards if you wish. There will also be a group card available. These gifts will be sent home with the family for their celebration.

Trunk or Treat we will ask for candy or monetary donations to have a trunk from our church family.

During Lent we will have a Secret Sister with Gratitude. You will sign up in

a box before Ash Wednesday and on Ash Wednesday you will draw a name to do something special for each week during Lent. Then on Easter Sunday the Secret Sister name may be revealed if you wish.

In the future we may look into a DVD or program about raising a family in a Christian Home.

Another future project may be to start a Young Adult group. If interested, please call Sarah.

Meeting Adjourned.



October 31
5:30-7 pm

Grotton UMC
Parking Lot

free community event

Host a trunk!
Contact Pastor Rob
605-480-2122

Join us for
Trunk or Treat

We need at least 5 Trunks for Tunk or Treat!
So sign up today to host a trunk for your family or a business!



RALLY sunday





Groton Family Committee - November

- Merrie & Josh Atherton**
- Laurel & Mont McNickle**
- Evan Erickson
- Meri & John Erickson
- Marva & Lon Gellhaus
- Melissa & Neil Gilbert, Carly
- Linda & Jay Johnson
- Paula & JR Johnson, Ryder
- Justin Morehouse
- Rebecca & Randy Padfield
- Crystal Strom, Gage
- Marc Sippel
- Tom Strom
- Kim & Craig Weber
- William Zoellner

November 2024						
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

Honorary Members

- ◆ Rose Tewksbury

November 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
- ◆ Bring Christmas decorations in from the shed and fluff them so they are ready to put up. Check the lights on them as well.
- ◆ Put up church indoor and outdoor decorations with December committee and all church members (check date with Pastor)
- ◆ No Potluck if there is a Fall dinner
- ◆ Serve at Avantara Nursing Center – 4th Sunday

A bountiful life

“Life is given to you like a flat piece of land,” said actress Jeanne Moreau. “I hope that when I’m finished, my piece of land will be a beautiful garden.”

God, who put the first human in a garden to care for creation, blesses us with talents and resources to wisely manage. In gardening terms, God gives us the plot of ground, the seed, the wisdom and strength to bring forth beauty and abundance. Yet we do the work, with God’s help, to make

it a reality. Like Adam, we till, but God gives the increase. God’s provisions and our labor bring the garden — and our lives of stewardship — to fulfillment.

As stewards, we ponder: When God calls us home, what will our garden be like, and what will it have produced?



Pastors appreciate your prayers

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don’t publicize. It’s an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God’s people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they’d like or what they need, most would probably reply, “Pray for me.”

That’s what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, “Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company” (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you’re doing so!



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Oct 1 Turner Thompson
- Oct 4 Fred Wolken
Josh Atherton
Rick Hofer
- Oct 5 Jeanne Wanous
Matthew McCranie
- Oct 6 Paula Johnson
Vee Flihs
- Oct 7 Allen Walter
- Oct 8 Gloria Pharis (85)
Lars & Kelli Hanson
- Oct 9 London Bahr
- Oct 10 Kaleb Hofer
Megan Erickson
Dan & Marjae Schinkel
Charity & Scott Hinman
- Oct 12 Charles & Sabrina Padfield
- Oct 13 Carna Atherton-Pray
- Oct 15 Brad Morehouse
Jaymie Overacker
- Oct 16 Brian & Elizabeth Bahr
- Oct 17 Kristen Dolan
Jackson Bahr
- Oct 23 Randy Stanley

- Oct 25 Lars Hanson
- Oct 26 Jaeden Morehouse
- Oct 30 Holden Sippel
Sarah Hofer

Conde

- Oct 22 Janic Hanson
- Oct 29 Marcene Bruckner
- Oct 31 Andee Geist



**Happy Birthday
Gloria Pharis!**

**85th Birthday
October 8th**

501 E 16th Ave,
Groton, SD 57445



The heart of a volunteer

A daughter had just helped her 90-year-old mother through the complex process of moving from and selling the family home. Now in a senior living center, the once-active woman was adjusting to her new surroundings and lifestyle.

As the daughter finalized arrangements, she tactfully brought up matters of nutrition. Hoping her mom would accept some help, she asked, "What about Meals on Wheels?"

Mom replied, "No, dear. I don't think I can volunteer for them anymore."

**We Love
Our
VOLUNTEERS**



**Children's
Message**

Groton Ad Council - Sept

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

The agenda was approved on a motion by Anita Lowary.

The previous meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Anita Lowary.

Correspondence:

Jeanne Wanous shared a Thank You note from the 2024 GHS Volleyball team for the use of our kitchen & fellowship hall for their team supper.

Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: The membership committee continues work on contacting a few members who have not responded to a request to confirm their desire to remain members.

Memorial—Linda Thurston: As of Aug. 31., our memorial funds are:

\$9,061.67 undesignated + 15,448.60 designated = \$24,510.27 total

Missions--Val Baker: Val was not present but left \$81 from the Sept. 15 Potluck to be deposited.

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend:

Jolene encouraged discussion on how to get more people to attend Potlucks.

She also shared that the Caring Team meeting was well attended. They continue to send "get well", "Thinking of You", and "Celebration" cards.

They will start up the Secret Angel & PAM (Pastor Appreciation) programs that the UMW used to do, as well as the Baby Blessing Showers.

Additional ideas include: Trunk or Treat participation, Secret Sister or Brother during Lent, and a possible young people's Bible Study.

Trustees: Tyke Nyberg was not present but sent word that our church insurance premium will be increasing for next year. Anita Lowary motioned to renew our coverage with same provider, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer—Jeanne Wanous: Jeanne shared the Aug. end-of-month Treasurer's Report & members discussed their concerns about monthly expenses continuing to surpass monthly income.

Financial Secretary—Allen Walter: No Report

Pastor Parish—Meri Erickson: Meri stated that the PPR committee would be meeting on Monday night, Sept. 23.

Bills to be Presented: none

Administrative Report:

Pastor Rob: Although Pastor Rob was not in attendance, he left word that work on the Charge Conference Book has begun. This means that the PPR committee needs to meet in Sept. to set the pastor's salary for 2025; the Finance Committee needs to meet in Oct. to do the church budget for 2025; and the Nominations Committee needs to meet very soon.

Old Business:

IRS Certified Letter Update—Anita Lowary: Anita has met twice with IRS personnel in Aberdeen, and is now corresponding with the IRS of Cincinnati & Philadelphia, PA.

Fresh Expressions Ministry (Christian Message & card playing group)—Carna Atherton-Pray: Carna has found people who would volunteer to teach card games. The activity would be open to the community. The council suggested that Carna start with our Methodist Youth Group.

Christmas Manger Figures & Manger Updates: It was confirmed that the nativity manger is stored at Morehouse's. AM

Mitchell will work with Morehouse's to bring the manger structure to the church. AM will ask Laurie to call the women in the church to help to make sure the figures are ready for display.

New Business:

SS Christmas Program: Meri Erickson reported that the SS Christmas Program will be on Dec. 15 @ 10:30 am., followed by a church meal for all.

In addition, the SS children will be singing on Oct. 20 in church.

Fall Dinner: The Ad Council set the date for the Annual Fall Dinner for Nov. 10.

Angel Tree: After some discussion about the duplication of Angel Trees in the Groton community the following motion was approved.

Motion by Carna Atherton-Pray to discontinue the Groton UMC Angel Tree at Christmas time and to instead support the Groton Pantry. The motion was 2nd and passed unanimously. Meri Erickson volunteered to discuss with Pat Miller at the Groton Pantry what their needs are.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.















Secretary, Jeanne Wanous

Groton Stewardship Report Aug 2024
Average Wkly Giving \$1,099
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,393
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 32
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$305



October 2024

Groton UMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>19th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:30am Conde Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Sunday School</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>6</p>  <p>20th Sunday after Pentecost (green) Communion in Worship (white) World Communion Sunday 8:30am Conde Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Sunday School</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Gloria Pharis - 85th Birthday 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>DakYouth at Aberdeen Recreational and Cultural Center</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>13</p>  <p>21st Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:30am Conde Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Groton Worship 10:30am NO Sunday School 11:30am Charge Conference</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center 3:30pm PEO Mtg (outside group)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour 7:00pm Groton Ad Council</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>20</p> <p>22nd Sunday after Pentecost (green) Laity Sunday 8:30am Conde Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:00am Sunday School Practice & Snack 10:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Sunday School Sing in Church then dismiss for class</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Newsletter Items Due United Nations Day 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>27</p>  <p>23rd Sunday after Pentecost (green) Reformation Sunday 8:30am Conde Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Sunday School</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center 7:00pm PEO Mtg (outside group)</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>10:00am Bible Study (New Christmas Study Begins) 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>Reformation Day 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary 5:30pm Trunk or Treat for Public</p>	<p>1</p> <p>All Saints Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>



Our Church Happenings...

- Oct 6 World Communion Sunday
- Oct 13 Charge Conference 11:30 am
- Oct 16 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Oct 20 Groton Sunday School Singing during worship
- Oct 29 Tuesday 10 am Bible Study starting Advent Study
- Oct 31 Trunk or Treat 5:30 - 7pm. Sponsor a Trunk!
- Nov 3 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 3 All Saints Sunday
- Nov 10 Groton UMC Fall Dinner

October 2024						
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