



September 2020

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

It has been nearly two years to the day since I last shared my thoughts on one of my favorite things in God’s creation. And yet two years later I find its relevance just about as large as the thing itself; I’m speaking of the Giant Sequoia tree. As I grew up in the Black Hills of South Dakota I have always been fascinated with trees and in growing in my faith I have found God has “concealed” many wonderful spiritual truths and lessons in His creation for us to seek and find (see Proverbs 25:2).

The giant sequoia grows up to two feet per year and will reach heights of 200-300 feet. Some can be as wide as 100 feet in diameter and they are the largest living things on the planet. But something many people do not know, and the National Park Service didn’t know in the 1800s, while doing all they could to prevent forest fires in King’s Canyon Park (the home of the largest collection of sequoia’s in the world) is cones can hang on these trees for years, green and unopened. Even if it falls to the ground it remains unopened until it dries out — and this is where our lesson of fire comes in.

Fire is a purifying pro-



cess even in forests. What looks like a trial for the sequoia is in reality the process they need for future growth. The fire’s heat dries out and opens the cones allowing the seeds to be released for germination. Since the sequoia can withstand fire that consumes most other trees, it is left standing even after the fire is extinguished. As a result, the ground around it is not only cleared for its seeds to germinate, but the ground has also been fertilized with the ashes of those other burned trees and underbrush. The seeds can only grow successfully in full sunlight, free from overshadowing vegetation.

As I sit here and ponder our fast approaching Fall season, I’m reminded of the importance of fire in the growth of these trees. The apostle Peter wrote, “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery

trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy” (1 Peter 4:12-13).

As a church we miss the days when we were able to come without worry on a Sunday morning, sing in faith, and shake the hand of our neighbor. We relish the days when we will be able to return to those practices and I must admit, I miss them too. But as our present has been shaken, it forces me to wonder about the future. And like the ground surrounding giant sequoias I faithfully pray that we are being purified for rebirth; for vitality; for something giant.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Brandon Dunham



Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off



Baptism & Blessings Shower

Ava Joy was born July 29th to Karen and Ian Rose. She joins Rylie, Graham, Nolan, and Beckett.

Ava Joy Rose will be baptized during worship on Sept 6th. A table will be setup for Blessing Gifts and Cards in the fellowship hall.



Groton UMW Meeting

UMW will be meeting on Sept 17th at 1:30 pm, Thursday. Program will be by Chris Nyberg. Hostesses for Coffee only will be JoAnn Krueger & Caralee Heitmann. Social Distancing and hand sanitizer is available. We

will meet in the fellowship hall spread out.

Nominations Committee will meet to Prepare Slate of Officers, Continue working on the Date Book, and Prepare the Budget for 2021.

Upcoming Events will be World Thank Offering in October. Other events taking place will be discussed at the meeting.



Groton Rally Sunday will be Sept 13th beginning at 10 am with a carnival of games and prizes. So come and join the fun!



Groton Confirmation will begin Sept 16th at 4 pm in the Fellowship hall.

Church Information

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906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

Conde Church Board Mtg - Aug

The Conde Church Board met on Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00. Topics of discussion included the following:

Cleaning of eaves - Someone will bring a tractor with a loader and some "brave souls" will make the ride up to take care of this project. Any volunteers?

Dehumidifiers - Two dehumidifiers have taken care of the moisture problem.

Air Conditioners - One was not working, and the hose on the other one was plugged up and resulted in a wet floor in a couple of side rooms off the Fellowship Hall. J & J Furnace & Air Conditioning from

Clark were able to come down and make the repairs. They also installed a programmable thermostat in the Fellowship Hall. This will be very beneficial for setting the heat temperature in the winter.

Report of Church Services - The crowd is small enough so distancing is no problem. Coffee time is the same, and everyone enjoys the fellowship. August 16th Services were really special, as the attendance was much higher than usual.

Mask Making - These are being done for Northwestern School.

Bible Study - Discussion about trying to start this in September. The

book being used by Groton sounded interesting to everyone. This is about Couples in the Old Testament.

September Board Meeting - This will be held at 7:00 on the third Thursday, which is September 17th.

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

Conde Mask Making

Community Project to Replace Collection of UMCOR Kits

The Dakota's Conference is not collecting or distributing UMCOR Health and School Kits this year, but churches are being encouraged to help out their local schools in some way. The Conde Community is doing this by making masks for the Northwestern School in Mellette. Michelle Hildebrant, who is on a Task Force to deal with the situation of children going back to school amid the Covid pandemic, has organized this project. She also has boys attending school there. The school would like about 500 masks, because they will be washed at the end of the day, and clean masks will be available for the next day. A group has met at the Church several times to work on the construction of the masks. There are some who do the cutting, (a good portion of this has been done by a guy) a few ladies with sewing machines get the masks ready for the pleating, and

when this is done, they are handed back to the machine people to finish. Many are also being made at home, and these are completed from start to finish by one person. The group involved is not just ladies who attend the Methodist Church, but also others from Conde and some from

other communities. It has been a wonderful group doing a very worthwhile thing, and not only that, but also good fellowship with social distancing being practiced.



Outdoor Worship Night - Blessing the New School Year

On August 17th we gathered!



Fall Sermon Series - Sept 20



*When the music fades
and all is stripped away
and I simply come*

At the beginning of the year we began a search for perspective in our worship and yet we had no idea how we would be shown it. For months our church has struggled like the rest of the country to regain not only our connection, but also our mission, as we have wrestled with the challenge of worship being stripped down to its bare bones. But... we believe God is on the move. We believe this is not the end of what was, but an opportunity for what will be. We believe that God has a history of doing big things and so we poise ourselves in expectation of where our churches will fit in this master plan.

Over the next eight weeks, we're going to take a step back and ask, God, who are you shaping us to become, and what are you shaping us to do, and what are the things that we hold dear, and what are the dreams that we have about the way that you would use this little community of faith to make a massive difference in your world?

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You*

Learning - and laughing - on the fly

Faced with the sudden move to livestreamed church services, many pastors and worship leaders had to learn new technology quickly during the pandemic. As they were "winging it," bloopers and bobbles added levity to the tense time.

For instance, a fake tree fell

on a drummer while a worship song was being broadcast from Georgia. After getting too close to a candle, a vicar in England had to pause to extinguish flames from his sweater. And several preachers appeared on screen with cartoon-like features after inadvertently turning on social

media filters.

"This wasn't planned," wrote the pastor about the falling ficus, which didn't cause injury but quickly went viral. "But God used it to bring laughter to the hearts of many. For that, we are thankful."



Groton October Family Committee

Julie & Jesse Morehouse

Marjae & Dan Schinkel

Brian Bahr

Dion & Sam Bahr, Ashtyn

Lucy & Andy Daly, Chloe

Steve & Becky Diegel

John & Meri Erickson

Adrienne & Tigh Fliehs

Scott & Myndi Kampa

Kami & Tom Lipp, Tanae

Roger & Pam Rix

Karen & Ian Rose

Nick & Jenna Strom

William Zoellner

Honorary Members

) Ida Hannon

) Doris Zoellner

October Responsibilities

Direction will be given by the Hospitality Committee and Ad Council

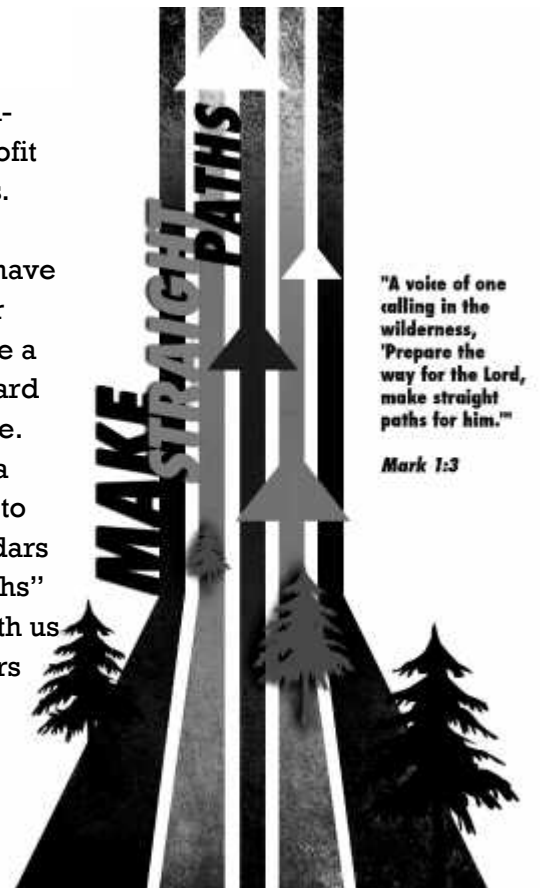
October 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

When God Crosses Our Paths

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.” Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God “sending us people with claims and petitions.” Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, “thinking of you” cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with

distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus’ name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God “crosses our paths” in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).



"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

Mark 1:3

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Groton

Sep 2 Kylie Hawkins

Sep 6 Justin Olson

Laurie & AM Mitchell
Perryn Dobbins

Sep 7 Alana Wolken

Sep 8 Laurel & Monte McNickle

Sep 9 Clint & Audrey Jacobson

Sep 11 Audrey Jacobson

Sep 12 Ryder Daly

Cliff Pray

Alexa Nilsson

Sep 13 Richard Krueger

Karsten Hinman

Sep 14 Rick & Sarah Hofer

Sep 15 Karen Rose

Mason Madsen

Sep 16 Camille Sippel

Sep 17 Jackson Strom

Kyler Ell

Sep 19 Diann Morehouse

Jace Hofer

Sep 20 Marjory Townsend

Sep 22 Madison McNickle

Sep 23 Carolyn Snyder

Sep 24 Jesse Overacker

Turner Webb

Sep 25 Joey Padfield

Sabrina Padfield

Sep 26 Alan Strom

Alejandra Heitmann

Conde

Sep 7 Richard Worlie

Sep 13 Shane Bruckner

Sep 29 Bud & Julie Bruckner

A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper



What you do:

1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!



Groton Ad Council - August

Treasurer’s Report: Marjorie Overacker stated that our balance looks good due to receipt of a Voss donation into our general fund. She also mentioned that our member giving is somewhat down. We have received a total of \$2,700.75 for the roof project.

Pastor Parish: Meri Erickson reported that the Pastor Parish fund is looking good. Bills from Blocker Construction and the water heater installation have been paid. The parsonage is being painted now and will be done by Friday, Aug. 21.

Administrative Report:

Pastor Brandon shared his thanks to those who attended Monday night’s back-to-school worship.

He said the first youth group meeting will be Aug. 26 with a bonfire & games at the parsonage. Sept. 2 will be a parents meeting for confirmation students. Since there are only a couple of 6th graders this year, they have agreed to assist with leading Sunday school. Laurie Mitchell plans to help Pastor Brandon with confirmation this year. Confirmation & Youth Group will meet on alternate Wednesdays.

Pastor Brandon asked for input from the council regarding a request from Cody Swanson, now director of worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, requesting temporary use of our piano room to give piano lessons on Tues & Thurs. nights and Fridays during the day if they don’t have school. The council agreed to the request with stipulations that no students are allowed in other parts of the building.

Our Fall Sunday school kickoff is planned for Sept. 13.

Brandon will be meeting with our new Dist. Superintendent, Kris Mutzenberger, Sept. 16.

Committee Reports:

Trustees: Richard Krueger reported that sanctuary roof work is planned in the next few days by Hub City Roofing. Richard also visited with Roger Rix about the flaking of the new front door cement. They don’t believe there is any fix for the problem.

UMW: Jolene Townsend reported that UMW meetings will resume beginning Sept. 17 with just coffee. At this time the community coffee will not resume until we begin Phase 4 of our Return to Normal church plan.

Memorial: It was reported that Lang’s TV & Appliance called to say they are backed up on jobs but we are still on their list to complete the Pharis memorial project.

Old Business:

Linda Thurston thanked Richard Krueger and Justin Morehouse for completing the sanctuary choir loft area remodel.

New Business:

Kids Zone Money: There is leftover money in an account for Kids Zone. Since this is no longer an activity, Linda Thurston motioned that the money be moved to our general fund. The motion was 2nd by Jolene Townsend and approved.

Groton Stewardship Report July 2020
Average Wkly Giving \$3,877
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,285
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 31
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$15
Roof Fund \$500



September 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			

Our Church Happenings...

Sep 2 Confirmation Parent Mtg 7 pm grades 7 & 8

Sep 6 Groton Baptism/Blessing Shower Ava Joy Rose

Sep 9 Groton UMYF 7 pm

Sep 13 Rally Sunday - Celebrating Grandparents

Sep 13 Groton Sunday School starts - Carnival Games at 10 am

Sep 16 Groton Confirmation begins at 4 pm weekly

Sep 16 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Sep 17 Groton UMW 1:30 pm

Sep 17 Conde Ad Council 7 pm

Sep 20 New Sermon Series Begins - "E-THOS"

Sep 23 Groton UMYF 7 pm

