



April/May 2020

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

Oh goodness I miss you all. I miss seeing you walk into church and smile at one another. I miss smelling the coffee going and feeling the heat turned on in the sanctuary. I miss hearing you sing, oh wow do I miss that. I miss being able to see you laugh at my jokes and not laugh at many others. But most of all I miss the gathering.

Since we have put a pause on our in-person gatherings it has been a really interesting time of trying to stay creative and engage with each of you in meaningful ways. But because I shared a bunch of things I've missed; can I share some wins?

-) Each week our worship attendance for online services has gone up!
-) Each week we are expanding our circles more intentionally than ever by phone calls, mailings, and social media.
-) Each week we are flooding the online world with our services, scripture, worship music, and presence like it has never seen before.

Because of COVID-19 and its spread, our normal rhythms of work, play, and life have been significantly



disrupted and will continue to be for who knows how long. Since we are no longer a "gathered" church but maybe a "scattered" church. I want to share two words of encouragement as we continue to press into this time, as well as some hopefully helpful tools for engaging in at-home worship I found online.

1. We're still called to worship Jesus as a scattered church! While there is a pause on our getting together, there's no pause button when it comes to worship. God is just as worthy of worship in our church buildings as He is in our homes.
2. While this time feels more like an interruption, we also know that our Sovereign Lord is at work as well. I pray that we all seek to discover

the ways God is moving in our contexts and remain expectant for what He might want to do!

HOW TO STAY ENGAGED

-) Pick a devoted time- Whether you're watching online or reading through the worship packets, doing so at a consistent time will help preserve that sense of normalcy in rhythms.
-) Pick a particular place- Choose a place in your house that is conducive for gathering. Some opt to connect their devices to TVs so everyone can see it. Maybe you have a particular chair that you find comfy. Whatever it is, try to be consistent.
-) Participation matters- Don't just listen to the sermon and call it good,

but try to engage in all of the different elements. Every element is precious and shaping if we allow it to be. If it's time to sing, sing with passion! If it's time to read, read with confidence!

-) Follow up with someone - Just because the service is over does not mean we need to put it away until next week. Find some time for conversation with either a family member or friend who also participated to discuss feelings and questions that may have arose. This is how we take worship to the real world.

-) Last but not least, give tons of grace to yourself. Experiment one way this week and if something doesn't work, adjust it. God is with you. God is in you. He loves you and will guide you in these times.

I love you all and can't wait to gather again as a whole church body, but until then, go with hope and love. We trust that God will be using this time of scattering to gather us to Himself and deepen our roots in Him.

Pastor Brandon Dunham,



Confirmation was celebrated March 8th at the Groton UMC. Confirmed were: Lane Tietz, Emma Schinkel, Holden Sippel, and Tristan Kampa. Also Pictured is Pastor Brandon



Happy Anniversary

Jim & Judy Zeck Celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary February 20th. We enjoyed celebrating with them in worship on March 1st.



Thank You

Thank you:
for the updated lighting in the kitchen in memory of Winifred Fawcett.
Thank you:
for paying the camping fees balance in memory of Jean Lowary.



Welcome

Henry August Townsend was born on March 31, 2020. He weighed 7 lbs 12 oz. Parents are Zach & Stephanie Townsend

41194 150th St
Conde, SD 57434

Church Information

Pastor Brandon Dunham
Office Phone 605-397-8270
Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

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

Groton UMC 2020 Graduates



Dylan Graf

10952 406th Ave
Houghton, SD 57449



Austin Jones

402 E 15th Ave
Groton, SD 57445

Future Plan: University of South Dakota
to major in Health Service Administration



Anthony Schinkel

402 N State St
Groton, SD 57445

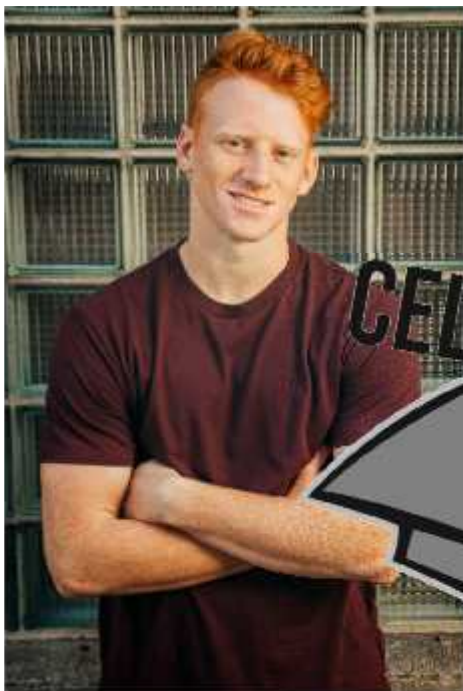
Future Plan: South Dakota State
University to major in Entrepre-
neurial Studies



Kaycie Hawkins

504 E 9th Ave
Groton, SD 57445

Future Plan: South Dakota State Uni-
versity to major in Civil Engineering



Grady O'Neill

214 8th Ave NE
Aberdeen, SD 57401

Groton UMW Wednesday Coffee Hour

Celebrated third year of our Community Coffee Hour! It has now been suspended because of COVID-19 until further notice when we can all be back together safely.



Sympathies

To the family of Betty Taylor, 92, who passed away April 17th at Avantara Groton.



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

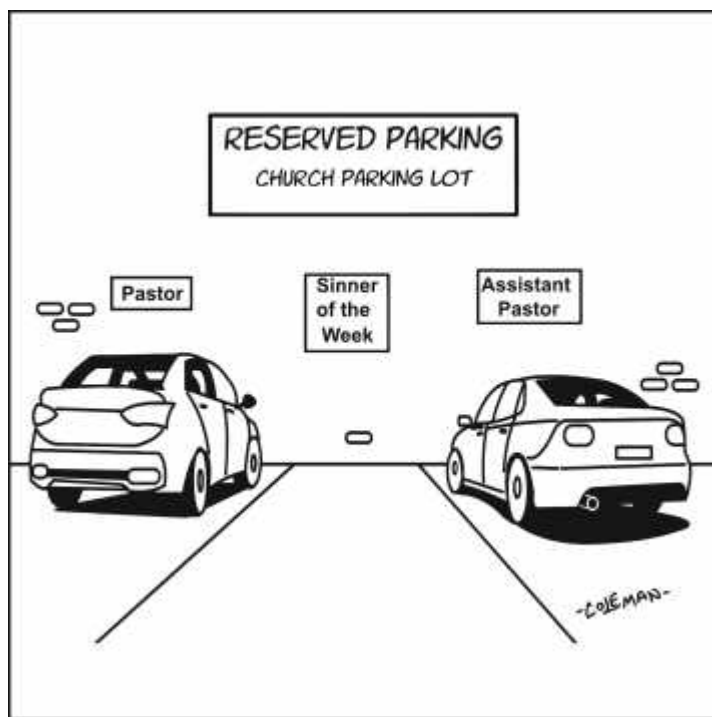
"The Conde United Methodist Church is seeking to satisfy the spiritual and physical needs of all."

Conde Celebrations

Apr 18	Loren Siefken
Apr 22	Curtis Haskell
May 3	Janette Imsland
May 7	Jane Worlie
May 10	Marion Jensen
May 11	Ashley & Brandon Dunham
May 16	Dwight Lyren
May 25	Greg Bonn
	Floyd & Carol Smith
May 28	Grant & Janice Hanson
May 30	Curtis & Cindy Haskell
June 4	Pat Siefken
June 5	Norman & Cindy Smith
June 6	Keith Hanlon
June 13	Guy Hanlon
June 20	Cary Bruckner
June 22	Julie Bruckner
June 26	Grant Hanson
June 27	Lance Haskell

Although some birthdays may be past, we all enjoy greetings any time. With church uncertain of when we will continue with activities, I have included months ahead to combine newsletters as needed.

June 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				





Groton Celebrations

Apr 3	Marc Johnson Myndi & Scott Kampa Nolan Rose Elleit Severson	May 2	Evan Jacobson	June 1	Anita Lowary
Apr 4	Mitchell Madsen Sue Stanley	May 3	Kim Weber	June 2	Doug Daly
Apr 5	Desiree & Corey Foltz Wyatt Krutz	May 4	Evan Erickson Desiree Foltz Tom Strom	June 3	Cheri & Tom Strom Donald Nissen
Apr 6	Elise Pharis	May 5	Gary Thurston Marlee Jones Tony & Brenda Madsen	June 4	Gary & Caralee Heitmann Janice Raap Jay Johnson
Apr 7	Reilly Ell Jackson & Lindsey Strom Shelly Lerew	May 6	Clint Jacobson	June 7	Peyton Padfield
Apr 8	Lon Gellhau	May 7	Gabbie Kramer Rebecca Padfield Tigh Hank Irvin Fliehs	June 8	Zoey Strom Lacey Voss
Apr 10	Pauline Luce	May 8	Dale Kramer John Lowary Austin Jones Rob Wanous	June 10	Jacob Morehouse
Apr 11	Taylor Thompson	May 10	Anita & John Lowary	June 11	Jim & MendyJones
Apr 12	Erin Bahr	May 11Ashley & Brandon Dunham <i>9 E 9th Ave, Groton, SD 57445</i>		June 13	Roger Rix Zachary & Stephanie Townsend
Apr 13	Jessica Morehouse	May 12Jack & Maggie Oliver		June 14	Danielle Schinkel Roger Overacker
Apr 14	Toby Dobbins	May 13Doris Strom (95) <i>PO Box 433, Groton, SD 57445</i>		June 15	Eugenia Strom Jesse & Jaymie Overacker Leroy & Lynette Severson
Apr 15	Brady Graf Nolan Bahr	May 14	Chase Neiber Leroy Severson	June 16	Gavin Voss
Apr 16	Dale & Traci Kramer Rodney Boehmer Tom Tietz	May 15	Linda Johnson Henry Pharis Pam Rix	June 17	Jesse Morehouse
Apr 18	Jenna Strom Dylan Vogel Merrie Atherton	May 17	Mary Nelson Cliff & Carna Pray	June 18	Nick Strom
Apr 19	Amanda Morehouse	May 18Jean Walter (90) <i>705 N 6th St, Groton, SD 57445</i>		June 19	Pat Dahlquist Garrett & Sindi Heitmann
Apr 21	Val Baker	May 19	Kaylee Hofer	June 20	Harlan & Peggy Place
Apr 22	Ali Pasteur	May 20	John Erickson Scott Kampa Taylor Diegel	June 21	Gary & Linda Thurston
Apr 23	Colton Morehouse	May 21	Kami & Tom Lipp	June 22	Angela Dobbins
Apr 24	Rae Fliehs	May 25	Cody Hanson	June 23	Kaycie Hawkins
Apr 28	Kevin Pharis		Adrienne Fliehs Beau Bahr JR Johnson Jon Voss	June 24	Jeremy Weber Mark & June Thompson
Apr 30	Breslyn Jeschke	May 26	Dion & Sam Bahr	June 25	Carol Knecht Mavrik Severson Tanae Lipp
		May 27	Emmett Morehouse Luverne & Carol Strom	June 27	Peggy Place Elaine Wolken
		May 28	Cheryl Hanson Jesse & Julie Morehouse	June 28	Sindi Heitmann
		May 29	Gary & Anita Voss	June 29	Carly Gilberg John & Meri Erickson
		May 30	Kami Lipp Macy Knecht Randy & Rebecca Padfield	June 30	Spencer Knecht
		May 31	JR & Paula Johnson		

Special Celebrations

) **May 11 Ashley & Brandon 1st Anniversary**

) **May 13th Doris Strom is 95**

) **May 18th Jean Walter is 90**

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At this time with few activities at the church, our mission and goal has not changed. We are still very much alive as a church each doing things with the love of Christ. If you have an event or happening that shows the extension of our church reaching out. Please take a photo and send in the story to grotounmc@nvc.net. This will be awesome to share during this time.

The next newsletter will span across June and July depending on the amount of news. So please share!

Kay Daly, Secretary

See(k) First

On Facebook, I can “follow” as many people as I want, viewing their messages, photos and activities. But I can choose only 30 to “see first” — that is, to prioritize in my news feed. As of this writing (Facebook changes often), if my “see first” list is full and I want to add someone new, I must “unprioritize” someone else.

That leads me to ponder bigger matters: I often claim to follow Jesus, but what might I need to “unprioritize” to make him not just a priority but *the* priority in my life? To what do I devote time and attention but ought to let go to follow Christ more closely?

What activities, behaviors and values do I need to not just bump from my “see first” list but “unfollow” or “block” entirely? Perhaps they are antithetical to discipleship or simply take too much time away from prayer, Scripture and service.

This dilemma isn’t unique to the digital age. Facebook parlance is about what we “see first,” but in Matthew 6:33 Jesus says, “*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness*” (ESV, italics added).

—Heidi Mann



Trust the Artist

We must offer ourselves to God like a clean, smooth canvas and not worry ourselves about what God may choose to paint on it, but at each moment, feel only the stroke of his brush. ... It is the same with a piece of stone. Each blow from the sculptor’s chisel makes it feel ... as if it were being destroyed. ... All I know is that I must stay immobile in the hands of the sculptor. ... I have no idea what he is doing ... but I know his work is the best possible.

—Jean Pierre de Caussade



Groton Offerings

Our church will continue to strive to reach and support people in need through the work of Christ and we need your support of time, presence, and gifts to do so.

-) Offerings may be mailed to the church office at 906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445
-) Join us in online giving by using this link (will soon be embedded into our website)
<https://gp.vancopayments.com/gpo/#/donateNow/9ae2ec0e-62fb-40f5-b7cd-bad64c9>
-) March Newsletter had info on giving through your phone with an app.
<http://www.grotonumc.org/newsletters/2020/20mar.pdf>

Questions may be directed to Alan Walter.

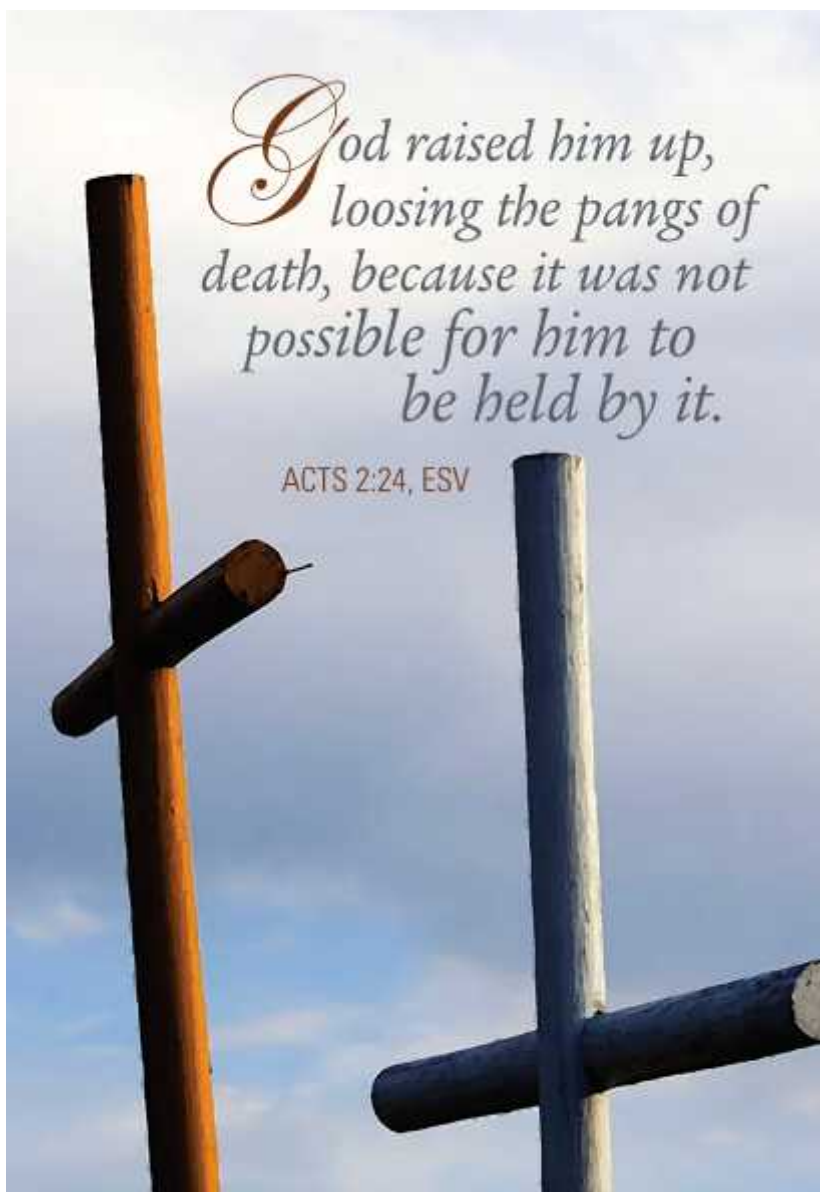


Debt-free, by grace

Visiting with her passenger, Uber driver Latonya Young mentioned her determination to finish college — and a \$700 debt that barred her from enrolling in more classes. “Every time I got ready to pay the money, my kids needed something,” she said later. “I said, ‘Okay, I’ll just wait.’”

To Young’s great surprise, a few days after that Uber conversation, she learned that her customer, Kevin Esch, had paid her debt; she could reenroll! In response, Young persevered to finish her degree with strong grades. “When he paid the balance, I had to do this for him,” she said of Esch, who attended her graduation.

Young’s self-sacrifice for her children and Esch’s self-sacrifice for a stranger both pale, of course, in comparison to Jesus’ sacrifice of his very life to save us. Like Young held back by debt, we were captive to sin until “the Son of Man came ... to give his life as a ransom” (Matthew 20:28, ESV). Young did nothing to earn Esch’s gift, and we can do nothing to earn salvation. But as she responded by using the gift to its fullest, we embrace God’s gift by living in thanksgiving and praise, love and service.



Groton Ad Council - April Mtg

Treasurer's Report: Marjorie Overacker reported that additional giving has come in since the end of March. February and March apportionments have not been paid. The council agreed that April apportionments would not be paid either. It was agreed that Yvonne Lang should continue to be paid. On a motion by Brent Morehouse and 2nd by Meri Erickson, the council agreed to pay all outstanding bills which included a bill from Locke Electric for work in the kitchen outlets several months ago. Marjorie reported that she has received two new Walmart credit cards, one of which will be given to Kelli Hanson for custodial needs.

Financial Secretary: Allen Walter stated that he hasn't seen much additional use of on-line giving through Vanco, but he is encouraged by the number of people that have mailed or dropped off a giving check at the church.

Pastor Parish: Meri Erickson reported that Groton will pay one-half of their PPR payments in April & May and Conde will pay one-half of their PPR payments for May & June as the Board of Pensions will pay Fund 3 (Pension) and Fund 4 (Healthflex) in full for the months of April and May from emergency reserves. Meri also reported that a \$300 bill from S&S Lumber has been received for work done at the parsonage and can be paid. A bill from Perry Blocker should also be coming for parsonage work and can be paid also.

Trustees: Richard Krueger reported that the fire extinguisher people have come and examined and/or updated our extinguishers. He said the one in the furnace room had to be replaced with an updated model. Richard also

reported that he has been in contact with Hub City Roofing and Protec in Watertown for repair/replacement of the sanctuary roof. He has received bids from both companies but needs to review the bid details before asking for council approval on one or the other. He did mention that he continues to see leaking. The bids ranged between \$15,000 to \$18,000.

Administrative Report: Pastor Brandon reported that we have had a really good response with people engaging with our online services. He estimates that about 80-100 people have been participating. He continues to look for creative ways to include hospitality throughout the weeks ahead in our online services. He asks that we find creative missional opportunities as well.

Education: Megan Erickson has been posting Sunday school videos weekly with 46 kids participating along with kids from other congregations.

Thank You

-) To Valerie Baker and her helpers for making Easter baskets.
-) To Kim Weber for organizing an Easter city scavenger hunt with prizes along with Pastor Brandon's help.
-) To Kim Weber for decorating church doors for Easter & Jolene Townsend for decorating church pulpit for Easter.
-) To Marge Overacker for making protective COVID-19 masks. Let her know if you need one.



Groton Stewardship Report Feb 2020

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,968

Needed Wkly for Church Mission
\$2,285

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday
71

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs
\$15

Groton Stewardship Report March 2020

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,098

Needed Wkly for Church Mission
\$2,285

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday
76

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs
\$15

April 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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May 2020						
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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 Happenings...

Worship

We are streaming live on Sunday's at 11 am – join us!

<https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc/>

Worship Video will be uploaded to YouTube on Monday for viewing.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtk7LQSET60z9JkUxLmXJ9A>

Sunday School lesson on Facebook each week on the
Groton UMC Kids Ministry Page

No Calendar is being printed at this time. Watch as future events slowly resume in different ways

The Groton Tuesday 10 am Bible Study is working on meeting full time soon and finishing our last study and then will start a new one. If you are not normally a part of this group and would like to join us online please contact Kay Daly at 397-8389

