



Groton & Conde
United Methodist Church

Newsletter

November 2019

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

"Love is a Choice"

We are about to begin in November a special series called "Half Truths" based on the book written by Adam Hamilton. What I love about this series is it challenges some of the "truths" many of us have held for so long as simple answers to life's not so simple questions. But the comfort that these bring us pales in comparison to the strength we can find in the full truth of God's nature.

Now this isn't from the book, but the subject of Love has been on my mind for awhile now. What is true love? We attach this word "love" to things like cake, cheese, bread and other things we really enjoy, but has that in ways diminished the value of this special word. When we look at the Bible and hear Jesus say that we are to above all other things in this world LOVE God and our neighbor, what does that "love" look like?

The idea that love is a choice, or a decision is a popular one that suggests even when we don't want to be kind to someone else, love will incline our hearts towards it anyways. If you are contemplating separation



from a relationship love can incline your heart to "choose" to stay together and work it out. If we think about the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we see Jesus "choosing" to pay for our sins.

The reason I share this is because *if our love is only a choice, its not yet what it should be.*

In the final week of Home Run Life, I spoke on what it means to be Convinced, Compelled and Committed. Paul says in 1 Corinthians he is "compelled" by the love of Christ, which in the Greek translation means more imprisoned by than nudged towards. Paul using this word compelled is saying, I used to be imprisoned by sin and did not know love, but

by grace I was freed from my prison of sin and simultaneously captured by the love of God.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

How exactly did Christ love us? Did he simply make choices over and over again for us, or was He COMPELLED to love those He created and watched fall short and to save us because he couldn't help himself? 1 John 4:8 says, "God is love", therefore He will never not choose to love us, and THAT is what it means to love God and our neighbor. To not simply choose to love those who are easy to love or choose to tolerate one another in church even though we are upset. We are called to love

unconditionally as our father has loved us and that love is only known to us through knowing God who is himself love.

We are a church built on the blood of Jesus Christ and everything we do is for Him. If we ever begin to put our pride or preference above love, we will surely miss our mark in this family.

So, I leave it here... I believe love is a choice, until it becomes your purpose. I love you all and cannot wait for another wonderful month of serving you.

Pastor Brandon Dunham



Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off



November 3

Welcome!

Sully Strom was born to Jackson & Lindsey Strom on August 13, 2019. His family lives at 1521 9th St S, Fargo, ND 58103



Christmas Eve

Groton UMC 5pm

Conde UMC 7 pm



Sympathies to the family and friends of Karl Rekow who died Sept 26

Thank you for the memorial of a wheel chair in memory of Karl Rekow



Church Information

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906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

Groton UMW - October

There were seven women in attendance for the monthly UMW meeting.

President Jolene Townsend introduced Fern Bailey, our UMW Dist. Shepherdess. Fern gave the annual World Thank Offering program. She explained that the money we give for World Thank goes to the Mission Fund. Fern used "Let Your Light Shine" as her program theme. In addition she highlighted the UMW reading program sharing that books from 2015 to 2020 reading list can still be used for the program. Those in attendance gave their

offerings.

There was discussion and a decision that our annual Christmas goodies coffee can mission will change to plates of goodies being given to local service groups this coming December. They will be put together before our annual December meeting. It was also decided that the group would make arrangements to go out to eat on that day instead of the officers making the meal.

Details of our upcoming UMW Sunday were reviewed. In addition members were in agreement that we

should give donations to the UMC Angel Tree, Groton Transit for kid's rides, Groton Family Crisis Fund, and Groton Area Table Talks, and the UMW Solar Oven Project.

The meeting adjourned and the group enjoyed a Dairy Queen 150th Birthday ice cream cake to celebrate 150 years since UMW began.

Jeanne Wanous
Secretary Pro Tem



UMW Christmas Celebration

December 19th at 11 am the Groton UMW will be arranging plates and cans of cookies, candy, and snacks to be delivered around to various service people. We encourage all UMW Members to please help us by contributing baked Christmas items individually wrapped. Please have them at the church before 11 am on Dec 19th.

Following the assembling of Christmas Goodies, we will have a UMW Christmas Luncheon at Olde

Bank & Café at 12:30 pm. Please RSVP to Gloria Pharis if you will be joining us.

The Nov 21st UMW Meeting will have a Christmas program on "Giving - Rewards of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace" by Kay Daly. Hostess is Marj Overacker. There will be an executive meeting at 3 pm to plan the Christmas Luncheon, Finalize the 2020 date book and budget, and Summarize 2019.



Fern Bailey, Northeast District Shepherdess visited our UMW meeting and presented the "World Thank Offering" program and enjoyed celebrating "UMW 150 years in Mission" cake and coffee with our UMW members.

Groton Sunday School

Our Sunday School is off to a great start! We have been learning about how God is giving, creative, all-powerful, and the greatest! We have also been singing some great songs and sang in church Sunday, Oct 27.

November 10 is the fall dinner with church at 9:00. We will still have Sunday school from 10:00-10:50. We will begin learning our music for the Christmas program that is set for Sunday, December 15 at 5 pm. Come join the fun!

Meri Erickson



Groton 3rd Graders Receive Bibles

(pictured below)

Wesley Morehouse
Asher Johnson



Advent Study

In 1741, John Wesley preached his famous sermon titled "The Almost Christian" in which he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. We should not be satisfied with being almost Christian but rather strive towards being altogether a Christian.

In *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, author and pastor Magrey deVega leads a group of authors to explore how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent, connecting our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace.

We will break down the barriers that prevent us from experiencing an "altogether" love, hope, joy, and peace in Christ in our lives and in the world around us. We will demonstrate the promises God offers to us that

makes those longings a reality, inviting us to claim those promises for ourselves this Advent and celebrate an altogether Christmas.

Pastor Brandon will be leading a small group study through Advent in both churches beginning November 25th at 6:30pm in Groton and November 26th at 6:30 in Conde to which all are invited.

Conde Ad Council - Oct

The Conde UMC Administrative Board met at 7:00 on Monday, October 14 to plan the budget for 2020 and also update the Committees. Most of the assignments will remain the same. Charge Conference will be held at North Highland Church in Aberdeen on Sunday, October 27th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees - New faucets have been installed in the two kitchen sinks.

Mission - Donations were received to buy materials for UMCOR kits. With the generosity shown by everyone, we were able to assemble 34 School Kits and 13 Health Kits. These were taken up to Jobbers Movers in Aberdeen. They will transport all of the kits from the Dakotas Conference Churches out to the Distribution Center in Salt Lake City. All of the kits will remain in disaster areas in the

United States.

The next Mission project will be Shoe Box Christmas. Several small churches, Conde included, work with North Highland Church who is in partnership with Spirit Lake Ministry. Conde will donate money for them to buy articles to put in Christmas wrapped shoe boxes. They distribute them to the Enemy Swim Day School for grades Kindergarten - 6th. From all reports, it is a wonderful experience to spend a day with them and watch their joy as they discover the contents of "their box". The Conde congregation will have an opportunity to donate to this project, and we should have the money to them by November 15th.

Membership - We reviewed the membership of the Conde Church, and recorded the members and constituents who had died in the past year.

Education - The church does not have children for a Sunday School Class, but plans are being made for a Community Vacation Bible School next Summer. However, there will be an Advent Bible Study which will be led by Pastor Brandon. This will begin on November 26th at 6:30. Adult education is also important. Pastor Brandon did an Advent and Lenten study last year, and all who attended thoroughly enjoyed it.

Memorial - Patty Knoll purchased Fall flowers and other decorations to put on the big tree in the sanctuary. This is no longer just a Christmas Tree, but rather a year round tree that can be decorated for the seasons. It is beautiful, and a good way to use some of the Memorial money that has been given to the church. Everyone can think of their loved ones as they look at this beautiful tree.

Conde UMW - Oct

The Conde UMW met at 10:00 on Thursday, October 17th. Fern Bailey from Wahpeton, ND, who is our Shepherdess, was a guest. She gave a very interesting account of some Mission trips that she had made with youth when she served as Pastor in the Fairmount, ND church. They visited poverty areas in Appalachia and also in Colorado. The crew worked to repair and paint dwellings of persons who did not have the finances or physical ability to do it themselves. Following her report, there was a short business meeting.

Topics of Discussion

When this group meets, we give a donation to Missions. The money had not been used for quite some time, so a decision was made to give it to the UMW Legacy Fund. This is a permanent endowment that will support the mission outreach of future generations of the UMW. It is in celebration of 150 years of service.

Good Samaritan Center in Redfield chooses families in the Tri-County area that they serve who may need some help buying their children Christmas gifts. We will again give a donation to this project. The women who donate their time at this center, will purchase the gifts.

Bible Study - We set up a schedule to finish the book, UNSHAKABLE HOPE. The next time we meet will be Tuesday, October 29th at 6:00. Chapters 9 and 12 will be discussed. Then we will meet Tuesday, November 5th at 6:00. Chapters 12 and 13. The Advent Study with Pastor Brandon will begin on November 26th at 6:30.

We had a nice visit and lunch before Shepherdess Fern traveled to Groton to meet with their UMW.

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



November Sermon Series

They are simple phrases. They sound Christian – like something you might even find in the Bible:

- Everything happens for a reason
- God helps those who help themselves
- God won't give you more than you can handle
- God said it, I believe it, that settles it
- Love the sinner, hate the sin

We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth – yet they also miss the point in very important ways.

Join us, as we breakdown these "Half Truths."

Join us for worship!

1/2
TRUTHS

United Methodist Student Day - Nov 24

Across the country, the people of The United Methodist Church are serving the people God loves in Jesus' name. We're doing it at home, but so often we'd like to do more.

- We want to serve those in other places who are suffering.
- We want to offer spiritual words of hope and life.
- And we want to be well-equipped to do both!

But the reality for most of us is that our responsibilities—home, family, work—don't allow us to engage with every need we'd like to meet.

Right now there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously you are support these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together.



Groton All Church Decorating will take place on Sunday, Nov 24th after worship service. A light meal will be provided as we work together to prepare for the Christ Child.



Together We're Raising Up Gifted Christian Leaders

When you support United Methodist Student Day, you make it possible for more students to serve the world God loves. So although you can't meet every need you'd like to, your giving allows members of Christ's body to do it in Jesus' name.

Will you give to United Methodist Student Day?

Groton UMW Jewel of a Woman Award - Anita Lowary

This is a very special award given by the UMW group to show our appreciation to one woman each year for their service to our UMW mission and our church. This recipient is given a special pin, and a monetary gift is given to missions by the UMW in honor of this special lady.

Our honoree has done so much to help our church, community, and our UMW mission of helping women, children, and youth.

This year's honoree is often heard to say "Anything you need, I'll do it!" She can be found helping at funerals, donating food items as needed, working behind the scenes at Men's Dinners and fully involved with the UMW luncheons. Our recipient is always willing to give to every UMW project, church project, and community need. She is known to be compassionate not only to our church members but also community members in need. She will find a way for those in need to be helped through the church or community. She is truly an example of a devoted Christian.

In years past she was a member of our Omega Circle when it was active and today she is a regular at Tuesday morning Bible Study.

She is not shy about speaking up

during church services to ask for prayers for church or community members, to welcome visitors, to share that it's a birthday for one of our members, or to point out that congratulations are in order for one of our members.

Our recipient has served on our church administrative council for many, many years. Her responsibilities have included: board of trustees, audit committee, church treasurer, was our financial secretary for over 20 years, replacing Myrtle Bladder in 1994. In addition she is our current membership chair.

She has also been treasurer of the Groton BAGS program since it began and worked for the City of Groton as its finance officer for 36

years.

She is a loving daughter who saw to it that her mother, Winifred Faucett, was able to attend church services regularly. And we are so very grateful that she and her husband John have been members of our church and community for years.

So on behalf of our UMW group, today we honor Anita Lowary as our 2019 "Jewel of a Woman".



Groton UMW Special Recognition - Valerie Baker

Valerie, today we take time to thank you for your faithful leadership and Christian service.

Val began attending our church a number of years ago and right from the start she jumped right in by being a regular volunteer for whatever need came along. She has been especially active with our children & youth. She has taught and decorated for Sunday School & Bible school; was a big help for Kids Zone by walking kids over from school, furnishing & serving snacks, assisting with music, crafts, lessons, games and prayer; she helps Kim with the Little Free Library and works at the elementary after

school program.

In addition Val is a regular Tuesday morning Bible study attendee as well as a regular attendee and host of UMW's Wednesday morning community coffee hour. As a regular and active UMW member Val serves as chairperson of our Education & Interpretation committee and is always willing to volunteer for meeting activities and fund raising activities. She recently joined other UMW members across our country in making more than a dozen purple crocheted winter scarves to be given to attendees at the United Methodist General Conference in Minneapolis in 2020. Her passion for crocheting has

also lent itself to the completion & donation of numerous baby blankets.

And if that's not enough, Val is always willing to help out at funerals and has recently begun helping to run the projector at church services.

Outside of our church Val continues to work with youth by volunteering to prepare and serve food for Groton Area Table Talks.

Valerie, you are amazing and we are so happy to honor you today with this UMW Special Recognition pin and certificate.



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 December Family Committee

Erin & Damian Bahr

AM & Laurie Mitchell

Rodney Boehmer

Karla & Russell Davidson, Claire,
Andrea

Seth & Megan Erickson

Caralee Heitmann

Charity & Scotty Hinman

Jane & Marc Johnson

Curtis Krueger

Justin & Amanda Morehouse

Justin Olson

Randy & Sue Stanley

Betty Strom

Cheri & Tom Strom

Alan & Jolene Townsend

Anita & Gary Voss

Sharon & Larry Wheeting

Honorary Members

) Doris Zoellner

) Gary Heitmann

December 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

) 1 Greeter for each Sunday

) Straighten the Sanctuary Pews

) Change the banners as needed as per schedule in back of committee book

) Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements

) Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons

) Help decorate church with Nov Committee

) Prepare Candle table for Christmas Eve Service

) Setup and lay out candles for Christmas Eve and put them away

) Shovel snow from doorways before Church

) Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin

) Serve at Golden Living Center - 4th Sunday

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



"... And after he saved the animals, he started turning up on the mailing lists of environmental organizations."



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

Nov 3 Andrea Eisenbeisz
 Nov 3 Jon & Gayleen Voss
 Nov 7 Marva Gellhaus
 Susan Odland
 Nov 8 Kodi Hinman
 Nov 11 Doug Sippel
 Nov 13 Lindsey Tietz
 Nov 15 Jack Oliver
 Fred & Elaine Wolken
 Nov 17 Delaney Atherton
 Nov 18 Luverne Strom
 Roman Bahr
 Nov 19 Crystal Strom
 Garrett Heitmann
 Michael Krueger
 Nov 21 Ava Strom
 Larry & Sharon Wheeting
 Trey Tietz
 Nov 22 Calli Wilkinson
 Nov 23 Dwight & Eugenia Strom
 Francine Sippel
 Nov 24 Karen & Ian Rose
 Ian Rose
 Nov 25 Kari Hanson
 Nov 29 Cheri Strom

Conde

Nov 8 Dorothy Sanderson
 Nov 25 Bud Bruckner
 Nov 25 Betty Geist



Groton Stewardship Report Sept 2019

Average
Wkly Giving
\$1,931
 Needed Wkly for
Church Mission
\$2,347
 Average Weekly
Attendance Sunday
67
 Total Building Fund
Donations
for Repairs
\$15



*Adults and Students... come
learn what social issues are
involving our youth
in our community.*

Solutions to

Social Issues

SPONSORED BY LOCAL CHURCHES

Youth Groups Welcome ~ Large Groups please RSVP 605/377-0709

Seminars are:

September 11 at United Methodist Church:
Drugs & Alcohol

October 9 at Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church:
Sex Trafficking and Date Violence

November 6 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church:
Suicide and Bullying

Light Meal at 5:45 p.m. ~ Seminar begins at 6:30 p.m.



Groton Ad Council - Oct

Chairman Brad Morehouse called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Those in attendance were: Pastor Brandon, Karla Pasture, Brad & Dianne Morehouse, Richard Krueger, Linda Thurston, Jolene & Alan Townsend, Anita Lowary, Marge Overacker, Jeanne Wanous, Meri Erickson, and Allen Walter.

Anita Lowary motioned to approve the previous minutes with one correction stating that the Fall Dinner will be Nov. 10, not Nov. 11.

Treasurers Report: Marge Overacker reviewed several pending bills for discussion. After discussion the following motions were made. 1) Motion by Anita Lowary to pay the balance of the camping bills in the amount of \$539.74 with memorial funds designated for camping. The motion was 2nd and passed. 2) Anita Lowary moved to pay all remaining church bills including the total McGannon Plumbing & Heating bill (with the parsonage funds paying their portion) so that we are current with our bills. Payment of these bills will come out of the building fund. The motion was 2nd and passed.

Pastor/Parsonage: It was noted that the parsonage flooring installation is complete and the bill has been paid. Special thanks to the Morehouse guys & Allen Walter for tearing out the old flooring.

Bills: Sunday school bills have been submitted for payment.

Administrative Report: Pastor Brandon shared that the Finance Committee had met and put together the 2020 budget. He also stated that the Finance Committee has plans for a year-round Stewardship Campaign beginning with November. The approach will be to share short informational messages at the beginning of church services throughout November. Council members asked if this information should also be shared in the newsletters and on the church website.

Trustees: Richard Krueger will contact the fire extinguisher inspector to assure that our extinguishers are in working order. He also stated that Grote Brothers have identified the source of a roof leak above the sanctuary and will be coming to fix it. In addition Richard will ask them for help in identifying the mystery leaks near the kitchen doorway and other places that occasionally have leaks.

UMW Report: Jolene Townsend shared that our Shepherdess, Fern Baily, will be attending the UMW meeting on Oct. 17. In addition UMW Sunday is Oct. 27 along with a bake sale. On Oct. 31 the UMW will join others in having a Trunk or Treat trunk.

Groton church services will be held at 9:00 am on Nov. 10 for the Fall Dinner.

Karla Pasteur & Meri Erickson volunteered to take care of decorating the two front doors outside planter pots in the future. In addition, the following tasks will be added to the funeral job description: prepare the sanctuary by making sure appropriate banner & altar cloths are placed, lighting the candles, and turning on the sanctuary lights.

Budget: The council reviewed the 2020 proposed budget prepared by the budget committee. On a motion by Anita Lowary and 2nd by Allen Walter, the council approved the budget.

It was noted that all UMC members are invited to the annual Charge Conference to be held at the North Highland UMC in Aberdeen on Oct. 27 at 2:00 pm.

Karla Pasteur approved taking the winter coats that were collected last year to the Groton Elementary & High School. Diann Morehouse volunteered to do this.

Charge Conference booklet reports should be done by next board meeting, Nov. 20.

Thanks to Jolene & Alan & Allen Walter for purchasing Christmas garland to go around the doors at our church.

Adjourned at 8:51pm

Jeanne Wanous
Ad Council Secretary





Our Church Happenings...

November 2019						
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

Nov 3 All Saints Sunday Service and Daylight Saving Time Ends

Nov 6 Gospel Solutions to Social Issues - Suicide & Bullying at ELCA 6:30 pm

Nov 10 Groton UMC Fall Dinner 11 am - 1:30 pm

Nov 20 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Nov 21 Groton UMW 1:30 pm

Nov 24 Groton All Church Christmas Decorating at Noon with light meal

Nov 25 Groton Advent Study with Pastor Brandon starts 6:30 pm (for 4 weeks)

Nov 26 Conde Advent Study with Pastor Brandon starts 6:30 pm (for 4 weeks)

Dec 15 Groton Sunday School Program 5 pm

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services: Groton 5 pm and Conde 7 pm