



March 2020

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## ...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church!

What an exciting time to be in fellowship with you all. If you joined us for Ash Wednesday you were a part of the very beginning stages in our 2020 Lenten journey. A journey of not just denial of small joys we would otherwise indulge in, but a journey of preparation and honest reflection of our commitments to Jesus Christ.

In Isaiah 30:15 the bible says, *“This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength...”*

We all come short of the glory of God, but thankfully it is not by our strength alone that we are saved but by HIS strength. Over these next 40 days we will seek the one who paid for our sins with His life, Jesus. That being said, how are we going to do that?

The Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences of the United Methodist Church are seeking Jesus this Lenten season while looking through the lens of Tom Berlin’s groundbreaking book, “Reckless Love: Jesus’ call to love our neighbor”.

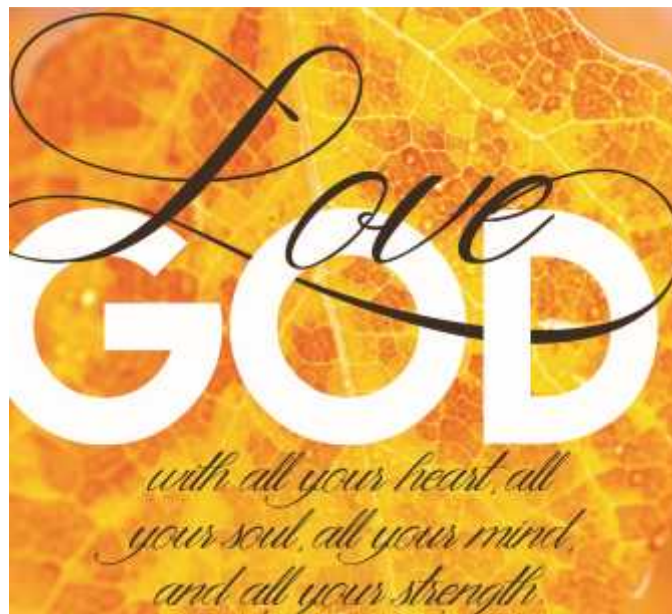
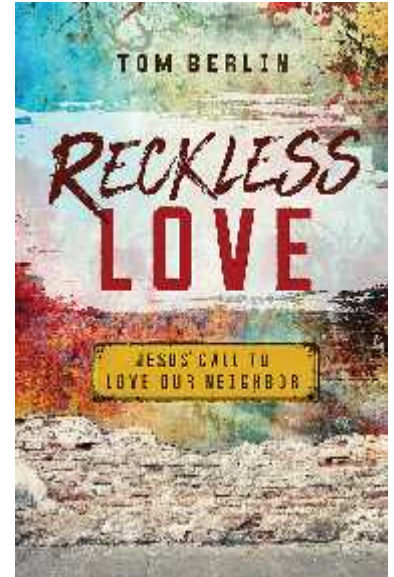
Pastor Tom Berlin shares incredible insight into the teaching style of Jesus, who instructed the greatest commandment is two-fold, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

In Jesus’ journey with His disciples He taught them to love God, by becoming love themselves. As we march towards the celebration of Jesus’ victory over sin and death on the cross, I invite you to join with us in a study of how radical, and to some

maybe even reckless, love can reveal to us the glory of God. Let us love the Father by first loving the child.

I pray this be a powerfully fruitful moment in the life of this church and community as we embark on this journey together.

With love,  
Pastor Brandon Dunham



OFFICE  
HOURS

Pastor  
In Office  
Tuesday &  
Thursday  
Mornings

Friday  
Day Off



## Groton Sunday School

March 15 we will be singing during church

March 22 there is No Sunday School for Spring Break

March 8th

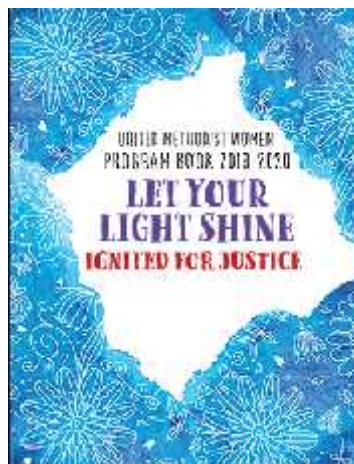


March 8th is Confirmation Sunday at Groton UMC. 8th Graders being Confirmed are: Lane Tietz, Emma Schinkel, Holden Sippel, and Tristan Kampa

## Groton UMW Meeting

UMW will meet at 1:30 pm on Thursday, March 19th. The Program will be by Jolene Townsend on Charter for Racial Justice "The Story of the Rainbow" A Native American Legend. Hostesses are Sharon Wheeting & Pat Dahlquist.

Upcoming Events are Focus Days on April 18 at Aberdeen First.



### Church Information

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

Pastor Email: [pastorbrandon@nvc.net](mailto:pastorbrandon@nvc.net)  
Secretary Email: [grotonumc@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumc@nvc.net)  
Website: [grotonumc.org](http://grotonumc.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/grotonsdumc/](https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445





### Upcoming Lenten Series

“How did Jesus teach the Greatest Commandment to his disciples?”

In his latest book *Reckless Love*, author and Pastor Tom Berlin writes that Jesus taught them to love neighbor first as a way to more deeply love God.

In his exploration of Jesus’ teaching and travels with his disciples, Berlin suggests that Jesus teaches us how to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength by showing us how to love our neighbor. While many hope to learn to be better family, friends, leaders, and neighbors by finding a deeper

relationship with God, what if becoming a better neighbor leads you to that deeper love of God?

In *Reckless Love*, you will consider your life, and learn how loving the people around you will completely renew your faith and give you a new experience of loving God.”

Our Dakotas Conference each year does a recommendation for Lenten materials and we are pleased to be joining with churches across the Dakotas this year in the study of what it means to worship God through loving our neighbor.

We will be offering

small group studies of the book at both churches and this is your invitation to join with us!

- ) Tuesdays at 6:30pm beginning March 3rd in Conde
- ) Thursdays at 6:30pm beginning March 5th in Groton



## A Lenten History Lesson

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning “March”) and *lencten* (meaning “spring”).

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and “the Lenten fast” to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus’ time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur be-

tween Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren’t counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they’re considered “mini-Easters.”



## Taste and See

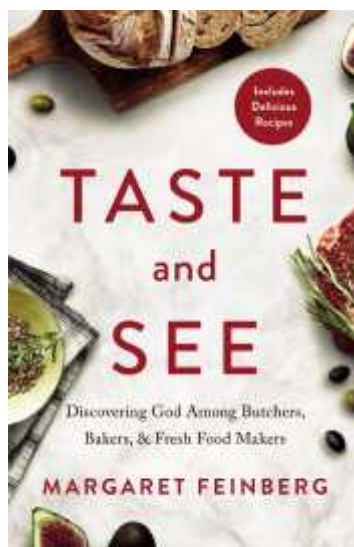
The Tuesday 10 AM Bible Study has been studying the book "Taste and See" by Maragret Feinberg. (Note that during Lent we will meet at 9:30 am so some may attend the noon Lenten dinners in Aberdeen)

This is a fabulous book and I encourage you to read it and try the wonderful recipes inside. The first week we took a look at fish being mentioned in the Bible and learned many new things. Here are a few bits and pieces from the book. In the parable in which Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a net let down in a lake, once full, the fishermen pull their catch to shore and separate the good fish from the bad. We learned the bad fish are the catfish because they lack scales and are considered unclean. The St. Peter's fish feeds only on plankton, so catching the famous fish requires nets, not hooks. The fish Peter most likely puled from the waters of the Sea of Galilee is the carp-like barbed, famed for the barbs on the corners of its mouth and commonly caught with a line. The amnon probably earned the name St peter's fish because it's the best-tasting fish in the sea. And the irony that the first letters of the Greek words "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior" form the work ichthys, meaning "fish" in Greek. Then we enjoyed Mom's Almond-Crusted Tilapia brought by Linda Thurston and fresh home-made Lief's Honey Mustard Dressing on a Italian Herb Focaccia bread brought by Pat Dahlquist.

The second week we had a look at figs in the Bible and how they grow. In the Bible, whenever palm trees appear, they're referring to date Palms. When Jesus enters Jerusalem for Passover, people line the streets welcoming him with boughs of date palms. The fruit of these trees symbolizes victory over death. Then Scripture never specified the kind of fruit Adam and Eve consumed some may argue

that it was the fig. With their lush, appetizing exterior, figs appear "more pleasant to the eyes" than apples, and we know the fig tree stood nearby since its leaves provided the first covering of sin and shame. Figs are not only scrumptious, but each fig contains more potassium than a banana, more fiber than a prune, and more calcium than a glass of milk. Since figs are harvested over days as they become ripe those who harvest them must live expectantly. We did enjoy figs. Gloria Pharis brought in roasted figs and brussels sprouts which were excellent. Also had a taste of Chocolate Pomegranate Drops.

We just had our third week and learned about bread. Marj Overacker brought in some matzo that has to be made in 18 minutes so it will be unleavened bread. Our group decided this was a bit like shoe leather and yes it would last a long time as it took a long time to chew and eat. The matzo during Passover isn't celebratory but commemorative because when the Israelites escaped Egypt, they were not having a wonderful time and food was made quickly for departure. When Jesus feeds five thousand, John tells us that the bread was barley, the food of peasants. We then learned of all the time that went into creating fine flour. From the planting, to the harvesting, to the finely ground flour which was a labor of love and generosity. Fine meal and white flour required more time, energy, and preparation and was a sacrificial offering. To make fine flour, all of the bran and germ must be sifted out. This makes the flour truly white. If you sift 100 lbs of flour, only 10-20 percent will be fine and white. As a group we enjoyed some fine flour bread making with Kay Daly bringing her homemade caramel rolls without cinnamon. She also brought some Moroccan



Barley Bread which some enjoyed and some did not.

All these recipes and information listed here are in the book "Taste and See" and you will enjoy reading it. Week four we will be exploring Salt and the many varieties of salt

and we will experience some chocolate sea salt cookies from Anita Lowary. The Fifth week we will be taking a look at the Olive and its Oil. This will be interesting as Val Baker makes us something to taste. The Sixth week we are going to discuss lamb. And to my surprise many have not tasted lamb so I acquired some from Marie McClintic and will be cooking lamb for our taste testing. Then we will finish the day with talking about the Liturgy of the Table. And how we are at the table to not just eat but enjoy the company and fellowship of others. Margaret ends the book with:

"Food really is God's love made delicious, nutritious, and restorative. But we must learn to slow down and savor the delicate flavors and divine lessons. In a culture rife with consumerism and driven by efficiency, where many meals are handed out a drive-thru window and eaten solo, this isn't the easiest spiritual discipline to practice. But it is well worth it.

May your table be set, not just with food but vulnerability and delight. May your mouth be filled, not just with morsels of meat but with reminders of God's lovingkindness. And may every meal at which you find yourself be a foretaste of the feast to come.

Bon Appetit and amen."

Article by Kay Daly



## Groton Mobile App for your offerings.

Giving through our GivePlus Mobile app is an easy and convenient way to donate to our church. It only takes a moment to set up an account:

1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Find our church by ZIP code or by searching for our Church name.
3. Donate!

*Thank you for your generosity!*



### **Where can I download the GivePlus Mobile app?**

Currently, GivePlus is available through the Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store.

### **Is the GivePlus Mobile app free to use?**

Yes! The app is free to download from Apple's App Store, Google's Play Store and you are not charged a fee to make donations using the app.

### **How do I find my church to give to in the GivePlus Mobile app?**

When you download the GivePlus app for the first time, you will be prompted to enter the name of the church to which you want to give. You can type in the name of the church and select it when it appears. Or, use the *Find Churches Near me* feature.

### **Will I have to search for my church every time I want to donate using GivePlus?**

No. After you select a church, it automatically becomes your "home" church. The next time you open the app, the church you last selected will already be displayed.

### **What payment methods can I use to donate?**

GivePlus donations can be made with all major credit and debit cards currently accepted by your church.

### **Will I receive a receipt?**

If you are logged into your GivePlus account or enter your email address when completing a guest donation, you will receive a receipt via email. When you are logged in, you will also be able to view transactions in your giving history.





## Groton Phone App Giving Cont.

### **When I make a donation, is my credit card information secure?**

Yes. Vanco Payment Solutions meets or exceeds all industry standards to safeguard your data. This includes leveraging technology and encryption to ensure that your data stays safe during transmission.

### **I made a mistake and donated the wrong amount. How can I get a refund?**

Contact the church and they will be able to credit the amount donated in error back to your account – just like when you return an item you bought at a store or online.

### **Can I set up recurring donations in GivePlus Mobile?**

Yes – if you are logged into your GivePlus account. You can select the frequency of the gift during the donation process. If you are giving to multiple funds, you can even set up different frequencies of recurring donations with each fund.

### **Can I delete or change a recurring donation?**

Yes – if you are logged into your GivePlus account. You will only be able to view and edit recurring donations you set up while you are, not were logged into the app. To make any changes to a recurring donation, simply delete the current donation and then set up a new recurring donation with the desired changes.

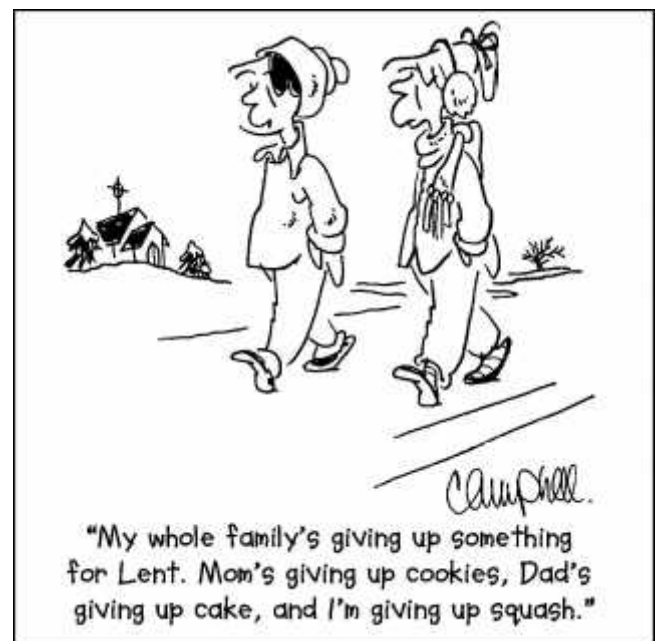
### **What donations are displayed in the GivePlus Mobile giving history?**

When you choose to create a GivePlus account, you can log into the app and view your giving history. This history will include electronic donations to all churches you've made when you were logged into the GivePlus Mobile app, or made via the church's online giving page. This also includes donations you made when you were logged into an account associated with the same email address as your GivePlus account. Any electronic donations made as a guest (without logging in) will not be visible in the app's giving history.

## Don't Settle

For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and pre-occupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them.

—John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*



## Groton Family Committee - April

### Julie & Jesse Morehouse

Marjae & Dan Schinkel,

Anthony

Brian Bahr

Dion & Sam Bahr, Ashtyn

Steve & Becky Diegel

Lucy & Andy Daly, Chloe Crosby

John & Meri Erickson

Adrienne & Tigh Fliehs

Scott & Myndi Kampa

Kami & Tom Lipp, Tanae

Roger & Pam Rix

Karen & Ian Rose

Nick & Jenna Strom

Kim Weber

William Zoellner

### Honorary Members

) Ida Hannon

) Doris Zoellner

### April 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 the back of the committee book
- ) Maintain the Altar Flower arrangements
- ) Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for the bulletin
- ) Serve at Avantara Nursing Center - 4th Sunday
- ) Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons

April 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		

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

## Joy Seekers

In northern Minnesota several years ago, some women formed a "joy circle." They settled into a routine of meeting every couple of weeks to share joys they've noticed. Their aim, amid our troubled world and chaotic lives, is to deliberately focus on the positive. The women don't simply hope to stumble upon good news among the outrage, bitterness and tragedy surrounding us; they actively seek out joy and report it to the group.

Joy is a fruit of the spirit named in Galatians 5:22-23. As Christians, we don't ignore or dismiss life's struggles and sorrows, and neither do joy-circle participants. But God promises that life is stronger than death, and Jesus' resurrection is proof. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can make a spiritual discipline of seeking and sharing joy — and thanking God for it. (Visit [joycircles.network](http://joycircles.network) online to learn more.)  
 —Heidi Mann



## UMCOR Sunday— March 22

### Life Sometimes can be Overwhelming

We read or watch on the news and see communities overwhelmed by natural disaster. We hear about humanitarian crises arising from civil unrest and war. We know that famine and drought are caused by climate change and see in our own community signs of food insecurity. And, of course, when we are also in the midst of our own suffering, it is hard to see beyond our own needs to help someone else.

It can seem like too much. How could we possibly make a difference? How can our limited resources make a dent in the seemingly never-ending need of the world? We begin to shut out the reminders of suffering. We become blind. We willfully ignore the great needs of our siblings in Christ. But the reality is that as followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Just as Jesus invited the disciples into the work saying, “We must do the works of him who sent me.”

Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), we can make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upended by storms, wars, climate change, and displacement. Through UMCOR, we see the impact of extravagant grace through the generosity of United Methodists.

UMCOR lives out signs of Christ’s extravagant grace in the world by prayerfully working with communities that are overwhelmed by natural or man-made disasters.

UMCOR builds on the strengths of what is already available in a community and actively involves the people affected in recovery efforts. One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so



much more together than we ever could do on our own – and through our connection UMCOR has been doing this for 80 years.

By mobilizing trained volunteers who are already living in the community, purchasing emergency supplies and food from local merchants and channeling funds through trusted partners who are already on the ground, UMCOR is uniquely positioned to respond quickly after a disaster and to remain invested in rebuilding, even after these needs are no longer in the news. Recovery is a long-process for individuals and communities. UMCOR also works with communities to train leaders to address infrastructure concerns, climate change and environmental degradation.

The special offering received on UMCOR Sunday helps support the small but impactful UMCOR staff who are specialists in disaster response and recovery. Funds also ensure adequate training for emergency response coordinators, construction

volunteers, and case managers who assist victims of disasters, chain saw gangs and sheetrock installers.

Because we join our church’s offerings with those of United Methodist congregations around the world, UMCOR remains strong in its day-to-day operations. When needs are immediate, UMCOR can respond quickly and efficiently with signs of extravagant grace and expert assistance. Let us continue to ministry together





# Our Church Celebrations...

## Groton

Mar 3 Tristan Kampa

Mar 4 Kay Daly  
Kale Pharis  
Christina Zoellner

Mar 5 Chance Strom

Mar 7 Brian Bahr  
Richard & JoAnn Krueger  
Dale Strom

Mar 8 Lindsey & Tom Tietz  
Vic Fliehs

Mar 9 Betty Strom  
Everett Foltz

Mar 10 Lindsey Strom

Mar 14 Mendy Jones  
Sydney Erickson

Mar 15 Samantha Weber

Mar 16 Lane Tietz

Mar 17 Asher Johnson

Mar 21 Harlan Place  
Kaelee Morehouse

Mar 24 Emerlee Jones

Mar 25 Laurel McNickle

Mar 26 Justin Morehouse  
Mark Thompson  
Claire Davidson  
Chloe Daly

Mar 27 Dwight Strom  
Michelle Walter

Mar 29 Sharon Wheeting

Mar 31 Aiden Strom  
Caralee Heitmann



## Conde

Mar 6 Stacey Bonn

Mar 14 Katie Lyren

Mar 17 Myron Fahrenwald

Mar 23 Greg Peterson

Mar 27 Cindy Haskell

Mar 31 Renee Hanlon

This sacred monogram originally appeared as "IHC," the first three letters of "IHCOYC," the Greek word for Jesus. Over time the Greek "C" was replaced by the Latin "S" to become "IHS." There are many interpretations given to the letters "IHS," including the Latin "Iesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus, Savior of Men) and the English "I (Christ) Have Suffered."



# Groton Ad Council - Jan

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
Groton United Methodist Church  
January 15, 2020

In the absence of the chairman and vice chairman, Pastor Brandon Dunham called the meeting to order at 7pm. Those in attendance were Marge Overacker, Anita Lowary, Meri Erickson, Richard Krueger, Linda Thurston, Brent Morehouse, and Pastor Brandon.

**Minutes:** Anita Lowary motioned to approve the minutes. Marge Overacker 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** A thank you note was read from Jo and Ruth Bosmo for a blanket. Roger Schuller sent a check made out to the Groton United Methodist Church for \$100 in memory of Harry Pharis. This will be deposited in the memorial account in Harry's name under designated.

**Treasurer's Report:** January bills were reviewed and it was decided repair bills and apportionments would be put on hold, and credit card and utility bills would be keep current. Meri Erickson made a motion on the

above. Brent Morehouse 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried. It is hoped that the apportionment and repair bills can be paid in February.

**Bills:** Pastor Brandon presented a bill from Locke Electric for repair to the exit sign for \$124.66. This bill was given to Marge for consideration next month. A 1 year subscription for My Church Events for \$69.95, Kay Daly will be contacted for an explanation of this bill. Anita Lowary volunteered to prepare the W2 forms for 2019.

**Administrative Report:** Pastor Brandon presented the nominations portion of the conference book for review. Anita Lowary motioned to approve the nominations. Richard Krueger 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried. Pastor Brandon also reported that Ash Wednesday services will be held in Conde at 5pm and Good Friday ecumenical service will be in Groton at 7pm, place to be announced. A Lenten study is planned for Conde to meet on Tuesdays. Meeting day for a Groton Lenten study has not been decided.

**Committee Reports: Education-**Meri Erickson reported that the Sunday school Sunday morning collection for fall and the Christmas Program collection went to Anna Fliehs. The free will donation collected at the Christmas program supper covered the expenses of the supper.

**Trustee-**Discussion was held concerning repair of the sanctuary roof and chip and seal of the parking lot. Richard Krueger will check out 2 options on the roof: more bids on the repair and the option of a slopped roof. Anita Lowary made a motion to investigate the possibility of buying off the city bid to chip and seal the church parking lot. Linda Thurston 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned.  
Acting Secretary  
Linda Thurston

<b>Groton Stewardship Report Jan 2020</b>
Average Wkly Giving \$2,157
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,285
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 70
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$15



March 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...*

- Mar 3 Conde Lenten Study with Pastor Brandon begins 6:30 pm and will continue each week through Lent
- Mar 5 Groton Lenten Study with Pastor Brandon begins 6:30 pm and will continue each week through Lent
- Mar 8 Groton Confirmation Sunday
- Mar 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Mar 19 Groton UMW Meeting at 1:30 pm
- Mar 22 UMCOR Sunday
- Apr 5 Palm Sunday
- Apr 9 Maundy Thursday
- Apr 10 Ecumenical Good Friday Service at 7 pm in Groton  
Place to be announced yet

