



January 2020

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

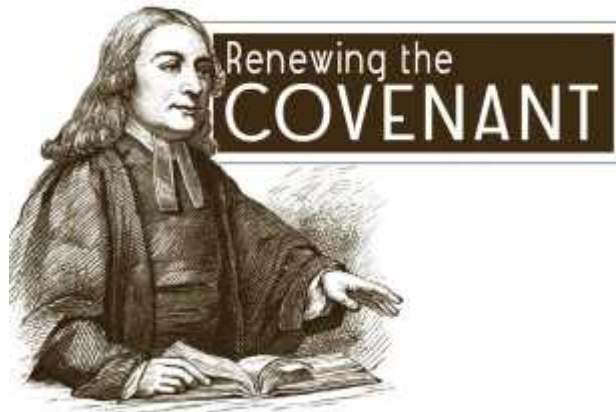
Hello Church Family,

As we have closed our Advent journey the question becomes for so many, "What next?" It's a fair question as we have spent the previous month talking about a journey we are all on towards destinations of Altogether Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy. We were striving towards a transformation from the simplistic, self-centered, and desperate lives the world offers us to the fullness of God's presence and the abundance of love God sought to bring us into with the offering of His son Jesus Christ.

So, what's next? A renewal.

In 1780, many years after the first covenant renewal service in Spitalfields, England, John Wesley wrote a book called Directions for Renewing Our Covenant with God. The purpose of this book was to give spiritual instructions to bring the season between Christmas and the new year, by offering us a chance to respond to God's gift of Jesus, with the best gift God could ever ask for: the commitment of our hearts. A chance for a fresh commitment to follow Jesus once more.

We don't have the time or space to share exactly what this



would look like in Wesley's eyes, but there are five steps to his process which are found at the end of our Almost Christmas book:

1. Confide in God. Find silence in your life to be present with God and be honest in your relationship. To confide means to place "full trust in" and requires vulnerability. In acknowledging your weaknesses, you allow God to fix what you've identified as broken.
2. Compose your Spirit. Don't try to find solace in your position by comparing it to another's. Hold your attitude of confession.
3. Claim the Covenant. Let go of your sinful ways, as painful as that might be, in confi-

dence that God has already done all that is necessary to provide you a pathway to a renewed life.

4. Choose Faithfulness. This requires a daily choice to loosen the grip on everything that would pull us back towards a life of sin and unfaithfulness while also choosing to follow God's will each day.
5. Connect to God in Prayer. Prayer isn't a magical set of words that we speak to God that brings us favor, but it's the opening of your heart to both listen to God's voice and share your heart with God.

God knows each of us aren't perfect, and the shame we feel that's keeps us from entering His

presence is a product of forgetting the true meaning of Christmas. That God loved us so much He sent His son Jesus, that we may be redeemed by his sacrifice, and made new. It doesn't matter the life you've lived prior to this point. God is here extending an offer to accept His gift of grace and love, that brings a joy unlike anything else this world can offer. What's left for each of us, is to decide if we're ready to accept it.

With love,

Pastor Brandon Dunham



Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off



Human Relations Sunday - Jan 19

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

-) An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
-) A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
-) An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that’s

what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God’s children to realize their potential.

Will You Support the Ministry of Christ Among Those on the Margins?

Will you continue to support Human Relations Day? Will you continue nurturing at-risk youth, strengthening communities’ self-improvement efforts and advocating for the oppressed?



New Sermon Series

*“When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that’s of worth
That will bless your heart”*

Surely many of us have heard the words to Matt Redman’s classic ballad “The Heart of Worship,” and to me it feels to be perfectly in line with what our journey as a church looks like. In a season following the pursuit of God’s altogether love, hope, peace, and joy... worship is where we make the jump from almost to altogether. It’s what breathes life into

everything else we do.

When we come through the doors on a Sunday morning, what are you bringing as your offering to God?

What a powerful and revealing question to ask and yet it’s the key to a life in Jesus Christ. God desired our hearts so much He gave His son, that through Him we might accept His gift of redemption and life. Let us journey through this year finding our identity in worship, as an offering that isn’t about our preferences, but surrender and reverence to Jesus.

“I’m coming back to the heart of worship, and it’s all about you, Jesus.”



Church Information

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906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

Groton UMW - Nov/Dec

The United Methodist Women met November 21, 2019 for their last business meeting of the year. The devotion was shared from the UMW Devotion book and our Purpose was recited. A reflection of the past year “Celebrating 150 Years of Sisterhood” was discussed. Our 2019 Annual Report was submitted to the pastor for our Church Conference booklet.

Discussion was held on the success of “Trunk or Treat” mission project, serving 200 – 250 children. Thank you to Jeanne Wanous and Marj Overacker for handing out candy and a thank you to all who donated candy. “UMW Sunday” along with the Bake Sale was a great mission project and very informational to the congregation as to the outreach and support our unit has on the community and beyond. Thank you to the 15 women who assisted with the church service and to everyone who furnished and supported the bake sale.

We received a grant from the “Love Ribbon” program from the Dakotas Conference UMW for the “Milk Project” of Table Talks. Vicki Stange accepted the grant money on behalf of Table Talks. This is the second year we have received this grant. Thank you to Val Baker for writing and applying for this grant.

Yvonne Lange received a ribbon book mark for her completing Level One

of the “UMW Reading Program” for 2019. Twelve new books have been ordered for the 2020 year and are in the library. We encourage our members to take advantage of this educational and enlightening program.

Our 2020 UMW officers are as follows: President, Jolene Townsend. Vice President, Gloria Pharis. Secretary, Meri Erickson and Anita Lowary. Treasurer, Jeanne Wanous.

Our Christmas program was given by Kay Daly entitled “Sharing Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love this Advent Season” We shared how giving to others can enrich our lives. Various gift containers were passed out and a game was played passing them right and left for fun to decide what container would be taken home for giving this holiday season.

Prayers were lifted up to those in need and a wonderful lunch was served by Marj Overacker.

Our Next meeting will be December 19th at 11:00 am to box cookies for friends of our church and then enjoy lunch together at 12:30 pm at Olde Bank’n Café.

On December 19th UMW members gathered in the church kitchen to pack decorated coffee cans with Christmas cookies, candy and snacks. These were delivered to many members of our church with a UMW Christmas card and a friendly face saying “Merry Christmas.” We then enjoyed lunch together at the Olde Bank’n Café downtown. We visited and visited and shared photos from our phones and wished everyone a “Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!”

No UMW meeting in January!! Next meeting February 20, 2020 at 1:30 pm.



At Home with God

Of all persons, the Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New Year brings. ... In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid


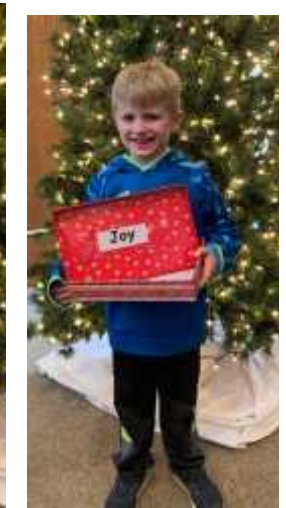
because yesterday he turned his feet into the ways of peace and today he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation.

—A.W. Tozer



Groton Sunday School Christmas Program





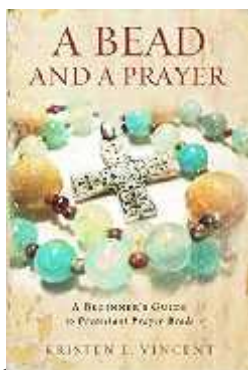
Depend on
GOD



A Bead and a Prayer

Tuesday 10 AM Bible Study will start back on Jan 14 with a study on Protestant Prayer Beads. We will learn where they originated in the Bible and how they can enhance our prayer life. We will also be making a set of prayer beads to use so if you should have an old cross necklace that you do not

wear anymore, please bring it to Bible Study and it can be used in your prayer beads. Everyone is welcome to join us as we explore!



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Jan 2 Holly Walter
- Jan 3 Caroline Graf
- Jan 5 Jeremy & Sam Weber
Treyton Diegel
- Jan 6 Samantha Bahr
Zachary Townsend
- Jan 7 Karla & Russell Davidson
- Jan 9 JoAnn Krueger
- Jan 10 Anita Voss
Melissa & Neil Gilbert
Neil Gilbert
- Jan 11 Huntley Overacker
Myndi Kampa
Randy Padfield
- Jan 13 Lance Hawkins
Monte McNickle
- Jan 14 Isabella Daly
Jay & Linda Johnson
- Jan 15 Alissa Gellhaus-Wells
- Jan 16 Hunter Bahr
Marjorie Overacker
Ryder Johnson

- Jan 18 Cheryl Graf
- Jan 19 Tim Graf
- Jan 21 Taryn Thompson
- Jan 23 Jed Morehouse
- Jan 26 Doris Zoellner
- Jan 27 Kristie Hawkins
- Jan 28 Ruby Luce

Conde

- Jan 3 Bruce Herman
- Jan 8 Darrel Haskell
- Jan 10 Donna Hearnen
- Jan 11 Norman Smith
- Jan 27 Darrel & Joyce Haskell
- Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon



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



Groton Feb Family Committee

Jr & Paula Johnson

Randy & Sue Stanley

Josh & Merrie Atherton

Melissa & Neil Gilbert, Brooklyn

Pernell Graf, Alex, Dylan

Kelli & Lars Hanson

Jane & Marc Johnson

Carol Knecht

Yvonne Lorenz, Sage

Brenda & Tony Madsen

Joe & Belinda Nelson, Mary

Tim Olson

John Padfield

Kevin & Kara Pharis, Kale

Francine & Marc Sippel

Honorary Members

) Marie McClintic & Larry
Schneidt

) Gloria & Harry Pharis

) Pat Dahlquist

February Responsibilities

) Check Kitchen Supplies for
the month

) Check & Clean Oven and
Fridge as necessary

) Coffee Hour workers (make
coffee, provide cookies, laun-
der 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 Ar-
rangements

) Change decorations on ta-
bles in fellowship hall with
the seasons

) Shovel snow from doorways
before Church

) Serve at Avantara Nursing
Center - 4th Sunday

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

February 2020						
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

Groton Stewardship Report Nov 2019
Average Wkly Giving \$2,172
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,347
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 58
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$15



January 2020						
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 Happenings...

Jan 12 Groton All-Church De-decorating during coffee hour

Jan 12 Groton Sunday School Kickoff (wear your pj's)

Jan 14 Groton 10 AM Bible Study Resumes

Jan 15 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Jan 19 Human Relations Sunday

